

Resolutions from Queensland Special Synod
7-9 November 2003

No.1 Affirmation of Resolution 91:117 of the Queensland Synod

Affirms Resolution 91:117 of the Queensland Synod:

“91.117

- (a) Affirms human sexuality is a gift from God
- (b) Teaches in appropriate ways a positive and joyous celebration of our sexuality in Christian marriage.
- (c) Proclaims the forgiving nature of God.
- (d) Recognises the need for responsible sexual behaviour in the light of human weakness and sin.
- (e) Points out that sexual activity outside of loving, equal, committed married relationships is having a damaging effect on many individuals, families and society.
- (f) Deplores all sexual abuse and sexual violence which occurs within families and marriage, as well as in other circumstances, and calls on the church to listen to, care for and stand with the victims and all parties involved.
- (g) Holds that responsible sexual behaviour is expressed by celibacy in singleness and loving faithfulness between a man and a woman in marriage.
- (h) Affirms the need for showing compassion to homosexual men and women, especially during times of injustice and ill-health.
- (i) Holds that a practising homosexual lifestyle is incompatible with Christian principles.
- (j) Rejects judgmental attitudes but affirms high moral standards in sexual ethics and witnesses to the renewing grace of God in this as in all areas of human behaviour.”

No. 2 Council of Synod Minute 03.85

Affirms the Council of Synod in its decision to state that the matters dealt with by ‘Proposal 84’ were matters vital to the life of the Church in Queensland.

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No. 4 Seeking Concurrence with Other Councils and Other Matters

1. Calls for the Assembly to seek concurrence with other Councils of the Church regarding the resolutions on “ministry and membership” (‘Resolution 84’) and their implications.

No. 5 Unity in Diversity

1. Calls upon the ministers and members of the councils and congregations of the Church within its bounds to seek to live together in peace as people of faith, notwithstanding differing views;
2. Confirms that any policy it may adopt or reaffirm on sexual ethics; while guiding its decision-making, and recognising that ministers are subject to the discipline of the church, allows for freedom of conscience among the ministers and members of congregations within its bounds;
3. Requests the Council of Synod to
 - a) encourage congregations and presbyteries to study the Basis of Union using existing and projected resources;
 - b) encourage congregations to provide a copy of the Basis of Union to all current and prospective elders/leaders and members;
 - c) encourages congregations and presbyteries to make frequent use of statements of faith drawn from the Basis of Union such as ‘We are a Pilgrim People’, Uniting in Worship People’s Book, page 130;
4. Commends the Moderator and General Secretary on their forbearance and their care for ministers and members of the Church in a difficult time; and
5. Sends its greetings to the President and General Secretary of the Assembly.

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No. 8 Humanity and Sexuality

1. Affirms that the UCA lives and works within the faith and unity of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and that any determination by the UCA on matters of doctrine and/or the ordering of its life and witness must take account of this reality;
2. Notes Synod Resolution 91:117 which was noted in 96:112; and Synod Resolution 96:113; and
3. (a) Affirms that sexuality is integral to being human as created by God;
- (b) Affirms
 - (i) that God founds marriage for the purpose of fulfilling God's will for humans created in the image of God for relationship to each other and God,
 - (ii) that Christian marriage is a sign of the relationship of Christ and the church;
- (c) Encourages the Uniting Church in Queensland to explore and explicate these realities in (b)(i) and (ii) in ways in which it does its theology, liturgy and pastoral care;
- (d) Affirms that for Christians a violation of the marriage relationship is a violation against Christ, noting that violation here does not refer to separation or divorce;
- (e) Recognising that human beings exploit each other's personhood by casual indiscriminate sexual relationships, affirms that the word of Christ's forgiveness creates the possibility of new life;
- (f) Deplores all sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence within marriage, within families, and within the wider community, and resolves to listen to, and to care for, both victims and other parties involved;
- (g) Affirms that Christians are called and set free to live lives of celibacy in singleness and loving faithfulness in marriage;
- (h) Affirms its conviction that the rupture in the relationship between God and humankind, which has come about solely through sin, demands both the repentance of humankind and the recognition that true reconciliation may be found only in Jesus Christ;

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- (i) Recognises that homosexual practice is one of many signs of a disordered creation, but also affirms the need for showing compassion toward homosexual people, especially during times of injustice ; and
- (j) Declares its utter reliance on the ability of God in Christ to give life, to create new life in us, and to fulfil God's purposes for creation and humanity.

No. 13 Prayer and Fasting

- 1. Sets aside the first week of December 2003 and Holy Week 2004 as weeks for repentance, fasting and prayer, with the last day of each of those weeks to be a day of celebration;
- 2. Asks the whole of the Uniting Church in Queensland to participate fully in these times of repentance, fasting and prayer by attendance at public worship and private prayer; and
- 3. Invites other denominations and para-church groups to join with us in these times of repentance, fasting and prayer and asks its members who are in contact with such organisations to extend this invitation and to request prayer for us at this time.
- 4. Moderator appoints a small group to make this happen.

No. 16 Additional UAICC Proposal

- 1. The Synod respects the decision of the UAICC, "that because of Gospel and Cultural beliefs cannot accept same sex relationships in leadership positions in the UCA."
- 2. We acknowledge the deep pain and shame the decisions of the 10th Assembly regarding Proposal 84 has caused the UAICC.
- 3. We covenant to stand in solidarity with them in seeking to find a way forward that will not put at risk our covenantal relationships.