

FORMATION, EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Formation, Education and Discipleship is the Christian Education and Faith Formation Unit of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group (FEDWG) is a working group of the Assembly. The working group and the unit sit within the Mandate of Uniting Faith and Discipleship and work collaboratively with other units, working groups and reference committees in the team.

It seeks to provide a cohesive vision of Christian education and faith formation to the Assembly and the national church to form and educate a people who live within and for the Mission of God. It engages in identifying and encouraging national collaboration and resourcing that assists congregations to be life- long learning communities of discipleship.

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide advice to the National Director in promoting Christian education in the church as a distinctive ministry yet also integral to worship, teaching, doctrine, formation, community life and mission.
- Provide advice to the National Director to Identify and encourage the development of resources including leadership development that will encourage congregations to be life-long learning communities.
- Provide advice to the National Director for a Christian Education approach within Uniting Faith and Discipleship and across assembly agencies and working Groups.
- Provide Christian education and faith formation perspectives in the areas of lay specified ministry and lay ministries to the Education for Ministry Working Group.
- Provision for researching the theory and practice of Christian Education in Australia and overseas and communicating the findings appropriately.
- Provide a national reference point for religious education in schools, Uniting Church schools policy, state school chaplaincy and tertiary chaplaincy.
- Responsibility to recommend to the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) policies, requirements and guidelines for national youth events e.g. the National Christian Youth Convention [NCYC; About FACE (Faith and Cultural Exchange)] and publish these decisions as Requirements and Guidelines.
- Consider proposals submitted to operate a national event. After due consideration and a due diligence process, appoint the host operator of a national event. Monitor preparations and delivery in accordance with the Requirements and Guidelines established.
- Provide advice to the National Director for the coordination, development and the review of National Children's and Family Workers In-service Education, and the National Young Adult Leaders Conference.
- Provide advice to the National Director in recommending to the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) policies, guidelines and conditions of service for the Order of St Stephen (OOSS) and to maintain the national register of members.
- Provide a forum to think theologically and strategically about the ways in which the Assembly with links to overseas partners and international ecumenical groups can cooperate with synods in the faith formation of Young Adults
- Provide a forum in which Synods and the Assembly can create initiatives that will provide significant faith formation and discipleship opportunities for young persons aged 15 years and over.

FORMATION, EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP WORKING GROUP

The Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group is appointed every three years by the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) at its first meeting after the triennial Assembly. Nominations are submitted to the Assembly Standing Committee after a consultative process with other councils of the UCA and expressions of interest are submitted. A team which is usually the Chairperson of the Working Group, the National Director and the Team leader assess the expressions of interest and prepare of list of nominees for the consideration of the Assembly Standing Committee.

The Chairperson of the Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group is elected by the Triennial Assembly on submission of a nomination from the Formation, Education and Discipleship unit after consultation with the Associate General Secretary and others as appropriate.

The Working Group consists of a Chairperson, the National Director and up to twelve members and can co-opt up to two additional members.

The National Faith Development Consultant (Youth and Young Adults) participates in meetings of the Working Group.

The Associate General Secretary is an ex-officio member.

ROLE

Duties of the Working Group

- Carry out the responsibilities in the Terms of Reference.
- Provide support and advice to the National Director and staff on such matters as strategic planning, priority setting and the development of policy.
- Together with the National Director advise the President and General Secretary on educational issues of national significance.

Duties of the Members

- Attend Working Group Meetings and teleconferences as required.
- Be a member of FEDWG task groups as necessary.

Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee, July 2013.