

Encouraging
Families through
Faith focused"



**AMUA Melbourne Diocesan Combined AGM and
General Council Meeting
Thursday 22nd October 2026**

MINUTES

1. **Welcome:** Karën welcomed members present and online.
2. **Prayers:** Rev Ann Kennedy opened with Prayers before a Council Meeting.
3. **a] Attendees:** Karën and Martin Hayden, St Aidan's Parkdale; Elaine Longford, St Paul's Ringwood; Roslyn Mitchell, Lyn McDonald, Jan Lee and Frances von Kalm, St Eanswythe's Altona; Nola Guest, Margaret Goode and Gill Palliser St Michael's Beaumaris; Frances Whitehurst, St Barnabas Glen Waverley; Lynette Oates, St Andrew's Corio/Norlane; Rosemary Simpson and Rev Anne Kennedy, St Peter's Box Hill; Elizabeth Woods and Irene Donohoue Clyne St Stephen's and St Mary's Mount Waverley; Jennifer Pugsley, St Peter's Murrumbena; Carole Young, St Dunstan's Camberwell; Trish Fernley, Diocesan Members; Bev Cottell, St Mary's Sunbury; Jacqui McKinnon and Sandra Andrzejewski St James' Ivanhoe

Guests: Olivia Ephraim and Kerry Lewis – ADOM PVAW Staff

b] zoom: Rev Heiden Kanoo, Rosemary Hicks St Dunstan's Camberwell.

c] Apologies: Sandra Hansen Altona; Maurelle Thompson and Jan Aylot Diocesan Member; Carole Martin Corio; Kaylene Vlasveld, St Paul's Frankston; Carol Baxter, St Paul's Ringwood; Lyn Pryor and Robin Hickson, St Barnabas Glen Waverley; Maree N'Daiye Christ Church, Ormond; Rosemary Wickett, St John's East Malvern Caritas; Joy Tate and Julie Denyer, St Michael's Beaumaris; Margaret Dunbar, St Peter's Murrumbena; Joan West, St Stephen and St Mary's, Mount Waverley; Merran Overend, St James Ivanhoe.

Guest Speaker: Olivia Ephraim Project Officer 'Thriving Karen Families' Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) - Preventing Violence against Women (PVAW) Program, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Report on the progress of the MU commitment to financially support culturally responsive, in-language and community-led prevention work within the Karen communities in Melbourne and Geelong.

Olivia provided an update on the MU/PVAW project – 'Translating PVAW Training into the Karen Language'.

It is an ongoing growing project. Rather than beginning with formal family violence training, the project adopted a staged community-led approach that builds trust first and introduces prevention themes through safe, familiar entry points. The listening process has not changed the original PVAW purpose of the Mothers' Union proposal. Rather, it has clarified how that purpose can be implemented in a culturally responsive and community-led way.

The project is being referred to as 'Thriving Karen Families' as a holistic approach of introducing this program into the Karen Community.

Report to be circulated.

4. **Minutes of AGM and Council Meeting Combined held Saturday 18th October 2025**
Circulated via the AGM 2026 Booklet

Moved: Trish Fernley

Seconded: Nola Guest

Carried.

5. **Business Arising:**

Alterations noted to spelling of names.

a) Clusters Karën spoke about this in her report.

- b) MU 150th Celebrations:** Karën attended the world gathering in Durban, South Africa, celebrating what we are today and are to come. Photos to be put into book form to share with others.

6. President's Report: Circulated in AGM Booklet.

Congratulations to Karën on her motion at Synod: Spoke to the mover of the objection after synod about MU.

7. Correspondence: IN: various emails OUT: various emails

8. Treasurer's Report: Circulated in AGM Booklet

Distribution of bequeathed funds of 10,000 – Thriving Karen Families Project. Funds will be drawn down on a needs basis.

BOR - Bursary suggested. Information from Trinity College and Australian President Robin Ray. A suggestion was made that maybe we look at Nungalinga College] Disaster Relief Fund Donation – Harcourt. Funds distributed.

Karen Nursery: \$4015 available – Transfer will put in place and sent asap.

9. Department Reports:

O&ONO / Link. In AGM Report Gill Palliser was nominated by Margaret Goode seconded by Karën to be part of this team.

IPC; Lynette Oates is standing down after 12 years on executive – travelling from Lethbridge. She sends out letters to indoor members and provides a list of people to pray for twice a year - Mid year and Advent. Thank you for the privilege of being part of this team.

Ms. Linda Meadows St Luke's Frankston' will be coordinator for non-email recipients. Email recipients coordinator to be advised in due course.

Publications; the Australian coordinator is Lindy Driver DP Gippsland. The Australian warehouse is not online – need to order from Lindy direct to be posted. Possibility of starting a Melbourne Shop Depot with Frances Von Kalm [Altona] – mini warehouse. Diaries will be available shortly. A few teething problems are being sorted out.

MU Virtual Office: updating data base - please include names with subscriptions.

Website: Kaylene in rehab after hospital. Jon, webmaster, is able to update websites when Kaylene not available.

Social Issues & Action; Carole Martin standing down due to health issues –

Election of Irene Donohoue Clyne as Social Actions and Issues Coordinator

Moved: Anne Kennedy **Seconded:** Elizabeth Woods. **Carried**

Mia Mia. In AGM Report

Lady Day. Update by Karën Hayden – Heiden and Karën in contact with precentor.

Holding the Light. In AGM Report

10. Affiliated Organisation Reports:

Australian Council Women,

GFS. Karën spoke with GFS leader when at Synod in relation to working together.

World Day Prayer. In AGM Report – centenary next year – support your local service.

That all Reports be received: Moved: Elizabeth Woods **Seconded:** Trish Fernley **Carried.**

11. New Business:

a. Clusters communication: Margaret Goode reported on catching up with branches in her cluster. Creating Clusters is a good move. Communication is crucial with aging people in the community.

b. MU Chaplain: Karën announced that Rev Heiden Kanoo has been appointed as Melbourne MU Chaplain and will be commissioned on Lady Day 2027. Heiden is Chaplain at the Mission to Sea Farers and is the daughter of Baby Kanoo and Rev Kanoo.

12. Midday Prayers: Margaret Goode

13. Meeting Closed at 12.40pm

Next Meeting: April 2027 Date to be confirmed