

Lutheran Church of Australia and Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(August 2021)

[28 August 2021]

Purpose:	The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Dialogue is an ongoing Dialogue between the two churches. This Terms of Reference relates to the UCA members of the Dialogue.
Reporting Arrangements:	Assembly Standing Committee (ASC)
Period:	This Terms of Reference is for the period August 2021 – June 2024
Membership:	As determined by the ASC on the recommendation of the UCA Convenor of the Dialogue, the Assembly General Secretary and the Assembly Resourcing Unit (ARU)

Tasks Required:

Reflecting the work completed through the previous triennium, feedback from the ASC and planning with LCA Dialogue partners in May 2021:

1. Incorporate the feedback from both churches into the **At the Table** document and re-present to ASC in 2022.
2. Compile the documents already gathered towards an **Agreed Statement on Ministry** and keep as a dialogue document only until it is deemed the right time to work on it.
3. Begin work on a document which explains the purpose of a Concordat /Agreement and suggest areas of work that need to be included in it.
4. Through the Dialogue, maintain relationships between the LCA and UCA and provide feedback to the ASC of emerging areas of interest or emerging issues that may need to be pursued by other parts of the Assembly.

Expected Outcomes:

The UCA members of the Dialogue form, for the purposes of the ASC, a Task Group within the life of the Assembly. During the 2021-2024 Triennium the Task Group will:

1. Present a written report annually to the ASC via ARU in time for the July ASC meeting in both 2022 and 2023, and a report for the 17th Assembly in July 2024 that is provided to the March 2024 ASC meeting.

These reports will indicate:

- Progress of key conversations
- Any documents produced by the Dialogue during the period
- Constraints or issues to be addressed (if any) for ongoing work
- Any need for changes in membership of the UCA Dialogue members

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2. Working through the ARU, provide any documents or reports that need to be considered by ASC for input or adoption.
3. Forward unconfirmed and confirmed minutes after each dialogue meeting to the ARU for Assembly records.
4. In its 2024 report to ASC, provide an indication of the vitality of the Dialogue, suggesting what areas of work and the appropriate membership that would be required carry this work forward.

How the task group will work:

1. Be grounded in the gospel and build upon the tradition of the Uniting Church in Australia.
2. Live out our covenant as First and Second Peoples.
3. Live out our commitment to being a multicultural church, oriented towards justice.
4. Embody an inclusive church where those of differing ability, age, gender, race and sexuality are welcomed
5. Ensure that the activities of the Task Group are consistent with the Basis of Union of the UCA, the Constitution and Regulations, and align with the current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
6. Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other councils, agencies and groups within the UCA, and work collaboratively wherever possible.
7. Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other bodies ecumenically and with other civil society organisation and work collaboratively wherever possible.
8. Where appropriate, conduct its work on the basis of rigorous, contemporary research and analysis

Membership:

The UCA Dialogue members (Task Group) will be appointed by the ASC in their August 2021 meeting, guided by input from the ARU, having consulted with the UCA Convenor of the Dialogue and the Assembly General Secretary.

The UCA members of the Dialogue will comprise of up to six people, one of whom is appointed by the ASC as the Convenor.

The selection process will consider the expertise and experience required to undertake the work of the Task Group. Some consideration of geographic location will be given when selecting members given the UCA and LCA are predominantly co-located in Victoria and South Australia.

Should there be need to add new members during a triennium then ASC will do so on the recommendation of the current Dialogue members and the ARU.

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Convenor:

The Convenor will be responsible primarily for liaison with the LCA in order to arrange meetings, collate necessary information and provide reports to ASC. The Convenor will be the primary point of contact for the ARU as they support the Dialogue.

Period:

This Terms of Reference is for the three years of the triennium 2021-2024. The ASC understands the long-term, relational nature of ecumenical dialogues and understands that there may be an extension of the UCA participation in the Dialogue into the next triennium.

In the lead up to the 17th Assembly the Dialogue Task Group will report to ASC through the ARU as to whether there is ongoing work to be done and if so the nature of this work.

Based on this report, the ASC will determine whether or not to extend the Task Group into the following triennium, and then review the Terms of Reference and membership with a view to these going forward to the August ASC meeting in August 2024.

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