

RULES OF THE UNITING CHURCH MINISTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND

These Rules are made by the Assembly Standing Committee pursuant to Regulation 3.8.6 and replace the Constitution of the Fund established by the ASC in 1990.

These Rules shall come into effect on 1 January 2013.

NAME

1. The name of the Fund shall be **THE UNITING CHURCH MINISTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND** ("the Fund").

OBJECTS

- 2.1 The object of the Fund is to provide financial assistance from time to time to or for the benefit of such of the following persons who are in necessitous circumstances; and who are
 - a. Ministers of the Uniting Church retired either permanently or temporarily; or
 - b. Widows or widowers or partners recognised for the purposes of the Beneficiary Fund of retired Ministers of the Uniting Church or of any former denomination now comprised in the Uniting Church; or
 - c. A dependent child or children of a retired Minister of the Uniting Church.
- 2.2 Subject to any trusts or conditions attaching thereto, the Fund may receive and administer bequests or donations for or towards the attainment of its objects.

CAPITAL

- 3.1 The Capital of the Fund shall consist of:-
 - (i) The capital amount of \$541,395 standing at 1 January 1990 to the credit of the Benevolent Fund in the accounts of The Uniting Church in Australia Beneficiary Fund;
 - (ii) The capital component of any endowment funds received by or for the benefit of the Fund;
- 3.2 From the commencement of these Rules the capital amounts referred to in clauses 3.1 (i) and 3.1 (ii) shall be held subject to the terms of any trusts affecting the same immediately prior to such commencement.

INCOME

- 4 Subject to the terms of any trusts affecting the same and any allocations to capital, the income of the Fund shall be applied:
 - (i) In payment of the costs of administration of the Fund including audit fees;
 - (ii) In distribution amongst the persons referred to in Rule 2 in accordance with these Rules.

ADMINISTRATION

- 5.1 (i) The Fund shall be administered as directed by a Benevolent Fund Committee (the Committee) appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee at the first meeting of the Standing Committee after each triennial Assembly. The General Secretary shall be the Convenor of the Committee which shall meet at least quarterly upon at least seven days notice. The Standing Committee may convene a meeting at any time on any notice. The attendance of not less than half the membership shall constitute a quorum.
 - (ii) In the administration of the Fund the Committee may delegate to a Synod or other bodies the receiving, administration and determining of applications for grants, on the basis of policies and procedures established by the Committee.
- 5.2. The General Secretary shall ensure proper accounting procedures and records of the Fund.

- 5.3 The capital and retained earnings of the Fund shall be invested by the Assembly Investment Committee.
- 5.4 The General Secretary shall ensure that the accounts of the Fund are audited to a standard approved by the Committee and the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk (AFAR) Committee.
- 5.5 The financial year of the Fund shall be the same as the Assembly. As soon as practicable thereafter the Committee shall receive from the General Secretary a Report on the operation of the Fund during the preceding year including a report on the capital of the Fund, the number of claims processed, total payments made and any fees incurred in the administration of the Fund.
- 5.6 The annual financial report will be provided to the AFAR Committee; and Synod General Secretaries on request.

AMENDMENT

- 6.1 These Rules may be amended by the Assembly Standing Committee.

WINDING UP

- 7 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Fund there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be given or transferred to the Synods of the UCA in proportion to the numbers of Ministers (active and retired) then within each Synod to be applied for such charitable purposes as close as practicable to the objects of the Fund as each synod may determine.

Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee, November 2012