**SYNOD RISK MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION**

In the Preamble to the Risk Management Policy and Framework (currently under review), it states that:

We live in times of existential crises. We must be prepared for these challenges from a variety of sources – external, transmitted and internal – to continue serving God. We have a duty to identify what might prevent us from achieving our Objectives (Mission, Purpose and Values) at the Strategic, Operational and Congregational levels, and put in place controls to minimise the occurrence and mitigate against the impacts.

As a Church, we have a responsibility to oversee the management of risk controls “to minimise the occurrence and mitigate against the impacts” with the assistance, cooperation and collaboration of staff, volunteers and members of the Uniting Church in Western Australia.

We are currently facing challenges from various sources, in risk-speak organisationally, financially and reputationally. The most critical challenge before us from a risk perspective is build trust to meet these challenges.

Your thoughts are important on how we build trust. **It calls for a bold, open and honest discussion where we reflect on it through a single prism of how we can fulfil God’s work that we are all, without any doubt, committed to fulfil.**

A few thought-provoking questions might help our discussion:

1. What defines our culture of trust – or the lack of?
2. What are the immediate steps we can action to bridge some of the challenges?
3. How do we resolve the financial challenges of the Church – like meeting redress and legal claims and property remediation – while pursuing the Mission?

It is important to note that our singular aim is to serve the will of God as staff, volunteers and members of the Uniting Church. We must part-take in this discussion with an open mind and heart.