

The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

ABN 39 703 442 583

For the year ended 31 December 2024

This financial report covers The Uniting Church in Australia - Synod of Victoria and Tasmania as an individual entity.

The Uniting Church in Australia - Synod of Victoria and Tasmania is a non-profit entity, created under The Uniting Church in Australia Act - Victoria No. 9021 and The Uniting Church in Australia Act - Tasmania No. 38

The Uniting Church in Australia - Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Level 2 & 3 130 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

A description of the nature of the Synod's operations and its principal activities is included in the Standing Committee report on page 2.



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Organisation Particulars

Standing Committee:

Chairperson/Moderator

Rev. David Fotheringham

Managers:

General Secretary

Rev. Dr. Mark Lawrence

Secretariat

Associate General Secretary

Ms. Isabel Thomas Dobson (to April 2024)

Mr. Adrian Pyle (Acting from May 2024 to July 2024)

Rev Sharon Hollis (from August 2024)

Mission Resourcing Unit

Executive Officer

Mr. Sam Nicholas

Equipping Leadership for Mission

Executive Director

Rev. Duncan Macleod

Synod Office:

Level 2 & 3

130 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Auditors:

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd

Collins Square Tower 5

727 Collins St

Docklands VIC 3008

Bankers:

Westpac Banking Corporation

Melbourne Office

360 Collins St

Melbourne VIC 3000



Standing Committee Report

The Standing Committee presents their report together with the financial statements for The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (the "Synod") for the year ended 31 December 2024. The units of the Synod include:

- Secretariat
- Mission Resource Unit
- equipping Leadership for Mission
- Uniting Aboriginal and Islanders Christian Congresses in Victoria and Tasmania
- Bequests and trusts under the management of The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) and The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Tasmania).

Standing Committee Members

Lisa Carey	Jacob Westley	Alison Overeem (UAICC Tasmania)
Helen Geard AM	Lindsay Oates	Assoc Prof Paul Chandler
Cathie Halliwell	John Diprose OAM	Rev Denise Liersch (Ex-Moderator)
Rev Ikani Vaitohi	Cam Shields	Rev David Fotheringham (Moderator)
Fiona Ensor	Rev Lucas Taylor	Rev Dr Mark Lawrence (Gen Sec)
Rev Anneke Oppewal	Matthew Julius (resigned in September 2024)	Rev Salesi Faupula (Ex-officio as Moderator-elect)
Rev Will Pickett (UAICC Victoria appointee)		

Principal Activities

The Synod's principal activity is to have general oversight, direction and administration of the Uniting Church's worship witness and service within its bounds.

There have been no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

Review of Operations

In summary, the operating result for the year is a surplus of \$49.39m which compares to a surplus of \$45.67m in 2023. Major contributing items to the 2024 surplus were:

- An unrealised gain of \$27.29m (2023: \$33.72m unrealised gain) relating to fair value increase of investments in U Ethical Australian Equities Trust. This was due to the strong performance of the financial market during 2024. This impact is also reflected in the value of the investments held on balance sheet.
- Proceeds from the sale of Church properties \$11.60m (2023: \$8.71m).
- Investment income of \$30.31m (2023: \$18.01m) from investment in U Ethical Australian Equities Trust, U Ethical Diversified Income Trust, U Ethical Cash Management Trust and U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust.

Review of Financial Position

- The overall net asset position of Synod increased to \$517.47m (2024) from \$468.08m (2023). Most of the Synod's assets are held in investments in U Ethical Australian Equities Trust, U Ethical Diversified Income Trust, U Ethical Cash Management Trust and U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust.
- Investments have increased primarily due to a rise in financial markets in 2024, which is reflected by higher investment values.

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Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the Standing Committee of The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of 31 December 2024 for the year ended 31 December 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants



E W Passaris
Partner - Audit & Assurance
Melbourne, 14 June 2025

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Standing Committee of The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (the "Synod"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and the Standing Committee's declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the Synod's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Synod in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The Standing Committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Synod's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Standing Committee for the financial report

The Standing Committee of the Synod are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – *AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the Standing Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Standing Committee are responsible for assessing the Synod's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Standing Committee either intend to liquidate the Synod or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Standing Committee are responsible for overseeing the Synod's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Synod's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Standing Committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Standing Committee use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Synod's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Synod to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants



E W Passaris
Partner – Audit & Assurance
Melbourne, 14 June 2025



Standing Committee Declaration

The Standing Committee declares that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 8 to 37.

- a. comply with Accounting Standards in Australia and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
- b. give a true and fair view of the Synod's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations, changes in equity and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date.

In the Standing Committee's opinion:

- a. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Synod will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- b. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2022.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Standing Committee.

Rev. David Fotheringham
Standing Committee
Chairperson/Moderator

Rev. Dr. Mark Lawrence
General Secretary

Melbourne

Dated this 14th day of June 2025

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2024	Notes	2024	2023
Revenue		\$'000	\$'000
Mission & service giving		2,667	2,761
Grants		614	275
Gifts, donations & bequests		3,934	897
Sales, fees & tariffs	4	14,659	12,757
Net proceeds from insurance activities		(509)	(916)
		21,365	15,774
Other income			
Investment income		30,309	18,010
Proceeds from the sale of Church properties		11,595	8,709
Other income	5	2,993	2,373
		44,897	29,092
Total income		66,262	44,866
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		17,831	16,588
Depreciation and amortisation expense		3,378	3,429
Grants expense		15,484	6,841
Cost of goods sold and conference expense		520	357
Consulting and legal fee expense		1,976	2,973
Repairs, maintenance and property expenses		3,014	3,295
Internet, security and services		1,810	2,134
Other expenses	6	2,234	1,342
Borrowing costs		520	570
Total expenses		46,767	37,529
Operating profit		19,495	7,337
Gain on sale of other properties		1,829	1,809
Increment of fair value of financial assets		27,292	33,724
Profit / (loss) for the year		48,616	42,870
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		48,616	42,870
Net result from discontinued operations	25	770	2,796
Net result for the periods		49,386	45,666

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	1,038	2,858
Trade and other receivables	8	12,013	9,313
Inventories		174	157
Investments	9	162,681	171,265
Other current assets	11	1,525	1,841
Assets held for sale	25	1,608	65
Current assets		179,039	185,499
Non-current			
Investments	10	367,165	309,353
Trade and other receivables	12	8,403	3,847
Property, plant and equipment	13	19,999	22,648
Intangible assets	14	120	248
Right-of-use assets	15.1	16,083	18,227
Non-current assets		411,770	354,323
Total assets		590,809	539,822
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	16	12,793	9,473
Short-term provisions	17,21	13,076	11,024
Lease liability	15.2	1,968	1,838
Other liabilities	18	28,700	30,324
Current liabilities		56,537	52,659
Non-current			
Other liabilities	19	322	588
Long-term provisions	19,21	48	91
Lease liability	15.2	16,433	18,401
Non-current liabilities		16,803	19,080
Total liabilities		73,340	71,739
Net assets		517,469	468,083
Equity			
Synod Funds	20	517,469	468,083
Total equity		517,469	468,083

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statement

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2024			
	Notes	Synod Funds	Total equity
		\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 January 2023		422,417	422,417
Surplus for the year		45,666	45,666
Total comprehensive income for the year		45,666	45,666
Balance at 31 December 2023	20	468,083	468,083
Balance at 1 January 2024		468,083	468,083
Surplus for the year		49,386	49,386
Total comprehensive income for the year		49,386	49,386
Balance at 31 December 2024	20	517,469	517,469

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Operating services			
Receipts from presbytery/congregation contributions		2,667	2,761
Receipts from operations and activities		27,998	37,490
Payment of grants to organisations and individuals		(15,498)	(6,874)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(30,059)	(38,432)
Interest received		30,309	18,009
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		15,417	12,954
Investing activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment	13	(1,458)	(4,806)
Payment for intangible assets	14	(2)	(27)
Payments for investments		(157,851)	(79,060)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		3,262	2,803
Proceeds from sale of investments		131,322	59,808
Proceeds from sale of discontinued operations		1,109	10,803
Proceeds from sale of Church properties		11,595	384
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(12,023)	(10,095)
Financing activities			
Funds received from / (advanced to) related parties		(2,327)	(363)
Proceeds from / (payment of) loan advances		(266)	(262)
Inflow / (outflow) of funds held in trust		(783)	(1,090)
Repayment of lease liability		(1,838)	(1,713)
Net cash from / (used in) financing activities		(5,214)	(3,428)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(1,820)	(569)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		2,858	3,427
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	7	1,038	2,858

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 General Information and statement of compliance

This financial report is a general purpose financial report and has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards-Simplified Disclosures made by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012. All amounts are stated in Australian Dollars, which is the functional and presentational currency of the Synod. Amounts are presented to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise stated.

This report is prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at fair value. Unless otherwise stated the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

The financial statements comprise the following operations controlled by the Synod:

- Secretariat
- Mission Resourcing Unit (Formerly Department of Administration and Finance)
- The Synod's equipping Leadership for Mission (Formerly Commission for Mission, Centre for Theology & Ministry and Camping)
- The results for Uniting Aboriginal and Islander and Christian Congresses in Victoria and Tasmania
- Bequests and trusts under the management of The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) and The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Tasmania)

Control has been determined to exist on the basis that the Synod has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of those operations and exposed to variable returns.

The financial statements include all controlled operations from the date the control commences until the date that control ceases.

All balances and transactions from activities within the operations the Synod controls have been eliminated.

The financial report does not include the operations of the following entities for which the Synod does not have direct control or is not exposed to variable returns.

- Uniting Ethical Investors Limited
- Uniting AgeWell Limited
- Uniting Church Congregations and Presbyteries
- Uniting Church Schools and University Colleges
- Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited
- Uniting Church Parish Missions
- Epworth Hospital
- Uniting Housing

Where appropriate, comparative information has been restated or reclassified to ensure comparability with the current reporting period.

The financial report was approved by the Standing Committee as at 14th June 2025.

2 Changes in accounting policies

2.1 New standards adopted as at 1 January 2024

Synod has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

The adoption of these new or amended Standards and Interpretations did not have any impact on the amounts recognised in the current period and is not expected to significantly affect future periods.

Other accounting pronouncements which have become effective from 1 January 2024 and have therefore been adopted do not have a significant impact on Synod's financial results or position.

2.2 Standards that are not effective and have not been early adopted

Certain new and revised accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 31 December 2024 reporting period. The Synod does not plan to adopt the standards early. Standards are not expected to have a material impact on the transactions and balances recognised in the financial statements.

3 Summary of accounting policies

3.1 Revenue

The Synod recognises revenue as follows:

Sale of merchandise

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the Synod is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods.

Government grant income without sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations

Government grant funds received by the Synod that do not have sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations are recognised as income on receipt of the funds.

Government grant revenue with sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations

Government grant funds received by the Synod that have sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations, in accordance with AASB 15, are recognised as a contract liability on receipt and are recognised as revenue as the Synod satisfies its performance obligations.

Sales, fees & tariffs

Fees charged for care or services provided to clients are recognised when and as the care or service is provided. Rendering of fees and tariffs revenue is recognised over time on the basis that the Synod's performance does not create an asset with an alternative use to the Synod and the Synod has an enforceable right to payment for performance completed to date.

Gifts donations and bequests

Gifts and donations income is recognised when the Synod gains control of the funds and are recognised as income when the funds have been provided to further the Synod's objectives for no consideration and when the funds provided do not give rise to a sufficiently specific performance obligation.

Bequests are recognised when the legacy is received. Revenue from legacies comprising bequests of shares or other property are recognised at fair value, being the market value of the shares or property at the date the Synod becomes legally entitled to the shares or property.

Interest and investment income

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method. Investment income is recognised at the time the right to receive payment is established.

Mission and service giving

The Synod accrues mission & service giving by congregations relating to the reporting period which are received after year end and before the books of account are closed.

Proceeds from sale of Church property

Income for the Synod's share of proceeds of congregational property is recognised according to the application of Property Sale Proceeds policy.

This policy applies a tiered application of sharing between the congregation and the wider Church (the Synod). Funds are recognised after settlement provided no exemptions apply.

Insurance activities

Net proceeds from insurance activities is recognised on the basis of insurance premiums income net of premiums paid to insurers. Income is recognised when the right to receive the insurance premium has been established and there are no other performance obligations.

All income is stated net of the amount of Goods and Service Tax (GST).

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

3.2 Operating expenses

Operating expenses are recognised in profit or loss upon utilisation of the service or at the date of their origin.

3.3 Intangible assets

Recognition of intangible assets

Data warehouse is capitalised only if the expenditure can be measured reliably, the product or process is technically and commercially feasible, future economic benefits are probable and the Synod intends to and has sufficient resources to complete development and to use or sell the asset. Otherwise, it is recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

Subsequent measurement

All intangible assets are accounted for using the cost model whereby capitalised costs are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, as these assets are considered finite. Residual values and useful lives are reviewed at each reporting date. In addition, they are subject to impairment testing as described in Note 3.7. The following useful lives are applied:

- Data Warehouse: 4 years

Amortisation has been included within depreciation and amortisation.

Subsequent expenditures on the maintenance of data warehouse are expensed as incurred.

When an intangible asset is disposed of, the gain or loss on disposal is determined as the difference between the proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, and is recognised in profit or loss within other income or other expenses.

3.4 Property, plant and equipment

Land

Land is measured at cost less any impairment losses.

As no finite useful life for land can be determined, related carrying amounts are not depreciated.

Buildings, plant and other equipment

Buildings, plant and other equipment are initially recognised at acquisition cost, including any costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to the location and condition necessary for them to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Synod.

Buildings, plant and other equipment are subsequently measured using the cost model, cost less subsequent depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis to write down the cost less estimated residual value of buildings, plant and other equipment. The following useful lives are applied:

- Buildings: 50 years
- Infrastructure: 20 - 50 years
- Equipment, fixture & fittings: 5 - 20 years
- Computer equipment: 3 - 5 years
- Motor vehicles: 4 - 10 years
- Art work: infinite

Material residual value estimates and estimates of useful life are updated as required, but at least annually.

Gains or losses arising on the disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the assets and are recognised in profit or loss within other income or other expenses.

3.5 Leased assets

Synod as lessee

Synod makes use of leasing arrangements principally for the provision of office space, IT equipment and motor vehicles.

Synod assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease at inception of the contract. A lease conveys the right to direct the use and obtain substantially all of the economic benefits of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Measurement and recognition of leases as a lessee

At lease commencement date, Synod recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability in its statement of financial position. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which is made up of the initial measurement of the lease liability, any initial direct costs incurred by Synod, an estimate of any costs to dismantle and remove the asset at the end of the lease, and any lease payments made in advance of the lease commencement date (net of any incentives received).

Synod depreciates the right-of-use asset on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Synod also assesses the right-of-use asset for impairment when such indicators exist.

At the commencement date, Synod measures the lease liability at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at that date, discounted using Synod's incremental borrowing rate because as the lease contracts are negotiated with third parties it is not possible to determine the interest rate that is implicit in the lease. The incremental borrowing rate is the estimated rate that Synod would have to pay to borrow the same amount over a similar term, and with similar security to obtain an asset of equivalent value. This rate is adjusted should the lessee entity have a different risk profile to that of Synod.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are made up of fixed payments, variable payments based on a rate, amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee and payments arising from options reasonably certain to be exercised.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced by lease payments that are allocated between repayments of principal and finance costs. The finance cost is the amount that produces a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the lease liability.

Synod as lessor

As a lessor Synod classifies its leases as either operating or finance leases.

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the underlying asset and is classified as an operating lease if it does not.

Synod classifies the sublet of office space and lease of land and properties of Narana as operating leases.

3.6 Property settlement in trust

Property settlements in trust represent sale proceeds received from the sale of church property where a decision on the distribution of proceeds is yet to be determined, or the settlement is incomplete.

3.7 Impairment of assets

Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment when events or circumstances arise that indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For a not-for-profit entity, value in use is determined based on the depreciated replacement cost of the asset.

Assets with indefinite life are tested annually for impairment.

3.8 Financial instruments

Recognition, initial measurement and derecognition

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Synod becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument and are measured initially at fair value adjusted by transaction costs, except for those carried at fair value through profit or loss, which are measured initially at fair value. Subsequent measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities are described below.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets

Except for those trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component and are measured at the transaction price, all financial assets are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs (where applicable).

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified into the following categories upon initial recognition:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)

Classifications are determined by both:

- Synod's business model for managing the financial asset
- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in profit or loss are presented within finance costs, finance income or other financial items, except for impairment of trade receivables, which is presented within other expenses.

Subsequent measurement financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVPL):

- they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows
- the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Synod's cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)

Financial assets that are held within a different business model other than 'hold to collect' or 'hold to collect and sell' are categorised at fair value through profit and loss. Further, irrespective of business model, financial assets whose contractual cash flows are not solely payments of principal and interest are accounted for at FVPL. Funds invested in U Ethical Diversified Income Trust, U Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust, U Ethical Growth Portfolio and U Ethical Australian Equities fall into this category.

Impairment of Financial assets

AASB 9's impairment requirements use more forward looking information to recognise expected credit losses - the 'expected credit losses (ECL) model'. Instruments within the scope of the requirements include loans and other debt-type financial assets measured at amortised cost and trade receivables that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The Synod considers a broader range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between:

- financial instruments that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk ('Stage 1'); and
- financial instruments that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition and whose credit risk is not low ('Stage 2').

'Stage 3' would cover financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date.

'12-month expected credit losses' are recognised for the first category while 'lifetime expected credit losses' are recognised for the second category.

Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial instrument.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less allowance for credit losses.

The collectability of the trade and other receivables are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Individual debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off when identified. The Synod recognises an allowance for credit losses based upon anticipated lifetime losses of trade receivables. The anticipated lifetime losses are determined with reference to historical experience and are regularly reviewed and updated.

Classification and measurement of financial liabilities

The Synod's financial liabilities include borrowings and trade and other payables.

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, and, where applicable, adjusted for transaction costs.

Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

All interest-related charges are reported in profit or loss are included within finance costs or finance income.

3.9 Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis for stationery stock and on an average cost basis for other inventories.

3.10 Tax exemption

The Synod is exempt from payment of income tax under Section 50-5 of the Australian Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

3.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash on hand, working capital cash account, and operating cash accounts for other agencies such as Narana.

3.12 Insurance fund operations

Insurance Fund Operations, as included in Synod Funds and Reserves, arranges the following major insurance covers for the Church in Victoria and Tasmania:

- Property (Industrial Special Risks)
- Public and Products Liability
- Professional Indemnity
- Fidelity
- Directors/Officers/Employment practices liability
- WorkCover

The Synod carries a significant level of self-insurance (deductibles). The deductibles are funded by the Insurance Reserve as designated by Synod in Synod funds, refer to Note 20.

3.13 Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits are benefits, other than termination benefits, that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service. Examples of such benefits include wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits and accumulating sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Long-term employee benefits

Long-term employee benefits are the employee benefits arising from annual leave and long service leave which are not to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees rendered the related service. The benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. The expected future payments include anticipated future salary inflation, experience of employee departures, periods of service, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the timing of the estimated future cash outflows.

3.14 Project receivables

Project receivables are amounts to be collected by the Synod, which resulted from funds provided by the Synod to assist with property projects.

The property projects relate to the following;

- a. Expenses incurred for the development of property held by the Synod and amounts are to be refunded by development partners; or
- b. The funds provided to congregations to assist with the development of the congregation's properties, and the amounts will be returned to the Synod upon successful development of the properties.

3.15 Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST components of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

3.16 Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Allowance for credit losses

The allowance for credit losses assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. The level of provision is assessed by taking into account the ageing of receivables, historical collection rates and specific knowledge of the individual parties' financial position.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Synod determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Impairment of non-financial assets

The Synod assesses impairment of non-financial assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Synod and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions.

Employee benefits provision

The liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Basis of consolidation for accounting purposes

Judgement has been exercised in determining which entities the Synod has control over and thus are included in the consolidation for accounting purposes.

The entities that are not deemed to be controlled entities of the Synod for the purposes of consolidation in the financial statements are disclosed in note 1 of the financial statements. Whilst the Synod provides limited general oversight, direction and administration, operational management responsibility and control rests with the individual entities. The Standing Committee has applied judgement and determined that the Synod does not control the above mentioned entities.

CSA provisions

The Synod assesses the risk exposure to CSA claims and estimates the monetary value of claims. This can include actuarial methods, statistical analysis, expert judgment and historical experience. Synod factors in uncertainties and potential future claims.

3.17 Discontinued operations

During 2023, the Synod Standing Committee resolved to conclude UC Camping operations and approve the sale of all UC Camping sites. Norval and Camp Acacia (in Halls Gap), Adekate Lodge (near Creswick), Grantville Lodge and Merricks Lodge. UC Camping's full operations, land and buildings were put out to tender. With the exception of Camp Acacia, all other camp sites were sold during 2023. In 2024, Camp Acacia was sold for \$1,109,000.

In 2024 the Wathaurong Co-Op indicated its interest in acquiring Narana Creations as an ongoing cultural centre in the Geelong district and beyond. This acquisition was complete in October 2024 and settlement will be in five years.

Synod recognised the sale of these camp sites and Narana operations as discontinued operations and follows AASB 5 for presentation and disclosure requirements:

- (a) single amount in the statement of comprehensive income comprising the total of:
 - (i) the profit or loss of discontinued operations; and
 - (ii) the gain or loss recognised on the measurement to fair value less costs to sell or on the disposal of the assets.
- (b) an analysis of the single amount in (a) into:
 - (i) the revenue, expenses and pre-tax profit or loss of discontinued operations; and
 - (ii) the gain or loss recognised on the measurement to fair value less costs to sell or on the disposal of the assets or disposal group(s) constituting the discontinued operation;
- (c) the net cash flows attributable to the operating, investing and financing activities of discontinued operations.

As at 31 December 2024, the land, buildings and properties of Narana have been reclassified as held for sale assets at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

4 Revenue from contracts with customers

Sales, fees and tariffs are summarized as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Major service lines		
Institutional contribution	3,975	3,545
Sales of merchandise	416	47
Professional services	10,268	9,165
	14,659	12,757
Timing of revenue recognition		
Products transferred at a point in time	416	47
Products and services transferred over time	14,243	12,710
	14,659	12,757

5 Other income

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Other income		
Rent	2,044	1,814
Other	949	559
	2,993	2,373

6 Other expenses

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Other expenses		
Motor vehicle and travelling expense	382	277
Postage, telephone, printing and stationery expense	964	393
Other expenses	888	672
	2,234	1,342

7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of the following:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	1,038	2,858
Cash and cash equivalents	1,038	2,858

The deposits are bearing 3.65% p.a. return on Westpac trading account. (2023:3.4%).

8 Current assets - receivables

Trade and other receivables consist of the following:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Trade receivables, gross	5,912	3,126
Allowance for expected credit losses	(456)	(289)
	5,456	2,837
Other receivables	6,557	6,476
	12,013	9,313

The carrying amounts disclosed above are the Synod's maximum possible credit risk exposure in relation to these instruments.

The movement in the allowance for credit losses can be reconciled as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of allowance for credit losses		
Balance 1 January	289	289
Debt recovered	(7)	-
Adjustment of allowance for expected credit losses	174	-
Balance 31 December	456	289

9 Current assets - investments

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Investments in U Ethical Cash Management Trust	52,612	69,284
Investments in U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust	71,841	66,978
Investments in U Ethical Diversified Income Trust	38,228	35,003
	162,681	171,265

10 Non-current assets – investments

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Investments in U Ethical Australian Equities Trust	367,165	309,353
	367,165	309,353

11 Current assets - other

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current assets – other		
Prepayments	1,525	1,841
	1,525	1,841

12 Non-current assets – receivables

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest bearing		
Loans to ministers, students and Church Institutions - unsecured (a)	9	184
Non-interest bearing		
Loans to ministers, students and Church Institutions - unsecured	238	529
Project receivables - unsecured	8,156	3,134
	8,403	3,847

- (a) Loans to ministers and students - These loans are provided to assist with purchase of motor vehicles, houses or to assist while students undertake education at Centre for Theology and Ministry. Interest rates vary between 1.6% and 4.3% depending on the type of loan. Loan terms are between 3 and 10 years.

13 Property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Land and buildings		
Land		
At cost	7,912	9,092
	7,912	9,092
Building		
At cost	14,061	15,920
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4,360)	(4,975)
	9,701	10,945
Total Land and Buildings	17,613	20,037
Plant and equipment		
Infrastructure		
At cost	1,939	2,005
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,242)	(1,209)
	697	796
Equipment, Fixture & Fittings		
At cost	2,577	2,461
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,836)	(1,829)
	741	632
Computer equipment		
At cost	4,461	4,067
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,527)	(2,906)
	934	1,161
Motor Vehicles		
At cost	-	59
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	(40)
	-	19
Art Work		
At cost	-	3
	-	3
Capital WIP		
At cost	14	-
	14	-
Total Plant and Equipment	2,386	2,611
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	19,999	22,648

Asset Category – 2024	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Transfer	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	9,092	451	(1,145)	-	(486)	7,912
Building	10,945	331	(136)	(322)	(1,117)	9,701
Infrastructure	796	-	(26)	(68)	(5)	697
Equipment, Fixture & Fittings	632	250	(23)	(118)	-	741
Computer equipment	1,161	412	-	(639)	-	934
Motor Vehicles	19	-	(15)	(4)	-	-
Art Work	3	3	(3)	-	-	-
Capital WIP	-	14	-	-	-	14
Total	22,648	1,458	(1,348)	(1,151)	(1,608)	19,999

Asset Category – 2023	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Transfer	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	10,682	3,023	(4,613)	-	-	9,092
Building	14,067	-	(3,618)	(406)	902	10,945
Infrastructure	1,764	-	(967)	(95)	94	796
Equipment, Fixture & Fittings	987	2	(452)	(167)	262	632
Computer equipment	1,338	58	(12)	(575)	352	1,161
Motor Vehicles	54	196	(234)	(12)	15	19
Art Work	-	3	-	-	-	3
Capital WIP	101	1,524	-	-	(1,625)	-
Total	28,993	4,806	(9,896)	(1,255)	-	22,648

14 Intangible assets

Detail of the Synod's other intangible assets and their carrying amounts are as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Data Warehouse	120	248
Balance 1 January	248	502
Additions	2	27
Amortisation	(130)	(269)
Disposal	-	(12)
Balance 31 December	120	248

15 Leases

15.1 Right-of-use assets

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Office spaces	16,083	18,227
Balance 1 January	18,227	20,371
Additions	-	-
Disposal	-	-
Depreciation	(2,144)	(2,144)
Balance 31 December	16,083	18,227

15.2 Lease Liability

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	1,968	1,838
Non-current	16,433	18,401
Total lease liability	18,401	20,239

The Synod has signed a 12-year lease agreement with Charter Hall Wholesale Management Limited for office spaces. The lease agreement includes 8 extension options, each for a further 5 years. The lease contract commenced in July 2020. At the end of 2024, the Synod is uncertain in regards to exercising the extension options at the end of the lease term.

Future minimum lease payments at 31 December 2024 were as follows:

	Minimum lease payments due						Total
	Within 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	After 5 years	
31 December 2023	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Lease payments	2,437	2,520	2,607	2,694	2,784	7,375	20,417
Finance charges	(469)	(415)	(357)	(294)	(228)	(253)	(2,016)
Net present values	1,968	2,105	2,250	2,400	2,556	7,122	18,401

16 Current liabilities - trade and other payables

Trade and other payables recognised consist of the following:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Trade payables	2,293	108
Other creditors and accruals	7,066	7,663
Insurance claims outstanding	684	1,075
Income received in advance (contract liability)	2,750	627
Total trade and other payables	12,793	9,473

All above liabilities are short-term. The carrying values are considered to be a reasonable approximation fair value.

17 Current liabilities – short term provisions

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Ministers' benefits	4,837	4,839
Employee benefits	2,369	2,331
Other provisions	5,870	3,854
Short term provisions	13,076	11,024

18 Current liabilities - other

Other liabilities can be summarised as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Property settlements in trust	28,700	30,324
Other liabilities – current	28,700	30,324

19 Non-current liabilities

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Other Liabilities:		
Income received in advance	199	219
Contract liabilities	123	369
	322	588
Provisions:		
Employee entitlements	48	91
	48	91

The contract liabilities are raised from the contract between Synod and The Australian Province of the Society of Jesus (Society) in 2021 in regards to operation and management of Dalton McCaughey Library (DML). Synod is managing the operations of DML utilising DML's existing net assets and provide the access to Society to the theological resources in DML. The balance of DML's net assets, other than gifted paintings and research collections, are recorded as a contract liability which enables Synod to fulfil the performance obligations of the contract in the future.

20 Synod funds and reserves

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Synod Funds		
Not designated (i)	136,373	97,754
Designated by the Synod (ii)	174,560	178,518
Specified by trust/bequest (iii)	206,536	191,811
Total funds	517,469	468,083

i) **Not Designated** – These are reserves which are unrestricted and include Unearmarked Synod Funds, Bequests received for the Uniting Church in Australia with no restrictions as to their use or investment and the Mission Support Funds, including some property sales proceeds in discernment.

ii) **Designated by the Synod** – These reserves are for a specific purpose as decided by the Synod or a decision of a Commission or Board of the Synod.

iii) **Specified by Trust/Bequest** – These are reserves where the purpose is decided by a bequest or a trust. They are given for a specific purpose and the capital may need to be invested in perpetuity. Trust funds include donations received for specific appeals (including the Share Community Appeal).

21 Provisions

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current provisions		
Ministers benefits	4,837	4,839
Employee benefits	2,369	2,331
Other provisions	5,870	3,854
	13,076	11,024
Non-Current provisions		
Employee entitlement (Note 19)	48	91
	48	91

A reconciliation of each class of other provision is provided below:

	Legal	IBNR	CSA/Forced adoption	Total
Balance at 1 January 2024	430	924	2,500	3,854
Provision made during the year	-	620	2640	3,260
Provision used during the year	-	-	(640)	(640)
Provision reversed during the year	(430)	(174)	-	(604)
Balance 31 December 2024	-	1,370	4,500	5,870

i) **Legal** - As a result of a litigation, Synod assumed the legal cost of \$430,000 measured on provision basis and provision was reversed in 2024.

ii) **IBNR** - The insurance claims incurred but not registered (IBNR) and Synod measured on provision basis.

iii) **CSA/Forced adoption** – The insurance claims related to CSA and forced adoption.

22 Related party transactions

Standing committee members are appointed at each ordinary Synod meeting on a rotating basis.

The members listed below were appointed at the Synod meeting held in either 2022 or 2023 for a term up to the next Synod meeting.

Members of standing committee

The members listed below were appointed at the Synod meeting held in 2022 for a term up to 2025 Synod meeting.

Lisa Carey	John Diprose OAM	Helen Geard
Matthew Julius (resigned in September 2024)	Rev Ikani Vaitohi	Jacob Westley
Lindsay Oates (appointed in September 2024)		

The members listed below were appointed at the Synod meeting held in 2023 for a term up to 2026 Synod meeting.

Fiona Ensor	Cathie Halliwell	Rev Anneke Oppewal
Cam Shields	Rev Lucas Taylor	Assoc Prof Paul Chandler

The member appointed as the UAICC Victoria appointee to the Standing Committee as specified in the Standing Committee By-laws in 2024

Rev Will Pickett

The ex-officio members are listed below.

Rev Denise Liersch (Ex-Moderator)	Alison Overeem (UAICC Tasmania)	Rev Dr Mark Lawrence (Gen Sec)
Rev David Fotheringham (Moderator-Elect)	Rev Salesi Faupula (Ex-officio as Moderator-elect from Nov 2023)	

22.1 Remuneration and retirement benefits of key management personnel

Income paid or payable, or otherwise made available, to Standing Committee members by the entity and related parties in connection with the management of affairs of the entity.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Management personnel remuneration	431	379
	431	379

22.2 Transactions with related entities

Related party transactions with Uniting Ethical Investors Limited

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income from related party transactions with Uniting Ethical Investors Limited		
Interest received on deposits in U Ethical managed funds	29,886	18,009
Institutional contribution	750	1,100
Information technology service provision	145	205
Leased office space	276	195
Accounting service provision	75	78
People and Culture services	7	26
	31,139	19,613
Balance with Uniting Ethical Investors Limited from related party transactions		
Accounts receivable	67	63
	67	63

Related party transactions with Uniting AgeWell Limited

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income from related party transactions with Uniting AgeWell Limited		
Information technology service provision	7,688	6,914
Leased office space	593	434
Ground lease	572	527
Legal and property fees	45	91
Institutional contribution	1,346	1,366
	10,244	9,332
The Synod's distribution to Uniting AgeWell Limited		
Interest on bequests	9	18
	9	18
Balance with Uniting AgeWell Limited from related party transactions		
Accounts receivable	3,849	1,377
	3,849	1,377

The Synod leases properties to Uniting AgeWell Limited with lease term of 99 years. The annual rent was \$1.00 in 2019 and 2021 and commencing 1 Jul 2021, rent is charged based on discounted market value.

Related party transactions with Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income from related party transactions with Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited		
Institutional contribution	1,255	1,080
Leased office space	509	379
Legal and property fees	207	275
	1,971	1,734
The Synod's distribution to Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited		
Grant payments	2,271	1,535
	2,271	1,535
Balance with Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited from related party transactions		
Accounts receivable	888	536
	888	536

Other related party transactions

Through the course of its normal operations, the Synod will transact with other bodies within the Uniting Church. These operations will include the following activities for which the value of transactions is as per the amounts included in the statement of comprehensive income:

- Insurances
- Mission & Service Giving
- Grants paid
- Workers Compensation
- Levy for Ministers Long Service Leave, Sick leave and Ministers Awaiting Placement
- Fees for use of campsites
- Sales of books

There were no other related party transactions during the financial year.

23 Auditor's remuneration

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditor of Synod – Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd		
Audit and review of financial statements	107	102
Other services	-	-
	107	102

24 Financial instruments

A. Accounting classification

The following table shows the carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss		
Investments in U Ethical Cash Management Trust (Note 9)	52,612	69,284
Investments in U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust (Note 9)	71,841	66,978
Investments in U Ethical Diversified Income Trust (Note 9)	38,228	35,003
Investments in U Ethical Australian Equities Trust (Note 10)	367,165	309,353
	529,846	480,618
Financial assets measured at amortised cost		
Cash at bank (Note 7)	1,038	2,858
Trade receivables (Note 8)	5,456	2,837
Other receivables (Note 8)	6,557	6,476
Loans to ministers, students and Church Institutions (Note 12)	8,403	3,847
	21,454	16,018
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade payable (Note 16)	2,293	108
Other creditors and accruals (Note 16)	7,066	7,663
Property settlements in trust (Note 18)	28,700	30,324
	38,059	38,095

B. Measurement of fair value

The fair value of cash and cash equivalents and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amounts.

The net fair value of other monetary financial assets and financial liabilities is based upon market prices where a market exists or by discounting the expected future cash flows by the current interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

All financial assets measured at fair value are based on level 2 inputs in the fair value hierarchy. Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices in an active market. No transfers across levels has occurred.

25 Discontinued operations

On 3rd June 2023, the Synod Standing Committee resolved to conclude UC Camping operations and approve the sale of all UC Camping sites; Norval and Camp Acacia (in Halls Gap), Adekate Lodge (near Creswick), Grantville Lodge and Merricks Lodge. UC Camping's full operations, business, land and buildings were put out to tender. UC Camping sites, except for Camp Acacia, were sold for \$10.8m in the last quarter of 2023. In 2024, Camp Acacia was sold for \$1,109,000.

At the beginning of 2024 the Wathaurong Co-Op indicated its interest in acquiring Narana Creations as an ongoing cultural centre in the Geelong district and beyond. This acquisition was complete in October 2024 and settlement will be in five years. As result, the building and properties of Narana of \$1,608,000 was reclassified as Held for sale assets as at 31 December 2024.

Revenue & expenses and gains & losses relating to the discontinuation of this activity have been removed from the results of continuing operations and are shown as a single line item on the face of the statement of comprehensive income in current year performance and comparatives. The operating results of the discontinued operation up to its disposal were as follows:

	2024			2023		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Narana	Camping	Total	Narana	Camping	Total
Revenue						
Sales, fees & tariffs	308	-	308	796	5,197	5,993
Grants	98	-	98	1	-	1
Gifts, donations & bequests	-	-	-	5	-	5
Other income						
Other income	58	-	58	56	91	147
Total income	464	-	464	858	5,288	6,146
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	378	-	378	684	2,036	2,720
Depreciation and amortisation expense	47	-	47	45	195	240
Grants expense	14	-	14	-	33	33
Cost of goods sold and conference expense	243	-	243	284	1,240	1,524
Consulting and legal fee expense	-	-	-	3	2	5
Repairs, maintenance and property expenses	52	-	52	58	522	580
Internet, security and services	3	-	3	3	1	4
Other expenses	29	-	29	32	169	201
Borrowing costs	-	-	-	-	8	8
Total expenses	766	-	766	1,109	4,206	5,315
Net operating result from discontinued operations	(302)	-	(302)	(251)	1,082	831
Gain on sale of other properties	-	1,109	1,109	-	1,392	1,392
Gain on sale of business	(37)	-	(37)	-	573	573
Net gain (loss) from discontinued operations	(339)	1,109	770	(251)	3,047	2,796

26 Contingent liabilities

The Assembly and Synod continues to work collaboratively on a single response to the Commonwealth redress model. Similarly, the Synod seeks to respond to Forced Adoption claims as appropriate. The organisation and its related entities may have financial exposure to civil and redress (CSA only) claims in the future and at the date of this report it is not possible to reliably estimate the quantum (if any) of additional claims of this nature which may emerge. The Assembly and Synod continues to closely monitor the impact on the organisation and its related parties.

There are other legal matters in Synod where provision is not required as, at the date of preparation of this financial report, it is not probable that a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and/or the amount is not capable of reliable measurement.

Synod executed a deed of guarantee that underwrites the unsecured loans to congregations and agencies from the Development Fund with total value nil. (2023: \$13,000).

In February 2023, Synod entered into a loan agreement with Uniting Ethical Investors Limited to finance the capital improvement work and working capital of The Scots School Albury. The loan of up to \$9m is secured by properties which are held by Synod and used by The Scots School Albury. As at 31 December 2024 the amount drawn down totals \$1.096m.

27 Commitments

Synod missional grants assist congregations and UCA entities to fund mission & ministry programs and capital works projects. These grants come from a combination of bequests, specific purpose funds and general Synod funds (Mission and Service Giving and interest on investments). Synod's 2025 Budget includes \$5.38m of missional grants (2024:\$5.19m). During 2024, of \$5.19m budgeted grants expense, \$1.77m was unpaid as at December 2024.

28 Events after the report date

On 27 March 2025, Synod entered a contract with Zauner Construction Pty Ltd for the construction of a junior college at The Scots School Albury. The project is valued at \$10.7 million and is materially funded through a loan from Westpac at rate of 5.83% p.a. with 2-year term. The loan agreement with Westpac is not signed at signing date of the financial report.

The Synod's shared service agreement for providing Information Technology Services to Uniting Agewell Limited concluded on 31 March 2025. This agreement's contribution to the Synod's revenue for 2024 and 2023 can be found in note 22.2 in the financial statements.