



“WHY DOES THE UNITING CHURCH in AUSTRALIA ORDAIN WOMEN to the MINISTRY of the WORD?”

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE, UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Resolution 90.32.3-9

90.32 It was resolved to:

3. affirm that the Uniting Church in Australia ordains both women and men to the Ministry of the Word because it believes ordination without discrimination on grounds of gender is a fundamental implication of the gospel of God's love in Christ for all human beings, without distinction. For this understanding the Uniting Church appeals to Scripture as testimony to the living Word, which is Christ;
4. affirm that the Holy Spirit has called and continues to call women as well as men to the Ministry of the Word;
5. acknowledge that in ordaining women as well as men to the Ministry of the Word the Uniting Church in Australia, in company with other churches, has departed from an almost universal practice of the church catholic throughout most of history, but believes that the Uniting Church does so in obedience to the gospel;
6. remind members of the Uniting Church, ministers, candidates for the ordained ministries and, in particular, Presbyteries – which have responsibility for the act of ordination – that adherence to the Basis of Union requires acceptance of the ordination of women to the Ministry of the Word;
7. approve the document “Why Does The Uniting Church in Australia Ordain Women to the Ministry of the Word?” as expressing the biblical and theological reasoning which leads the Uniting Church to ordain both women and men to the Ministry of the Word;
8. invite other denominations to consider the theological position of the Uniting Church in Australia on the ordination of women and authorise those who represent the Uniting Church in ecumenical dialogues to use the document as an exposition of that position;
9. request the Secretary for Social Responsibility and Justice and the Manager of Assembly Communications to consider ways in which the document, or parts of it, can best be made available to the church in order to encourage more faithful adherence to the gospel in regard to this issue.