MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
of the SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP between
THE IKSAN PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA and
THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA, SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PREAMBLE
For God's glory, an international mission partnership has existed between the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). In August 1989, the South Australian UCA Synod Mission Officer, Rev Brian Ball invited representatives from the then Presbytery of Mount Lofty to explore a partnership in Korea. In 1990 the then West Chunbuk Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) responded and in 1991 the first Partnership Agreement was signed. A special relationship has continued for over 30 years and is now expressed between the Synod of South Australia and the Iksan Presbytery of the PROK.

CONTEXT
• As brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus calls us into union as His Church and that call extends beyond our own national borders. (John 17:20-21)
• We recognise that in each of our ministries and mission within our nations, we have both fallen short of witnessing the love of Christ and enabling Christ’s Kingdom to flourish because we have contributed to the secularisation, racism and ecological damage to God's world
• With thanksgiving, we also acknowledge the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, through his death on the Cross and resurrection to New Life and through the gift of the Holy Spirit we may offer prayerful support to one another in our life of mission and witness together
• We recognise the following potential areas of concern and common interest
  • The Impact of Colonisation on First Nation Peoples
  • The struggles for reconciliation, reunification and justice and peace within divided lands
  • The impact of climate change and other environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific area
  • The opportunities for intercultural learning from one another through exchange visits involving mission partners, youth and ministry candidates
  • The opportunities for courageous conversations regarding approaches to challenging social changes facing our respective churches and communities.

OBJECTIVES
Together, we commit to:
• praying for one another and for the people of Australia and the people of Korea
• praying for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula
• praying for the partnership between the Uniting Church Synod of South Australia and the Unit- ing Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
• sharing and exchanging resources, research, liturgies and information about the priorities in each of our missional lives
• the enabling of purposeful exchange visits every two years for cultural awareness through ex- posure programs and mutual work in identified missional activities especially in relation to healing national pain and suffering
• vocational and professional development through sabbatical stays and retreats, candidate internships, study trips and guest lectures
• exploring new ways of evangelism among young people of today, and of witnessing the Gospel through support for the most vulnerable in our settings
• exploring church planting and regeneration initiatives and learnings from our varied settings
• connecting with the Korean diaspora in the South Australian Synod and exploring support for their needs
• developing regular meetings via the Internet to encourage and strengthen the partnership in missional discussions.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
The arrangements of responsibilities for exchange visits are:

The Visiting church will be responsible for:
• all airfares between the two countries
• all personal, medical and travel insurance
• all personal costs associated with the visit

The Host church will be responsible for:
• all accommodation costs
• food costs
• program planning and costs

DURATION
The duration of this memorandum is from 22nd June 2023 to 1st July 2028

MANAGEMENT
The partnership will be managed by the Iksan Presbytery International Mission Partnership team and the SA Synod Korean Partnership team, with support from the Iksan Presbytery and the Synod of South Australia Mission Resourcing Unit.

CLOSING STATEMENT
We, the Iksan Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and the Synod of South Australia within the Uniting Church in Australia, together commit ourselves to embrace the challenge of a mutual relationship that involves speaking and listening, respect for autonomy, and a willingness to risk trust and vulnerability and be strengthened in our struggles for peace and justice. May we mourn together and celebrate our joys as the people of God in our respective lands today.

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the 22nd of June 2023 at the 23rd Synod of the Uniting Church in South Australia at Adelaide West Uniting Church and is signed by the following on behalf of their respective Church body.

The Moderator, Rev Peter Morel
Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

The Chairperson, Rev Heo, Tae Hoi
The Presbytery of Iksan
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Rev Lawrie Linggood
Convenor, SA Synod Partnership Team

Rev Na, Bang Hwan
Chairperson, Iksan Overseas Mission Committee