



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT 12

Title	Act2 Report
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For Information
Assembly or ASC Minute	Not applicable
Consultation	Act2 Task Group members
Purpose	To update the ASC regarding the work and process of the Act2 project.
Rationale & Findings Summary	See report
Attachments	
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee: 1. Receive the report regarding the Act2 Project.
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ACT2 REPORT

Introduction

Since the March 2021 ASC meeting, the Task Group has continued to undertake the work as laid out in the process and the timeline. The Engagement Strategy and Timeline have been amended to include further work required leading to the 16th Assembly reconvened meeting in 2022.

In addition to the support offered to the project by National Consultant, Lindsay Cullen, Bethany Broadstock has been employed for one day a week specifically to resource the Act2 Project.

The Project has undertaken the following:

- National online Conversation with UCA Community Service CEOs (consultation)
- Reported on the project in the General Secretary's report to the 16th Assembly, and the written and video report to the NSW.ACT Synod (communications)
- Analysis of data from over 600 surveys received and 6 national online Conversations which will be used for a paper and other communication back to the UCA re 'What we've heard'
- Act2 article in weekly National Updates (communications)
- Preparation of comms and design of series of five studies on the Basis of Union by Geoff Thompson (consultation)
- Exploration of Design Thinking Approach to provide a framework for the delivery of the project
- Re-engagement of Social Media Strategy

Communications

Despite the work done to date re communicating to the wider church, Act2 remains one of the best kept secrets of the work of the Assembly. This is not ideal as wide consultation is required for the project to be seen as valuable by the church, and for it to progress providing worthwhile strategies for the future. Communications then become a key factor for the success of the project.

The Communications Strategy is also being informed by the data from consultation undertaken thus far, including how the future engagement strategies are being planned.

Additional Engagement Opportunities

Identity/Basis of Union Studies

To engage UCA members in having a shared understanding of the identity of the Uniting Church, a series of five studies on the Basis of Union has been developed by Geoff Thompson based on his book, *"In His Own Strange Way" A Post-Christendom Sort-of Commentary on the Basis of Union* and the six signposts identified in the Basis of Union to guide our conversation of how we order our lives as stated in the Act2 Introduction Paper:

- Christ alone is supreme and constitutes, rules and renews his Church;
- The responsibility of governing our life belongs to women and men by virtue of their gifts;
- We are governed by inter-related councils organised locally, regionally and nationally;
- Our councils have responsibilities both in relation to the Church and the world;
- Each council is asked to wait upon God's Word and obey God's will in the matters allocated to its oversight;
- The relationship between councils is defined by the goal of being united by mutual submission in service of the Gospel.

These studies are designed to be held in small groups with responses back to the Task Group, and also offered online (one per week) with members of the ARU. They will be available from the end of August 2021.

'What We've Heard'

A paper and a video setting out what was heard from the survey and open conversations are being written/developed. They will also present links to possible outcomes – *this is what we've heard, therefore we think that means* - and will act as a further invitation for people to comment and share their thoughts on the identified and proposed outcomes for the project.

National Presbytery Minister Online Consultation

This consultation will be held over two days, two weeks apart, and will be hosted by the President and General Secretary. The proposed dates are Friday 22 October and Friday 5 November. The consultation will be facilitated and based on the identified outcomes of project, and the *What We've Heard* paper.

Towards the 16th Assembly Reconvened Meeting

The Task Group is working towards having a report and proposals for the 16th Assembly reconvened meeting, for the ASC to consider at its March 2022 meeting.