

15th Assembly of UCA, July 2018
Information to Congregations from ACC

Peter Bentley of Assembly of Confessing Congregations has provided information from the draft minutes of the National Council meeting of 5-7 March 2018 to assist congregations and individuals intending to write to the 15th Assembly. The following is a copy of what Peter provided, except that references to "Presbytery" as the recipient of correspondence has been replaced with "Assembly".

Resolution: Provide the Congregations with a suggested proposal they can put to the Assembly, such proposal to be worded along the lines of:

That the Congregation/Church Council of *name-of-church*

- a) notes that the changing of the civil laws relating to Marriage in Australia have received high prominence in Government and in the public arena in recent time; and accordingly,
- b) believes that the Uniting Church's views on Marriage constitute a "matter of vital importance" to members of our Church as defined in the Constitution of the UCA, paragraph 15e relating to the Assembly; and therefore,
- c) calls upon the National Assembly of the UCA to seek the concurrence of all councils of the Church (Congregations, Presbyteries and Synods) before implementing any change to the definition of Marriage as stated in 8th National Assembly Minute 97.31.12 as reiterated during the 13th Assembly in 2012 as item 12.31, and as implemented through the Liturgy for Marriage in Uniting in Worship.

Notes

References & Rationale:

UCA National Assembly Minute 97.31.12 The Assembly resolved to approve the following policy Statement on Marriage:

"The Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia declares that

1. Marriage for Christians is the freely given consent and commitment in public and before God of a man and a woman to live together for life. It is intended to be the mutually faithful lifelong union of a woman and man expressed in every part of their life together. In marriage the man and the woman seek to encourage and enrich each other through love and companionship."
2. Constitution of the UCA - Para 15e (Assembly): It is obligatory for it to seek the concurrence of other councils, and on occasion of the congregations of the Church, on matters of vital importance to the life of the Church. Uniting in Worship Liturgy for Marriage: marriage is "between a man and a woman"

Isaiah 62:6 ". You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent."