

## **A Statement to the Members of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations**

25 March 2019

### **Introduction**

*The ACC National Council met 10-12 March for its annual face-to-face meeting. The Council has prepared a statement to confirm and clarify the stand that the ACC has taken since the 15th Assembly decision on diversity and marriage.*

*The ACC National Council considered all the complexities that are at present abounding, and we earnestly seek your prayers and support. Please continue to also join with one another and encourage each other in the faith.*

*Peace and grace*

*The ACC National Council*

At its annual conference in September 2018, ACC passed the following resolution (among others):

that, until such time as the Assembly of the UCA repents of its apostate decisions and returns to the faith of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, as that faith is described in the Basis of Union, the Assembly of Confessing Congregations humbly, and in dependence upon God alone, offers to Congregations the role of a replacement Assembly in matters vital to the life of its Confessing Congregations.

What does that mean? For further clarification, the National Council has issued the following statement.

### **How the ACC intends to act as a 'replacement assembly'**

By this symbolic yet effective act we say as strongly as we can, that we as an 'Assembly of Confessing Congregations' are unable to live and work under the doctrinal and spiritual oversight of the UCA Assembly with its resolutions on 'religious and ethical diversity' and same-gender marriage (Resolution 64, 15th Assembly).

Instead, we will stand firm on our adherence to the Basis of Union which commits us to living and working within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We note that the 'faith and unity' spoken of here is not simply the faith and unity of the Uniting Church in Australia. It is the faith and unity of "the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church" as described in the Basis of Union (Para 2).

We put this into effect:

1. By joyously acknowledging that Christ alone is supreme in his Church and by declaring our readiness to go forward together in sole loyalty to Christ the living Head of the Church (BoU para. 1)

2. By communicating to the councils of the UCA at all levels that the ACC absolutely dissents from the Assembly decisions on religious and ethical diversity, same-gender marriage and the misinterpretation of Scripture that stand behind those decisions.
3. By celebrating, ministering and publicly proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which is fully effective and sufficient to overcome the power of sin and restore humanity into the glory of Christ-likeness.
4. By teaching and witnessing to the glorious relationship of Christ and his bride the church, the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, and the divine splendour of family.
5. By affirming that each local congregation is the 'embodiment of the one holy catholic and apostolic church', and so recognizing the need for local Confessing Congregations to take ownership of their decisions in obedience to Christ, the Scriptures, and in adherence to the Basis of Union. This may include matters of finance, signage and anything else which advances their unity, life and witness.
6. By further developing appropriate resourcing and training for ministry to meet the needs of all ACC congregations.
7. By ensuring the suitability in selection, placement and oversight of ministry leaders for ACC congregations.
8. By developing the ACC's own relationship with other networks, denominational churches and leaders; locally, nationally and internationally.
9. By affirming that the Uniting Church "belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end", and praying that, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God will "constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen." (BoU para 18)

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