

MINUTES OF THE 3RD NATIONAL FORUM

1 – 5 OCTOBER 1998 WELCOMES

Mrs Ali Golding, speaking for the original people of the area, extended a welcome to the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Participants were welcomed by the President, as well as by Ms Margaret Walsh [Vice-Principal of Sancta Sophia College]. The General Secretary introduced the participants as per the list in Appendix I.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as listed in Appendix I

TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

98.10.01 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the proposed timetable and agenda be adopted, subject to such variations as may be approved in the course of the meeting.*

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

The General Secretary presented a recommendation from the Executive regarding the application for membership from the Lutheran Church in Australia.

He recalled that the Lutheran Church had been a full participant in the preparatory process that led to the formation of the National Council of Churches in Australia. In late 1997 it had decided by an overwhelming majority to become part of the national ecumenical organisation. Several speakers expressed the joy of their churches at this decision.

98.10.02 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to receive the Lutheran Church of Australia as a member of the National Council of Churches in Australia.*

The Revd Dr Lance Steicke, President of the Lutheran Church of Australia, thanked the National Forum, adding that it had been his personal goal and dream to lead the Lutheran Church into a closer relationship with other churches of Australia. He said

that the Lutheran Church would play its part as a member church, with something to offer to the NCCA and a lot to learn from its association with the other churches.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

98.10.03

IT WAS RESOLVED

1. *that the following be appointed members of the Steering Committee for the 3rd meeting of the National Forum: Mr Robert Leane [chair], Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Ms Elizabeth Harrington, the Revd Erica Mathieson, the Revd Lance Steicke, the Revd Claire Tanner, General Secretary [staff].*
2. *that the Steering Committee be asked to make any proposals it deemed necessary regarding the ordering of business.*
3. *that the following be appointed members of the Nominations Committee for the 3rd meeting of the National Forum: Deaconess Margaret Rodgers [chair], Archbishop Gibran, Major Graham Harris, the Revd Gregor Henderson, Bishop Peter Ingham, Mary Pollard, Associate General Secretary [staff] and a young person nominated by the youth participants.*
4. *that the Nominations Committee be asked to bring recommendations as follows:*
 - 4.1 *6 persons to be elected members of the NCCA Executive, pursuant to Clause 9.02 [c] of the constitution.*
 - 4.2 *A chairperson plus 16 persons to be elected members of the Faith and Unity Commission, such Commission to be based for the time being in Melbourne.*
 - 4.3 *A chairperson plus 12 persons to be elected members of the Commission for Christian World Service. [Note: this Commission is authorised to coopt up to 6 persons].*
 - 4.4 *Twelve persons to be elected members of the Aboriginal and Islander Commission, [additionally one to be nominated by the Aboriginal and Islander Commission to the NCCA Executive for appointment as chairperson], to serve until the next ordinary meeting of the National Forum or such earlier date as may be determined by the NCCA Executive on the advice of the Aboriginal and Islander Commission*
 - 4.5 *A chairperson plus 10 persons to be elected members of the NCCA Youth Network, at least 4 of whom to have been members of the outgoing Network, such Network to be based for the time being in Melbourne.*
 - 4.6 *6 persons to be elected members of the Finance Committee, subject to the continuance of this committee being approved by the Executive, such committee to be based for the time being in Sydney [Note: 3 members of the Committee are appointed by CWS; its Chair, the*

Treasurer, is appointed by the Executive].

- 4.7 *A Convenor/s plus twelve persons, at least two thirds of whom to be women, to be elected members of the Network on Women and Gender Relationships, such Network to be based for the time being in Sydney.*
- 4.8 *A Chairperson plus twelve persons to be elected members of the Social Justice Network, such Network to be based for the time being in Sydney.*
- 4.9 *A Chairperson plus fourteen persons to be elected members of the Commission on Mission, such Commission to be based for the time being in Sydney. [Note: this Commission has authority to coopt up to 5 members, particularly from non-member churches and interdenominational mission agencies].*
- 4.10 *At least 6 persons to be appointed members, and recommended for appointment as Directors, of NCCA Limited.*

BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 98.10.04 1. **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the National Forum agree to give consideration to -*
- i] recommendations from the Executive, and from the Council's commissions, networks, committees and working groups;*
 - ii] recommendations from the steering and nominations committees;*
 - iii] any motion moved in the name of one member church and seconded in the name of another;*
 - iv] any motion or amendment deemed to have arisen out of the debate.*
- 98.10.05 2. **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the deadline for resolutions moved by member churches be 12 noon Saturday 3 October.*
- 98.10.06 3. **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that 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.*

MINUTES

98.10.07 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the Executive be authorised to approve the Minutes of the National Forum.*

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Archbishop John Bathersby, the President of the NCCA, spoke of his vision of the NCCA and the task ahead. (see Appendix II).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The Revd David Gill presented his report. (see Appendix III).

THE EXECUTIVE

The General Secretary introduced the report of the Executive. He referred particularly to Archbishop Aghan Baliozian's three-year term as president and to several applications that had been received for membership.

Ms Elizabeth Harrington underlined the unity and trust that have marked the work of the Executive.

The General Secretary left the meeting and the Revd Gregor Henderson introduced a recommendation regarding his appointment.

98.10.08 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

- 1] *to receive the report;*
- 2] *that the Revd David Gill be re-appointed as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia for a three-year period to 31 December 2001, and that this would be his final term in the position.*

GREETINGS

At various points in the meeting greetings were received from guests representing related ecumenical bodies: Pacific Conference of Churches, Christian Conference of Asia, Communion of Churches in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea Council of Churches, Conference of Churches in Aotearoa / New Zealand.

ADDRESSES

▶ **BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE LANDSCAPE WE KNOW**

Dr Mary Tanner, Moderator of the WCC's Faith and Order Commission, addressed the National Forum on *Beyond the Limits of the Landscape we Know*. [See Appendix IV]

▶ **KNOWING AND DOING JUSTICE IN A NEW MILLENNIUM**

Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh, Chair of the NCCA's Social Justice Network, addressed the National Forum on *Knowing and Doing Justice in a New Millennium*. [See Appendix V]

▶ **CALLED TO COMMON WITNESS**

Bishop Michael Putney, addressed the National Forum on *Called to Common Witness*. [See Appendix VI]

THE ADVISORY GROUP FOR 2000/1

The Revd Tony Doherty, Convenor of the Advisory Group for 2000/1 spoke to the report highlighting the Pilgrimage to the Heart.

Discussion ensued, particularly regarding the projected budget, the involvement of youth and the project's significance for people in local congregations.

98.10.09 IT WAS RESOLVED

1. *to receive the report;*
2. *that the proposed Pilgrimage to the Heart be affirmed and the Advisory Group 2000/1 be authorised to proceed with preparations, subject to the availability of funds.*

ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER COMMISSION

Ms Joan Hendriks presented the report, highlighting the current state of indigenous affairs under the pressure of the political and social attitudes current in Australia today. She said that indigenous Australians need more than ever the support of others within the Australian churches, stressing what can be achieved in true partnership with one another.

She also tabled the “*The Way Forward*”, from a workshop that considered the AIC’s future directions, as well as a new AIC logo with the Islander colours included.

98.10.10 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to receive the report.*

COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

Archbishop Ian George presented the report, drawing attention to the Commission’s mandate, its funding and the 1998 celebration of Refugee Sunday.

Ms Hilary Christie-Johnston asked about the Joint Churches Emergency Group and discussion ensued regarding its significance.

98.10.11 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

- 1] *to receive the report;*
- 2] *to affirm the steps being taken to ensure a better funding base for CWS;*
- 3] *to reaffirm the principle underlying the Joint Churches’ Emergency Group and ask that CWS review the possibilities of the plan and report to the next Executive meeting.*

98.10.12 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

- 1] *to note the continuing crisis in Southern Sudan due to famine and human rights abuses;*
- 2] *to urge member churches to respond to the needs of the Sudanese people as a matter of urgency in prayer, in generous gifts of aid and in advocacy on their behalf; and*

- 3] *to thank those churches that have already responded.*

TASK GROUP ON NATIONAL/STATE RELATIONSHIPS

The Revd Gregor Henderson presented the report adding that at a subsequent meeting with representatives of the churches in Western Australia there had been calls for more WA representation on national commissions and committees.

98.10.13 IT WAS RESOLVED

- 1] *to receive the report;*
- 2] *to thank and discharge the working group;*
- 3] *that as the Forum provides an ideal opportunity to receive an overview of ecumenical activity across the nation:*
 - [i] *each state council be asked to provide for each Forum a written report with an emphasis upon ecumenical activity in local areas;*
 - [ii] *the Executive be asked to arrange for a small group to study those reports and, if deemed appropriate, to share the material with the Forum;*
- 4] *to request the Executive to consider making provision at future meetings of the National Forum for state ecumenical bodies to submit notices of motion;*
- 5] *that concerns regarding CWS work in Victoria and staffing arrangements with NSW Ecumenical Council be referred to the Executive;*
- 6] *that the report's suggestions for improving national/state communications be referred to the Executive for consideration and, where applicable, implementation.*

FAITH AND UNITY COMMISSION

The Revd Dr Ray Williamson presented the report of the Faith and Unity Commission, referring to Mary Tanner's invitation to see "beyond the limits of the landscape we know" and the General Secretary's plea for attitudinal change in the churches. He reported that the pre-Forum conference on *Steps towards Christian Unity* challenged participants to move into new relationships, which had contributed to the atmosphere of the Forum.

He highlighted -

- * the proposed response to the invitation from Pope John Paul II for dialogue on the role of the papacy as a universal ministry of unity; and
- * the proposal to move towards a multi-dimensional covenant in 2001, noting that each of the 5 points in the covenant was derived from the responses of the member churches.

98.10.14 **IT WAS RESOLVED -**

1. *That the report from the Commission on Faith and Unity be received.*

2. **Ut Unum Sint**

a.. *That the National Forum encourage the Faith and Unity Commission to pursue the proposal to respond to Ut Unum Sint*

- *by producing a discussion paper with a specific focus on the Magisterium of the Church,*
- *by offering the discussion paper to the churches with an invitation (i) to respond to it, specifically to identify and comment on the issues involved in the concept of 'a universal ministry of unity', and (ii) to use the discussion paper as a resource for their own responses to Ut Unum Sint, if they so desire, and*
- *by revising the paper with a view to identifying the common issues, in the light of replies received from the churches, at the end of 1999.*

b. *That the NCCA Executive be empowered to act on the final outcome.*

3. **Bilateral Dialogues**

That the National Forum encourage the Commission to proceed with its plans for a consultation on bilateral dialogues.

4. **Baptism**

That the Faith and Unity Commission be asked to resource the churches and the state ecumenical councils in developing material for use by local inter-church groups in considering the theology and practice of Christian initiation and its relationship to Christian discipleship, leading to and culminating in local inter-church reaffirmations of baptism or other initiation vows at Pentecost, or other appropriate time, in 2001.

5. **Covenanting**

A. *That the National Forum invite all member churches, respecting the present constraints of their respective disciplines, to take appropriate action within their own structures, and to engage in dialogue with each other, where appropriate, with a view to entering into a multi-dimensional*

covenant (in at least one of its dimensions) for celebration and recognition at the meeting of the National Forum in 2001.

- B. *That the proposed covenant include the following dimensions:*
- a. *Decision Making*
An agreement to consider prayerfully, in all decision-making processes, the question "can this be done with our covenanting partners?", so that no major decisions are taken without consultation with each other.
 - b. *Common Strategies for Mission*
An agreement to explore with covenanting partners issues and strategies for mission, so that the possibility of common mission is always a priority, information is shared, issues of mission are discussed, and strategies for evangelisation are planned in consultation.
 - c. *Common Witness*
An agreement with covenanting partners to expand the practice of engaging in ministry together, so that the potential for common witness is realised through the development of joint ministries, especially in local church communities, and the search for justice and reconciliation is engaged together.
 - d. *Use of Buildings*
An agreement to develop with covenanting partners the opportunities for shared building arrangements, so that existing physical resources can be shared more extensively, and no new building developments are undertaken without consultation with other member churches in the locality.
 - e. *Shared Ordained Ministries*
An agreement to take the necessary action within their own church to make possible at a local level the sharing of mutually recognised ordained ministries with their covenanting partner churches.
- C. *That, to facilitate the consideration of this proposal, the National Forum request member churches to place this proposal on the agenda of all bilateral dialogues in which they are engaged, and to convey initial responses to the Faith and Unity Commission by Easter 2000.*
- D. *That the National Forum request the Faith and Unity Commission to co-ordinate the process, and, through the Executive, to bring a report and recommendations to the next National Forum*

6. **Continuing the Quest**

- A. *That the National Forum ask each member church to continue to reflect on (a) the specific steps it will take beyond 2001 towards realising a more visible unity; and (b) the specific steps it will ask other churches to take towards the same goal.*
- B. *That the National Forum ask each member church (a) to develop its own statement on what is the meaning and significance for it to be involved in the quest for Christian unity, with an explanation of its own possibilities for engagement in ecumenical partnership at the national, state and local levels; and (b) to disseminate that statement to its own church membership and to other member churches; and*
- C. *That the National Forum request the Faith and Unity Commission to report on 6A and 6B to the next National Forum*

COMMISSION ON MISSION

The Revd Trevor Trotter, chair of the Commission, presented the report, highlighting the national conferences that had been held in 1997 and 1998, and the conference to be held in 1999.

He reported that the lack of finance had been a problem.

98.10.15 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to receive the report*

YOUTH NETWORK

The Revd Claire Tanner (chair) and Mr Peter Hotchkin presented the report with Ms Alison Batterham, Ms Lisa Jackson, Mr Charley Hanania, Ms Amanda Short and Ms Julia Pitman assisting.

They reported on the NCCA's first youth consultation – Signing - that took place in June 1998. It had identified signs pointing to the transformation of the churches' work with young people. 70 people attended, including large Lutheran and Coptic Orthodox delegations.

98.10.16 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

1. *to receive the report;*
2. *to commend the annual NCCA Youth Weekend to member*

churches;

3. *to distribute the report of the of the Signing consultation to member churches;*
4. *that the Youth Network be mandated to continue until 2002, to focus on issues facing the churches in their work together, to develop specific project work on a continuing basis, and to build ecumenical relations as key to achieving the Network's goal.*
5. *that the level of staff support for the Youth Network be retained, if not increased, in light of the new mandate.*

NETWORK ON WOMEN AND GENDER RELATIONSHIPS

Ronis Chapman presented the report of the Network on Women and Gender Relationships as the two co-convenors, Ms Christine Cargill and Ms Sandie Cornish, were absent due to illness.

She highlighted the fact that the mandate was too big. The Network was attempting to focus its efforts for the period ahead.

In the ensuing discussion, appreciation was expressed for the pre-Forum event *Celebrate Women Celebrate Church*.

98.10.17 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to receive the report.*

ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

As Dr Reg Walker (chair) was not present the Revd David Gill presented the report of the Ecumenical Leadership Fund Committee, highlighting both the Fund's potential and the need for member churches to identify and encourage potential ecumenical leaders.

98.10.18 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to receive the report.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh, the chair of the Social Justice Network presented the report, highlighting the seminars that were held in 1997 on Homelessness and Unemployment.

98.10.19 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to receive the report*

FUNDRAISING TASK GROUP

The Revd Robert Smith presented the report of the Fundraising Task Group, highlighting a plan for direct approaches to members of member churches and to the wider community.

98.10.20 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

1. *to receive the report;*
2. *that the proposed fundraising strategy be adopted and implemented;*
3. *that state ecumenical bodies be encouraged to actively support this process;*
4. *that the Revd Robert Smith be requested to consult with state ecumenical bodies regarding a basis on which they might have some share in the funds raised.*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr Ron Brown presented the report of the Finance Committee, the Statutory Accounts as at 31 December 1996 and 1997 and the Financial Statements for the Years ended 31 December 1996 and 31 December 1997.

Discussion ensued regarding ethical investment funds, interdepartmental funds, and the likely impact of a projected GST.

98.10.21 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

1. *that the report be received;*
2. *that the Audited Final Accounts of the NCCA and the NCCA Ltd for the years 1996 and 1997 be adopted.*

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Deaconess Margaret Rodgers presented the report of the Nominations Committee.

98.10.22 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to authorise the Executive -*

- a) *to review the size of commissions, networks and committees, in the light of changes in the membership of the NCCA; and*

b) to make appropriate recommendations to the next meeting of the National Forum.

THE EXECUTIVE

The report noted that of the 38 members of the Executive appointed directly by member churches, only 7 were women, and there were no names of indigenous people, youth, ordained women or Western Australians.

98.10.23 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Executive until the next ordinary meeting of the National Forum.

<i>Ms Julia Pitman</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>South Australia</i>
<i>Ms Kirsten Preece</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>
<i>The Revd Erica Mathieson</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Ms Vivienne Sahanna</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>
<i>Ms Elizabeth Harrington</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>Queensland</i>
<i>The Revd Denis Stanley</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>Victoria</i>

(Note: For a full list of Executive members, see Appendix VII)

ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER COMMISSION

98.10.24 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Aboriginal and Islander Commission:

<i>Mr Peter Smith</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>ACT</i>
<i>Ms Vicki Walker</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Jim Leftwich</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>QLD</i>
<i>Revd Salatelu Joe</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>QLD</i>
<i>Ms Raylene Smith</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Revd Djiniyini Gondarra</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NT</i>
<i>Revd Shane Blackman</i>	<i>Uniting</i>	<i>QLD</i>
<i>Mr Cecil Grant</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Revd Max Wright</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Mrs Elaine Yates</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>QLD</i>
<i>3 to be nominated</i>	<i>Lutheran Church</i>	

98.10.25 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Aboriginal and Islander Commission be authorised to consider the possibility of coopting an additional member from the Uniting Church.

FAITH AND UNITY COMMISSION

98.10.26 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Faith and Unity Commission:

<i>Revd Brendon Byrne</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Sr Margaret Jenkins</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Peter Cross</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Erica Mathieson</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Dr Charles Sherlock</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Dr Graham Cole</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Graham Perry</i>	<i>Uniting</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Professor Chris Mostert</i>	<i>Uniting</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Dr Morag Logan</i>	<i>Uniting</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>Bill Jaggs</i>	<i>Friends</i>	<i>VIC</i>

<i>Ms Meryll Blair</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Capt Jim Weymouth</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Capt Graham Roberts</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Revd Nabil Kachab</i>	<i>Antiochian Orthodox</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Revd Elías Kentrotis</i>	<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Revd Iskandar Aphram</i>	<i>Syrian Orthodox</i>		<i>VIC</i>
<i>Revd Peter Kriewaldt</i>	<i>Lutheran Church</i>	<i>VIC</i>	

98.10.27 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Executive be authorised to appoint a Chairperson for the Faith and Unity Commission.

☐ CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE COMMISSION

98.10.28 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Christian World Service Commission.

<i>Bishop John Gerry</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>QLD</i>	
<i>Mr Tom Storey</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Archbishop Ian George</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>(Chair)</i>
<i>Ms Mandy Tibbey</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Jim Minchin</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Dr Paul Dyson</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Mr Jo Lin</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Harold Wilkinson</i>	<i>Friends</i>	<i>ACT</i>	
<i>Revd John Gilmore</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Lt Col Don Woodland</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>ACT</i>	
<i>Archbishop Aghan Baliozian</i>	<i>Armenian Apostolic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Archbishop Gibran</i>	<i>Antiochian Orthodox</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Mr Gary Simpson</i>	<i>Lutheran</i>	<i>NSW</i>	

98.10.29 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to authorise the Christian World Service Commission to -

1. *coopt up to six additional members;*
2. *consider the balance in its membership and consider the cooption of the following:*

<i>Ms Joan Hendriks</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>QLD</i>	
<i>Mr Peter Hotchkin</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Revd Michael Delaney</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>TAS</i>	
<i>To be nominated</i>			<i>from WA</i>

☐ COMMISSION ON MISSION

98.10.30 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Commission on Mission:

<i>Revd Trevor Trotter</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>(Chair)</i>
<i>Sr Pauline Rae</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Brian Brock</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Bishop Brian Kyme</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Mr Warwick Atkinson</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd John Thew</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Bussy Arulampalam</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd John Mavor</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Mrs Seongya Yoo Crowe</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Bruce Armstrong</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Major Don Gates</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>NSW</i>	

<i>Miss Sonya Berberian</i>	<i>Armenian Apostolic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Mr Peter Bourbous</i>	<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Rafael Iskander</i>	<i>Coptic Orthodox</i>		<i>NSW</i>
<i>Revd Kevin Zwar</i>	<i>Lutheran</i>	<i>NSW</i>	

☐ YOUTH NETWORK

98.10.31 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Youth Network:

<i>Ms Angela Bromfield</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>TAS</i>	
<i>Ms Bronwyn Thompson</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Mr Peter Hotchkin</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>(Chair)</i>
<i>Mr Steve Burkitt</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Ms Kath James</i>	<i>Uniting</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Ms Pippa Lidgett</i>	<i>Uniting</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Anna Wilkinson</i>	<i>Friends</i>	<i>ACT</i>	
<i>Mr Tim Corney</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Captain Winton Knopp</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Mr Shadi Hanna</i>	<i>Antiochian Orthodox</i>	<i>VIC</i>	
<i>Mr Jim Attia</i>	<i>Coptic Orthodox</i>		<i>VIC</i>

☐ NETWORK ON WOMEN AND GENDER RELATIONSHIPS

98.10.32 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Network on Women and Gender Relationships:

<i>Ms Sandie Cornish</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW (Co-Convenor)</i>	
<i>Revd Vince Redden</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Philip Bradford</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Ms Alison Baterham</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>ACT</i>	
<i>Ms Christine Cargill</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW (Co-Convenor)</i>	
<i>Ms Edith Ridge</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Ronis Chapman</i>	<i>Friends</i>	<i>ACT</i>	
<i>Ms Christine Wydeman</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Major Geanette Seymour</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Ms Fran Aroney</i>	<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Ms Debbie Armanious</i>	<i>Coptic Orthodox</i>		<i>NSW</i>
<i>Ms Suzanne Safar</i>	<i>Syrian Orthodox</i>		<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mrs Alicia Simpfendorfer</i>	<i>Lutheran</i>		<i>NSW</i>

☐ SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

98.10.33 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following be appointed members of the Social Justice Network:

<i>Dr Michael Costigan</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Sr Margaret Hinchey</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Ass. Prof. Michael Horsburgh</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>(Chair)</i>
<i>Dr Sally Welch</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Mr Cec Shevels</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Revd Ann Wansbrough</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>(National Director of Social Justice)</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Mr Justin Whelan</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>	
<i>Valerie Joy</i>	<i>Friends</i>	<i>NSW</i>	

<i>Revd Robert Smith</i>	<i>Churches of Christ</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Major Ken Sanz</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Heshmet Grace</i>	<i>Coptic Orthodox</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Daniel Ertas</i>	<i>Syrian Orthodox</i>	<i>NSW</i>

☐ **NCCA LTD**

98.10.34 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the following be appointed Directors of NCCA Ltd:*

<i>Revd Brian Lucas</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Revd Dr Bruce Kaye</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Ron Brown</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Ed Walker</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Malcolm Gledhill</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Revd David Gill</i>	<i>General Secretary</i>	<i>NCCA</i>

☐ **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

98.10.35 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the following be appointed members of the Finance Committee:*

<i>Mr John Thomas</i>	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr David Cohen</i>	<i>Anglican</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Ron Brown</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Ms Daphne Siva</i>	<i>Uniting Church</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Col Cec Williams</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>Mr Fred Hanania</i>	<i>Coptic Orthodox</i>	<i>NSW</i>

MOTIONS FROM MEMBER CHURCHES

● **RE SRI LANKA** (MOVED CHURCHES OF CHRIST, SECONDED SALVATION ARMY)

98.10.36 **IT WAS RESOLVED to**

- 1. note with concern the continuing crisis in Sri Lanka as detailed in the report of the pastoral team which visited Sri Lanka in 1998;*
- 2. invite the prayerful support of member churches in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Sri Lanka;*
- 3. invite the Executive to continue the monitoring of developments in Sri Lanka, in partnership with the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka, and to take appropriate action.*

● **RE EAST TIMORESE ASYLUM-SEEKERS** (MOVED
UNITING CHURCH, SECONDED ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH)

98.10.37 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the National Forum*

- *acknowledging the plight of East Timorese asylum seekers in Australia , many of whom have waited up to seven years in uncertainty about their future; and*
 - *noting that the Portuguese government has recently advised that “the attribution of Portuguese citizenship to East Timorese-born persons presupposes an individual and voluntary application that reveals a wish to become a Portuguese national”;*
1. *calls on the Australian government to reconsider its own understanding of the Portuguese policy and resolve with compassion and without delay the situation of the East Timorese asylum seekers;*
 2. *strongly urges member churches to respond with prayer, concern and material support to East Timorese asylum seekers who are in Australia.*

● **RE THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION** (MOVED
UNITING CHURCH, SECONDED CHURCHES OF CHRIST)

98.10.38 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the National Forum*

- 1] *note with appreciation the comments of the Prime Minister on election night and his commitment to the process of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians;*
- 2] *request the incoming Australian Government to give high priority in the next three years to working for reconciliation with the indigenous people of this land, asking particularly that the Government :*
 - a. *uphold the common law native title rights of Australia's indigenous people;*
 - b. *on behalf of the nation, apologise to the “stolen generation” and provide additional redress to people who have suffered from the past policies of forced removal of indigenous children from their homes and communities;*

- c. *work with the indigenous people, and with the organisations and structures supported by them, to overcome the spiritual and material suffering of indigenous people evidenced in the statistics relating to indigenous health, suicide, imprisonment, community infrastructure, education, employment, housing and welfare;*
 - d. *work with the indigenous people and their leaders to:*
 - * *propose the addition of words in the preamble to the Australian Constitution acknowledging the fact of indigenous custodianship of this land and its resources prior to European settlement and the resulting dispossession, and to*
 - * *develop an agreed instrument of reconciliation*

before the centenary of Australian federation on 1 January 2001.
3. *instruct the Executive to monitor the national process of reconciliation over the next 3 years and to act appropriately in light of the requests contained in 2 above.*

● **RE GREETINGS** (MOVED UNITING CHURCH, SECONDED ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH)

- 98.10.39 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the National Forum requests the group of ecumenical pilgrims visiting Istanbul/Constantinople and Armenia on their way to the Harare Assembly to convey the greetings of the National Council of Churches in Australia to the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Bartholomeos I, and to His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians.*

● **RE RELATIONS WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS** (MOVED UNITING CHURCH, SECONDED CHURCHES OF CHRIST)

A decision was made to request the Executive, in consultation with member churches and state ecumenical bodies, to take up the objective stated in the NCCA constitution “to promote relationships with people of other living faiths” within the next three years.

Subsequent expressions of concern by Orthodox representatives led the National Forum to depart from the decision, and instead -

- 98.10.40 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to request the Executive to explore seriously the implications of section 4.01 (c) (iii) of the Constitution and the concrete actions that might be taken to implement it.*

● **RE CANCELLATION OF DEBT** (MOVED ANGLICAN CHURCH, SECONDED ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH)

98.10.41 **IT WAS RESOLVED**

1. *that the National Forum expresses support for the international campaign calling for the cancellation of the oppressive debt of the heavily indebted poor nations of the “developing” world by the major creditor nations and financial institutions by the Year 2001;*
2. *that the National Forum requests the General Secretary to forward this resolution to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Opposition spokesperson on foreign affairs.*

● **RE THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE** (MOVED ANGLICAN CHURCH, SECONDED CHURCHES OF CHRIST)

- 98.10.42 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that noting the United Nations will be considering a draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the National Forum requests the Executive –*

1. *to evaluate the draft itself;*
2. *to monitor international response to the draft; and*
3. *to monitor the response of the Australian government and, where appropriate, express its own views.*

● **RE JUSTICE ISSUES FACING RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA** (MOVED ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SECONDED CHURCHES OF CHRIST)

- 98.10.43 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to request the Social Justice Network to*

1. *prepare a briefing package on justice issues facing rural and regional Australia;*
2. *provide this briefing package to member churches and state ecumenical agencies;*
3. *recommend to the Executive a strategy for an NCCA response to justice issues facing rural and regional communities, after consultation with member churches and ecumenical agencies;*
4. *report progress to the Executive.*

● **RE PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS** (MOVED
UNITING CHURCH, SECONDED ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

98.10.44 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that member churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia congratulate all elected to membership of the Federal Parliament, and commit themselves to pray every week for God's guidance and blessing upon the Parliament, for good government, and for the spiritual and material life of Australia.*

In particular, the member churches, acknowledging dependence on God for wise decision-making and good government, will pray that members of Parliament will give leadership by –

- *seeking always to conduct themselves with integrity;*
- *acting with compassion and generosity towards those who are most vulnerable in society;*
- *intensifying the nation's efforts towards reconciliation with the indigenous people of this land;*
- *welcoming the multicultural nature of Australian society and the gifts and qualities which people from different backgrounds and different faiths bring to the nation;*
- *ensuring equitable access to services for rural and regional communities;*
- *managing the economy in ways which give high priority to the needs of people, especially those who are most disadvantaged;*
- *pursuing visionary policies and practices for the care of the environment;*
- *protecting the human rights of every person in Australia; and*
- *ensuring Australia acts within the region and the world with unselfishness and openness, working always for peace, justice and the well-being of all people.*

● **RE THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS** (MOVED RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, SECONDED ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH)

98.10.45 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the National Forum*

1. *note that December 10, 1998 is the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly;*
2. *urge member churches to continue their support of the rights and freedoms set out in the Declaration.*

■ **RE REFUGEE SUNDAY** (MOVED ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,
SECONDED UNITING CHURCH)

98.10.46 **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the National Forum*

1. *note that Refugee Sunday has, for some years, been held on the last Sunday in August in the Catholic Church;*
2. *applaud the inauguration of Refugee Sunday as an ecumenical event on the last Sunday in August this year;*
3. *commend the widespread and enthusiastic response to Refugee Sunday this year from church and secular bodies alike; and*
4. *urge member churches to reserve the last Sunday in August as Refugee Sunday in future years.*

THANKS

98.10.47 **IT WAS RESOLVED**, *in closing, to record thanks to the Principal and staff of Sancta Sophia College, particularly Anne Marie-Spencer (Conference Organiser); to the New South Wales Ecumenical Council for its efforts in hosting the gathering and planning the public act of worship; to the stewards and other volunteer helpers; to the overseas guests; to the indefatigable Mary Tanner and other keynote speakers; to members of the steering and nominations committees; to the Youth Network for hosting the Saturday evening event; to Peter Sabatino for organising the worship during the Forum; to coopted media staff from the Uniting Church (NSW Synod); to NCCA staff, especially Wilma Viswanathan; and to the President and General Secretary.*

CONCLUSION

The gathering closed with prayer.

