



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

8 October 2023

**DOCUMENT 2**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Act2 Conversation</b>
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For information
Assembly or ASC Minute	
Consultation	
Purpose	To provide ASC members with information and reading to prepare them for a conversation regarding Act2.
Rationale & Findings Summary	<p>To prepare for the Act2 conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please read the report <a href="#">Act2: In Response to God's Call</a>.</li><li>• Frequently Asked Questions are also available, <a href="#">Act2 FAQ — Act2 Project (act2uca.com)</a>.</li><li>• There are some additional resources to support the Directions and Options available including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A table to <a href="#">compare the options</a></li><li>○ <a href="#">Introductory videos</a> (now with voiceover)</li><li>○ <a href="#">Options and Directions on a page</a></li></ul></li></ul> <p>Please see the response form for synods, presbyteries boards and committees for questions that will be considered in groups which is available on this <a href="#">webpage</a>.</p> <p>The session with Andrew Johnson (Act2 Project Lead) will focus on the Directions (Section 5 of the report) and Key Changes and Options (Section 6 of the report). It will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction</li><li>• Questions for clarification</li><li>• Small troupes</li><li>• Sharing in plenary</li></ul>
Attachments	Attachment A: Project on a Page
Proposal/s	NA
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# ATTACHMENT A



Grounded in our faith.  
Attentive to the Spirit.  
Fuelled by prayer.  
Discerning together.

act2uca.com

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH

Act2 has the potential to be the most transformative change project the Uniting Church in Australia has been involved in since the Basis of Union.

It focuses on discerning and deciding on our future together centred around four workstreams across three phases. The project involves our whole Church, and we need your voice.

### PHASES



#### EXPLORE

Broad listening for ideas and imperatives  
Feb-May 23



#### DISCERN

Deep discussion of directions and options  
Jun-Nov 23



#### RECOMMEND

Develop and recommend a way forward  
Dec 23-Jul 24



17th Assembly

**IMPLEMENT**  
Implement over 3-6 years  
Jul 24 onwards

### WORKSTREAMS

1



**Structures and practices within the Church that enable life-giving communities of faith and discipleship**

*How can we do more to help and less to hinder life-giving communities of faith?*

LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH & DISCIPLESHIP

2



**Clarity on role, value and resourcing of national identity and national work**

*What is most valuable about being a national church and how do we resource it?*

NATIONAL IDENTITY

3



**Governance structures which enable ministry and mission, increase capability, unlock resources and meet our obligations**

*How do we order our life and distribute our resources to support our ministry and mission?*

GOVERNANCE & RESOURCING

4



**Sustainable set of institutions and practices to support our theological culture, diverse ministries and enable discipleship**

*How do we enable a sustainable set of institutions and practices that cultivate a vibrant theological culture?*

THEOLOGICAL CULTURE & EDUCATION

### CORE COMMITMENTS

THE COVENANT WITH CONGRESS

A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH

OUR ETHICAL, LEGAL & SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS

### TIMELINE

#### BROAD ENGAGEMENT

Seeking input from every local community of faith, presbytery, church council and local leaders, synod, Assembly, agency and expression of the UCA's life

FEB-MAY 23

Focus groups  
National forums  
Theological culture papers  
Data and information  
Current state investigations  
Workshops



MAY-JUN 23

**UNITING IN PRAYER**  
Every expression of the life of the Uniting Church praying for one another, sharing and discerning our future together



#### COLLECTIVE DISCERNMENT

As we move to specific options we will engage more specifically, particularly with key leaders and synods and presbyteries in session and other bodies

JUN-NOV 23

Synod and Presbytery discernment  
Governance and resourcing frameworks  
Collective workshop on national framework for theological education  
Internal and external advice



#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Integration of recommendations and report to ASC (Mar) and 17th Assembly (Jul) to enable vital decisions for the future of our Church

MAR-JUL 24



DEC 23-MAR 24

Finalise and further refine options  
Consolidate suite of integrated recommendations and implications  
Seeking expert internal and external advice



Exploration and design of options



Detailed design of preferred options

\*For a more comprehensive view of engagement opportunities near you and online, visit [act2uca.com](http://act2uca.com)