

ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNITING CHURCH

This information is provided by the Assembly Standing Committee to nominees for the role of President-Elect at the 17th Assembly

Living out the Covenant

- Living out the covenant and building relationships with First Peoples
- Ongoing support of and engagement with UAICC

Identity of the UCA

- Being clear about our story as the UCA: our mission and purpose in witness and advocacy in Australia
- Understanding our significance in a secular age/world
- Navigating the potential disconnect between wider institutional life and smaller congregational life
- Being inclusive while in unity (continuing the weaving)
- Telling stories of growth and God at work in the UCA: being courageous about the future while acknowledging the reality of declining membership and resources
- Articulating UCA commitment to reconciliation in the face of separation and siloism
- Rebuilding trust in the Church and its institutions

Gospel, Mission and Discipleship

- Strengthening discipleship and witness to our faith within the UCA
- Sharing the Gospel (story of God) individually and collectively as the UCA
- Attending to the spiritual health and resilience within the UCA
- Seeking innovative and transformative ways of engaging in God's ministry and mission
- Embracing new technologies and how we are church in a fast-changing and digital world

Youth and young adults

- Importance of investment in young people
- Encouraging and engaging youth and young adults in their discipleship and leadership, including national gatherings

Sustainability, particularly financial sustainability

- Acknowledging declining resources across the Church, while attending to corporate and financial sustainability
- Sustainability in governance and leadership
- Impact of redress

Advocating for justice issues

- Advocacy for justice issues – climate change, forced migration, effects on regional/remote communities; finding sustainable ways of operating;
- Strengthening our voice in advocacy on justice issues
- Attending to our own issues: redress and the support of survivors of abuse in the institutions to which we are connected

Leadership

- Effective leadership and oversight in Church institutions
- Developing leadership capacity for the changing dynamics of the Church and all of its councils
- Emerging leadership – recognising the changing cultural identity of Church leadership and sharing the journey of the UCA

- Supporting the succession planning of key leadership roles within our church.

Act2

- Continuing the implementation of resolutions from the 17th Assembly
- Communicating resolutions and next steps to the UCA

Safety

- Making the Church a safe place, with a culture of respect
- Navigating a culturally safe Church that is inclusive, and that allows for safe ways for people from diverse backgrounds to engage in the work of the Church
- Seeking to address and bring healing to continuing hurts