



Uniting Church in Australia
Presbytery of Western Australia



Minutes of the Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia at St Peter Emmaus Anglican/ Uniting Church on 18 November 2023

1. Constitution

On Saturday 18 November 2023 at 9.00 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at St Peter/Emmaus Anglican/Uniting Church, Joondanna, with the Chairperson, Alison Xamon, presiding.

There were 30 ministerial and 52 lay members present, with 2 ministers and 4 lay members attending via Zoom. Apologies were submitted from 11 ministers and 14 lay members.

2. Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Chairperson, Alison Xamon, welcomed members, especially those attending their first meeting, opening in prayer.

3. Welcome to Country

Rev Mitchell Garlett welcomed the members to Whadjuk Noongar land.

4. Opening worship

The Opening Worship was led by the Chair of Presbytery with Rev Rob Douglas preaching on the text of Ephesians 4:11-16.

5. Meeting arrangements

The Secretary, Rev Bev Fabb, presented Proposal 1 about the arrangements for this meeting.

The Presbytery agreed by consensus to

1. ***Amend the Roll of Presbytery attached to the Minutes of the Presbytery meeting on 17 June 2023 as follows:***

1.1 Ministers in Active Service

- ***Remove Rev Mark Bell- no longer in placement***
- ***Change Rev Hannes Halgryn- inducted into Fremantle congregation.***
- ***Add Rev Sungeun Jang- inducted into Korean congregation***
- ***Add Rev Erica Payne- received as minister in the UCA.***
- ***Add Rev Andrew Broadbent- Youth Care***
- ***Add Rev Ian Tozer- installed as Moderator.***
- ***Add Rev Reuben Edmonds- ordained and inducted into All Saints Floreat.***

- **Add Rev Lyall Reid- Naval Chaplain, transfer from Victoria.**
- **Add Rev Dr Elaine Ledgerwood- ordained and inducted into St Aidan's Claremont**

1.2 Ministers Co-opted

- **Remove Rev Sungeun Jang- moved to active ministry list**
- **Change Rev Zac Cronje- supply minister at Rockingham**
- **Remove Rev Erica Payne- moved to active ministry list**
- **Remove Rev Ian Tozer- moved to active ministry list**

1.3 Pastors

- **Remove Chelsie Bunter- no longer a Pastor**
- **Add Cameron Harries- commissioned as Pastor**

1.4 Congregational Lay Representatives

- **Replace Iliapi Taoi with Liti Lomalagi- lay rep for Wanneroo Crossways- by election**
- **Add Coral Richards as lay rep for Mandurah- by election**

1.5 Co-opted Lay Members

- **Add Yoy Alberastine- candidate for Pastor**
- **Remove Reuben Edmonds- moved to active ministry list**
- **Remove Cameron Harries- moved to Pastor list**
- **Remove Elaine Ledgerwood- moved to active ministry list**
- **Remove Mark Brisbane- no longer member of Synod Standing Committee**
- **Add David Beards & Maggie Johns- members of Synod Standing Committee.**
- **Add Monika Cowell- member of Thrive Committee.**

Members of the Presbytery should note that the approval of these appointments (apart from once off alternates) will confer membership of Presbytery to the person until the next AGM.

2. Appoint the following as once off alternates for this meeting only

- **Robbie Muir to replace Averill McIntosh from Maylands- Mt Lawley**
- **Lyn McLachlan to replace Mark Hackling from Northway**

3. Adopt the Order of Business for this meeting.

4. Appoint Rev Marie Wilson and Rev Sonny Rajamoney as Chaplains for this meeting of the Presbytery.

5. Appoint Sue Whitworth as Returning Officer and John Berger and Mary Riley as scrutineers for this meeting of the Presbytery.

6. *Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to confirm the minutes of this meeting of the Presbytery.*

6. Chairperson's report

A past chairperson, Rev Lorraine Stokes, took the chair.

Alison Xamon presented the report. There were no questions and the report was received.

The chairperson, Alison Xamon, resumed the chair.

7. Pastoral Relations Committee report

Sue Strutt presented the report and commented on the need to fill the Presbytery Minister Pastoral position from 1 January 2024. There were no questions and the report was received.

8. Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL) report

Dr Karen Flowers presented the report and noted that Summer Spirit will be held again in February. She also reported that Rev Dr Cathie Lambert has been appointed to the Formation and Learning Culture position. The second position has been re-advertised and she asked members of Presbytery to consider who may be a good person to fill this role. Rev David Kriel will continue until end of March 2024. She reminded Presbytery that CEDAL is looking for a new name for a centre with a refreshed approach to education and formation in WA and asked members of Presbytery to suggest a name. In answer to a question she confirmed that the on line course for sacraments training is to replace the need for face to face training, making it more accessible. In reply to a question she also reported that a national meeting would be held in December to discuss future directions in theological education nationally as part of the Act 2 process. Not much information is available as yet about this meeting, but two people from CEDAL will be attending. The report was received.

9. Thrive Mission Committee report

Rev Greg Ross presented the report which was prepared by Yvonne Robinson while Greg was on Long Service Leave. He reported that one combined meeting of Thrive and PRC had been held about the Listening Journeys. The process is being driven by Rob Douglas and is well documented and results will be referred back to the committees with responsibility for particular areas. Rob Douglas is to retire mid year, so we need to look

for an appropriate replacement. If Rob is not quickly replaced, this will be impact on Listening Journeys- people have been assigned from PRC and Thrive to participate in these. The committee is moving towards separation of Thrive and Property. A further three people have been willing to fill the vacancies on Thrive Committee- their nominations will come to the next PSC meeting. In response to a question about property inspections, it was noted that congregations are to be given a copy of the report, and that Synod Property Services are co-ordinating this project. A plea was given that when damages are being done to a property by weather can we speed up the repairs? Greg responded that congregations need to have Mission Plan in place if they wish to use Embargoed Funds. The report was received.

10. Candidates for Ministries Committee report

Rev Bev Fabb presented the report highlighting the number of candidates for Lay Preacher but that more were needed for ordained ministry. There were no questions and the report was received.

11. Rural and Remote Ministry Network report

Dr Richard Hugman presented the report and noted that the Network was very much looking forward to the filling of the Rural Resource Minister position. Rob Douglas had been a great support to the Network but this was not really part of his job description. Richard asked members of Presbytery to consider suitable applicants for this position. Alison has also been very supportive. Some metropolitan congregations are involved in Network and as a result they are providing support to rural congregations. There were no questions and the report was received.

12. Multicultural and Cross Cultural Network report

As Rev Dr Katalina Taahafe Williams was not present Ana Lea'aetoea asked for questions. A comment was made on the importance in multicultural congregations training, we need to expand the scope to include Anglo people so they can adjust their worship to make it more culturally relevant. It was also affirmed that we need to train leadership in multicultural congregations about what it means to be part of Australian culture and UCA culture. The report was received.

13. Uniting Generations Network report

Pastor Julie Ridden presented the report and noted that Mt Pleasant will host a hub in WA for the Amplify programme which will provide an ecumenical forum for children and youth

ministry. She also mentioned that the Assembly document on Intergenerational Church has gone out to all congregations and asked Church Councils to note this. The flexibility of the Network to set times and agendas which encouraged maximum participation was affirmed. The Network is open to those who want to learn more about children and youth ministry, not just to those who are already involved. The report was received.

14. Proposal 2- Adoption of Presbytery Budget 2024

Janine McDonald, Presbytery Treasurer, presented information in relation to the Presbytery Budget for 2024.

The budget has a small deficit covered by unallocated reserves. However, often a predicted deficit does not occur due to vacant staffing positions. Mission and Service contributions from congregations are dropping. The Synod grant to CEDAL has also dropped due to there being fewer candidates. Presbytery reserves will contribute to the costs of the Uniting Generations and Rural Resource Minister positions. Some T&SP accounts can no longer be accessed and Presbytery will only be withdrawing annual income in future, and then only when absolutely necessary. Events fees are to cover event costs. Sundry Income is from Presbytery services like inductions and ordinations.

The budget for 7 ministerial and 2 admin roles. Student costs have reduced. Operational costs also reduced. Education grants reduced. Thrive Mission grants also reduced. Sundry expenses halved.

Staff is biggest expense. CEDAL is biggest cost centre.

A question was asked whether \$9,000 was sufficient to fund the Rural Resource Minister position. Janine responded that discussions were underway with Wagin Cluster and it is hoped that the costs would be shared.

Presbytery agreed by consensus to adopt the 2024 Presbytery Budget as presented.

15. Congregational Selfies

A video was shown with news from Merredin, Pinjarra and Piara Waters.

16. Notice

Rev Dr Ian Tozer shared the news of the recent death of Rev Alan Shallcross and led the meeting in prayer.

17. Group discussion

Rev Cyrus Kung presented a video from the Act 2 project about Workstream 1- Local Communities of Faith and Discipleship. The Presbytery broke into groups and discussed issues arising from the first two directions suggested in this report.

18. Ministry Milestones

A service of worship was conducted by the Chair of Presbytery to celebrate significant Ministry Milestones for the following ministers.

20 years of ordained ministry- Isobelle Shortreed

30 years of ordained ministry- Lorna Atkins, David de Kock & Manie Strydom

35 years of ordained ministry- Chris Crause & John Marshall

45 years of ordained ministry- David Jackson, David McAndrew and Harold Sampson

50 years of ordained ministry- Wes Hartley

55 years of ordained ministry- John Dihm, Wilf Pearce and Marie Wilson

65 years of ordained ministry- Wally Fawell and Sam McCollum

The Ministers and their families joined Presbytery members for a light lunch.

19. Elections Committee

Sue Whitworth, the Returning Officer, thanked those who had nominated for vacant positions. The ballot papers for the election of a lay and ministerial member of Assembly and for members of the Thrive Mission and Presbytery Property Committees were distributed and collected

20. Mic Minute

During a Mic Minute mention was made of

- A pilgrimage to visit all city churches which had been organised by the Ecumenical Affairs Committee.
- Messy church Summer Camp for people from all churches and faiths will be held at Busselton again in January.
- Claremont Uniting Church will be doing a community Advent Calendar.
- All invited to attend the Good Sammy's morning tea and learn about the work of this Uniting Church agency.

- A request from Armadale for any Bible Society give away books for Christmas as they are short of supplies.
- Social Justice Church will hold its Pride service this Sunday on the theme of Be Brave, Be Strong, Be You.
- The annual twilight fair at Trinity North is to be held
- There will be a Seniors concert next week at St Peter Emmaus

21. Group discussion

Rev Rob Douglas reported on the Listening Journeys being conducted by Thrive Mission Committee and PRC working collaboratively. A joint meeting was held recently with a Church Council, Juniper, Uniting and Synod Property Services present to look at potential for development. Congregations needed to think about forming clusters as they move into the future. Thrive has sent letters to several congregations trying to set up dates for discussions early next year. If you want to talk, get in touch and we will start process.

The Presbytery broke into groups and discussed issues arising from the last two directions suggested in the Act 2 report.

22. Update on Act 2 Process

Rev Cyrus Kung presented an update on the Act 2 project. He noted that feedback will continue until the end of November and encouraged Church Councils and individuals to respond. A series of theological papers have been produced including some from CALD communities. The question of What does it mean to be a national church is being raised? What holds our church together if its not property and history?

After the feedback is received there will be time for the collective discernment phase. All responses will be read and a preliminary report prepared for the March ASC meeting and will then go the Assembly for decision.

The Thrive report has started discussions here and there will be ongoing discussions leading up to Assembly.

Presbytery members were encouraged to continue discussions in their local congregations.

23. Proposal 3- Church Law- Changes to Presbytery Rules

Rev Des Cousins presented the report and proposal. The process of review of Presbytery Rules was almost complete with just CEDAL Rules to come to the March Presbytery meeting.

The Rule in relation to Networks is just putting into our structures what was decided about Networks at May 2019 Presbytery meeting. A minor amendment to the Rule for Networks was noted.

The Presbytery of Western Australia agreed by consensus to

- (a) Approve and enact the following Rules for the Presbytery Networks:

P21 NETWORKS

STATUS

- P21.1 The Presbytery may establish and terminate from time to time Networks of persons with common interests in specific activities of the Church.

ESTABLISHMENT

- P21.2 A Network may be established by decision of the Presbytery or the Presbytery Standing Committee acting on its own initiative or at the request of persons desiring recognition by the Presbytery as a Network. The Presbytery shall determine the name of the Network and describe its area of interest or activity.

MEMBERSHIP

- P21.3 The Network shall have a Convener appointed by the Presbytery for a one year term.
- P21.4 Membership of a Network is open to any member or adherent of the Church who has an interest in the area of ministry encompassed by the scope of the Network.
- P21.5 The Convener will maintain a contact list of all those who wish to be involved in the Network and ensure that they are informed of meetings of the Network.
- P21.6 Presbytery or Synod staff will be members of any Network active in their area of responsibility and welcome to participate in any Network from time to time to assist a Network in the fulfilling of its purpose and responsibilities.

P21.7 The Chairperson of the Presbytery may, at their own discretion, attend and speak at any meeting of the Network.

MEETINGS

P21.8 The Network will meet at least three times each year.

P21.9 The meetings of the Network will be conducted in accordance with the principles and procedures of the *Manual for Meetings*.

P21.10 Network meetings can be conducted face to face or using any appropriate technology as agreed from time to time.

REPORTING

P21.11 All Networks shall report to the Presbytery at least annually, to the Presbytery Standing Committee when requested and forward the minutes or other record of their meetings to Presbytery Standing Committee.

ROLE

P21.12 The role of a Network is to include any or all of these tasks:

- (b) Promoting communication between people involved in a particular area of ministry.
- (c) Supporting, encouraging and sharing ideas and resources between those involved in a particular area of ministry.
- (d) Identifying needs, trends and opportunities for new ministry and mission development within their particular area of ministry, and communicating these to Presbytery staff and committees.
- (e) Ensuring that their voice is heard by communicating with and participating in Presbytery committees, actively advocating for the needs of their particular area of ministry.
- (f) Organising events which promote a particular area of ministry.
- (g) Requesting provision to be made in the budget for funding for the work of the Network.
- (h) Bringing proposals to any Presbytery meeting for consideration.
- (i) Undertaking projects related to their particular area of ministry at the request of the Presbytery or Presbytery Standing Committee.

2. ***Repeal Rules P2.6 Church Centre Staff,***
3. ***Amend the following Rule relating to the membership of the Presbytery Standing Committee::***

Amend Rule P6.2 (b) by adding the words “the Property Committee” after the words “Pastoral Relations Committee” so that the amended Rule reads: “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, the Property Committee and the Thrive Mission Committee”.

24. Proposal 4- PSC- Presbytery Meetings 2024

Rev Bev Fabb presented the proposal to set meeting dates for 2024 and registration fees. There was discussion about the costs of holding Presbytery meetings in relation to catering costs and travel for country participants.

The WA Presbytery agreed by consensus

1. ***To meet on the following dates in 2024- March 16, June 15, and November 9.***
2. ***To set the registration fees for Presbytery meetings in 2024 at \$60 per member, \$30 per Visitor and \$15 per Zoom attendee.***

25. Notices

Rev Bev Fabb asked members of Presbytery to hand in their evaluation forms and feedback from group discussion, and also reminded them that the Presbytery was meeting next Saturday to ordain Samuel Annan.

26. Declaration of Ballots

Sue Whitworth the Returning Officer informed the Presbytery that the following had been elected.

- Ministerial Member of Assembly- Rev Roy Alexander Surjanegara
- Lay Member of Assembly- Pastor Julie Ridden
- Chair of Thrive Mission Committee- Rev Greg Ross (2 year term)

- Chair of Presbytery Property Committee- Heather Hamblin (2 year term)
- Members of Thrive Mission Committee- David Gray, Monika Cowell, (2 year term) Stephen van Schalkwyk, Yuko Tonai Moore and Yvonne Robinson (1 year term)
- Members of Presbytery Property Committee- Rhod Wright (2 year term) and Lorraine Stokes (1 year term)

It was noted that there were still vacancies on the Thrive Mission and Presbytery Property Committees.

27. Closing Reflections

The Chair, Alison Xamon, made the following expressions of thanks on behalf of the Presbytery:

- St Peter Emmaus for hosting the meeting and providing hospitality.
- Janine McDonald and Bev Fabb for staffing the registration desk
- Mitchell Garlett for Welcome to Country
- Chris Crause for preparing Opening worship
- Rob Douglas for preaching at opening service
- Cyrus Kung, Rob Douglas and Bev Fabb for preparing the group discussions.
- Rob Douglas for the Congregational Selfies.
- Bev Fabb for preparing the Ministry Milestones Service
- Marie Wilson and Sonny Rajomoney being chaplains
- Mary Riley and Elaine Ledgerwood for providing music
- Sue Whitworth, the Returning Office and Mary Riley and John Berger for being Scrutineers.
- For all those willing to stand for election.
- Ivan Clark for his Closing Prayers.
- Luke Williams for organising the Zoom participation
- Chris Crause and Sue Strutt for organising the Power Point presentation
- Lorraine Stokes for being Spare Chair
- Bruce Wilson- timekeeper
- Chairs and members of committees who work so hard for the Presbytery
- Other Presbytery Officers- Secretary and Treasurer
- Ned Radov- for behind the scenes organising, handling registrations, organising catering, printing of materials, etc

28. Closing Worship

Rev Ivan Clark led the meeting in closing worship

29. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was then closed with the singing of the hymn May the feet of God walk with you at 3.15 pm

*Confirmed by the Presbytery Standing Committee on
5 December 2023 as a true and correct record*



Signed by Alison Xamon- Chairperson