

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



**Minutes of**  
**the Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of WA**  
**held at Billabong Uniting Church, Canning Vale WA**  
**on 3 August 2019**

## 1. CONSTITUTION

On Saturday 3 August 2019 at 9.00 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at the Billabong Uniting Church Centre, the Chairperson, Bob Hunt, presiding.

There were 111 ministerial and lay members present of whom 7 attended via Zoom video link. 35 apologies were submitted.

## 2. OPENING WORSHIP

Opening Worship was led by the Revd Roy Alexander Suryanegara and members from the GKI congregation. The opening message reflected on Luke 10:29 "But, wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, *"and who is my neighbour?"*

## 3. BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Revd Bev Fabb presented the report of the Business Committee.

**Agreed** that the Presbytery:

1. Adopt the Order of Business for the meeting
2. Co-opt the following as lay member of the Presbytery 2019-2020 according to Regulation 3.3.4 (f)(i):
  - (a) Candidate for Pastor - John Qiu
3. Co-opt Revd John Barendrecht as a member for this Presbytery meeting in order to present the PRC Report and recommendations.
4. Appoint Tom Stokes and Alison McCubbin as Scrutineers for this meeting.
5. Appoint Revd Lesley deGrussa and Revd Gordon Scantlebury as Chaplains for this meeting
6. Appoint Revd Bev Fabb as Acting Secretary for this meeting; and
7. Note that the Presbytery Standing Committee will be responsible for the confirmation of minutes.

## 4. MISSION SPOT

The Revd Alison Gilchrist (Thrive Mission Committee) presented a video presentation portraying her approach to Fresh Expressions, "respect the past, reviewing the present, and renew, reshape and train towards the future, by journeying in community as one among and alongside". Sue Whitworth from Armadale-Kelmscott congregation also contributed to the presentation. Alison Gilchrist and the Revd Sophie Lizares have been working closely with UnitingCare West with the theme, Eat, Share and Belong.

## 5. MEETING DATES FOR 2020 (past chair, the Revd Lorraine Stokes, presiding)

Bob Hunt presented a proposal on behalf of the Presbytery Standing Committee.

**Agreed** that the Presbytery:

1. Meet three times a year:
  - First Quarter:
    - Reporting on progress with implementing the previous 3-year Presbytery Plan
    - Developing and reviewing our future directions
    - Annual election of officers
  - Second Quarter:
    - Reporting on progress with implementing the current 3-year Presbytery Plan
    - Providing input into the next 3-year Presbytery Plan
    - Preparing Input to Synod (September)

Fourth Quarter:

- Approving of the next 3-year Presbytery Plan

The dates proposed for 2020 are 21 March, 20 June and 21 November.

## **6. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SECRETARY (past chair, the Revd Lorraine Stokes, presiding)**

Bob Hunt proposed

**Agreed** that the Presbytery:

Appoint Revd Des Cousins as Acting Secretary until the next Presbytery meeting to be held on 9 November 2019.

## **7. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Revd John Barendrecht, former Pastoral Relations Coordinator, presented the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee. He updated the report, advising that a call has now been issued to the Revd Margaret Beach, an Anglican priest, to commence placement at St Peter & Emmaus, Mt Hawthorn on 1 October 2019.

John Barendrecht introduced the Revd Alan Jeffrey as the new Presbytery Minister (Pastoral).

### **7.1 Beyond tenth year extension of the Revd Greg Ross's placement in the Wellington Regional Mission**

**Agreed by secret ballot and with more than a two-thirds majority (Reg 2.6.8(a)(ii))** That the Presbytery:

agree to a beyond tenth year extension of the placement of Revd Greg Ross in the Wellington Regional Mission (Bunbury St Augustine and Waterloo congregations) for a period of 5 years, commencing on 1 February 2020.

### **7.2 Dissolution of the Melville Congregation**

**Agreed** that the Presbytery:

- (a) dissolve the Melville Congregation in accordance with Reg 3.4.3 from 31 December 2019 because the Congregation can no longer fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities required of a congregation under Reg. 3.1.1.
- (b) give thanks with deep gratitude for the faithful worship, mission and service of the people of Melville Congregation.
- (c) the Pastoral Relations Committee ensure in accordance 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;
  - (iii) that in each case proper arrangements are made to deal with any property affected; and
  - (iv) that the matter is reported to the Synod of WA.



### **7.3 Dissolution of the Collanilling Congregation**

**Agreed** that the Presbytery:

- (a) dissolve the Collanilling Congregation in accordance with Reg 3.4.3. from 16 September 2018 because they can no longer fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities required of a congregation under Reg. 3.1.1.
- (b) to give thanks with deep gratitude for the faithful worship, mission and service of the people of Collanilling Congregation;
- (c) the Pastoral Relations Committee ensure in accordance with Reg 3.4.3 (d):
  - (i) that each member and adherent of the Congregation is transferred to a roll of another Congregation;
  - (ii) at all rolls and other records of the Congregation are placed in the custody of an appropriate officer of the Church;
  - (iii) that in each case proper arrangements are made to deal with any property affected; and
  - (iv) that the matter is reported to the Synod of WA.

### **8. ETHICAL MINISTRY TRAINING**

Cindy Gorton (Executive Safe Church Officer) presented a report on Ethical Ministry Training. Emphasis was placed on:

- The changes to the delivery of Ethical Ministry Training workshops.
- Discussions with CEDAL in relation to the heavy workload and the sharing of this workload.
- Feedback over time about workshops, access and delivery.

### **9. PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT (past Chair, Revd Lorraine Stokes, presiding)**

Bob Hunt presented the report of the Presbytery Standing Committee. He elaborated on Presbytery property issues in relation to building evaluations and maintenance requirements forecast for the next few years. Table Groups were asked to discuss the Key Priorities identified at the last Presbytery meeting and feedback was provided.

**Agreed** that the Presbytery receive the report.

### **10 PRESBYTERY TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Ps Marilyn Price, reported that Synod Standing Committee had agreed to the Presbytery retaining any surplus of income from Mission and Service over expenditure. The first roll-over will occur in January 2020. This will be incorporated into the 2020 budget. The Synod Standing committee also agreed that if any surplus Synod grant funds remained at the end of the year these will be returned to the Synod.

**Agreed** that the Presbytery receive the report.

#### **10.1 Mission and Service Fund Contributions from Congregations**

**Agreed** that the Presbytery:

1. notes the following:
  - That the bulk of the income to fund the work of the Presbytery comes from the Mission and Service contributions of congregations;

- That 67% of the Mission and Service income currently comes from the Uniting Church in the City;
  - That the Uniting Church in the City has indicated that it is likely that it will need to reduce its contribution to Mission and Service in 2020;
  - That currently about half of the congregations and faith communities in the Presbytery contribute nothing to Mission and Service; and
  - That if there is a significant reduction in income from Mission and Service contributions from congregations in 2020 and beyond, the Presbytery of WA will need to reduce the services it currently provides to congregations within the Presbytery.
2. Calls upon all Congregations and Faith Communities to review their giving to Mission and Service for 2020 as a way of “encouraging one another and bearing one another’s burdens”.
  3. Requests all Congregations and Faith Communities who currently do not contribute to Mission and Service to begin making a contribution.

## **11. THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Revd Greg Ross and Yvonne Robinson presented the report of the Thrive Mission Committee.

Revd Dr Anne Wright, Revd Stephen van Schalkwyk and Revd Alison Gilchrist reported on the Thrive Mission’s trip to the United Kingdom Conference during April 2019. Revd Greg Ross also delivered a short report on Fresh Expressions

*Agreed* that the Presbytery receive the report.

### **11.1 Property Issues**

*Agreed* that the Presbytery:

1. Write to the Synod Resources Commission expressing our sincere thanks to the Commission and the Members of the Property Review Project Team for the timely action in resourcing and arranging for the Presbytery wide property inspections by Houspect.
2. Commend congregations and faith communities and agencies on the condition of most Uniting Church properties across the Presbytery
3. Bring to the notice of every property user the fact that in the reports any items which have an indicated \$25,000 value, that this is only a minimum estimate and that detailed professional quotes need to be obtained which could exceed this amount.
4. Remind all property users that quotes must be furnished to Thrive Mission Committee and Synod Property Services Committee before any action work over \$5,000 is undertaken.
5. Write to all congregations and faith communities within the Presbytery asking that they provide a report to Thrive Mission Committee [acting as the Presbytery Property Committee] on or before 31 October 2019 in relation to how they plan to undertake any building maintenance work identified in their Houspect Report/s including funding future repairs and maintenance.
6. Note the pain caused to several communities due to the closure of their much-loved worship spaces and commits to supporting them pastorally and working with them to find future ways

they can participate in the Mission of God in their location.

7. Thank to the Melville Uniting Church for the transfer of their property to the Presbytery upon their closure, noting that this will have significant importance in developing new mission and ministry opportunities within and around the City of Melville. Thrive Mission Committee will continue working with congregations in and around the City of Melville to develop a wise missional plan for the future.

There were many comments that the sum of \$5000 set by the Synod for prior approval of expenditure on property works was too low in terms of current costs of such work. The Thrive Mission Committee undertook to take this matter up with to the Synod Resources Committee.

## **12. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND LEADERSHIP (CEDAL)**

The Chairperson, Revd Bev Fabb, presented the report of the Commission.

*Agreed* that the Presbytery receive the report.

## **13. CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRIES REPORT**

Chairperson Margaret Donovan and Revd Dr Anne Wright presented the report of Candidates for Ministries Committee.

*Agreed* that the Presbytery receive the report.

## **14. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY NETWORKS**

The Presbytery Networks established at the last meeting shared information and gave updates on what has been happening within Uniting Generations (Janine McDonald), Rural Ministry (Revd Claire Pickering) and Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Ministry (Revd Roy Alexander Suryanegara).

*Agreed* that the Presbytery receive the report.

## **15. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Tom Stokes and Margaret Martin presented the report of the Nominating Committee

*Agreed* that the Presbytery receive the report.

*Agreed* that the representatives listed in Appendix A be elected to attend Synod 2019.

## **16. CLOSING REFLECTIONS**

Chairperson, Bob Hunt, presented the following questions to the meeting:

Questions for each Congregation:

- Why does your Congregation exist?
- How does your Congregation intend to not only survive but to also thrive?
- What are your Congregation's long term (+10 years) and short-term goals (next three years)?

## **17. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Chair of Presbytery, Bob Hunt, thanked and acknowledged all those persons who had contributed to

the smooth running of the meeting.

**18 CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

Bob Hunt led the closing devotions and closed the meeting at 4.00 pm.

***Confirmed by the Presbytery Standing Committee (ref Minute 3.7)  
as a true and correct record.***



---

**Bob Hunt**  
**Chairperson**

*1019 / 2019*