

MANDATE

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY WORKING GROUP

RESPONSIBLE TO:

The Assembly

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS:

The Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee

VISION STATEMENT:

Education for ministry in the Uniting Church will:

foster the centrality of the Scriptures in the life of the Church and the work of ministry; as described in the Basis of Union;

inspire the participation of the people of God in the mission of God revealed in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit;

strengthen resiliency, passion and competence for ministry in the 21st century;

stimulate lifelong learning and formation in the Christian life for all people;

celebrate the shared ministry of people of God

MISSION STATEMENT:

To advise the Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee on the standards of formation, education and training for the ministry of the Word, ministry of Deacon, ministry of Pastor, and ministry of Lay Preacher in the Uniting Church.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Advise the Assembly on:
 - policies relating to standards of formation, education and training for the specified ministries in the Uniting Church, including continuing education, professional development and supervision;
 - requirements for the recognition of an approved centre for training for ministry.
2. Facilitate regular national consultations of the faculties of approved centres for training for ministry and synod lay education and leadership development agencies, including maintaining awareness of federal government requirements for the higher and vocational education sector and how Synods manage the relationship for the sake of ministry
3. Facilitate cooperation and the sharing of expertise and resources for education for ministry between the synods and with ecumenical partners.
4. Encourage regular national networking of key leaders in formation, theological education, continuing education for ministry, lay education and leadership development, including MEBs and other Assembly agencies.

MEMBERSHIP

- A Chairperson appointed by the Assembly
- 10 people, appointed by the Standing Committee, who have a balance of academic and practical experience and with specific expertise in
 - Strategic, innovative thinking about the future of the church
 - Theology
 - Missiology
 - Ministry Practice
 - Formation for Discipleship and Ministry

- Higher Education
 - Vocational Education and Training
 - Distance Education
 - Culturally contextual education
 - Practice of theological education
- including one person from each Synod, and reflecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Uniting Church.
- Two persons appointed by the UAICC
 - Up to 4 co options