

**Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
11 – 13 March 2005**

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

Preamble: In 1985 the Uniting Church proclaimed itself a multicultural church, acknowledging the changed context of ministry in Australia and the presence of people from culturally diverse background in its membership. This vision is one that needs to be continually nurtured.¹ Developing models of ministry and mission in a multicultural and multifaith environment remains a key challenge for the church.

Responsible to: The Assembly

Reporting Arrangements: The Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee

Mission Statement:

Develop respectful relationships with Indigenous people and across the life of the church, assisting the Church in learning to live as people from diverse cultures in worship, witness and service and foster models of cross-cultural ministry and mission that reflect the hospitality of God.

Mandate

- 1) Promote cross-cultural learning and sharing across the life of the Church- in congregations, Presbyteries, Synods, Assembly Agencies, Boards and Theological Colleges, and ecumenically. Reflect theologically on the shape of witness and mission in cross-cultural and multifaith contexts. Promote cross-cultural understanding between Indigenous people and later arrivals.
- 2) Support the ministry of migrant congregations and ministry to new and emerging groups and
 - To facilitate the development of policies that will enhance the multicultural life of the UCA, in consultation with the relevant communities¹
 - Encourage the networking of migrant congregations, particularly through National Conferences²
 - Translate key documents into community languages
 - Ensure consultation occurs with migrant communities when relationships with partner churches may impact on the life of their congregations
 - Monitor and educate on matters relating to the sharing of property
 - Encourage the participation of migrant members in the life of the Uniting Church
 - Advice and assist on matters relating to the orientation of ministers coming from overseas, and the settlement and reception of ministers and congregations from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- 3) Work collaboratively with Synods and other Assembly Agencies to support leaders who can minister across cultures and foster the development of multicultural congregations. Share creative models of cross cultural worship, mission and multicultural ministry with the rest of the Church.
- 4) Assist the national networking and co-ordination of the work of Synods in exploring ways of discipleship formation and leadership training of second generation members.
- 5) Assist the Church to fully utilise the gifts of members from culturally diverse backgrounds and develop policies and cultural sensitivities that respond to their needs. Organise National Consultations to review multicultural policies and practice and the implications of ethnic diversity for the ordering of the Church's life.

¹ For example policies on use of UCA property

² There are 7 National Conferences for the Tongan, Samoan, Indonesian, Fijian, Tamil, Chinese and Vietnamese communities

General:

The responsibilities include:

- focusing the activities of the agency on the vision of the Assembly as a whole;
- advising the Assembly and/or the Standing Committee on policy matters within their area of responsibility;
- making policy decisions where the Assembly or the Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the agency mandate or by resolution;
- assisting the National Director and any other agency staff in the implementation of policies determined by the Assembly and/or the Standing Committee;
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral support is offered to agency staff members;
- participating in cross-agency projects and teams established by the Assembly.

Power to appoint:

- To establish working groups for special tasks related specifically to the mandate.
- To make recommendations to the Standing Committee to establish other working groups for special tasks related to but not part of the mandate.

Membership of the Reference Committee:

- Chairperson (appointed by the Assembly);
- National Director;
- ten persons appointed by the Standing Committee;
- power to co-opt up to two additional persons to ensure appropriate competencies, representation and development of new leadership.