

CHURCH CONNECTIONS UNIT NATIONAL COMMITTEE MANDATE

Responsible to: The Assembly

Reporting Arrangements: The Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee

Mission Statement: In response to God's purpose for the world and its peoples, in collaboration with the Relief and Development Unit, to focus the vision and utilise the resources of the Church through:

- Participating in God's mission in the world in obedience to the call of Christ (Refer Basis of Union paragraphs 1 & 2);
- Encouraging and facilitating the Church to pray, study and participate in the mission of God in the world;
- Building and strengthening inter-church partnerships in mission and discipleship, including evangelism, particularly in Asia, the Pacific and Africa; and
- Enabling the Church to hear and respond to the needs of people, especially those in greatest need, throughout the world.

Mandate:

1. To provide leadership for the church in its calling as part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ among all peoples;
2. To work in partnership with churches, councils of churches and other appropriate agencies, to develop policies and programs in mission, discipleship, evangelism, education, welfare, community development, justice, peace and human rights including political engagement and advocacy;
3. To contribute to the worldwide endeavour of theological discussion and program innovation in the areas of bilateral and multilateral church to church partnerships in mission;
4. To develop, encourage and lead the Church's partnership in mission with churches overseas, especially in Asia, the Pacific and Africa in the context of the 21st century;
5. To develop relationships and innovative means of working with synods, presbyteries, congregations and groups across the life of the Church to facilitate international mission within the mission of God in the world;
6. To ensure that the international mission of the church is shared with and promoted to all sectors of the church; and
7. To emphasise a particular care for and solidarity with communities in greatest need.

Power to Appoint:

To establish sub-committees and working groups for various tasks related specifically to the Mandate.

Director:

The National Director of UnitingWorld will be the Director of the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld. Whenever a National Director of UnitingWorld is appointed attention will be given to the skills and expertise required to undertake the role of Director of the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld.

General:

As a Unit of the Assembly's Agency UnitingWorld, Church Connections will have the following general responsibilities:

1. Focusing the activities of the Agency on the vision of the Assembly as a whole;
2. Advising the Assembly and/or the Assembly Standing Committee on policy matters within their area of responsibility;
3. Making policy decisions where the Assembly or the Assembly Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the Mandate or by resolution; and
4. Implementing policies determined by the Assembly and/or the Assembly Standing Committee through the National Director, other Agency staff and volunteers.

Membership of the UnitingWorld Church Connections Unit National Committee:

The election of the National Committee will occur every three years at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting following the three yearly Assembly meeting. Casual vacancies will be filled by the Assembly Standing Committee as required.

In appointing members of the National Committee the Assembly Standing Committee will bear in mind the requirement that Committee members must demonstrate a commitment to issues relevant to the work of the Church Connections Unit. The Assembly Standing Committee may appoint people who are not members, members-in-association or adherents of the UCA where they have appropriate expertise and are prepared to serve in harmony with the ethos of the UCA and to work to achieve the objects of the Unit. Members must also have an openness to learn more in key areas of the work.

Membership of the National Committee:

- Twelve persons appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee after considering recommendations made by the National Director of UnitingWorld. Not more than two of these twelve persons may be staff of any Assembly Agency;
- The National Director of UnitingWorld; and
- The Assembly General Secretary or his/her nominee.

Governance and Other Organisational Matters:

The Governance and key organisational matters for the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld are stated in the attached Appendix and in the Governance Document maintained by the National Committee of the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld.

Relationship with UnitingWorld Relief and Development Unit:

While operating distinctly, the Church Connections Unit will work in close collaboration with the Relief and Development Unit, ensuring an integrated approach to the Church's partnerships wherever possible.

Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee November 2011.