

## **Lutheran Church of Australia and Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

[Date of approval]

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<b>Purpose:</b>	The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Dialogue is an ongoing Dialogue between the two churches. This Terms of Reference relates to the UCA members of the Dialogue.
<b>Reporting Arrangements:</b>	Assembly Standing Committee (ASC)
<b>Period:</b>	This Terms of Reference is for the period July 2018 – June 2021
<b>Membership:</b>	As determined by the ASC on the recommendation of the Assembly Resourcing Unit (ARU) and Christian Unity Working Group (2015-2018)

#### **Task Required:**

1. Finalise the Reports currently being worked on by the dialogue, *At the Table – Report on Eucharist and Eucharistic Hospitality in Special Need*.
2. Undertake additional work towards the completion of 'A Concordat for full communion, so that members from either denomination may share in Holy Communion in each other's churches' as identified in the *Declaration of Mutual Recognition* between the two churches.
3. Through the Dialogue, maintain relationships between the LCA and UCA and provide feedback to the ASC of emerging areas of interest or emerging issues that may need to be pursued by other parts of the Assembly.

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

The UCA members of the Dialogue form, for the purposes of the ASC, a Task Group within the life of the Assembly. During the 2018-2021 Triennium the Task Group will:

1. Present an Annual Report to the ASC via ARU in time for the August ASC meeting in both 2019 and 2020, and a report for the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly in July 2021.

These reports will indicate:

- Frequency of meetings
  - Any need for changes in membership of the UCA Dialogue members
  - Progress of key conversations
  - Any documents produced by the Dialogue during the period
  - Constraints or issues to be addressed (if any) for ongoing work
2. Working through the ARU, provide any documents or reports that need to be considered by ASC for input or adoption.
  3. In its 2021 Report, provide an indication of the vitality of the Dialogue, suggesting what areas of work and the appropriate membership that would be required carry this work forward.

### **How the task group will work:**

1. Be grounded in the gospel and build upon the tradition of the Uniting Church in Australia.
2. Live out our covenant as First and Second Peoples.
3. Live out our commitment to being a multicultural church, oriented towards justice.
4. Embody an inclusive church where those of differing ability, age, gender, race and sexuality are welcomed
5. Ensure that the activities of the Task Group are consistent with the Basis of Union of the UCA, the Constitution and Regulations, and align with the current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
6. Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other councils, agencies and groups within the UCA, and work collaboratively wherever possible.
7. Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other bodies ecumenically and with other civil society organisation and work collaboratively wherever possible.
8. Where appropriate, conduct its work on the basis of rigorous, contemporary research and analysis

### **Membership:**

The UCA Dialogue members (Task Group) will be appointed by the ASC in their August 2018 meeting, guided by input from the ARU, having consulted with the Christian Unity Working Group (2015-2018).

The UCA members of the Dialogue will comprise of up to six people, one of whom is appointed by the ASC as the Convenor.

The selection process will consider the expertise and experience required to undertake the work of the Task Group. Some consideration of geographic location will be given when selecting members given the UCA and LCA are predominantly co-located in Victoria and South Australia.

Should there be need to add new members during a triennium then ASC will do so on the recommendation of the current Dialogue members and the ARU.

### **Convenor:**

The Convenor will be responsible primarily for liaison with the LCA in order to arrange meetings, collate necessary information and provide reports to ASC. The Convenor will be the primary point of contact for the ARU as they support the Dialogue.

### **Period:**

This Terms of Reference is for the three years of the triennium 2018-2021. The ASC understands the longterm, relational nature of ecumenical dialogues and understands that there may be an extension of the UCA participation in the Dialogue into the next triennium.

In the lead up to the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly the Task Group will report to ASC through the ARU as to whether there is ongoing work be done and if so the nature of this work.

Based on this report, the ASC will determine whether or not to extend the Task Group into the following triennium, and then review the Terms of Reference and membership with a view to these going forward to the August ASC meeting in August 2021.

*Approved by the Standing Committee, August 2018*