



NOMINATIONS FOR 17TH ASSEMBLY: 11-16 JULY 2024

The 17th Triennial Assembly will meet in Sydney, NSW from Thursday 11 July to Tuesday 16 July 2024.

The Assembly theme is *Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries*.

According to Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (iii) (1) the Church within the bounds of the Synod of Western Australia may appoint 20 members. Included in these, the Presbytery of WA may appoint one minister and one confirmed lay member. These two members are to be elected at the Presbytery meeting in November 2023. The Synod of WA may thus appoint seven ministers and nine confirmed lay members. (Because the Moderator & General Secretary fill two of the places only seven (7) ministers and nine (9) lay members can be nominated to be elected at the Synod meeting in September. According to Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (iii) (3), and by resolution of the Assembly Standing Committee two members from Western Australia shall be under the age of 30 years *at the time of the Assembly*.”

To summarise:

- The Moderator and General Secretary are ex officio members
- Synod will elect 7 ministers and 9 confirmed lay members in September
- Presbytery will elect 1 minister and 1 confirmed lay member in November 2023
- Two elected members shall be under the age of 30 years on 11 July 2024
- Nominations for Synod members on the enclosed form must be received by close of business on **Wednesday 6 September 2023**. Please note the request to also supply a photograph of the nominee.

The following points should be noted in considering nominations:

- Persons appointed to membership of the triennial Assembly are not there as delegates or representatives of their appointing body. The experience they bring from their background is important, but they are to understand themselves as members of the Assembly.
- "Ministers" includes ministers of the Word, deacons and deaconesses. Note also that a minister of another church who is serving in an approved placement within the Uniting Church is eligible for election to membership of the Assembly - but check the wording of 2.9.5 (a) to see the conditions which apply to that eligibility.
- Appointed members of the Assembly are not required to be members of the Council that appoints them but are appointed from “within the bounds” of the appointing Council.

Further, it should be noted that:

- Members are expected to be at all sessions of the Assembly for the whole time.
- Members are expected to have read the papers and to be fully informed on all the matters that will be before the Assembly.
- Members have the responsibility to inform the Assembly office of any changes to their contact details and to provide all necessary information in a timely manner.
- If a person steps down as an appointed member of the Assembly it is their responsibility to inform the Presbytery or the Synod **and** the Assembly office, and if at all possible to pass on to the new member any papers that might come to them.
- Some costs will be the responsibility of the Assembly members (see below). Members will be accommodated in various types of accommodation- to be provided in March 2024 when the meeting venue is finalised.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

a. Costs

The Assembly meets most of the costs of attending the Assembly including travel, accommodation, and most meals. The member is responsible for their lunch time meal. Unless other arrangements have been made, appointing bodies are requested to make a co-contribution towards the cost of the Assembly. Further information will be advised in March 2024.

b. Travel arrangements

The Assembly will only meet the travel costs when the travel is arranged as per the instructions provided through the Assembly Secretariat. Members of the Assembly will make their own travel bookings. Members will be reimbursed for either the cost of their ticket or the indicative amount for travel from their place of origin to Sydney (as determined by the Assembly Secretariat), whichever is the lower. So if the tickets are booked too late then any difference needs to be borne by the member. It is greatly appreciated if Assembly members can book the least expensive tickets that are available as this can lead to significant savings for the Assembly budget.

Assembly members may want to take the opportunity for a holiday in NSW before or after the Assembly. That's fine; however Assembly members will be responsible for any extra travel and accommodation costs caused by the holiday arrangements. Only persons travelling from destinations, or for purposes pre-approved by the Assembly Secretariat will have Assembly funded accommodation provided for them before or after the Assembly 2024.

c. Venue

Will be advised, but in the greater Sydney area.

The venue for the opening service of the Assembly, including the installation of Rev Charissa Suli as President, will be advised as soon as possible. This important event will take place on the evening of 11 July 2024.