

encouraged, therefore, to assist ethnic congregations of other Christian traditions to provide adequate pastoral care for their people, and to obtain access to buildings suitable for their needs.



**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY**

**“WE ARE A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH”**

**A statement adopted by the Assembly of the Uniting Church in  
Australia, July 1985**

1. The Uniting Church in Australia is a union of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Its unity is both the gift of God through Christ who is the head of the church and the fruit of the labours of those who sought to be responsive to the prayer of Christ that his disciples might be one.

2. The Basis of Union also points to the fact that the Uniting Church unites not only three former denominations, but also Christians of many cultures and ethnic origins:

Paragraph 2- the Uniting Church “believes that Christians in Australia are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural and economic, national and racial boundaries...” Jesus Christ has made peace between people of every race, culture and class. This unity too is a gift of God, a foretaste of the reconciliation of all things in Christ. It is also a goal to be achieved as we commit ourselves in one fellowship to achieve justice, affirm one another’s cultures, and care for any who are the victims of racial discrimination, fear and economic exploitation.

3. The fourth Assembly of the Uniting Church welcomes the progress that has been made in the last twenty years towards the formation of a society in Australia in which people of many races and cultures live together. The Assembly rejoices that successive governments have substantially removed racial criteria from the policies covering the selection of migrants and the reception of refugees, and that in particular significant

*\*Footnote: The Commission [for Mission 1985] has not found an entirely appropriate word to describe congregations composed of people of cultures other than Aboriginal or Anglo Celtic, and worshipping in languages other than these. The word “ethnic” is used throughout to describe such.*

*Additional note - 2009: We still seek after a more appropriate and acceptable description. While the phrase Anglo-Celtic is used most often to describe any person of white/western/European descent, there is increasing discontent with this as many such people are neither Anglo nor Celtic. The rather complex phrase “racially, culturally and linguistically diverse” is used at times. The simple definitions of first peoples’ and second peoples’ are occasionally used to differentiate between indigenous peoples and all those who have come later. [National Director]*