

General Proposal 3

Two distinct and separate Uniting Churches

That the Synod

1. That the Qld Synod request the Assembly to establish two distinct and separate Uniting Churches that live and work within the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, guided by its Basis of Union (BoU #2 Const. #2).
2. That the two distinct Uniting Churches be formally inaugurated at the 17th Assembly of the Uniting Church in 2024.
3. That a steering committee comprised of two persons from each Synod representing each of the two distinct churches be formed to enable this work to be done.
4. That the 16th Assembly 2021 determine that this is a matter 'of vital importance to the life of the Church' and therefore seek concurrence with the other councils of the Church including congregations (BoU #15 Const. #39).

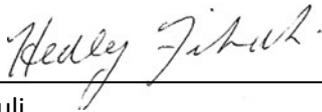
Rationale

1. The 15th Assembly determined that it was able to hold together two equal but distinct doctrines on marriage with 'religious and ethical diversity' as the basis for making its determination (Resolution 64).ⁱ
2. The reality is, it is impossible logically and practically to live out two mutually exclusive doctrines on this matter; a matter that both sides will continue to hold fast and adhere to.ⁱⁱ
3. There continues to be deep and fundamental differences regarding our understanding and interpretation of Scripture, theology and ethics.
4. To continue to try and hold together two mutually exclusive doctrines on marriage with the subsequent different gospels that undergird both, forces both sides to live and work in a state of contradiction and compromise. It cannot be sustained, and it is not healthy for the church.
5. The primary aim of the proposal then is to allow both churches true freedom to live out their distinct understandings of the Christian faith as outlined in the Uniting Church's Basis of Union.

Proposers

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ⁱ <https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/marriage/Unconfirmed-Minute-Resolution-of-15th-Assembly.pdf>

ⁱⁱ http://www.confessingcongregations.com/uploads/ACC_Marriage_Declaration_2016_Web_Version.pdf