

The UCIC churches are provided through God's benevolence. The Uniting Church in Australia lives and works within the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We recognise that we are related to other Churches in ways which give expression, however partially, to that unity in faith and mission.

In accordance with the *Basis of Union*, The Uniting Church affirms that it belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end. The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. UCIC requires that its churches are used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and always to God's glory, consistent with the faith and ethos of the Uniting Church.

Persons, groups or denominations who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the Uniting Church ethos could have a negative impact on the messages that the Uniting Church strives to promote. It could promote confusion, or damage the reputation of the Uniting Church, where it could be reasonably perceived that by allowing use of our facilities, the Uniting Church is in agreement with the beliefs or practices of the persons, group or denomination using the church.

UCIC will make its churches available to recognised mainstream Christian denominations, approved non-member persons, groups and denominations as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in practice.

The use of our churches will not be permitted to persons, groups or denominations holding, advancing or advocating beliefs, or advancing, advocating or engaging in practices or teachings that conflict with the Uniting Church's faith, ethos or teaching, which are summarised in the Uniting Church Constitution and Regulations and Basis of Union. Nor may churches be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed by the ministry team as inconsistent with, or contrary to the Uniting Church's faith, ethos or teaching. The ministry team will make the decision on whether a person, group or denomination is allowed to use a church. In the event of disagreement, the ministry team will meet with the Chair of Church Council and the UCIC General Manager in order to facilitate a decision.

Examples of teaching contrary to the ethos of the Uniting Church may include, but not exclusively relate to, discrimination against homosexuality, discrimination against women, health & wealth theology.

The restriction on church use policy is necessary:

1. so that the church does not inadvertently cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith and,
2. so that the Uniting Church presents a consistent message to the community.

UCIC may require a 'Statement of Beliefs' to be provided before consideration is given to persons, groups or denominations.