

## Minutes of the Wimala Presbytery Meeting

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Enfield Uniting Church**

2 Park St, Sefton Park SA 5083

### Meeting Attendance

A total of 59 people participated in the Presbytery meeting either in person or online. Of those who attended in person, 52 were presbytery members, co-opted or associate members and 7 were guests. We welcomed 2 presbytery members who participated in the day, online. Apologies were received from 15 presbytery members.

### Meeting Summary

We began our day in community with one another, catching up over a cuppa and a snack before heading into worship led by Rev Amel Manyon with musical support from Leanne Davis. We were reminded by Amal, of the fears that we may hold which do not have to isolate us, but that we can stand firm in the strong foundation of Jesus Christ.

Our Presbytery Meeting was a bit different from the past meetings, in that we held the business sessions throughout the day. The aim was to finish the business early enough for those rural congregational members, to be able to head off as they needed.

Please note that the minutes are written as the day unfolded with the business proposals throughout the minutes, as it was spread throughout the program of the day.

### Proposal 1 – Addition of Proposal 6. Consensus by voting cards.

Chaplaincy Update: We received an update from Wendy Prior, sharing the important work of our chaplains across Synod, highlighting the eight Chaplains connected to the Wimala Presbytery.

Mission Resourcing Team Update: Rev Dr Paul Goh then provided us with information about the implementation of a three-year Synod Action Plan for ‘Becoming a CALD and Intercultural Church: 2023-2025’. We were informed that Mission Resourcing is providing a six-month Congregation Pilot project titled Awaken Adelaide with the aims of cultivating an intercultural congregational leadership for missional renewal. Rev Dr Paul Goh is available to provide an information session to your Church Council meeting with a 15-minute presentation followed by Q&A. Please contact Paul on [pgoh@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:pgoh@sa.uca.org.au) or call on 0416 564 193.

The Synod General Secretary, Rev Philip Gardener addressed our Presbytery Meeting with two focus items, Property and Mission and the Review of the Mission Development Board.

#### Property and Mission

We heard that the hope is to see “missionally vibrant congregations in safe buildings that are fit for purpose”. Phillip provided us with an update on what has occurred so far:

- John Fong completing initial safety checks on buildings
- Some congregations have made a start on the work needed which came out of the safety checks. Phillip wanted us to be aware that having safe buildings is non-negotiable.



- Discussion about the congregational survey which looked at
  - o Whether buildings are fit of purpose
  - o Missional vibrancy which looked at worship, witness and service; community building; faith sharing; education and disciple formation; pastoral care and the connection with the wider community.

Phillip informed us that this project is well underway and the team are meeting in the coming weeks to form a process for the next steps.

### Initial response to the review of Mission and Resourcing from the Mission and Leadership Development Board

The review has been conducted with the report completed in late July. The intention is to make a summary available to share very soon. Some of the work relates specifically to the mission resourcing team but other parts relate to the college resourcing and support for the mission of the church.

The review provided key areas of focus:

Faith formation and vitality - how to grow faith vitality in all stages of life.

Congregational renewal - how to lead a congregation through renewal into a new future.

A Covenant come alive – how our covenant relationship can be experienced and lived into more richly.

Local community mission – how to do local practical mission.

Evangelism – how to effectively proclaim/share the gospel with modern people.

Intercultural capacity – how to read and discern the complexity of modern cultures in order to engage faithfully.

After morning tea we thanked and farewelled Rev Bob Hutchinson from the PRC chairperson role and also from the Presbytery as he moves to The Corner congregation. We also thanked and recognised Rev June Ladner's support over the past 2 years on the Standing Committee.

### **Proposal 2 – Leanne Davis Ordination**

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

### **Proposal 3 – Joint Nominating Committee – Presbytery Chairperson**

**Due to an incorrect wording, the proposal was altered:**

“That the Wimala Presbytery resolve to appoint Dianne Holden as the Presbytery Chairperson, at the Presbytery Meeting in April 2024.”

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

**The Wimala Great Debate: *That the Uniting Church in South Australia should abandon Sunday morning worship services.***

Thanks to those who formed the affirming and negative teams, which provided us with opportunity to discuss, laugh and share ideas about how we “do” church within our congregations.

After lunch we received an apology from **Geoff Hurst**, the Digital and Media Consultant, who was unable to attend and speak at the meeting due to illness. It was encouraged that congregations get in touch with Geoff via email.



**Marianne Vreugdenhil and Mike Lennon** then shared with us about their inspiring and creative plans which are coming out of the Port Adelaide Uniting Church.

Following on from this, **Linda Driver** provided an update on the work of Act2 as we are now in the “Collective Discernment” phase of the project until the end of November. Linda distributed copies of the project plan with us and encouraged the use of the FAQ page on the Act2 website. Linda also shared about the different options of reports that we could read as congregations and church councils but also highlighted the project summary and theological papers. David Walker asked if we could share the video from the day, and it was agreed that we could do this to assist congregations to engage with Act2 and provide feedback which is due by the end of November.

**Proposal 4 – presenting the finance report and budget.**

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

**Proposal 5 – Nominations**

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

**Proposal 6 – Nomination of PRC Chairperson**

This was an additional proposal made on the day:

“That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Rev Rebecca Purling as Chair of Wimala Pastoral Relations Committee for the next 2 years”.

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

At 3.55pm the business session concluded.

Following on, Chairperson Trevor Phillips provided an encouraging challenge to us to consider the radically changing church and whether we decide to receive the change and be apart of it, or let it happen to us. He asked the questions of what motivates us as a congregational community, what do we feel we are being called into and to consider how are we going to get this work done. This was a great springboard into workshop groups connecting with our regional coordinators. We hope this was a helpful time of discussion.

