

Pre-Assembly HNConnection

Sign Assembly Statement: Here is a combined initiative from across the churches of the UCA to address the Assembly and warn of the harrowing consequences of contradicting the Christian doctrine of marriage held to by the UCA to this point and honoured in all the confessions of our church heritage. If you haven't as a church council or leader in a specified ministry, sign now, on the [Assembly statement](#) **"If the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church adopts these proposals in or close to their current form, we humbly state that in accordance with our prayerful convictions, we will not accept these decisions, and we will stand apart from them in ways that we will determine after the Assembly meets."**

Prayer for Assembly. Proposals by ACC leaders Hedley Fihaki and Lu Senitulu to maintain and celebrate the Christian truth of marriage. Hopenet pastor Andrew Everson (Naracoorte) and David Hoffman (Westbourne Park) to put the proposal that any change should be dependent on vote in local congregations not just Assembly.

You may like to use in your congregational prayers this Sunday on the day of the opening of Assembly this strong and [stirringly worded prayer](#) offered by one of our members, Rev Ted Curnow.

ACC on Assembly updates and commentary [here](#)

Post-Assembly: Hopenet Executive working with our congregations and in cooperation with others will bring recommendations for the future of our churches in the days after Assembly. Whatever the outcome of Assembly we will need to respond according to the Direction of Holy Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit given to believing humble and courageous hearts. Exec has already discussed possibilities and now, awaiting the outcome will proceed and act. Not only has this been an issue of marriage, it has also focussed our understanding of credal foundations and leadership in our Assembly and its Councils. While it appears that our denomination has been the most preoccupied and battered by heresies the fact is that having to face and debate has made us stronger and maybe is equipping us for responsibilities of example and leadership amongst a much wider range of churches and believers. I am deeply thankful and proud of all who at whatever level have kept true confession and have contended when required for the Faith.

The ultimate authority in the world is Jesus Christ. We can all be thankful for that. Christ is the final Word declared by Almighty God the Father; "this is my beloved Son, listen to him". All through human history the Creator has spoken by his works and by his many prophets. But now it is the Last Days and he has spoken fully and finally by his Son whom he has appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the universe.

His words create abundant life. His teaching is alive and accessible to every human born on the planet. Outside his word the vicious lord of death reigns dragging by deceit all who turn from the protection of Lord Jesus. This our Jesus has gone in his raised body to the Father and now rules the earth legitimately; declaring the repentant innocent, working justice on the earth and warning punishments for those who abuse his bride, the faithful body of Christ.

The Lord Jesus has authority to forgive sins against Almighty God and power to begin the remake of our characters now and to ultimately fit us for an inheritance after this earthly life is done.

Those who dare to contradict his word attempting to install a different order commit high treason against his kingdom. Desertion from his kingdom leaves a soul to Satan's terrible devices. All faithful pastors, responsible for the shepherding of Christ's flock are to bring Christ's word to strengthen and guard his people. In Christ is victory.

Forces trying to close down the liberating Gospel in Australian society: The warnings issued before and during last year's postal survey are now becoming clearer. [The Greens](#) introduced their Equal Opportunity (LGBTIQ Anti-Discrimination) Amendment Bill 2018 into the WA Legislative Council last week, endangering freedom for Christian Schools to hire staff and teach according to Scripture. Laws requiring Catholic priests to break the seal of Confession in cases of child abuse and misconduct have passed in the ACT and SA. This has consequences for Protestant not only Catholic churches. [NSW passed laws](#) preventing direct contact between supporters of the unborn and abortion clinics. Laws against [Christians praying](#) ,in Aussie?

The media continues its biases. However what great platforms and opportunities for lighting our lives and communities with truth. Be bold.

New Wineskins for old denominations: Anglicans forge ahead regardless of the old Lambeth structures with 2000 delegates from 53 countries. The occasion here in Jerusalem is the 10th Anniversary of [GAFCON](#), a global movement of Bible-based Anglicans who profess the orthodox apostolic faith and work together in Gospel Mission.

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