



The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe



The Uniting Church in Australia

Partnership Agreement
Between
The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
And
The Uniting Church in Australia

We affirm:

1. Our oneness in Jesus Christ;
2. Our intention to work together as partners in the mission of God;
3. Our desire to honour the First Peoples of both countries and the place of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress within the Uniting Church in Australia;
4. Our shared Methodist heritage and common membership in the World Methodist Council;
5. Our commitment to alleviating poverty, overcoming injustice, upholding human rights and caring for creation;
6. Our experience of working together in the past, including through the Methodist Development and Relief Agency of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and through UnitingWorld in the Uniting Church in Australia and in other ways;
7. The participation in the Uniting Church of people formerly involved in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and people in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe formerly

involved with the Uniting Church, and the common desire among people to support the Church from which they came;

8. We have much to learn from each other about how to be faithful to Jesus Christ and there are issues, possibilities and concerns arising from our particular contexts which are helpfully shared with each other.

We agree that:

1. We will share information of each other's life and mission by:
 - Advising each other of significant events and developments relating to our life and mission;
 - Communicating stories of our life to be shared among our Church communities on a regular basis;
 - Taking note of shared issues and concerns on which collaborative action can be taken.
2. We will exchange written resources by
 - Sending each other relevant Assembly, Conference, District, Synod and other resources relating to theological and missional developments, as they are published.
3. We will exchange personnel by
 - Uniting Church people serving in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe through the UnitingWorld Experience Programme and Methodist Church people serving in the Uniting Church in Australia;
 - Uniting Church groups visiting the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and Methodist Church groups visiting the Uniting Church.
4. We will explore whether and how our ministers can serve in the other's Church in the case of the Uniting Church to learn about the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and the challenges and opportunities it faces, and in the case of the Methodist Church to strengthen the inclusion of Zimbabwean people in the Uniting Church including through the development of a regional and national fellowship.
5. We will look for ways by which our respective Synods, Presbyteries and Districts, Congregations and Circuits, Schools, Agencies and Departments can partner with each other.
6. UnitingWorld and the Methodist Development and Relief Agency will continue in partnership for as long as those bodies agree, with the aim of upholding human rights, building capacity and reducing poverty.
7. The Uniting Church in Australia will do all it can to welcome in its life people in Australia who were formerly members of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and will look

towards enhancing the fellowship of these people regionally and nationally. It will help them to continue in prayer and support for the Methodist Church.

8. The Methodist Church will welcome into its life people who were formerly members of the Uniting Church in Australia and will help them to continue in prayer and support for the Uniting Church.
9. We will warmly welcome visiting representatives from each other and will not establish churches in each other's country.
10. We will continue to look for further areas of cooperation in the mission of God.

UnitingWorld will be the Agency within the Uniting Church to ensure the fulfilment of this Agreement

The Presiding Bishop will be the person within the Methodist Church to ensure the fulfilment of this Agreement.

This Partnership Agreement may be reviewed at any time at the instigation of either partner.

Rev Dr Solomon Zwana
**Presiding Bishop for the Methodist
Church in Zimbabwe**

Stuart McMillan
President, Uniting Church in Australia

Date

Date