

**THE CHARTER FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF CONFESSING CONGREGATIONS
WITHIN THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Adopted 13th October 2006**

It is with deep sorrow that, in view of the apostasy¹ of the eleventh Assembly of the UCA in failing to uphold orthodox doctrine on the question of sexuality and leadership, a National meeting of members of Reforming Alliance within the Uniting Church and Evangelical Members within the Uniting Church 12th July 2006 resolved to establish *The Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia*.

The Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia shall be committed to:

1. ensuring that matters of doctrine are determined according to the teachings of Scripture within the reformed, evangelical and orthodox tradition of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
2. providing orthodox leadership in doctrine, theology, ethics, worship, pastoral care, social responsibility, mission and evangelism;
3. restoring and maintaining ecumenical relations;
4. engaging the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Australia's multi-cultural and pluralist society;
5. establishing national and state bodies to implement the following objectives:
 - a. encourage the provision of reformed, evangelical and orthodox ministry of Word, sacrament and pastoral care in Confessing Congregations;
 - b. encourage reformed, evangelical and orthodox Christian Education for leaders and lay people;
 - c. bring a vigorous biblical perspective to contemporary public issues in a society that is increasingly ignorant about or hostile to orthodox Christianity;
 - d. foster relationships of reconciliation and cooperation with members of indigenous congregations;
 - e. foster relationships of cooperation and partnership with members of migrant ethnic congregations;
 - f. provide lines of communication with members of the National Council of Churches in Australia, Partner Churches in Pacific and Asian Region, and encourage local inter-church co-operation;
 - g. create an association of Confessing Ministry Workers and assist in the placement of suitable ministry agents in Confessing Congregations;
 - h. assist and encourage the establishment of new Confessing Congregations;
 - i. develop a simple administrative structure which serves to liberate the congregations to fulfill Christ's mission.
 - j. distribute a regular publication for communication, education and encouragement;
 - k. be a faithful steward of the resources entrusted to it from the Confessing Congregations.

We take this action as a means to express our sole loyalty and obedience to Jesus Christ, and adherence to *The Basis of Union*.

¹ The word apostasy is derived from the Greek word ἀπιστημι, and is used in the New Testament in the sense of 'to draw away from', 'to depart from' (Hebrews 3:12.) Apostasy is used here to describe the failure of the Assembly to correct false teaching on sexuality and the decision to enshrine it in the Church's understanding of what is right and good. We reject any attempt to link apostasy with violent, hateful or bigoted behaviour which demeans other people, including those with whom we must disagree on this matter.