

# **The Uniting Church in Australia Western Australia**



**The Minutes of  
the Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of WA  
Held at Carramar Uniting Church, Tapping WA  
on  
13 October 2018**

**These Minutes record events and the business of those committees or  
bodies that relate to the Presbytery of Western Australia**

On Saturday, 13 October 2018 the Presbytery of Western Australia met for an Ordinary Meeting.

There were 91 ministerial and lay members present. 43 Apologies were submitted. 7 Members who had indicated that they would be attending the meeting were recorded as Absent.

## **WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

At 9.00 am the Chairperson (the Rev. Lorraine Stokes) welcomed the Members to the meeting and invited Mrs. Cheryl Lawson to explain the Smoking Ceremony, which Presbytery was invited to participate in outside the venue.

After the Smoking Ceremony the Rev. Mitchell Garlett welcomed Presbytery to Country.

## **OPENING WORSHIP**

At 9.11 am Opening Worship was led by Carramar Uniting Church and the Rev. Narelle Collas.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

The Rev. Narelle Collas made Housekeeping Announcements.

## **SOVEREIGNTY & TREATY WORKSHOP - PART 1**

At 9.48 am the Chairperson invited the Social Justice Unit Consultant (Mr. Geoff Bice) and the members of the Covenanting Commission together with Mr. Stuart McMillan to lead Presbytery in a Workshop focussed on Sovereignty of the First People of Australia and Treaty with the First People.

## **MORNING TEA**

At 10.30 am Presbytery broke for Morning Tea.

Presbytery reconvened at 11.00 am.

## **SOVEREIGNTY & TREATY WORKSHOP - PART 2**

The Workshop resumed.

## **MINISTRY MILESTONES**

At 12.21 pm the Chairperson led a celebration of Ministry Milestones.

The following Ministers celebrated the following Ministry Milestones:

10 Years	Rev. Greg Ross
15 Years	Rev. Isobelle Shortreed
20 Years	Rev. Marion Millin
25 Years	Revs. Lorna Atkins and David de Kock
30 Years	Rev. John Marshall
40 Years	Revs. David Jackson, David McAndrew and Harold Sampson
50 Years	Revs. Wilf Pearce, Marie Wilson and John Dihm
60 Years	Revs. Wally Fawell and Sam McCollum

## LUNCH

At 1.04 pm Presbytery broke for Lunch.

Presbytery reconvened at 1.58 pm.

## STANDING COMMITTEE

The Immediate-Former Chairperson (Rev. Steve Francis) assumed the Chair.

The Rev. Lorraine Stokes presented the report of the Standing Committee and then moved: *"Presbytery receives the report"*. This was **approved by consensus**.

Mrs. Stokes then moved the following Recommendation:

*Presbytery authorises the Standing Committee to issue Calls and to make Appointments to Vacant Approved Presbytery Placements, on the recommendations of the various Joint Nominating Committees.*

This was amended during deliberations to read:

*Presbytery authorises the Standing Committee to issue Calls and to make Appointments to Vacant Approved Presbytery Placements, on the recommendations of the various Joint Nominating Committees up to May 2019.*

This was **approved by consensus**.

The Chairperson resumed the Chair.

The Rev. Greg Ross spoke to the *R 1.1 Key Priorities* document.

### Proposal 4

Mr. Ross then moved:

*Presbytery requests the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee to continue facilitating conversations between the present 10 Committees of the Presbytery namely: Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee, Property Committee, Strategy and Mission Planning Committee, Congregational Community Services Committee, Multicultural & Cross-Cultural Committee, Uniting Generations Committee, Rural Ministry Committee, Candidates for the Ministries Committee and the Commission for Education, Discipleship & Leadership with a view to bringing a far more streamlined model for committee structures that can more nimbly respond to the current missional needs of the church in Western Australia to the February, or May meeting of Presbytery in 2019.*

P4/10-2018 was **approved by consensus**.

### Proposal 3

Mr. Ross moved:

*Presbytery refers all powers and responsibilities of the Presbytery Property Committee to the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee.*

P3/10-2018 was **approved by consensus**.

Presbytery **resolved by consensus** to defer the Elections until after Proposal 2 was considered.

### **Proposal 1**

Mr. Travis Windsor moved:

*Presbytery honours its undertaking to have at least one meeting in a rural area every two years on the understanding that:*

- 1. buses would be provided from Perth with no travel reimbursement for those choosing to use their own transport from Perth;*
- 2. those from outside Perth travelling more than 100kms could still claim travel either to Bunbury or to Perth whichever was closer;*
- 3. no accommodation costs would be covered for those from Perth or towns closer than 100km; and*
- 4. members would be asked for a contribution towards the cost of the buses in addition to the registration cost of the Presbytery meeting.*

P1/10-2018 was **lost by consensus**.

Presbytery **resolved by consensus** that the following persons would act as Scrutineers for the Elections: Messrs. Travis Windsor and Margaret Martin and the Rev. Craig Collas.

### **ELECTIONS**

Presbytery proceeded with the Elections for Presbytery Secretary and Presbytery Treasurer.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE ... continued**

The Rev. Bev Fabb spoke to the *R 1.2 2019 Budget* documents.

Ms. Fabb then moved Recommendation 1:

*Presbytery receives the Interim 2019 Presbytery Budget*

This was **approved by consensus**.

Ms. Fabb moved Recommendation 2:

*Presbytery authorises the Standing Committee in consultation with Presbytery Committees, Presbytery Staff, the General Secretary, the Chief Financial Officer and the Synod Manager of People and Culture, to work towards the development of a balanced budget by the end of 2018.*

This was **approved by consensus**.

Ms. Fabb moved Recommendation 3:

*Presbytery notes that the 2019 Presbytery Budget will be presented to the February 2019 Presbytery meeting for adoption.*

This was **approved by consensus**.

The Rev. Ken Devereux moved Recommendation 4:

*Presbytery encourages congregations and faith communities to value the wide work of the Church and to increase their contributions to Mission and Service if possible, in thanksgiving to God.*

This was **approved by consensus**.

## **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convenor (Rev. Trevor Waters) presented the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee and then moved: *“Presbytery receives the report as amended”*. This was **approved by consensus**.

Presbytery proceeded in Table Discussions on some of the work of Pastoral Relations Committee.

### **Proposal 2**

The Rev. Luke Williams moved:

*Presbytery, noting the decision of the Assembly with regard to the two equal and distinct statements of belief on marriage:*

- 1. commits itself to listen to the various and complex struggles of its congregations and ministry agents at this time;*
- 2. acknowledges that decisions and conversations related to the Assembly decision on marriage continue to be challenging and painful for some congregations, church councils and ministry agents;*
- 3. notes that earlier discussions with Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) on this matter have resulted in positive action; and*
- 4. welcomes the action of the PRC to establish a group who will, amongst other things:*
  - a. offer assistance to ministry agents, congregations and church councils in navigating decisions related to Resolution 64 of the 15th Assembly (decision on marriage), and*
  - b. draw on the wisdom of other councils of the church who are taking active steps to assist ministry agents and congregations at this time.*

P2/10-2018 was **approved by consensus**.

## **CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairperson made the following announcements:

1. Nominations for membership of the Synod's Moderatorial Nominating Committee should be sent to the Secretary of Synod as soon as possible.
2. Nominations for Chairperson-Elect should be sent to the Secretary of Presbytery as soon as possible for the election, which would take place at the February 2019 Presbytery Meeting.
3. The Rev. Hannes Halgryn had been **elected** as Presbytery Secretary for two years.
4. Pr. Marilyn Price had been **elected** as Presbytery Treasurer for one year.

The Chairperson congratulated Messrs. Halgryn and Price on their election and prayed for them in their new Presbytery Officer positions.

## **THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Acting Secretary of Presbytery (Rev John McKane) thanked and acknowledged all those persons who had contributed to the smooth running of the meeting and in return, the Chairperson thanked and acknowledged Rev John McKane efforts for fulfilling his task as Acting Secretary of Presbytery up to the end of October 2018.

## **CLOSING DEVOTION**

The Chairperson lead the closing devotion and then closed the Meeting at 4.08 pm.

**WE CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE CHECKED THE MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2018 AT CARRAMAR UNITING CHURCH AND CONFIRM THAT IT IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE EVENT.**

Secretary of Presbytery

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Rev. Hannes Halgryn

Chairperson of Presbytery

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Rev. Lorraine Stokes