

CHURCH POLITY REFERENCE COMMITTEE

MANDATE

[Approved by Assembly Standing Committee March 2018]

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| Responsible to: | The Assembly |
| Reporting Arrangements: | The Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee |
| Mission: | To advise the Assembly, the Standing Committee and the General Secretary on the polity of the Uniting Church, in light of the Basis of Union, the Constitution and the Regulations. |

Mandate:

The Polity Reference Committee will:

1. Provide advice on matters of polity at the request of the Assembly, the Standing Committee or the General Secretary.
2. Initiate with the General Secretary, the Standing Committee or the Assembly consideration of issues and concerns relating to the polity of the Church.
3. On the advice of the General Secretary, assist other Assembly agencies with advice on matters concerning the polity of the Church.
4. Assist with the drafting of amendments to the Constitution and the Regulations, as requested by the Assembly, the Standing Committee, the Legal Reference Committee or the General Secretary.

As a Committee of the National Assembly, Polity Reference Committee will also:

1. Ensure that the activities of the Committee are consistent with the Vision and current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
2. Advise the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee on policy matters within its area of responsibility and expertise.
3. Make decisions where the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the Mandate, or by resolution.
4. Implement policies determined by the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee when relevant to its mandate and operations.
5. Work collaboratively with other Assembly agencies.

Membership

The Chairperson of the Polity Reference Committee will be appointed by the Assembly every three years.

Other members of the Committee will be appointed every three years at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting following the triennial Assembly. Casual vacancies will be filled as required by the Assembly Standing Committee, with guidance from the Chairperson.

Members may serve for up to three consecutive terms before becoming ineligible for further membership for a period of three years.

The Polity Reference Committee will have a diversity of skills and a diversity of age, gender and cultural background. Appointments to the Committee will be based on the member's contribution towards the skill and diversity matrix. Consideration will also be given to representation from each Synod.

The Committee will be a minimum of seven and up to a maximum of ten persons.

The Polity Reference Committee has the delegated authority to establish sub-committees or working groups for various tasks related specifically to the mandate.