



Reforming

www.reformingalliance.org.au

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Uniting for Reform

The Reforming Alliance within the Uniting Church was born out of a deep concern with ongoing liberal trends within the UCA. Today that concern has transformed into conviction that we need to unite together for reform of the UCA.

Our name expresses our conviction. "Reforming" is a call for the whole church to come back to the reformed understanding of scripture and live with an orthodox sexual ethic.

Instead of being swept along with our culture, our ethics have to be determined by scripture, theology and the tradition of the one holy, catholic, apostolic church. "Alliance" describes the broad cross-section of people who have come together to build a better future. The phrase "within the UCA" has been chosen to convey the conviction that we are being guided by the Basis of Union. In essence, RA is a grassroots movement calling for the reform of the old liberal establishment within the UCA.

News From the National RA Chairperson:

"I have written a strong response to **Presidential Ruling No. 23** which I have sent to the Rev Dr Dean Drayton. I believe that the ruling has serious implications for the UCA, not only in the present controversy, but for the life of the whole Church. If decisions of Councils of the Church can be ignored by other councils as

they see fit, then, as a matter of principle, diversity alone must be accepted as the ultimate value. The full text of the President's ruling and my response is on the website."

"A two-day **National RA Summit** will be held in July 2004 open to all members. It will be a great time of worship, prayer, biblical teaching and decision making about the future. The AGM will be held during the Summit and the RA Constitution finalised."

"RA is a grassroots movement calling for the reform of the old liberal establishment within the UCA."

"I commend to you our first RA publication – **The Other Side of 84: Homosexuality and the Uniting Church in Australia**. (The Proceedings of a Conference of RA held on 29th November 2003 in Melbourne).

This booklet contains articles on theology, scripture, history and ethics by the Rev Dr Ian

Breward, Rev Dr Brian Edgar, Rev Bruce Barber & Owen Davis. The impact of proposal 84 on ethnic congregations is recorded by members of Indonesian, Korean, Chinese and Tongan congregations in the UCA.

The Rev Dr Robert Johnson, General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Rev Dr Alan Crawford, former Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Rev Jason Choi, Multicultural Ministry and Mission Consultant comment on the 'Way Forward for the UC.' (To purchase a copy see over) "

Rev Dr Max Champion

Reforming Alliance STRAND News

STRAND 1 News: For those working with the Assembly Standing Committee Process.

The RA Executive, believe that it is vital to use this process. Otherwise, those in favour of R84 will argue that there was no significant opposition. A number of congregations have made forceful and pointed submissions to the Assembly Secretary. Please ensure your congregation does too. Don't miss the April 30th deadline.

The RA executive wishes to hold a number of face to face meetings both within major cities and in country centres. We want people to hear for themselves what the issues are and what congregations can do to underline that they are the fundamental place for decision making which fosters evangelism and witness in community. So please invite us to visit your area.

Rev Dr Ian Breward
Director STRAND 1

STRAND 2 News: For those who feel they must stay but want new and fresh approaches to church life.

Strand 2 *actionsheets* have provided congregations with the guidance about practical steps to take. *Actionsheet* no. 1 Time for Decision. *Actionsheet* no. 2 A New Logo for a New Day. *Actionsheet* no. 3 Give to What You Believe In. The *actionsheets* are available from the RA website.

A new development in SA is the formation of a Provisional Orthodox Presbytery. UCA members from 36

congregations gathered and decided unanimously to form a new Orthodox Presbytery. The inaugural meeting of the new Presbytery will be on May 7th and then they will seek recognition from the SA Synod.

Is there interest in your congregation for a new Provisional Orthodox Presbytery in your Synod?

Rev Phil Marshall
Director STRAND 2

STRAND 3 News: For those who feel they can not remain under the current UCA leadership and must leave.

As Strand 3 Director it is my melancholy lot to be confronted every day with responses to the Assembly's decisions like this one. Here, in part, is what one departing family said as they left the Uniting Church:

"It is our belief that because of the continued liberal theological positions of what is apparently now the majority of the "paid" leadership of the Uniting Church and the consequential decisions by the Assembly on what should be basic issues such as the role of Homosexuals in leadership that we must not continue within the Uniting Church. The evidence of the "fruit" of over 20 years of liberal leadership and its failure to take biblical positions within the Uniting Church is its negative growth and a rich harvest of bitter disappointment, strife and disillusionment."

Rev Dr Gordon Watson
Director STRAND 3

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Please Photocopy
Reforming no. 3
and Pass It On

Order New Book

**"The Other Side of 84:
Homosexuality and the
Uniting Church"**

\$10 (inc GST)

Send cheque to:
Reforming Alliance
C/- 7 Princetown Rd
Mt Waverley, Vic 3149

Please send us your response

Yes, I want to become a member of the Reforming Alliance within the UCA

- Please indicate which STRAND you identify with. STRAND 1 STRAND 2 STRAND 3
 I want to make a donation to the work of the Reforming Alliance

Name _____

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