

Uniting Church in Australia
Presbytery of Western Australia



**Minutes of
the Ordinary Meeting of
the Presbytery of Western Australia
held at Tranby College, Baldivis
on 9 November 2019**

1. CONSTITUTION

On Saturday 9 November 2019 at 9.00 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at Tranby College, Baldivis, the Chairperson, Bob Hunt, presiding.

There were 72 ministerial and lay members present of whom 5 attended via Zoom video link. 51 apologies were submitted.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

As part of the opening worship, Revd Alan Jeffrey paid respect to those whose have cared for this land since time immemorial and to the elders of the Noongar nation, past, present and emerging.

3. OPENING WORSHIP

Opening Worship was led by the Revd Alan Jeffrey with music assistance from Rockingham congregation.

Revd Marie Wilson reading from Hebrews 11 (the great cloud of witnesses) and Mark 8 (Jesus calls on the disciples to take up their cross and follow him).

Alan reminded us of the crowd of witnesses who surround us and cheer us on! They kept the faith amid suffering and inspire us. Today, we are the witnesses inspiring each other and bearing one another's burdens. And up in the stands is Jesus, calling us to follow him in his way, bearing his cross.

We sang Elizabeth Smith's Hymn: "God gives us future".

4. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Acting Secretary, Revd Des Cousins reported on the arrangements made for the meeting.

Resolved that the Presbytery:

1. Adopt the Order of Business for the meeting
2. Add to the roll of the Presbytery:
 - (a) Revd Margaret Beach, a priest of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Perth, inducted on 1 October 2019 as Minister of the St Peter and Emmaus Congregation. (Reg 3.3.4(b)(i))
 - (b) Revd Des Cousins, a retired Minister of the Word, appointed by the Presbytery on 3 August 2019 as Acting Secretary of the Presbytery. (Reg 3.3.4(a))
3. Appoint Doug Burtenshaw and Alison McCubbin as Scrutineers for this meeting.
4. Appoint Revd Marie Wilson and Revd John Marshall as Chaplains for this meeting
5. Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to confirm the minutes of this meeting.

5. MISSION SPOT

Revd Alison Gilchrist, Presbytery Minister – Mission, introduced Rosalie Tanner, a member of the Maylands-Mt Lawley Congregation, to speak about "Visual Evangelism", using buildings and other built structures as a canvas on which to place signs and symbols that speak of the faith. Rosalie is a graphic designer whose major client is Kings Park. She did the exterior design of the new St Andrew's in East Perth.

6. PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE (Revd Lorraine Stokes, past chair, presiding)

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

The Chairperson updated the report:

- (a) The Call to the Revd Dr David Ferguson of Kingaroy, Queensland, to the placement of Presbytery Officer has been accepted.
- (b) Joint Nominating Committees are being formed for the approved vacant placement of Rural Resource Minister (chair, Revd Lorraine Stokes) and Presbytery Minister Formation and Discipleship (chair, Revd Bev Fabb).
- (c) The Presbytery Standing Committee's future plans include more direct contact with congregations and faith communities. General requests for visits can be made to the Chairperson or Secretary
- (d) The Presbytery Standing Committee has scheduled a Planning Day on 7 March 2020.

There were no questions and the report was received.

Discussion points included:

- Property reviews involve 200 plus properties.
- Congratulations to St Andrew's on the great outcome of its redevelopment.
- Thanks to Mobile mission maintenance for work on the Mundijong Church (other congregations please note)

6A. WHO ARE THE PRESBYTERY STAFF 2020?

An appendix to the Presbytery Standing Committee report detailed and introduced the people who will be the Presbytery staff in 2020 (noting that there are two position still to be filled).

The Chairperson invited those staff members present to stand and they were welcomed.

7. CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The report was presented by Margaret Donovan.

Margaret advised that 2 new candidates for the ministry had been accepted following the recent Selection Panel, bringing our candidates in various stages of formation to a total of five and more are expected next year.

There is a need for more mentors for those in a Period of Discernment, there now being 16 people enrolled.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ps Marilyn Price presented the report for the period ending 30 September 2019.

At that date, there was a favourable balance against the budget of \$299,856, largely due to staff vacancies, and although two of these have been filled since 1 August 2019, the majority of the favourable balance will carry through the remainder of the year.

Mission and Service income has improved following recent contact with Congregations, and is only \$3,000 below budget.

Donald Nicholas, Uniting Church in the City representative, explained their situation – loss of tenants in the tower block has reduced their income and consequently their contribution (which is the largest contribution to Mission and Service by far). Donald advised that the UCIC contribution will be increased if tenancy income increases during the year.

Discussion about Mission and Service contributions included how best to inform Congregations about the level of responses that are expected. Freewill giving was affirmed, but the Presbytery lacks data to guide its planning. The question was asked, should congregations supply their budget?

It was suggested that Presbytery Standing Committee should develop a more rigorous and definitive way of promoting, receiving and reporting on Mission and Service, perhaps a new system in new year. There is a need more communication with congregations and a need to gather information from congregations for both financial and pastoral purposes.

Revd Lorraine Stokes moved, Bob Lockley seconded, and it was resolved:

that the Presbytery request the Standing Committee to develop a process for congregations to report their financial position to the Presbytery annually.

9. PRESBYTERY BUDGET 2020

Ps Marilyn Price presented the proposed Presbytery budget for 2020

Questions asked about student costs: these are living allowances for 5 candidates and total \$133k.

Ps Marilyn Price moved, Revd Bev Fabb seconded, and it was resolved:

That the Presbytery adopt the 2020 budget as summarised below:

2020 CONSOLIDATED PRESBYTERY BUDGET SUMMARY										
	MISSION & SERVICE	CEDAL	MISSION GRANTS	THRIVE MISSION	PRESBYTERY PASTORAL	PRESBYTERY /RURAL	PSC & PRESBYTERY	UNITING GENS		TOTAL
INCOME										
Congregation Contributions	950,000									950,000
Synod and Presbytery Grants		100,000	100,000	100,000						300,000
Trust Funds, Bequests and Grants		31,500	32,000			3,000		53,000		119,500
Event Income		20,000		24,100		5,000	18,000	8,000		75,100
Sundry Income		1,000					2,000			3,000
TOTAL INCOME	950,000	152,500	132,000	124,100	0	8,000	20,000	61,000		1,447,600
EXPENSES										
Staff Costs		339,879		97,329	97,383	130,096	82,344	91,695		838,726
Student Costs		133,424								133,424
Operational Costs		73,146		60,350	16,600	30,250	43,200	30,000		253,546
Event Costs		20,000		20,000			18,000	8,500		66,500
Education Grants		20,000								20,000
Other Grants			132,000							132,000
Sundry Expenses							1,800			1,800
TOTAL EXPENSES	0	586,449	132,000	177,679	113,983	160,346	145,344	130,195		1,445,996
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	950,000	-433,949	0	-53,579	-113,983	-152,346	-125,344	-69,195		1,604

10. PRESBYTERY GOALS 2020 (Revd Lorraine Stokes, past chair, presiding)

The Presbytery Chair, Bob Hunt, presented a set of goals for the Presbytery in 2020, collated from a series of discussions and conversations at Presbytery and Standing Committee meetings and from input from the various Presbytery Committees and officers.

After discussion, Bob Hunt moved, Revd Des Cousins seconded, and it was resolved:

That the Presbytery adopt the Presbytery Goals as presented.

11. COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND LEADERSHIP

The Revd Bev Fabb presented the report.

The Revd Bev Fabb moved, the Revd Dr Anne Wright seconded, and it was resolved:

That the Presbytery of WA agree to:

Endorse the Vision and Mission Statements for the Commission on Education for Discipleship and Leadership as follows:

Vision

The Uniting Church in Western Australia will be an informed and educated learning community directed to the mission of God (Synod 2009)

Mission

- We educate for discipleship to enable the mission of the Church.
- We provide continuing, accessible education for lay and ordained ministry which strengthens missional leadership
- We provide formation for ordinands fit for ministry leadership in the 21st Century.
- We work collaboratively with other UCA colleges to provide complementary education and training through resource sharing.

12. MINISTRY MILESTONES

The Chairperson, Bob Hunt, led the Presbytery in a celebration of ministry milestones for the following ministers:

60 years	Revd Dr Michael Owen
	Revd Neville Watson
	Revd Ronald Yeats
50 years	Revd John Dunn
	Revd Norman Hogg
	Revd Peter Tirant-James
	Revd Patrick Yeo
40 years	Revd John Barendrecht
	Revd Dr Dianne Bertolino
	Revd Zak Cronje
	Revd Lee Edwards
	Revd Rodney Marsh
30 years	Revd Anne McAndrew
	Revd Andrew Syme
	Revd David Tressler

20 years	Revd Solomon Gokavi
	Revd Sylvia Hancock
	Revd John McKane
10 years	Revd Cathie Lambert
	Revd Pearl McGill

13. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY SECRETARY

A nomination for Presbytery Secretary of Revd Des Cousins was received.

Following a ballot, the Chairperson declared the Revd Des Cousins elected as Secretary of the Presbytery of Western Australia for a term of one year.

14. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY TREASURER

A nomination for Presbytery Treasurer of Ps Marilyn Price was received.

Following a ballot, the Chairperson declared Pastor Marilyn Price elected as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Western Australia for a term of three years.

15. THY KINGDOM COME

Revd Alison Gilchrist and Revd Luke Williams spoke about "Thy Kingdom Come", a prayer event in the period between Ascension and Pentecost. Ideas and resources at thykingdomcome.global.

16. THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE

The report of the Committee was presented by Revd Greg Ross.

Greg advised that Revd Narelle Collas has resigned from the Committee and that Rhod Wright had been co-opted.

Following the Presbytery request in 2018 for every ministry agent and Church councillor/elder to complete the Mission Shaped Ministry by the end of 2020, registration forms for next year are now available.

A Property Advisory Group has been set up.

17. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The report of the Committee was presented by Revd Alan Jeffrey and Revd Andrew Morris.

18. OPEN FORUMS

The first topic was: Regional Gatherings

- resume/expand; but note some are really clusters
- need for support and sense of belonging
- outlying areas feeling disconnected and unheard
- composition of regions needs to be reconstructed
- some have been just old Presbyteries continuing
- rural retreat model -- not as frequent but longer

- regional leadership to gather people together
- knowing members of Presbytery – displaying roll
- Uniting Church – its name is its mission
- costs and time for travelling and the tiredness of an ageing Church are issues today in many rural areas

19. CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Chairperson, Bob Hunt, reminded us that to grow and share the faith is our responsibility and challenge.

20. 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.

21. CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Bob Hunt led the closing devotions and closed the meeting at 2.45 pm.

*Confirmed by the Presbytery Standing Committee (ref Minute 4.5)
as a true and correct record.*



Bob Hunt
Chairperson
26/11/2019