

**The Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia**



**Minutes of the Special Presbytery Meeting
of the Presbytery of Western Australia
considering arrangements for
the proposal that Claire Pickering be ordained as a Minister of the Word.
Saturday 19 August 2017**

The following documents are included with these Minutes:

Attachment I – Attendance List

The Meeting was held at Kalamunda Uniting Church, on Saturday 19 August 2017.

OPENING WORSHIP

The Minister at Kalamunda, Rev David Tressler, led the welcome and acknowledgement. Rev Lorraine Stokes opened with prayer and the reading from Psalm 42:1-6a, 8.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

I-SPI/2017 PROPOSAL I – Meeting Arrangements

The Presbytery of Western Australia resolved by consensus to:

1. Adopt the Order of Business.
2. Appoint Frances Stanley as Minute Taker
3. Appoint Cindy Gorton as Screen Manager.
4. Appoint Matt O'Donohue as IT Support.
5. Appoint Bruce Wilson as Timekeeper.
6. Appoint Janine McDonald as First Aid Officer.
7. Appoint Tom Stokes as chief scrutineer for the ballot with Ian Passmore, Margaret Johnston and Monica Pettersen providing administrative support as necessary.
8. Appoint Rev Alan Jeffrey, Rev Ruth Vertigan and Kalo Fotu as Presbytery Meeting Chaplains.
9. Appoint Reuben Edmonds and Ashley MacMillan as Youthful Members.
10. Note that the Presbytery Standing Committee will be responsible for the confirmation of the minutes for the 19 August 2017 Special Presbytery Meeting.
11. Re-affirm the membership of the Presbytery to include confirmed members appointed by bodies under the oversight of the Presbytery.

Moved: Rev Dr Ian Tozer Seconded: Bev Fabb

Candidates for the Ministries Committee (CMC)

RESOLUTION 2-SPI/2017

*The Presbytery **resolved by consensus** that Claire Pickering be ordained as Minister of the Word noting that she is currently serving in a placement as a Chaplain at Penrhos College.*

Presentation summary

Rev Alistair Melville presented Claire Pickering to the Presbytery, noting that the Candidates for Ministries Commission met with Claire on 25 July 2017 and to assess her readiness for ordination. The Committee noted that Claire had fulfilled all of its recommendations to her. She had met regularly with her mentor, been involved in a Uniting Church congregation and participated in wider church events. She was able to readily articulate what she had learned last year and demonstrate a good understanding of the role of an ordained minister in the Uniting Church. The CMC agreed to recommend to the Presbytery that Claire Pickering be ordained as a Minister of the Word (MOW).

Claire summarised her faith development, her sense of call and belief in her readiness for ordination. Claire spoke of being born into the Uniting Church and of having the unique privilege of being baptised by her father, Rev Bill Pickering, in 1995 at the Bicton Uniting Church. Bill had served Uniting Churches in Tom Price, Esperance, Bicton and Kardinya. Claire currently attends and participates in Bicton Uniting Church. Her call to ministry came early, around the age of 18 or 19 years. Claire shared that she did not follow her call at that time, instead spending time away from the church and her God. Her call came again in mid-2005. She began a Bachelor of Theology in 2006 and entered a period of discernment. In 2007 Claire began Formation for Ministry training in Perth. She reported facing some unique challenges in her call to serve. Having followed in the footsteps of her father, who had served as a minister for 25 years, so many of them in Western Australia, Claire spoke of the need she felt to find another way to forge her own ministerial identity. That led to the difficult decision in late 2008 of transferring her candidature to the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Despite the completion of her Formation for Ministry in mid-2011, Claire delayed ordination and returned to Perth in mid-2012. Following a period of transition and postgraduate study, she then felt the time to pursue ordination had arrived. Claire spoke of how drawn she had felt to exploring how young people engaged with religion and spirituality throughout her formation. Since May 2016, Claire has been in ministry as a Chaplain at Penrhos College. She described the time spent serving this community as one of complete joy and a privilege.

Claire left the meeting, accompanied by her support person, while Presbytery engaged in the discernment process. A secret ballot was then conducted.

Following the declaration of the secret ballot (recorded in Resolution 2-SPI/2017), Rev Lorraine Stokes led the Presbytery in prayer for Claire. It was announced that the ordination service would be held 2 September 2017, 1.30pm at Bicton Uniting Church.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.20am.

We confirm these Minutes to be a true record of the Special Presbytery Meeting held at Kalamunda Uniting Church on Saturday 19 August 2017.



Chairperson

Rev Lorraine Stokes



Secretary of Presbytery

Rev Dr Ian Tozer