

New South Wales State Movement Committee Members

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Deputy Chair: T.B.A.
Secretary: Bruce Fairhall
Other Members: Alton Bowen
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Rev. Ngan Ha Le
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Prayer/Worship: Position Vacant

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**All other mail, including donations,
should be sent to the National Office at Newtown.**

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Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc.

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Frequently Asked Questions

about

The Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia

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Q1. Why form the Assembly of Confessing Congregations?

Unfortunately, the decisions and processes of the UCA have not been faithful to traditional Christian teaching. However, we believe that it is important to continue to work within the UCA to try to bring about its reform under the Word of God. We have taken this action for the sake of the gospel and to better fulfil the purposes for which the UCA was established.

Q2. How does the Assembly of Confessing Congregations fit within the Uniting Church structures?

The ACC recognises the structures of the UCA and encourages its members to continue to work within those structures to the extent that they serve the gospel and the wellbeing of the Church. The ACC's own structures have no direct links with those of the UCA and are not intended to be copies of them.

Q3. How is the ACC structured?

The structures of the ACC are still evolving. To date, we have decided that there will be an annual National Assembly of members, a National Council to provide ongoing spiritual leadership, a National Secretariat to deal with administrative matters, and a State Network (Movement) in each state and territory to promote the work of the ACC.

Q4. Is the Assembly of Confessing Congregations divisive?

The ACC is not divisive. It is committed to the Basis of Union, and to preserving the faith and unity of the worldwide Church. Our concern is that the UCA has moved away from the historic and ecumenical Church by normalising homosexual relationships and by weakening the authority of the Word of God. Our aim is to strengthen the unity of the UCA with the rest of the Church by encouraging our leaders to confess the teaching of Scripture about the expression of sexuality and other important matters of doctrine.

Q5. Why get involved in church politics?

Many in the Uniting Church are weary and wary of 'church politics'. The Assembly of Confessing Congregations is not in opposition to the Uniting Church leaders and councils, but is their servant, faithfully and humbly bearing witness to the truth of God. In the end, divisive political strategies can never prevail in the church of God, while faithfully confessing the truth will prevail.

The ACC has enabled concerned members of the Uniting Church to remain within the UCA and to work together towards its renewal.

Q6. With Evangelical Members of the Uniting Church in Australia (EMU) and Reforming Alliance (RA) already in existence, why was another group formed?

After the inauguration of the ACC in October 2006, following the 11th UCA Assembly, EMU state branches formally wound up operation. RA ceased to exist following a motion at the ACC 2008 National Conference.

Both organisations encouraged their members to focus their energies and resources into supporting the growth of the ACC.

Q7. Has the ACC rejected the authority of Presbyteries, Synods and Assembly?

The ACC does not reject the legitimate authority of Presbyteries, Synods and Assembly. From our perspective, it is the Uniting Church Assembly that has failed in its responsibility and its moral authority in the decisions that have been made, despite repeated protests by RA and EMU and many other concerned members. The ACC recognises the important practical relationship that all ACC congregations have with their Synod and Presbytery and affirms that relationship.

Q8. How can a congregation or individual join the ACC?

We encourage congregations and individuals to prayerfully consider the information the ACC provides. Any congregation wishing to join the ACC needs to go through an appropriate decision-making process that considers what the ACC stands for and whether the congregation believes it is called to be a part of this confessing movement. Congregations and individuals can request formal membership using the special membership forms.

Q9. Is there a place in the ACC for people whose congregation does not join?

In a word, 'Yes'.

Membership is open to both congregations and individuals. It is clear that many people sympathetic to the aims of the ACC belong to congregations that for one reason or another, may decide not to join the ACC. As well as offering membership to such people, the ACC has considered a number of other possibilities to help them, e.g. a cell group within a non-ACC congregation, regional fellowship groups, and regional clusters.

At New South Wales State Meetings, individual members are given full voting rights to encourage active participation.