



Constitution

(Incorporating Amendments passed at the AGM of 24 January 1997)

NAME AND PURPOSE OF THE GROUP

1. The name of the group shall be "Evangelical Members within the Uniting Church in Australia (S.A. Synod)". (From this point termed "the Group")
2. The Group is an officially sanctioned group within the Uniting Church in Australia to which evangelical congregations, parishes, members, adherents and ministers may belong.
3. The Group seeks to :
 1. Preserve the unity of the Uniting Church,
 2. Provide a fellowship of support and encouragement for evangelical believers, enabling them to continue Within the life of the Synod.
 3. Provide a fellowship which works for justice and respect for evangelical believers, encouraging them to make a distinctive, vital and faithful contribution to the church, and
 4. Encourage and nurture that evangelical faith upon which the Uniting Church is founded.

MEMBERSHIP

4. Membership of the Group is open to :
 1. congregations and parishes from within the Uniting Church (S.A. Synod), and
 2. members, adherents and ministers from within the Uniting Church (S.A. Synod), who assent to the Doctrinal Basis of the Group.
5. Members shall be those congregations , parishes, members, adherents and ministers from within the Uniting Church (S.A. Synod) that have :
 1. applied for membership of the Group.
 2. assented in writing to the Doctrinal Basis of the Group,
 3. paid the annual membership fee, and
 4. been admitted to membership by the Executive.
6. Membership can be renewed annually by :
 1. applying to the Executive for renewal of membership to the Group,
 2. assenting in writing to the Doctrinal Basis of the Group,
 3. paying the annual membership fee, and
 4. the Executive renewing the membership, provided that any applicant who has applied for membership during the period from the first day of October to the thirty first day of December inclusive of any year and becomes a member in accordance

- with paragraph 5 shall be deemed to be a member until the thirty first day of December of the following year (unless they otherwise resign pursuant to paragraph 9).
7. Subject to paragraph 6 (above), the annual membership fee shall be payable in advance on the first day of January each year.
 8. Any member may resign their membership by giving to the Secretary written notice to that effect.

STRUCTURE

9. The management of the affairs and the government of the Group and the coordinators of the activities of the Group shall be vested in the Group Executive ("Executive"), which shall be responsible for, amongst other things :
 1. providing leadership and direction for the Group in order that its Purpose be fulfilled,
 2. setting up and supervising any task groups, or engaging any person, whether paid or not, as it deems necessary.
 3. giving pastoral oversight to any member it may appoint to act as spokesperson for the Group,
 4. giving approval to any material published or public statements made in the name of the Group.
 5. determining the agenda for and convening any meeting of Members,
 6. seeking links with similar groups in other States and Territories of Australia,
 7. producing an annual report of its activities and annual financial statement,
 8. setting annual membership fees (as the case may be) for the categories of individuals, married couples, parishes and congregations according to the range of Confirmed Members and Members-in-Association shown in paragraph 16.
 9. setting an annual membership fee,
 10. carrying out any directions of any meeting of Members,
 11. disseminating information and news to Members,
 12. doing all such things as may appear to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Purpose of the Group.
10. The Executive shall consist of nine Members, three of whom shall retire at each Annual Meeting and be eligible for re-election. Those to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but as between those who were elected or re-elected members of the Executive on the same day those to retire shall agree amongst themselves who shall retire.
11. The election of Executive members shall take place (by secret ballot if there are more nominations than vacancies available) at the Annual Meeting of Members.
12. The Executive shall elect from its members a Chairperson, a Secretary and other such offices as it may deem necessary. At the first meeting of the Executive after each Annual Meeting of Members, the Executive shall appoint from amongst the Members of the Group a Treasurer to administer and manage the finances of the Group.

13. The Executive shall have power to :
 1. invite other persons to attend Executive meetings as non-voting members, and
 2. fill any casual vacancy on the Executive until the next Annual meeting.
14. The Executive shall meet at least quarterly. The quorum for a meeting of the Executive shall be five members of the Executive personally present.
15. There shall be an Annual meeting of Members prior to the 31st day of March in each year (the first such meeting to be held after 31st December 1996) at which the annual report and the financial statement for the previous financial year shall be presented and any other business of the Group shall be transacted.
16. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote on every matter at any meeting of Members, providing that any parish or congregation which is a Member shall be entitled to the number of votes based on the number of Confirmed Members and Members-in-Association in the parish or congregation concerned as shown in the table below:

Members / Members in Association	Number of Votes
0 - 50	2
51-100	4
101-150	6
151-200	8
201 and above	10

17. The quorum at all meetings of Members shall be one-fifth of the Members of the Group personally present.
18. Subject to paragraph 21, any question at any meeting of Members or the Executive shall be decided by simple majority vote.
19. The financial year of the Group shall end on the 31st December of each year.
20. Every Member shall be bound by and submit to the Constitution and no member may make any statement on behalf of the Group without the prior written authority of the Executive.
21. The Purpose, the Doctrinal Basis and the Constitution of the Group may be added to, repealed, or amended by resolution of any meeting of Members by three-quarters of those Members present in person voting in favour of the proposed change, providing that Members are given at least 14 days notice of any proposed change.

24th January 1997