

South Australian Council of Churches Inc

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 16 November 2013, 9.00am – 1pm

Noarlunga Uniting Church, 23 William Rd, Christies Beach

65 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Phone: 08 8215 0300; Fax: 08 8215 0366
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ABN: 88 121 468 824

Present

General Council:

Anglican: Rev David Covington-Groth, Mrs Pat Foord
Catholic: Dr Marie Loller, Mrs Julie Staszyc, Sr Elizabeth Young
Churches of Christ: Rev Doug Walladge, Rev Dr Greg Elsdon, Rev Colin Dredge,
Mrs Ngaire Llewellyn, Mr Barry J Grear
Coptic Orthodox: -
Ethiopian Orthodox: -
Greek Orthodox: -
Lutheran: Mr Gilbert Materne
Religious Society of Friends: -
Romanian Orthodox: -
Salvation Army: -
Uniting Church: Rev Anne Hewitt (Vice-President)

Standing Committees:

Ecumenical Learning: Envoy Ted Wright (Salvation Army)
Local Ecumenism: Rev'd Jane Lee Barker (Anglican), Ms Bridgid Medder (Catholic), Rev
Matthew Stuart (Uniting)
Christian World Service: Mrs Andrea Gordon (Anglican), Mr Mohsen Abdel-Meseh (Coptic
Orthodox), Ms Pamela Jones (Justice and Peace Issues)
Executive Committee: Mr Peter Burke (Anglican, President), Ms Jill Gallio (Catholic, Vice-
President), Mr Graham Jones (Treasurer)

Observers: Fred Foord, Velvy Holden, Beth Ackland, Marelle Harisun, Margaret Dingle,
Trevor Dean, Don Hopgood, Don Steward, Barbara Horne

SACC Staff: Mrs Geraldine Hawkes (Executive Officer), Ms Jacqui Liu (Office Administrator)

Apologies

General Council: Revd Dr Gregory Stephens (Anglican), The Most Rev'd Jeffrey Driver
(Anglican), Most Rev Philip Wilson (Catholic), Fr Philippos Boghdadi (Coptic Orthodox), Mr Ibrahim
Ibrahim (Coptic Orthodox), Fr Seraphim Sidaros (Coptic Orthodox), Mr George Mikhail (Coptic
Orthodox), Mr Belay Getachew (Ethiopian Orthodox), Mrs Alganesh Abegaz (Ethiopian Orthodox),
Mr Hailmariam Kassa (Ethiopian Orthodox), Pastor David Altus (Lutheran), debra hackett (Religious
Society of Friends), Mr Drew Thomas (Religious Society of Friends), Dr Jenny Stock (Religious
Society of Friends), Lieut. Colonel Ronald Clinch (Salvation Army), Rev Wes Howland (Uniting),
Rev Rob Williams (Uniting).

Standing Committees/Observers: Rev John Littleton (Anglican), Mr Stephen Ghabriel (Coptic
Orthodox), Dr Stephen Downs (Catholic), Ms Rosina Gergis (Coptic Orthodox), Mrs Amy Mikhail
(Coptic Orthodox), Mr Andrew Clarke (Refugee Issues), Dr Colin Cargill (Uniting), Ms Jane Juniper
(Catholic), Ms Miriam Tanios (Coptic Orthodox), Sr Elizabeth Morris (Catholic), Mr Ian Curwen-
Walker (Anglican), Mr Denis Need (Chinese Methodist), Dr Deidre Palmer (Uniting), Bruce Rosier,
Barbara Harris, Kay Thorp.

1. Welcome

- The meeting opened with an acknowledgement to Country and the Kaurna people, with their spiritual relationship to the land.
- The President, Peter Burke, invited the host Minister, Ross Honey, to welcome everyone at the meeting – especially any people here for the first time – all turned to one another to say hello!
- Peter also thanked our hosts, Noarlunga Uniting Church.

2. **Sharing of Stories: Part 1:** The Uniting Church in SA appointees to SACC, Anne Hewitt and Matthew Stuart, and a former Moderator of the UCA SA Synod, Don Hopgood, led us in the first part of our meeting - nurturing a disposition where we may learn or receive with integrity from our various others to facilitate our own growth together into deepened communion. They shared the story of the Uniting Church in SA through visual images and video clips.

3. Annual General Meeting

3.1 Confirmation of:

3.1.1 Minutes of AGM held on 17 November 2012 at Coromandel Valley

The Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. Anne Hewitt moved that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. Andrea Gordon seconded. Carried.

3.1.2 Minutes of the General Meeting held on 20 April 2013 at Richmond

The Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. Barry Gear moved that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. Julie Staszyc seconded. Carried.

3.2 Discussion and Adoption of Reports for period July 2012 – June 2013

The Reports listed below, had been distributed with the Agenda.

3.2.1 President

Anne Hewitt moved that the President Report be accepted. David Covington-Groth seconded. Carried.

3.2.2 Executive Officer

Doug Walladge moved that the Executive Officer Report be accepted. Ted Wright seconded. Carried.

3.2.3 Standing Committees for

i. Ecumenical Learning

ii. Local Ecumenism

iii. Christian World Service

Ted Wright moved that the Standing Committees Reports be accepted. Pam Jones seconded. Carried.

3.2.4 Auditor's Report: July 2012 – June 2013 for South Australian Council of Churches Inc had been signed off by Geoff Davis, Principal, Geoff Davis & Associates, Chartered Accountants. Complete sets of the Audit Reports had been distributed before the AGM to General Council and the Standing Committees with hard copies available at the meeting.

Colin Dredge moved that the SA Council of Churches Auditor's Report be accepted. Doug Walladge seconded. Carried.

Graham Jones expressed gratitude for Geoff's tremendous work and proposed a vote of thanks for excellent service. Ngairé Llewellyn seconded. Carried.

3.2.5 Finance Report

The Income & Expenditure Pie Chart was presented at the meeting. Graham Jones talked about the current finance status as noted the following:

- a. The Ecumenical Jubilee Trust Fund was closed in July 2012 as the Finance Committee agreed to invest the money into Shares to support SACC financially.
Graham Jones also thanked Denis Need for his leadership of the Trust. Gilbert Materne seconded. Carried.
- b. Westpac Corporation Shares had been purchased through broker in early November 2013. SACC will receive substantial dividends.
- c. The Government ceased rental funding for the SACC accommodation from October 2013. SACC renewed rental lease with Flinders Street Baptist Church, and was delighted to negotiate a reduced rental cost. With the cessation of the Government grant, SACC cash has started getting low and we need to seek more sources of income.
- d. Graham Jones encouraged people to think of finding channels which would help the Council.

Andrea Gordon moved that the Report be accepted. Colin Dredge seconded. Carried.

3.3 Appointments

3.3.1 Election of one person from General Council to Executive Committee

Declare that Rev Rob Williams, as the Ecumenical appointee for the Executive Committee, is on deck now. No more nominations were received so far. The meeting recommended that the search be delegated to the Executive.

3.3.2 Appointment of Auditor 2013/14: Geoff Davis, Principal, Geoff Davis & Associates, Chartered Accountants nominated by Julie Staszyc. Anne Hewitt seconded. Carried.

3.4 Other Business

3.4.1 World Council of Churches 10th Assembly: 30/10 – 8/11/2014

Anne Hewitt and Geraldine Hawkes shared some brief reflections on the World Council of Churches 10th Assembly in Busan, South Korea. More substantial feedback will be available later.

3.4.2 Dates, venues and themes of General Council Meetings 2014

General Meeting will be on Saturday, 5 April 2014 at The Otherway Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, 80 Payneham Rd, Stepney <http://www.theotherwaycentre.com.au>. Annual General Meeting will be in November 2014. Geraldine has been looking for an Orthodox Church to host, given the common celebration of Easter and Pentecost in 2014. More information will be sent to General Council and Committees once it is confirmed.

4. Sharing Stories Part 2: Hopes and Possibilities

4.1 Recognition, Reconciliation and Relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the churches in South Australia – what developments have taken place in your church...what possibilities exist?

With the encouragement of the Executive Officer, this session opened with Peter inviting all to join in the song ‘Ancient Spirit, ever new’ [words and music by Peter Burke, see www.sacc.asn.au]

People shared their reflections on “what developments have taken place in your church...what possibilities exist”:

- Steps to Referendum – how to expedite
- Uniting Church Week of Prayer and Fasting to be held between 17 and 23 March

- NAIDOC week celebrations
- Catholic – building relationships locally.
- Relationship was built between UCA & Congress in Port Augusta.
- **Recognise** walk
- Suicide: it's no Secret
- Prison services and Aged Care services
- Readings in Pitjantjatjara
- Anglicare **Recognition speaker** training on Constitutional changes – several SACC folk have participated
- How to promote **Recognition** locally
- Peace Pole planted at Pilgrim UCA. Four languages: English and 3 Aboriginal languages.
- Josie Agius, Kurna Elder, has prepared a book of Kurna names/words. If interested, please contact Port Adelaide Anglican Parish.

4.2 Easter/Pentecost 2014: In 2014 Christians from all traditions will celebrate **Easter/Pentecost** on the same day - 20 April / 8 June. **How might our churches mark this? In what way can SACC assist?**

One action proposed by the Executive is the hosting of a Dinner perhaps on 30 May 2014, in the approach to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at The Corner Uniting Church, Warradale. This would be a fundraiser as well. People were invited to form a Working Party to explore and arrange> Julie Staszyc, Anne Hewitt, Geraldine Hawkes.

Geraldine invited people to think about creative ways to celebrate to mark this common celebration through local relationships.

4.3 Formation, Education and Experience of Ecumenism – Jill Gallio led this session and invited people in small groups to ponder on a time or occasion when they experienced a deep learning in Ecumenism. And to consider what it was about that experience that made it so valuable to them.

- i. Recalling a time when you experienced a deep learning in Ecumenism:
 - Growing up & life experience in Ecumenism.
 - Tent Embassy: standing together
 - Easter time, gather together locally.
 - ACD – gift to whole generation.
 - Receptive Ecumenism sessions with Paul Murray
 - Kangaroo Island: Praying Around the Island – every road prayed for, gathered for prayer/lunch.
 - Exclusion from Communion
 - Belonging is important.
 - The share of Communion all around the table, young & old.
 - Marriage between Christian & non-Christian.
 - Community Youth Tea.
 - Learning from other traditions' prayers.
 - Multicultural faith experience - Taize.
 - In countryside, churches sharing one building.
 - Orthodox churches, youth and warmth of the community.
 - International level & local level, Chaplaincy experience.
- ii. What was it about that experience that made it so valuable to you?
 - Young people proud of who they are
 - Hit our emotions

- Recognising the gifts – the ongoing revealing of God
- Humanity
- Touching of heart to heart
- Being visibly together
- Recognising pain of not being able fully visibly ecumenical – but still able to connect
- Experience renewal of faith
- Running towards the horizon
- Diversity in other/ diversity in own

iii. How might we use our experiences to nurture and enhance our learning and the learning of others?

- Share the experience - repeat them with others
- To continue to focus on Ecumenism.
- Share story around - be open to each other and to receiving
- Curiosity, spiritual engagement, shared experience

iv. What first steps might we take to achieve this?

- Keep focused on Receptive Ecumenism
- Younger people
- Being exposed & engaged in each other's tradition – break down tribalism
- Wide Christian space.

5. **Review:** Members were invited to reflect on the meeting:

- **What have I learned...what will I do differently...?**
- **What story will I communicate to others about today's gathering ...?**
In light of closure of Catholic Theological College, how to focus on Ecumenism?
- **What steps will I take within my tradition...with whom do I need to speak ...?**
Geraldine encouraged people to feedback to their Church and to be in dialogue about ecumenism.

To note:

Ecumenical Service for the Philippines will be held on 19 November 2013 at 12.15pm at St Xavier Cathedral on Wakefield Street. [one outcome of LoCCSA meeting with the Premier]

People were encouraged to purchase the **Peace Lamps**, which were made by people from the Holy Land. And surplus of selling will be donated to children in the Holy Land.

People also were encouraged to send their **feedback on any aspect of the meeting** to the Executive Committee at sacc1@picknowl.com.au .

6. **Conclusion and Blessing Prayer**

Deep gratitude was extended to the Uniting Church for their gracious and generous hospitality and sharing, and also to all the Members and Ecumeniacs! Peter Burke, President of SACC, led a prayer of Blessing.

NEXT MEETING: General Meeting – Saturday 5 April 2014, 8.45am – 1.00 pm at The Otherway Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, 80 Payneham Rd, Stepney
<http://www.theotherwaycentre.com.au>

Minutes Confirmed By

Date:/...../.....