

Uniting Church in Australia  
**Presbytery of Western Australia**



Minutes of the Meeting of  
the Presbytery of Western Australia  
held at  
Kalamunda Uniting Church  
on 20 March 2021

## 1. CONSTITUTION

On Saturday 20 March 2021 at 9.00 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at Kalamunda Uniting Church, the Chairperson, Bob Hunt, presiding.

There were 102 ministerial and lay members present. 18 apologies were submitted.

## 2. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson welcomed the members to this first 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 Acting Secretary, Revd Dr David Ferguson, 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 Kalamunda Uniting Church and thanked them for their co-operation in making it possible for the Presbytery to meet in their premises. We would also like to record our particular thanks for Alex Graham who assisted with the sound, and the number of helpers from the Presbytery who assisted in a variety of ways.

The Revd Dr David Ferguson moved, it was seconded and agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA:

1. Adopt the Order of Business for the meeting
2. Amend the Roll of Presbytery attached to the Minutes of the Presbytery meeting on 25 November 2020 by:

### Office Bearers

Revd Des Cousins – to be moved to Associate Members

### Ministerial

Revd Dr David Ferguson – designation change to Acting Secretary and placed under Office Bearers

Revd Hannes Halgryn – designation change to Associate General Secretary

Revd Herman Nienaber – designation change to Nedlands

Revd Gordon Scantlebury – Resigned, moved to Ministers Co-opted for continuing work for the Presbytery

Revd Lorraine Stokes – Moved to list of retired Ministers

Revd Justine Wall – Resigned with date is still to be confirmed.

Revd Hollis Wilson – designation change to UCIC (Wesley)

Revd Anne McAndrew – Moved to list of retired Ministers

Revd Zak Cronje – added to co-opted ministers – Supply (UCIC)  
Revd Marie Wilson – amended to Supply (UCIC)/Regional Pastor  
Revd John Atkinson – added to co-opted ministers – Supply (Willetton)  
Revd Floss Atkinson – added to co-opted ministers – Supply (Willetton)  
Revd Sione Leaaetoa – new Minister in Active Service (St Andrews)  
Revd Erica Payne (Dongara) – to be added to list of Ministers Co-opted due to her association with us

### **Lay Members**

Sheena Hesse – Added (Toodyay)  
Alan Mackenzie – Added (St Andrews)  
Neville Blesing – Added (Nedlands)  
Jonathan Nelson – Added (Moora Faith Community)

### **Co-opted Lay:**

Sione Leaaetoa – moved to Ministers in Active

### **Faith Communities:**

Greenbushes – to be removed  
Kellerberrin – to be removed  
Ongerup – to be removed

- 3.2.3 Appoint Revd Judy Sanderson and Revd Trevor Waters as Chaplains for this meeting of the Presbytery.
- 3.2.4 Appoint Revd Ken Devereux and Kevin Trent as scrutineers for this meeting of the Presbytery.
- 3.2.5 Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to confirm the minutes of this meeting of the Presbytery.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 Associate Kim Mouritz (Gin Gin), Samuel Annan and Ana Lea'aetoa (Ministry Candidates), plus Dr Scott Hollier and Robert Muir (invited speakers) for the purposes of the meeting.

## **4. OPENING WORSHIP**

The Revd Sophia Lizares, minister of Kalamunda/Foothills Uniting Church led the Presbytery in worship assisted by Lay Preacher Candidate Carolyn Ebell. Sophia reflected upon a Hassidic story about morning, as described by Henri Nouwen, “How can we determine the hour of dawn, when the night ends and the day begins?” and Luke 16:9-16, where a day in Jesus’ life is described -starting from solitude, moving to community building, and then to active ministry. She called us to recognise the presence of God in our midst, named some of the brokenness of our community,

and prayed for our recognition of God's presence as we enter hard and difficult places. Carolyn Ebell led us in prayers of the people. Marcia Maher on piano accompanied the singing.

## **5. DISCUSSION PANEL- Making room for people with a disability**

Cindy Gorton introduced Dr Scott Hollier and Robert Muir to the Presbytery.

They spoke on how their disability has played a role in their life of faith and gave some practical hints regarding the technologies that are now readily available for people with disabilities and congregations which improve the accessibility of our lives for people with a disability. Scott has made electronic copies of his book on this issue available through Cindy.

## **6. THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE**

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

## **7. THRIVE PROPOSAL I**

This proposal was deferred for later discussion and referral back to the Presbytery.

## **8. THRIVE PROPOSAL 2**

Revd Greg Ross, Convenor, moved the following proposal on behalf of the Thrive Mission Committee which was seconded received by consensus.

That the WA Presbytery agree:

- I. to encourage every congregation and faith community to develop and update their mission plans and to engage with the Thrive Mission Committee.

In the discussion, an issue regarding the communication between Thrive and PRC in relation to mission plans submitted as part of the preparation of profiles for the Placement process. Revd Greg Ross committed to work on this issue on behalf of the Presbytery.

## **9. 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.

## **10. APPOINTMENT OF STAFF INTO THE ROLE OF OFFICERS OF PRESBYTERY OR ITS COMMITTEES**

After some discussion, this proposal was deferred until the review of the Presbytery Rules.

## **11. ANALYSIS OF THE PRESBYTERY OFFICER AND THE ROLE OF PRESBYTERY SECRETARY**

As Revd Lorraine Stokes needed to attend an outside meeting, Revd Steve Francis was requested to stand in as Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the Presbytery presented a discussion paper prepared by the Presbytery Standing Committee (Appendix B) on the role of the Presbytery Officer and its relationship to the role of Presbytery Secretary. This was received as information relevant to the subsequent election.

## **12. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON-ELECT AND SECRETARY**

The Chairperson of the Presbytery, Bob Hunt, presented the following nominations that have been received for Presbytery:

### **Chairperson-Elect**

Revd David de Kock

After significant discussion, the Acting Chair proposed the following:

It was determined that the Presbytery not receive this nomination, and that this process be deferred. This matter goes back to the Standing Committee to discern and to work out the process to bring names to the next meeting.

This was received by consensus.

### **Secretary**

Revd Dr David Ferguson. This was determined to proceed via secret ballot.

## **13. USE OF ZOOM FOR FORMAL BALLOTS**

The Revd Luke Williams presented the proposal on behalf of the Presbytery Standing Committee.

The proposal was fallen from by the proposers.

## **14. ELECTION**

The Chairperson, Bob Hunt, instructed for the distribution of ballots for the position of Secretary of Presbytery.

## **15. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Presbytery Treasurer, Ps Marilyn Price, presented a report of the finances of the Presbytery for the year ending 31 December 2020. The Presbytery's financial position continues to be 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.

## WA PRESBYTERY CONDENSED SUMMARY OF ACTUAL RESULTS COMPARED WITH BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**FINAL**

	<b>ACTUALS</b>	<b>BUDGET REVISED FOR COVID19</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b> Favourable/ <b>Unfavourable</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	\$	\$	
Mission & Service Contributions	341,547	225,928	115,619
UCIC Grants	461,140	374,096	87,044
Synod Grants	200,000	200,000	0
Presbytery Funding	100,000	100,000	0
Other Trust Funds, Bequests & Grants	86,500	100,000	-13,500
Event Income	29,955	22,000	7,955
Sundry Income	2,098	4,000	-1,902
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,221,240</b>	<b>1,026,024</b>	<b>195,216</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Staff Costs	655,588	837,750	182,162
Student Costs	121,033	133,310	12,277
Operational Costs	102,837	174,252	71,415
Event Costs	45,377	33,250	-12,127
Education Grants	2,400	20,000	17,600
Other Grants	45,380	163,051	117,671
Sundry Expenses	5,216	3,000	-2,216
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>977,831</b>	<b>1,364,613</b>	<b>386,782</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>243,409</b>	<b>-338,589</b>	<b>581,998</b>

### 16. ELECTIONS DECLARED

The Chairperson, Bob Hunt, announced the results of the election for the Secretary of Presbytery, with Revd Dr David Ferguson elected to the position. Bob then prayed for David.

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

Bob Hunt, Acting 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.

Revd Dr Christine Sorensen spoke on our formation program and encouraged members to participate in these processes. Revd Dr Anne Wright indicated that CEDAL would be interested in pursuing partnerships with congregation to assist in the financial support of candidates.

Dr Elaine Ledgerwood spoke regarding the opportunities for lay education through the Certificate IV program available through CEDAL, and encouraged members to identify congregational members for whom further theological education would be helpful.

Rev Dr Anne Wright informed the Presbytery of a number of further CEM and other educational opportunities available through CEDAL.

## **18. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Revd Mark Illingworth presented the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee. The report was received by consensus.

## **19. EXTENSION OF BEYOND 10 YEAR PLACEMENT – REV TOBY KEVA AT ROCKINGHAM UNITING CHURCH**

Rev Allan Jeffrey, Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, moved, Revd Mark Illingworth, Chair of PRC, seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA grant Rev Toby Keva an extension to his placement at Rockingham Uniting Church until the end of 2021 to enable the 19 June 2021 Presbytery meeting to consider a possible Beyond 10 Year placement extension.

## **20. CONGREGATIONAL NAME CHANGE (ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT)**

Revd Allan Jeffrey, Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, moved, Revd Mark Illingworth, Chair of PRC, seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA approve the name change of ARMADALE/KELMSCOTT UNITING CHURCH to ARMADALE UNITING CHURCH.

## **21. CONGREGATIONAL NAME CHANGE (BUSSELTON)**

Revd Allan Jeffrey, Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, moved, Revd Mark Illingworth seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA approve the name change of BUSSELTON UNITING CHURCH to BAY LIFE UNITING CHURCH.

## **22. CLOSURE OF GREENBUSHES UNITING CHURCH**

Revd Mark Illingworth, Chair of PRC moved, and Rev Allan Jeffrey, Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the WA Presbytery agree:

- I. that the Greenbushes Congregation be dissolved under Reg 3.4.3. because they can no longer fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities required of a congregation under Reg. 3.1.1.

2. to give thanks with deep gratitude for the faithful worship, mission and service of the people of the Greenbushes Congregation;
3. the Presbytery be authorised to approve details as per Reg 3.4.3 (d)
  - (i) that each member and adherent of the Congregation is transferred to a roll of another Congregation;
  - (ii) that all rolls and other records of the Congregation are placed in the custody of an appropriate officer of the Church; and
  - (iii) that in each case proper arrangements are made to deal with any property affected.
  - (iv) That the matter is referred to the Synod of WA.

### **23. CLOSURE OF BOYUP BROOK UNITING CHURCH**

Revd Mark Illingworth, Chair of PRC moved, and Rev Allan Jeffrey, Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, seconded and it was agreed by consensus:

That the WA Presbytery agree:

1. that the Boyup Brook Congregation be dissolved under Reg 3.4.3. because they can no longer fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities required of a congregation under Reg. 3.1.1.
2. to give thanks with deep gratitude for the faithful worship, mission and service of the people of the Boyup Brook Congregation;
3. the Presbytery be authorised to approve details as per Reg 3.4.3 (d)
  - (i) that each member and adherent of the Congregation is transferred to a roll of another Congregation;
  - (ii) that all rolls and other records of the Congregation are placed in the custody of an appropriate officer of the Church; and
  - (iii) that in each case proper arrangements are made to deal with any property affected.
  - (iv) That the matter is referred to the Synod of WA.

### **24. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Revd Mark Illingworth raised the issue with the encouragement of the challenge for finding enough Ministers to support our congregational life into the future, particularly in the context when many of our leaders are choosing to leave.



Janine McDonald informed the Presbytery that the upcoming KCO meeting has needed to be cancelled due to a lack of young people, and asked to meet with congregational leaders to discuss how best to work in the space of young people.

## **25. CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

Revd Bev Fabb presented the report of the Candidates for Ministries Committee which was received by consensus. She apologised for the way in which her written report did not have a plain English version and has noted the omission.

There are currently 13 people participating in the Period of Discernment.

Since the report had been prepared, the Selection Panel had met and had accepted one new candidate for ministry. They presented three people to the Presbytery for recognition as a Lay Preacher last year and have another three people in this process this year.

The CMC challenged the Presbytery to consider how we can build a culture of call in our Presbytery.

## **26. RURAL MINISTRY**

The Revd Dr David Ferguson presented the Rural Ministry Report, which was received by consensus.

## **27. THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE**

Revd Greg Ross, Convenor, continued the presentation of the report of the Thrive Mission Committee previously received.

## **28. THRIVE PROPOSAL I REVISED**

Revd Greg Ross, Convenor, moved the following amended proposal on behalf of the Thrive Mission Committee which was seconded received by consensus.

That the WA Presbytery agree:

1. that any unresolved constitutional, legal or risk matters for Congregational Community Services must be referred for the attention of the Synod Standing Committee for resolution; and
2. that such matters will be expeditiously reported to the congregation, Presbytery or Synod as required.

### **29. THRIVE PROPOSAL 3**

Revd Greg Ross, Convenor, moved the following proposal on behalf of the Thrive Mission Committee which was seconded received by consensus.

That the WA Presbytery agree:

- I. To encourage every member of every congregation and faith community to participate in the 2021 National Church Life Survey.

(NB – Thrive will work with Synod to enable the smooth roll out of the survey)

### **30. THRIVE PROPOSAL 4**

Revd Greg Ross, Convenor, moved the following proposal on behalf of the Thrive Mission Committee which was seconded received by consensus.

That the WA Presbytery:

- I. Endorses the development of a tool kit of resources for Congregations in collaboration with the Synod's General Manager (Property) to use when renting or leasing their properties.

In the discussion, it was noted that this tool kit will come back to the Presbytery for approval and several issues were presented for the committee to consider.

### **31. THRIVE PROPOSAL 5**

Revd Greg Ross, Convenor, moved the following proposal on behalf of the Thrive Mission Committee which was seconded received by consensus.

That the WA Presbytery agree:

- I. To encourage people to join the launch of godsend and to explore the use of the godsend down under app as another gift to help people learn or relearn how to share their faith in a 21st century way and to engage or re-engage in local mission.

### **32. PROPOSAL REGARDING ROLE OF CHAIRPERSON**

Revd Ivan Clark proposed and Alison Xamon seconded the following proposal which was received by consensus:

That the Presbytery:

Form a task group to examine the role of the Chairperson of Presbytery and to advise the Presbytery by November 2021 as to how to make this role a viable one for anyone in the Presbytery with the suitable gifts and skills.

### **33. CHANGES TO THE RULES REGARDING THE PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE**

Revd Greg Ross moved, it was seconded (Revd Dr Anne Wright) and agreed by consensus:

That the Presbytery of WA: 1. Replace the existing Rules relating to the Presbytery Standing Committee (P3.1), with the following set of rules: (Attached as Appendix A)

Two minor amendments were agreed to, and are reflected in the attached copy.

### **35. 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 3.5)  
as a true and correct record*



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**Bob Hunt**  
**Chairperson**

2021

**P3.1 PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE**

**AUTHORITY**

P3.1.1 The Presbytery will appoint a Standing Committee as required by Regulation 3.7.2 (a)(i).

**MEMBERSHIP**

P3.1.2 The membership of the Standing Committee consists of:

- (a) the officers of the Presbytery for the time being, namely, the Chairperson of the Presbytery, the immediate past Chairperson (to be replaced by the Chairperson-elect when appointed), the Secretary and the Treasurer;
- (b) the Chairperson for the time being of each of the following Presbytery Committees, namely, the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership, the Pastoral Relations Committee, and the Thrive Mission Committee;
- (c) the Moderator for the time being of the Synod;
- (d) four (4) members of Presbytery elected by the Presbytery; and
- (e) up to two other persons co-opted by the Standing Committee to help balance the membership or to provide the Standing Committee with knowledge, skills or experience not otherwise available to the Standing Committee.

P3.1.3 All members of the Standing Committee must be members of the Presbytery.

P3.1.4 As far as possible, the Standing Committee membership shall include:

- at least one-third women and one-third men,
- a balance of lay and ordained, and
- people experienced in rural ministry, multicultural ministry and intergenerational ministry

P3.1.5 Elected and co-opted members shall be appointed for a period of two years with at least half the elected members being appointed each year.

P3.1.6 If there is a vacancy for any reason in any one of the Presbytery-elected members (P3.1.2 (d)), such vacancy may only be filled by election at a Presbytery meeting and only for the remaining balance of the term of the member being replaced.

**MEETINGS**

P3.1.7 The Standing Committee will meet not less than once every three months.

P3.1.8 The meetings of the Standing Committee will be conducted in accordance with the principles and procedures of the *Manual for Meetings*.

**QUORUM**

P3.1.9 The quorum for the meetings of the Standing Committee shall be the whole number next above one-half of the current members.

## **THE ROLE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

P3.1.10 The Standing Committee's role is to:

- (a) act for the Presbytery between meetings of the Presbytery on matters urgent or emergent that require a decision before the next Presbytery meeting or when authorised by the Presbytery to do so;
- (b) initiate or coordinate the development of policy, goals, strategy and programs for the Presbytery;
- (c) coordinate the processes and activities of the various Presbytery Committees and Bodies;
- (d) provide support, advice and direction to the various Presbytery Committees and Bodies when requested or deemed to be desirable;
- (e) act on any direction or reference from the Presbytery; and
- (f) report to every meeting of the Presbytery.

## **POWERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

P3.1.11 The Standing Committee shall have the full powers of the Presbytery (as prescribed in Regulation 3.1.3) between meetings of the Presbytery, except in relation to the following matters:

- (a) election of a Presbytery Chairperson;
- (b) appointment of members the Standing Committee;
- (c) determination of applications for recognition for the specified ministries;
- (d) election of members of Synod and Assembly;
- (e) determination of extensions of placement beyond ten years; and
- (f) approval of the Presbytery's annual budget.

P3.1.12 The Standing Committee shall report its decisions under its power in Rule P3.1.11 to the next meeting of the Presbytery, which may review and vary any such decision.

P3.1.13 The Standing Committee may:

- (a) require reports from, and enquire into the work and activities of, any Committee or other body within the Presbytery and any staff of the Presbytery; and
- (b) initiate and coordinate the review of existing Presbytery policies and programs and the investigation and development of new Presbytery policies and programs, and may, for this purpose, appoint working groups and consultants to assist the Standing Committee.