



mylathina takila-ti Le:wun tunk-ungai tuldangk tunk-ungai
Ola ma tumau i le alofa' 사랑 안에서 살기 Tinggal di dalam Kasih
Nofoma'u i he Ofa 愛中合居



Members Proposal

39 Deacons in the UCA Anniversary

That the Assembly resolve to:

1. Acknowledge with joy the 30-year anniversary of the renewal of the diaconate within the Uniting Church in Australia (1991 Assembly), and its respected place in the ecumenical, worldwide community of diaconal ministry.
2. Give thanks for all those who have been ordained as Deacons in the last 30 years, and celebrate the many and varied ministries they have undertaken to fulfill their calling as bridge builders between the church and the community.
3. Acknowledge the role that Deacons have to encourage and equip followers of Jesus to faithfully live out their baptismal call through acts of caring compassion, empowerment, service, and prophetic hope; through solidarity and accompaniment; through working for justice and liberation; and as advocates for creative transformation.
4. Note that the current 'Standards for Education and Formation of Candidates for Ordination - Phase 2' requires that "due attention be given to the different perspectives of Ministry of Deacon and Ministry of the Word" (Clause 15) and draws the attention of UCA theological colleges to the need to provide specific courses, formation and field placements for Deacon candidates to prepare them for diaconal ministry.

Proposer: Rev Deacon Christa Megaw

Seconder: Rev Deacon Nigel Hawken

Rationale:

Deacons have significantly contributed to the life and witness of the gathered and scattered church through the renewal of the Diaconate in the Uniting Church. Uniting Church Deacons are recognised for their work ecumenically in Australia, in the Asia-Pacific region, and in the DIAKONIA World Federation.

Through the Ministry of Deacon, the Uniting Church responds creatively to God's call to ministry in our time by providing a body of men and women who exercise leadership in service and justice ministries. Deacons also encourage all God's people in their service of God inside and outside the gathered church. Deacons serve in congregational placements, chaplaincy (hospitals, aged care, schools, prisons, universities, mental health services) service and welfare agencies, work with Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and in emerging/pioneering ministries.



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The 'Standards for Education and Formation of Candidates for Ordination - Phase 2' states that a variety of pathways is required to effectively prepare candidates for ordination. In addition to the Deacon Intensive, Deacon candidates will welcome the opportunity to enhance and broaden their learning programs through topics specifically related to diaconal ministry. Uniting Church Theological Colleges may develop their own courses, or develop courses for candidates which can be shared around Australia. Relevant courses in other tertiary institutions can also be part of diaconal formation. Such studies may include, for example, community languages of First or Second Peoples, intercultural studies, community services, narrative therapy, youth work, business administration, community development, organisational psychology, education, communication, and strategic leadership as change agents. A knowledge of the journey towards renewal of the diaconate in the Uniting Church, and expressions of diaconal ministry in other traditions, should be considered foundational.

The Deacons network (DUCA - Diakonia in the Uniting Church in Australia) continues to serve as a resource to Deacon candidates, Colleges, Presbyteries, Synods, congregations, Placement Committees and JNCs.