



Uniting Church
in Australia



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

FAKA'APA'APA KI HE 'ULUAKI KAKAI 'OE FONUA

1. We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet, the _____ Nation (of the _____ peoples).

'Oku tau fakahaa'i 'oku tau fakataha 'i he fonua mo e kelekele, 'oseni mo e ngaahi vaitafe 'oe 'Uluaki Kakai 'oe Fonua ni, koe fonua (nation) _____ mo e kakai (people) _____ .

We pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all descendants of this/these nations who have cared for this place since creation.

Pea 'oku tau faka'apa'apa ki he kakai kotoa pe 'oe kuo hili pea mo e lolotonga ni mo kinautolu kotoa pe kuo nau tauhi 'ae fonua ni talu mei he kamata'anga.

We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

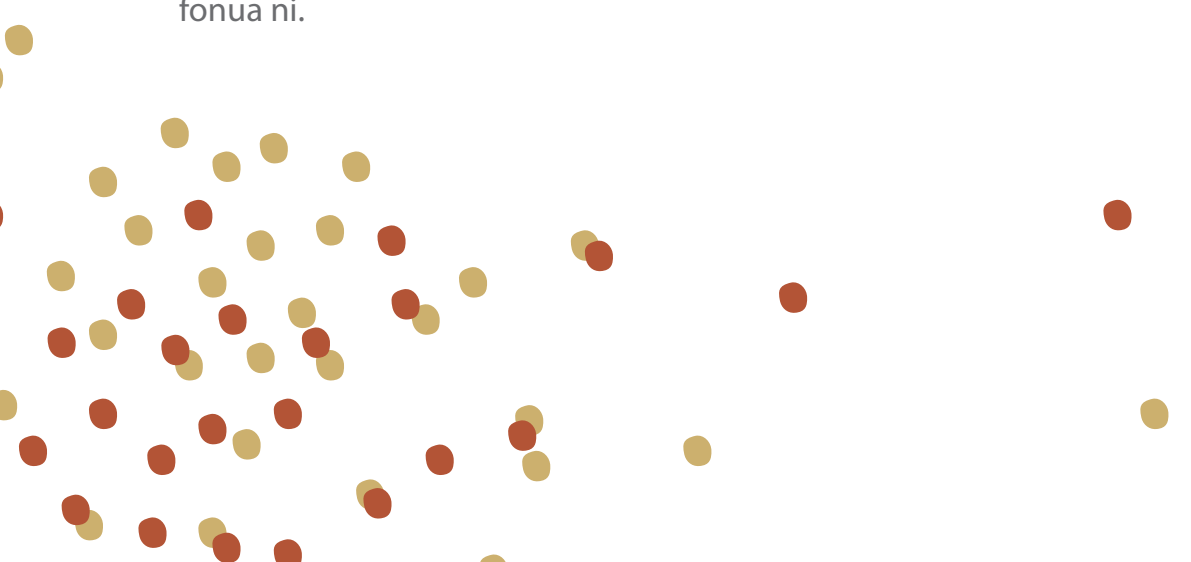
Pea 'oku tau faka'apa'apa foki ki he kakai 'Apolisinolo mo e Torres Strait Islanders kotoa pe 'oku nau 'i he fakataha ni.

2. This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the _____ people, traditional custodians of this land under God.

Koe fonua ni koe koloa ia 'ae 'Otua Mafimafi pea 'oku 'afio heni hono Laumalie. Pea 'oku tau faka'apa'apa ki he kakai _____ ko kinautolu na'a nau 'uluaki tauhi tukufakaholo 'ae fonua ni 'i he mafai 'oe 'Otua Mafimafi.

We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Pea 'oku tau fie fakaha 'a 'etau fie ngaue fakataha 'i he fakalelei mo loto taha ke tauhi 'ae fonua ni.



An “Acknowledgement of First Peoples” is a way of paying respect to First Peoples whenever we gather together, such as the commencement of worship, Church meetings and other occasions when the Church gathers.

It is an important expression of:

- the covenant which the Uniting Church in Australia has with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
- the Preamble to our Uniting Church in Australia Constitution
- the affirmation by the 15th Assembly in 2018 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as sovereign peoples in this land.

Acknowledgement of Country:

- recognises the place of Indigenous people as the First Peoples of this land
- promotes awareness of the history and culture of the First Peoples
- formally acknowledges First Peoples ongoing connection to land

Koe “Faka’apa’apa ki he ‘Uluaki Kakai ‘oe Fonua ni”, koe founa ia ‘o ‘etau fakahaa’i ‘a ‘etau faka’apa’apa ki he ‘Uluaki Kakai ‘oe Fonua ni ‘i he’etau ngaahi fakataha’anga, hange koe kamata ‘o ‘etau lotu, ngaahi fakataha’anga fakasiasi pea mo ha toe feohi’anga pe ‘ae siasi.

Ko hono mahu’inga ‘eni;

- Ko hono tauhi ia ‘oe kovinanite ‘ae Siasi Fakatahataha ‘o ‘Aositelelia pea mo e Fakataha (Congress) ‘ae kau ‘Apolisinolo mo e kau Torres Strait Islanders.
- He koe kongia ia ‘oe ‘Talamu’a’ pe talateu ki he Konisitutone ‘ae Siasi Fakatahataha ‘o ‘Aositelelia.
- Ke fakamanatu ‘a hono toe fakapapau’i ‘e he Fakataha ‘Assembly’ hono 15 ‘l he 2018 – ‘Koe kau ‘Apolisinolo mo e kau Torres Strait Islanders, koe ‘uluaki kakai kinautolu na’a nau nofo’i mo pule’i ‘ae fonua ni.

‘Oku tau faka’apa’apa mo fakahaa’i ‘oe ‘Uluaki kakai ‘oe fonua ni;

- ‘oku tau fakahaa’i mo faka’ilonga’i koe kau ‘Apolisinolo mo e kau Torres Strait Islanders koe ‘uluaki kakai kinautolu ‘oe fonua ni.
- ‘oku tau fie fakahaa’i mo talaki ke ‘ilo’i honau hisitolia mo honau anga fakafonua.
- ‘oku tau tali lelei mo fie fakamahino’i ‘ae mahu’inga ‘oe fekau’aki ‘ae ‘Uluaki Kakai ‘oe fonua ni pea mo e kelekele mo e fonua.



The Covenancing Painting:

This painting tells a sacred Creation story of the Wagalak sisters and speaks particularly of the alliance of four Clan Nations and their responsibilities for the land and waters of their yirralka (estates).

The painting also depicts the sacred ground where ceremonies take place and in particular the Wukindi ceremony, to restore relationship when blood is spilt and bring reconciliation.

The painting is in itself an initiation for UCA members to stand with members of the UAICC in their struggle for justice.

