

The following excerpts provide information about the regulatory framework for Pilgrim Theological College and the Synod's Theological and Ministerial Education Committee.

## **UCA CONSTITUTION**

**MINISTRIES 12.** Recognising that ministry is a function of the whole Church to which all baptised persons are called, provision shall be made by Congregations, Presbyteries and Synods for the development and exercise of the gifts of all members. Provision shall also be made by the Assembly for the selection, education, training and setting apart of persons for forms of ministry specified by the Assembly

**RESPONSIBILITIES 32.** Subject to the direction of the Assembly, the Synod shall have general oversight, direction and administration of the Church's worship, witness and service within its bounds. It shall exercise executive, administrative, pastoral and disciplinary functions over the Presbyteries within its bounds, shall be the council to hear and deal with appeals and requests from Presbyteries and shall establish and maintain such boards, institutions, committees and agencies as are appropriate to the furtherance of its responsibilities. A Synod may do other things as are consistent with the purposes of the Church and not the exclusive responsibility of any other council or body within the Church.

## **UCA REGULATIONS**

**3.1.5** The Synod in respect of those matters committed to it by the Constitution or which may hereafter be assigned to it, possesses that inherent power by which it may deal with and dispose of any matter before it for which no precise or sufficient Regulation has been made and the use of such power shall be included in the minutes.

Without limiting the generality of the responsibilities of a Synod as set out in Paragraph 32 of the Constitution, a Synod shall be responsible for:

### **Theological and Ministerial Education**

- (i) providing for the effective supervision of theological and ministerial education within the bounds, in accordance with the Regulations, including:
  - (i) ensuring that appropriate training facilities are available, in accordance with standards prescribed by the Assembly;
  - (ii) overseeing any theological colleges within the bounds;
  - (iii) making provision for the cost of education and training of candidates for ministry, by such means as it shall determine or as directed by the Assembly;
  - (iv) appointing members to the council of any theological college for which the Synod has a responsibility and through such councillors giving oversight to the proper administration and operation of the college;
  - (v) determining the procedures for the nomination and/or appointment of staff of any recognised theological colleges within the bounds and the terms of appointment;

- (vi) appointing a Ministerial Education Board or designating an appropriate body or bodies to exercise the responsibilities of the Ministerial Education Board;
- (vii) reporting to the Assembly on ministerial education;
- (j) being generally responsible to see that the discipline of the Church is exercised in accordance with the Regulations and where necessary providing for the hearing of appeals. (See Part 5 and Part 6 of these Regulations)

### **MINISTERIAL EDUCATION BOARD 3.7.4.3 Membership**

(a) Ministerial Education Boards shall include both lay and ministerial members and, in those Synods in which there is a theological college constituted by the Synod, the Ministerial Education Board shall also include representatives of the faculty of the theological college, representatives of its student body and such heads of university colleges with which the theological college is associated, as may be determined by the Synod.

(b) The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress shall appoint a Ministerial Education Board with responsibilities as provided in Regulations 3.7.4.3(c) in relation to Aboriginal and Islander candidates.

#### **Responsibilities**

(c) The responsibilities of the Ministerial Educational Board shall include the following:

(i) in relation to theological colleges constituted by the Synod:

- (1) providing for adequate academic and administrative staffing, accommodation and facilities for the work of the theological college and determining the terms and conditions of appointment for staff other than those specified in clause (2);
- (2) reporting for the decision of the Synod upon all matters relating to the appointment and termination of appointment of the principal, professors and teachers in the theological college except as hereinafter provided;
- (3) determining the conditions under which study leave shall be granted to members of the staff of the theological college and making adequate provision;
- (4) being responsible for the income and expenditure of the theological college and preparing an annual budget for the Synod; and
- (5) ensuring that the courses and training that the theological college offers for the formation and education of Ministers in accordance with
  - (a) prescriptions set by the Ministerial Education Board or the body authorised by it to set prescriptions; and
  - (b) standards set by the Assembly.

(ii) in relation to candidates:

- (1) determining, or ensuring that a body authorised by it, determines, the appropriate courses of study for ministerial education and formation and, where the candidate is not training within the same Synod, and entering into negotiations through the Ministerial Education Board of the Synod concerned for the receiving of the candidate and the costs;
- (2) making provision for scholarship aid, living allowances and accommodation for candidates;
- (3) co-operating and consulting with and reporting to Presbytery in regard to matters relating to candidates;
- (4) receiving from the faculty or theological college council and forwarding to Presbytery any recommendations concerning termination of candidature on academic or other grounds.

(iii) either separately or in co-operation with the Synod or agency of the Church:

- (1) making provision for the continuing education of Ministers and Youth Workers, post-graduate and other forms of advanced ministerial education, and other theological education and for relating ministerial and lay education to the overall life and mission of the Church;
- (2) making, on the advice of the faculty or theological college council, by-laws to govern admission to courses, suspension from courses, fees, discipline and other matters relating to students who are not candidates;
- (3) appointing members of selection panels other than the Presbytery representatives and making facilities available for the proper and professional appraisal of applicants for the ministries of the Church;
- (4) reporting as may be requested on the qualifications of any Minister applying for recognition and acceptance on transfer from another church;
- (5) reporting annually to the Synod and to the Assembly;
- (6) appointing such committees as may be appropriate for the effective fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Board;
- (7) ensuring resources are available to assist members and the Church in the period of discernment (see Regulation 2.3.1).

(iv) appoint a community ministry committee, which shall advise the Board on the educational requirements for each candidate.

(d) In a Synod where a theological college is recognised by the Synod as a teaching institution for training students for ministry but is not constituted by the Synod, the Ministerial Education Board shall undertake all responsibilities in Regulation 3.7.4.3(c) not otherwise legislated for in the constitution and by-laws of the theological college

concerned and shall make recommendations to the Synod concerning any financial support of such theological college.

#### **THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES 3.7.4.4**

Theological colleges established by Synods shall be subject to the Regulations and decisions of the Assembly in relation to the responsibilities of a college or colleges

#### **THE FACULTY 3.7.4.5**

(a) Within each theological college established by a Synod and recognised by the Assembly, there shall be a faculty responsible to the Synod through the Ministerial Education Board.

(b) The faculty shall comprise the principal where such a position exists, all full-time teaching members of the staff of the theological college who have been appointed to their office by the Synod, or who are recognised by the Synod as constituting the faculty, together with any others appointed on the nomination of the faculty by the Synod or the Ministerial Education Board.

(c) The faculty shall share with Presbyteries the responsibility for the pastoral care and oversight of candidates for the ministry. (See Reg. 2.4.2)

(d) A Synod may approve the council of the theological college or other appropriate body exercising some or all of the responsibilities of the faculty.

### **VIC-TAS SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

#### **Resolution 17.32.8A(h) (i)**

The Standing Committee resolved:

- (h) That from 1 December 2017, the responsibilities under the UCA Regulations of:
  - (i) The Centre for Theology & Ministry Board be transferred to the Ministry & Mission Committee

### **VIC-TAS MINISTRY & MISSION COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution 18.43.6 (a)**

The Ministry and Mission Committee resolved:

To create a new governance body that incorporates the Ministerial Education Board and a Pilgrim Theological College Council that reports to the Ministry and Mission Committee as from 1 August 2018.

#### **Resolution 18.54.6**

The Ministry and Mission Committee resolved:

(a) That the new governance body, incorporating the Ministerial Education Board and a Pilgrim Theological College Council be named the Theological and Ministerial Education Committee.

(b) To approve the Terms of Reference in principle, and to authorise the MMC Chairperson, General Secretary, Executive Director (eLM) and Chairperson of the Interim Board to make minor amendments if necessary.

(c) That in terms of membership,

- i. To appoint the current members of the Interim Board, Cynthia Page, Harriet Ziegler and Sunny Chen, to the new body commencing 1 August 2018.
- ii. To appoint Rev Dr Sunny Chen as Chairperson.
- iii. To authorise the MMC Chairperson, General Secretary, Executive Director (eLM) and Chairperson of the Interim Board to appoint new members to the new body based on the Terms of Reference 4.3.

(d) To express its sincere gratitude to the members of the Interim Board for their work.