



## General Meeting of General Council Saturday 9 May 2015, 11.30am – 3pm Sts Peter & Paul Anglican Cathedral Church Hall, David St, Port Pirie Minutes

### Present:

#### General Council:

Anglican:	Rev Caroline Pearce, Rev Gregory Stephens, Rt Rev John Stead
Catholic:	Mrs Julie Staszyc, Sr Elizabeth Young
Churches of Christ:	Rev Doug Walladge, Mrs Ngairé Llewellyn (Vice President), Rev Dr Greg Elsdon, Mr Barry Gear
Coptic Orthodox:	-
Ethiopian Orthodox:	-
Greek Orthodox:	-
Lutheran:	Mr Gilbert Materne
Religious Society of Friends:	-
Romanian Orthodox:	-
Salvation Army:	-
Uniting Church:	-

Executive Committee: Ms Jill Gallio (Catholic, President)

#### Standing Committees:

Ecumenical Learning:	Dr Heshmat Keroloss (Coptic Orthodox)
Local Ecumenism:	Rev Jane Lee Barker (Anglican), Ms Bridgid Medder (Catholic), Ms Kay Thorp (Local Ecumenist)
Christian World Service:	Ms Andrea Gordon (Anglican), Ms Pamela Jones (Justice and Peace Issues)
Finance:	-

Observers: Rev Andrea McDougall, Rev Bart O'Donovan, Rev Prue O'Donovan,  
Ms Beth Ackland, Rev Colin Dredge, Fr Francis Montero, Sr Sonia  
Wagner, Br Trevor Dean

SACC Staff: Ms Geraldine Hawkes (Executive Officer) and Ms Melanie Macrow  
(Office Administrator)

*For Apologies and Absences, see Appendix 1*

### 1. **Welcome & Prayer**

Ms Jill Gallio, President, welcomed everyone and especially thanked our brothers and sisters from the Anglican Diocese of Willochra for hosting this gathering of the ecumenical Council of the Churches in SA. Bishop John Stead and Rev Prue O'Donovan also welcomed everyone, in this the centenary year of the Diocese, and then led the gathering in prayer.

## 2. **Sharing of Stories:** facilitated by the **Anglican Diocese of Willochra**

*Rev Andrea McDougall: Anglicare Willochra*

- Andrea described how the work looks different in each community but the same love of Jesus is shown; meeting the needs of the individual communities, the spirit of belonging, creating spaces, with no fences, where all are welcome, and the amazing café at Kadina.
- Quote from Shane Claiborne – “I think that’s what the world is in desperate need of; lovers, people who are building deep, genuine relationships with fellow strugglers along the way, and who actually know the faces of the people behind the issues they are concerned about”.

*Rev Gregory Stephens: Point Pearce, Yorke Peninsula*

- Gregory spoke of his work with the Aboriginal community at Point Pearce and that he had found that the key to building relationships with others is to love them; it is not about how we do things, but about meeting them in the space of their need and engaging them in the way they need us to. Relationship, prayer, presence, patience are key to building these relationships.
- Reflections from the meeting included expressions of gratitude for Gregory’s ministry at Point Pearce and his gracious presence among the people, with a pondering from folk on how the other churches might celebrate and learn from the Anglican presence, and offer support in prayer and in other ways.

Bishop John Stead prayed a blessing as we stopped for lunch, with thanks particularly to Lettie Allen, together with Pauline, Faye and Faye, who arranged for abundant and thoughtful nourishment through morning/afternoon tea and lunch. As we returned from our nourishing conversations and meal, we resumed the stories...

*Rev Prue O’Donovan: Ministry Development in the Diocese, Ministry of all the baptised*

- Prue spoke of working ecumenically in Willochra being an organic process. The remoteness from the city, with opportunities to work ecumenically, offers a natural process based on discovering the needs of the people, organising training, events or programs and inviting people – they come.
- Prue reminded us through many stories of the importance of the essence of being, offering examples of the presence of Christ, and inviting people to live in an intentional manner - but with no agenda.

*Bishop John Stead: Dialogue with other Churches*

- John described a vision and commitment to recognising and valuing area ministry teams across the churches, being more intentional about working together and focusing on and learning from the gifts each has to offer: working with one another to help all be stronger in serving God and one another.  
The people of Willochra: ‘Little Tribe, Big Vision’!

## 3. **General Meeting** (noting that there was not a quorum)

In response to the stories that had been shared over the day, Jill began by describing her first ecumenical experience - going to Bishop Bruce Rosier’s house for a meal in Gladstone many years ago. It had been a wonderful and ground breaking experience.

### 3.1 *2015 Onwards for SA Council of Churches*

In light of the various stories we had heard, Jill referred to the document *2015 Onwards for SA Council of Churches*, which had been distributed with the Agenda.

Geraldine drew attention to the 5 Priorities, acknowledging that the description is primarily a re-presentation of SACC Core Purpose and Aim [2007], and SACC Priorities [2012]. She described one particular action for 2015 onwards – the hosting by SACC of a series of simple meals, and expressed the hope that these will be a time of hospitality, welcome and listening and that new relationships and expressions of our unity in Christ will flow from these gatherings.

It is hoped that *2015 Onwards for SA Council of Churches* will give further inspiration to the Churches through their Ecumenical Council as we each encounter the 'now' and move together towards the 'not yet'.

Jill invited people to discuss at their tables and share their own story/experience of ecumenical hospitality, where has the light of Christ shone in an ecumenical encounter.

- 3.2 Minutes of AGM held on 15 November 2014 at St Mary and St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church have been distributed and will be presented for acceptance at the AGM on 14 November 2015. There were no further comments/questions.
- 3.3 SACC Budget 2015-2016 Summary was distributed with Agenda  
Jill invited Geraldine to take the meeting through the Budget, which had been accepted by the Executive Committee in March and recommended for acceptance by General Council. The following details were noted:
- Total income: \$186,075; Total Expenditure: \$188,916; Budgeted deficit: \$2,841
  - SACC income is derived partly from Member Church Contributions as well as from sharing staffing, accommodation and resources, together with a grant from the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion. Fuller details of income and expenditure are available from the office or the Treasurer.
- In response to a question, it was noted that the budgeted deficit could be alleviated by an increase in church contributions.

#### 4. **Review**

As the day came to a close, Jill invited people to reflect on the stories, the conversations and the sharing of prayer and hospitality:

- What have I learned...what will I do differently...?
- What story will I communicate to others about today's gathering ...?
- What steps will I take within my Church...with whom do I need to speak ...?

See reflections at Appendix 2 of these Minutes + short summary at [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au)

5. **Blessing** – Bishop John Stead prayed a blessing and farewelled all who had gathered.
6. **Next Meeting** will be hosted by our Greek Orthodox sisters and brothers on Saturday 14 November 2015, *from 9am–1pm* at St Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Church, 50 Oxford Terrace, Unley

**APPENDIX 1****Apologies/Absent:****General Council:**

Mrs Pat Foord, Most Rev Dr Jeffrey Driver and Rt Rev John Ford (Anglican);  
 Dr Marie Loller, Most Rev Philip Wilson and Bishop Greg O'Kelly (Catholic);  
 Fr Philippos Boghdadi, Fr Seraphim Sidaros, Mr George Mikhail and Bishop Suriel (Coptic Orthodox);  
 Mr Belay Getachew, Mr Hailmariam Kassa and Mrs Alganesh Abegaz (Ethiopian Orthodox);  
 Fr Peter Photakis, Fr Jeremy Krieg, Mr Daniel Bradshaw and Bishop Nikandros of Dorylaeon (Greek Orthodox);  
 Rev Leon Rosenberg and Bishop David Altus (Lutheran);  
 debra hackett, Dr Jenny Stock and Mr Yarrow Andrew (Religious Society of Friends);  
 Fr Viorel Stoica and Bishop Michael (Romanian Orthodox);  
 Lieut Col Ronald Clinch and Lieut Col Robyn Clinch (Salvation Army);  
 Rev Anne Hewitt, Rev Wes Howland, Rev Rob Williams, Dr Deidre Palmer and Rev Nigel Rogers (Uniting).

**Standing Committees:**

Mr Peter Burke (Vice President), Rev John Littleton and Mr Ian Curwen-Walker (Anglican);  
 Ms Mary Camilleri (Catholic);  
 Ms Amy Mikhail, Mr Stephen Ghabriel, Mr Pierre Magar, Ms Jakleen Shonoodh and Ms Miriam Tanios (Coptic Orthodox);  
 Fr John Psalios (Greek Orthodox),  
 Envoy Ted Wright (Salvation Army);  
 Dr Colin Cargill (Uniting);  
 Mr Neil Traeger (Treasurer);

**Observers:**

Bishop Bruce Rosier, Ms Margaret Dingle, Ms Gwyneth Ottrey, Ms Velvy Holden, Rev Lindsay Faulkner.

**Stories and Reflections flowing from the Conversations 9/5/15**

*The following stories were received during or after the meeting. Thanks all who contributed...feel free to continue to share.*

The presenters from the Willochra Diocese were inspirational in the stories they shared, and in the evidence of the depth of their commitment to consistently travel such distances to fulfil their ministries.

Their gracious hospitality and generous receptive spirit brings hope for a ground breaking ecumenical sharing of ministry gifts across these country areas.

Reconciliation Week brought to mind the current ministry with the people at Point Pearce. In the vivid telling of stories much was learnt and much left to ponder. The powerful visual of the cemetery with newly erected crosses indeed looked like a War Graves cemetery. Many were the insights gained about long term relationship building and integrity.

A great day.

I was inspired by the Port Pirie gathering, particularly with initiatives taken by the Anglican diocese of Willochra. I learned of very grounded yet passionate projects to connect with people in their own places, bringing the Good News of Jesus in outreach, compassion and love.

I also loved the way that the diocese is able to connect all its parishioners with service opportunities through Anglicare - something we could all try.

I felt privileged to be at the meeting – as it happened quite by chance because of our conversation – thank you for including me.

I experienced a genuine connection with the Anglican Diocese of Willochra and appreciated each of the presentations. In particular what will stay with me is Prue's wisdom about approaching the community with intent but no agenda. I resonated with the way Prue approaches her ministry of empowerment.

When Bishop John was speaking I heard a strong invitation for the sharing of gifts across our two vast, rural dioceses. What a lot we have to learn from one another!

The Willochra motto – Little Tribe, Big Vision – speaks to the reality of our Catholic diocese and I look forward to making some opportunities for us to meet together – with intent but no agenda!!

Wasn't it a great day! So many messages and so much wisdom.

Looking from the perspective of building up our congregation I took away many messages like being welcoming and inviting without an agenda.

Just being, sharing hospitality and caring, allowing people to approach at their own time. Then there is the openness of sharing with others and appreciating their experiences and knowledge.

I enjoyed each one of the speakers. Great personalities with great faith. God Bless.