

UNITING FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP - MANDATE

An Assembly Team	Uniting Faith and Discipleship
Nature of Team	Permanent
Responsible To	Assembly
Reporting Arrangements	To the Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee To the Associate General Secretary, the Team Leader.
Mission Statement	Uniting Faith and Discipleship will strive to witness to the wholeness of the gospel and the Christian life by affirming and modelling the inter-relationship of scripture, mission, justice, education and theology. It will work in a way that helps the church to celebrate and express the theological, biblical and liturgical richness that arises from the Uniting church's racial, cultural and linguistic diversity within contemporary multifaith Australia It will foster discipleship in the Uniting Church for people of all ages. It will share the Church's vision of hope and transformation in the public forum.
Mandate	Uniting Faith and Discipleship will: (a) Provide innovative national leadership and vision in the areas of: theology Christian education discipleship and faith formation worship evangelism mission inter-faith relationships multicultural and cross-cultural life social justice, peace and environment covenanting and reconciliation (b) Educate, inform, resource, guide and respond to congregations, presbyteries, synods and schools, in the areas listed in (a) above, as they seek to live out life as a gospel community in contemporary Australia. (c) Develop Church proposals (for the consideration and decision-making of the Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee), positions and programs in the areas listed in (a) above. (d) Provide advice and support to the President and General Secretary in the areas listed in (a) above. (e) Advocate and participate in public debate in the areas listed in (a) above where it is appropriate that the Church, in the light of the Gospel, should declare its view. (f) Articulate the Assembly's vision and policies, as appropriate, to Uniting Church in Australia membership, other churches, ecumenical bodies, government and/or the community.

Contribution to the Life of the Assembly

Uniting Faith and Discipleship enables and resources the Assembly to:

- reflect, comment and act faithfully across a number of critical areas of its life;
- have its understanding in a number of primary and culturally diverse perspectives of scripture, mission, justice, education and theology.
- plan and set priorities, including taking up new work and responding to emerging needs and opportunities, whilst noting the Assembly's key directions.

Operational style

Uniting Faith and Discipleship:

- engages with and contributes to the whole work of the Assembly;
- considers its work through five broad lenses – scripture, mission, justice, education and theology;
- exercises leadership and ministry as a collegial team and in accordance with particular specialisations;
- is flexible as it responds to the changing circumstances within which its ministry is exercised and the decisions of the Assembly;
- is supported by specialist reference committees and working groups as determined by the Assembly Standing Committee;
- establishes and provides oversight for task groups and networks to assist with the fulfilment of the mandate
- develops intentional sharing between reference committees and groups to enhance its understanding of priorities and collaboration in the Assembly's work

Relation with Assembly agencies

Uniting Faith and Discipleship will maintain regular contact and seek to collaborate where possible with Assembly agencies and working groups.

Organisational Structure

Uniting Faith and Discipleship is a collegial team with expertise and responsibility for particular work areas, working collaboratively under the leadership of the Associate General Secretary.

Reference Committees and Working Groups

Specialist reference committees and working groups to support the work of Uniting Faith and Discipleship, will be determined and appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee.

• Role and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of reference committees and working groups in identified work areas are to:

- provide expert advice to staff members of Uniting Faith and Discipleship.
- provide support to staff members of Uniting Faith and Discipleship in the implementation of key priorities
- The Chairperson of the reference committee or working group is appointed by the Assembly
- Tenure is for the Assembly triennium

• Chairperson

• Membership

Membership will normally consist of Uniting Church members, and comprise:

- the staff member of Uniting Faith and Discipleship with responsibility for the work area within which the

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of Meetings 	<p>committee or working group operates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Associate General Secretary • the Chairperson • normally up to seven additional persons appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee, with expertise in the work area within which the committee operates <p>Tenure of membership is for the Assembly triennium.</p> <p>Reference committees or working groups may determine the frequency and style with which they meet, in keeping with work priorities and within the budget parameters established annually by the Assembly Standing Committee.</p>
<p>Task Groups and Networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role • Membership 	<p>Uniting Faith and Discipleship may establish or endorse such task groups and networks as required.</p> <p>The role of task groups and networks is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work on specific tasks as identified by Uniting Faith and Discipleship staff members or reference or advisory committees; • operate for as long as is required, with regular reviews of their tasks <p>The membership of task groups and networks will normally consist of Uniting Church in Australia members with relevant expertise.</p>

Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee March 2009