

13-17 July 2007  
Alexandra Park Conference Centre  
Alexandra Headlands Qld

Minutes

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**1. Opening Welcome**

The General Secretary welcomed the delegates and visitors.

**2. Present**

*(delegates)* Mr Ian Allen, The Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall, Ms Sonia Berberian, The Revd Dr Merryl Blair, Mr Ron Brown (Treasurer), Ronis Chapman, Bishop Albert Chiew, The Revd Terence Corkin, The Revd Tara Curlewis, Ms Kelcey De Lyall, Sr Elizabeth Delaney, The Revd Fr Yousef Fanous, Sr Giovanni Farquer, Lyndsay Farrall, The Revd Ross Fishburn, The Revd John Gilmore, The Revd Brian Goodacre, Ms Glenine Hamlyn, Mrs Elizabeth Harrington, Major Graham Harris, Mr Joseph Haweil, Mrs Geraldine Hawkes, Mrs Elsie Heiss, The Revd John Henderson (General Secretary), Mrs Joan Hendriks, Major Brian Holley, The Revd Rod Horsfield, The Revd Geoff Hoyte, The Rt Revd Philip Huggins, The Ven David Ingleson, The Revd Dr Jonathan Inkpin, Mr Dion Jaeschke, The Revd Dr Gerard Kelly, Monsignor Peter Kenny, Miss Aimee Kent, Major Paul Kinder, Deacon John Kushaba, The Rt Revd James Leftwich, The Rt Revd Saibo Mabo, His Eminence Archbishop Mor Malatius Malki Malki, The Revd Fr Shenouda Mansour, The Revd Dr Erica Mathieson, Mr Eric McChesney-Clark, Ms Rachelle McIvor, Ms Joan McRae-Benson, Mr Richard Menteith, Mrs Margaret Naylon, The Revd Neville Otto, Jackie Perkins, The Ven Dr David Powys, The Most Revd Michael Putney, Ms Tanya Richards, Captain Kerryn Roberts, The Revd Canon Susan Robertson, Pastor Cecil Schmalkuche, The Revd Dr Mike Semmler, Mrs Alicia Simpfendorfer, The Revd Apwee Ting, Brent Trenery, Mr Ernie Trevaskis, The Revd Fr Dimitri Tsakas, Dr/Sr Elizabeth Vagg, The Revd Dr Koshy P Varughese, The Revd Graham Vawser, Ms Meg Warner, The Revd Don Whebell, The Revd John Wheeler, Mrs Loretta Wholley, Lt Col Ray Wilson, The Revd Marie Wilson, The Most Revd Philip Wilson, and The Revd Dr Sandy Yule;

*(observer Churches)* Pastor Ken Vogel (Seventh Day Adventist Church),

*(guest speakers)* Monsignor Don Bolen (Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) and Sylvia Haddad (Joint Christian Council for Social Service in Lebanon, Middle East Council of Churches);

*(invited guests)* His Worship Joe Natoli (Mayor of the Maroochy Shire), The Hon Michael Choi MP (Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism, State Member for Capalaba – representing the Premier, Mr Beattie), Mr Kim Hollow (Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils), Mr Brian Pickering (Australian Prayer Network), The Revd Kenn Kilah (Australian Prayer Network), and Mr Ikebal Patel (Australian Federation of Islamic Councils);

*(staff and presenters)* The Revd Peter Barnett (Forum IT and Safe Church Project), The Revd Troy Blair (Youth Network), The Revd Paul Cameron (Growing Churches in the Australian Context), The Revd Don Dowling (Growing Churches in the Australian Context), Mr Alistair Gee (Christian World Service/Forum), Ms Colleen Hodge (Christian World Service), Sr Patricia Madigan (Interfaith Relations), Ms Bernice Moore (Gender), Mr Graeme Mundine (NATSIEC/Forum), Mr Steven Pearse (Forum Organiser), The Revd Dr Vic Pfitzner (Bible studies), Ms Debra Porter (Communications/Forum), Sr Angela Ryan (Safe Church

Project), Mr Paul Ryan (Business Services/Forum), Ms Weis Schuringa (Social Justice Network), Mr Trevor Smith (Forum Facilitator), The Revd Dr Ray Williamson (Faith & Unity);

*(visitors)* The Revd Eira Clapton, and Ms Maureen Postma; and

*(volunteers)* Ms Peta Simpson (Power Point Projection) and Ms Olga Girle (First Aid).

### 3. Apologies

*(delegates)* The Revd John Abdel-Karim, The Rt Revd Richard Appleby (President), The Revd Fr Athanasius Attia, His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Mr Michael Brown, His Grace Bishop Daniel, The Revd Canon Don Edwards, The Revd Gregor Henderson, His Grace Bishop Irinej, Commissioner Janes Knaggs, Dr Harry Melkonian, Ms Selina Nisanyan, The Revd Dr David Pitman, Ms Alison Preston, His Eminence Archbishop Paul Saliba, Commissioner Les Strong, His Grace Bishop Suriel, and His Grace Bishop Mar Meelis Zaia;

*(observer Churches)* Pastor Keith Ainge (Assemblies of God), Pastor Brian Houston (Assemblies of God), and The Rt Revd Bob Thomas (Presbyterian Church);

*(invited guests)* The Hon John Anderson MP (Federal Member for Gwydir), Major Elaine Johnson (Australian Church Women), Dr Prawate Khid-arn (Christian Conference of Asia), The Revd Dr Sam Kobia (World Council of Churches), Mr Grahame Leonard (Executive Council of Australia Jewry), The Revd Nathan Nettleton (Australian Consultation on Liturgy), Mr Errol Pike (Australasian Religious Press Association), Mr Tom Slater (Australian Evangelical Alliance), and The Revd Mrs Valamoto Palu (Pacific Council of Churches); and

*(staff and presenters)* The Revd Dr Ann Wansbrough (Social Justice Network).

### 4. Welcome to Country

Mrs Joan Hendriks delivered a message of welcome from Dr Eve Fesl, a local Indigenous Elder of the Gubbi Gubbi people, and a traditional owner of the land on which the Forum was being held.

### 5. Opening Actions

#### 5.1 Appointment of Chairperson

**07.07.01 It was resolved that** the Most Reverend Michael Putney be appointed as the Chairperson for this National Forum.<sup>1</sup>

*(accepted by acclamation)*

#### 5.2 Purpose of Forum

The General Secretary spoke of the purpose of the Forum as per the NCCA Constitution.

#### 5.3 Appointment of Committees

**07.07.02 It was resolved that**

**.01** the following persons be appointed as a Steering Committee for this National Forum: Michael Putney (Convenor), Tara Curlewis, Margaret Naylor, John Gilmore, Jackie Perkins, Shenouda Mansour, and David Powys. Staff person assisting: Paul Ryan;

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<sup>1</sup> The President, Bishop Richard Appleby, was unable to attend due to ill health. Mike Semmler acted as chairperson for the purpose of this vote.

- .02 the Steering Committee be asked to make any proposals it deems necessary regarding the ordering of business;
- .03 the following persons be appointed as a Nominations Committee for this National Forum: Loretta Wholley, Sandy Yule, Philip Huggins, Ian Allen, Graham Harris, and Aghan Baliozian. Staff assisting: Alistair Gee and Graeme Mundine;
- .04 the Nominations Committee be asked to bring recommendations for membership of the commissions, committees, networks and working groups based on the recommendations of the member Churches; and
- .05 Loretta Wholley be appointed the Convener of the Nominations Committee.

#### 5.4 *Business to be considered*

##### **07.07.03 It was resolved that**

- .01 the deadline for recommendations moved and seconded by member Churches are to be submitted in writing to the Chairperson no later than pre-lunch time on Sunday, July 15, 2007; and
- .02 comment be sought from the Treasurer prior to action being taken on any recommendation or motion that has financial implications, with the mover of any such recommendation asked to indicate what the practical implications are likely to be.

#### 5.5 *Minutes*

##### **07.07.04 It was resolved that** the Executive be authorised to approve the Minutes of the National Forum.

#### 5.6 *Program / Timetable*

##### **07.07.05 It was resolved that** the proposed timetable and procedures be adopted, subject to such variations as may be approved in the course of this National Forum.

#### 5.7 *Introduction of Forum Forms*

The Chair explained the 4 coloured forms to be used during the Forum for submitting new recommendations, amendments, questions, and passing on messages.

### **6. Introduction of Delegates and Observers**

The General Secretary identified and introduced the various groups present at the meeting.

### **7. Introduction of Theme ‘Life Together’**

Merryl Blair introduced the theme, speaking of how the Churches live and work together. The theme will live and develop at the Forum through worship, Bible studies, business, and community life.

### **8. Introduction of Key People**

Loretta Wholley introduced the Facilitator, Trevor Smith; the Forum Organiser, Steven Pearse; Support Staff, Paul Ryan, Alistair Gee, and Debra Porter; Power Point Projection, Peta Simpson; IT Support, Peter Barnett; First Aid, Olga Gilre; and Centre Management, Wayne Grady and Ian Edgar.

## 9. Guest Speakers

9.1 *Sylvia Haddad (Monday afternoon)* – Executive Secretary of the Joint Christian Council for Social Service in Lebanon, Middle East Council of Churches, shared an historical overview of the Palestinian people leading to an exploration of the present day situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

9.2 *Monsignor Don Bolen (Monday evening)* – member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The title of this public lecture was *Living Together: Fostering a Spirituality of Communion and an Ecumenism of Life*.

## 10. Facilitation Process

The Forum Facilitator gave an overview of the process for the four days of meetings. Members will listen to presentations from the commissions, committees, networks, working groups and other departments of the NCCA. Workshops will take place in small groups, which will lead to the refining of planning for the development of projects and functions within the NCCA for the next three years.

## 11. Acceptance of the New Member Churches

### 11.1 *Chinese Methodist Church in Australia*

Bishop Albert Chiew, head of the Chinese Methodist Church in Australia, gave an introduction to the Church.

**07.07.06** It was resolved that the Chinese Methodist Church in Australia be accepted and embraced into membership of the National Council of Churches in Australia by the delegates of this National Forum

*(accepted into membership by acclamation)*

### 11.2 *Mar Thoma Church*

The Revd Dr Koshy P Varughese gave an introduction to the Mar Thoma Church, on behalf of the Rt Revd Dr Geevarghese Mar Theodosius of Chennai-Bangalore, bishop of the Malaysia-Singapore-Australia Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church.

**07.07.07** It was resolved that the Mar Thoma Church be accepted and embraced into membership of the National Council of Churches in Australia by the delegates of this National Forum.

*(accepted into membership by acclamation)*

### 11.3 *Signing of the Covenant Document*

Bishop Albert Chiew and The Revd Dr Koshy P Varughese formally signed part A of the document *Australian Churches Covenanting Together*. This was greeted with acclamation.

## 12. Welcome of Guests

Invited guests were welcomed as they were able to attend, and given an opportunity to bring greetings to the Forum.

### 12.1 *Civil and other greetings*

The Hon Michael Choi MP (Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism, State Member for Capalaba – representing the Premier, Mr Beattie) and His Worship Joe Natoli (Mayor of the Maroochy Shire) welcomed Forum participants to the area and spoke briefly of support for the Churches.

Mr Brian Pickering (Australian Prayer Network) and Mr Ikebal Patel (Australian Federation of Islamic Councils) also greeted the Forum.

Written Greetings were read by the General Secretary, from:

- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- Bishop Richard Appleby, NCCA President
- Dr Prawate Khid-arn, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia
- The Revd Valamotu Palu, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches

The Forum prayed for the son of Valamotu Palu as he undergoes a bone marrow transplant.

### **13. Worship at Forum**

#### *13.1 Morning and Evening Worship*

Conducted by representatives of member Churches and the NATSIEC at the venue.

- Friday, Coptic Orthodox Church, Sydney and Affiliated Regions
- Saturday, Roman Catholic Church
- Sunday, Anglican Church of Australia
- Monday, Uniting Church in Australia
- Tuesday, the NATSIEC

#### *13.2 Opening and Closing Worship*

Organised by the Queensland Churches Together Liturgy Commission and conducted at the venue.

#### *13.3 Forum Sunday Worship Service*

Organised by the Queensland Churches Together Liturgy Commission. The Forum was welcomed to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buderim, by The Revd Dirk Willner. Worship Leader: The Revd Bruce Boase; Sermon: The Revd Glynthea Finger; Accompaniment: Music group from Maroochydore Catholic Parish.

### **14. Bible Studies**

Three Bible Study sessions were presented during the Forum under the sub-themes of *The Prodigal God* (Merryl Blair), *Living the Gift* (Vic Pfitzner), and *The Common Life for the World* (Merryl Blair and Vic Pfitzner). Bible Study Notes for these three sessions were distributed at the beginning of the Forum.

### **15. Address: The General Secretary of the NCCA**

The General Secretary gave two brief addresses that included the session originally reserved for the President's address. (1) *The NCCA: an idea or an ideal?* and (2) *Our NCCA: gathered in pilgrimage*. Each part was followed by table discussions and reflection.<sup>2</sup>

### **16. Reporting & Information Sessions**

In place of plenary reporting, Commissions, Networks, Working Groups and other NCCA Departments presented to a series of small groups, telling 3 stories about their work, followed by discussion questions:

- Which story is the most significant?
- Why is this story the most significant?
- What questions do we want to ask about the work of the NCCA?

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<sup>2</sup> An electronic copy of these addresses can be found online at <http://www.ncca.org.au/forum2007>.

Groups that presented in this way were: Gender Commission, Christian World Service Commission, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission, Commission on Faith and Unity, Social Justice Network, Youth Network, Safe Church Project, Growing Churches in the Australian Context, Interfaith Reference Group and Communications Desk.

Written reports were taken as read, and plenary discussions allowed for questions to be asked of the reports.

### **17. Presentation by Assyrian Christians**

Mr Joseph Haweil and Deacon John Kushaba spoke about the plight of Assyrian Christians in Iraq, particularly northern Iraq. The Assyrian Christian Association has organised a Rally for August 7 outside Parliament House, Canberra.

### **18. Workshop Sessions**

The results of the workshop sessions are available in Appendix A.

### **19. Reporting Session: Finance**

The Treasurer presented the Finance Report, highlighting efforts to enhance the efficiency of the Finance function of the NCCA. New technologies and resources have been engaged. Office space has been reduced in Sydney from two floors to one, involving the loss of the former Boardroom. The empty floor is on the market for sale at around \$1.5 million and proceeds are to be reinvested. CWS continues to reduce its administration costs.

Professional management training will be arranged in 2008 to ensure that all managers have appropriate skills. The NCCA is has a revised pay scale to ensure that all staff are properly remunerated.

There has been a review of risks and service providers to ensure we receive value for money. The NCCA is solvent and is able to pay its debts as they fall due.

**07.07.08**     **It was resolved that** Ron Brown, Wendie Wilkie and Paul Ryan be thanked for the contribution they have made to developing and running the financial systems of the NCCA.

### **20. Focus Sessions**

Three special Focus sessions were held for:

#### *20.1 Make Indigenous Poverty History*

Project of the NATSIEC.

#### *20.2 Covenanting*

Focus on developments as a result of Churches signing *A Covenant for Australia*, particularly the issue of reception.

#### *20.3 Themes from the World Council of Churches Assembly 2006*

Australian participants and attendees at the February 2006 WCC Assembly and associated activities in Porto Alegre, Brazil, reported on their experiences and themes from the event.

## 21. Constitutional Amendments

**07.07.09<sup>3</sup>** It was resolved that the Constitution be amended to read

### **Election of President**

**.01** (Clause 9.02)

In addition to any other business which may be transacted at a meeting of the National Forum the business of the ordinary meeting shall be:

...

[c] to elect the President and not more than six [6] members of the Executive whose nominations for election have been endorsed by their member Churches;

...

**.02** (Clause 11.02)

The President of the NCCA will normally

[a] be elected by the National Forum;

[b] hold office until the conclusion of the next ordinary meeting of the National Forum and

[c] be eligible for re-election;

In the event that an unexpected vacancy in the office of President occurs between meetings of the National Forum, the Executive may elect the President who will hold office until the commencement of the term of office of a President elected by the National Forum.

### **Appointment of General Secretary**

**.03** (Clause 16.02)

The General Secretary of the NCCA will be appointed by the Executive, which will also decide the terms and conditions on which the General Secretary is appointed. The General Secretary is also accountable through the Executive to the National Forum.

## 22. Report Resolutions

*22.1 NCCA Executive (pages 19-43 Working Documents)*

**07.07.10** It was resolved that the Executive report be received.

*22.2 NCCA Executive – Special (page 44 Working Documents)*

**07.07.11** It was resolved that the appointment of The Revd John Henderson as General Secretary of the NCCA be extended for a further 3 years (i.e. to the end of 2010) on the same terms and conditions as agreed to at the time of his original appointment.

*22.3 Finance (pages 45-53 Working Documents)*

**07.07.12** It was resolved that the Finance report be received.

*22.4 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC) (pages 55-60 Working Documents)*

**07.07.13** It was resolved that

**.01** the NATSIEC report be received;

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<sup>3</sup> Proposed by the Uniting Church in Australia, the Anglican Church of Australia and the Roman Catholic Church in Australia.

- .02 the NATSIEC be encouraged to continue its efforts to bring Indigenous affairs back to the centre of our common concerns and to continue to bring these matters to the attention of the NCCA, member Churches and the wider community;
- .03 the NATSIEC be encouraged to call a further gathering of Indigenous Church leadership to address the issue of the place of Indigenous peoples in church and society;
- .04 the NATSIEC be encouraged to support and develop Indigenous leadership in member Churches; and
- .05 the NATSIEC be encouraged to stand in solidarity with and support Indigenous peoples from other parts of the world.

#### 22.5 *Christian World Service Commission (pages 61-71 Working Documents)*

**07.07.14 It was resolved that** the Christian World Service Commission report be received.

#### 22.6 *Commission on Faith and Unity (pages 73-84 Working Documents)*

**07.07.15 It was resolved that**

- .01 the Commission on Faith and Unity report be received; and
- .02 the National Forum express deep appreciation to the Reverend Dr Christiaan Mostert for his leadership of the Faith and Unity Commission over the last six years.

#### **Baptism**

- .03 those churches which have agreed to the mutual recognition of Baptism, be asked to ensure that Certificates of Baptism used within those churches contain the common wording as agreed.  
*(accepted with 6 abstentions- Salvation Army and Religious Society of Friends)*
- .04 the paper on Baptism be noted and received as an addendum to this report;

#### **Reception**

- .05 the resource document on 'Reception' be noted and received with thanks to the Commission for this work;

#### **Ecclesiology**

- .06 the resource document on ecclesiological issues be noted and received with thanks to the Commission for this work; and
- .07 the churches be encouraged to discuss the statement "Called to be the One Church" and the questions it contains, and that the churches' bilateral dialogue groups be asked to examine it and to assess their work in the light of it.

#### 22.7 *Gender Commission (pages 85-87 Working Documents)*

**07.07.16 It was resolved that**

- .01 the Gender Commission report be received; and
- .02 the NCCA support the work of the Gender Commission to continue communicating nationally with contact persons in each State and Territory Ecumenical Council.
- .03 the NCCA support the Gender Commission in exploring, with appropriate bodies and in particular State and Territory Ecumenical Councils, its ongoing organisation of public events to enhance interfaith dialogue

and/or promote dialogue on other social justice issues of concern to the Commission.

- .04 the NCCA support the Gender Commission in exploring, with appropriate bodies and in particular State and Territory Ecumenical Councils, development of its work on the grassroots issues raised during the ecumenical workshops.
- .05 that each member Church of the NCCA be invited again to nominate a representative to the Commission as requested by the Gender Commission.

*(accepted with 1 against)*

#### 22.8 Social Justice Network (pages 89-95 Working Documents)

**07.07.17 It was resolved that**

- .01 the Social Justice Network report be received.
- .02 the Executive consider the issues listed in the report for discussion and reflection.

#### 22.9 Youth Network (pages 97-102 Working Documents)

**07.07.18 It was resolved that** the Youth Network report be received.

#### 22.10 Communications Desk (pages 103-111 Working Documents)

**07.07.19 It was resolved that** the Communications report be received.

#### 22.11 Safe Church Project (pages 113-115 Working Documents)

**07.07.20 It was resolved that**

- .01 the Safe Church Project Working Group report be received;
- .02 the 2007 National Forum acknowledges the progress of the Safe Church Project over the last five years;
- .03 the 2007 National Forum support the prayerful discernment process of the Safe Church Project Working Group to develop future directions for this ecumenical work; and
- .04 the 2007 National Forum asks the Working Group to report to the Executive until the next Forum.

#### 22.12 Ronald Wilson Ecumenical Leadership Fund (page 117 Working Documents)

**07.07.21 It was resolved that** the Ronald Wilson Ecumenical Leadership Fund report be received.

### 23. Expression of Appreciation

**07.07.22 It was resolved that** the National Forum express deep appreciation to the Reverend Dr Ray Williamson for his service to the Faith and Unity Commission and the ecumenical community since 1986.

*(accepted by acclamation with standing ovation)*

### 24. Government Intervention in Indigenous Communities

**07.07.23<sup>4</sup> It was resolved that**

- .01 the NCCA Forum offer its support to the NATSIEC in its response to the Federal Government's current intervention into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, as outlined in the NATSIEC Position Statement;

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<sup>4</sup> Moved by the Uniting Church in Australia. Seconded by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia.

and

- .02 call on NCCA member Churches to continue to pray for a good outcome for Aboriginal communities from this Government intervention.

## 25. Appropriate Ecumenical Response

- 07.07.24<sup>5</sup>** It was resolved that this Forum determines, and accordingly instructs its Executive, and requests the State and Territory Ecumenical Councils, to subject all present and future programs and initiatives to a simple test: Is an ecumenical undertaking made at our level the most appropriate response to this matter?

The resolution is made:

conscious of

- o our responsibility for careful stewardship
- o our limited financial resources
- o our past commitments and undertakings which it has not been possible to sustain
- o the important role of State and Territory Ecumenical Councils, and
- o the multiple levels of ecumenical enterprise (international, regional, national, State/Territory and local);

mindful that there is an appropriate locus for every joint ministry and mission initiative (local, State/Territory, national, regional or international on the one hand, and denominational and partly or fully ecumenical on the other);

endorsing the principles that as Christ's people we should

- o do all that we can together and only do apart that which we must do by conscience (Lund principle) and
- o ground our obedience to Christ by shaping and integrating it at the lowest appropriate organizational level in order to maximise its effectiveness (subsidiarity principle);

and acknowledging our own reticence to recognise that some past good initiatives have had their season and need to be concluded in order to release resources for pressing new initiatives.

## 26. Sustainable Living

**07.07.25<sup>6</sup>** It was resolved that

- .01 this Forum of the NCCA notes that, in the words of the Social Justice Network, "It would take several planets to sustain a world population at the current levels of consumption of food, water, energy and goods and the accompanying waste production, of the average Australian. Our Ecological footprint is far too big."

We therefore resolve to ask our Churches and Church agencies:

1. to pray our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of this world, for forgiveness for our profligate use of the earth's resources.
2. to conduct an immediate audit of water and energy use and waste management systems with the view to reducing the 'ecological footprint' of Churches and Church agencies by half as soon as possible.

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<sup>5</sup> Moved by the Anglican Church of Australia. Seconded by the Churches of Christ in Australia.

<sup>6</sup> Moved by the Anglican Church of Australia. Seconded by The Salvation Army.

3. to encourage each Christian household in the nation to do the same.
  4. that we ask the Churches for and point the Churches to the theological resources that underpin this work.
- .02 we ask the Christian World Service Commission to keep in supportive contact with Churches in our region in places where the effect of global warming and changing sea levels will have catastrophic effect, and to report regularly on the conditions in these places.

*(accepted with 1 abstention)*

## 27. Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation

**07.07.26<sup>7</sup> It was resolved that**

- .01 the NCCA Forum asks the Executive to review the ways in which the NCCA supports, and encourages communication, collaboration and co-operation between member Churches with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of this support; and
- .02 in this review, attention be given to the area of public responses to national and international issues, such as global warming and terrorism.

## 28. Local Mission Developments

**07.07.27<sup>8</sup> It was resolved that** the NCCA Forum asks the General Secretary to write to State and Territory Ecumenical Councils asking about existing arrangements for consultation between their member Churches in the decision making process for substantial new local mission developments, e.g. the establishment of new churches, schools and other initiatives, with a view to providing a report on this matter to the Executive.

*(accepted with 2 against)*

## 29. Covenanting

**07.07.28<sup>9</sup> It was resolved that** the NCCA Forum commends the work of the Commission on Faith and Unity in developing and working with the document 'Australian Churches Covenanting Together', signed by the NCCA member Churches, and asks that:

- a. all member Churches be officially informed that our two new member churches, the Chinese Methodist Church and the Mar Thoma Church have now signed this covenanting document.
- b. all member Churches consider ways to engage in information and education programs to facilitate reception of the Covenanting Document in all levels of church life.
- c. the Commission on Faith and Unity consider ways of encouraging and supporting member churches in their commitment to pray for each other.
- d. the Commission on Faith and Unity continue to explore ways in which those churches recognising each other's baptism might build upon this recognition in their practice.

<sup>7</sup> Moved by the Uniting Church in Australia. Seconded by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia.

<sup>8</sup> Moved by the Uniting Church in Australia. Seconded by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia.

<sup>9</sup> Moved by the Uniting Church in Australia. Seconded by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia.

### 30. Palestine-Israel

#### 07.07.29<sup>10</sup> It was resolved that

- .01 the National Forum receive the document '*A Just Peace for Palestine-Israel*', presented to the Forum by the Churches of Christ, and thanks the drafters for their careful work;
- .02 that since the issues are highly complex and a significant number of detailed proposals are made with financial and human resource implications, the National Forum commends these proposals to the Executive for consideration and determination of an appropriate course of action;
- .03 the National Forum affirms the importance of addressing this situation at this time and of responding positively to the voice of our ecumenical partners in the Middle East, most recently in the "Amman Call" of June 2007;
- .04 the National Forum commends the plans for the NCCA to recruit and train participants in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine-Israel (EAPPI); and
- .05 the National Forum affirms the continuing importance of ecumenical and multi faith collaboration on this issue, including our collaboration with Australian dialogue partners.

#### 07.07.30<sup>11</sup> It was further resolved that

- .01 the document *A Just Peace for Palestine-Israel* be referred to the November 2007 meeting of the NCCA Executive;
- .02 the document *A Just Peace for Palestine-Israel* be recalled and not disseminated in any form; and
- .03 acknowledging that some Forum members are not currently present, an email be sent to all Forum members requesting that all copies be returned or destroyed.

### 31. Reports from Forum Workshop Sessions

#### 07.07.31<sup>12</sup> It was resolved that

- .01 the Workshop reports be sent to the relevant Commissions, Networks, Working Groups or Department for comment and possible action; and
- .02 the reports, comments and actions be referred to the NCCA Executive for further discernment.

Note: The report forms will also be electronically scanned and filed for future reference.

### 32. Indigenous Education

#### 07.07.32<sup>13</sup> It was resolved that

- .01 the General Secretary be asked to coordinate gathering data on the number and nature of scholarships and other forms of assistance offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by schools of member Churches.

At the same time, these schools be asked to increase their scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

<sup>10</sup> Moved by the Uniting Church in Australia. Seconded by the Churches of Christ in Australia.

<sup>11</sup> Developed from the floor in consultation with the Chair.

<sup>12</sup> Moved by Fr Shenouda Mansour. Seconded by David Powys.

<sup>13</sup> Moved by the Anglican Church in Australia. Seconded by the Uniting Church in Australia.

- .02 the General Secretary be asked, in association with member Churches, to foster new denominational and/or ecumenical schools for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- .03 that the General Secretary be asked, in association with member Churches, to encourage governments to increase their funding of public education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, specifically to achieve the educational goals outlined under the *Make Indigenous Poverty History* campaign.
- .04 this project be undertaken in consultation with NATSIEC.

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*Rationale:*

1. This recommendation comes from the recent Christ and Culture Indigenous Theology Conference organised by NATSIEC.
2. It expresses the concern expressed at that Conference about the need to foster the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders. Including as regards the Christian faith formation of future leaders.
3. This recommendation is consistent with the goals of the *Make Indigenous Poverty History* campaign, including Goal 2 as regards universal education.

### **33. Assyrian Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq**

#### **07.07.33<sup>14</sup> It was resolved that**

- .01 the NCCA Forum encourage and request member Churches to pray for Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq.
- .02 the NCCA encourage member Churches to do whatever is in their power to urge the Australian governments and other governments to assist refugees, particularly Christians who have been singled out for persecution in the Middle East, by providing financial assistance and granting humanitarian and other visas.

### **34. Nominations Committee Report**

The Nominations Committee Report was presented by Loretta Wholley (Chair).

#### *34.1 Executive*

#### **07.07.34 It was resolved that**

Anglican Church of Australia  
 HoC - The Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall  
 Alt - The Revd Canon Bruce McAteer  
 Designated – The Rt Revd Philip Huggins

Armenian Apostolic Church  
 HoC - Archbishop Aghan Baliozian  
 Alt/Designated - Ms Sonia Berberian

Chinese Methodist Church in Australia  
 HoC - Bishop Albert Chiew  
*to be advised*

Antiochian Orthodox Church  
 HoC - Archbishop Paul Saliba  
*to be advised*

Assyrian Church of the East  
 HoC - Bishop Mar Meelis Zaia  
 Alt - The Revd Fr Genard Lazar  
 Designated - Mr Ashur Isaac

Churches of Christ in Australia  
 HoC - Mr Richard Menteith  
 Designated - Mr Ian Allen

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<sup>14</sup> Moved by the Assyrian Church of the East. Seconded by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia (in consultation with the Anglican Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia).

Congregational Federation of Australia & New Zealand

HoC - Dr Harry Melkonian  
Alt - Pastor Alan Filipana  
Designated - Mr Keith Lyons

Greek Orthodox Church

HoC - Archbishop Stylianos  
Alt - Bishop Seraphim  
Designated - The Revd Fr Nicholas Stavropoulos

Mar Thoma Church

HoC – The Rt Revd Dr Geevarghese Mar Theodosius (Bishop)  
*to be advised via Chennai*

Roman Catholic Church in Australia

HoC - Archbishop Philip Wilson  
Alt - Bishop Michael Putney  
Designated - Mrs Loretta Wholley

The Salvation Army

HoC - Commissioner James Knaggs  
HoC - Commissioner Les Strong  
Alt - Lt Col Elaine Wood  
Alt - Major Brian Holley  
Designated - Major Graham Harris

Uniting Church in Australia

HoC - The Revd Gregor Henderson  
Alt - The Revd Terence Corkin  
Designated - The Revd Dr Sandy Yule

Coptic Orthodox Church

HoC - Bishop Daniel  
HoC - Bishop Suriel  
Alt - The Revd Fr Yousef Fanous  
Designated - The Revd Fr Shenouda Mansour

Lutheran Church of Australia

HoC - The Revd Dr Mike Semmler  
Alt - The Revd Tim Jaensch  
Designated - The Revd Neville Otto

Religious Society of Friends

HoC - Lyndsay Farrall  
Alt - Mary Pollard  
Designated - Cathy Davies

Romanian Orthodox Church

HoC - Patriarch Teoctist  
*to be advised via Bucharest*

Syrian Orthodox Church

HoC - Archbishop Mor Malatius Malki Malki  
Alt - The Very Revd Fr Zeki Zitoun  
Designated - The Very Revd Fr Malke Yousef

Members Nominated by NATSIEC

Rt Revd Saibo Mabo  
Ms Rachelle McIvor

be endorsed as members of the Executive.

**07.07.35 It was resolved that**

The Revd Tara Curlewis  
Ms Aimee Kent  
Mrs Joan Hendriks  
Ms Margaret Naylor  
The Revd Dr Erica Mathieson  
The Rt Revd James Leftwich

Uniting  
Uniting (Youth)  
Catholic (Indigenous)  
Catholic  
Anglican  
Anglican

be elected members of the Executive until the next ordinary meeting of the National Forum.

*34.2 Directors of NCCA Ltd*

**07.07.36 It was resolved that**

The Revd Canon Bruce McAteer  
Mr Danny Casey  
Mr David Penny  
Mr Demitri Kepreotes  
Mr Ron Brown  
The Revd Glenda Blakefield

Anglican  
Catholic  
Catholic  
Greek Orthodox  
Uniting  
Uniting

be endorsed as Directors of NCCA Limited.

### 34.3 Finance Committee

**07.07.37 It was resolved that**

Mr David Cohen	Anglican
Mr David Penny	Catholic
The Revd John Gilmore	Churches of Christ
Mr Fred Hanania	Coptic Orthodox
Jackie Perkins	Religious Society of Friends
Major Joy Goodacre	Salvation Army
Mr Isam Hasna	Syrian Orthodox
Mr Ron Brown	Uniting

be endorsed as members of the Finance Committee.

### 34.4 Commission on Christian World Service

**07.07.38 It was resolved that**

The Rt Revd Philip Huggins	Anglican
The Revd Fr James Minchin	Anglican
Archbishop Aghan Baliozian	Armenian Apostolic
Ms Trish Ryan	Catholic
The Revd Michael Delaney	Catholic
The Revd John Gilmore	Churches of Christ
Mr Simon Michael	Coptic Orthodox
The Revd Fr Chris Dimolianis	Greek Orthodox
Mr Peter Schirmer	Lutheran
Jackie Perkins	Religious Society of Friends
Lt Col Ray Wilson	Salvation Army
The Revd Gregor Henderson	Uniting
The Revd Elenie Poulos	Uniting
Ms Kirsten Preece	Uniting

be endorsed as members of the Commission on Christian World Service.

### 34.5 Commission on Faith and Unity

**07.07.39 It was resolved that**

The Revd Dr Canon Colleen O'Reilly	Anglican
The Revd Dr Cathy Thomson	Anglican
The Revd Dr Richard Treloar	Anglican
The Revd Greg Brett	Catholic
Dr Ann Hunt	Catholic
The Revd Dr Gerard Kelly	Catholic
The Revd Dr Merryl Blair	Churches of Christ
The Revd Fr Athanasius Attia	Coptic Orthodox
The Revd Fr Elias Kentrotis	Greek Orthodox
The Revd Cecil Schmalkuche	Lutheran
Bill Jaggs	Religious Society of Friends
Major Paul Kinder	Salvation Army
Mr Chamoun Malki	Syrian Orthodox
The Revd Sue Gormann	Uniting
The Revd Dr Christiaan Mostert	Uniting
The Rev Graham Perry	Uniting
The Revd Max Wright	NATSIEC

be endorsed as members of the Commission on Faith and Unity.

### 34.6 Gender Commission

#### 07.07.40 It was resolved that

Mrs Deborah Palmer	Anglican
Ms Zara Tai	Catholic
Ms Bernice Moore	Catholic
Mrs Debbie Armanious	Coptic Orthodox
Mrs Tanna MacKenzie	Lutheran
Ms Megan Weckert	Lutheran
Brett Trener	Religious Society of Friends
Major Susan Reese	Salvation Army

be endorsed as members of the Gender Commission

### 34.7 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission

#### 07.07.41 It was resolved that

The Rt Revd James Leftwich	Anglican
The Rt Revd Saibo Mabo	Anglican
Mrs Melissa Brickell	Catholic
Mrs Elsie Heiss	Catholic
The Revd Leonard Wallam	Churches of Christ
The Revd Max Wright	Churches of Christ
Ms Faith	Coptic Orthodox
Ms Rachelle McIvor	Lutheran
Mr Peter Wallace	Lutheran
Mr Adrian Kistan -tbc	Salvation Army
Mrs Lurleen Blackman	Uniting
The Revd Sealin Garlett	Uniting

be endorsed as members of the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission.

### 34.8 Social Justice Network

#### 07.07.42 It was resolved that

Mr Theo Mackaay	Anglican
Mr Darren Mitchell	Anglican
Mr John Ferguson	Catholic
Sr Libby Rogerson	Catholic
The Revd Craig Brown	Churches of Christ
Mr Heshmat Grace	Coptic Orthodox
Wies Schuiringa	Religious Society of Friends
Major Cecil Woodward	Salvation Army
Mr Martin Brahim	Syrian Orthodox
The Revd Dr Ann Wansborough	Uniting
Elizabeth Field attends when Wies Schuiringa is unable to attend	

be endorsed as members of the Social Justice Network.

34.9 Youth Network

**07.07.43 It was resolved that**

The Revd Steven Schwarzrock

Mr Joseph Haweil

*tba*

Ms Brooke Stewart

The Revd Fr Matthew Attia

Sr Irene

Mr Dion Jaeschke

Mr Tom Dundas

*tba*

Mr Artie Shahho

Ms Nicole Fleming

Anglican

Assyrian Church of the East

Catholic Church

Churches of Christ

Coptic Orthodox

Coptic Orthodox

Lutheran

Religious Society of Friends

Salvation Army

Syrian Orthodox

Uniting

be endorsed as members of the Youth Network.

**07.07.44 It was resolved that** the National Forum express gratitude for the work completed by Loretta Wholley and the Nominations Committee.

*(accepted by acclamation)*

**35. Closing**

The Forum was closed at the end of Worship at approximately 12:30 pm, Tuesday, July 17, 2007.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

**The Rt Revd Richard Appleby**

Date \_\_\_\_\_