

Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod - Terminology

Adherent	An adherent is a person who is recognised as sharing in the life of a congregation and is within the pastoral responsibility of the church, but is not a member or a member-in-association of a church
Assembly The Assembly	The Assembly is the national council of the Uniting Church in Australia and has responsibilities in matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline. It is headed by the President with a General Secretary as Chief Executive Officer. It may be referred to as “the Assembly”, “Assembly” or “the National Assembly”
Assembly leaders	When referring to Assembly leaders, use “Uniting Church President”, “President-elect” or “former President”.
Basis of Union	The <i>Basis of Union</i> (note italics and capitals) is the foundational document created by the three denominations which came together in 1977 to form the Uniting Church in Australia. It states theological affirmations of the Christian faith, sets out the basis on which the denominations united, and is a guide to what is central in the life of the Uniting Church. To reference sections, write “Paragraph x (<i>Basis of Union</i>).” It is the <i>Basis of Union</i> set out in the Schedule in the Uniting Church in Australia Act in 1977.
Baptism	The Uniting Church uses the Biblical term “baptism” rather than “christening” (which denotes a naming ceremony). Baptism is a sacrament which is open to all ages and takes place within the context of a congregation or faith community. The Uniting Church believes that once baptised, a person cannot be re-baptised.
BlueCare	BlueCare is the aged care service of UnitingCare Queensland. BlueCare offers both residential and community-based care services for older Queenslanders and has operated since 1953.
By-laws	Under clauses 32 and 63 of the Constitution and Regulation 3.1.5(I), the Synod has the authority to make By-laws (note capitalisation).
Church council	The church council is the body established in each congregation to have oversight of its life and mission.
Commissioning Service	A service of worship that takes place at the beginning of a ministry placement for a layperson or pastor, marking the beginning of a new ministry role and pastoral relationship. If the person serving in ministry is a minister of the word or deacon, a slightly different service known as an induction service takes place.
Conclusion Service	A worship service held at the conclusion of a ministry placement, affirming the minister or pastor, the community in which the placement has been based, and recognising the end of the pastoral relationship.

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Confirmed member	A confirmed member is a church member who is recognised as having affirmed the faith usually through baptism and has the rights and responsibilities of participating in the work and government of the church.
Congregation	A congregation is a group of people (members and adherents) who worship, witness and serve God, and are recognised as a congregation by the presbytery.
Congress	Congress denotes the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).
Consensus	The Uniting Church in Australia seeks to make decisions in councils using consensus decision-making procedures wherever possible. Consensus is a process by which a common mind of a meeting is sought about the wisest way forward on a particular issue.
Constitution and regulations	The Constitution is the governing document of the Uniting Church in Australia, setting out powers and responsibilities. It includes the Regulations which lay out the processes integral to the functioning of the councils and congregations of the church and its ministry. Reference example: Regulation 3.3.7(a)(vi).
Covenant/covenantal	The covenant relationship is the relationship between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Assembly in which both groups commit themselves to developing more just, inclusive and equal relationships between first and second peoples in the church.
Deacon	A deacon is a person recognised by the church and set apart by ordination. They exercise ministry through their daily life and work, and generally serve in the wider world. The ministry of Deacon is one of two ordained ministries within the Uniting Church (the other being Minister of the Word).
Discipleship	A life of discipleship means to live as an active part of God's mission in the world, following the way of Jesus. Growing committed and engaged followers of Jesus Christ is one of the primary aims of the Uniting Church.
Ecumenism	Ecumenism is working with other Christian denominations to witness to a common faith in God and act together in matters of common interest.
Elder	An Elder is a person elected by a congregation to exercise spiritual oversight of members and adherents.
Faith community	A faith community is a gathering of Christians who identify as a unique worshipping community that has not been recognised by Synod as a congregation and is therefore not subject to the regulations covering congregations.

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Formation for ministry	Formation for ministry is the period during which a candidate for a specified ministry explores their vocation through a series of structured experiences, study and mentoring.
FIP Board	The Finance, Investment and Property (FIP) Board, as comprised from time to time of appointed and ex-officio members, established by the synod on 17 February 2007 under regulations 3.1.5 and 4.2.1. FIP Board provides oversight and advice to the church on matters related, as the name suggests, to finance, property and investment.
Frontier Services	Frontier Services is an agency of the Assembly, supporting ministry and mission in remote parts of Australia. Within Queensland, Frontier Services supports bush chaplaincy and remote area ministry in the Presbyteries of the Downs and Carpentaria.
General Secretary	The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of the Synod.
Induction Service	A service of worship that takes place at the beginning of a ministry placement for a minister of the word or deacon, marking the beginning of a new ministry role and pastoral relationship. If the person serving in ministry is a layperson or pastor, a slightly different service known as a commissioning service takes place.
Lay preacher	A lay preacher is an accredited church member who is authorised to conduct worship services in their own congregation and at the invitation of any other congregation. They must be endorsed by their church council and accredited by the presbytery.
Lifeline	Lifeline is a service providing crisis support to the community through telephone support and counselling. Within most parts of Queensland, Lifeline is a service supported by UnitingCare Queensland. The phone number for Lifeline is 13 11 14
Member	A church member is a baptised person who is recognised by the church council as being within the pastoral responsibility of the church.
Member-in-association	A member-in-association is a person who participates in the life of a congregation while maintaining membership in another denomination.
Minister	Minister means a Minister of the Word, deacon or deaconess. A Minister of the Word is set apart by ordination to supervise and empower the general ministry of the church at the congregational and community level. Minister of the Word, and deacon are the two ordained ministries recognised by the Uniting Church.
Mission	The mission of the church is an expression of our corporate response to Christ's command to make disciples and to live as communities of love and reconciliation.

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Moderator	The moderator is the elected head of Synod.
Multi-faith	Multi-faith initiatives bring together different faith communities. Such relationships are based on mutual respect, acknowledging our diverse spirituality and common humanity.
The Office of the Synod	<p>The totality of all the Synod's organisational units that, directly or indirectly report to the General Secretary.</p> <p>Do not use acronyms such as "UCA" or "UCA Qld". Use "the Office of the Synod" (note upper case "o"). The Office of the Synod is located at the Uniting Church Centre (not "the UC Centre"), or at the Synod office (lower case "o").</p>
Office of the Synod programs	Programs run or coordinated by the Office of the Synod for the church. An example of a program from the Office of the Synod is Congregational Bookkeeping program that offers support to congregations in the area of bookkeeping and financial reporting.
Pastor	Pastor is a specified lay ministry of the church. It replaces the ministries of community minister, lay pastor and youth worker. A pastor is a lay person serving in a ministry placement.
Presbytery	<p>Means a body formed by the Synod which has the responsibility for such pastoral and administrative oversight as is necessary to the life and mission of the church within its bounds (Regulations 3.4.6 and 3.1.3).</p> <p>A presbytery is a council which has oversight of congregations, ministry and programs within a region. The Presbytery Minister has oversight of the development of the mission of the presbytery and responsibility for coordination of matters relating to ordinations, inductions and commissioning's within the presbytery. People in specified ministry (ministers, deacons etc.) within the region are responsible to the presbytery</p> <p>There are seven presbyteries in the Queensland Synod:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bremer Brisbane Presbytery • Carpentaria Presbytery (this presbytery is not limited to a geographical region) • Central Queensland Presbytery • Mary Burnett Presbytery • Moreton Rivers Presbytery • South Moreton Presbytery • The Downs Presbytery
Priority directions	Four Priority Directions were identified by the 35th Synod as part of Project Plenty. These directions, Discipleship, Transforming Community, Fit for Purpose, and Life Together, inform the way in which Synod collaborates, allocates resources and plans for mission.
Schools and Residential Colleges (eg Calvary)	The Uniting Church is involved in the provision of education across Queensland through both schools and university residential colleges. Some schools and

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Christian College, Somerville House)	colleges are direct activities of the church (Lakes Christian College, Raymont College Queensland for example), while others are in partnership with other denominations and bodies (Brisbane Boys College, or Somerville House for example).
Synod	A synod is the council of the Uniting Church that generally aligns geographically with state borders. The six synods of the Uniting Church support and resource the church in community services, mission planning, theological and other educational services, administration of ministers and property, and finance within their bounds.
Other Synods	The Uniting Church in Australia is made up of six synods, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queensland Synod • The Synod of New South Wales and ACT. (Use in full in the first instance and Synod of NSW/ACT thereafter) • The Synod of South Australia • The Northern Synod • The Synod of Western Australia • The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. (Use in full in the first instance and Synod of Vic/Tas thereafter)
Queensland Synod	Means the Synod of Queensland created by the Assembly on 22 June 1977 under clause 38(b)(ii) of the Constitution (which exists within the bounds determined by the Assembly on that date, and as subsequently divided or altered from time to time by the Assembly) and takes the meaning where the context requires of either or both: (a) the Synod Standing Committee; and (b) the Synod in Session. Use “the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod” in the first instance, then “the Queensland Synod.” You should not use Uniting Church in Queensland.
Synod office	The Synod office (lower case “o”) is the building located in Auchenflower, Brisbane, housing the administrative hub for the Queensland Synod. (also called “The Uniting Church Centre”)
Synod Office	The totality of all the Synod’s organisational units that, directly or indirectly, report to the General Secretary. Also referred to as “The Office of the Synod”
Synod in Session	Means the meeting of the Synod held every 18 months and at such other times as convened under Regulation 3.5.6 and clause 37 of the Constitution. Synod in Session is when the whole council of Synod meets. Meetings include worship, community life, and undertaking the business of the Synod.
Synod Standing Committee	A committee elected from members of the Synod in Session who are empowered to act on behalf of the Synod between Synod in Session meetings. Should be referred to as Synod Standing Committee in the first instance, and SSC in further instances.

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The Office of the Synod	<p>The totality of all the Synod’s organisational units that, directly or indirectly, report to the General Secretary.</p> <p>Also referred to as “Synod Office” (capital “O”)</p>
The Uniting Church Centre	Synod office building
The Uniting Church in Australia	Use “the Uniting Church in Australia” in the first instance, then “the Uniting Church” or “the church”. Do not use “UCA”.
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)	<p>“The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)” is defined in section 5 of the Act. It is sometimes abbreviated to “UCAPT(Q.)” or shortened to “the Property Trust”. It is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an organisation established under The Uniting Church in Australia Act 1977 by the Queensland Parliament. • an Australian Registered Body with an Australian Business Number. • a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). • the legal mechanism of the Queensland Synod which operates at the direction of the Synod to acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of real and personal property. • the sole legal entity for the Queensland Synod and all its unincorporated entities. • the sole member of any incorporated institutions of the Queensland Synod. • the employer of all Synod Office staff.
The Uniting Church Foundation	The Uniting Church Foundation was established in 1991 as a perpetual trust under the trusteeship of The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)
Uniting Church Investment Scheme	To be written as U.C.I.S without a trailing period when used mid-sentence. U.C.I.S is the investment service operated by the Office of the Synod on behalf of the church. Funds of congregations and other bodies are usually invested through U.C.I.S.
Uniting	Uniting is the name given to UnitingCare in the Synods of New South Wales and the ACT, and Victoria and Tasmania.
UnitingCare	A shortened name that is usually used to reference UnitingCare Queensland or UnitingCare Australia. See those definitions for further information.
UnitingCare Australia	UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the UnitingCare network, one of the largest providers of community services in Australia.
UnitingCare Family and Disability Services (FADS)	A collection of services operated by UnitingCare Queensland oriented to the support of children, families and communities. Services include Lifeline, family support, disability support, counselling, foster and kinship care and homelessness.

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UnitingCare Health	UnitingCare Queensland operates a number of hospitals including The Wesley, St Andrews War Memorial Hospital, Buderim Private Hospital and St Stephen's Hospital Hervey Bay, which come under the banner of UnitingCare Health.
UnitingCare Queensland	UnitingCare Queensland provides health and community services through its service groups: UnitingCare Family and Disability Services, UnitingCare Health, Blue Care and ARRCs (Australian Regional and Remote Community Services).
UnitingWorld	UnitingWorld is an agency of the Assembly. It connects people and church communities in Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa to partner in God's mission through overcoming poverty and enabling discipleship and faith-filled action.
UnitingJustice	UnitingJustice is the justice unit of the Assembly, pursuing national matters of social and economic justice, human rights, peace and the environment.
Wesley Mission Queensland	Wesley Mission Queensland has been providing community services to people in south-east Queensland for over 100 years.
Yurora	Yurora is the National Christian Youth Convention which brings together Christians from different cultures across Australia.