

**Minutes Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand  
Biennial Forum “Transforming the Partnership Gene”  
Business Session**

**Held at St Francis Community Church, Hillcrest, Hamilton  
Friday 18 October 2013 at 7.00pm**

**Chairpersons:** Marilyn Welch and David Dittmer

**Opening:** David welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes** Moved Geraldine Coats  
Seconded David Hall

*That the minutes of Forum 2011 were a true and correct record.*

Agree.

**Reports:** **Co-chairpersons Report:**  
As reported.

**Executive Officer Report:**

In addition to his report, Peter thanked Marilyn for her time on Standing Committee, particularly for her work as Co-chairperson over the last four years. He also thanked Robyn for her work in the UCANZ office.

*It was agreed that the reports be taken as read.*

**Financial Report**

The reviewed Financial Reports were available

It was moved: Eric Wadsworth

Seconded: Don Smith

*That the Financial Reports be received.*

Agreed

**Future Forums**

Marilyn led a discussion asking for ideas for future ways of doing things in view of the declining attendance at Forums. Discussion centered on

gaining the enthusiasm of lay people, timing of Forum compared to Partner Church national meetings, and the cost of attending.

### **Procedures for Cooperative Ventures**

Attendees were asked (now that the Procedures have been in use for a year) how have they been working? Most comments were very favourable, along the lines of it being simple and easy to use.

### **Standing Committee Work Groups**

- **Coordinating and Participating Partners** The group completed guidelines for these positions
- **Regional Forums** – Guidelines completed
- **Setting Levies** - work continues with Presbyteries and Synods to understand how these are set.
- **Orientating ministers in Cooperative Ventures** – work is in progress, trying to get communications working.

### **One-ness**

Lyndsay followed his presentation from Friday morning and the suggested motion was projected for all to see.

*That the Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand Standing Committee become intentionally proactive in engaging the partner churches, and all of our local churches in dialogue on how unity/one-ness, a core value of our faith, is to be understood and expressed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

Lyndsay asked for support for UCANZ taking responsibility for this idea, if it was important and useful. After much discussion the motion was amended to:

*That the Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand (UCANZ) Standing Committee seek to engage the partner churches, and all of our local churches in dialogue on how Christian unity/one-ness, is to be understood and expressed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

*Agreed.*

## **Election of Standing Committee**

As retiring Co-chairperson Marilyn advised that there were enough nominations for Standing Committee and the following people were duly elected.

### **Co-chairpersons**

David Dittmer	Alexandra Clyde Lauder
Lyn Heine	Greymouth District Uniting

### **Standing Committee**

David Hall	Buckland's Beach
Stuart Sinclair	St Francis Cooperating Hamilton
Don Smith	Kapiti Uniting
Eric Wadsworth	HCUC
Lyndsay Jacobs	Linwood Avenue
Clare Morrison	Johnsonville Uniting Church
Diane Pennington	Churches Together in Northland
Katherine Walters	Halswell Union Parish

### **Partner Representatives are:**

Noel Hendery	Anglican
Anne Mills	Anglican
No representative	Congregational Union
Paul Burton	Christian Churches
Tony Bell	Methodist
Trevor Hoggard	Methodist
Ann Owen	Presbyterian
Alan Judge	Presbyterian

### **Retiring Members**

Catherine Dunkley was thanked in her absence for her time on Standing Committee and particularly her time as Chairperson of the Finance Committee over the last two years.

Beverley Deverell was thanked and presented with a small gift for her six years of commitment to Standing committee and being the voice from the North.

Marilyn Welch, retiring Co-chairperson was thanked for her ten year commitment to UCANZ and the work she has done over the past four years as Co-chairperson. She was also presented with a gift.

### **Closing**

Marilyn closed the meeting with devotions at 8.30pm