



Doctrinal Statement

Last update - January 1996

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In formulating a Doctrinal Statement we have drawn upon the following:

1. the Biblical witness
2. the Apostolic gospel
3. the Trinitarian faith
4. the Reformation doctrines, and
5. the Evangelical origins of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist churches that are stated in the Basis of Union.

THE PURPOSE OF E.M.U.

EMU is an officially sanctioned group within the Uniting Church (S.A. Synod) to which evangelical members, adherents, ministers, parishes and congregations can belong. 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.

DOCTRINAL BASIS

We affirm our allegiance to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church and the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds which the church has received as authoritative statements of the universal Christian faith (Basis of Union #8). In this context we affirm:

- The divine inspiration and dependability of Scripture as the supreme authority in all matters of Christian faith and conduct.
- The Scriptures contain the historical basis for our faith and that an honest and holistic reading of Scripture will teach us God's principles which enable us to live life to the fullest.
- That the Bible, whilst being an ancient and culturally influenced record of the development of a people's faith, contains the norm of faith to which the Holy Spirit has never failed to return the church, through reform and

renewal.

- That God is responsible for the existence of the universe and that the purpose of God creating was to invite us to freely enter a loving relationship with the Creator.
- That all of us have fallen short of God's standards. We have rejected God's love and lordship, and as such, we deserve condemnation. This has impacted on all of creation.
- That God's love for us was such that Jesus came to pay the penalty for all our sins which would otherwise keep us from enjoying the love of a holy God.
- That we appropriate this free gift of eternal life with God through repentance and placing our trust in what Jesus has done for us.
- That we are called to submit to God and know that we are saved through Christ. Some will choose to ignore God and will live with the consequences of that choice both now and eternally. Those who have not heard the Gospel will be judged on how they have lived according to what they know to be true.
- That God has chosen to be fully revealed in Christ. Other religions show aspects of truth and wisdom but are inadequate for bringing people to God. Christ's death is for all people.
- That we respond to God's love by accepting Jesus' call to live a radical life of sacrificial love where we follow Jesus' example as his disciples and share in spreading the good news of God's love by our words and actions.
- That God fills all Christians with the Holy Spirit to equip and empower us for ministry. God invites us continually to open up more of ourselves to God's Spirit each day.
- That we are to use the gifts God gives us, so that together, in communities of faith, we can combine them to do the work of God. God seeks to work through us to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to care for those in need.
- That we encourage each other to live lives that reflect God's holiness and love of creation - and to ask forgiveness of God and of each other when we fail.
- That the divine call on our lives is to worship God and live in joyful obedience to Christ.