



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**ASSEMBLY**  
Assembly Standing Committee

11-13 November 2022

**DOCUMENT 18**

<b>Title</b>	At the Table – A report from the Lutheran Church in Australia – Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue
<b>Type of Paper</b>	For information and decision.
<b>Assembly or ASC Minute</b>	ASC Minutes 19.44 and 21.20
<b>Consultation</b>	The UCA members of the Dialogue
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Rationale &amp; Findings Summary</b>	
<b>Attachments</b>	a. Letter from the UCA and LCA Co-convenors (in this doc) b. At the Table – the Eucharist June 2022 (separate doc)
<b>Proposal/s</b>	The Assembly standing Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Receives the report;</li><li>2. Receives and adopts the document “At the Table: The Eucharist” as an agreed statement between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Lutheran Church of Australia.</li></ol>
<b>Submitted by</b>	Anna Grant-Henderson UCA Co-Chair LCA-UCA National Dialogue

## **At the Table – The Eucharist**

### **Background**

The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) – Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Dialogue is a long-standing dialogue that has functioned throughout most of the life of the UCA, first established in 1978 with the general aim “to establish pulpit and altar fellowship between the two churches”.

Over its life a number of Agreed Statements have been produced (The Word of God- Justification by Faith 1981, Law & Gospel 1982, Baptism 1984, Ministry 1987, The Church 1988, One Christ in Church & World 1990, A Pastoral Statement on Marriage was also agreed to in 1987). These Statements were all received by both churches.

More recently the dialogue has been focusing on ‘At the Table’, a document with which the previous ASC engaged and offered substantial feedback.

Following ASC feedback as well as consideration by the LCA’s Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations and pastors’ conferences, the document has been revised by the Dialogue group and is now brought to the ASC for endorsement.

### **Proposals:**

The Assembly standing Committee

1. Receives the report
2. Endorses the document At the Table - the Eucharist as being congruent with UCA teaching about the Eucharist

## Letter from the UCA and LCA Co-convenors

21st June 2022

Rob Floyd  
UCA Assistant General Secretary  
Relations  
Level 10, 222, Pitt Street,  
Sydney, NSW 2000

Rev Dr Stephen Pietsch  
Chair, LCA Commission on Theology & Inter-Church  
Relations  
197 Archer Street,  
North Adelaide, SA 5006

Dear Mr Rob Floyd and Rev Dr Stephen Pietsch,

The Uniting Church in Australia and the Lutheran Church of Australia National Dialogue, with thanks to God and much joy, presents to our two Churches, *At the Table: The Eucharist*.

This is the culmination of over a decade of study and consultation on the Eucharist by the Dialogue in service of our two churches' 2009/2010 *Declaration of Mutual Recognition* which committed us to work towards a Concordat for 'intentional sharing in pastoral ministry and in mission' and 'full communion, so that members from either denomination may share in Holy Communion in each other's churches'.

In 2018 an earlier version of *At the Table* was shared with our churches for study and feedback. The document was considered by the LCA's Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations and pastors' conferences, and by the UCA's Assembly Standing Committee, with comments and questions returned to the Dialogue for further study and, where appropriate, reflection in *At the Table*. In finalising *At the Table* we also took account of responses from readers from each church, whom we asked to assess the document's clarity and accessibility.

This finished version is somewhat re-ordered and altogether omits the Chronicle of the Dialogue's journey which was included in the initial version. We are planning to publish the Chronicle separately as an example of the nature and blessing of church-to-church theological dialogue.

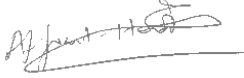
It has been suggested that a study guide for *At the Table* be prepared by each church as a teaching tool on the Eucharist itself and to aid our mutual understanding and more intentional sharing and cooperation.

In presenting *At the Table* we wish to acknowledge the faithful dedication of those who served on the Dialogue over the time of its preparation – for the UCA: currently Rev Dr Anna Grant-Henderson, Rev Denise Liersch, Rev Paul Stephens, Rev Dr Craig Thompson, Rev Dr John Evans, and formerly Rev Rob Gallacher and Dr Michael Champion; and for the LCA: currently Rev Greg Pietsch, Dr Allie Ernst, Rev Dr Russell Briese, Rev Dr Stephen Haar, Rev John Strelan, and formerly Rev Dr Jeff Silcock, Rev Dr Peter Lockwood, Ms Andrea Nagy and Rev Timothy Ebbs.

We now respectfully ask our Churches to receive and adopt *At The Table* as an agreed statement between us. It can then be published and promulgated as such.

Finally we note that, to help advance the hope and intention of our *Declaration of Mutual Recognition*, we have begun studying our churches' understanding of church fellowship itself and the shape of a potential Concordat between us, aware that this terminology is new to many. The study of the Ministry is also on our agenda.

Your servants in Christ,



Rev Dr Anna Grant-Henderson  
UCA Co-Chair  
LCA-UCA National Dialogue



Rev Greg Pietsch  
LCA Co-Chair  
LCA-UCA National Dialogue