

21st WPC National Assembly (N.A.) Minutes 16 May - 18 May 2016

National Assembly Meeting:

Sitting 1 N.A. business: **Mon 16 May, 9 am - 4 pm** (AM tea 10:30- 11 am; Lunch 12:30 – 1 pm; Arvo tea 2:30 – 3 pm)

- 1.01 Clerk greeted all and then handed over to those leading worship
- 1.02 Worship (Erick Kartawijaya), Sermon (Paulus Surya) & Communion (Craig Newill)
 EK read Ps 91 then led singing (How Great Thou Art)
 EK led in prayer, then sing (Abba Father, Let Me Be)
 PS brought the Sermon/devotion from Mark 14:36; shift in Mt gradually change God -> Lord -> Father
 Rom.8:15 – 2nd time Abba occurs in the Bible; John Newton: free to do God’s will, freed from sin’s bondage
 Gal 4:6-7 – 3rd time Abba in the Bible; always trust God the Father, live to please God & remember our great inheritance
 CN prayed, fenced the table (Paulus Surya & Brian Wong assisted)
 Elements distributed
 Service ended

- 1.03 Introduction of visitors (*MTW, overseas & wives*)

Visitor: Alex Nathan, David Cross, Les Walton, Pastor Timothy (Mustard Seed Org.), Tony van Drimmelen (Rep from the Christian Reformed Churches; pastor at Willetton CRC), Bev Walton, Pam White, Cam St Clair, Mike Durell, Dirk Soet, Matt Dodd, Dawn Burr, Jeremy Hopwood, James Smith

- 1.04 Roll Call of NA officers
 Moderator: Steve Heathcote
 Vice-Moderator: Simon van Bruchem
 Clerk: Mark Vivian
 Treasurer: Anton Noppers

- 1.05 Roll Call of Commissioners

Queensland Presbytery

Rodney Abbot	Dan Bosshard	Bob Burnett	Darren Burnett
Callum Lewis	Clint Lombard	David Smith	Rick Zylstra

Western Australia Presbytery

Richard Bailey	Julian Bull	Doug Burr	Lee Hinkle
Erick Kartawijaya	John MacRae	Donovan Morling	Craig Newill
Roger Palmer	Steve Rarig	Arthur Slater	Phil Stuart
Gordon Waghorn	Matt Waldron	Clem White	Ray Wilson
Brian Wong			

Western Australia Presbytery - Canberra

Geoff Findlay	Craig Johnson	Don de Vries	Ross Watmuff
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Apologies were received from the following:

none			
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- 1.06 Moderator's Address (9:55)
(Written address on Dropbox "*Moderator's Address to National Assembly.pdf*")
How does our structure / polity help us to work together as a denomination?
- 1.07 David Cross: How WPC started – missions and church planting
(Written address on Dropbox "*Church Planting in Western Australia the Early Years.pdf*")
Some personal background presented (family & pastor brothers)
Methodology? Use what will reach & fit the community around
Survival of planting ministry? Fellow servant-hearted brothers in the Lord
Money did not come from America (WPM policy); only missionaries sent
Timeframes – 5 year terms

AM TEA BREAK (11:00 – 11:22)

- 1.08 Book Discussion part 1 (***What is the Mission of the Church?*** By DeYoung & Gilbert)
Mon: What does making disciples look like in local church setting? Your intentional plan to:
Reach unbelievers with the Gospel
- Christian growth strategies
- Raising covenant children
- Tues: How can WPC denom. help us to make disciples?
End discussion groups at Noon

- 1.09 Receive & Approve Minutes of the 20th Synod (2014)
No discussion or suggested changes.
Motion NA2016/1 – “NA receives and approves the minutes from 20th Synod (2014) as an accurate record of the Synod meeting”
(Moved: David Smith Second: Simon van Bruchem Motion carried)

- 1.10 Clerk's Report
Assume read – no discussion or questions.
Motion NA2016/2 – “NA receives the Clerk's report”
(Moved: Clint Lombard Second: David Smith Motion carried)

- 1.11 Treasurer's Report
Assume read – no discussion.
Motion NA2016/3 – “NA receives the Treasurer's report”
(Moved: Anton Noppers Second: Ray Wilson Motion carried)
Questions:
How many churches gave the 0.5%? [S2014/12 resolved 1.0%; Clerk to remind Churches S2104/14]
One church has given 0.5%, all others have given less
About 90% have given something since the last NA/Synod (~18 months)

- 1.12 Messenger Committee Report

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Assume read – no discussion.

Motion NA2016/4 – “NA receives the *Messenger* report.”

(Moved: Clem White Second: Rick Zylstra Motion carried)

Question at bottom of the report (NA docs, p.32)

Messenger continue? Several Delegates spoke both for & against

Possible format change?

Distribute how widely?

Motion NA2016/5 – “That the WPC *Messenger* continue to be published.”

Some discussion for and against

(Moved: Clem White Second: Rick Z Motion carried)

Motion NA2016/6 – “That NA contribute \$3000.00 to support *Messenger* production. To be reviewed at the next NA.”

(Moved: Clem White Second: Rick Zylstra Motion carried)

Arthur Slater prayed for Clem and the *Messenger* committee & gave thanks for lunch

LUNCH BREAK (12:30 – 1:05)

1.13 Messenger discussions (Cont.)

Motion NA2016/7 – “That Matt Waldron be made editor of the *Messenger*.”

(Moved: Clint Lombard Second: Simon van Bruchem Motion carried)

Motion NA2016/8 – “That NA expresses thanks to Clem White for his many years of faithful and hard work as editor of the *Messenger*.”

(Moved: Anton Noppers Second: Bob Burnett Motion unanimously carried)

All applauded for Clem White

1.14 QLD Presbytery report (*In addition to statistics please note BCO 7.3.03 and describe how your Presbytery has pastored its churches*)

Assume read – no discussion

Motion NA2016/9 – “NA receives the QLD Presbytery report.”

(Moved: David Smith Second: Bob Burnett Motion carried)

1.15 Matters Arising from Synod 2014 (see *Significant Action Items*)

S2014/8

Any action taken? None

What do we do to correct the inaction? Various Delegates spoke mostly in favour of centralised model

Centralised model?

Administrator who assists and gives oversight of processes necessary to share / exchange material

See document titled: “Input on WPC Church Business Models” distributed from QLD (file “Church Management proposal” on DropBox)

Decentralised model? Portfolios assigned to ‘experts’ across the denom. who would help/share as required.

NA functions as a clearing house of the various documents & collective knowledge

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Motion NA2016/10 – “That NA establishes itself as a body corporate constituted in a manner that is consistent with the powers and responsibilities the BCO confers on it.”

(Moved: David Smith Second: Clint Lombard Motion carried)

Challenges? Some transitional coming to terms with the concept, but positive move

Motion NA2016/11 – “That NA establishes a sub-committee of members to prepare a draft constitution for approval & ratification by the Presbyteries.”

(Moved: Ray Wilson Second: Don De Vries Motion carried)

Can this be streamlined; want Administrator sooner rather than later.

Motion NA2016/12 – “That NA establishes a sub-committee, to be called the Moderator’s Committee, comprising the Moderator, the outgoing Moderator, the Clerk, the Treasurer and any other NA **Delegate of the NA...**”

(Moved: Clint Lombard Second: Craig Newill Motion carried)

Motion NA2016/13 – “That the Moderator’s Committee provide a comprehensive **report ...** to the Presbyteries and the next immediately subsequent NA.”

(Moved: Clint Lombard Second: Rod Abbott Motion carried)

Motion NA2016/14 – “The NA invites the WA Presbytery to employ an Administrator for the NA to be funded by the NA.”

(Moved: David Smith Second: Clint Lombard Motion carried)

S2014/10

Clint Lombard gave Committee apologies for inaction, but commend Campbell Markham’s booklet

Motion NA2016/15 – “That NA expresses its opposition to all forms of civil partnerships other than marriages between one man & one woman.”

The NA affirms the definition of marriage [as in Marriage Act 1961] & promote the Biblical passages

(see point 10 on p.13 of Campbell Markham’s booklet).

(Moved: Bob Burnett Second: Rick Zylstra Motion carried unanimously)

ARVO BREAK (2:35 – 3:00)

Foreshadow: Have a discussion on Same-sex marriage. Should the government change its position how should we react to any change in the Marriage Act? **[Statement adopted later]**

S2014/12 Treasurer – report on 1% funding

58% churches give nothing to the assembly; 42% give something (0.5% or less)

Delegates request a table of *Action Items* from the NA Clerk to inform and remind Presbyteries and Sessions to act.

Are Mission churches responsible to contribute? If they have the capacity, they should consider the stewardship.

S2014/15 Clerk to update the BCO

Thanks to Ray Wilson, this work has been completed, though reformatting will be required depending on publication

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S2014/16 Web-site – update from James Smith

Web-site up & accessible

Content now needs to be updated

James needs a web-designer + intranet & exo-net

NA Communication Committee to be established?

Motion NA2016/16 – “That NA appoint Matt Waldron, Clint Lombard & Craig Johnson as content mangers of the web-site.”

(Moved: Ray Wilson Second: Motion carried)

S2014/17 Public Worship reflecting WPC Ethos

S2014/18 WPC are members of World Reformed Fellowship (WRF)

S2014/22 Church Planting motions

No planting of un-branded churches. No discussion required on Church planting resolutions in Synod 2014 (**S2014/22** – *Synod policy on church planting*)

S2014/23 NA Officers

Moderators re-election expected? (elected each time, but can re-elect the same moderator)

Some value in continuity

Vice-moderator

Clerk re-elected after 3 NA's

Continuity important

Assistant allowed

Treasurer re-elected

Continuity important

S2014/26 Mortgage discharged

All previous BCO amendments have been approved by both Presbyteries, the NA Clerk has been notified, so the BCO changes proposed in 2013 (**S2013/08** & **S2013/11**) are adopted.

1.16 Time of Prayer: Various delegates led in prayer: Bob Burnett, Ray Wilson, Geoff Findlay, Lee Hinkle, Dan Bosshard, Anton Noppers, Steve Heathcote

Mon 16 May, 6:30 – 8:30 dinner (***Catered meal for Delegates & spouses. Venue: WPC Bull Creek.***)

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Sitting 2 N.A. business: Tues 17 May, 9 am - 4 pm (AM tea 10:30- 11 am; Lunch 12:30 – 1 pm; Arvo tea 2:30 – 3 pm)

START (9:05)

2.01 Opening Worship / Devotion lead by: Phil Stuart

Hot topics discussed widely in the church, but 'Mission of the church' not widely discussed
Why don't Christian in Aus evangelise?

Study in Amos shows many similarities to OT Israel & Church in Aus

Amos 8:1-14 (background: financial boom, rich & powerful oppressing the poor; politically peaceful)

Attack on two problems: idolatry & injustice

Root problem: false religion (ignore the True God)

Religion w/o repentance & w/o reformation

Christians look forward to Jesus 2nd coming, but forget it's Judgement Day

Pleasure ahead (eternal life) BUT what about unsaved friends

Evangelism for the evangelist BUT forget the Great Commission is for them

Have we forgotten the urgency of the Gospel?

A warning to the church today: outward act on a Sunday, but forget God during the week

We must carry-on repenting & reforming

If we've become complacent (lukewarm/cold to God), Amos is a challenge to us

Phil prayed (9:35)

2.02 Introduction of visitors (*MTW, overseas & wives*)

Bernie O'Leary representing Bible League in WA

2.03 **Bible League**

Don De Vries introduced Bernie O'Leary

Bible Society – publication with limited distribution

Bible League – evangelistic thrust (distribute to closed countries)

"Project Philip" – 5 lessons in John's Gospel + 20 other lessons for discipleship

Wants to meet with WA churches + has contacts with ACT & QLD Bible League reps across Australia

Steve Heathcote prayed for Bible League

Dinner on Thurs 18 Aug; overview of work & invitation to pastors

2.04 Roll Call of Commissioners

Queensland Presbytery

Rodney Abbot	Dan Bosshard	Bob Burnett	Darren Burnett
Callum Lewis	Clint Lombard	David Smith	Rick Zylstra

Western Australia Presbytery

Richard Bailey	Julian Bull	Doug Burr	Erick Kartawijaya
John MacRae	Donovan Morling	Craig Newill	Roger Palmer
Steve Rarig	Arthur Slater	Phil Stuart	Gordon Waghorn
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Apologies were received from the following:

Lee Hinkle			
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2.05 BCO reprint

Should we reprint and in what format?

Motion NA2016/17 – “NA agrees to distribute the BCO electronically.”

(Moved: Matt Waldron Second: Don de Vries Motion carries)

Time-frame ASAP; NA ModCom tasked to distribute.

Will the WCF be included? Please attach with the WCF.

Vote of Thanks to Ray Wilson for updating the BCO.

NA Clerk to proof the BCO document.

2.06 Book Discussion part 2 (*What is the Mission of the Church?* By DeYoung & Gilbert)

3 things:

- 1) The way things are now, how does our denom. help carry out the mission?
- 2) Is there something that is a hindrance?
- 3) If you could change things, what would change?

AM TEA BREAK (10:35-11:10)

[*Delegate Photo taken during break*]

2.07 Lester Ong – Immigration & Migration

Visa pathways form Ministers of Religion

Looking for overseas qualified pastors is a challenge; used to be easier up until July 2015

Used to exempt some requirements (age

Three pathways:

Subclass 401 – religious worker visa; temporary & renewal every 2 years

Three stages:

1 - Sponsorship by religious institution

2 - Nomination – position must be F/T & fit the definition

ANSCO – Minister of Religion defines work of pastor (i.e. preaching, teaching, discipleship, etc.)

3 - Application – no age limit for Minister of Religion (*MoR*)

Can take 2-3 mos. to process; all 3 stages can be processed at once

Subclass 457 – clamping down, so not recommended

Must have labour agreement

Subclass 186 – employer sponsored visa

Only permanent pathway for Religious Worker

Must have labour agreement

Religious organisation must demonstrate need

Three stages:

1 – direct negotiation with Immigration Dept.

English language req.

Ordination expected

Hold bachelors deg.

Age limit of 60

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Min salary \$53,000.00 & at market rate

This stage lodged after agreement is signed-off

2 – Nomination

Takes ~7 mos. to process, but PR achieved after all is processed

3 – Visa Applicant lodges an application according to the terms of the Labour Agreement

Questions to consider:

How quickly do you need them?

Who is the direct employer? (what/who is the source of funds?)

Only one employer allowed – Australian source by the religious institution

Due diligence to assess the pastor

Consider family members, esp. health concerns

Employment contract is a 'must-have' (incl. exact salary amt. with FBT stated)

Questions:

- 1) Religious worker easily renewed? Yes, but only 2 – 3 times before it's too hard
- 2) Can it be made permanent? Yes
- 3) Direct employment for a church planter? Yes. Church pays & supports the pastor
- 4) Shifting from rel. worker to 186, do they have to leave the country & return? Not any longer
- 5) Visa fees?
 - a. Rel. worker (\$400 to sponsor. 170 to nominate + 400 to lodge = ~\$1000 all up + family members)
 - b. 186 – about \$3000.00 + \$1800 for spouse + \$900 per child & other fees
- 6) Student visa? Churches can use in ministry, but can't work more than 40 hrs. / fortnight
- 7) Students staying on?
- 8) Use immigration lawyer vs. church lodge itself
 - a. Expectation higher for immigration lawyer (individual church can get lenient treatment)
 - b. BUT saying the wrong thing can defeat an application
- 9) English req. – concession? Need documentation to demonstrate
- 10) If you're certified pastor, but coming for another role what's req.?
 - a. Should be tasked as MoR
- 11) How many approved on avg.?
- 12) Nomination for 186 & application form in at the same time? Yes. Should be done at the same time to save time
- 13) Church sponsoring? Local or different assemblies as long as role is MoR & not another class
- 14) Would other religions have to go through this process? Yes.
 - a. Abuse can/has caused things to tighten

Presentation ended (11:40)

Show of appreciation for Lester

2.08 Pastor Timothy – WPC Myanmar MOU

See p.55-56 + letter from Pastor Timothy (p.57-58)

Report from p.59-72 – report from Geoff re: visit to Myanmar

No questions, but thanks to Geoff for his thorough reporting

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Motion NA2016/18 – “NA receives the Myanmar report”

(Moved: Ray Wilson Second: Craig Newill Motion carried)

Recommendations at the end of the report

First 4 could be motions lead to MOU

Julian Bull commends the MOU to NA. Spoke in favour of the MOU.

Ministries in Myanmar

- 1) Mustard Seed
- 2) Hosanna Bible College
- 3) Training of Pastors – they can train pastors who then lead, teach & disciple at least 100 other people
 - a. Need to make application for work in Chin state
 - b. Not about financial obligation to WPCM, but re: the sending of trainers

Q & A

- 1) How do we keep our commitments? Document is fluid, but principles will need to be ‘fleshed-out’.
- 2) Will having an MOU help to get people into the country? No.
- 3) What are the relationships with other churches/denom. in Myanmar? Not existent on any official capacity

Pastor Timothy speak to the NA delegates

Gave greetings from WPC Myanmar & commends the MOU for our prayerful attention & consideration

Currently 9 WPC churches in Myanmar – they appointed Pastor Timothy their rep. to WPC Australia

Motion NA2016/19 – “That WPC Australia adopts the MOU with WPC Myanmar.” (according to file: *141024 Draft MOU BETWEEN WPCA WPCM.pdf*)

No further concerns.

(Moved: Julian Bull Second: Matt Waldron Motion carried)

Documents to be signed by both Moderators of the two Assemblies (WPCA & WPCM)

Comments & Questions

- 1) Like to see we reciprocate pastoral & ministry exchanges. Some expressed the desire for future versions of the MOU to state our welcome of the WPC Myanmar pastors and give them opportunities to edify and share in WPC Australian churches.

Prayer of Thanksgiving offered by Julian Bull.

Motion NA2016/20 – “NA authorises the WA Presbytery Missions committee (Anton Noppers, Brian Wong and Richard Bailey) and Bob Burnett (QLD rep.) oversee WPC Australia’s fulfilment of its obligations under the MOU with WPC Myanmar.”

(Moved: Simon van Bruchem Second: Brian Wong Motion carried)

2.09 Bangladesh report by Geoff Findlay

Motion NA2016/21 – “receive report and thanks to Geoff for compiling it.”

(Moved: Geoff Findlay Second: Dan Bosshard Motion carried)

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Geoff spoke to the report & gave some connections & possible ministry applications & opportunities

Motion NA2016/22 – “NA adopts three recommendations in “*Bangladesh 2015 report to National Assembly*” and authorises Geoff Findlay to implement the recommendations.”

(Moved: Matt Waldron

Second: Clint Lombard

Motion carried)

Q & A

1) Alignment of WPC & MTW works in Bangladesh? Not aware; MTW rep & WPC should discuss synergies

2) Do we want to make this an action of the NA? Yes

2.10 MTW Report (*including SCTC update*)

Motion NA2016/23 – “NA receives the MTW report”

(Moved: Clint Lombard

Second: Rick Zylstra

Motion carried)

Comment by the Moderator – “Thanks for the report. MTW has presented what it’s doing among us, but WPC does not have a strategic, coherent church planting strategy.”

Q & A

1) Who are the Zabroskis & Goodriches coming to help Jim Jung? Are they being vetted by Presbytery? Not both; one & not the other. The views exam will most likely not be complete before the men come to Australia.

2) 1996 – standard church planting plan did exist

Lee Hinkle prayed & gave thanks for the food

LUNCH BREAK (12:30-1:10)

Signed MOU between WPCA & WPCM according to **NA2016/19** (*photos taken*).

2.11 WA Presbytery report (*In addition to statistics please note BCO 7.3.03 and describe how your Presbytery has pastored its churches.*)

Motion NA2016/24 – “NA receives the WA Presbytery report”

(Moved: Ray Wilson

Second: Simon van Bruchem Motion carried)

Approved

Comment from the Moderator – “Presbytery reports should demonstrate the shepherding the churches within its bounds. NA needs more comprehensive information (See BCO 7.3)”

2.12 WPC South East Australia Trust Fund (*update*)

Moderator: Simon van Bruchem – next WA Presbytery (21 July 2016)

Not NA business

2.13 Brazil update – some officials to come to Australia in Sept; Simon will contact churches with information

2.14 Feedback on Presbytery Initiatives (WA & QLD)

Tie into the report back from the WitMotC discussion groups

(Various members fed back to the large group – recorded on whiteboards)

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- Greater clarity of priorities, greater sharing of resources to provide greater rigour of core priorities.
- A booklet given to all WPC churches of who the WPC churches are supporting as missionaries.
- Prayer together more; ask church officers to tithe their time to the work of the wider courts; retreat times together as church officers.
- Move away from individualized church cultures and intentionally incorporate youth involvement
- Increasing partnerships to work and minister together
- Need to have a 'Pastor to pastors' to go around and check-in on the serving pastors*
*Note: Phil Stuart mentioned his availability to take on this role (*funding required*)

'Alone travel faster, together travel further' Prov.

Motion NA2016/25 – "NA asks each Presbytery to investigate & develop the mechanism to implement Pastoral care for its pastors. Report back to the next NA via Presbytery reports."

(Moved: David Smith Second: Bob Burnett Motion carried)

2.15 Tony van Drimmelen – from Willetton Christian Reformed Church

Brought greetings from the CRC WA.

Noted the need to work together on various societal issues

Following Reformational principles in working together

Church planting has been costly (financial & giving pastoral staff), but trusting the Lord is building His church

CRCA held a 'Recharge Conference' (4-day retreat) for all the pastors & their wives; met in Melbourne.

Enjoys contact with local church & previously in QLD as well

Local work together in Perth Gospel Partnership, Trinity Theo College and Rehoboth Christian College

Hope for further interactions

Titus – "So that when the kindness of our God..."

Bob Burnett prayed for Tony & the CRC

2.16 Moderator foreshadowed that "Jack Hutch Memorial fund" (currently in WA Presbytery) be accessed by the NA.

ARVO TEA BREAK (2:40-3:05)

2.17 Marriage Act discussion

Motion NA2016/26 – "NA authorises the Mod Com write to the four main parties (Labor, Liberal, National & Greens) on behalf of WPC expressing our denominational stand on the current Marriage Act (1961).

[Motion to include: Add our voice to the letter (Dropbox "*Letter-to-PM-from-Faith-Leaders-Supporting-Marriage-050615.pdf*") express support for current definition rejection of any change to accommodate Same-sex marriage.]

(Moved: Clint Lombard Second: Bob Burnett Motion carried)

What if Labour gov't. brings in same-sex marriage – what action will we take as a denom.?

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Various positions were expressed to associate or not associate with the government's proposed modification of the Marriage Act.

NA delegates are all opposed any government act which compels us to marry a homosexual couple

No decisions to be made at this point.

[Matt Waldron to frame a motion for the NA to consider Wed am – see 3.04]

- 2.18 Time of Prayer – Steve Heathcote gave thanks and prayed for our deliberations and for the community “WA Walk-for-Life” Rally in Perth. (4:02)
END of DAY TWO

Tues 17 May 6:30 – 8:30 dinner (**Suggested:** delegates eat with visiting delegates. **Delegates' own arrangement.**)

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Sitting 3 N.A. business: **Wed 18 May, 9 am – 2:30 pm** (AM tea 10:30- 11 am; Lunch 12:30 – 1 pm)

3.01 Opening Worship / Devotion lead by: Lee Hinkle (9:05)

2 Cor 2:12

Giving a proper witness - yearbook

Be the aroma of Christ & people will respond (smell of life or death to them; God ordained)

Saved into Christ

Need brothers to help us understand if we smell right

Eph helps us understand love in the church

What is our call?

Trust

Rest in what God has done

Be the smell of Christ

Lee prayed

3.02 Introduction of visitors (*MTW, overseas & wives*)

Les Walton, Geoff Findlay intro Jeremy Hopwood; under MTS training and enjoys Street Evangelism (Walk-up evangelism),

3.03 Roll Call of Commissioners

Queensland Presbytery

Rodney Abbot	Dan Bosshard	Bob Burnett	Darren Burnett
Callum Lewis	Clint Lombard	David Smith	Rick Zylstra

Western Australia Presbytery

Richard Bailey	Julian Bull	Doug Burr	Lee Hinkle
Erick Kartawijaya	John MacRae	Donovan Morling	Craig Newill
Roger Palmer	Steve Rarig	Arthur Slater	Phil Stuart
Gordon Waghorn	Matt Waldron	Clem White	Ray Wilson
Brian Wong			

Western Australia Presbytery - Canberra

Geoff Findlay	Craig Johnson	Don de Vries	
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Apologies were received from the following:

Anton Noppers	Ross Watmuff		
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3.04 Marriage Act motions

“The National Assembly recognises...”

Amend motion to stop in last point 3 “... clearly prohibited by Scripture.” (offered by Bob Burnett)

(Moved: Matt Waldron Second: Ray Wilson Amendment Motion Approved)

Motion to put the matter

Lee Hinkle Clint Lombard

Show of hands 13 for 7 against

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Motion of Descent from the chair

Don de Vries David Smith

Show of hands 12 for 9 against

Marriage Act "The 2016 National Assembly reaffirms..."

John spoke to the motion

John MacRae Rick Zylstra

Amend: Clerk (which is...

Craig "of anything other than..."

Accepted by the mover & seconder

Amend: Matt "All have sinned and fallen short of God's purpose. God's grace in Christ is sufficient to forgive, set free & make new anyone who turns to Him in repentance & faith."

14 for 11 against

Carried

BREAK (10:25-11:00)

Visitors: Andrew Priddle, Joel Diderage, Dawn Burr

3.04 (cont.) Return to the Motion (see Dropbox "*MW Email re Marriage Motions 160518.pdf*")

The National Assembly Affirmation of Marriage:

That the National Assembly reaffirms the convictions we have held since the founding of our denomination in 1981:

Almighty God, the Maker of heaven and earth, created humans in His own image and likeness. He made us male and female and He gave to us the institution of marriage at the very beginning. He designed marriage to be the lifetime, committed union of a man and a woman which is to be a picture of Christ and His Bride – the Church. All have sinned and fallen short of God's purpose. However, God's grace in Christ is sufficient to forgive, set free and make new anyone who turns to Him in repentance and faith Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-25; Malachi 2:15-16; Matthew 19:4-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; Romans 3:9-31; Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 24.

God consistently declares that homosexual activity is not proper and should not take place. Therefore, it would be improper for any member or minister of the Westminster Presbyterian Church to officiate at the wedding ceremony of any union other than one man and one woman. No one who were to perform such a ceremony could remain in good standing in this denomination. Romans 1:24-26; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Further, if in the future, any government were to seek to compel a member or minister of this denomination to perform such a function, that member or minister would be conscience bound to refuse, for to do so would be sin on their part. Acts 4:19; 5:29; Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 23.

Amend 'member or minster' to 'office bearer'

(Moved: Craig Johnson Second: Geoff Findlay

Motion Amendment lost)

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Motion NA2016/27 – “The 2016 National Assembly adopts the *Affirmation of Marriage*.”

John spoke to the original motion

(Moved: John MacRae

Second: Rick Zylstra

Motion carried)

Steve Heathcote prayed for NA in our consideration

3.05 Restructure Needs

Desire to keep ‘grass-roots Presbyterianism.’

How do wider courts work & how should narrower courts respond?

Where is the bulk of the ‘enduring motions’ kept (denominational memory)? Web-site intranet

Prayer of thanks for food – Matt Waldron

BREAK (Noon-12:35)

Apologies: Steve Rarig (*wife to doctor*)

3.06 Election/re-election of N.A. officers (***Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk & Treasurer***)

Treasurer: Anton Noppers

Vice-Moderator: Simon van Bruchem

Clerk: Ray Wilson

Nominees: Ray Wilson

Moderator: Don de Vries

Nominees: Steve Heathcote (*withdrawn*)

Nominees: Don de Vries (*elected unopposed*)

Motion NA2016/28 – “NA thanks the Treasurer, Vice-Mod & Clerk.”

(Moved from the chair

second: Matt Waldron

Motion carried)

3.07 Web-site and web-hosting

Motion NA2016/29 – “NA authorises James Smith to act as it’s agent to set-up all web-hosting and web-applications allowing NA delegates & participating Presbyteries to communicate & share documents.”

(Moved: Mark Vivian

Second: Phil Stuart

Motion carried)

3.08 Votes of thanks

Motion NA2016/30 – “Richard Bailey on behalf of NA will present Clem White with a gift of gag gold watch & real watch to Clem at the next WA Presbytery meeting.”

Motion NA2016/31 – “NA move a motion of thanks to the Moderator”

(Moved: David Smith

Second: Roger Palmer

Motion carried)

3.09 David Cross Q & A

Two questions for David Cross intending to generate dialogue.

1. What kind of strategic planning have you done for church planting?

21st WPC National Assembly (N.A.) Minutes 16 May - 18 May 2016

2. On Monday you said that there were many ways to plant a church. Can you list some of the types you had in mind and give an example?

3.10 Motions of thanks

Motion NA2016/32 – NA expresses it thanks to the following:

- David Cross for his time on Mon & Wed
- Sook Yee \$1200.00 gift (justification: \$20/hr x 5 hrs/week over 12 weeks)
- Jessyca Nathan \$500.00 gift (justification: produced Mon dinner + Tues lunch free of charge)
- WPCBC congregation:
 - Hosts (Delegates to thank individually + WPCBC & NA will thank)
 - Transport (Delegates to thank individually + WPCBC & NA will thank)
 - Kitchen help (WPCBC & NA will thank)

(Moved: Matt Waldron Second: Roger Palmer Motion carried)

3.11 Closing Motion

Motion NA2016/33 – “Mod Com moves that the next NA be held in Belconnen, 22-25 Oct 2017”

Next N.A.: 22nd N.A. Proposed Venue & Date: WPC Belconnen, 22-25 Oct 2017 (opening worship, 22 Oct 2017).

(Moved: Steve Heathcote Second: Matt Waldron Motion carried)

Close in prayer: Steve Heathcote

Wed 18 May 2:30 pm – N.A. conclusion