

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Presbytery of Western Australia
at Billabong Uniting Church
on 9 November 2024**

1. Constitution

On Saturday 9 November 2024 at 9.00 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at All Saints Floreat Uniting Church with the Chairperson, Alison Xamon, presiding.

There were 31 ministers, 5 pastors, and 43 lay members present. Apologies were received from 10 ministers and 14 lay members. There were 4 visitors who attended.

2. Welcome and Opening Prayer

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

3. Worship Music

Rev Luke Williams and Billabong musicians led the Presbytery in beginning the meeting by singing our praise to God.

4. Welcome to Country

Rev Mitchell Garlett welcomed the Presbytery to Whadjuk country.

5. Opening worship

The Opening Worship was led by the Chair of Presbytery with Rev Mervyn Anderson preaching on the text of Ephesians 4: 1 – 6 and our theme of In Unity of the Spirit.

We concluded worship with praise of God through song led by Rev Luke Williams and the Billabong musicians.

6. Community Building and Prayer

Members of Presbytery met in small groups for sharing about congregational life and prayer together.

7. Meeting arrangements

The Secretary, Rev Reuben Edmonds, presented Proposal 1 about the arrangements for this meeting.

The Presbytery agreed by consensus

1. To amend the Roll of Presbytery adopted at the Presbytery meeting on 15 June 2024 as follows:

1.1 Ministers in Active Service

➤ ***Remove Rev Rob Douglas - ceased placement***

- *Remove Rev Katalina Tahaafe-Williams - ceased placement*
- *Remove Rev Hannes Halgryn – ceased placement*

1.2 Ministers Co-opted

- *Add Rev Bev Fabb - Chair of CMC*
- *Add Rev Hannes Halgryn*
- *Add Rev Ken Devereux*
- *Remove Rev Raymond Clee - ceased supply*
- *Remove Rev Frances Hadfield - ceased supply*
- *Remove Rev Cyrus Kung - moved to SA Synod*
- *Remove Rev Des Cousins – ceased role with Church Law*

1.3 Associate Ministers

- *Remove Rev Ken Devereux*

1.4 Congregational Lay Representatives

- *Remove Ernie Ramirez – resigned as rep for Bicton*
- *Remove Anne-Marie Adams – resigned as rep for Mundaring.*
- *Replace John Boon with Bruce Read as rep for Willetton.*
- *Replace Mary Elton with Colleen Taylor as rep for Margaret River*
- *Replace Chris Atkinson and Jeremy Beckett with Bianca Allen and Ben Micke for Lighthouse Geraldton*

1.5 Office Bearers

- *Change Secretary to Rev Reuben Edmonds*

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. To appoint the following as once off alternates for this meeting only

- *Rhonnda Tilbrook as lay representative for All Saints Floreat*

3. Adopt the Order of Business for this meeting.

4. Appoint Rev Marie Wilson and Rev David Jackson as Chaplains for this meeting of the Presbytery.

5. Appoint Sue Whitworth as Returning Officer and Rev Ken Devereux 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.

8. Chairperson's Report

Past chairperson, Rev Lorraine Stokes, took the chair.

Alison Xamon presented a verbal report. She expressed her appreciation for the staff of the Presbytery office and noted that work is underway to fill the vacant Mission minister position. While continuing to support struggling congregations the Presbytery is also looking at ways to support growth in those congregations with the potential to do so. Alison highlighted the challenges of the truth-telling that is needed in congregations about leadership roles and those who may need to step down as they can no longer fulfil the role to the capacity needed. Alison highlighted the need for greater support from the Presbytery for Congress, particularly at this time.

A suggestion was made from the floor that term limits for leadership roles would be helpful.

The report was received by consensus.

The chairperson, Alison Xamon, resumed the chair.

9. Uniting Generations Network report

Pastor Julie Ridden presented the report and highlighted the need to update the information on the Presbytery website about the activities related to children, families, and young adults. Members were encouraged to provide updates on the sheets provided on their tables.

A question was raised about the progress on connections between the Uniting Generations Network and Intercultural Network. Julie spoke of her current efforts and hopes for greater connection.

The report was received by consensus.

10. Candidates for Ministries Committee report

Rev Bev Fabb presented the report. She highlighted that there are now very few people completing a Period of Discernment. Presbytery members are encouraged to keep an eye out for people who could participate in a Period of Discernment. It is a joy that there are a large number of people working to become Lay Preachers.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

11. What is Presbytery Booklet

Rev Bev Fabb spoke about the What is Presbytery booklet which has been reviewed and updated. Congregations will all receive a hard copy of the booklet in the next mailout, and it can be found on the Presbytery website.

12. Proposal 2- Recognition of Lay Preacher

Rev Bev Fabb on behalf of the Candidates for Ministries Committee presented the following proposal and invited Richard to address the Presbytery.

That the WA Presbytery agrees to recognise Richard Hugman as a Lay Preacher and request the Chairperson of Presbytery to arrange for this to be recognised in a service of worship, including presentation of a Certificate of Recognition as a Lay Preacher.

13. Congregational Selfies

A video was shown with highlights of the work at Wanneroo Crossways Uniting Church.

14. Secret Ballot on Proposal 2

After the congregational selfie, the Presbytery broke for morning tea. No questions were asked of CMC in relation to the proposal. The Presbytery voted on the proposal via secret ballot.

After the scrutineers counted the votes, it was announced that the proposal had received the two thirds majority required. Rev Stephen van Schalkwyk led the Presbytery in prayer for Richard.

15. Covenanting Discussion

Rev Alison Longworth began our discussion by giving an overview of the history of covenanting between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and in particular the history of this covenant in WA. Members were asked to consider the following questions in their table groups. Is there anything new that you have learned about the covenant today? How well has your congregation been supporting the Covenant with UAICC? What practical ways could you and your congregation support the Covenant with UAICC?

Answers to these questions were recorded and will be reviewed by the Presbytery Standing Committee.

16. Ministry Milestones Celebration

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

10 years of ordained ministry- Sugeun (tommy) Jang, Corina van Oostende

20 years of ordained ministry – Lesley deGrussa, Mary Lindsay

30 years of ordained ministry- Alison Longworth, Judith McKechnie,

35 years of ordained ministry- David Tressler

40 years of ordained ministry- Rob Douglas, Margaret Greenhill, Philip Hubert, Brian Thorpe, Michael Vines, Andrew Williams,

45 years of ordained ministry- John Barendrecht, Dianne Bertolino, Izak Cronje, Rodney Marsh, Anne McAndrew,

50 years of ordained ministry- Charles (Chaz) Lewis, Jillian Wilkins,

55 years of ordained ministry- John Dunn, Norman Hogg, Peter Tirant-James,

65 years of ordained ministry- Michael Owen, Neville Watson,

The Ministers joined Presbytery members for lunch.

17. Distribution of Ballot Papers and Voting

Sue Whitworth, the Returning Officer, thanked those who had nominated for vacant positions. The ballot papers for the election of the nominees were distributed and collected.

18. Pastoral Relations Committee report

Sue Strutt presented the report. Members were reminded they are welcome to volunteer for Life and Witness Reviews and JNCs. Listening Journeys are continuing. Thanks to Rev Claire Pickering for her support.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

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

Dr Karen Flowers presented the report. Planning for 2025 is already underway and a calendar of events is being drafted. CEDAL is reviewing events from 2024, especially those that had to be cancelled.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

20. Thrive Mission Committee report

Yvonne Robinson presented the report. She highlighted the large absence left by Rev Rob Douglas but the committee is working hard to continue his work. Thrive is seeking to work more closely with CEDAL and Uniting Centre for Education and Formation (UCEF), particularly in relation to Mission Shaped Ministry courses.

There were no questions, and the report was received consensus.

21. Presbytery Property Committee report

There was no one available to present the report.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

22. Rural and Remote Ministry Network report

Yuko Tonai-Moore presented the report. She highlighted that the network is meeting regularly and seeks to share the ways God is working in our rural and remote congregations. All are welcome to join these meetings. It is wonderful to have staff support, from Rev Craig Bosman, after several years without it.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

23. Intercultural Network report

Rev Judy Sanderson presented the report.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

24. Finance Report

Janine McDonald, Presbytery Treasurer, presented the Finance Report.

There were no questions, and the report was received by consensus.

25. Proposal 3 Adoption of Presbytery Budget 2025

Janine presented the 2025 budget including a summary of the total budget and a breakdown by cost centre. The presentation also included visual pie charts of the Presbytery income, expenses, and expenses by cost centre.

Janine McDonald moved the following proposal.

That the WA Presbytery agrees to adopt the 2025 Presbytery budget as presented.

Passed by consensus.

26. Proposal 4 Dissolving of Congregations and Recognition of Faith Communities

Sue reminded members that all congregations in this proposal have been fully consulted and are fully informed about the proposal coming today.

Concerns were raised about who will be the responsible body for the property. Members were reminded that faith communities can oversee their resources including property.

A question was raised about the responsibility of the church council for the congregation who holds the roll for a faith community. This is a two-way relationship and an evolving space as more congregations may be asked to take on faith communities.

Sue Strutt moved the following proposal:

That the WA Presbytery agrees:

1. To dissolve the following congregation according to Regulation 3.4.3 as they are no longer able to carry out the responsibilities of a congregation.

- **Tambellup**

2. To dissolve the following congregations according to Regulation 3.4.3 as they are no longer able to carry out the responsibilities of a congregation and recognise them as faith communities according to Regulation 3.9.2

- **Augusta**
- **Darkan**
- **Dumbleyung.**

Passed by consensus.

27. Proposal 5 Appreciation

Yuko Tonai-Moore moved the following Proposal:

That the WA Presbytery agrees to:

1. Give John van den Berg thanks with deep gratitude and appreciation for capably preparing and supplying excellent lectionary and liturgical resources each month from the beginning of 2023 to September 2024

2. Give thanks to theUCAWA office staff, especially Mahshid Zadeh, for efficiently mailing and emailing these resources to the churches each month.

Passed by acclamation.

28. Proposal 6 Dates for 2025 Presbytery Meetings

Rev Reuben Edmonds moved the following proposal.

That the WA Presbytery agrees to meet in 2025 on:

- **Saturday 22 March,**
- **Saturday 21 June,**
- **and Saturday 8 November.**

Agreed by consensus.

29. Proposal 7- Recognition of Hedland Fijian Faith Community

Claire introduced representatives from the Port Hedland Fijian Fellowship. Timoci, Chair of the church council, and Tevita, Secretary of the church council. Timoci thanked the Synod and Presbytery for their support. Tevita shared with the Presbytery some of the history of the Fijian Fellowship, where it is located, and the dream of creating a home in the Hedland Uniting Church property.

Rev Claire reflected on the joy of visited the community up in Hedland. Claire especially thanked Rev David Jackson for all his support for the Fijian community and their discernment journey to become a faith community.

Sue Strutt moved the following proposal.

That the WA Presbytery agrees:

- 1. To recognise the Port Hedland Fijian Fellowship as the Hedland Fijian Faith Community of the UCA Presbytery of WA according to Regulation 3.9.2.***
- 2. To welcome and encourage this new Faith Community to the life and witness of the Presbytery of WA.***

Agreed by consensus.

Rev Claire led the Presbytery in prayer for the new faith community.

30. Declaration of Ballots

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

Bruce Wilson 2 years on the Presbytery Property Committee

Litiana Lomalagi 2 years on the Presbytery Standing Committee

31. Notices

No notices given.

32. Thank Yous

Alison thanked the many volunteers who helped enable today's Presbytery meeting.

33. Closing Worship

Rev Hannes Halgryn led the meeting in closing worship.

34. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was then closed at 2.50 pm

*Confirmed by the Presbytery Standing Committee on
5 December 2024 as a true and correct record*



Signed by Alison Xamon- Chairperson

Roll of WA Presbytery - Attendance Nov 2024

Attendance Type



Uniting Church in Australia
Presbytery of Western Australia



OFFICE BEARERS		
Alison Xamon	Chair	Attended
Rev Reuben Edmonds	Secretary/All Saints Floreat	Attended
Janine McDonald	Treasurer	Attended
MINISTERS IN ACTIVE SERVICE		
Samuel Annan	Rockingham	Apology
Dianne Bertolino	HOD Chaplaincy & Spiritual Services – SCGH & OPH	Apology
Craig Bosman	Rural Resource Minister/Margaret River/Augusta	Attended
Andrew Broadbent	CEDAL Education and Resources Coordinator	Attended
Ivan Clark	Trinity North	Attended
Mitch Fialkowski	Remote Area Ministry (Meekatharra)	Zoom
Kim Francis	Maylands/Mt Lawley	Attended
Steve Francis	Tranby College	Attended
Mitchell Garlett	Maaman 'O' Miya and Congress	Attended
Mark Illingworth	South Perth	Attended
David Jackson	Remote Area Ministry (Pilbara Patrol)	Attended
Sugeun Jang	Korean UCA	Attended
Toby Keva	Willetton	Apology
Cathie Lambert	CEDAL Formation and Learning Culture Coordinator	Attended
Ana Lea'aetoa	King Edward Memorial Hospital Pastoral Care	
Sione Lea'aetoa	St Andrew's East Perth	Apology
Elaine Ledgerwood	St Aidan's Claremont	Attended
Sophia Lizares	Kalamunda	Attended
Rick Morrell	Industry Chaplain	
Herman Nienaber	Nedlands	Attended
Erica Payne	Frontier Services (Mid West Disaster Chaplaincy) & Dongara	Apology
Claire Pickering	Presbytery Minister Pastoral	Attended
Nalin Perera	Presbytery Ladies' College Chaplain	
Sonny Rajamoney	NorthWay	Apology
Lyall Reid	Naval Chaplain	Apology
Greg Ross	Wellington Regional Mission	Apology
Judy Sanderson	Applecross	Attended
Lorraine Stokes	Presbytery Officer	Attended
Manie Strydom	Wesley College Chaplain	Apology
Roy Alexander Surjanegara	GKI	
Ian Tozer	Moderator	Attended
Gary van Heerden	Scotch College Chaplain	
Corina van Oostende	Albany	Zoom
Stephen van Schalkwyk	Baylife	Attended
Andrew Williams	General Secretary	Attended
Luke Williams	The Billabong	Attended
Hollis Wilson	UCIC (Wesley)	Attended
Anne Wright	Nedlands (Youth Ministry)	Zoom
ASSOCIATE MINISTERS - Open to all ministers on leave of absence, retired or awaiting placement who are not otherwise Presbytery Members. We "enrol" them only on request and non-voting		
Anne McAndrew	(Osborne Park)	Apology
Gemmel Sherwood	(Wanneroo Crossways)	

MINISTERS CO-OPTED		
Mervyn Anderson	Congress Ministry	Attended
Rev Bev Fabb	Chair of CMC	Attended
Chris Crause	Noranda (Supply)	Attended
Ken Devereux	(UCIC)	Attended
Hannes Halgryn	Fremantle	Attended
John Marshall	Mandurah (Supply)	
Marie Wilson	Regional Pastor	Attended
PASTORS		
Joshua Fotu	Beth Shalom	Attended
Lindsay Ginn	Remote Area Ministry (Kalgoorlie)	
Cameron Harries	Piara Waters	Attended
Marilyn Price	Mandurah	Attended
Julie Ridden	Children, Families, Youth and Young Adult Co-ordinator	Attended
Simone Smalley	Methodist Ladies' College Chaplain	
John Tomkins	Remote Area Ministry (Carnarvon)	Zoom
Paul Whitfield	Penrhos College Chaplain	
LAY PREACHERS (up to 10 elected by Presbytery)		
Doug Burtenshaw	Lay Preacher (Mandurah)	Attended
Shirley Francis	Lay Preacher (Leeming)	Attended
Jonathan Haslam	Lay Preacher (Piara Waters)	
COMMUNITY MINISTERS - Community Ministers, Lay Pastors and Youth Workers were specific ministries in the past, now discontinued but people who held that classification at the time the ministries were discontinued, keep that status.		
Valda Knott	Central Wheatbelt (Trayning, Kellerberrin)	
LAY MINISTRY TEAM REPRESENTATIVES (Rule P2.1.4)		
Trevor Thomas	Pinjarra	Attended
CONGREGATIONAL LAY REPRESENTATIVES (Elected Members)		
Elizabeth Burns	Albany	Attended
Margaret Martin	Applecross	Apology
Sue Whitworth	Armadale	Attended
	Augusta	
Yvonne Robinson	Baylife (Busselton)	Attended
Olivia Sina	Beth Shalom	Attended
	Bicton	
Laurie Dyer	Billabong	Attended
Yuko Tonai-Moore	Bridgetown	Attended
	Brookton	
Kathleen McAndrew	Capel	Apology
Shelby Robison	Cannington	Zoom
	Carnarvon	
Ann Hammer	Claremont	Attended
	Cunderdin	
Graham Wasley	Darkan	Attended
Judy Wilson	Denmark	Apology
	Dongara	
	Floreat	
Deborah Marshall	Floreat	Apology
Robert Watson	Forrestfield	Apology
Andrew Stokes	Fremantle	
Bianca Allen	Geraldton	Attended
Ben Micke	Geraldton	
Kim Mouritz	Gingin	

Jan Alvin Gunawan	GKI	
	GKI	
	Glen Forrest	
Neville van Wyk	Gosnells	Attended
Sue Thompson	Guildford	
Carolyn Ebell-Taylor	Kalamunda	Apology
Betty Lewis	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	
John van den Berg	Kardinya	Attended
Malcolm Watson	Kojonup	
Gun Seo Park	Korean UC	
Mary Riley	Leeming	Attended
Alan Hortin	Lockyer	Apology
	Maaman "O" Mia (Coolbellup)	
Coral Richards	Mandurah	
Colleen Taylor	Margaret River	Zoom
Deidre Kail	Maylands/Mt Lawley	Apology
Bob French	Merredin	Attended
Jonathan Nelson	Moora	
Doug Lincoln	Mt Barker / Plantagenet	Apology
Brian Gluestein	Mt Pleasant	Apology
Ralph Moore	Mt Pleasant	Attended
	Mundaring	
Christine Bundell	Nedlands	Attended
Neville Blesing	Nedlands	
Helen McMillan	Noranda	Attended
Bob Lockley	Northam	Attended
	Northampton	
	Northcliffe	
Mark Hackling	Northway	Attended
Helen Findlay	Osborne Park	Attended
Kerrie Birch	Pinjarra	Attended
Arthur West	Quairading	
Simon Cartwright	Rockingham	
	Rowethorpe	
Elizabeth Woods	Scarborough	Attended
John Lawrence	South Mandurah	
John Berger	South Perth	Attended
Sandy Scott	Spearwood	Apology
Sue Arthurs	St Andrews	Attended
Sue Strutt	St Peter and Emmaus	Attended
Annette Bryant	Star Street	Zoom
Bob Nicholls	Swan View	Attended
Darian Partington	Trinity North	Attended
Helen Harmer	Trinity North	Attended
	Trinity North	
David Gray	UCIC	Attended
	UCIC	
Robyn Willey	Wagin	Attended
Litiani Lomalagi	Wanneroo Crossways	
	Waroona	
Richard Hugman	Wellington Regional Mission	Attended
Marg Garrett	Wellington Regional Mission	Attended
Vic Richards	Wembley Downs	Apology

Bruce Read	Willetton	Attended
Kevin Trent	York	
FAITH COMMUNITY LAY REPRESENTATIVES (Elected Members) (The status of some listed faith communities is still being investigated)		
	Byford	
	Cuballing	
	Dowerin	
	Esperance	
	Hyden	
Norma Hersey	Katanning	
	Kellerberrin	
	Kulin	
	Mukinbudin	
Evan Maltby	Mundijong	
	Narrogin	
	North Midlands (Carnamah, Coorow, Three Springs)	
	Pemberton	
Steve Higgins	Southern Cross	
	Tambellup	
Pepe Liuvaie Halatau	Tapu Niue	
	Toodyay	
	Trayning	
	Waterloo	
REPRESENTATIVES OF BODIES		
Robert Jetta (Chairperson)	WA Regional Committee of UAICC	
Lenny Yarran	WA Regional Committee of UAICC	
CO-OPTED LAY MEMBERS		
Yoy Alberastine	Candidate for Pastor	Apology
David Beards	Synod Standing Committee	
Monika Cowell	Thrive Committee	Apology
Karen Flowers	Chairperson of CEDAL	Attended
Heather Hamblin	Property Committee	Apology
Bob Hunt	Past Chair	
Maggie Johns	Synod Standing Committee	Apology
Susan Lord	Candidate MOW	Attended
Susy Thomas	Synod Standing Committee	
Hanamoia Vaitogi	Samoan Devotional Group	
Bruce Wilson	Presbytery Arrangements	Attended
Erin Lloyd	Youthful Member	
VISITORS		
Rhondda Tilbrook	Floreat (<i>substituting for Deborah Marshall</i>)	Attended
Wendy Hendry	Staff - Communications	Attended
Tevita Naroba	Fijian Hedland	Attended
Timoci Turaga	Fijian Hedland	Attended
Iliapi Taoi	Wanneroo Crossways	Attended