



Uniting Church in Australia  
ASSEMBLY

Assembly Standing Committee

## ASC Update November 2020

The Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) met online from Friday evening 6 November to Sunday afternoon 8 November 2020. This followed an extra online meeting on Saturday 6 September.

**ACT2 PROJECT:** ASC members received a report on the Act2 Project - a project to engage all stakeholders in the Uniting Church in an open-ended conversation on sustainable structures, practices and ways of working in the lead up to the 16th Assembly and beyond.

An [Introduction paper](#) inviting members to consider the future of the UCA 'as a people of God on the way' (BoU, para 18) and an online survey are available on the [uniting.church](http://uniting.church) website. A series of open Zoom conversations to canvass a wide range of views will be scheduled soon and resources to reflect on the Basis of Union will be made available in 2021.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLY COMMUNION:** The ASC considered a report about the practice of online gatherings for worship with Holy Communion since the approval of temporary arrangements at a special ASC meeting in April 2020. The report included the results of an online survey for presiders and participants. Of the 114 presiders and 186 participants who took part, a majority found it to be a holy and sustaining experience.

A webinar held as part of the report will be made available via the [uniting.church](http://uniting.church) website. The ASC approved the extension of the arrangements for gatherings for worship with Holy Communion until the end of June 2021.

**SOVEREIGNTY AFFIRMATION-PRACTICAL OUTCOMES:** A task group to explore practical outcomes of the 15th Assembly's resolution to affirm First People's sovereignty reported on progress. Further consultations will take place with a view to bringing proposals to the March 2021 ASC.

**CONTINUING WITNESS:** The Continuing Witness Task Group reported to the ASC, sharing the text of the Belhar Confession, Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si* and The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation.

A discussion ensued of options for the UCA to consider recognising these documents as a contemporary witness to fresh words and deeds as envisioned in the Basis of Union. Resources will be developed and further proposals will be referred to the March 2021 ASC.