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15th December 2016

ABN 72 700 201 397

State Minister
Dr Greg Elsdon

Dear fellow member of Churches of Christ,

Greetings at this Christmas time.

State Board met at the beginning of December and considered a way forward in light of the less than 75% support for Greg Elsdon to be reappointed as State Minister. We want to let you know what we decided.

Before I do that, I want to draw to your attention that State Board consists of people from our Churches who are elected by the delegates of our Churches. People who serve diligently in their local Churches are also serving the wider Church through being on State Board. Three of these people were re-elected at Convention. One new member was also elected.

State Board made the following three decisions:

1. "That Greg Elsdon be invited to take an interim State Minister position until the end of 2017 to help settle in new staff, facilitate the new vision of Living Hopefully and give the State Board sufficient time to advertise for and attract a new State Minister with the qualifications and giftings this position requires."

State Board was unanimous in this decision that the Churches will best be served by Greg Elsdon continuing in the State Minister role throughout 2017.

State Board was conscious that there is a current vacancy in State Office staff, and there will be other staff changes during 2017. Therefore, it is important to have some continuity while staff are being recruited and settled in. It would not serve the Churches well to have a further vacancy.

State Board was also conscious of the time that may be required to recruit a person suitable to lead Churches of Christ in SA & NT and the State Office team.

2. "That the State Board broaden its existing review to be a thorough and independent review of the Conference of Churches of Christ in SA & NT and its operations."

State Board had already committed to conducting a review of the role and operations of State Office, and had done some work on the terms of reference. In the light of the result of the ballot and wider issues that may be at play, this decision to broaden the review and make it independent is an important one for the future of Churches of

Christ in SA & NT, because it will include more than just the operations of the State Office.

3. "That concurrently with the review, a search committee will be established to find a suitable candidate for State Minister."

As stated above, it may take some time to recruit a person for the role of State Minister. Therefore, rather than waiting for the review to be completed, it was decided to establish a search committee that will work alongside the review group and draw on material from the review as it prepares a role description and advertises for candidates for the position.

State Board is also making a commitment to communicate regularly with Churches on the progress of these decisions.

Following Convention, State Board received feedback from individuals and Churches with regards to the result of the ballot for the reappointment of Greg Elsdon as State Minister. These communications spoke well of Greg's ministry and character, some offered suggestions, and all expressed dismay or disappointment.

State Board has not received, either before Convention or afterwards, any direct comments about concerns with Greg's general performance as State Minister. Earlier in the year there was opposition expressed to the lecture that Greg gave on one particular topic. We would welcome feedback. As I said earlier, members of State Board are members of our Churches serving the wider Church. You are most welcome to contact any of them. Their names, Churches and contact details are below:

Anthony Risson	Aldgate	0405 357 032
Barry Grear	Magill	0418 803 334
Catherine Nikkerud	Magill	0401 123 198
Cleve Brisbane	Murray Bridge	0419 864 840
Doug Walladge	Salisbury East	0450 725 912
Graeme Murley	Blackwood	0428 477 001
Grant Spangenberg	Murray Bridge	0419 848 336
Janet Mugford	Brooklyn Park	0412 074 663

(Leanne Sanders has not been able to take up her role as a Board member yet, and so we would ask that you do not seek to contact her.)

May your celebrations for Christmas be a blessing to you and those you serve,



Doug Walladge,
President