



UNITING CHURCH JARGON

Assembly

The Assembly is the national council of the Uniting Church in Australia and has responsibilities in matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline. It is headed by the president with a general secretary as chief executive officer.

Basis of Union

The Basis of Union is the foundational document created by the three denominations which came together in 1977 to form the Uniting Church in Australia. It states the central affirmations of the Christian faith and is a guide to what is central in the life of the Uniting Church.

Church Council

The church council is the body established in each congregation to have oversight of its life and mission.

Confirmed Member

A confirmed member is a church member who is recognised as having affirmed the faith and has the rights and responsibilities of participating in the work and government of the church.

Congregation

A congregation is a group of people (members and adherents) who worship, witness and serve God, and are recognised as a congregation by the presbytery.

Congress

Congress denotes the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

Consensus

The Uniting Church in Australia seeks to make decisions in councils using consensus procedures wherever possible. Consensus is a process by which a common mind of a meeting is sought about the wisest way forward on a particular issue.

Convenant/ Covenantal

The covenantal relationship is the relationship between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Assembly in which both groups commit themselves to developing more just, inclusive and equal relationships in the church.

Deacon

A deacon is a person recognised by the church and set apart by ordination. They exercise ministry through their daily life and work in the world.

Discipleship

A life of discipleship means to live as an active part of God's mission in the world. Growing committed and engaged followers of Jesus Christ is one of the primary aims of the Uniting Church.

Ecumenism

Ecumenism is working with other Christian denominations to witness to a common faith in God and act together in matters of common interest

Faith Community

A faith community is a gathering of Christians who identify as a unique worshipping community which has not been recognised by Synod as a congregation and is therefore not subject to the regulations covering congregations.

General Secretary

The general secretary is the chief executive officer of the Synod.

Lay Preacher

A lay preacher is an accredited church member who is authorised to conduct worship services in their own congregation and at the invitation of any other congregation. They must be endorsed by their church council and accredited by the presbytery.

Member

A church member is a baptised person who is recognised by the church council as being within the pastoral responsibility of the church.

Minister

Minister means a Minister of the Word, deacon or deaconess. A Minister of the Word is set apart by ordination to supervise and empower the general ministry of the church at the congregational and community level.

Moderator

The moderator is the elected head of Synod.

Pastor

Pastor is a specified lay ministry of the church. It replaces the ministries of community minister, lay pastor and youth worker.

Presbytery

A presbytery is a council which has oversight of congregations, ministry and programs within a region. People in specified ministry (ministers, deacons etc.) are responsible to the presbytery.

Synod

A synod is the state council of the Uniting Church. The six synods of the Uniting Church support and resource the church in community services, mission planning, theological and other educational services, administration of ministers and property, and finance.

Synod Standing Committee

Synod Standing Committee is a group of elected members who have decision-making responsibility for the Uniting Church in Queensland between meetings of the synod.

UnitingCare Australia

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the UnitingCare network, one of the largest providers of community services in Australia.

UnitingWorld

UnitingWorld is an agency of the Assembly. It connects people and church communities in Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa to partner in God's mission through overcoming poverty and enabling discipleship and faith-filled action.

Uniting Justice

UnitingJustice is the justice unit of the Assembly, pursuing national matters of social and economic justice, human rights, peace and the environment.

Yurora

Yurora is the National Christian Youth Convention which brings together Christians from different cultures across Australia.