

Profile Form for Nominees for President-elect

Regulation 3.6.26 (b) requires that the Assembly Standing Committee provide advice to the Church on the challenges and issues which may be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years. This is to assist the discernment process as the Church nominates and elects the President – elect.

In July 2008 the ASC addressed itself to this responsibility and offers this guidance to the Church.

- ❖ Continuing significant relationships with wide sections of the Australian community through avenues beyond our congregations.
- ❖ The multicultural and inter-faith reality of Australia.
- ❖ The quantity and quality of our Ministers and matters relating to call and training of Ministers and lay leaders.
- ❖ The UCA has a willingness to experiment in new Christian communities and ways of being the church.
- ❖ The aging demographic within the UCA and the sense of disconnect with the church by younger generations.
- ❖ Ongoing need for discernment between the things that are of God and culturally supported ways of being an organisation.
- ❖ Need to relate with initiative across a wide range of constituencies including the diversity of the UCA, the media, inter faith and ecumenical leaders and internationally with other churches.
- ❖ Capacity to assist the UCA develop forms of evangelism appropriate to the theology and traditions of the UCA.

Name:

Rev Jason Isileli Kioa

Nominated by:

Rev. Lulu Senituli and Rev. Eseta Meneilly

Address:

8 Parlington St, Canterbury 3126, Victoria

Synod of residence:

Victoria and Tasmania

Age range:

(under 30, 30-39, 40-49,
50-59, 60-69)

50-59

Personal Interests:

Family, community radio, community activities, walking, reading, music and playing guitar, playing tennis. I also would like to resume my post graduate studies in theology and spiritual direction.

Personal

Placement / employment:

Migrated from Tonga to Australia in 1981; Work as Public Relations Officer for the Tongan Government 1977-81; Candidate for the Ministry of the Word through Bourke Presbytery, Victoria in 1987 ordained 1990.

Minister at Leighmoor Parish (East Bentleigh/Moorabbin) 1991-1996, Canterbury Balwyn Rd 1997-2002, Wesley Church Lonsdale St Melbourne 2002-2006, Moderator Synod of Victoria and Tasmania 2006-2009. Chairperson of Bourke Presbytery 2003-2005, Chairperson of Vic/Tas Synod Commission for Mission 2001-2006, Chairperson Pastoral Relations Committee for both Bourke and Yarra Valley Presbyteries in 2001/2, 2004/5 respectively, current member of Assembly Standing Committee for three consecutive trienniums 2000-2009, President of the Tongan National Conference of the UCA, current President of the Victorian Council of Churches 2009-2011. Present member of Premier John Brumby's Advisory Committee on Multi faith/Multiculturalism.

Passion:

(Name up to three things you
three things you feel passionate
about)

1. I feel passionate about caring for our human relationships in love, respect and dignity across cultures, race and creed. Relationships are fragile as well as sacred and we need some extra attention and care.
2. I feel passionate about being good stewards of God's creation and our environments.

3. I feel passionate about the Christian Faith and its ability to transform, renew, reconcile and bring meaning to life's situations and circumstances.

Vision for the UCA:

(limit of 400 words,
can be provided on separate sheet)

See attached.

**In light of the advice provided
by the ASC on the challenges
and issues likely to be faced
by the President and the
Assembly in the next seven
years I can/will**

(limit of 400 words,
can be provided on separate sheet)

See attached.

1. Vision for the UCA:

To articulate a vision for the UCA, it is critical to describe where such a vision can be seen from. The Basis of Union is the platform from where one can stand on, and view perspectives of the contexts of a vision for the UCA. It is also of vital importance that we recognise the Indigenous Peoples of the Land Australia in the context of our vision and our commitment to covenanting with them. The Uniting Church is described as people on the way to the promised end. On the way we are fed by God's Word through the scriptures, and we engage in witness and mission to our world which is becoming more cross cultural multicultural and pluralistic. We are becoming more aware that we are living in a global village. There are two factors that are important to recognise. Firstly, the need to care and respect human relationships, and secondly the need to care and be good stewards of God's creation and our environments. This provides both opportunities to engage with the wide diversities of post modernism and post Christendom, and the challenge of holding on to the great vision of the unity that Christ has for his church. Because the Head of the Church is Jesus Christ, we do not loose hope and we always have a message to proclaim because of Christ's death and resurrection, and the promise of the presence of the Holy Spirit's presence in our midst anywhere and everywhere. We therefore need to put our word into action through our advocacy for the poor, needy and against injustice of our society. Through our cross cultural and multicultural congregations as the engine rooms for our worship life, and together with our Uniting Care agencies, Aged Care, Prison ministry and Schools, which all play major roles in our mission and ministry, the Uniting Church is a strong witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our identity is ecumenical in nature and our passion is for an inclusive church that is welcoming and vibrant, a church that continues to give voice to the oppressed, and space to the homeless and hope to the downcast. The Uniting Church has rich varied and diverse traditions and we are being enriched by these diversities to embrace the Vision of a renewed world that can give hope for a real future for our communities. The prophetic voice of the church can be a great facilitator for conversations and dialogues in situations that becomes stalemate. A prayer of St Francis of Assisi from the 19th century still has meaning in this day and age. A prayer that the church may become an instrument of God's peace; where there is hatred, to sow love; where there is darkness, bring light, where there is sadness, to bring joy and where there is injury, to bring pardon, for it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

2. My personal Reflection:

In light of the advice provided by the ASC on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years, I believe I can bring my experiences to this role in all the areas being addressed. My term as the Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania allowed to visit and experienced the many varied ministry forms of the Uniting Church. In addition to the congregations, it was an eye opener to visit prison ministries, aged care and uniting care agencies as well as our schools. Certainly the issues we face as a church in this next seven years will force us to see the church in different forms and to revisit our traditional understanding of being church in the 21st century. My six years as chairperson of the Synod Commission for Mission gave me insights to mission settings and opportunities in the Uniting Church, risking the way of Jesus. I have also made aware and committed to the covenanting with the Congress and the recognition of the pain of our past history, but also the opportunities for actions and commitments to reconciliation now and into the future. Being the Chairperson of the Tongan National Conference and my experience in cross cultural multicultural ministry will be useful in giving space and voice to the rich diversity of our church in this area. This includes the recognition of our partner churches, in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Europe as well. In the national level, the Uniting World deals with such partnerships, and in the local scene, the Cross Cultural Multicultural Ministry bridge that relationship with the Migrant Congregations that are growing within the UCA. The work that involves in being the President of the Victorian Council of Churches broadens my perspective and embraces the understanding and the commitment of the UCA to ecumenism. I am a current member of the Premier John Brumby's Inter Faiths Advisory Council which also gives me insights to the challenges of living in Australia as a multi faiths society and the also the potentials and opportunities to work across faith barriers. I am passionate about the question of how we can be the church in Australia today and how do we equip and enable young leaders to take up the challenge of being the church? In order for us to be equipped adequately for the journey of being church, we must be engaging in continuing education, theological research and in service training for our ministers lay and ordained, our staff and volunteers.