



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Western Australia



THE MINUTES OF THE 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

13-15 September 2024



Being with Jesus *in Ministry*

These minutes record events and business of those Commissions and Bodies which relate to the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Western Australia.



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CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING OF SYNOD

OPENING WORSHIP

The Synod was constituted by an act of public worship lead by the Moderator, Rev Dr Ian Tozer at 7pm on Friday 13 September 2024.

Rev Dr Ian Tozer welcomed the Synod to country on behalf of the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar nation.

Music was provided by Rev Dr Elaine Ledgerwood and Mary Riley.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING

The 48th Annual Meeting of Synod was held at Scotch College and business sessions commenced on Saturday 14 September 2024 and concluded on Sunday 15 September 2024. The following was presented and discussed.

Rev Mark Kickett, National Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) began with a Welcome to Country to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on behalf of all Whadjuk people of the Nyungar nation past, present and emerging. Rev Mark Kickett welcomed all elders, second peoples and other cultures and we journey together on the land.

Alec O'Connell, Head of Scotch College welcomed everyone to the meeting, wished us a successful 48th Synod and looked forward to future relationships with the Uniting Church.

The Moderator, Rev Dr Ian Tozer welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer, lighting the Synod candle. The Moderator introduced the Y symbol, reminding us why we are here and why we do what we do, that we will travel the way of Christ, and that Christ will teach, guide and help us to be the people that God has called us to be.

The General Secretary, Rev Dr Andrew Williams welcomed all in attendance and provided guidance to the structure of the meeting and housekeeping.

SATURDAY MORNING DEVOTIONS

Rev Craig Bosman led the devotion, based on Nepsis being wakeful and watchful and Hesychios:

"Watchfulness is a spiritual method which, if sedulously practiced over a long period, completely frees us with God's help from impassioned thoughts, impassioned words and evil actions. It leads, in so far as this is possible, to a sure knowledge of the inapprehensible God, and helps us to penetrate the divine and hidden mysteries."

PROPOSALS

The proposals presented were received and approved over Saturday 14 September 2024 and Sunday 15 September 2024.

ORDER OF BUSINESS PROPOSED BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Order of Business Proposal details the procedures and processes for Synod 2024.

That the Synod adopt the meeting procedures as outlined.

a) Order of Business

That the Synod approve the Order of Business submitted by the Business Committee, noting that the decision to vary the Order of Business and scheduled times can be taken by the Synod at any time.

b) Confirmation of Minutes

That the Synod authorise the Synod Standing Committee to confirm the minutes of this meeting, the 48th meeting of the Annual Synod of Western Australia.

c) Roll of Synod

That the Synod adopt the roll of members, subject to any alterations advised to the General Secretary no later than 2pm on Thursday 12 September 2024.

d) Ballots and Nominating Procedures

That the Synod appoint Assistant Returning Officers and a Ballot Committee with responsibility for advising the Synod on any questions relating to the nominations and elections consisting of the following people:

- Heather Hamblin (Convenor)
- Annette Bryant
- John Berger
- Marg Garrett

e) Nominations

That the Synod endorse the decision by the Business Committee to close all nominations for the Synod Board and Committee Chairs on 11 September 2024.

f) Appointment of Chaplains

That the Synod note the Moderator's Chaplain

- Rev Lorraine Stokes as the Moderator's Chaplain

and appoint the following

- Rev Claire Pickering as the Pastoral Support Chaplain
- Rev Dr Herman Nienaber as Pastoral Support Chaplain

g) Appointment of Others

That the Synod appoint the following:

- Amanda Rigby, Minutes Manager
- Bruce Wilson, Timekeeper
- Lora Brown, First Aid Officer
- Margaret Johnston, Screen Manager

h) Reception of Reports

That the Synod receive the following reports:

- Assembly Report
- General Secretary Report
- Moderator Report
- Synod Commissions and Committees
- Schools & Colleges and Caring Agencies

Resolution 1/2024

The Order of Business Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

DURHAM AND HAWKINS BEQUEST PROPOSED BY THE PROPERTY TRUST

The Durham and Hawkins Bequest Proposal, pursuant to s25 of the Act, resolves to approve the transfer of:

- a) Durham Bequest (\$829,352 as at 30 June 2024) for the care and maintenance of Indigenous children within the Mofflyn Group of Homes and
- b) the Hawkins Bequest (\$627,888 as at 30 June 2024) for the education or training at Wesley College or MLC for boys and/or girls at the Mofflyn Homes

to Uniting WA on the grounds that the original purposes of the Funds are impossible. The bequests to be used in ways which reflect as closely as possible the original purpose of the bequests.

Resolution 21/2024

The Durham and Hawkins Bequest Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEES PROPOSED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Structure of Committees Proposal was discussed and amended. That the Nominating Committee:

- a) review the number of committees elected by the Synod, consult with those Synod bodies that could possibly operate under a different model, with the required leadership being only people elected by Synod.
- b) recommend to the Synod Standing Committee which committees must be continued as they are required by Regulations and which committees could benefit from a different structure.
- c) work with the Church Law Committee to re-draft by-laws as necessary for approval by the Synod Standing Committee.
- d) review the number of committees elected by the Synod and recommend to Synod Standing Committee which committees must be continued as they are required by Regulations and which committees could be better formed as Networks or Circles of Interest with only the convenor/s to be elected by Synod. Nominating Committee to work with the Church Law Committee to re-draft by-laws as necessary for approval by Synod Standing Committee.

Resolution 23/2024

The Structure of Committees Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

BY-LAW CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE CHURCH LAW COMMITTEE

That the Synod note the proposed changes to the by-laws of Mission Resourcing Committee S5.6, the Nominating Committee S5.4 and UnitingCare West (t/as Uniting WA) S8.4 and give authority to the Standing Committee to approve the changes on the recommendation of the Church Law Committee.

Resolution 25/2024

The By-Law Changes Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

PERTH THEOLOGICAL HALL PROPOSED BY CEDAL

That the Synod:

- a) Acknowledge the contribution and legacy of the Perth Theological Hall in education and formation of leaders within the Uniting Church in Western Australia.
- b) Recognise the decision of the Presbytery of Western Australia to rename the theological college of the Uniting Church in Western Australia to the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation.

Resolution 26/2024

The Perth Theological Hall Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

An expression of disappointment was recorded by Bruce Wilson that the new name does not include an Indigenous name reference.

INTERIM WORKING ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED BY THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

That the Synod:

- a) Recognises the high workload that a loss of staffing created for the previous members of the Social Justice Commission and commend them for their efforts in maintaining this important area of work in our church.
- b) Endorses the new model of working for the Social Justice Commission as a transitional stage of experimentation, recognising that not all the expectations of the current By-Law S2.5.7 are currently achievable.
- c) Recognises the work of 'the Hive' as a mechanism for other interested people of the Church to contribute towards the Social Justice Commission meeting its responsibilities under the by-laws.
- d) Notes the hope that provision for some increased level of staffing supporting Social Justice will be achieved in coming years and encourages current staff and established commissions to be mindful of the Church's commitment to the values of social justice in their respective areas of work.

Resolution 41/2024

The Interim Working Arrangements Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

GIBBS BEQUEST PROPOSED BY THE PROPERTY TRUST

The proposal from the Property Trust to approve the use of the Gibbs Bequest towards meeting the Redress claims of former residents of Sister Kate's Children's Home on the grounds that the original purpose of the Fund is impossible under section 25(a) of the UCA Act was not approved

A new proposal was presented by Alison McCubbin noting that the Property Trust are not a part of this proposal.

The new Proposal asks the Property Trust to engage with WA Regional UAICC about the future of the Gibbs Bequest.

Resolution 42/2024

The new Gibbs Bequest Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROPOSED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee Members Proposal seeks to appoint the members to the Synod Boards, Commissions and Committees for 2024-2025 as presented on the final Nominating Committee Report. It acknowledges and thanks those members who have served on the Synod Boards, Commissions and Committees who are retiring from the rising of the 2024 Synod.

Resolution 43/2024

The Committee Members Proposal was received and approved by consensus.

Resolution 44/2024

The Synod confirmed the appointment of Renee Lynch as a Member of the Penrhos College Council for a three year term effective from 1 January 2025.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 45/2024

The Synod confirmed the appointment of Jo Bednall as a Member of the Tranby College Board for a three year term.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 46/2024

The Synod confirmed the appointment of Penny Knight as a Member of the Trinity Residential College Council for a three year term.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 47/2024

The Synod acknowledged the resignation of Di Browning as Chair effective from 29 October 2024 and the appointment of Penny Knight to the position of Chair also effective from 29 October 2024.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 48/2024

The Synod confirmed the appointment of Pip Rundle as a Member of the Trinity Residential College for a three year term.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 49/2024

The Synod acknowledged the appointment of Professor Jennifer Howell elected by the UWA Senate as a Member of the Trinity Residential College Council for a three year term.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 50/2024

The Synod noted the appointment of Alison Xamon as a Member of the Uniting WA Board for a three year term.

Approved by consensus.

Resolution 51/2024

The Synod noted the appointment of Erica Haddon as a Member of the Uniting WA Board for a three year term.

Approved by consensus.

REPORTS

The reports presented to Synod 2024 were received and approved over Saturday 14 September and Sunday 15 September.

SYNOD REPORTS**Resolution 2/2024**

The General Secretary's Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 3/2024

The Moderator's Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 4/2024

The Board of Finance & Investment Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 5/2024

The Bridging Entities Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 6/2024

The Church Law Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 7/2024

The Committee for Counselling Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 8/2024

The Committee for Discipline Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 9/2024

The Disaster Relief & Community Recovery Committee Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 10/2024

The International Partnership & Development Commission Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 11/2024

The Mission Resourcing Committee Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 12/2024

The Nominating Committee Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 13/2024

The Placements Commission Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 14/2024

The Pneuma Network Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 15/2024

The Property Board Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 16/2024

The Property Trust Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 17/2024

The Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 18/2024

The Social Justice Commission Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 19/2024

The Synod Standing Committee Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 20/2024

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 27/2024

The Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress Report was received and accepted by consensus. (presentation format)

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Resolution 28/2024

The Methodist Ladies College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 29/2024

The Penrhos College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 30/2024

The Presbyterian Ladies College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 31/2024

The Scotch College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 32/2024

The St Stephen's School Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 33/2024

The Tranby College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 34/2024

The Trinity Residential College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 35/2024

The Wesley College Report was received and accepted by consensus.

CARING AGENCIES

Resolution 36/2024

The Good Sammy Enterprises Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 37/2024

The Juniper Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 38/2024

The Uniting WA Report was received and accepted by consensus.

Resolution 39/2024

The UnitingCare WA Forum Report was received and accepted by consensus.

OTHER

Resolution 22/2024

The Assembly Report was received and accepted by consensus. (presentation format)

Resolution 24/2024

The Presbytery Report was received and accepted by consensus.

It was noted that the following reports were absent:

- The Covenanting Commission
- Ecumenical Affairs Committee
- YouthCare

PRESENTATIONS

ACT2 AND ASSEMBLY

The Interim General Secretary, Rev Lindsay Cullen introduced new, and farewelled departing Assembly staff.

Visit the website to sign up to the National Update at [Uniting Church Australia](#)

National Agencies

The highlights of Frontier Services include strengthening relationships with Synods, Presbyteries relating to Bush Chaplains, strengthening and broadening fundraising and expanding the work with UAICC. [Frontier Services](#)

The highlights of UnitingCare Australia include supporting the referendum on a Voice to Parliament, launching the third Child Social Exclusion Report in collaboration with the University of Canberra and the UnitingCare network and a trial of the Escaping Violence Payment Program. It is the 30th anniversary of UnitingCare Australia. [UnitingCare Australia](#)

UnitingWorld work in partnership with local churches. Upcoming initiatives include:

- Everything in Common [UnitingWorld : Everything in Common Gift Catalogue](#)
- UnitingWorld Sunday [UnitingWorld Sunday](#)
- Uniting for the voice [Voice – Uniting Church Australia](#)

Rev Lindsay Cullen highlighted the Assembly elections of Rev Charissa Suli as President, Rev Dr Paul Goh as President Elect and Andrew Johnson as the General Secretary (from 21 October 2024).

Rev Lindsay Cullen highlighted resolutions from Assembly included Act2, a task group to Revive the Covenant, receiving three Continuing Witness documents, supporting the Net Zero Emissions Steering Group and affirming transgender, gender diverse and intersex people. See the Assembly website for more information.

The Assembly President, Rev Charissa Suli encouraged everyone to be curious on the work of the church and continue to ask questions. At the World Methodist Council meeting in Sweden, it was a reminder that we are all part of a global Christian community, and we all face difficult challenges. Recurring feedback during Charissa's time as President shows the importance of restoring relationships and people wanting to reconnect.

Rev Lindsay Cullen advised that the reports regarding Act2 are available on the website for the 17th Assembly. A general table discussion on Act2 followed.

Rev Dr Ian Tozer led us in prayer.

REPORTABLE CONDUCT

The Reportable Conduct presentation was not presented due to the illness of the presenter.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (IPDC)

Chairperson, Kerry Povey highlighted the international project status. The relationship with the Sri Lanka pre-school program has been discontinued. The West Timor partnership with Artha Wacana Christian University (UKAW) continues through Nedlands Uniting Church. The Timor Leste partnership with Fundação Lafaek Diak (FLD) continues at this stage. The Papuan Provinces English language programs continue.

Kerry Povey reminded everyone the obligations to ensure that all Congregations are registered with ACNC for overseas charity work and adhere to the external conduct standards. A resource was requested to help manage compliance.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Rev Dr Elaine Ledgerwood has reinvigorated the Social Justice Commission as the new Co-Chairperson along with Dr Alison Atkinson-Phillips. The Justice Hive is a new initiative to bring everyone together in their passion for social justice issues. Over the coming months they will seek to create an opportunity for intersectional conversations, raise awareness on issues of importance in the wider church, and support members to reflect theologically on the areas of concern.

SYNOD BUDGET

Chairperson of the Finance & Investment Board, David Beards, informed the meeting that the Synod has achieved a balanced budget for 2025 excluding redress.

The Synod has reduced its expenses by 24% since 2022 including staff reductions. The Synod is subject to the economic conditions of Australia and initiatives to be financially stable and generate income for the future are in progress.

Redress costs (staff and legal costs, compensation payments and operating expenses) have adopted a national approach to share funding, which benefits WA.

David Beards reminded everyone that the Future Mission Fund is available for mission projects, details can be found on the website and expressions of interest should be submitted to the Mission Resourcing Committee.

Resolution 40/2024

The 2025 budget as presented was received and accepted by consensus.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Chairperson of the Finance & Investment Board, David Beards, informed the meeting that the joint Synod and Presbytery Standing Committees agreed on four key strategic priorities to focus our limited resources and to take action.

1. Strengthening Congregations
2. Identifying and prioritising strategic properties
3. Increasing financial stability
4. Strengthening the Covenant

A table discussion followed with topics to generate ideas and comments on how the four key strategic priorities can be applied to our work and our Congregations. The results of this will be shared in due course.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

The Moderator, Rev Dr Ian Tozer introduced the celebration of ministry and led us in prayer.

Recognition of Retired Ministers

- Rev Rob Douglas
- Rev Alan Jeffreys
- Rev David Kriel
- Rev John Marshall

Recognition of Ministers who have Died

- Rev Ken Chellapah
- Rev Lee Edwards
- Rev Sylvia Hancock
- Rev Derek Hope
- Rev Alan Matthews
- Rev Allan Shallcross
- Rev Nick Stuurstraat

PERTH THEOLOGICAL HALL/RECOGNITION OF SUSAN LORD

Rev Dr Cathie Lambert led us in a celebration of the Perth Theological Hall and the launch of the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation. We acknowledged past staff and alumni, and the dedication and knowledge contributed over the years.

An exercise to gather memories or joys of Perth Theological Hall and the hopes for the future was carried out.

People were encouraged to sign up to the Seeds newsletter via Mahshid Zadeh at mahshid.zadeh@wa.uca.org.au.

Rev Dr Cathie Lambert and Rev Charissa Suli presented a completion of studies certificate to Susan Lord.

The presentation and celebration were live streamed.

COVENANT WITH CONGRESS

UAICC National Chairperson, Rev Mark Kickett (Whadjuk Noongar), UAICC National committee member, Alison Overeem (Palawa) and Alison Xamon presented on reviving the Covenant.

The Covenanting Commission report has not been submitted to Synod 2024, this is due to the lack of activity and progress. The Commission has met twice since the last Synod. It has been difficult for the Covenanting Commission to work due to recent events that have caused much distress.

The Covenant reached the 30th anniversary this year, we are looking for a period of renewal and enthusiasm as a priority.

Origin Story

1982: First Nations Christian leaders gathered at Crystal Creek, forming the genesis of the UAICC.

1983: Formal resolution to establish the Congress amidst the UCA's stance on land rights and national bicentennial celebrations.

1985: First Indigenous Moderator, Rev Dr D Gondarra.

1985: The Congress was ratified, but the UCA Assembly's withdrawal from bicentennial commitments led to significant hurt among First Peoples, culminating in protest rallies in 1988.

Call for a Covenant

1988: Rev Charles Harris, Rev Dr D Gondarra, and UAICC leaders proposed a Covenant to bind the UCA and UAICC in a relationship of listening and respect. The Assembly endorsed this call.

Signing of the Covenant

1994: The Covenant was signed by Pastor Bill Hollingsworth (UAICC Chairperson) and Dr Jill Tabart (UCA President), accompanied by an artwork symbolizing reconciliation through the Wukindi ceremony.

1997: UCA formally apologises to Stolen Generations.

Revised Preamble

2009: UCA Constitution acknowledges Gods revelation to First Peoples before colonisation.

2018: 15th Assembly affirms First People as sovereign.

"The Covenant helps to express the relationship we have as one church. It expresses a determination and a desire for the people of God, both black and white, and everyone else that comes in thereafter, to be committed to one journey and it's a journey of justice, and a journey of oneness, with a common goal."

Rev Mark Kickett said that 30 years on the story has not changed and is still as real today. The Uniting Church has a unique relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Christian Congress (UAICC). We will walk together, to engage all first peoples, and to build our trust and respect in partnership, on our journey.

The Assembly have established a working group to revisit the Covenant at a national level.

A table discussion was held on what can the WA Synod, WA Congregations and WA individuals do to demonstrate the commitment to the Covenant.

SATURDAY EVENING DEVOTIONS

Rev Mark Kickett led the devotions based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Q&A WITH STUDENTS

Students from Penrhos College, Presbyterian Ladies College and Wesley College were invited to share their opinions on:

What issues young people are facing?

- Social media and peer pressure.
- Fear about the future, climate change, economy, division in the world and polarising issues creating negative effects.
- Drugs, vapes and education around them.
- Giving Indigenous children leadership, encouragement, and a pathway to have a go.
- Impacts of mental health on family and friends.
- Finding your identity.

What they are optimistic about for their future?

- Ability to create change in the way we view our world and our people, slowly accepting each other.
- Able to explore the world and choose a profession they want to work in.
- Being part of the Moorditj mob to learn about culture and family connections.
- Opportunities at school, social skills, community of boys, education not available in regional areas.

How can the church attract and encourage young people to attend?

- Focus on community first, making connections and friends.
- A community that will support you, accept you, and have a space for you.
- Religion and fun, events targeted at young people.
- Engaging stories e.g. educational speakers.
- Make it less daunting to enter the church.
- A space for friends to gather, not the only young person.
- Something to do on a Friday night.
- Advertising on social media.
- A section specifically for teens/young adults.
- Youth groups targeting one area at a time, learning opportunity.
- Camps encouraging social engagement.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & AGENCIES DISCUSSION

All attendees were invited to join the schools, colleges and agencies in a table discussion on how Congregations can connect, strengthen and promote the work.

- Active service assistance from Congregations.
- Support for chaplaincy, can be isolating.
- Building a relationship with youth e.g. Social Justice hive.
- Give young people agency to consult with us.
- An advisory group of young people to ensure we actively listen and act on it.
- The importance of the chapel, building connections, being available, messages of hope and worth.
- Developing and continuing links between schools, colleges, and agencies to develop meaningful relationships.
- Connecting with agencies to work on issues that complement each other.
- Jen Park and Michael Chester, Co-CEO's from Uniting WA would like to talk to Congregations on Sundays.
- Diversity and inclusion policy and how to be forward facing and stand up for values.
- Support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, circular economy.

Insights from the School Principals:

- Isolation in a hyper-connected world, the removal of the village 'it takes a village to raise a child.'
- What does success look like, impacts of social media.
- Building resilience and embracing unique abilities and talents.
- Young people's lives played out on social media with video.
- Give young people a voice, they can make a difference.
- The chapel program encourages input, working collaboratively to choose a theme on rotation and input into the planning and running a chapel service.

Insights from agencies:

- Juniper, turn 75 in November, challenges in workforce and adapting services to the needs of first nations people.
- Trinity Residential College, inflationary affordability crisis, supporting students as they transition from a variety of scenarios.
- Uniting WA, support needed from the whole community to provide services, it takes the whole of WA to make WA a better place to live.
- Good Sammy Enterprises, the mission is around the creation of disability employment opportunities. The unemployment rate of someone with a disability is approx. 10% and 20% for someone with an intellectual disability. This equates to Optus Stadium filled twice of people who are able to work.

UNITINGCARE WA FORUM

Executive Officer Caring Agencies, John Berger represented the three agencies, Good Sammy Enterprises, Juniper and Uniting WA. The work is an extension of the mission of the Church, reaching out to the most vulnerable and helping to shape society and government in a positive direction. Agencies and the Church are encouraged to work together to strengthen their relationships at all levels by building informal and formal connections.

DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION SYNOD TASK GROUP

CEO of Good Sammy Enterprises, Kane Blackman and DRCSTG member Robbie Muir along with carer Gill Muir presented.

There are 1 in 6 people with a disability (4.4m). In the past year significant events include the report into the Royal Commission for violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with a disability. Over 50% have experienced this and the commission handed down over 122 recommendations.

There was also a report by the independent review of the National Disability Scheme which emphasised the importance of community involvement.

The final report from the Royal Commission included recommendations to create inclusive practices, safeguarding policies, training and education, and improve accessibility,

The National Disability Task Group released its overarching high level principles, which was accepted by the 17th Assembly in July 2024.

The recommendations identified three top issues for the Church and agencies to work through. Governance and decision making, access to an adequate complaint's resolution process and awareness and the use of supported decision making choices.

The WA Synod Task Group has produced the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in conjunction with the policy to inform how we walk alongside people with a disability.

MINUTES OF APPRECIATION

The minutes of appreciation were:

- Committee for Discipline – Rev Allan Thompson
- Social Justice Commission – Rev Gordon Scantlebury
- Church Law Committee (and many other areas of work) – Rev Des Cousins
- Good Sammy Enterprises – Sarah Jarman, Board Member
- Juniper – Maree Arnason, Board Chair
- St Stephens – Anneke Klopper, Council Member and Tim Cornish, Council Member
- Tranby College – Greg Jason, Board Member
- Presbyterian Ladies' College – Claire Poll, Council Chair
- Uniting WA – Lisa Fini, Board Member

We acknowledge the minutes of appreciation and the passing of Jordan Foster from the Presbyterian Ladies' College Council.

SUNDAY WORKSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Rev Dr Ian Tozer and Rev Charissa Suli led the Sunday morning service with Holy Communion. This included the song Tapestry (weave us together) by Sam Hargreaves, and readings from Acts 16: 1-12, and Mark 14:32-42.

Rev Ivan Clark led with the story Stuck by Oliver Jeffers to promote cause and effect, responsible decision-making and initiative and reflecting on how problem-solving and perseverance can lead to success.

BIBLE STUDIES

Rob Douglas led the bible studies with questions based on Mark 9:33-39.

The 48th annual meeting of the Synod in Western Australia was closed on Sunday 15 September 2024 at 3pm.

APPENDICEES

- Roll of Synod
- Order of Service for Retired Ministers and Ministers who have Died