



Minutes of Special Meeting of the Conference of Churches of Christ in NSW Thursday 24 September 2020 – 7:30pm

Via Zoom Link

And

**Fresh Hope Resource Centre – Level 1, 3 Rider Boulevard,
Rhodes NSW 2138**

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

The Conference Executive President Raewyn Williams (Hurstville Church of Christ) welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting in prayer at 7.31. She advised the Special General Meeting is being held under Sub Clause 7 (b) under the Constitution.

The Chair advised attendees of the housekeeping rules in relation to the voting process. Only Registered Delegates would be permitted to vote, and all other Members would be removed to a breakout room when voting is in progress. The matters being considered relate to changes in the Constitution and require a two thirds majority to be passed. The Chair further advised that any Delegates who abstain will not affect the vote.

Mr Stewart Noel of Liberty Church of Christ, Greenacre, was introduced as the Returning Officer and would oversee proceedings.

PRESENT

Members and Delegates as per the zoom sign in.

APOLOGIES

Nil apologies were recorded.

SHORT INTRODCUTION

The Executive Ministry Director, Andrew Ball, welcomed Members and Delegates to the meeting. He led a devotion and spoke from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24, and concluded his introduction in prayer.



BUSINESS:

MOTION 1

- (a) clause 1 of the Constitution be replaced with:

"1. INTRODUCTION

This Constitution contains the basis for, and the legal framework establishing and constituting, the association of churches which by their affiliation under this Constitution is known as “Churches of Christ in New South Wales”. Churches of Christ in New South Wales and this Constitution are each recognized in the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Incorporation Act 1947. In this Constitution the association of churches affiliated under the Constitution is also referred to as the “Movement”.

NAME

The Movement is made up of churches affiliated under this Constitution and is commonly known as “Churches of Christ in New South Wales” or “Churches of Christ in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory”.

MISSION

Transforming Communities and Lives with Fresh Hope.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Movement ("Objectives") include:

- Enabling churches to participate in the Movement by affiliating under this Constitution;
- Establishing agencies to achieve the Movement’s mission;
- Educating, spiritually forming, training, equipping and endorsing persons
- to engage in ministry in the Movement;
- Promoting collaborative ministries, projects and spiritual unity;
- Resourcing and establishing pioneering opportunities for new fresh hope initiatives;

- Providing care, housing, support and justice, particularly for those who
- are suffering, disadvantaged, marginalised, poor or weak;
- Serving the frail and aged through provision of residential aged care facilities, retirement and independent living and home care;
- Establishing and operating venues as Christian communities;
- Encouraging and promoting safe churches, child protection and appropriate standards for ministering persons engaged in ministry
- Upholding the Core Beliefs and Values of the Movement; and
- Implementing strategies for urban, regional and global mission.

CORE BELIEFS AND VALUES

The beliefs and values ("Core Beliefs and Values") govern the pursuit of the Objectives and the strategy and actions of those responsible for leading and guiding the Movement.

The Core Beliefs and Values:

(a) The Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Belief in one God,

the Father, the Almighty Lord, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

Belief in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, the second person of the Trinity.

Belief in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Counsellor, the giver of life, giver of spiritual gifts and encourager of spiritual fruit, the third person of the Trinity.

(b) Jesus and the Gospel

We recognise the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the imperative to share the good news of God's love, salvation and hope to a hurting world in order to make disciples of Jesus. In faith we respond to Jesus and offer our lives for His cause and service.

(c) Kingdom of God Worldview

We affirm that Jesus came to extend God's reign and rule expressed as His Kingdom for the transformation of the world. We are called to prayerfully live by submitting to the sovereignty of God and seeking to extend His Kingdom.

(d) The Scriptures

We believe the Word of God is central to a life of love, fulfilment, identity and mission. We uphold the truth of Scripture as central to the well-being of followers of Christ and the healthy functionality of churches.

(e) Spiritual Leadership and the Expression of Spiritual gifts and Fruitfulness We assert that leadership is necessary to bring fresh hope through the

transformation of communities and lives. We believe God through His Holy Spirit empowers people as spiritual leaders to be fruitful and effective in life, in the church and in mission. We acknowledge that God gives gifts to the church to equip followers of Jesus to participate in mission.

(f) Partnership, Diversity and Interdependence

We encourage partnership, diversity and interdependence in our relationships and structures, to ensure a commonality of purpose through mutual ministry and collegiate love. We nurture our relationships to encourage participation and engagement.

(g) Discipleship and Health

We value the biblical principles of servant-hood as foundational to healthy discipleship and positive engagement. We encourage discipleship training for healthy lives, churches and mission.

(h) Contextual Mission – Urban, Regional and Global

We affirm the great commission to be expressed in urban, regional and global contexts. We embrace the challenges of mission in an increasing secular society.

(i) Care, Justice and Love

We acknowledge our responsibility to offer care, justice and love to those who

are suffering, disadvantaged, marginalized, poor or weak. We affirm our Christian witness and faithfulness is expressed through the proclamation of the gospel and acts of kindness and compassion.

(j) Movement Dynamics, Innovation and Transformation

We value innovation and transformation as key dynamics in enabling the Movement being relevant and engaged with contemporary society. We celebrate new expressions of church and mission and embrace transformation.

(k) Accountability and Stewardship

We are committed to be transparent and accountable in the appropriate management of our resources including finances, facilities, staff and the environment. We will endeavour to steward God's creation with care and generosity."

(b) the expressions "Objective of Conference" and "objective of Conference"

be **replaced** throughout the Constitution, except in clause 29, with "Objectives"; and

(c) in clause 29 of the Constitution, the definition of: "Objective of Conference"

be **replaced** with: ' "Objectives" has the meaning set out in clause 1(a) of this Constitution'.¹

¹ Please note the "(a)" in sub clause (c) of the motion is a typographical error. A motion to amend Motion 1 to delete the error is foreshadowed.

The Delegates were asked to vote on the following technical error in the first instance.

¹ Please note the "(a)" in sub clause (c) of the motion is a typographical error. A motion to amend Motion 1 to delete the error is foreshadowed.

Moved by: Stephen Toomey (Church of Christ Hurstville)

Seconded by: Wayne Morris (Southern Illawarra Church of Christ)

Result: ***CARRIED** by 97% majority, 3% against.*

Delegate Noel Madden proposed an amendment to Motion 1, with the amendment to read:

MISSION

*"Mission transforming communities and lives through **Jesus Christ**".*

Moved by: Noel Madden (Broken Hill Church of Christ)

Seconded by: David Barber (Port Stephens Church of Christ)

Result: **MOTION NOT CARRIED** with a vote of 30% for, and 70% against.

The Delegates were then asked to vote on substantive Motion 1 as originally proposed.

Moved by: Victor Tee (Kingsford Church of Christ)

Seconded by: Wayne Morris (Southern Illawarra Church of Christ)

Result: **MOTION NOT CARRIED** with a vote of 62% for, and 38% against.

MOTION 2:

'That clause 10(d)(viii) of the Constitution which sets out one of the "**Responsibilities of Conference Executive**" be amended by inserting the following text at the end of subclause (viii) before the semi-colon:

"including policies and procedures for:

- (A) safe churches and child protection;
- (B) the endorsement of ministering persons;
- (C) the establishment of, and the oversight of, a professional standards unit; and
- (D) a code of conduct for ministering persons,

the responsibility for which may be delegated to such Ministry Teams and/or other persons as Conference Executive determines from time to time".'

Moved by: Simon Brailey (Church of Christ Telopea)

Seconded by: Troy Blair (Rivergum Community Church)

Result: **CARRIED** by 79% majority, 21% against.

MOTION 3:

'That clause 21(b) of the Constitution which prohibits the remuneration of any member of any Specified Ministry Team be amended by:

- (a) removing "and", at the end of clause 21(b)(ii);
- (b) removing the full stop at the end of clause 21(b)(iii) and substituting that full stop with "; and"; and
- (c) adding a clause 21(b)(iv) as follows:
"as may be approved, from time to time, by resolutions of Conference Executive".'

Moved by: Stephen Cha (The Chapel Sydney)

Seconded by: Ray Cheal (Church of Christ Telopea)

*Result: **CARRIED** by 84% majority, 16% against.*

MOTION 4:

'That clause 27 **be replaced with:**

"AUDITORS

In this clause 27 "**Appointing Bodies**" means Churches of Christ New South Wales, Conference Executive and such of the Conference Ministries, Ministry Teams, Australian College of Ministries and the Trust as Conference Executive determines from time to time.

In order to facilitate the audits set out in subclause (b):

- (a) Conference Executive must ensure auditors are at all relevant times engaged by such of the Appointing Bodies as Conference Executive determines from time to time;
- (b) the Appointing Bodies must, in accordance with resolutions of Conference Executive, from time to time, as and when Conference Executive determines, appoint auditors nominated by Conference Executive provided that no auditor shall be appointed for a term of more than three (3) years. Nothing will prevent auditors being appointed on multiple or successive occasions;

- (c) the Appointing Bodies must, as and when Conference Executive determines, terminate the engagement of an auditor and appoint an auditor to fill any such vacancy; and
- (d) Conference Executive must cause audits to be undertaken annually in respect of the accounts of each of the Appointing Bodies and any other entity, Conference Executive from time to time determines for each financial year ending immediately prior to each Annual Conference and for an executive summary of each auditor's report to be presented to each Annual Conference." '

Moved by: Larry Galbraith (Epping Church of Christ)

Seconded by: John Morris (Foster/Tuncurry Church of Christ)

*Result: **CARRIED** by 89% majority, 11% against.*

MOTION 5:

Motion 5 was not considered due to Motion 1 not being carried.

MOTION 6:

[This resolution will only be put if Resolution 1 is not passed]. ¹

'That the existing definition of "Qualifying Conditions" **be replaced with:** ' "**Qualifying Conditions**" means that a person:

- (a) must be a member, in good standing, with a Conference Church;
- (b) must be of Christian faith and character;
- (c) must not be an employee of Conference, any Ministry Team, the Australian College of Ministries or any entity established by Conference or Conference Executive, whether incorporated or unincorporated, to further the objects and purposes of Conference;
- (d) must be endorsed as a candidate for election by two members of a Conference Church who hold senior leadership positions with that Conference Church;

- (e) must consent in writing to being a candidate for election to the relevant office;
 - (f) must sign a statement that they will support the Objective of Conference;
 - (g) must not be a person who is of unsound mind or a person whose estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
 - (h) must be a person with a current "working with children check" and/or such other similar form of endorsement determined by Conference Executive;
 - (i) must, as a condition of nomination, undertake that he or she must subscribe to Governance Standard 5 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission; and
 - (j) must undertake to sign and deliver to the Conference President from time to time a declaration that he or she is not disqualified under Governance Standard 4 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commissioner.' '
1. If clause 1 is amended by the passing of Resolution 1 the expression "Objective of Conference" will cease to be used in the Constitution. It will be replaced by the word "Objectives" [see the new clause proposed as clause 1 and subclauses (b) and (c) of Resolution 1.] In turn the proposed definition of "Qualifying Conditions" contains [in subclause (f)] "Objective of Conference" (sic) in anticipation of Resolution 1 being passed. If Resolution 1 is not passed the expression "Objectives" as used in subclause (f) of the new definition of Qualifying Conditions will not appear in, and the expression "Objective of Conference" will remain in, the Constitution, hence the need, in the circumstances, for the new definition of Qualifying Conditions, the subject of Resolution 6, to include "must sign a statement that they will support the Objective of Conference (sic)", if Resolution 1 is not passed.

Moved by: Stephen Toomey (Hurstville Church of Christ)

Seconded by: Sean Tyler (NewDay Church, Figtree)

Result: **CARRIED** by 84% majority, 16% against.

MOTION 7:

That the annual reports for the 2018/19 financial year as circulated and published be adopted.

Moved by: Karen Baker (Northside Church, Crows Nest)

Seconded by: Ken Bond (NewDay Church, Figtree)

Result: **CARRIED** by 99% majority, 1% against.



CLOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Andrew Ball thanked all Delegates and Members for their attendance. He further thanked Mr Stewart Noel as the Returning Officer and the technical team for assisting with the electronic voting process. He concluded the meeting in prayer at 9.11 pm.

Raewyn Williams, Chairperson

01/10/2020

Date