

Recounting the UC Departure of 2003, 2006, and 2018.

*These years are significant in the Uniting Church's drift away from the orthodox Christian teaching of scripture and the understanding of the main historic church. In 2003 after considering the view of 'Celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in marriage' and a policy of 'Right relationships' as outlined in 'Uniting Church Sexuality and Faith' the National Assembly adopted **Resolution 84** that allowed the ordination of people living in a homosexual relationship. In preparation for the 11th Assembly of the Uniting Church July 5-11, 2006 the following theological summaries/explanations were offered by Rev Rod James to churches in the Hope Network and by Rev Ted Curnow to those of Evangelical conviction. The Uniting Church stepped further from orthodoxy in 2018 by formally changing and approving homosexual marriage by describing Christian marriage as now consisting of 'two integrities.'*

Theological Apostasy

“, we believe that Resolution 84 is apostate because it departs from the Biblical understanding of human beings as created in the image of God, male and female (Genesis 1:26-27). This image of God in creation is also present in redemption, as Christ, the Lamb of God, gives himself up to redeem the church as his body and his bride (Ephesians 5:22-23, Revelation 19:6-9). it is the male/female nature of humanity which fundamentally reflects the personal and inter-personal nature of the Triune God. The vital fundamentals of human family flow from this image of God in humanity, and so departure from this doctrine leads both to a loss of the true knowledge of God and a loss of the true relational nature of mankind. The implications of the latter are serious for children and for society, Furthermore, the Assembly is apostate in that by allowing homosexual activity among its leadership it is calling good what the Scripture says is sin. This will lead inevitably to people being encouraged into sin.

“Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” Romans 1:32 (ESV)

For these reasons it is important for us to remain opposed to Resolution 84 and its implications for the Uniting Church and the church universal.”

Rev Rod James (2006)

A Pastoral Explanation

“Since 2003 the National Assembly decision Resolution 84---each State has responded in different ways. The SA Synod has withdrawn the Council of Presbytery from regional geographical areas to allow Congregations of common conviction to work together as Networks. *(to retain their own theological identity)* Although some Ministers and members have left the Uniting Church this has allowed many to uphold their convictions in the midst of the Church’s diversity.

Some people have decided that the issue of same gender sexual practice is similar to our different views about other things (eg baptism) and that it should not distract us from getting on with mission. For many it has become ‘politically correct’ and a sign of loyalty to preserve the unity of the church at all costs to simply get on with the future.

Those who are biblically and theologically aware, while being marginalised are conscious that the Church’s current position is serious because it effects the ‘substance of the faith,’ and so compromises the Church’s Mission. This historically places the UC outside of main Christian beliefs held for centuries and the traditional understanding and fellowship of the Universal Church.

Those of this conviction believe the UC in attempting to relate to cultural trends has *‘lost the way’* and departed from the inspired, authority and common principles of the faith. While sadly this will result in schism, others are aware that God chastens those that He loves and that in accordance with the **Basis of Union**, the Uniting Church still prays that God will, *‘constantly correct that which is erroneous in her life’* Para 18. It is also obligated to remain open to *constant reform* and recognises an ongoing need for a constant appeal to Holy Scripture. Para 10.

With Grace and Peace, Rev Ted Curnow.”

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Version 12/7/2020