

## **MANDATE FOR UNITING CHURCH OVERSEAS AID**

- Responsible to:** The Assembly through Uniting International Mission
- Reporting Arrangements:** The Assembly and the Standing Committee through Uniting International Mission, and to UCA Assembly Ltd
- Mission Statement:** To hear and respond to the expressed needs of communities in Asia, the Pacific and Southern Africa through aid for relief and development programs that contribute to poverty alleviation.

**Mandate:**

1. To work in partnership with churches, councils of churches and other appropriate agencies, to develop policies and programs that have the aim of transforming communities through sustainable development.
2. To implement development policies and programs that:
  - Assist communities in developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development
  - Address the causes of poverty and promote justice, peace and civil society
  - Meet human needs that result from natural disasters and emergencies and to assist people to recover as soon as possible
  - Are effective and well managed and reflect good planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs
  - Give special attention to the development of our capacity and the capacity of our partners.
3. To be open and clear in informing supporters about the activities undertaken and to develop their awareness of issues related to aid and development.
4. To seek support for relief and development activities including the following major areas:
  - Community development
  - Justice and peace building
  - Emergency relief; disaster recovery and refugee support
  - Training and capacity building
  - Development education
5. To maintain a partnership with AusAID through participation in its various programs with NGO's (such as ANCP and PNG Church Partnership Program) and to maintain membership in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and to meet the requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct.
6. To administer the "Relief fund" approved by the ATO under the "Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme" named "The Uniting Church in Australia Commission for World Mission Overseas Programme Fund".

**Relationship with Uniting International Mission:**

Uniting Church Overseas Aid is a division of Uniting International Mission.

**Power to Appoint:**

To establish sub-committees and working groups for various tasks related specifically to the mandate.

**Director:**

The National Director of Uniting International Mission will be the Director of Uniting Church Overseas Aid. When a National Director of UIM is appointed specific attention be given to the specific skills and expertise required to undertake the role of Director of UCOA.

**Uniting Church Overseas Aid National Committee:**

The National Committee has responsibility for the governance of Uniting Church Overseas Aid within the general oversight of the Assembly of the UCA which exercises this role on behalf of members of the church.

The members of the National Committee will be elected every three years at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting following the three yearly Assembly meeting; casual vacancies to be appointed by the Standing Committee as required.

In appointing members of the National Committee the Assembly Standing Committee will bear in mind the requirement that Committee members must demonstrate a commitment to issues of relief and development. Also they must have an openness to learn more in key areas of UCOA's work such as relief and development programs, education and advocacy, and promotions and finance.

- Twelve persons appointed by the Standing Committee after considering recommendations made by the Director of Uniting Church Overseas Aid. Not more than two of these twelve persons may be staff of any Assembly agency
- The Director of Uniting Church Overseas Aid
- The Assembly General Secretary or his/her nominee.

**Governance and Other Organisational Matters:**

The Governance and key organisational matters for Uniting Church Overseas Aid are stated in the attached Appendix and in a Governance Document to be approved by the National Committee of UCOA.

*Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee, November 2005*