

A charter for a pilgrim people

DRAFT—presented to the meeting of the Synod and Presbytery, November 2013

1. We are the Uniting Church in Australia: “a fellowship of reconciliation,” “a pilgrim people always on the way towards a promised goal” and a movement that works for “reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation.” (Basis of Union, paragraph 3)
2. We affirm that we are a local and unique expression of the Uniting Church in Australia. The life of Jesus is our guide; the presence and power of God’s Spirit sustains and renews us.
3. We commit to being a church that is both an ever-maturing movement and a flexible, responsive institution following the way of Jesus, seeking a world of justice, wholeness and freedom for all.
4. We acknowledge our history and embrace our traditions, both ancient and modern. We know that finding a way forward will require new insights and responses. We commit to exploring our culture, our traditions and ourselves as we seek to understand our present moment and make decisions for our future.
5. We acknowledge that we are the current custodians of the traditions and assets of this expression of the church and we commit ourselves to being guided by our history and our traditions. We also commit ourselves to not being constrained or limited by our past or by our buildings or other assets.
6. We recognise that we have received our traditions and these assets in trust from past generations and must, soon enough, hand them over to those who follow.
7. We pledge ourselves to putting our hopes for the future of our church ahead of our comforts in the present and pledge ourselves to being brave, bold and creative in all our decision-making.