

UnitingWorld Governing Instruments

UnitingWorld is a not-for-profit entity of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Uniting Church in Australia is an unincorporated association and was established in 1977 by an act of Parliament in all Australian states & territories by the union of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches in Australia.

Pursuant to the legislation, the Uniting Church developed a Constitution and Regulations that state its objects, purpose and method of operating. The National Assembly is the national council of the Uniting Church, and UnitingWorld sits within its purview.

The National Assembly, made up of representatives from across Australia, meets every three years, and elects the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC). The ASC has delegated authority to oversee National Assembly business between meetings.

Mandates are the formal means by which the Assembly establishes bodies that undertake the Assembly's work and by which responsibilities are delegated to those bodies. Mandates state the mission, objectives, accountability and appointment of governing committees of Assembly Agencies, and may only be amended by the ASC or the National Assembly.

UnitingWorld is Mandated to pursue the following Mission:

In response to God's purpose for the world and its people, to connect the people of the Uniting Church in Australia in missional collaboration with churches overseas in order to strengthen the church in ministry, and to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence.

UnitingWorld manages its Mandate through two distinct programs, each with its own set of accounts. Some UnitingWorld policies also differentiate the two different programs. The Mandate clearly articulates the different imperatives for the Relief and Development and Church Connections programs. The full Mandate appears below.

The Relief & Development Program is responsible for all development and aid. The Church Connections Program is responsible for programs in church leadership, advocacy and Christian discipleship.

The Mandate sets out the process for appointing the governing body of UnitingWorld; its Board. The Board is responsible for, and has authority to determine, all governance matters relating to UnitingWorld policies, practices and operations. The Mandate further states that no member of the Board or any of its advisory committees shall receive remuneration for their services.

The National Assembly enters legal agreements through its incorporated trustee, UCA Assembly Ltd (ACN 000 007 447), a company limited by shares. The Constitution of UCA Assembly Limited sets out the relationship between the company, the Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee.

UNITINGWORLD MANDATE

approved by Assembly Standing Committee 12 November 2017

Responsible to: The Assembly

Reporting Arrangements: The Assembly, the Assembly Standing Committee and to UCA Assembly Ltd

Mission: In response to God's purpose for the world and its people, to connect the people of the Uniting Church in Australia in missional collaboration with churches overseas in order to strengthen the church in ministry, and to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence.

Mandate:

UnitingWorld will:

1. Listen and respond to the expressed needs of communities primarily in Asia, the Pacific and Africa through relief and development programs that alleviate poverty, achieve sustainable development and promote justice, peace and civil society and provide humanitarian aid during emergencies.
2. Implement programs that address the needs of our partners, developing leadership and institutional capacity, enabling them to be a strong spiritual and practical resource for their communities.
3. Provide leadership for the Uniting Church in the international dimension of its calling to be part of the one holy, catholic and apostolic church bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. Give life and expression to the Uniting Church's calling to be an Australian church with special relationships with Churches in parts of the world that are strategically significant to the Uniting Church because of historic connections or the presence of diaspora communities.
5. Work through church partnerships, with strong contextual focus, mindful and inclusive of marginalised people, combining professional excellence and theological rigour.
6. Endeavour to enrich and inspire church communities in Australia and overseas by connecting them in relationships and the interchange of ideas and experience.
7. Engage in networks, memberships and collaborations with organisations aligned with UnitingWorld's purpose for greater impact and effectiveness.
8. Seek support for its programs and operations through a variety of means and hold itself accountable to donors, partners, beneficiaries and the UCA through good governance and good management.
9. Maintain operational standards, policies and practices required for compliance with and accreditation from significant relevant organisations (for example DFAT and ACFID).

As an Agency of the National Assembly, UnitingWorld will also:

1. Ensure that the activities of the Agency are consistent with the Vision and current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
2. Advise the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee on policy matters within its area of responsibility and expertise.
3. Make decisions where the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the Mandate, or by resolution.

4. Implement policies determined by the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee when relevant to its mandate and operations.
5. Manage its finances, risk and reporting to the Assembly in an effective, transparent and timely manner.
6. Raise funds to support its work in an ethical and effective manner
7. Work collaboratively with other Assembly agencies.

National Director:

The National Director will be appointed by the Assembly/ Assembly Standing Committee, guided by a selection panel that will include both the General Secretary of the Assembly and the chairperson of the UnitingWorld Board.

The selection process will consider the skills and expertise required to undertake the work of the Agency. The National Director will participate in annual performance management that involves the Assembly General Secretary and the Chairperson of the UnitingWorld Board.

The UnitingWorld Board:

The Assembly/ Assembly Standing Committee will appoint the Board of UnitingWorld and delegate to that Board the regular governance and oversight of UnitingWorld.

The Board of UnitingWorld will report to the Assembly every three years, and the Assembly Standing Committee as and when required by that Committee.

The Chair of the Board will be appointed or re-appointed by the National Assembly every three years, guided by advice from the Board existing prior to the Assembly meeting.

Other members of the Board will be appointed/re-appointed every three years at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting following the three yearly Assembly meeting. Casual vacancies will be filled as required by the Assembly Standing Committee, with guidance from the Chair.

Members may serve for up to three consecutive terms before becoming ineligible for further membership for a period of three years.

The Board will have a diversity of professional skills and a diversity of age, gender and cultural background. Appointments to the Board will be based on the member's contribution towards the skill & diversity matrix.

The Board will be a minimum of eight, and up to a maximum of twelve persons.

- The National Director and the General Secretary of the National Assembly will be ex-officio members of the Board. No other National Assembly staff shall be a Board member.
- No more than 50% of the total membership of the board may be composed of people currently stipended or employed by the Uniting Church.
- At least 75% of the members of the Board must be members of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Board will ensure that UnitingWorld develops and implements the policies and procedures that are required for the delivery of the Mandate, above and beyond the policies of the Assembly.

The Board of UnitingWorld will maintain a Governance Manual that documents governance processes, policies and key organisational matters of the Agency.