

Nov 2017 Synod wrap up on marriage.

First of all a big thank you to all who wrote to Synod urging it to support the UCA's received doctrine on Marriage.

The letters were clear, unambiguous and passionate.

With the writers permission we will post them on HopeNet website and send them onto the Assembly Standing Committee.

HopeNet joined a coalition including the aboriginal Congress and some others to organise a Prayer Vigil at Synod. This and all the letters troubled Synod organisers and Business Committee who asked us not to go ahead with the vigil. We agreed to their request seeking to walk in peace and knowing prayers could occur quietly. Besides there was a Synod prayer meeting which some of us attended and valued.

Several proposals from HN persons were declined by BC before Synod. These proposals we believe would have strengthened the Synods allegiance to its received doctrine. However one was introduced on the floor. Even though it lost its proposers spoke strongly and faithfully for the Gospel and our Lord's instruction on marriage. Their contribution was a highlight.

The July Assembly in Melbourne will make the final decision. Several who will stand for marriage accepted nomination to Assembly.

How did all this turn out? Synod included table discussions on marriage and although the set formal questions were initially described as a 'marriage equality conversation', there was scope to highlight the truth about marriage. Indeed from what I heard of the final report that came through.

Clearly we are reaching a decision moment for our HopeNet caused by the refusal of our denomination through its Assembly to simply affirm its doctrine of marriage. It seems hell-bent on conforming to a particular worldly culture gathering powerful momentum. But our Lord has saved us and granted to us His wisdom to walk with Him, learning the ways and language of His new creation and kingdom which He is inaugurating. We will stay steadfast in His word and will.

To prepare and stand clear and strong together we are planning a meeting for all our **HopeNet congregational representatives on February 2nd, a Thursday at Glenunga UCA 10 am**. We expect to share lunch together. Please plan to attend even if a proxy rep needs to be appointed. More details on agenda coming.

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