

South Australian Council of Churches Inc

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14 November 2015, 9am – 1pm

St Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Church, 50 Oxford Tce, Unley

65 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000

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ABN: 88 121 468 824

Present

General Council:

Anglican: The Rev'd Caroline Pearce
Catholic: Dr Marie Loller, Mrs Julie Staszyc
Churches of Christ: Mrs Ngaire Llewellyn (Vice-President), Mr Barry Gear
Coptic Orthodox: Fr Seraphim Sidaros
Ethiopian Orthodox: -
Greek Orthodox: Deacon Daniel Bradshaw
Lutheran: Mr Gilbert Materne
Religious Society
of Friends: Dr Jenny Stock
Romanian Orthodox: -
Salvation Army: -
Uniting Church: Rev Wes Howland, Rev Rob Williams

Executive Committee: Ms Jill Gallio (Catholic, President), Mr Peter Burke (Anglican, Vice-President), Mrs Amy Mikhail (Coptic Orthodox), Fr John Psalios (Greek Orthodox), Mr Neil Traeger (Treasurer)

Standing Committees:

- Ecumenical Learning: Rev John Littleton (Anglican), Dr Heshmat Keroloss (Coptic Orthodox), Envoy Ted Wright (Salvation Army)
- Local Ecumenism: Rev'd Dr Jane Lee-Barker (Anglican), Ms Bridgid Medder (Catholic), Ms Kay Thorp (Local Ecumenist)
- Christian World Service: Mrs Andrea Gordon (Anglican), Ms Pamela Jones (Justice and Peace Issues)
- Finance Committee: Rev Colin Dredge (Churches of Christ)

Observers: Ms Beth Ackland, Bishop Bruce Rosier, Ms Dorothy Short, Dr Marelle Harisun, Ms Margaret Dingle, Fr Silouanos Fotineas, Br Trevor Dean, Ms Velvy Holden

SACC Staff: Ms Geraldine Hawkes (Executive Officer), Ms Melanie Macrow (Office Administrator)

For Apologies and Absences see *Appendix 1*.

Prayer – Members arrived from 8am for the Eucharist Celebration at St Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Church. At the conclusion, people moved to the Hall and enjoyed conversation as they registered.

- 1. Sharing of Stories: Part 1** – Jill Gallio, President, gave thanks for the prayer, acknowledged Country and introduced Fr Silouanos Fotineas of St Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church at Croydon Park, who shared with those gathered.

Fr Silouanos began by acknowledging Fr Jeremy Krieg who was going to share but was unable to attend due to family matters, and asking for thoughts and prayers for Fr Jeremy.

Fr Silouanos then described:

- Icons, practices and the meanings of various representations within a Greek Orthodox Church, including the purposeful layout and space used in the building of the church building and the use of all senses during prayer and in services;
- Importance of being clear about our Christian identity/faith in Christ, to using our lives for serving our sisters and brothers, of Christian teaching as leading to life, and of marriage and the family.

Conversation and questions followed and Daniel Bradshaw was invited to say a few words as a recently ordained Deacon.

Morning tea was abundantly served as conversation among those gathered flowed.

2. Annual General Meeting

Following thanks for morning tea, Jill introduced the AGM, reminding people that a green dot on their badge indicates that they are part of General Council and are therefore entitled to vote. However, all present were encouraged to offer insights, ask questions etc.

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of:

2.1.1 AGM Held on 15 November 2014 at St Mary and Anba Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church, Cowandilla

The Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. Barry Gear moved that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. Andrea Gordon seconded. Carried.

2.1.2 General Meeting Held on 9 May 2015 at the Cathedral Church of Sts Peter & Paul, Port Pirie [Anglican Diocese of Willochra]

The Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. Andrea Gordon moved that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. Barry Gear seconded. Carried.

2.2 Discussion and Adoption of Reports for July 2014 to June 2015 [Reports distributed with the Agenda]

2.2.1 President

Jill Gallio drew attention particularly to the relationships and new friendships that have developed as stories are shared through SACC, and also to say “thank you” to Geraldine Hawkes for her work in facilitating the endeavours of SACC in the Churches’ journey toward Christian Unity.

2.2.2 Ecumenical Facilitator/Executive Officer

Peter Burke described how, following the recent annual appraisal of the Executive Officer, Geraldine Hawkes, the Executive Committee had agreed that Geraldine’s role be entitled Ecumenical Facilitator where appropriate.

The Committee considered that the new title better reflects the core purpose of SA Council of Churches in serving, nurturing and nourishing the churches’ understanding, spiritual growth and practice of ecumenism wherever it is experienced across SA. Ecumenical Facilitator also affirms the responsibility that has been asked of Geraldine in accompanying people as they seek to deepen the response of the churches at all levels across SA to Jesus’ prayer ‘that they may all be one’. Executive Officer remains the official title and will be used as circumstances require.

The meeting then stood and joined hands in a circle facing one another, as a sign of standing as one, before being invited to turn around, join hands while facing outward, as a sign of our unity in serving all the world.

2.2.3 Standing Committees for

- i. Ecumenical Learning – John Littleton gave thanks in particular for those participants of the Standing Committee and their great contribution.
- ii. Local Ecumenism – Geraldine Hawkes acknowledged the involvement of the individuals at the local level, sharing stories and journeying together in various settings. Jane Lee-Barker acknowledged the support, resources and encouragement found through SACC with local church-level ecumenism.
- iii. Christian World Service – Ngaire Llewellyn shared Peace Lamps stories and gave encouragement for all to continue speaking of and sharing peace.

Ted Wright moved that all Reports from 2.2.1 to 2.2.3 be accepted. Rob Williams seconded. Carried.

2.2.4 Auditor's Report

Audit Report was distributed with the Agenda.

Neil Traeger moved that the Auditor's Report be accepted. Peter Burke seconded. Carried.

Thanks was given to Geoff Davis the Auditor.

2.2.5 Budget 2015/16 recommended for acceptance + Finance Report

Neil Traeger moved that the SACC Budget 2015/16 Summary, as distributed with the Agenda, be accepted. Ngaire Llewellyn seconded. Carried.

2.3 Appointments and Elections

Jill vacated Chair and Geraldine chaired for the period of appointments and elections. Nominations had been invited in advance and a Nominations Form, together with some nominations, was distributed before the meeting, for return by 6 November.

2.3.1 Election of Officers: President & Vice-Presidents (2) for 2016

President

Jill Gallio (Catholic): nominated by Ngaire Llewellyn, seconded by Rob Williams. No other nominations received. Jill elected unopposed.

Vice-President (2 positions)

- Ngaire Llewellyn (Churches of Christ): nominated by Rob Williams, seconded by Jill Gallio.
- Peter Burke (Anglican): nominated by Ngaire Llewellyn, seconded by John Littleton. No other nominations received. Ngaire and Peter elected unopposed.

Treasurer

Neil Traeger had accepted the re-appointment on 13/10/15 by the Executive Committee to be Treasurer for 2016.

2.3.2 Election of one Ecumenical Delegate from General Council to Executive Committee to December 2017

Rob Williams, nominated by Ngaire Llewellyn, seconded by Peter Burke. No other nominations received. Rob was elected unopposed, until end 2017.

Noted that there are two Ecumenical Delegates and that John Littleton's appointment is until December 2016.

Jill took the Chair as President for 2016 and was invited to add her signature to the list of Presidents which is kept inside the Bible that is held in SACC office.

2.3.3 Appointment of Auditor for 2016

Geoff Davis, Principal, Geoff Davis & Associates, Chartered Accountants nominated by Neil Traeger, seconded by Peter Burke. Carried.

2.4 Other Business

2.4.1 Peace in our World

All gathered prayed, in silence, for people in Palestine/Israel, in Paris and for all who are caught in the cycle of conflict, that peace may permeate the hearts and actions of all.

2.4.2 Dates, venues, themes of General Council Meetings 2016

Possible dates, 14 or 21 May 2016 and 12 or 26 November 2016, had been sent to the Executive Committee for consideration. The meeting was invited to check their church calendars for significant clashes to the proposed dates and advise Geraldine as soon as possible. After that, dates will be confirmed.

3. **Sharing of Stories Part 2 - SACC Priority 1: Formation and Education for Leadership in Ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ**

Responses to the following questions had been received by the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Religious Society of Friends [Quakers] and Uniting Churches were distributed prior to the meeting.

- Q 1: In what ways is your Church in SA **shaping and developing ecumenical consciousness and leadership**, formally and informally, through congregations, parishes, ministry formation, church agencies, schools, ecumenical organisations?
- Q 2: What more do you hope for in this regard?
- Q 3: What steps might be possible?
- Q 4: With whom might these steps be taken?

Peter Burke (Anglican), Jenny Stock (Quakers), Rob Williams (Uniting) and Marie Loller (Catholic) were invited to describe:

- What was it like to do this process?
- Key points in your response – some trend/gap
- What do you envisage as a follow up with your Church?

Peter described how incidental ecumenism can be, that is, that it happens due to the way things are done. He explained that although many in the Anglican Church are taking part in and experiencing ecumenism, the Church is seeking consciousness of ecumenism built. The Anglican Church also hopes for more visible outcomes as more become aware of the term ecumenism and become more directly involved.

Jenny explained how a recent decline in numbers in the Religious Society of Friends made analysis of active ecumenism difficult to quantify. The hope of those who took part in responding to the questions is to continue ecumenical activity in everyday life.

Rob described how the process of answering the distributed questions had helped to clarify and magnify other things happening in committees and groups. Of particular interest was that some Leadership members were less aware of ecumenism and so the Uniting Church is

looking forward to encourage learning around the journey towards unity and to considering what is better to do together than alone. Specific follow-up will include encouraging congregations to share more with each other and having key ecumenical documents to share on the website.

Marie explained that the outcome of this process for the Catholic Church was a realisation of the wide range of activity on ecumenism at various levels. She mentioned that a particular gap identified, however, was that Leadership knowledge does not always filter down to the Parishes and the need to be open to learning from 'the other'. The Catholic Church is very much hoping to report growth in a years' time of the education of the process and of greater engagement in Parishes.

Over further refreshments, all were invited to consider the following:

- In what ways does **the shaping and developing of ecumenical consciousness and leadership** occur in the life of your Church?
- What more may be possible and why would it be important that it happen?

Feedback was invited by Jill after all resumed their seats and responses included:

- Learning from our 'elders'
- Help leaders to be involved in ecumenism
- Much happens in rural settings
- Congregational meetings and meals to appreciate the gift of each other
- Cross Road Forum – ongoing collaboration
- Gently keep our eyes and ears open for common ideal opportunities for **Formation and Education for Leadership in Ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ** and to prayerfully imagine it!

Geraldine thanked all for their participation in discussing this important priority and advised that she would seek insights, analysis and any recommendations from all SACC Committees to Priority 1 responses, according to their respective responsibility and that this information would be shared with Executive Committee and General Council when ready.

4. Review

Jill invited all to consider:

- What have I learned...what will I do differently...?
- What story will I communicate to others about today's gathering ...?
- What steps will I take within my Church...who do I need to speak with...?

5. The meeting closed with thanks from the President, Jill Gallio, who thanked Fr Silouanos and all at St Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Church for their gracious and generous hospitality in so many ways: for the time we had to pray, to hear the story of the Greek Orthodox Church and how faith is expressed, to receive beautifully prepared food and drinks, as well as to share stories, hopes and signs of our unity in Christ

Fr Silouanos prayed a Blessing on all.

Next Meeting:

SACC General Meeting:

Saturday 14 May 2016, 8.45am for 9am start -1pm

Adelaide Congress Ministry, 17 Bedwin Street, Salisbury North. <http://uaicc.org.au/>

Appendix 1**Apologies:****General Council:**

Rev'd Dr Gregory Stephens, Mrs Pat Foord, The Right Rev'd John Stead, The Most Rev'd Jeffrey Driver (Anglican);
 Sr Elizabeth Young, Most Rev Philip Wilson, & Bishop Greg O'Kelly (Catholic);
 Rev Doug Walladge & Rev Dr Greg Elsdon (Churches of Christ);
 Fr Philippos Boghdadi & Mr George Mikhail (Coptic Orthodox);
 Fr Peter Photakis, Fr Jeremy Krieg & Bishop Nikandros of Dorylaeon (Greek Orthodox);
 Rev Leon Rosenberg & Pastor David Altus (Lutheran);
 Rev Anne Hewitt, Dr Deidre Palmer, Rev Nigel Rogers & Dr Colin Cargill (Uniting).

Standing Committees: Ms Mary Camilleri (Catholic).

Observers: Rev Alison Whish, Mr David Hall, Sr Elizabeth Morris, Ms Kathryn Powell.

Absent:**General Council:**

The Rt Rev'd John Ford (Anglican);
 Bishop Suriel (Coptic Orthodox);
 Mr Belay Getachew, Mr Hailemariam Kassa & Mrs Alganesh Abegaz (Ethiopian Orthodox);
 debra hackett & Mr Yarrow Andrew (Religious Society of Friends);
 Fr Viorel Stoica & Bishop Michael (Romanian Orthodox);
 Lieut Colonel Ronald Clinch & Lieut Colonel Robyn Clinch (Salvation Army).

Standing Committees:

Mr Ian Curwen-Walker (Anglican);
 Mr Denis Need (Chinese Methodist);
 Mr Stephen Ghabriel, Mr Pierre Magar, Ms Jakleen Shonoodh, Ms Miriam Tanios (Coptic Orthodox);