

Reforming

Introducing Rev Dr Max Champion

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ! As you may know, I have been interim Chair of the Reforming Alliance within the UCA since its inception in September 2003.

It is my pleasure to convey to you the news that Rev Dr Max Champion has taken this position as a permanent arrangement.

I know well Max's great value not just as a personal friend but as a gifted scholar and experienced pastor, and so the news of his appointment comes with my warmest recommendation.

The Reforming Alliance continues to value highly the

processes of communication and I know Max is keen to make contact with you soon. I hope that you will welcome this approach and the opportunity to continue discussion. This letter also comes with great thanks for the support and helpful communication I have been privileged to receive from many of you.

As you approach another year of leadership in both chartered and unchartered waters, may you know in a profound way the presence and blessings of the One who calls and empowers us to be fishers of all.

Yours in His name
Rosemary Broadstock (Rev).
(past-Chairperson)

Special points of interest:

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- > Introducing Rev Dr Max Champion
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- > Yes, I Want To Become a member of the Reforming Alliance

Reforming Alliance... building a better future.

The Birth

The Reforming Alliance was born out of a gathering of concern individuals from across the nation who met in Sydney (Sept 2003). It was with concern for the crisis in the Uniting Church's life and faith that a national summit of evangelical/orthodox leaders and theologians of the UCA was called.

At the prayerful Summit, three different approaches emerged which we believed to be mutually enhancing. This brought to mind Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A three stranded cord is not easily broken." As we wrestled in prayer and discussion, we became aware that all three approaches could, and should, function under the umbrella of a new group, "**The Reforming Alliance within the Uniting Church**".

The Three Strands

Strand 1) For those who feel they must stay and work wholeheartedly for change within the current structures.
Strand 2) For those who feel they must stay but move to parallel structures to bring about change.
Strand 3) For those who feel they have to leave and come out from the current structures of the UCA but will remain members of the Alliance in a mutually beneficial relationship.

The Future

The Reforming Alliance has over 1000 individual members and 90 congregations as members. We are a vibrant growing community of conviction. Let us move forward together into God's future for us.

Profile of Rev Dr Max Champion

Ordained in 1975 I have been a minister in city and rural parishes in Victoria and overseas for over 25 years. At present I am a minister at St John's, Mt Waverley. I am 56 and married with 4 children.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to provide leadership in a number of areas, particularly with groups that are committed to robust encounter of the Gospel with modern society. These include:

Chair of Board of Communication, Synod of Victoria, (4 years) responsible for the church paper (Church and Nation) and radio and TV ministry.

Chair of Doctrine and Liturgy Committee, Synod of Victoria (7 years).

Chair of Forum on Faith and Society (15 years) which held quarterly seminars on theology and public issues.

Chair of The Galatians Group (5 years), an ecumenical group which published the proceedings of annual conferences on aboriginal reconciliation, social justice, multiculturalism, education, values and the arts.

Editor of Forward Together: On What Basis? Essays on the Basis of Union.

Editor of The Unity of Worship and Mission in a Pluralistic Society (Committee on Doctrine & Liturgy, 1991).

Synod elected representative to the 1994 Assembly of the UCA. Member of the Commission for Mission, Synod of Victoria (3

years) Director of the Armadale Centre for Church and Society (3 years).

My thesis was on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German Lutheran theologian and a staunch critic of Nazism. He was a key figure in the *Confessing Church* which opposed the Church's acceptance of National Socialism as being compatible with the will of God, and was hanged in a Gestapo prison in 1945 for his part in a conspiracy to kill Hitler.

Finally, I studied in W.A., Victoria and USA. In 1988 I completed a doctorate in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. I have been greatly challenged and encouraged by Bonhoeffer's courage and thought-provoking theology.

True faith, Bonhoeffer said, doesn't look for 'God in the gaps' in our knowledge or at the edges of life, but in the midst of the world. Thus, the faith of the Church is not an escape from life – as many critics said – but a calling to practice a 'non-religious' faith at the centre of life.

I believe our goal as the UCA is to remain part of the 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church' and continue to be a faithful witness to God's transforming grace in the lives of folk, like you and me, who are easily attracted to ideas, values and relationships that are destructive of the high purpose for which we have been created and reconciled.

A Newsletter of the
"Reforming Alliance
within the UCA"

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Sowing seeds of reform

Please send us your response

Yes, I want to be part of the Reforming Alliance within the Uniting Church

- I want to become a MEMBER of the Reforming Alliance
 Please send me a "Introducing Max Champion" Reforming Alliance Video (18 minutes) Cost \$10 including p&p

Name _____

Address _____

Congregation _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Cheque payable to "Reforming Alliance" Visa Bankcard MasterCard \$ _____
Amount

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

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