



# ASSEMBLY STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2023

## MISSION AND VALUES

TRANSFORMING LIVES. TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.  
HOPE – JUSTICE – COMPASSION – RESPECT – INTEGRITY – INNOVATION

### COMMITMENTS

Affirming our faith in the Risen Crucified One, who constitutes, rules and renews the Church, we will live out our covenant as First and Second Peoples, our commitment to be an inter-cultural and inter-generational Church, our commitment to the mutuality and equality of women and men in ministry, valuing the participation and ministry of all the people of God, oriented towards justice, valuing scholarly enquiry and an informed faith, engaging constructively with ecumenical and inter-faith partners and providing a safe place for all people.

### CONTEXT

#### Opportunities and challenges presented by:

- ▶ Continuing Ethnic and Religious Diversification of Australia.
- ▶ Continuing diversity of the UCA.
- ▶ The changing Christian landscape.
- ▶ The public profile of religion generally and Christianity in particular including the impact of several Royal Commissions; declining trust in institutions more broadly.
- ▶ The need to address requirements of risk, finances and sustainability.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Seek first the opportunity to enable fruitful collaboration before doing anything alone.
- ▶ Act as the glue which draws the National Church together.
- ▶ Ensure the identity and vision of the UCA is evident.

### METHODOLOGY

- ▶ Listen - constantly attend to the external context and the inner life of the Church.
- ▶ Speak - constantly remind the Church of its vision and values.
- ▶ Collaborate - create roadmaps with other Councils and Church Members and use our distinct responsibilities to enable outcomes.
- ▶ Evaluate - measure and review effectiveness against vision and values.



# FIVE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

## RESPOND TO THE CHURCH

Respond to the ongoing needs of the whole Church and other Councils

## IDENTITY

Communicate a clear and concise message — who are we as the UCA and what is our distinct role in working toward the coming of the kingdom of God in Australia

## INNOVATION

Take risks, experiment and shape our church to respond to the needs of today and those of the future

## INTER-GENERATIONAL

Welcome, equip and hold together the different generations, in the life, Ministry, decision making and leadership of the church

## INTER-CULTURAL

Learn from and enable diverse cultural groups within the church to flourish together

Respond to specific issues within areas of mandated responsibility

Enact Decisions of the Assembly

Standards for Ministries (Education and Reception)

Maintain and Extend the Work of Circles of Interest

Find New Ways of Telling the UCA Story

Continue Work on Practical Implications of the Covenant

Address National Issues in Public Spaces for the Gospel

With Synods, Implement the Safe Church Framework

Support networks and Councils of the Church exploring emerging expressions of the church

Enable Collaboration on Uniting Learning Platform

Address the structures and regulatory framework of the whole Church

Develop Ways for Future Sustainability of Assembly

Develop Models for Growing Emerging Gen Faith/ Leadership

Develop an Intergen Ministry Framework

Support and take part in National Youth Events as negotiated with Synods

Partner with Congress in enabling Work with Emerging Generations

Engage National Conferences

Develop A Vision for Intercultural Ministry

Collate and Publicise Language Resources

Support Engagement of Congress with National Conferences



# RESPOND TO THE CHURCH

## RESPOND TO THE ONGOING NEEDS OF THE WHOLE CHURCH AND OTHER COUNCILS

<p><b>RESPOND TO SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHIN AREAS OF MANDATED RESPONSIBILITY</b></p>	<p>Respond to issues arising in determining doctrine and worship, ecumenical and international relationships, government and discipline including guiding decisions on the tasks and authority to be exercised by other Councils, and the general oversight and promotion of the life and mission of the Church</p>
<p><b>ENACT DECISIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY</b></p>	<p>Support Task Groups arising from Assembly/ASC: Sovereignty, Continuing Witness, Disability Access; Enact decisions on Domestic and Family Violence, Climate Change</p>
<p><b>STANDARDS FOR MINISTRIES (EDUCATION FOR ALL SPECIFIED MINISTRIES AND ADMISSION OF ORDAINED)</b></p>	<p>Committee conducts consultations with MEBs and Colleges, revise Ministry of Pastor competencies and related Lay Preacher competencies, revise Admission processes, revise Phase 3 and Phase 4 standards including guidelines for supervision</p>
<p><b>MAINTAIN AND EXTEND THE WORK OF CIRCLES OF INTEREST</b></p>	<p>Support the work of Advocates, publicise Circles in the wider Church, further develop the mechanisms by which the Circles and Panels can support and extend the work of ASC and Assembly Staff</p>



# IDENTITY

**COMMUNICATE A CLEAR AND CONCISE MESSAGE  
– WHO ARE WE AS THE UCA AND WHAT IS OUR  
DISTINCT ROLE IN WORKING TOWARD THE  
COMING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN AUSTRALIA**

<p><b>FIND NEW WAYS OF TELLING THE UCA STORY</b></p>	<p>Remind the Church of our foundational values and commitments; sharpen ways of describing the vision and purpose of the Uniting Church in our context</p>
<p><b>CONTINUE WORK ON PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVENANT</b></p>	<p>Remind the Church of the Covenant, encourage exploration of the practical consequences of the Covenant, stimulate further thinking regarding the practical and theological implications of the Preamble to the Constitution</p>
<p><b>ADDRESS NATIONAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC SPACES FOR THE GOSPEL</b></p>	<p>Respond to calls for submissions; facilitate a review of “Our Vision for a Just Australia” and evaluate how Australia and the Uniting Church are performing against the benchmarks set</p>
<p><b>WITH SYNODS, IMPLEMENT THE SAFE CHURCH FRAMEWORK</b></p>	<p>Work collaboratively with Synods to implement the National Safe Church Framework, contribute to a National Curriculum using the UnitingLearning platform</p>



# INNOVATION

**TAKE RISKS, EXPERIMENT AND SHAPE  
OUR CHURCH TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS  
OF TODAY AND THOSE OF THE FUTURE**

<p><b>SUPPORT NETWORKS AND COUNCILS OF THE CHURCH EXPLORING EMERGING EXPRESSIONS OF THE CHURCH</b></p>	<p>Support and communicate the work of networks exploring emerging expressions of the Church, and encourage sharing of models, resources and approaches between Synods and Presbyteries</p>
<p><b>ENABLE COLLABORATION ON UNITINGLEARNING PLATFORM</b></p>	<p>Work with Synod Lay Educators, Safe Church stakeholders and other Synod and Agency groups to enable generous sharing of educational resources and develop creative online learning material</p>
<p><b>ADDRESS THE STRUCTURES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE WHOLE CHURCH</b></p>	<p>Address the issue of whether the current structures and regulations of the Church are 'fit for purpose' in our context; specifically review how regulations have encouraged or have caused barriers to exploring and forming new forms of Church</p>
<p><b>DEVELOP WAYS FOR FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY OF ASSEMBLY</b></p>	<p>Identify alternative funding models and sources to enable the work of the Assembly to be supported in a sustainable manner</p>



# INTERGENERATIONAL

**WELCOME, EQUIP AND HOLD TOGETHER THE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS, IN THE LIFE, MINISTRY, DECISION MAKING AND LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH**

<p><b>DEVELOP MODELS FOR GROWING EMERGING GEN FAITH/LEADERSHIP</b></p>	<p>Contribute to the development of models and opportunities for growing the faith and leadership of members of emerging generations, with focus on the unique experiences of different generations</p>
<p><b>DEVELOP AN INTERGEN MINISTRY FRAMEWORK</b></p>	<p>Develop a framework for intergenerational ministry, including a rationale for how and why different aspects of this work should be carried by particular Councils of the Church</p>
<p><b>SUPPORT AND TAKE PART IN NATIONAL YOUTH EVENTS AS NEGOTIATED WITH SYNODS</b></p>	<p>In concert with the President and emerging generation workers in Synods, plan, organise and deliver a National Young Adult Leaders Conference for 2021 and take part in any other Youth Events as Negotiated with Synods</p>
<p><b>PARTNER WITH CONGRESS IN ENABLING WORK WITH EMERGING GENERATIONS</b></p>	<p>Goals and outcomes for this area of work will be developed in consultation with Congress</p>



# INTERCULTURAL

## LEARN FROM AND ENABLE DIVERSE CULTURAL GROUPS WITHIN THE CHURCH TO FLOURISH TOGETHER

<p><b>ENGAGE NATIONAL CONFERENCES</b></p>	<p>Attend and support National Conferences representing the wider UCA; enable two-way communication between the National Conferences and the Assembly</p>
<p><b>DEVELOP A VISION FOR INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY</b></p>	<p>Develop, test and deliver training and resources across the Church, establish training of trainers, share best practice, enable online components to be delivered by UnitingLearning</p>
<p><b>COLLATE AND PUBLICISE LANGUAGE RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>Ensure that language resources are collected and easily available, develop new language resources, increase the accessibility of the Assembly website to CALD communities</p>
<p><b>SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT OF CONGRESS WITH NATIONAL CONFERENCES</b></p>	<p>Work with Congress to support the ongoing engagement of National Conferences with First Peoples and the broader intercultural conversation within the UCA</p>

