



President: Mrs Helen Stewart
Vice-President: Rev Chris Ponniah

Secretary: Dr Janette Elliott
Treasurer: Dr Peter J Wilkinson

AAMS Committee Meeting: Minutes

Friday 13 February 2026 at 5.30pm
Yarra Theological Union (YTU) and Via ZOOM

Present:

Helen Stewart, Michael Kelly, Peter Wilkinson, Chris Ponniah, Sandy Boyce, Joy Sandefur, Dean Eland, Patrick McInerney, Janette Elliott.

By Invitation: Anthony Le Duc SVD

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Darrell Jackson, Sue Holdsworth, Xaoili Yang, Albano Da Costa and Fr Jacob Joseph.

AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians in this land and pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

2. Prayer

Helen Stewart led the prayer for the meeting.

3. Welcome

Helen Stewart welcomed all to the meeting

4. Matters arising from Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted unanimously.

5. President's Report

Helen Steward provided a verbal report noting that the May meeting of both AJMS and AAMS is yet to be finalised. Both Committees will be advised. She also noted the request from EBSCO that there be a contact person. Peter Wilkinson and Sandy Boyce will have a conversation about this outside the meeting and report back to the Committee.



President: Mrs Helen Stewart
Vice-President: Rev Chris Ponniah

Secretary: Dr Janette Elliott
Treasurer: Dr Peter J Wilkinson

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report covered the Financial period of 1 July 2025 to 10 February 2026. Peter Wilkinson presented his report noting the change in arrangements for management of the AAMS website maintenance and updates. Geoff Hurst from Uniting Vision will host and maintain the website relieving AAMS of considerable expense. Heartburst who had taken on the hosting of the website and maintenance, will now only manage the registration of the two domain names: missionstudies.org and missionstudies.org.au.

Action: Sandy Boyce has generously offered to keep the website up to date. This also applies to Facebook.

7. Secretary's Report

Due to time constraints the Secretary's Report was tabled as read.

8. Proposal for Honorary Membership: Dr James D'Orsa – Spouse of Late President of AAMS, Professor Therese D'Orsa

Peter Wilkinson proposed that Dr James D'Orsa be awarded an Honorary Membership in the spirit of what had historically been awarded the spouse of Rev. Dr Ross Langmead. The Committee were in unanimous support.

Action: Peter Wilkinson and Helen Stewart will draft the Invitation and Michael Kelly will write to Jim. Michael Kelly will make the application for this honorary award.

9. Delay in posting of December edition of AJMS

Helen Stewart noted the delay in post of the December edition of AJMS, but was happy to report at the time of this meeting that the journals had now in fact been posted.

10. Activities in State Networks: SA, VIC, NSW, QLD?, WA?

Dean Eland shared a conference planned by the S.A history network on the theme: "What's happening to Christ in the 50s and 60s?" This will take place 23 May 2026. This network has connections with the local community.

Action: Patrick McInerney will share what's happening in N.S.W at the next meeting



President: Mrs Helen Stewart
Vice-President: Rev Chris Ponniah

Secretary: Dr Janette Elliott
Treasurer: Dr Peter J Wilkinson

11. EBSCO arrangements

As noted above Peter Wilkinson and Sandy Boyce will discuss how best to manage EBSCO request from Rajesh Reddy for a liaison from AAMS.

Note: Peter Wilkinson has accepted the invitation to be the Liaison Person for EBSCO.

12. Future AAMS Conference

The Committee were asked to consider a theme of the next AAMS conference in 2028.

13. Online publication of Journal (Anthony Le Duc SVD in attendance via webinar link)

Helen Stewart welcomed Anthony Le Duc SVD to the meeting and invited him to share the process for moving the AJMS journal fully online. Anthony Le Duc SVD provided a comprehensive outline of the process and steps involved to achieve this outcome. Helen Stewart thanked him for his generous presentation and time. The Committee will consider the presentation and discuss it further before making any decisions.

Action: Anthony Le Duc will share his slides with the AJMS and AAMS Committee.

14. Suggestions for June or December Journal:

The itemised suggestions below were shared for the 20th Anniversary of AAMS. Helen Stewart shared the theme suggested for the June journal “Current Trends in Missiology.”

Darrell Jackson has also offered to write an article for the next journal, and noted two students who may have articles for submission.

Action: Helen Stewart or Michael Kelly to confirm with Darrell Jackson.

- a. Over past 20 years how has the understanding and approach to Mission in the Australian and New Zealand context changed, developed, or been transformed?
- b. Invite Presidents in first 10 years - Larry Nemer RIP, Paul Dalzell, Wendy Snooks, Moyra Dale, Jacob Kavunkal, Bruce Newnham, Peter Wilkinson, Darren Cronshaw – and presidents in last 10 years - Helen Stewart, Noel Connolly, Patrick McInerney, Rene

AAMS Secretary, Dr Janette Elliott, c/o Dorish Maru, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill, VIC 3128, Australia
Janette_elliott@yahoo.com

Website: www.missionstudies.org.au

The Australian Association for Mission Studies, ABN 20 190 752 965



President: Mrs Helen Stewart
Vice-President: Rev Chris Ponniah

Secretary: Dr Janette Elliott
Treasurer: Dr Peter J Wilkinson

Erwick, Therese D'Orsa, Dean Eland, Xiaoli Yang, Sandy Boyce, Albano Da Costa, Helen Stewart – to write articles.

- c. Invite Secretaries (over 20 years) – Ross Langmead RIP, Ian Grant, Darrell Jackson, Jannette Elliott – to write articles
- d. Invite Treasurers (over 20 years) – Heather Weedon, Joy Sanderfur, Peter Wilkinson – to write articles
- e. Invite Journal Editors (over 20 years) – Cyril Hally RIP, Bruce Newnham, Ross Mackinnon, Peter Woodruff, Graham Hill, Michael Kelly – to write articles
- f. Review of Conferences over previous 20 years:
 - 2008 – Canberra: *Christian Mission in the Public Square* (40 papers presented)
 - 2011 – Sydney: *Mission in a Globalized World* (5 keynote addresses and 30 papers presented)
 - 2014 – Adelaide: *Margins, Mission and Diversity: Taking up the Challenge* (many papers have appeared in the book *We Are Pilgrims*).
 - 2017 – Melbourne: *Reimagining Home: understanding, reconciling, and engaging with God's stories together*
 - 2025 – Melbourne: *Missio Dei in Today's World*

15. Other business

17. Dates of future Committee meetings: 1 May 2026: AJMS – 4.30pm; AAMS – 5.30pm 14 August 2026: AJMS – 4.30pm; AAMS – 5.30pm

The Executive will discuss alternate dates for the May meetings as 1 May is not possible. The Committees of AJMS and AAMS will be advised of the new date.

18. Close of Meeting with Prayer

Chris Ponniah closed the meeting with a prayer.