

# Mission and Leadership Development Board By-law



The Uniting Church in Australia  
Synod of South Australia

## 14.1 MISSION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BOARD

14.1.1 The Synod shall establish a Mission and Leadership Development Board.

### MANDATE

14.1.2 To support the development of healthy missional churches, life-long disciples and effective leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus to the world.

### DEFINITIONS

- 14.1.3 “Assembly” means the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia  
“ATL” means Adelaide Theological Library  
“Academic Staff” means teaching staff appointed on the recommendation of the Mission and Leadership Development Board, and other persons appointed by the Principal of UCLT to teach within the College. Such other persons will normally be on contracts approved by the MLDB.  
“Candidate” means a person preparing for ordained ministry as a Minister of the Word or Deacon whose application for candidature has been approved in accordance with UCA regulations  
“Faculty” means the academic staff of the UCLT appointed by the Synod Standing Committee  
“MLDB” means Mission and Leadership Development Board  
“MR” means Mission Resourcing  
“Presbyteries” means the Presbyteries formed within the bounds of the Synod of South Australia  
“Synod” means the Synod of South Australia  
“Synod Standing Committee” means the Standing Committee of the Synod of South Australia  
“The Board” means the Mission and Leadership Development Board  
“UCA” means the Uniting Church in Australia  
“UCLT” means Uniting College for Leadership and Theology  
“UAICC” means the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress  
“Yarthu-Apinthi” is the name of the campus in which the MLD Ministry Centre is located.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- 14.1.4 a. The MLDB is responsible to the Synod of South Australia and its Standing Committee for the governance, management oversight and strategic direction of the Mission and Leadership Development Ministry Centre and will bring a report of its activities and performance to each meeting of the Synod.
- b. The MLDB, on behalf of the Synod Standing Committee, and in accordance with the Synod's missional priorities, will oversee the activities of all entities associated with the Mission and Leadership Development Ministry Centre listed below and located at *Yarthu-Apinthi*:
- Uniting College of Leadership and Theology (as per UCA regulation 3.7.4.4)
  - The Adelaide Theological Library
  - Mission Resourcing of the Synod of SA
  - The Aboriginal Spirituality Centre
- c. The Board will be responsible for:
- (a) the creation and implementation of a strategic plans for the entities associated with the Mission and Leadership Development Ministry Centre, in keeping with the Synod missional priorities, with reviews and recommendations to the Standing Committee, as they arise.
- (b) exercising responsible financial stewardship of resources available to the MLDB. In particular;
- i. Ensuring sustainable financial practices are adopted, in collaboration with the Resources Board, that enable the achievement of the MLDB's responsibilities, by:
1. recommending the annual budget for the consideration of Synod, through the Resources Board
  2. overseeing the financial performance of all entities within the scope of the MLDB
  3. understanding the risks associated with MLDB responsibilities and taking these into account when making decisions
  4. providing regular reports on key operational metrics to the Synod Standing Committee, and through the Resources Board where appropriate.
- (c) overseeing the development of the Centre for Aboriginal Spirituality with reference to the Centre's Terms of Reference.

- (d) fulfilling the responsibilities of the Ministerial Education Board, according to UCA Regulations 3.7.4.3, 3.7.4.4 and 3.7.4.5 (2025 edition);
- (e) providing lay education that will enhance the ministry and mission of members of congregations and Uniting Church organisations.
- (l) engaging with Presbyteries in ways that will meet the desired outcomes of the Board's work.
- (m) ensuring policies, processes and reporting frameworks and systems relevant to the effective fulfilment of the MLD's responsibilities are implemented.
- (n) determining the frequency of reporting, for Executive Officers, Faculty and Staff, the Adelaide Theological Library, and the Sub-committees of the MLDB.
- (l) in collaboration with the General Secretary, review the performance of the:
  - i. Executive Officer, Mission Resourcing
  - ii. Executive Officer/Principal of the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology.
- d. The Board will advise the Synod Standing Committee, when need arises to appoint a new Executive Officer/Principal UCLT, faculty members and Executive Officer, Mission Resourcing and will actively participate in the Joint Nominating Committee processes of the Synod Standing Committee.

## OUTCOMES

- 14.1.5
- a. The activities of the Mission and Leadership Development Board are guided by the Synod Strategic Priorities.
  - b. Support and encourage models of establishing new congregations and renewal of established congregations.
  - c. The Uniting Church in South Australia offers timely, prophetic, public witness and advocacy in the wider community.
  - d. A shared vision for ministry and leadership development consistent with the missional context of the church in the 21st century in South Australia is articulated and promoted as prescribed by the Synod Strategic Priorities.
  - e. Members of the church with a heart for mission are encouraged and equipped for their particular calling.
  - f. Ministers, leaders, congregations and faith communities are equipped to encourage members of the church to discern and respond to God's call to discipleship and ministry; including God's call to any of the church's specified ministries.
  - g. Members of the church who are called by God to be Ministers of the Word and Deacons receive high quality, relevant education and training.

- h. Members of the church are receiving high quality, relevant education and training for lay ministry and leadership within the Uniting Church and for Christian leadership in the wider South Australian community.
- i. Ministers and leaders are fully engaged in appropriate continuing education and professional development.
- j. The responsibilities of a Ministerial Education Board are fulfilled (reg. 3.7.4.3(c)-(d)).
- k. The missional activity of congregations and faith communities are encouraged and equipped for effective ministries.
- l. Discipleship of all generations is encouraged and equipped.
- m. Discipleship and leadership of culturally and linguistically diverse people is encouraged and equipped.
- n. The Covenant with UAICC is lived into the relationship with UAICC enhanced and ministries of engagement with the Covenant and First Peoples is encouraged.
- o. International Partnerships and mission ministries are engaged and equipped.

## **OPERATION**

- 1. The Mission and Leadership Development Board is empowered to establish any committees, task groups, consultancies or other instruments by which it may most effectively fulfil its mandate.
- 2. The reporting bodies of the Mission and Leadership Board include Specified Ministries Development Subcommittee, Justice, Mission and Theology Subcommittee, Academic Committee, Uniting College Grants Committee, Mission Bequest Committee and Mission Groups of Mission Resourcing.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- 14.1.6 a. The membership of the Mission and Leadership Development Board shall comprise up to fourteen (14) members, including:
  - Chairperson appointed by the Synod Standing Committee
  - Up to seven (7) members appointed by the Synod Standing Committee following a skills matrix approved by the Synod Standing Committee, to be determined by the Board
  - Executive Officer/Principal UCLT or their nominee
  - Executive Officer, Mission Resourcing or their nominee
  - General Secretary of the Synod or their nominee
  - The Moderator or their nominee
  - The Chairpersons of Subcommittees as determined by the Subcommittee Terms of Reference.

The Board may co-opt up to two members to fulfill the requirements of membership. The Board may call upon persons with specific expertise, including staff and faculty, to resource and report to the meeting.

- b. The SSC shall note that the preferred composition of the Board includes at least five (5) women and at least five (5) men, all of whom are members of the Uniting Church.
- c. Of the appointed members, there shall normally be a representative from each presbytery.
- d. Of the members, there shall be at least one third lay and one third ordained.
- e. The Board shall include representatives of the faculty of the theological college, representatives of its student body and such heads of university colleges with which the theological college is associated, as may be determined by the Synod (as per Regulation 3.7.4.3.a).
- f. In the absence of the Chairperson the Moderator will chair the meeting. In the absence of the Moderator, the Board will elect an Acting Chairperson.
- g. Terms of elected members shall be three (3) years. Elected members may be re-elected for not more than two (2) consecutive terms and will subsequently be eligible for election again after two (2) years.

## MEETINGS

- 14.1.7 a. The Board shall meet at least four times a year at a time and place determined by the Board members.
- b. The quorum of the Board shall be at least one appointed member more than half the number of appointed members and at least half the number of ex-officio members. For any proposal the number of appointed members voting must exceed the number of ex-officio members. Members may elect to stand aside to meet this requirement.
- c. Meetings may be held in person or through the use of technology.
- d. The meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Uniting Church Manual for Meetings
- e. The Board shall keep confirmed minutes of proceedings detailing the resolutions of each meeting, with such minutes being available to all Board members and the Synod Standing Committee.