

P14 Committee for Education for Discipleship and Leadership

NAME AND STATUS

- P14.1 The name of the Committee is the “Committee for Education for Discipleship and Leadership”, (hereinafter called the Committee) a committee appointed by and responsible to the Presbytery of Western Australia.
- P14.2 In accordance with Constitution clause 70(c), all the powers and responsibilities of the Synod of Western Australia in relation to theological and ministerial education and formation were delegated to the Presbytery of Western Australia by Synod minute 8/2009. These Rules provide for the exercise of the powers of the Synod of Western Australia and the Presbytery of Western Australia in regard to education and formation in the Church.
- P14.3 The Committee exercises the responsibilities of a Ministerial Education Board, as provided for in the Regulations, within the Synod of Western Australia.

MEMBERSHIP

- P14.4 The Committee is appointed by the Presbytery and consists of:
- (a) a Chairperson elected by the Presbytery for a two-year term;
 - (b) the full and part-time teaching staff of the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation;
 - (c) a candidate for a specified ministry, appointed annually by the Committee; and
 - (d) up to six other members elected by the Presbytery for two-year terms so that there are always two groups of members of nearly equal size, one group retiring each year.
- P14.5 The membership of the Committee shall include least one Lay Preacher and one Pastor.
- P14.6 The Committee may co-opt up to two further members, for terms of up to two years, to ensure balanced representation or to provide the Committee with knowledge, abilities or experience not otherwise available to the Committee. The appointment of co-opted members shall be subject to endorsement by the Presbytery or the Presbytery Standing Committee.
- P14.7 A majority of the membership of the Committee shall be members of the Presbytery.
- P14.8 The Committee may invite Presbytery or Synod staff or other persons to attend and participate in meetings on a non-voting basis to assist the Committee in fulfilling its role and responsibilities.

- P14.9 The Chairperson of the Presbytery may, at their own discretion, attend and speak at any meeting of the Committee but is not eligible to vote.

MEETINGS

- P14.10 The Committee will meet at least six times per year.
- P14.11 The meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the principles and procedures of the *Manual for Meetings*.

QUORUM

- P14.12 The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be the whole number next above one-half of the current members.

REPORTING

- P14.13 The Committee shall report to the Presbytery at least annually, to the Presbytery Standing Committee when requested and forward the minutes of each Committee meeting to the Presbytery Standing Committee.
- P14.14 The Committee, acting as a Ministerial Education Board, shall report to the Assembly as required in the Regulations.

ROLE

- P14.15 The role of the Committee is to develop and foster opportunities for education and formation that encourage, empower and equip learners, congregations and faith communities of the Uniting Church in discipleship, leadership, mission and ministry.
- P14.16 The Committee shall exercise oversight, facilitate and co-ordinate, as required in the Regulations, and advise Presbytery in matters including (or related to):
- (a) theological education;
 - (b) ministerial formation (Minister of the Word and Deacon);
 - (c) lay education;
 - (d) continuing education;
 - (e) Lay Preacher education and formation; and
 - (f) Ministry of Pastor competency development.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- P14.17 The responsibilities of the Committee shall include:
- (a) promoting education and formation for the whole people of God as an integral and lifelong part of discipleship, mission and ministry;
 - (b) developing, curating, co-ordinating and evaluating programs, courses and resources for all education and formation within the Presbytery;

- (c) assisting and supporting congregations, faith communities and agencies of the Uniting Church in the fulfilment of their educational and learning needs;
- (d) keeping informed and being responsive to the changing context and emerging trends in the Uniting Church, and in discipleship, mission and ministry;
- (e) developing and reviewing policies and procedures, and engaging in visioning and strategic planning;
- (f) consulting and working together with other committees and bodies to further the life of the Presbytery and Synod;
- (g) collaborating with colleges and education communities in the Uniting Church and in other churches to draw on expertise and talent, and to connect with proven programs and courses; and
- (h) contributing to teaching and learning in the wider church.

P14.18 The Committee shall make recommendations to Presbytery in regard to:

- (a) staffing the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation; and
- (b) other matters where the Committee's decisions need to be approved or confirmed by the Presbytery.

P14.19 The Committee shall advise:

- (a) the Candidates for Ministries Committee when candidates for the ministry of Lay Preacher have completed their training and are demonstrating all the competencies set out in the Assembly Standards for Formation and Education for the Specified Ministry of Lay Preacher.
- (b) the Pastoral Relations Committee when candidates for the ministry of Pastor have completed their training and are demonstrating all the competencies set out in the Assembly Standards for Formation and Education for the Specified Lay Ministry of Pastor.

UNITING CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND FORMATION

P14.20 The Uniting Centre for Education and Formation is the Theological College established by the Synod of Western Australia and approved by the Assembly as a centre for education and formation for ministry according to the Regulations.

In accordance with Constitution clause 70 (c), all powers and responsibilities of the Synod of Western Australia in relation to theological and ministerial education and formation and the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation and its Faculty were delegated to the Presbytery of Western Australia by Synod minute 8/2009.

- P14.21 In relation to the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation, the Committee, as the Ministerial Education Board, shall be responsible to:
- (a) provide staffing and facilities and determine the terms and conditions of appointment of staff other than those in placement;
 - (b) appoint and determine the terms and conditions of sessional or temporary staff as required for the work of the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation on the recommendation of the body exercising the responsibilities of a Faculty;
 - (c) ensure that the courses and training that the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation offers for the formation and education of candidates for the specified ministries meet the Assembly Standards and the requirements of the Committee;
 - (d) determine appropriate courses of study for meeting the Assembly Standards including arrangements for any candidate studying at an institution maintained within another Synod;
 - (e) co-operate and consult with and advise the Candidates for Ministries Committee regarding matters relating to candidates; and
 - (f) receive from the body exercising the responsibilities of a Faculty and forward to Presbytery any recommendations concerning termination of candidature on academic or other grounds.
- P14.22 The Uniting Centre for Education and Formation shall:
- (a) arrange for the formation, education and assessment of candidates for the specified ministries in accordance with the Assembly Standards and the requirements of the Committee;
 - (b) assist the Synod to assess the educational attainments of and arrange for the education, formation and assessment of ministers from other denominations seeking to admission to the Uniting Church in Australia in accordance with the Regulations and the requirements of the Committee;
 - (c) provide a Phase 3 program in accordance with the Assembly Standards and the requirements of the Committee;
 - (d) provide a continuing education program for ordained ministers, Lay Preachers and Pastors in accordance with the Assembly Standards and the requirements of the Committee; and
 - (e) develop and provide programs, resources and opportunities that encourage, empower and equip members of the Uniting Church in discipleship, mission and ministry.

SUB-COMMITTEES

- P14.23 The Committee may appoint and disband from time-to-time sub-committees and working groups to assist it and the teaching staff to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.
- P14.24 The Committee shall designate one of its sub-committees to exercise all the responsibilities of a Faculty as prescribed in Regulation 3.7.4.5 and other Regulations. The membership of this sub-committee must include the Principal of the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation if such a position exists and all the persons holding full and part-time teaching positions in the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation.