

## Changes to the UAICC Regulations

Throughout the last three years the National Executive has undertaken a major review of the Regulations. The Regulations were adopted in 1992 and apart from minor changes have remained the same for 35 years. In many ways they reflect the way that the Uniting Church does things, rather than the way First Peoples do things.

However, two things have happened that stopped the Executive bringing a completely revised set of Regulations:

- i. It has become clear that at present Congress does not have a great deal of real authority in the structures of the Uniting Church. There is a need to sort out the relationship between Congress and the Uniting Church, and when this is done Congress will need new regulations.
- ii. The Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse has raised questions about the way the church is a legal person who can hold property and be sued. There is a possibility that the Church will need to become a separately incorporated body. The question for Congress if this happens is whether it would incorporate with the rest of the church or would incorporate separately. This, too, would impact on Congress' regulations.

So rather than a complete review the Executive is bringing a number of quite specific and necessary changes.

## Constitution

There are three changes suggested to the Constitution

1. Naming the organisation (there is no name at present)
2. Placing words from the UCA Preamble into Congress' Constitution – in the 'Affirmation'
3. Adding a statement about the importance of spirituality and culture – in the section on 'Holistic Evangelism'.

## Regulations

### Tidying up words

When these Regulations were written there were parishes. Now there are congregations.

Proposal:

Remove all references to parishes and replace with 'congregation'.

### Membership

See separate Working Paper (WP no. 4)

### Responsibilities of Regional Committees

Proposal

Add an additional clause:

"Establish other ministries including, but not limited to, cultural or community development work".

## 4.2 Meetings of the National Conference

Proposal

Amend this clause to read:

The National Conference normally shall meet at least once every three years and a special meeting may be convened at any time by the Standing Committee for urgent business.

#### 4.4-4.8 National Committee

Proposal

That a new body be formed that is partly regional office-bearers and partly elected. There is a suggested new set of roles.

It would have a new name 'National Standing Committee'.

4.8 'National Executive' would be deleted.

#### 4.10 Officers

Proposal

Remove Administrator

Treasurer???

Last clause to read 'The officers shall serve such terms as the National Conference determines'.

#### 4.11 National Chairperson

Proposal

- i. Add an extra role: Other responsibilities as determined by the National Conference.
- ii. Add a new clause: The National Conference will determine if the role of National Chairperson is to be voluntary or paid (part or full-time), and the length that the person may serve in that role.
- iii. Add a new clause: The National Chairperson shall be appointed by the National Conference in a manner determined by the Standing Committee.

#### Staff

Proposal:

- i. Delete Clauses 4.12 to 4.16
- ii. The National Standing Committee will determine staffing required to meet the strategic directions and plans of Congress, and will report this decision to the National Conference.
- iii. Amend 4.17 by the removal of 'other than the national Administrator,' from the opening clause.

#### Chairperson of the National Council of Elders

The last Conference determined that the retiring National Chairperson would become Chairperson of the National Council of Elders. The resolution indicated the role, and requested that Regulations be drawn up to express the decision.

Changes to the Regulations are offered in Working Paper 6A.