

RA First National Conference 2004 Resolutions

(Extract from the unconfirmed minutes of the RA AGM 17/7/2004)

Preamble:

Jesus Christ, as He is revealed in the prophetic and apostolic testimony of the Old and New Testaments is the one Word of God whom we must hear, trust and obey in life and death.

Jesus Christ says, "I am the truth". We, therefore, reject the false teaching that there are other powers and authorities in our culture and history to whom we must listen and obey.

Jesus Christ says that from the beginning God has ordered creation so that a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. We reject the false teaching that there are other orders of self chosen human sexual relationship which oppose this divine purpose.

This meeting of the Reforming Alliance within the Uniting Church, meeting in Brisbane in July 2004, calls upon the people and leaders of the Church to receive anew in penitence and thankfulness the gift of God's life-giving purpose for humankind and to turn from the acknowledgments of the other lords and spirits of this age.

We declare that Reforming Alliance within the Uniting Church will pursue, with God's help and every means at our disposal, the recovery of the Church's identity within the reformed, catholic and evangelical tradition. We will seek to achieve the following short and long term objectives in fulfilling this purpose:-

1. We continue in our resolve to recall the Uniting Church to the faith of the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic church by
 - a) rescinding Resolution 84 of the 2003 Assembly, and
 - b) adopting the Queensland Synod Resolutions (see www.reformingalliance.org.au)
2. We resolve to seek to establish orthodox presbyteries in as many Synods as necessary, affirming the vital work being done in South Australia to allow congregations to group together in presbyteries based on a common theological confession.
3. We will seek arrangements whereby reformed, orthodox and evangelical theological education will be available for applicants for specified ministries and other members of the UCA.
4. We direct the executive to develop proposals for constitutional reform in the UCA that will ensure that Presbyteries and Synods can require that matters they deem to be vital to the life of the Church be referred to them for endorsement prior to those matters being given effect by the Assembly.
5. We resolve to encourage and support its members as candidates for positions of leadership in Congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and the Assembly and to that end will develop a national structure which will recruit and nurture leaders with reformed, orthodox and evangelical faith. The Reforming Alliance empowers its National Executive to amend the budget should they believe it necessary to implement this motion.
6. We ask the executive to work toward a contingency plan for amicable separation should it be determined, following the 11th Assembly in 2006, that the Uniting Church has not returned to the gospel of Christ as testified in the unique witness of Scripture and reflected in the Basis of Union.
7. We will provide a clear, written and public response to the forthcoming Assembly booklet and other publications in relation to sexuality and Resolution 84.
8. As we struggle to maintain the faith of the one holy, catholic and apostolic church, the Reforming Alliance continues to affirm the crucial importance of ecumenical relationships for ourselves and the Uniting Church.