

# MEDIA RELEASE

From **The Assembly of Confessing Congregations (ACC)**  
**within the Uniting Church in Australia**

On Friday 13th July 2018, the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia exercised its determining authority on matters of doctrine to 'vary its policy on marriage' to include same-gender relationships.

This decision is grounded neither in Scripture, nor *The Basis of Union*, but on a secular understanding of 'diversity'; a diversity that has now gone beyond the acceptance of a diversity of theologies on marriage to include a 'diversity of religious beliefs and ethical understandings' with no boundaries regarding what is acceptable diversity.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly also determined that this matter was not 'vital to the life of the church' and therefore did not seek to enact concurrence with the other councils of the Church. Numerous congregations, presbyteries (the regional council), networks, groups and members within the Uniting Church therefore reject this decision, and desire to make this fact known to the 15<sup>th</sup> National Assembly, as well as to the wider church, and the Australian community.

The ACC National Council believes that the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly decision to revise the Church's understanding of marriage is a clear departure from the unequivocal witness of Scripture, and a withdrawal from the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church to which the Uniting Church is committed to under its foundational document, *The Basis of Union*.

We, therefore, continue to state clearly, that we reject not only this decision, but the authority of the Uniting Church Assembly and therefore 'stand aside' from this Council of the Uniting Church.

The National Conference of the ACC will be held in Sydney 17-19 September 2018 to prayerfully consider proposals regarding the future direction of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations.

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