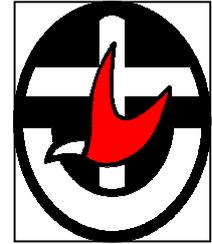


**Deniliquin Uniting Church
P.O. Box 6
Deniliquin
NSW 2710**



**Ms Colleen Geyer,
General Secretary,
Uniting Church in Australia Assembly
PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235**

We write as a member congregation of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church of Australia. We urgently request, that members of the 15th Assembly carefully and prayerfully consider their position, when the U.C.A. deals with the issue of changing the definition of marriage within the church.

We note that President Stuart McMillan has stated in his pastoral letter of the 28th August, 2017 that, “The Uniting Church official definition of marriage is between a man and a woman.”

This definition accords with the teaching of scripture, that human beings are created in the image of God as male and female (Genesis 1:26), and that marriage is the union of a man and woman in heart, mind and body. (Genesis 2:24 and Mark 10:9). We also believe that, marriage symbolises Christ’s union with His church. That is, a man’s sacrificial love for his wife, mirrors Christ’s sacrifice for His church, and the wife’s love for her husband, mirrors the church’s devotion to Christ. (Ephesians 5: 21-33)

The scriptural warrant is also acknowledged by the Basis of Union of the U.C.A. when our current church came together out of the heritage of the former churches’ orthodox faith in scripture.

Many Members of the Uniting Church may feel that this view of scripture is “outdated” and believe that to recognise “same sex marriage” is merely to offer “equality” to those who hold to that view, and recognise changed attitudes in society/ community.

This view fails to recognise the flow on effects to other areas, e.g. the breakdown of the recognition of children’s rights brought about by same-sex unions and the failure to recognise the Lordship of Christ in other areas of the Christian faith.

We, as a congregation support the position of the A.C.C. in that these changes will not in fact lead to “inclusion”, but rather lead to the “exclusion” of that part of the church which holds to orthodox scriptural teaching. There is also the risk of further alienating those who oppose traditional apostolic understanding of scripture, from God’s plan of redemptive love.

We are not called as Christ’s church to reflect society, but rather to “season” society by honouring Christ as Lord.

We make these appeals, not to “turn against” anyone of same-sex attraction (who we also see as brothers and sisters in Christ), but so that all people can come to understand the perfect plan God has provided through His Son.

We therefore support the position outlined by the A.C.C. and call on the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church to declare our “unity in Christ” rather than “unity in diversity”, and to reaffirm the traditional biblical definition of marriage.

Yours Sincerely,

**Philip Hodgkinson
Secretary,
Deniliquin Uniting Church
30th May, 2018**