



Uniting Network Australia

*lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people
friends and family members in the Uniting Church*

Statement to the members of the 14th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia

12 - 18 July 2015, Perth

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A Call for Marriage Equality

Australia has undergone many changes in attitudes to sexuality and gender identity during the past forty years. The Uniting Church has been one part of those changes. With both joy and pain we wrestled with matters of human sexuality through much of the nineties and the naughties. We are more mature, united and respectful of diversity as a result.

In our Church we now have openly gay and lesbian Ministers and members, in committed relationships, living openly and honestly. Quite a number of clergy have participated in or presided at blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.

Attitudes in the wider Australian society have certainly changed to support marriage equality. ***Our Call, however, is based on the fundamental principles of the Christian Gospel, of God's love and grace extending to and welcoming all.***

By the end of 2015 it is likely that the Australian Parliament will vote, on the basis of individual conscience, to support a change to the Marriage Act, to include same-sex couples.

Accordingly, we call on all members of the 14th Assembly to:

- ❖ Actively support the community campaign for civil marriage equality, noting that that decision is different to what the Church may decide re doctrine.
- ❖ Continue to engage in serious theological discussion about the UCA's doctrine of marriage, with a view to further consideration at the Fifteenth Assembly in 2018.
- ❖ Include openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) UCA members in all future discussions and decisions.
- ❖ Include persons nominated by Uniting Network Australia as members of any Assembly-appointed Task Group which investigates and reports on marriage - because they will be directly affected in ways that others will not be.

Issued by the UNA Executive, 29 June 2015.

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