



The Uniting Church in Australia



Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
National Committee

Who we are ... What we do



Theme 2021 - 2024

About us

The purpose of this pamphlet is to share a little about the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship National Committee (UCAF) – its formation, ministry, connections and its future.

At the time of Union in 1977, no formal provision was made for a network for the various fellowship groups in congregations and parishes. The UCAF National Committee began its life in 1982 arising out of a consultation of Synod Adult Fellowship representatives. The Consultation desired to see a national body within the Uniting Church that provided links for those in Synods offering fellowship through UCAF groups in congregations.

The National Committee is now a representative committee with an elected executive of three, being Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer together with two representatives from each of the UCAF Committees in the Synods where they exist. For those Synods where there is no UCAF committee, continuing groups are able to nominate someone from their Synod to represent them.

The UCAF seeks to grow the voice of missional fellowship groups across the Uniting Church in Australia through wider affiliation opportunities.

What can we offer?

- Connection with Uniting Church groups across the Synods offering fellowship to all adults. These could be interest groups such as craft, reading, walking, music, specific women's or men's groups.
- Connection with Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) members of the Uniting Church to learn together.
- Opportunity to participate in wider church missional activities, across Australia.
- Through the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) in churches UCAF National Committee is able to offer
 - Opportunity to support international projects,
 - Scholarships that support the missional ministry of people, and
 - Connections with churches in the South Pacific Area of WFM&UCW, of which Australia is part; the UCAF National Committee being a unit within that Area.
- A website that offers connections with the various Synod UCAF Committees and other areas of the Uniting Church, as well as Ecumenical bodies and the World Council of Churches (WCC).
- Support for your group events.

Connections

- The National Committee is a committee in association with the UCA Assembly. Our Mandate is approved by the Assembly Standing Committee and our work focusses on promotion of the ministry and mission of Adult Fellowship groups across Australia.
- Our relationship with Synod Committees is through representatives appointed by each Synod Committee.
- Through our affiliation with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) <https://wfmucw.org/> , the UCAF National Committee is recognised as a Unit in the South Pacific Area of the Federation. This affiliation provides:



- Links with millions of Christian Women across the world in 9 geographical Units, but more closely with our Christian sisters in the South Pacific area, namely New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea.

As part of this relationship UCAF members are invited to attend an Area Seminar every five years. The last Area Seminar was held in Fiji in 2018. Planning is now underway for the 2024 Seminar to be held in Samoa.

The Area Seminars offer a wide program to the women who attend, including bible studies, craft opportunities, engagement with the local community where the seminar is held, and opportunity to hear stories of how God is impacting the lives of those people who attend these seminars. More information will be available here when it's available.

- Opportunities for young Christian women to be involved in international programs through the WFMUCW, being the Helen Kim Scholarship and Bossey Study Program. For information about these programs go to <https://wfmucw.org/about/helen-kim-memorial-scholarship> or <https://wfmucw.org/about/bossey-study-program>
- A variety of material is available from the Publications section of the WFMUCW Website <https://wfmucw.org/publications> including *The Tree of Life*, a quarterly newsletter and World Federation Study Day material, which is on 26 October each year.
- Connection with United Nations where the World Federation (WFMUCW) has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Through this, the World Federation is also linked with several other United Nations Programs which supports the Sustainable Development Goals <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> .

What can you do?

- Contact the National Committee Secretary secretary@ucafnc.org.au with details of your group and location. If there is no synod committee in your area, we will make arrangements with your group for ongoing connection with the UCAF, either through the National Committee or another Synod Committee.
- Report your group/ fellowship/ mission event to the National Committee Secretary for distribution and encouragement to the wider church

UCAF National Committee

Chairperson – Margaret Pedler chairperson@ucafnc.org.au

Secretary – Pam Grant secretary@ucafnc.org.au

UCAF NC Website: <https://uniting.church/adult-fellowship/>

Synod Committees

Synod of New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/social-impact/community-engagement/adult-fellowship/>

Synod of South Australia

<https://sa.uca.org.au/fellowship-mission-support/>

Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

<https://victas.uca.org.au/community-learning/uniting-church-adult-fellowship/>

Synod of Western Australia

<https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/congregation-hub/adult-fellowship/>