



**Methodist Church in Fiji**



**Uniting Church in Australia**

## **Partnership Agreement**

### **Between**

**The Methodist Church in Fiji and The Uniting Church in Australia**

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We affirm:

1. Our oneness in Jesus Christ;
2. Our intention to work together as partners in the mission of God;
3. Our shared Methodist heritage;
4. Our history of relationship that began in 1844;
5. Our history of being part of the one Methodist Church of Australasia from 1855 to 1964;
6. The commitment made at the time of the formation of the Uniting Church that its relationship with the Pacific Methodist Churches would be maintained;
7. Our honouring of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress within the Uniting Church;
8. Our commitment to alleviating poverty, overcoming injustice, upholding human rights and caring for creation.
9. Our experience of working together on many different aspects of the life and mission of the Church;
10. The participation in the Uniting Church of people formerly involved in the Methodist Church in Fiji and people in the Methodist Church in Fiji formerly involved with the Uniting Church, and the common desire among people to support the Church from which they came;
11. We have much to learn from each other about how to be faithful to Jesus Christ and there are issues, possibilities and concerns arising from our contexts that are helpfully shared with each other.

We agree that:

1. We will share information of each other's life and mission by:
  - i. Advising each other of significant events and developments relating to our life and mission;

- ii. Communicating stories of our life to be shared among our Church communities on a regular basis;
  - iii. Taking note of shared issues and concerns on which collaborative action can be taken.
2. We will exchange written resources by
    - i. Sending each other relevant Assembly, Conference, District, Synod and other resources relating to theological and mission developments, as they are published.
  3. We will exchange personnel by
    - i. Uniting Church people serving in the Methodist Church in Fiji through the UnitingWorld Experience Programme and Methodist Church people serving in the Uniting Church in Australia;
    - ii. Uniting Church groups visiting the Methodist Church in Fiji and Methodist Church groups visiting the Uniting Church;
  4. We will reflect collaboratively on being part in a multi-faith and multi-ethnic society.
  5. We will continue to share ministry according to our respective processes and policies.
    - i. We will jointly recognise ordination of ministers in Methodist Church in Fiji and Uniting Church in Australia.
    - ii. The Assembly of the Uniting Church through UnitingWorld will make best endeavours to encourage the Synods of the Uniting Church to enable ministers in good standing in the Methodist Church in Fiji resident in Australia to serve as ministers within the Uniting Church following the due processes of both Churches.
    - iii. Similarly, the Assembly will encourage Synods to enable leaders and congregations which identify with the Methodist Church to be integrated within the Uniting Church.
  6. Where this shared ministry involves the placement of ministers from the Methodist Church in Fiji into the Uniting Church in Australia, such placement will take place according to the agreements made between the two churches as described in the document:
 

***Guidelines for calling a minister from a partner church of the Uniting Church in Australia to serve in a Uniting Church Placement*** (attached to this agreement)

These Guidelines may be revised from time to time at the agreement of both the Methodist Church in Fiji and the Uniting Church in Australia.
  7. We will look for ways by which our respective Synods, Presbyteries and Districts, Congregations and Circuits, Schools, Agencies and Departments can partner with each other.
  8. The Uniting Church in Australia will welcome in its life people in Australia who were formerly members of the Methodist Church in Fiji and affirms the role of the Fijian National Conference in its life and mission. It will help the National Conference to continue in prayer and support for the Methodist Church. Similarly the Methodist Church will welcome in its life people who were formerly members of the Uniting Church in Australia and will help them to continue in prayer and support for that Church.
  9. We will warmly welcome visiting representatives from each other.
  10. We will not establish churches in each other's country and will encourage our members to join each other's Church. The Methodist President and the UnitingWorld National Director will be consulted whenever a request comes from people in either church to establish a Church in the partner country.
  11. We will continue to look for further areas of cooperation in the mission of God.

The National Director of UnitingWorld will be the person within the Uniting Church and the President will be the person within the Methodist Church to ensure the fulfilment of this agreement.

This agreement and the actions that have arisen will be reviewed three years from the date of signing, including through a meeting of representatives of both churches.

Dated:

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**Rev**  
**President**  
**for the Methodist Church in Fiji**

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**Mr Stuart McMillan**  
**President**  
**for the Uniting Church in Australia**