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Assembly Resourcing Unit

10 Appreciation: Amelia Koh-Butler – Advocate Seeking Common Ground Circle of Interest

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler.

Amelia Koh-Butler has served as the inaugural Advocate for the Seeking Common Ground Circle. Amelia was an ideal choice as Advocate, bringing much experience and wisdom in ecumenical and interfaith ministry, as well as ministry with people of no institutional faith.

Under Amelia's leadership the Circle has created a platform for people to share information, alert members to upcoming events, provide links to useful resources and be a place where members can share their understandings and experiences of the Church's witness through ecumenical relationships, the importance of interfaith relationships as a means to witness to God in a world of many faiths and how the Church witnesses to the reconciliation and renewal of the whole creation as it engages with the search for spirituality and meaning in wider society. The Circle has developed a substantial membership of around 200 people.

Amelia has promoted and encouraged conversation, contributed herself and also invited members to contribute to the Circle newsletters that have been produced through the triennium. Amelia has played a key role in the past three annual Iftar dinners hosted by the Uniting Church in Australia and Affinity Intercultural Foundation, providing a model of the hospitality and shared friendship we seek with our interfaith partners.

She has served as the Worship and Liturgy Chairperson for the World Methodist Council and reported on this global ecumenical connection with the Circle.

Amelia worked closely with the Advocates from the Growing in Faith and Transforming Worship Circles to respond to the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) request to engage in further theological work regarding Holy Communion in online communities. Amelia was able to contribute valuable reflection from the wider ecumenical Church family, reminding the Church of these connections and relationships. Amelia participated in an online webinar and contributed a paper to resource the ASC in its work.

Amelia's willingness to be part of the Circles of Interest initiative which began in this triennium, to contribute to the life of the Assembly through the work of the Circle, and to offer her own expertise and energy to the task is greatly appreciated. Her contribution to the Assembly through the Seeking Common Ground Circle has developed a platform and highlighted both the challenges and possibilities that positions it well for the future.

We wish Amelia well in her future ministry.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

11 Appreciation: Andrew Markwell – Trustee of the John Flynn Foundation

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr Andrew Markwell.

Frontier Services wish to record its appreciation for the contribution of Andrew Markwell as a trustee of the John Flynn Foundation for two years before resigning in 2019.

Andrew is a professional fundraiser who has worked in the Not for Profit sector for over 20 years. He brought with him valuable experience that contributed to the success of the foundation for which we are eternally grateful.

Andrew's commitment and passion to the success of the John Flynn Foundation has shaped a bright future and we wish him well for his future endeavors.

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Secunder: Colleen Geyer



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Assembly Resourcing Unit

12 Appreciation: Ann Perrin – Advocate Growing in Faith Circle of Interest

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Ann Perrin.

Ann Perrin has served as the inaugural Advocate for the Growing in Faith Circle. Ann brought her experience and wisdom from the former Doctrine Working Group as well as her work in ministry to the task.

Under Ann's leadership the Circle has created a platform for people to share information, alert members to upcoming events, provide links to useful resources, and be a place where members can share both their understandings of theology and also how we as followers of Christ grow in our understanding and application of the faith. The Circle has developed a substantial membership of around 200 people.

Ann has promoted and encouraged conversation and theological reflection on specific themes which are important in the life of the Uniting Church in the Circle newsletters that have been produced through the triennium. Specifically, she has contributed and invited members to contribute stories and reflections on the themes of discipleship, faith at home, disability and inclusion and growing faith amid COVID-19.

Under Ann's leadership the Growing in Faith Circle, working with the Transforming Worship Circle, responded to the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) request to engage in further theological work regarding Holy Communion in online communities, reporting back to the ASC late last year. Ann facilitated this through organising an online webinar and papers developed by a number of people from across the Church including from within the Circle.

Ann's willingness to be part of the Circles of Interest initiative which began in this triennium, to contribute to the life of the Assembly through the work of the Circle, and to offer her own expertise and energy to the task is greatly appreciated. Ann changed roles and moved Synods during the triennium and has met significant challenges in her ministry during the period. Her contribution to the Assembly through the Growing in Faith Circle positions it well for the future.

Ann will continue to serve the Assembly in another capacity in the new triennium. We wish her well in her future ministry.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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UnitingCare Australia

13 Appreciation: Bronwyn Pike

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of The Hon. Bronwyn Pike.

This minute of appreciation is for the contribution Bronwyn Pike made to the life of the Uniting Church in her role as Chair of UnitingCare Australia.

Hon. Bronwyn Pike was appointed as Chair of UnitingCare Australia in November 2017 after the retirement of Mr Peter Bicknell. She held the role for two years, until November 2019 when she stepped down due to her appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Ltd.

We are so grateful for Bronwyn's leadership and expertise for these two years. Having grown up in the Methodist and Uniting Church as a congregation member and her roles in paid and volunteer work, she understood the polity and interconciliatory nature of church life. This, along with her education and community services background, a thirteen year political career in the Victorian Labor Government (including in Cabinet for 11 years) and her strong governance experience, Bronwyn's leadership provided a solid platform for taking UnitingCare Australia from strength to strength.

Bronwyn had a number of significant achievements in her relatively short time as Chair. She set about transforming an outdated governance arrangement for UnitingCare Australia – taking it from a National Committee to a well-functioning professional Board with a new, up to date Mandate and Charter, including a new process for nominations of Board members. As a result, she oversaw the induction of a brand new Board, undertook a comprehensive risk review and set the direction with a new strategic plan and clear strategic priorities for the next three years.

Bronwyn's strong governance experience was invaluable in guiding UnitingCare Australia in its role in leading the response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety on behalf of the Church. This was a significant time for UnitingCare Australia and the community services network, and Bronwyn's support and work ensured that everyone felt that they were in 'a safe pair of hands'.

As a highly strategic thinker and a straight talker, her work with the team is always positive and an opportunity to learn for all of us, with her canny ability to get to the nub of an issue or problem and sharing her significant political expertise.

We thank Bronwyn for her hard work, her expertise and her generosity in her role as Chair of UnitingCare Australia.

We are extremely fortunate to have Bronwyn's continued involvement as a Synod nominated member of the Board.

Proposer: Heather Watson

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

14 Appreciation: Dorothy Creek

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mrs Dorothy Creek as a member of the Frontier Services Board for 5 years.

In her role as a Board Member, Frontier Services has benefited over the years through Dorothy's understanding of what it means to be in rural and remote Ministry. Her commitment to this important ministry was evident in her contribution to the Board, including Frontier Services' continuing development of a funding base for Bush Chaplains ministry throughout Australia. Dorothy's personal commitment to the understanding and education of faith communities of First Nations history and culture also added to the continuing progress of Frontier Services as part of the Uniting Church's covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Frontier Services also wishes to acknowledge Board Member Dorothy Creek's appointment as a newly elected Chairperson of the Riverina Presbytery. Dorothy was appointed to the position in 2020 after serving as a lay preacher and a foundation member for many years.

Dorothy has been instrumental in providing opportunities for education for our First Nations coordinating with Paul Creek a number of walks on country. These walks have provided deep insights into language, culture, and history of our First Nations and how we may provide a different narrative towards reconciliation. This understanding and education of rural faith communities, and desire to work towards healing conversations for all are what make her an asset to the church. We give thanks for Dorothy continuing to step into the spaces that God is calling her to be a presence in.

We are grateful for Dorothy's service to Frontier Services and wish her every blessing in her new appointment.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

15 Appreciation: Garry Dronfield

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Garry Dronfield.

Rev. Garry, a Bundjalung man was appointed the first full-time National President of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) in January 2018. He served on the Frontier Services Board as Auntie Dianne Torrens' liaison until his resignation in December 2019.

Garry worked to honor Frontier Services' commitment to working closely with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and has pushed the agency strongly along the road towards a shared future with our First Nations People.

We thank him for his service and wish him well in the future

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

16 Gregor Henderson - Trustee of the John Flynn Foundation

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Gregor Henderson.

Frontier Services wishes to express its deep thanks for the long service and very significant contributions by Rev. Gregor Henderson as Chairperson of the John Flynn Foundation. Gregor was a part of the foundation since its commencement in 2002 and we are grateful for his 17 years of support.

Gregor's involvement with Frontier Services dates back to his membership of the Board of the Australian Inland Mission in the mid-1970s and he has been an avid supporter of the ministries of Frontier Services and dreams of our founding father, Rev. John Flynn ever since.

Outside of his long tenure as Chairperson of the John Flynn Foundation, Gregor has also been Chair of Frontier Services Board, where he advocated for those in remote and rural Australia over his many years of involvement. Gregor was also the General Secretary of the Church's National Assembly for 12 years from 1989 to 2000 and President from 2006 to 2009. During this time, he was instrumental in introducing a Ministerial Code of Ethics and strengthening the Uniting Church's regulations against sexual misconduct. He also had a major role in the introduction of consensus decision-making across all Councils of the Church.

In his period as General Secretary Gregor Henderson also made special arrangements to increase the participation of members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in the UCA's triennial Assembly meetings.

The John Flynn Foundation was delighted when in 2015, Reverend Gregor Henderson AM was recognised during the Australia Day honors and became a Member of the Order of Australia. Gregor received the award in the General Division for "significant service to the community through executive and ministerial roles in the Uniting Church in Australia, and through interfaith initiatives.

We are forever in debt for the hard work and perseverance of a man who dedicated his life to helping others, especially those living in remote Australia. We are blessed with the decades of work Gregor put into both Frontier Services and the John Flynn Foundation.

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

17 Appreciation: John Baxter

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr John Baxter.

Frontier Services wish to record its appreciation for the contribution of John Baxter as a board member from 2015-2019. John resigned from the board in October 2019.

We thank him for his contributions during his time serving as a board member. Since 2015 he has provided advice and counsel on all legal matters. His capabilities brought clarity to difficult matters including bequest issues, contested estates, family provision, and testamentary capacity.

We were truly blessed by John's 4 years of service and commitment to the Frontier Services board and our mission to improve the lives of those living in rural and remote Australia. We would like to express our gratitude for the expertise John brought through his role on the board.

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Assembly Resourcing Unit

18 Appreciation: Kaye Roberts-Thomson – Chairperson Standards for Ministries Committee

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Dr Kaye Roberts-Thomson.

Kaye Roberts-Thomson has chaired the Standards for Ministries Committee (SFM) throughout the last triennium having previously been the chair of the Education for Ministry Working Group for two triennia.

Kaye brought to these roles experience in theological education including being Chairperson, Board of Ministerial Education, Victorian Synod (1982-84), Council member of Parkin Wesley College for Theological Education (1985-98), Member of National Executive of the Ministerial Education Commission (1990-98) and Chairperson, Education for Ministry Commission, SA Synod, (1994-98. She currently chairs the Adelaide College of Divinity Council. Kaye also brought her experience as Adjunct Professor at the University of Adelaide in the School of Dentistry.

Newly established, the SFM brought together the Assembly responsibilities for the establishment of standards for theological education and the reception of ministers from other denominations, work previously under the oversight of two Assembly bodies. There was a significant number of new members to the committee and some changes to membership through the triennium. The triennium also saw a significant shift in meeting practices as the COVID-19 pandemic moved meetings from a face-to-face format to a more regular videoconference format.

Kaye oversaw the forming and establishing of the new group, providing clarity of focus and tasks, and chairing the meetings with both efficiency and care for members. A key initiative from Kaye was to identify the key areas for the SFM to work on in the triennium and to the establish sub-committees able to carry forward the work in these areas. This greatly assisted the SFM in its work and leaves it well placed to carry the work into the future.

Kaye reported to the Assembly Standing Committee and maintained communication channels and relationships with Ministry Education Boards (MEB) and Theological College Principals across Church.

Across her years of service on SFM and its precursor, Kaye has demonstrated a strong commitment to and promotion of collaboration between the UCA colleges, including especially the introduction of the annual Heads of Colleges meeting.

Kaye's leadership saw the successful completion of some major reviews which have resulted in significant and widely appreciated changes, including the revised Phase 2 Standards, and Lay Preacher and Pastor Standards.

Kaye has also contributed significantly to reinvigorating the process of consultation with MEB's and Colleges and the sharing of information resulting from these.

Kaye's leadership has been characterised by a strong sense of the ethos and values of the UCA; by prayer, patience and humility and openness to the diversity of the church, by a keen sense of the "ministry of scholarship" within the church and by a readiness to discern new directions and opportunities.

We are grateful for the excellent service Kaye has provided to the Assembly in these important areas over many years. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Assembly Resourcing Unit

19 Appreciation: Rev Dr Matthew Wilson – UCA Co-convenor Uniting Church in Australia and Executive Council of Australian Jewry Dialogue

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Dr Matthew Wilson.

Rev Dr Matthew Wilson has served as the UCA co-convenor of the UCA - Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) Dialogue for the last 10 years and has been a member of the dialogue since 2009. Matt came to this role bringing his skills and experience from his membership of the Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths.

As co-convenor of the dialogue, Matt has played a pivotal role in the UCA's national relationship with the Jewish community. He has co-ordinated with ECAJ colleagues to convene dialogue meetings and develop agendas to allow sharing and grow understanding between the two faith communities and discussion of current topics relevant to both.

At times when the UCA or the ECAJ have wanted to express concerns, regarding situations in Australia or in Israel, Matt has facilitated conversation between faith leaders of both communities enabling timely and honest discussion.

Matt has been responsible for reporting on the dialogue activities to the Assembly Standing Committee and providing summaries of dialogue conversations for publication in the UCA National Update.

Matt's genuine interest, Biblical expertise and theological understanding in interfaith relationships and his willingness to offer his time and leadership in this national dialogue have made him an excellent convenor and greatly appreciated by all in the dialogue and the wider UCA.

We are grateful for the excellent service Matt has provided to the Assembly in this important area over many years. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Defence Force Chaplaincy

20 Appreciation: Rev Dr Murray Earl

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Dr Murray Earl.

Murray was born in Mt Gambia, South Australia, into a family of faith and farming. He discerned a call to ministry in the Methodist Church and began the long pathway to prepare for ministry, which included a season in Scotland where he met his wife, Jenny.

Murray was ordained in Mt Gambier in 1980. He was stationed at Kalangadoo, Malvern (Unley), Ceduna and Marion Churches, before being asked to join the Royal Australian Air Force as a Military Chaplain in late 1990.

He has been posted with the RAAF to Richmond, ADFA, Richmond, Wagga, Williamstown, Amberley, Glenbrook, was deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) in 2004/2005. In 2008 Murray was appointed Director-General for Air Force Chaplaincy, a position he held until 2013; he retired from the Air Force in November 2013. Murray was appointed by the Minister for Defence Support and commissioned by the Uniting Church to the position on the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS) in December 2013. The Rev'd Dr Murray Earl served as the Uniting Church member for six years, the last two years was the Chair of RACS.

During Murray's leadership as Chair of RACS, the committee transitioned from a Judeo-Christian Committee, to a multi-faith committee with four new RACS members appointed. The addition of religious leaders from Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh faith groups reflects the Defence Values of inclusion and diversity. A new Memorandum of Agreement was developed outlining the corporate and individual responsibilities of RACS. RACS continues to provide advice to the ADF on specific issues regarding the requirements of particular faith groups and general advice for leaders on a range of matters of a religious, moral and ethical nature. Murray also brought before RACS and the Uniting Church Defence Force Chaplains Committee, the challenge of the rise in percentage of ADF members, and indeed Australian society, who claim no religion at all.

Murray brought to the table a deep experience of Chaplaincy in the military and the role of Chaplains to provide support for Defence Force members in pastoral, spiritual, ritual and ceremonial situations. His own experience of deployment and serving while separated from loved ones provided insights for caring for Chaplains and their families.

Murray was thoughtful and diligent in his pastoral care of Chaplains and their families. In partnership with Presbyteries, he maintained oversight of compliance matters for approximately 45 Chaplains each year, half that number being full-time. Murray also maintained some contact with Chaplains who were discharging from the Defence Force and those transitioning back into placements in the wider Uniting Church. He was the point of contact for Defence Force Chaplains who had retired.

Along with the other Protestant RACS members, Murray sought to bring full-time Chaplains together for an annual retreat. That was one of the rare moments when most of the full-time Chaplains could gather face-to-face for encouragement, prayer and refreshment.

Murray attended every Synod and Assembly meeting during his term of office. Along with other Uniting Church Chaplains who attended, he was able to promote Defence Force Chaplaincy as a "call within a call." Conversations with potential Chaplains and robust dialogues about the place of Christians in the military has built bridges of understanding across the Uniting Church. Murray

worked hard to identify suitable applicants for Defence Force Chaplaincy and worked with senior Uniting Church Chaplains from Navy, Army and Air Force to interview applicants prior to referring them to the processes of Defence Force Recruiting.

At his last meeting, the Uniting Church Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee recorded its gratitude and significant thanks and appreciation for the excellent leadership, mentoring and pastoral care which has been a hallmark of Murray's time as our UCA RACS member. The committee and the Chaplains extend their thanks to Murray's wife, Jenny, and their three children and their families for supporting Murray as he continued to serve long after many clergy have hung up their robes.

On behalf of the Uniting Church Defence Force Chaplains Committee we bring this minute of appreciation, for the service of Rev Dr Murray Earl as Uniting Church RACS member 2013-2019

Proposer: Rev Charles Vesely

Seconder: Rev Kaye Ronalds



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UnitingCare Australia

21 Appreciation: Paul Linossier

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr Paul Linossier.

This minute of appreciation is for the contribution Paul Linossier made to the life of the Uniting Church in his role as both Board member, and Interim Chair of UnitingCare Australia.

Paul was appointed to the Board of UnitingCare Australia in March 2019 as a nomination from the VicTas Synod and provided the Board with guidance and wisdom from the lived experiences of those that he served in his capacity as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Ltd.

His experience, strategic thinking and collegiate nature was invaluable at the time as a member of what was then a new Board with a refreshed governance charter and arrangement. We thank him for this important contribution.

After a long career spanning over forty years as a highly regarded public sector and community services professional, Paul announced his retirement to take effect from November 2019.

A recruitment process by Uniting VicTas was undertaken to replace Paul. Bronwyn Pike was appointed to the role and as a result, Bronwyn stood down from her role as Chair of UnitingCare Australia.

Paul, despite his move into retirement and the thought of a quieter life, graciously offered to take on the role of interim Chair, UnitingCare Australia to maintain stability and continuity while a new Chair was recruited. This was longer than expected, and Paul was in this role for over twelve months from November 2019.

Paul's calm and strong leadership proved to be vital at this time when the pandemic struck and not only was the National Office forced into lockdown, but the work of UnitingCare Australia in supporting the service network and providing advocacy was never more vital. His support assisted UnitingCare Australia to fulfil its mission and engage in significant advocacy and service development activities.

Despite these challenges, Paul oversaw a number of key initiatives, including remuneration of Board members, recruitment of a new Chair, and three new independent Board members, and a recalibration of the Board's strategic priorities in line with a changing environment.

We are extremely grateful to Paul for his thoughtful, diligent leadership, his commitment to our mission and to people on the margins, and his willingness to take on the Interim Chair role at a point in his life where he was thinking of retirement. His hard work and gift of time is deeply appreciated. At his farewell, Paul wished the Board well and said he hoped the "God of justice would bless the Board in its endeavours".

Proposer: Heather Watson

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

22 Richard Stewart– Trustee of the John Flynn Foundation

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr Richard Stewart.

Frontier Services wishes to acknowledge the significant contributions made by Richard Stewart OAM to the John Flynn Foundation as a Trustee. Richard served on the foundation from its beginning in 2002 and stepped down in 2019 after 17 years of dedicated work not only to the foundation but also Frontier Services.

Richard Stewart was the Finance and Administration Manager of Frontier Services from 1993 to 1996 which he came to with extensive experience in the field which was invaluable to the foundation. This knowledge was critical in supporting the fundraising capabilities which have created a very strong and viable John Flynn Foundation for the future.

Richard's dedication to helping those in the outback spanned many years and for that, we are eternally grateful. We pray that Richard is enjoying his new journey in life and thank him for his work.

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Assembly Resourcing Unit

23 Appreciation: Steve (Molk) Molkentin – Advocate Discipling the Next Generations Circle of Interest

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr Steve Molkentin.

Molk has served as the inaugural Advocate for the Discipling the Next Generations Circle. Molk brought his experience and wisdom from youth roles in the Qld Synod and NSWACT Pulse Team to the task. He also contributed specific and significant experience in podcasting and the use of digital social media.

Under Molk's leadership the Circle has created a platform for young members of our Church and people who work with our emerging generations to share information, alert members to upcoming events, provide links to useful resources, and be a place where members can share their understandings and experience of ministry to emerging generations. The Circle has developed a substantial membership of around 230 people.

Molk has contributed himself and encouraged conversation and reflection on specific themes which are important in the life of the Uniting Church, both in the Facebook group and also the Circle newsletters that have been produced through the triennium. He has led discussion about the place of youth events, especially national events, in the life of the Church. In this regard Molk was a key presence in the National Young Adult Leaders Conference held in 2019, supported NYALC Online during the pandemic and also assisted the Presidents Roundtable in the NSW/ACT Synod. Molk has not only 'talked the talk' but has 'walked the walk', using new forms of communication and engagement with emerging generations in his own work, and always demonstrating an openness to sharing learning and working collaboratively.

Molk's willingness to step up at the start of the triennium and offer leadership to the Assembly and the Church nationally through this new Circles of Interest initiative is greatly appreciated. His change of employment and moving Synods during the triennium, whilst continuing to play an active role as Advocate is testament to his commitment. His contribution to the Assembly through the Discipling the Next Generations Circle positions it well for the future.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Frontier Services

24 Stuart McMillan – Trustee of the John Flynn Foundation

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr Stuart McMillan.

Frontier Services wish to record its appreciation for the contribution of Stuart McMillan as a trustee of the John Flynn Foundation. Stuart was a valued member of the foundation after being appointed in 2018 after finishing his term as the President of the Uniting Church.

The John Flynn Foundation benefited from Stuart's long history within the Uniting Church but also his passion for reconciliation between First Nations people and other Australians. As an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, and an organisation that continues working with First Peoples across Remote Australia Stuart's contributions to that work were invaluable. He allowed our organisation to continue to learn and evolve on our path to reconciliation.

His incredible level of service to the Uniting Church and those living and working in remote Australia made him the perfect appointment to John Flynn Foundation.

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



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Assembly Resourcing Unit

25 Appreciation: Stuart McMillan – Advocate Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle of Interest

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Mr Stuart McMillan.

Stuart McMillan has served as the inaugural Advocate for the Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle (WTFSP). Stuart brought much experience, wisdom and many strong relationships to the task.

Under Stuart's leadership the Circle has created a platform for people to share information and reflections, engage in conversation, share stories, alert members to upcoming events, provide links to useful resources. It has become a space for walking together, for listening to and sharing of the experiences of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. The Circle also became a place to consider important issues that impact our ability to live out our Covenant commitments. The Circle has developed a substantial membership of around 200 people.

Stuart has promoted and encouraged conversation, contributed himself and also invited members to contribute to the Circle newsletters that have been produced through the triennium.

Under Stuart's leadership the WTFSP contributed to the development of liturgy and resources for Acknowledgement of Country, Day of Mourning, National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. Stuart facilitated many conversations between Circle members and responded to inquiries that arose through the Circle.

Stuart's willingness to be part of the Circles of Interest initiative which began in this triennium, to contribute to the life of the Assembly through the work of the Circle, and to offer his own expertise and energy to the task is greatly appreciated. His contribution to the Assembly through the WTFSP Circle positions it well for the future.

Stuart is moving into retirement at the end of this triennium. We wish him well for the future.

Proposer: Rob Floyd

Seconder: Colleen Geyer



muylothina takila-ti Le:wun tunk-ungai tuldangk tunk-ungai
Ola ma tumau i le alofa' 사랑 안에서 살기 Tinggal di dalam Kasih
Nofoma'u i he Ofa 愛中合居



UnitingWorld

26 Appreciation: UnitingWorld Board

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the service of the UnitingWorld Board members.

As we come to end of the 2019-2021 triennium, UnitingWorld celebrates some significant milestones, which has required visionary leadership from our Board.

The journey of the past three years has seen UnitingWorld restructure the teams to merge two business units, integrate finances into a single set of books, unify under a single Mandate and a single Board, with DFAT accreditation across the whole agency rather than one Unit.

In 2020, the Agency completed the final stage of this transformational journey, winning the support of the Assembly Standing Committee and successfully registering with the Australian Charities and Non-Profits Commission (ACNC) with our own ABN as a Public Benevolent Institution.

This Minute of Appreciation acknowledges the excellent work of Dr Andrew Glenn, the retiring Board Chair and the significant contributions of members of the Board during a transformational period.

Andrew Glenn (BSC Hons, D Phil, FAICD)

This Assembly marks the retirement of Dr Andrew Glenn from the Board of UnitingWorld.

Andrew's engagement with UnitingWorld has spanned nine years, firstly as a member and then Chair of the Church Connections National Committee, and then as the new Chair of the UnitingWorld Board. As Chair Andrew has spearheaded the recruitment and induction of new Board members, as well as playing an active role in both Board committees.

In the Board room, Andrew has brought structure and discipline to proceedings, championing the use of the consensus process; encouraged robust debate, never shirking complex challenges; and a generous and inclusive culture where all participants felt welcome and safe to make their contributions.

Andrew's contributions to UnitingWorld outside the boardroom have been as significant as those inside.

He has been a tireless advocate for UnitingWorld within the polity of the church, leading our engagement with the Assembly Standing Committee, the Assembly Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and the Assembly Investments Advisory Committee. It is a tribute to Andrew's leadership and vision that UnitingWorld's relationships with these councils have been both productive and supportive.

As a mentor and sounding board for the National Director, Andrew's weekly catch-ups have been an invaluable gift. His warm pastoral concern for the staff of UnitingWorld has made him well-loved by the team, as has his generosity with his time and expertise will be sorely missed.

During his tenure, Andrew has undertaken several additional projects for UnitingWorld, above and beyond his role as Chair. He has played a key role in maintaining our quality systems by regularly

auditing our compliance with policies and procedures, and once travelled to PNG to conduct a hugely successful workshop on the 'Theology of Good Governance' with our partners the United Church of PNG.

David Hodges, Tina Rendell-Thornton, Margaret Watt and Paul Swadling.

This past year also marks the conclusion of service for several other Board members who had served their full nine years on the Board.

David Hodges has been an able Chair of the Finance Audit and Review Committee and a thorough and engaged member of the Board.

Margaret Watt stepped down in early 2020 as Chair of the International Programs Committee, but continued to serve on the committee and has been a strong advocate for our partners.

Paul Swadling also finished his service in mid-2020, having thoughtfully contributed to the Church Connections National Committee, and then as Deputy Board Chair of the Board.

Tina Rendell-Thornton served as Chair of Governance and Compliance Committee of the previous Relief & Development National Committee.

The loss of David's legal acumen and eye for detail, Margaret's expertise in international development and government relations, Paul's understanding of the UCA and fundraising and Tina's incisive analysis and knowledge of cross-cultural engagement will be deeply felt by the Board.

Above all, their passion and commitment to the work of UnitingWorld, their love for our global church partners and the generosity of spirit and service they brought to us will be deeply missed.

UnitingWorld has been extraordinarily fortunate to have the commitment, energy and wisdom of the members of the Board,

We honour and give thanks for the contributions during the last triennium of all the Board members spread across the nation, listed here in alphabetical order:

James Batley, Lin Hatfield Dodds, Andrew Glenn (retiring Chair), David Hodges (retiring), Ashleigh Johnston, John Manning, Renee O'Shanassy, Tina Rendell-Thornton (retiring), Paul Swadling (retired), Warren Tapp and Margaret Watt (retired).

We are also grateful to those who served on Board subcommittees, including Carolin Leeshaa, Kylie Schmidt and Nacanieli Speigh.

All of them have overseen a period of significant change and shown discernment on the issues, significant wisdom and great good will. We have been fortunate to have their commitment and assistance.

Proposer: Colleen Geyer

Seconder: Richard La'Brooy



muylathina takila-ti Le:wun tunk-ungai tuldangk tunk-ungai
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Nofoma'u i he Ofa 愛中合居



Frontier Services

27 Will Pearson

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev Will Pearson.

Frontier Services wishes to record its appreciation for the contribution to the Frontier Services Board as Chairperson by Rev. Will Pearson.

We welcomed Will to the board in 2018 and have been blessed to have had his experiences shape the future of Frontier Services for the better. As a retired Minister of the Uniting Church Will brought a level of compassion and knowledge that was invaluable.

Having served two years of his ministry in Armidale, before taking on a five and a half year placement, in Broken Hill Will understood, and had firsthand experience of the hardships isolation can bring to those living in rural and remote Australia.

Will has continued John Flynn's dream of providing a 'Mantle of Safety' to those in the bush by personally mentoring many of our Chaplains by providing an ear to listen whenever they may have needed guidance. We are eternally grateful for the passion Will had to grow our Bush Chaplaincy program across remote areas of Australia. During his time on the Board Will also implemented a program for our current Bush Chaplains to receive pastoral support from a fellow chaplain when needed. Something that has assisted in maintaining the mental health of our Bush Chaplains in order for them to better help those in their remote areas.

Will has left a legacy not only for future members of the Frontier Services team but also for Board Members to come. We pray that Will leaves the Frontier Services Board knowing that his time and contributions will be forever lasting.

Proposer: Dorothy Creek

Secunder: Colleen Geyer



Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress

28 Appreciation: Garry Dronfield

That the Assembly resolve:

To record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Rev. Garry Dronfield

Rev. Garry Dronfield first became involved with Congress when he was ministering at Lismore in northern NSW. When he moved to Sydney he established an Aboriginal ministry at Sylvannia Waters, and became involved in the life of the NSW Congress Regional Council.

In 2015 at Poatina, Tasmania, Garry became National Deputy Chair of the National Congress, supporting Rev. Dennis Corowa.

In 2018 Garry became National President of the Congress at the Conference in Geelong, serving over 25 months in the role before he resigned as President at the Congress Strategic Planning Workshop in March 2020.

Garry made a significant contribution to the life of Congress, particularly loving his involvement with the young adults and with the brothers and sisters of the Northern Synod.

We thank him for his service, and pray every blessing for him for his future.

Proposer: Mark Kickett

Seconder: Ian Dempster