



RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION

THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY, UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
RESOLUTION 12.16.01

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It was resolved to

- a) note the resolution of the 9th Assembly (2000) minute 00.11.05(d) which called on the Federal Government to provide constitutional acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples as the 'First Peoples' and for the removal of racist provisions in the Constitution;
- b) welcome the support of Australia's major political parties for the constitutional recognition of Australia's First Peoples and the commitment of the Federal Government to proceed towards a referendum to acknowledge in the Australian Constitution the special place of Australia's First Peoples;
- c) welcome the findings of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians and the key recommendations contained in the report of January 2012;
- d) encourage Uniting Church councils, groups and members to engage with education campaigns that serve to highlight the importance of constitutional change for all Australians, reflecting on and sharing our own story of constitutional change as a positive contribution to the public conversation; and
- e) call on all Uniting Church councils, boards, agencies and members to support the views of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) on the proposal for changes which will be determined by the Federal Government and taken to the Australian people, acknowledging that a less than satisfactory proposal may not be supported by the UAICC.