



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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**A Letter from the Moderator to the Whole of the
Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania**

Dear friends,

I write to tell you of a Synod Standing Committee (SSC) decision relating to the Synod offices at 130 Little Collins St Melbourne. This decision follows a SSC resolution that was reported in the December 2014 edition of Crosslight. The Standing Committee approved a strategy, which involved a transparent and open market Request for Proposal, to seek market feedback on the best way to dispose of 130 Little Collins Street.

Last year the Standing Committee committed to Synod-based ministries and operations relocating to the Wesley Upper Lonsdale Street site in mid-2019, as part of the tripartite agreement with Wesley Mission Victoria and the Wesley congregation.

The Property Board presented the SSC with a number of different Disposal Options in 2014. After discounting two options last year, the other three options have undergone rigorous missional, financial, and legal analysis. After substantial and prayerful consideration, the SSC resolved by consensus to enter into a Joint Venture to develop the site into a mixed-use accommodation hotel and residential apartment building.

In reaching this decision by consensus, the insights of each member of the Standing Committee were taken into account. The decision making process ensured that all issues were fully aired and I believe that all members felt that they were adequately heard. In the end, the indication given was that all agreed that this was the way forward for the Synod at this time.

The SSC also considered the importance of income from the chosen option supporting the further mission of the Church. As part of its resolution, the SSC has requested the Property Board, in consultation with BOMAR, to provide it with a revised allocation of the proceeds that includes specific allocation 'for whole of Church mission'.

This is a strategic decision and the Standing Committee wants to ensure the people of the Church are journeying with them. No doubt you will have many questions about this project. (Some further information is provided in the attached information sheet.) I ask for your ongoing prayers for the Standing Committee and the wider church as together we continue to discern God's mission for our Church in the 21st century.

Yours in Christ,

Dan Wootton
Moderator