

Re: Membership of the Presbytery

Regulation 3.3.4 - amend clause (f) (i) and (ii) and through the addition of a new sub-clause (iii) and the renumbering of the existing sub-clause (iv), as follows:

- 3.3.4 (f) (i) Confirmed lay members as co-opted persons ~~up to a maximum of one for each five lay members of Presbytery,~~ such co-options being made for such reasons as the Presbytery considers appropriate, including to include persons with special gifts not otherwise available to the Presbytery, to ensure that the number of lay members is not less than the members who are Ministers and to establish a better balance in the proportion of younger and older persons who comprise the members of the Presbytery.
- (ii) Ministers who are not otherwise members of the Presbytery as co-opted persons, ~~up to a maximum of one for each five ministerial members of Presbytery (Ministers of the Word, Deacons and Deaconesses)~~ such co-options being made for such reasons as the Presbytery considers appropriate, including to include persons with special gifts not otherwise available to the Presbytery and engaged in a significant ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery.
- (iii) The number of co-opted persons shall not exceed one for each five members of Presbytery.
- (iv) Co-options shall be for a period of one year. A co-opted member is eligible for further co-option. The number of co-opted members from any one Congregation shall not exceed three lay members and three ministerial members.

Re: Oversight of Lay Preachers

Regulation 3.1.3 - amend by the insertion of a new clause (j) as follows to provide for oversight of Lay preachers, and the renumbering of subsequent clauses,

- 3.1.3 (j) the exercise of oversight of Lay Preachers within its bounds;

13.10.03 encourage Synods to review any existing By-Laws relating to the appointment of members of Synods pursuant to Regulation 3.3.7 to ensure that they are adequate to serve the Church in the light of its current experience that whereas it was once the norm that there would be a Minister in placement, in many contexts there is no likelihood of there being an approved placement in the foreseeable future, and in presbyteries where the number of placements may be significantly less than in previous years; and

13.10.04 thank and discharge the Task Group.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Christian Education Research Project Report

Glenda Blakefield, Craig Mitchell and Rick Morrell introduced Document 4, consisting of a report on the outcomes of the national research project conducted by the Research Fellow and the Christian Education Research Project Steering Committee. Extensive discussion followed.

13.11 It was resolved to:

13.11.01 receive the report;

- 13.11.02 note Assembly minute 00.28.03 (9th Assembly) “to name the teaching ministry as a core function of each council of the church” and to affirm that the Assembly has a role in Christian Education;
- 13.11.03 affirm that the role of the Assembly in Christian Education is to provide for the Uniting Church nationally a cohesive vision of Christian education which sees
- a) congregations as lifelong learning communities of discipleship for the sake of the mission of God;
 - b) church leaders as effective educational leaders, capable of guiding a community in forming disciples;
 - c) congregations developing a culture of learning for and from engagement in mission - mission-shaping discipleship;
 - d) promoting Christian education as a distinctive ministry yet also integral to worship, teaching, doctrine, formation, community life and mission;
 - e) developing and promoting Christian education and formation as vital, interrelated contributors to growth in discipleship in Christian community;
 - f) developing Christian identity within the theology and ethos of the Uniting Church;
 - g) developing Christian education and formation for the shaping of Christian identity in our globalised, pluralistic, multi-faith world;
 - h) calling the church to ways of learning together that reflect our ethos as a Uniting Church – our commitments to the first peoples, to being a multicultural church, a priesthood of all believers, a multi-generational community of faith, and a community of women and men.
- 13.11.04 that within this vision, the Assembly will:
- a) provide leadership in identifying and encouraging the development of resources that assist congregations in the critical areas of Christian education highlighted in the Christian Education Research Project Report;
 - b) actively foster collaboration and seeking cooperation across the Councils and sectors of the church to support the development of effective Christian education in congregations;
 - c) research both theory and practice in Christian education in Australia and overseas and communicating findings well and widely;
 - d) provide leadership with other councils of the Church in the development of the Uniting Church as a learning community of disciples – sharing stories, provoking conversation, fostering networks for mutual learning ,learning to resource itself;
 - e) give priority to the development of leaders of lifelong learning communities of discipleship, both in the education and formation of people for specified ministries and in lay leadership development;
 - f) provide a national reference point for religious education in schools, Uniting Church schools ‘policy, state school chaplaincy and tertiary chaplaincy;
- 13.11.05 that within the work of Assembly agencies there is a need for:
- a) a distinct focus and resourcing of Christian Education within Uniting Faith and Discipleship;
 - b) a senior staff appointment and a working group to resource the vision;
 - c) a more intentional approach to the ways in which Assembly programs, projects and resources assist congregations to be life-long learning communities of discipleship, and how these are then communicated;
 - d) greater collaboration within Uniting Faith and Discipleship in particular in terms of (b);

- e) clearer attention to the educational approaches used in Assembly resources designed to assist congregations;
 - f) the review of the relationship between Christian education for adults and education for lay specified ministries;
 - g) direct collaboration between the work of Christian education and youth and young adults faith development;
 - h) evaluation of the profile of matters of faith, belief, spirituality and discipleship among the Assembly's Key communications media, including the Assembly website;
- 13.11.06 request the General Secretary to bring a position description for a senior staff appointment in the areas of Christian Education within the Uniting Faith and Discipleship (UF &D) mandate to the July Assembly Standing Committee;
- 13.11.07 request the General Secretary to consult with the Task Group for the Education for Ministries Working Group regarding ASC Minutes 13.121.03 and 13.11.05 and bring a report to the July Assembly Standing Committee;
- 13.11.08 request the General Secretary to bring names forward for a joint nominating committee for the appointment of a senior staff person in the area of Christian education to the July Assembly Standing Committee;
- 13.11.09 request the General Secretary to bring a report on the implications for Assembly Agencies and Secretariat Communications functions outlined in ASC Minute 13.11.04 b);
- 13.11.10 request the Associate General Secretary to review the operations of Uniting Faith Discipleship (UF&D) within the mandate, with reference to ASC Minute 13.11.05 a), b), c), d) and f) including the drafting of operational guidelines for a-Working Group in the area of Christian education and bring a report to the July Assembly Standing Committee;
- 13.11.11 establish a Working Group in the area of Christian education within the mandate of Uniting Faith and Discipleship from July 2013;
- 13.11.12 request the Associate General Secretary to bring nominations for a Working Group in the area of Christian education to the July Assembly Standing Committee;
- 13.11.13 thank and give strong affirmation and recognition for the work of the Assembly Research Fellow, Craig Mitchell;
- 13.11.14 thank and discharge the Christian Education Research Project Steering Committee; and
- 13.11.15 authorize the General Secretary to take such action as is necessary to maintain the momentum established during the research project, including as necessary, engagement of interim resources pending implementation of these decisions.

2. Christian Unity Working Group re Lutheran – UCA Shared Eucharistic Liturgy

The General Secretary spoke to Document 15, consisting of a report from the Christian Unity Working Group

13.12 It was resolved to:

- 13.12.01 receive the report;
- 13.12.02 adopt the paper 'A Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, with Commentary'; and