

Uniting Church in Australia

Presbytery of Western Australia



Minutes of the Meeting of
the Presbytery of Western Australia
held at
All Saints Church, Floreat
on 28 November 2020

1. CONSTITUTION

On Saturday 28 November 2020 at 9.00 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at All Saints Church, Floreat, the Chairperson, Bob Hunt, presiding.

There were 86 ministerial and lay members present. 35 apologies were submitted.

2. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson welcomed the members to this final meeting of the year.

He paid respect to traditional owners of the land on which we met who have cared for the land since time immemorial, and respect to the Elders of the Noongar nation, past, present and emerging.

3. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Secretary, Revd Des Cousins, reported on the arrangements made for the meeting. He noted, particularly that we are meeting in accordance with a COVID Safe plan approved by Church Council of All Saints Church, Floreat and thanked them for their co-operation in making it possible for the Presbytery to meet in their premises.

The Revd Des Cousins moved, it was seconded and agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery:

1. Adopt the Order of Business for the meeting
2. Amend the Roll of Presbytery attached to the Minutes of the Presbytery meeting on 8 August 2020 by:

Additions

Revd Dr Sonny Rajamoney – Minister, NorthWay from 1 November 2020
Shirley Francis – Lay Preacher – elected August 2020 Presbytery Meeting
Revd Steve Francis – Co-opted Minister – long term Supply Tranby College
Neville van Wyk – Lay representative – Gosnells
Lyn McLachlan – Lay representative – NorthWay

Deletions

Revd Steve Francis – Moderator of Synod – placement concluded
Revd Alison Gilchrist – Presbytery Minister Mission – resigned
Revd Anne McAndrew – Minister Wembley – placement concluded and retired
Revd Gemmel Sherwood – Co-opted Minister (Regional Pastor) – concluded
Louise Powell – Lay representative – NorthWay – concluded
David Foster – Lay representative – Wembley – Congregation closed

Amendment

Bruce Wilson – has concluded as Church Law Committee Chair – co-opt for “Presbytery Arrangements”

3. Co-opt Chris Walker, a member of the Synod Standing Committee, as a member of the Presbytery.
4. Appoint Revd Dr Christine Sorensen and Revd Hannes Halgryn as Chaplains for this meeting of the Presbytery.
5. Appoint Doug Burtenshaw and John Boon as Scrutineers for this meeting of the Presbytery.

6. Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to confirm the minutes of this meeting of the Presbytery.
7. Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to act on all matters that are the responsibility of the Presbytery including those excluded items in Presbytery Rule 3.1.2 if a public health warning in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic leads to the cancellation of any future meeting of the Presbytery.

4. OPENING WORSHIP

The Revd Dr Ian Tozer, minister of All Saints Church, Floreat led the Presbytery in worship. Deborah Marshall read the Scriptures and Revd Dr Geoff Hadley on piano accompanied the singing.

5. PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The past Chairperson, Revd Lorraine Stokes, presiding

The Chairperson of Presbytery, Bob Hunt, presented the Standing Committee report which was received.

6. PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATION

Bob Hunt moved, it was seconded and agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA agree:

1. In principle, to re-focus the role of the Presbytery Officer so that the position incorporates the role of Presbytery Secretary, a degree of executive function and will provide an increased administration and co-ordination focus along with the existing communication and leadership aspects of the role.
2. To request the Presbytery Standing Committee to prepare a detailed proposal to implement and spell out the revised role of the Presbytery Officer including a position description, relationships and reporting provisions and operating procedures for consideration and determination by the March 2021 Presbytery Meeting.
3. That the proposal to be prepared by the Presbytery Standing Committee address, inter alia, the following issues:
 - (a) maintaining and emphasising the pastoral dimension of the Presbytery Officer;
 - (b) re-allocate various staff responsibilities, particularly for Rural Ministry, while attempting to work within the approved budget (based on the current staff establishment);
 - (c) office support for the Presbytery Officer and to clarify role of the Presbytery Support Administrator in this new structure.
4. Extend the current Presbytery Secretary's term to 31 December 2020 and from 1 January 2021 appoint the Presbytery Officer to take on the duties of the Secretary of Presbytery as an interim measure until the Presbytery Meeting in March 2021.

7. NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES

The Chairperson of the Presbytery presented a discussion paper prepared by the Presbytery Standing Committee (Appendix B) on a proposed approach to the Establishment of New Faith Communities.

It was suggested in the discussion following that attention be also given to new faith communities not established on geographical bases but also to special purposes and interests. Further, that investment in people, rather than land and buildings be a focus.

8. USE OF FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF THE SWANBOURNE PROPERTY

The Chairperson of the Presbytery, Bob Hunt, moved, it was seconded and agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA:

request the Synod Standing Committee to grant an extension of time, until the end of November 2021, for a proposal to be prepared for the use of the funds from the sale of the Swanbourne Property

9. RECOGNITION OF MARY RILEY AS A LAY PREACHER

The Convener of the Candidates for Ministries Committee, Revd Bev Fabb, introduced Mary Riley who had completed the requirements and achieved the competencies required for recognition as a Lay Preacher in the Uniting Church in Australia.

Mary Riley gave witness to her call to the Ministry of Lay Preacher and told of her faith journey.

Members of the Presbytery were invited to speak to the candidate over the morning tea break and to present any questions in regard to the candidate to the Convener of the Committee, who would report on the questions asked and provide responses after morning tea.

Following morning tea, Revd Bev Fabb reported that she had received no questions in regard to the candidate for recognition as a Lay Preacher.

The Revd Bev Fabb then moved and it was seconded:

That the Presbytery:

agree to recognise Mary Riley as a Lay Preacher and request the Chairperson of Presbytery to arrange for this to be recognised in a service of worship, including presentation of a Certificate of Recognition as a Lay Preacher.

A secret ballot was conducted as required by the Presbytery procedures and the proposal was unanimously approved.

The Revd David Ferguson led the Presbytery in prayer for the newly recognised Lay Preacher.

10. WORKING TOGETHER

The Chairperson, Bob Hunt, and Presbytery Officer, Revd Dr David Ferguson, presented a discussion paper prepared for the Presbytery Standing Committee entitled "Working Together" (Appendix A) which seeks to explore the role of the Presbytery in terms of the concept of "oversight".

Bob Hunt moved, David Ferguson seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA:

1. receive the discussion paper "Working together: on the relationships between the Presbytery, its committees, congregations and staff" and commend it to Congregations and Faith Communities.
2. request Church Councils and Faith Communities to consider this discussion paper and provide replies to the following questions:

- How do you understand the relationship of oversight that currently exists between the Presbytery, its committees and your Congregation/Faith Community?
 - How do you think that Presbytery can do this work better?
 - What can you do to help the Presbytery to fulfil this important work?
3. request replies by 30 April 2021 so that the matter can be further discussed at the June 2021 Presbytery Meeting.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Treasurer, Ps Marilyn Price, presented a report of the finances of the Presbytery for the ten months ending 31 October 2020. The Presbytery's financial position is much better than expected earlier, due to continuing better than expected contributions from Congregations and Faith Communities to the Mission and Service Fund, receipt of JobKeeper subsidies since 1 July 2020, and prudent and frugal expenditure by Presbytery Staff and Committees. While there will be a deficit, the funds in the Presbytery Reserve Account will be sufficient to cover it

12. BUDGET 2021

The Presbytery Treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2021:

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
INCOME		
Mission & Service Contributions	500,000	600,024
Synod Grants	506,000	200,000
Presbytery Funding	125,000	100,000
Other Trust Funds, Bequests & Grants	161,500	100,000
Event Income	61,600	22,000
Sundry Income	13,070	4,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,367,170	1,026,024
EXPENSES		
Staff Costs	896,030	837,750
Student Costs	242,100	133,310
Operational Costs	188,147	174,252
Event Costs	41,600	33,250
Education Grants	20,000	20,000
Other Grants	43,500	163,051
Sundry Expenses	8,300	3,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,439,677	1,364,613
NET DEFICIT	-72,507	-338,589

Ps Marilyn Price moved, Revd Lorraine Stokes seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA:

adopt the 2021 Presbytery as presented to this meeting.

13. RECOGNITION OF KEY ORDINATION MILESTONES

The Chairperson presented certificates to recognise the following ordination anniversaries:

25 years	Revd Hannes Halgryn Revd Alan Ward Revd Dr Anne Wright
40 years	Revd Don Dowling Revd Steve Francis Revd Dave Hosking
50 years	Revd George Davies Revd John Steed Revd Nicolaas Stuurstraat Revd Tom Wilson

14. RURAL MINISTRY

The Revd Gordon Scantlebury presented a verbal report on the range of support being provided for rural Congregations and Faith Communities.

The Presbytery noted that Gordon will be retiring early in the New Year, although he will provide some support to rural and regional Churches in an honorary capacity, and expressed its thanks to him for his work over the last two and a half years.

15. CLOSURE OF THE WATERLOO CONGREGATION

Glenys White, chairperson of the Wellington Regional Mission, moved, Revd Greg Ross seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery:

1. dissolve and cease to recognise the Waterloo Congregation in accordance with Regulation 3.4.3 as from 31 December 2020 because the Congregation can no longer fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities required of a Congregation under Regulation 3.1.1.
2. request the Pastoral Relations Committee ensure in accordance Reg 3.4.3 (d) to ensure
 - (i) that each member and adherent of the Congregation is transferred to a roll of the St Augustine Congregation in Bunbury; and
 - (ii) that all rolls and other records of the Congregation are placed in the custody of the Secretary of the Church Council of the St Augustine Bunbury Congregation.
3. request that the Presbytery recognise the Waterloo Faith Community as a Faith Community
4. request Thrive Mission Committee (acting as the Presbytery Property Committee) to continue working with the Wellington Regional Mission (or its successor) to deal with the disposal of the property and make suitable arrangements for the Waterloo Faith Community to meet for worship, witness and discipleship.
5. report the matter to the Synod of WA.
6. conduct a service of worship to celebrate the life and witness of the Waterloo Congregation and mark its dissolution and new life as a Faith Community on 6 December 2020.

16. THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE

Revd Greg Ross, Convener, presented the report of the Thrive Mission Committee which was received by consensus.

The Committee was asked to investigate ways of the Presbytery and the Thrive Mission Committee in particular accessing the data from the National Church Life Survey.

17. CEDAL (Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership)

Revd David Kriel, Chairperson, and Revd Dr Anne Wright, Director of Education and Formation and Principal of the Perth Theological Hall presented the report of CEDAL which was received by consensus.

The decision of Murdoch University to cease theological teaching in 2021 is raising a major concern about the re-location of the shared libraries of the Perth Theological Hall and the Anglican Church.

18. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Revd Mark Illingworth presented the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Concern was expressed that the report was a list of names and dates and did not provide any commentary on the key issues. Attention was drawn to a decision of the Presbytery in February 2019:

“The Presbytery resolved by consensus to endorse the request that the Pastoral Relations Committee look at presenting a different style of report that contains more detail on the wellbeing of the Presbytery, Congregations and Ministers.”

The report was received by agreement,

19. CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Revd Bev Fabb presented the report of the Candidates for Ministries Committee which was received by consensus.

Since the report had been prepared, the Selection Panel had met and had accepted three new candidates for ministry – Samuel Annan and Sue Thompson (for the Ministry of the Word) and Ana Lea’aetoa (for the Ministry of Deacon).

20. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson of the Presbytery, Bob Hunt, led the closing prayer and benediction and closed the meeting at 3.00 pm.

*Confirmed by the Presbytery Standing Committee (ref Minute 3.6)
as a true and correct record*

Bob Hunt
Chairperson
2 February 2021