

**Uniting Church in Australia  
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE  
15 – 17 July 2005**

**MANDATE UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION**

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**Responsible to:** The Assembly

**Reporting Arrangements:** The Assembly and the Standing Committee

**Mission Statement:** In response to God's purpose for the world and its peoples, to focus the vision and utilise the resources of the church through:

- Engaging in God's mission in the world in obedience to the call of Christ (c.f. Basis of Union paragraphs 1 & 2)
- Encouraging and facilitating the church to pray, study and be involved in the mission of God in the world
- Building and strengthening inter-church partnerships in mission and evangelism, particularly in Asia, the Pacific and southern Africa
- Enabling the church to hear and respond to the needs of all peoples, especially those in greatest need, throughout the world.

**Mandate:**

1. To provide leadership for the church in its calling as part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ among all peoples.
2. To work in partnership with churches, councils of churches and other appropriate agencies, to develop policies and programs in mission and evangelism, justice and peace, human rights and community development.
3. To contribute to the worldwide endeavour of theological discussion and program innovation in the areas of bilateral and multilateral church to church partnerships in mission.
4. To develop, encourage and guide the church's partnership in mission with churches overseas, especially in Asia, the Pacific, and southern Africa in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
5. To develop relationships and innovative means of working with synods, presbyteries, congregations and groups across the life of the church to facilitate the work of International Mission and the mission of God in the world.
6. To ensure that the international mission of the church is shared with and promoted to all sectors of the church.
7. To emphasise a particular care for and solidarity with communities in greatest need and to work with our partners to reduce poverty, achieve sustainable development, address the causes of poverty, and promote justice, peace and civil society.
8. Through the UCOA Division to seek to maintain a partnership with AusAID in the AusAID/NGO Co-operation Program (ANCP), the PNG Church Partnership Program and other programs and to maintain membership in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

**General:**

As a National Assembly Agency Uniting International Mission will have the following general responsibilities:

1. Focusing the activities of the agency on the vision of the Assembly as a whole

2. Advising the Assembly and/or the Standing Committee on policy matters within their area of responsibility
3. Making policy decisions where the Assembly or the Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the agency mandate or by resolution
4. Implementation of policies determined by the Assembly and/or the Standing Committee through National Director, other agency staff and volunteers.

**Power to appoint:**

The Reference Group has power to appoint working groups to operate within this mandate. Such working groups will be accountable to the UIM Reference Group through the National Director.

**Division Committee:**

Due to the special requirements of governance UCOA will operate as a separate division with a special mandate approved by the Assembly Standing Committee. This division will have a National Committee appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee.

**Membership of the Reference Committee:**

Total of 16 persons (including co-options)

- Chairperson, appointed by the Assembly
- National Director, Uniting International Mission
- 10 people with specific interest and expertise, including one person from each Synod
- Up to four co-options, including up to two from partner churches, to maintain appropriate balance in membership.