

FED

2014



Formation. Education. Discipleship.



What is FED?

In March 2013, the Assembly Standing Committee received the Christian Education Research Report and adopted the following resolution:

13.11.02 To note Assembly minute 00.28.03 (9th Assembly)

To name the teaching ministry as a core function of each council of the church and to affirm that the Assembly has a role in Christian Education.

The ASC established the Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group in July 2013,

The FED Vision

The Assembly Standing Committee sees the role of the Assembly in providing a cohesive national vision:

- ☀ Congregations as lifelong learning communities of discipleship for the sake of the mission of God;
- ☀ Church leaders as effective educational leaders, capable of guiding a community in forming disciples;
- ☀ Congregations developing a culture of learning for and from engagement in mission: mission-shaping discipleship.

According to this vision, the Assembly has a role in promoting Christian education as a distinctive ministry yet also integral to worship, teaching, doctrine, formation, community life and mission.



Rev Dr Ian Price (Chairperson), Ms Susan Burt (SA), Mr Rohan Pryor (VIC/TAS), Rev Lindsay Cullen (NSW/ACT), Rev Sue Ellis (SA), Mr Drew Hanna (VIC/TAS), Rev Duncan MacLeod (NSW/ACT), Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (VIC/TAS), Mr Rick Morrell (WA), Rev Swee-Ann Koh (VIC/TAS), Dr Deidre Palmer (SA), Ms Elaine Rae (QLD), Rev Fie Marino (VIC/TAS), Mr Neil Thorpe (QLD), Rev Robin Yang (VIC/TAS), Rev Tom Kerr (staff), Mr Craig Mitchell (staff), Rev Glenda Blakefield (staff)

Vision

- ☀ Formation and education are vital for growing disciples in Christian community;
- ☀ Christian identity is formed within the theology and ethos of the Uniting Church;
- ☀ Formation and education shape Christian identity within our globalised, pluralistic, multi-faith world;
- ☀ We learn in community in ways that reflect who we are as an Australian Uniting Church.

ASC, March 2013

FED Staff

Craig Mitchell, National Director Formation, Education & Discipleship



Craig has spent 2014 laying foundations for FED's work - collaboration with synod and presbytery mission and education workers; engaging with national networks (in worship, mission & evangelism, lay education, ministerial education, UCA schools, Assembly staff); offering training and resourcing; planning new discipleship resources; developing communication networks; and finding and sharing resources for growing disciples in faith communities.

Tom Kerr, National Faith Development Consultant, Youth & Young Adults



Tom has had a busy year following Yurora - NCYC 2014 in Sydney in January, a fantastic multicultural event. We hosted a consultation on national youth events and formed a team of young adults and adults to provide direction for these in the future. The recent National Young Adults Leaders' Conference (NYALC) in December 2014 and About FACE in January 2015 have been significant areas of work. Tom is also working on ways in which youth and children's workers access national professional development events.

FED Stories

Formation. Education. Discipleship.

Regional conversations about the practices of growing lifelong disciples have been launched. In 2014 they were held in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane. More events are being planned for 2015.

FED News

Formation. Education. Discipleship.

Online newsletter curating UCA and other information, resources and guidance for leaders. www.fednews.org

FED Videos

Formation. Education. Discipleship.

Online videos of ministry leaders telling local stories of formation and education with children, youth and adults. www.fedvideos.org

FED WWW

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Connections with ministers and lay leaders across the UCA through blogs, websites, Facebook, Twitter (see back page for details).



Events

Rev Tom Kerr and the FED Events team provide direction, organisation and support for national youth and young adults events.



YURORA: NCYC 2014

NCYC 2014 was attended by about 1000 people and was significant due to the participation of indigenous people and CALD young people. The new festival-style program was a great success. Thanks to Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery for taking the risk - such a great gift to the church. Planning is underway for NCYC 2017.

NYALC

National Young Adults Leaders Conference



In December, 45 young adults gathered from diverse cultures - South Sudanese, Indonesian, Korean, Filipino, Anglo and 10 indigenous communities. Resourced by an excellent team of leaders including the President and President-elect, Congress leaders and others, they learned, laughed, prayed, shared and were stretched and affirmed. A life-changing week.

About FACE

30 years after the first national About FACE project, the faith and culture exchange continues with intergenerational groups visiting indigenous communities in January 2015. They will then spend time at the UAICC national gathering in Tasmania. We value the partnership with the VicTas Synod and the Congress in hosting this program.



Resources

The FED staff and Working Group are developing the following resources for publication in 2015.

A Vision for Lifelong Discipleship

- ◆ A series of three brochures to assist congregational leaders to plan formation and education with children, youth and adults.

Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion

- ◆ Resources for parents and children about baptism and communion
- ◆ Online and print resources to prepare youth and adults for baptism and confirmation
- ◆ Training and planning resources for church councils about baptism and confirmation (in collaboration with the Worship Working Group)

Preamble to the Constitution

- ◆ A study guide with DVD to help people understand the background, substance and significance of the new Preamble (in collaboration with the Doctrine Working Group)



“We are the UCA” Video Project

- ◆ A series of short videos about the story, beliefs, values and mission of the Uniting Church. Suitable for newcomers to congregations, agencies and schools, preparation for baptism and confirmation. (in collaboration with UnitingCare and UC Schools Consultative Group)

Schools Religious Education Curriculum Framework

- ◆ Work is underway to develop a template to assist UCA schools in making decisions about shaping an approach to religious education that is consistent with the beliefs and ethos of the Uniting Church.

Projects

National Lay Education Discipleship Framework

The FED staff and Working Group are seeking to develop a template for learning for discipleship and leadership that will assist synods, presbyteries and congregations to plan learning experiences and identify helpful resources.

Period of Discernment

Oversight of the Period of Discernment now falls within the mandate of the FED Working Group,

National Leadership Learning Exchange

The FED unit is also working with synod staff to explore the development of an online platform which would assist people in synod and presbytery leadership roles to collaborate and share resources in areas of mutual interest.

NextGens

In 2015 the FED staff will seek to connect with networks of second and third generation CALD communities and those who resource them.

Communication & Social Media

Here's how people can connect with FED work nationally. Click links to visit WWW.

Assembly Website

assembly.uca.org.au/education
assembly.uca.org.au/youth-and-young-adults-faith-

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/UCAChildrensMinistry
267 Likes to date

Facebook Group - Discipleship

www.facebook.com/groups/formingfaith/
364 members

Twitter Feed

[@UCACChristianEd](https://twitter.com/UCACChristianEd)
196 followers

FED News

fednews.org

FED Videos

fedvideos.org

About Face

aboutface.org.au

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/UCAFED
226 Likes to date

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/UCAUnitingYouth
409 Likes to date

Facebook Group - Multimedia

www.facebook.com/groups/multimediaministry
379 members

Craig's Blog

growing-disciples.org

Tom's Blog

raidingthefridge.wordpress.com

NCYC

ncyc.com.au

NYALC

nyalc.org.au

CONTACT DETAILS

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