

The Charter of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

1. Introduction

From the beginning of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress at Crystal Creek, the objective of the Congress has been to liberate our people from the bondage of imposed structures and to find the freedom to use the gifts God has given to our people. Therefore any structure we create must be flexible and open for review as Congress grows and develops.

Eight years have now elapsed since the Crystal Creek gathering, where birth was given to the concept of Congress and its charter. We want to affirm that vision and give thanks to God for all that has been achieved.

During those eight years there have inevitably been a number of changes in structure and organisation that should be incorporated into such a document as this. Therefore this becomes the first of probably many such revisions. It incorporates a number of significant structural changes agreed to at Macclesfield early in 1990.

2. The Charter

1. The Basis of Union declares in paragraph two that the Uniting Church "...believes that Christians in Australia are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural and economic, national and racial boundaries, and to this end she commits herself to seek special relationships with churches in Asia and the Pacific." The Uniting Church accepts the same challenge to witness within the Australian community with those who have different cultural, economic and racial identities. It also accepts the particular challenge to witness with Aboriginal people who have been dispossessed by our occupation and disadvantaged by our policies and activities as a nation.
2. The first paragraph of the Basis of Union commits the Uniting Church "...to make disciples of all nations..." Thus the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress will give high priority to (w)holistic evangelism. The Congress will be "...mindful that the Church of God is committed to serve the world for which Christ died, and that she awaits with hope the day of the Lord Jesus Christ on which it will be clear that the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ..." Therefore Congress will share the vision of this kingdom with people in their need; it will offer hope to the hopeless and apathetic; it will seek to empower the powerless to break the chains of their oppression and seek to build community on the basis of justice for all people.
3. In order to bear witness to this unity of faith and life, and to enter more fully into her mission, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress will seek to identify and encourage Aboriginal and Islander people with gifts for ministry to witness to the Aboriginal and Islander people of Australia; to settle ministers and appoint lay people for this purpose. The fourth paragraph of the Basis of Union reminds us that "Through this human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command peoples' attention and awaken their faith; He calls them into the fellowship of His sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified (and risen) Lord; in His own strange way He constitutes, rules and renews them as a church." By settling and appointing Aboriginal personnel to work amongst the Aboriginal and Islander people of Australia, the Congress will assist the Uniting Church to ensure that the Gospel is presented in the context of their own culture and in their own language. It will establish congregational life which holds before Aboriginal people the hope of the kingdom and will struggle with them to bring forth justice for Aboriginal and Islander people within our Australian community. Congress's vision and hope is that this will break the long history of dependence upon others, and begin the process whereby all members of the

Uniting Church belong with one Lord, in a diverse but “unified” church which lives out its mission to Australia and to the world.

4. The Basis of Union declares in paragraph thirteen that the Uniting Church will “provide for the exercise of men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them, and will order her life in response to His call to enter more fully into her mission.” The Congress will reflect on the life of Aboriginal communities and congregations around Australia in the light of the Gospel, and shall
 - Inform the church of unique theological and cultural elements in ministry to Aboriginal and Islander communities;
 - Advise the Ministerial Education Commission and the Synod Boards on cross cultural implications of ordination, the requirements for lay training for people who minister in Aboriginal and Islander parishes;
 - Initiate lively sharing of their Christian experience, their liturgy and their theological reflection thus contributing to the study of the Word of God, the creeds and our heritage to which the church is already committed.
5. The third Assembly of the Uniting Church resolved that the Commission for World Mission “co-operate with the synods and the Commission for National Mission in making resources available to Aboriginal groups to help them in their struggle for human rights, dignity and community. It supports the building up of Aboriginal congregations, with theologically trained Aboriginal leaders developing their worship, witness and service in their own ways.” The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress will assume responsibility for these tasks, and the Assembly assures it of the support of the Uniting Church, including the sharing of resources.
6. In the Basis of Union the Uniting Church “sees in pastoral care exercised personally on behalf of the church an expression of the fact that God always deals with people personally; He would have His fatherly care known among men; He would have individual members take upon themselves the form of a servant.” The Assembly therefore commends the Aboriginal and Islander congregations and communities, the ministers, lay pastors and church workers to the pastoral care of the Congress, and asks the whole Church to discover how to serve and be servant to one another across the hurts of our common history. It asks the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, from its work and experience to advise the Assembly on those issues which directly affect Aboriginal and Islander people and draw all members of the Uniting Church into their struggle for justice as fellow Australian people.
7. The Basis of Union reminds us that the Uniting Church “lives within a world wide fellowship of churches in which she will sharpen her understanding of the will and purposes of God by contact with contemporary thought. Within that fellowship she also stands in relation to contemporary societies in that which will help her to understand her own nature and mission.” Through the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, the Uniting Church seeks to share in, and to feel, all the despair and anguish of Aboriginal and Islander societies and to rejoice in their joys and achievements. She looks to the Congress through its members and agencies, its work within and with the synods, to think and plan and agonize so that within the Uniting Church we will all understand more clearly what God would have us do. The Congress will assume responsibility for tasks which other agencies have performed for Aboriginal and Islander people in the on-going mission of the church. As the Congress participates in this world wide fellowship, it will seek to create relationships with Indigenous Christian groups and Aboriginal Christians in Australia and in other parts of the world.
8. In all of these tasks the Congress will herald Jesus Christ, sharing in the creation of a new order or righteousness and love as congregations are built up in faith, in health, in dignity and in hope. This (w)holistic Gospel will also be reflected in the witness and

service of evangelist, of scholar, of prophet, and martyr as members of the Congress share the struggle of all Aboriginal people for justice as people of the Australian society.

3. Membership

- i) All Aboriginal and Islander members of the Uniting Church are members of the Congress.
- ii) Any Aboriginal and Islander Christian may become a member of the UAICC on
 - Confession of their faith in Jesus Christ
 - Declaration of their agreement with the Charter of the Congress and
 - Agreement with the Guidelines for Member of Congress

Guidelines for new members of Congress

The history of Aboriginal people means that the Congress must address the issues of injustice which hold our people at the bottom of Australian society – landless and impoverished, ill housed and frequently sick. We are therefore committed to the struggle for our people, not for gain, but in obedience to God. We can do no less without being disobedient to His call.

Any person who wishes to be a member of the Congress must be able to commit themselves to these same objectives so that members of the Congress will [not] be at variance with one another.

1. The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress consists of Aboriginal members of the Uniting Church in Australia and members in Fellowship who may belong to any other denomination.
 2. All members of the Congress are Christians who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, accept the authority of the scriptures and who follow and service Christ as His disciples.
 3. The Congress is governed by the Lord through its Aboriginal members who all accept the authority and discipline of its Conference, national committee and executive, presbyteries or state committees, local parishes and fellowship councils. In this way members of Congress are responsible to one another.
 4. Congress is committed to (w)holistic evangelism and expects all its members work towards salvation of the whole person. We proclaim the Gospel as it relates to every part of our lives – including the physical, social, spiritual, political, economical, devotional and emotional areas of human existence. No area escapes God's saving power, or avoids God's judgement. The Congress challenges our every aim by drawing attention to the cross of Christ: like Christ, it also challenges those who sin against other people in their lust and greed for wealth and power.
4. The Congress is determined to build Christian communities from among those converted by our evangelical outreach. We have progressed beyond hit and run evangelism because it has failed to help our people build their own church communities. We are, therefore, committed to a trained ministry and require all our ministers and pastors to participate in the training programmes through the Congress at Nungalinya College, Wontulp College and the Institute for Mission.
5. The Congress seeks to make sure that it is obedient to the complete Gospel so that justice, truth and righteousness will prevail. Congress actively seeks to apply the word of God to each issue affecting its people, regardless of the popularity of the issue. It seeks to make the gospel relevant to the life of Aboriginal communities. The Congress does not exist to call people to itself, but to go to them and share in their struggle where ever they are. Only by doing so, can we follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Congress works under the guidance of God, the Holy Spirit. It seeks to be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in all it does – relying on the Holy Spirit to complete God’s work of salvation in our lives by leading ever onwards towards the building of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit has called us to give priority to the task of reaching outwards to those who are lost from God and in need of salvation, and to the poor. That is those who are hungry, sick, oppressed, imprisoned or hurt in anyway.
5. Congregations of Congress
 - i) While a congregation of the Congress has the same general purposes as a congregation of the UCA, it may be organised differently. The frequency of meetings; appointment of officers or the congregation; the period for which officers may serve; will be determined by or in accordance with the decisions of the Conference.
 - ii) Congregations in fellowship follow their own patterns of organisation. In cases where they are seeking specific support (financial etc) from the Congress or the Uniting Church they would normally work through their State Committee or Presbytery.
6. Parishes of Congress
 - i) Parishes will have the same purposes and responsibilities as a parish of the UCA, and so far as those purposes and responsibilities are suitable to the life of an Aboriginal and Islander community. Each Parish of the Congress may fulfil their purposes and responsibilities in a manner best suited to the life of Aboriginal and Islander people.
 - ii) In the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress we expect each Parish to present the gospel in a way which makes Christian life meaningful to members of the Aboriginal and Islander Christian community.
 - iii) The appointment of ministers and lay pastors in the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress will be in accordance with the overall policy worked out by the Conference (and its National Committee and Executive) with full consultation with the Ministerial Education Board and State Congress committees.
 - iv)
 - a. Parishes are responsible for the cost of maintaining ministries including:
 - stipends, allowances and other provisions for the support of a ministry;
 - provision of necessary buildings, equipment or other supplies for the work of the parish;
 - contributions towards the running of other councils or agencies of the Congress;
 - undertaking evangelical and community work; and
 - other approved activities.
 - b) All funds of the parish will be accounted for and reports provided to the presbytery/state committee (Executive) where a parish is being directly supported by the national budget.
 - c) Those parishes unable to meet all of these costs may seek the assistance of national and state Congress providing they make every effort to raise funds for themselves first.
 - v) A Parish may appoint a Council of Elders and a Parish Council with purposes and responsibilities similar to those of corresponding councils of the Uniting

Church, BUT the Conference or its National Committee may change the responsibilities to suit the needs of Aboriginal and Islander communities. The Conference or National Committee may also approve the appointment of one group of persons who can fulfil the roles of both a Council of Elders and the Parish Council, in a way that suits Aboriginal and Islander communities.

7. State Committees of Congress

- The Congress may establish State Committees which will normally reflect Synod boundaries and be elected by members of the Congress in the Synods in a manner ensuring representation from parishes, congregations and agencies related to Aboriginal people, and providing for men and women, lay and ministerial/pastor representatives and for members in fellowship with the Congress.
- Each State may organise its life in a way which is suitable for the Aboriginal and Islander people it serves. However, any arrangements must be consistent with those approved by the Conference or by a resolution of the National Committee or its Executive.
- Each State Committee will list:
 1. the parish of the State Committee;
 2. congregations in fellowship with the Congress,
- A Congress State Committee will liaise with the local presbyteries of the UCA, with a view to exchanging information and arranging shared experiences for the cultivation of understanding, the growth of fellowship and natural enrichment of the two branches of the Uniting Church community.

8. The Conference of Congress Government

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress will be governed through,

- Its Conference, held every 18 months
- The National Committee of Conference which will meet between Conferences
- The National Executive of Conference which will meet on a more regular basis
- CONFERENCE (each 18 months) shall consist of persons appointed by the State Committees, as follows:
- An equal number of lay and ministerial people shall be appointed wherever possible;
- A minimum of two persons and a maximum of 17 voting persons may be appointed by any one State Committee but which will include the State Chairperson and State Elder; and
- Provided that they shall be responsible for the costs of all but the first two appointments.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE of CONFERENCE shall be appointed by Conference and consist of

- The six (6) chairpersons of each State body and the chairperson from NRCC – seven (7) chairpersons in total;
- One (1) elder from and nominated by each State body (6) and one(1) from the NRCC – seven(7) elders in total;

- Two(2)members in fellowship;
- Two(2)women representatives (one being the women’s co-ordinator and the other the women’s representative to the National Committee).

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF CONFERENCE

Will consist of seven(7)chairpersons on the National Committee of Conference.

-GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress began as a movement of God’s Spirit to carry out God’s mission to Aboriginal people in Australia. Therefore, the Conference as the governing body of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (and through its various national and state bodies) continually seeks

- a. to follow the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit as it plans its mission, as indicated in the Charter of Congress. This will include matters such as
 - struggling for justice for Aboriginal and Islander people;
 - breaking the long history of Aboriginal and Islander dependence upon others;
 - seeking to build community on the basis of justice for all;
 - struggling for human rights, dignity and community;
 - reaching out to all people through (w)holistic evangelism;
 - reaching out to all our people in our pastoral care;
 - reaching out to all our people in teaching them the fullness of the Gospel and helping our members to grow into discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ our Lord;
 - speaking for God about his prophetic call to justice and obedience;
 - following our evangelical outreach by the apostolic ministry of building new churches among our people;
- b. to provide spiritual leadership to its members and witness to the whole Aboriginal community, through its prayer, study og God’s word and fellowship. This will include such matters as
 - bearing witness to Jesus Christ;
 - ensuring Aboriginal and Islander people have an opportunity to hear the Gospel in the context of their own culture and in their own language;
 - identifying and encouraging Aboriginal and Islander people with gifts in ministry;
 - settling ministers and appointing lay people;
 - providing pastoral care for Aboriginal and Islander congregations and communities, and their ministers, lay pastors and church workers;
 - establishing congregational life which hold before Aboriginal and Islander people the hope of a Kingdom;
 - sharing the vision of the Kingdom; offering hope to the hopeless and apathetic; empowering the powerless to break the chains of their oppression;
 - initiating a lively sharing of Christian experience, liturgy and theological reflection;
 - providing guidelines for States, colleges and the wider church on preparation and training for the ministry within the Congress;

- to determine the nature of its relationship to the Assembly of the Uniting Church, and other churches within and beyond Australia. This will include matters such as
- working together in partnership for mission with the Uniting Church;
- sharing with the Uniting Church in common struggle for justice and the building of a Kingdom of God in this country;
- advising and negotiating with the Uniting Church on such matters as ordination and doctrine;
- negotiating financial support with the Uniting Church;
- sharing our faith together to build on our common faith in Jesus Christ;
- advising the Assembly on all matters which directly affect Aboriginal and Islander people;
- challenging the wider church among our people and in the white community through our prophetic call to unity, righteousness and justice;
- advising the Ministerial Education Commission and Synods on
 - cross cultural implications of ordination
 - requirements for lay training
- developing links with churches in Asia and the Pacific.

SPECIFIC TASKS

Each Conference will

- a. Review the preceding 18 months of the work of Congress. This will include such matters as:
 - Receiving written reports from its National Chairperson, National Administrator, various Committees of Conference, and State Committees;
 - Receiving and tabling the audited statements of Congress at every Conference, and making general policy decisions on finance.
- b. Set the agenda for the work of Congress in the following 18 months by determining the objectives for the year. These will take the form of policy objectives to guide the National Committee, National Executive, other committees of Conference, and State Committees.

National objectives will be carried out by the officers of the national office under the supervision of the National Committee and the National Executive together with the various Congress committees (at all levels) and membership. This will include such specific matters as:

- Monitoring the establishment of State Committees which will normally be elected by members of the Congress in the Synods in a manner ensuring representation from parishes, congregations and agencies related to Aboriginal and Islander people, and providing men and women, lay/ministerial/pastor representatives and for members in fellowship with the Congress.
- Assuming responsibility for tasks other agencies have performed for Aboriginal and Islander people in the on-going mission of the church;
- Authorising the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress to follow appropriate procedures for the conduct of its business and the ordering of its decision making;

- Nominating a person to the Assembly Standing Committee of the UCA to be Consultant to the Congress, as needed.

ORDERING OF ITS WORK BY PORTFOLIOS

Conference, together with its national and state committees will as far as practical order its work through the establishment of seven portfolios.

For the moment these portfolios will be

Portfolio 1	Vision, Theology and Spiritual Warfare Matters
Portfolio 2	Youth and Family Matters
Portfolio 3	Ministry of the Word and Pastoral Concerns
Portfolio 4	Community Development Matters
Portfolio 5	Justice and Social Issues
Portfolio 6	Training and Development Issues
Portfolio 7	Administration and Finance

As far as possible one State Chairperson will be given special responsibility for co-ordinating a portfolio are at the national level.

For the present this will be

Portfolio 1	Chairperson of NRCC
Portfolio 2	Chairperson of South Australia
Portfolio 3	Chairpersons of Victoria and Tasmania
Portfolio 4	Chairperson of Queensland
Portfolio 5	Chairperson of Western Australia
Portfolio 6	Chairperson of New South Wales
Portfolio 7	Chairperson of Queensland

Each State will gradually move to the establishment of a series of small committees to promote the work of each portfolio are in their State.

State representatives for a portfolio are will meet nationally with the appropriate chairperson whenever possible for co-ordinating the further planning and development of their portfolio area throughout Congress. The chairperson with responsibility for that area nationally will chair such meetings.

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

A chairperson and deputy chairperson of Conference (including National Committee and National Executive of Conference) will be appointed by the Conference from the body of seven State Chairpersons.

The National Chairperson will be responsible for

- Chairing all official UAICC Conferences, National Committee and Executive meetings;
- Serving as the official spokesperson for the UAICC;
- Representing the National Committee at ordinations and other significant Congress events, and where directed by the National Committee or its Executive. There should be flexibility for the National Chairperson to be able to delegate this representative role to Regional Chairpersons or the National Administrator. This is necessary in order to lessen the burden on the Chairperson and to protect his health;

- With the National Administrator, providing pastoral support to the Regional Chairpersons and ministers of the Congress and to assist in dealing with difficulties experienced by these people;
- The development of Regional bodies. This will involve both the Chairperson and the National Administrator. The Chairperson will chair the regional consultations, helping to keep a balance between the needs of the national body and those of the regional bodies.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Conference will elect a Finance Committee of at least six people consisting of

- Chairperson of Portfolio 7
- Financial Consultant(s) if appointed by Conference
- Members of the National Committee of Conference
- Other members of Congress
(Note: the National Administrator will be ex officio).

The responsibilities of the Finance Committee will be

- To keep oversight of the finances of the Congress;
- To work on the preparation of budgets for the National Committees of the Congress;
- To oversee the expenditure of the budget and to advise Executive on any changes necessary in the budget;
- To plan for the raising of funds for the work of Congress;
- To advise on what response Congress will make to requests for assistance.

The Chairperson of Portfolio 7 will act as convener of this committee and will report the work of the Finance Committee regularly to Conference, its National Committee and National Executive.

He/she or the National Administrator will represent Congress on the Uniting Church Assembly's finance councils and bodies.

Conference may choose to appoint one or more financial consultants who will

- Provide help with the budgeting and fundraising of the Congress; and
- Advise the Finance Committee on any matter they refer to the Finance Consultant.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION BOARD

The Conference shall appoint a Ministerial Education Board of nine (9) person elected from

- Among the members of Congress;
- Any other people the Conference chose to appoint to the Board;
- A convener of the Ministerial Education Board will be elected from among the members; and
- Any other people the Conference wishes to associate with the Ministerial Education Board because of the contribution they can make may be co-opted by the Board.

The Board will include the State Chairperson of Portfolio 6 ex officio.

The Board will be largely based in Darwin.

The responsibilities of the Congress Ministerial Education Board will be to represent the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress on all matters relating to the

application, processing and education of UAICC candidates for the specified ministries of the church (ministry of the Word, deacon(ess), lay preacher) such as

- To act as a liaison body on behalf of the UAICC with the MEB and the various MEB's;
- To support presbyteries, regional committees, where appropriate, in the process of selecting UAICC candidates, and in assisting in the formation of selection panels;
- To support presbyteries/regional committees in the pastoral care of UAICC candidates;
- To refer UAICC candidates to a theological college and to make recommendations regarding the appropriate course of studies for ministerial education and, where necessary, to enter into negotiation through the Ministerial Education Board of the synod concerned for the meeting of the costs involved;
- To assess and make recommendation to Nungalinya College, Wontulp-Bi-Buya, the Institute for Mission and any other institutions educating UAICC candidates to ensure that the education offered meets with the UAICC expectations;
- To report on the qualifications of any Minister applying for recognition within, and acceptance into the UAICC or transfer from another council of the church;
- To nominate to the conference of the UAICC two persons to represent the UAICC on the Ministerial Education Council;
- To recommend to the MEB that UAICC students completing their course of studies be granted the Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Studies, after due consideration with the Dean of Students and the College concerned;
- To report annually to the UAICC and MEB.

Other responsibilities include:

- To facilitate continuing education for ministers as necessary and to make provision for these as finance and time allow. (This may include assisting the UAICC to be more aware of its responsibility to other cultural groups and enable membership to grapple with this);
- To facilitate and arrange for lay education as necessary and as resources allow.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The National Council of Elders shall consist of the seven State nominees appointed to the National Committee of Conference. The National Council of Elders will meet prior to each meeting of the National Committee of Conference and during each Conference gathering.

The work of the National Council of Elders will include at least the following

- Developing Congress vision and programs;
- Developing Aboriginal theology;
- Developing Congress policy;
- Providing leadership in 'spiritual warfare;'

The qualities being sought in elders should include at least the following:

- Christian standing and commitment;
- Experience and maturity;
- Spiritual wisdom;

- Christian grace and gifts;
- Commitment to Congress;
- Person worthy of 'double honour';
- Ability to teach, rule, feed the flock, give oversight, be reliable and keen, etc;
- Have an understanding of the Aboriginal and/or Islander culture.

9. National Office of Congress

The National Office of Congress shall consist of

- National Administrator
- Office Manager
- Secretarial/computer and general office staff
- National Consultant

The responsibility of the National Office is to facilitate and undertake the implementation of decisions of Conference as appropriate, and support the work of all Conference portfolios, committees and bodies as required.

THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR is a servant of the National Conference/Committee/Executive. The National Administrator will

- Prepare material for meetings – agendas, reports, policy suggestions, minutes;
- Provide support for the portfolio groups to enable them to carry out directions of the National Conference/Committee/Executive and to bring reports and policy to meetings;
- Develop an appropriate national administrative structure, including finance committee, and support that structure;
- With the Chairperson, assist in the development of regional bodies. At present this involves two tasks for the National Administrator:
 - To become aware of the variety of situations which exist across Australia, and the impact these differences may have on the structures of the Congress. This will involve visits to regions with the clear intention of hearing about the regions and their distinctive features;
 - To provide administrative/financial/structural information needed to ensure that the developing structures are appropriate and enable the Congress to carry out its work.

The National Administrator's involvement in this task will provide the basis on which he can further build relationships with the regions and offer continuing advice and support to them.

- Carry out and implement the decisions of the National Conference/Committee/Executive. In doing so the National Administrator will consult with regions as to the best way to ensure that the decisions are implemented in the regions;
- Communicate the decisions of Congress to the whole church;
- Take initiatives to ensure that members of the Congress are heard in the decisions making processes of the Congress;
- Build up relationships between Congress and other Aboriginal organisations;
- Work with the Chairperson in providing pastoral support for Congress staff people;
- Work in co-operation with the Director for Mission and the secretaries of the Mission Committees of the Commission for Mission.

In all his work, the National Administrator will work closely with the Chairperson and Executive Committee of the Congress, and with the Chairpersons of Regions, assisting in the development of a co-operative and shared approach to the work of Congress.

THE OFFICE MANAGER

GENERAL OFFICE STAFF

NATIONAL CONSULTANT

The Conference of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress will nominate an appropriate person to be appointed National Consultant by the Uniting Church Assembly.

His/her role will be essentially to do whatever the National Administrator or Conference/Committee/Executive asks him/her to do. This person is less a consultant than a personal assistant to the National Administrator, a 'facilitator' or 'trainer.'

The Consultant needs expertise in relation to the government, in preparing submissions, in arranging workshops – eg., workshops to help establish the portfolios. The consultant will draft letters, reports, etc, as requested by the National Administrator.

10. Women's National Conference of Congress

- Membership
- Role
- Meetings