



Within the Uniting Church in Australia

HIGHLIGHTS

REFORMING ALLIANCE WITHIN THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

HIGHLIGHTS of ANNUAL CONFERENCE

12-14th July 2005

- About 150 people from every State and Territory (apart from NT) attended the whole conference.
- Neil and Briar Whitehead (NZ) debunked myths which have grown up about the causes of homosexuality. They also spoke with compassion and empathy of people they know who suffer confusion about their sexual identity. Briar spoke of their 'craving for love' and Neil spoke on 'My genes did not make me do it.'
- Pastor Ron Brookman, former UC minister and director of 'Living Waters', a support and healing ministry for sexually broken people, spoke movingly of his 'Coming out' of the homosexual lifestyle. He focused on the power of the cross of Christ to forgive and heal him, and many others.
- Rev Dr Max Champion spoke on 'Agenda for a Confessing Church' and 'More than a Single Issue.'
- Bible Studies on I Samuel 12:12-25 and Galatians 3:23-29 were led by Prof Brian Hill (WA) and Rev Rod James (SA). Rev Ivan Kirk (Qld) preached at the concluding service of Holy Communion. Occasions of prayer were led by Mrs Mary Hawkes (SA), Rev Dr Gordon Watson (NSW), Rev Don Purdey (SA), Mr Peter Bentley, (NSW, Author of the 1997 Report on Responses to the Interim Report on Sexuality) and Rev Dr Ian Breward (Vic).
- Considerable time was given during the conference to discerning the way forward. As a result of our deliberations the following resolutions were passed.

Resolutions of the Conference (in outline)

1. The Conference endorsed the process of presenting the RA motion on sexuality to congregations, for submission to Presbyteries and the Eleventh Assembly.
2. The meeting expressed appreciation for, and solidarity with, the Congress (UAICC) and Migrant-Ethnic congregations in their opposition to R84.
3. The Executive was authorised to take steps to test the validity of Resolution 84.
4. The Executive was authorised to ask Synod Property Trusts for the gracious and just settlement of property matters where congregations, in good conscience, decide to leave the UCA because of R84.
5. RA is holding a National Meeting the day after the close of the Eleventh Assembly (2006) 'to decide whether or not to remain within the UC.' Several options are to be considered by RA members during the next 12 months.
6. RA is sponsoring workshops during the next 12 months 'to assist people in understanding the causes of, and the healing of, sexual brokenness.'
7. The Executive was authorised to seek amendments to the Constitution so that 'matters of vital importance to the life of the church' must be referred to other Councils and so that membership of Assembly is more representative of the membership of the Church.

Can you pray?

Please pray for the RA National Executive and our chairperson Rev Dr Max Champion as they help us move forward towards the 2006 Assembly.

Questions?
General Enquiries?
Want More Information?
Please ring, write or e-mail.

"Reforming Alliance" PO Box 968. Newtown. NSW 2042
www.reformingalliance.org.au

National Administrator
Peter Bentley: (02) 9550 5358
admin@reformingalliance.org.au

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