



## Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc

Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia

*Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, Proclaiming the truth, Renewing the church*

Website: [www.confessingcongregations.com](http://www.confessingcongregations.com)

Mail: PO Box 968 Newtown 2042; Tel: (02) 9550 5358

Email: [accoffice@confessingcongregations.com](mailto:accoffice@confessingcongregations.com)

Registered Office: 2 Erskineville Road, Newtown NSW 2042

ABN 73 794 518 715; ARBN 128 001 785

Incorporated in NSW INC9887628; Liability of members is limited

16 May 2018

### SACRED SEASON OF PRAYER AND FASTING 5<sup>th</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018

By now you will have heard the concerning news about the proposal the Assembly Standing Committee is bringing to Assembly in July to change the doctrine of marriage and understanding of marriage within the UCA to be for any 'two people'. Along with many of us, you may be feeling deeply disturbed that the UCA could even talk about, let alone propose such an idea that is so alien and foreign to what we believe is written in God's Word about the matter. Some of you may already be wanting to leave the church. However, the ACC Prayer network would encourage you to remain steadfast in the faith and to follow the process already outlined in the first ACC pastoral letter regarding what to do before, during and after the National Assembly. The ACC prayer network has put together the 40 Day Sacred Season of Prayer and Fasting to help provide encouragement, strength and direction for the church during this important time in our history.

Once again, as we have since 2009, we are having the Sacred Season of Prayer and Fasting in these 40 days leading up to and during the Assembly. This is in partnership with Uniting Prayer and Fasting. **(This is not to be confused with the 40 days of prayer that the UCA Assembly is coordinating).** There are resources written for the ACC Sacred Season which are available on the School of Faith Website, PDF form, hard copies for those who need them, and by daily email for the 40 days with prayer points. Find the resources and subscribe to receive daily emails during the 40 days of the Sacred Season at <https://www.confessingschooloffaith.com/subscribe-sacred-season>  
It is not too late to join in if you haven't done so already.

#### TRUMPET SOUND CALLING FOR PRAYER

There is a trumpet being sounded and our Living Head the Lord Jesus Christ is calling the ACC and our partners, who believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, to be united in prayer. We are still looking for prayer groups of two or more people who will covenant to pray during the Sacred Season hopefully on a weekly basis or more frequently for the following key matters.

- a) The protection of the Uniting Church's current status on marriage being between a man and a woman alone
- b) The Lord Jesus Christ would lead us to repentance and raise us up as the UCA (even as a remnant) to become who were called to be.
- c) Strength, wisdom, courage and protection for all ACC connected people who are members at Assembly including Rev Dr Hedley Fihaki (chair of ACC) and Rev Lulu Senituli.



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### **TRUTH, HUMILITY AND LOVE**

We ask that that God will help us all come humbly in prayer, not trusting in our righteousness, but by his grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that the Lord would help us not be bitter or proud. May we instead, speak the truth courageously whilst at the same time loving those who think differently in this matter, who come from different and increasingly incompatible worldviews to our own.

Let us pray for one another that we will not give in to harshness, but let the Lord soften our hearts even as we stand firm. It is God's peace that can guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus through this difficult time. (Phil 4:7)

### **ROSTER OF ACC PRAYER GROUPS**

Through these 40 days of the Sacred Season there is a roster of prayer so every day is covered. If you are not already on the roster, consider joining. Do you already pray with a regular prayer group that could focus on the prayer points above, or could you form one in your area? The group may be ecumenical or ACC/UCA alone. It only needs two or three people. We would love you to tell us when you are praying so we can cover every day. You may like to also have your group listed on the ACC School of Faith website for praying on that particular day. You would need to be aware before agreeing, that in the long run there may be a long term cost, including discrimination for standing publicly for your faith in such a way. However, there is also a promise of great blessing from the Lord (Matthew 5:10-12). May we all rise to the challenge! It is not too late to join in!

So if you have a prayer group that can pray during the rest of the Sacred Season, for the UCA to keep her traditional view on marriage and would like to commit to certain days please let us know. Email: [accoffice@confessingcongregations.com](mailto:accoffice@confessingcongregations.com) (the ACC office will forward details to the Prayer Convenor). Please include your name or group's name, where you are from (region, state), what congregation or cluster (if ACC), when you are committed to pray (date and time) and if you are willing to have your name on the public website. We would like as much time covered as possible. If you would like to receive a text when the voting will occur so you can pray, please let us know.



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### ZOOM PRAYER GROUPS

The preference would be to pray in person with others, but if you wish, you can join in our state zoom prayer meetings. We are offering weekly ACC prayer zoom groups run by different states during the Sacred Season for ACC members. You can connect by phone or internet. Contact the ACC for more details: [accoffice@confessingcongregations.com](mailto:accoffice@confessingcongregations.com)

### FASTING - humble submission to the Lord's will

We would also encourage you to fast in some way. We encourage everyone in ACC to eat simply throughout the 40 days. Eat natural foods – vegetables, fruit, grains, protein – lean meat, fish, chicken, dairy, eggs. Do not eat sweets, take away, limit processed food and strong spices, flavours etc and drink mostly water (comparable to a Daniel Fast). Also similar to Wesley's Friday fasting, you may like to miss a meal or even two each day for the 40 days but check with your doctor if in doubt. This can be tailored down to one, two or three days a week depending on your health. Do not eat more to catch up for the meals you miss. That is not fasting. Some of you who are seasoned fasters, with doctor's supervision may like to go on a liquid fast or even not eating at all for a few days except for drinking water. You may also consider fasting from something else such as TV, computer games etc to focus on prayer. Fasting is not to think in any way that our effort can change the Lord's mind on the outcome, but rather to humble ourselves and declare our total submission and dependence on the Lord's will and purpose in our own lives and the life of the church.

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ is supreme in the life of the church. Let us together be a people of prayer and fasting so we can discern what he is calling us to do and then be obedient to His will for the glory of God our Father and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Yours in Christ's Service*

*Rev Anne Hibbard*

*On behalf of the ACC National Prayer Network*

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