



Use of church property for purposes related to same gender marriages

F/1.1

Purpose

The 15th Assembly resolved to recognise two statements of belief regarding marriage within the Uniting Church in Australia. It further resolved to note that that Church Councils have the authority under Regulation 4.4.1 to permit or refuse the use of any property held for the use of the Congregation for the celebration of marriages, as authorised under the Marriage Act 1961 and according to the rites of the Uniting Church in Australia. It is recognised that other bodies within the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod hold beneficial ownership of property.

Scope

This policy applies to governing bodies within the Queensland Synod with beneficial ownership of property held by The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.) (the Property Trust).

Compliance is achieved through adherence to the Principles.

Policy

1. It is the sole responsibility of each governing body to decide whether or not to grant permission for the use of church buildings or facilities for purposes related to same gender marriage.
2. For the sake of clarity the following governing bodies have responsibility:
 - a. Congregation Church buildings – relevant Congregation Church Council
 - b. Presbytery buildings – relevant Presbytery Standing Committee
 - c. UnitingCare Queensland – UnitingCare Queensland Board
 - d. Schools and Residential Colleges – relevant Board / Council
 - e. Uniting Church Centre (including Chapel), Raymont Residential College and Alexandra Park Conference Centre – General Secretary
 - f. Any other properties not otherwise identified – General Secretary
3. A governing body may delegate this authority to any committee, position or person within their activity.
4. In deciding, the governing body should only consider whether granting or withholding permission will injure the religious susceptibilities of the members, members-in-association and adherents associated with that expression of the church.

Related documents

Nil



Definitions

Term	Meaning
Queensland Synod	means the functions and activities of the Uniting Church in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• within and in relation to the bounds of the Queensland Synod; and• outside the bounds of the Queensland Synod (where managed by parts of the organisation located within the bounds of the Queensland Synod), under the Uniting Church in Australia Act 1977 (Qld).
Governing Body	As defined by Schedule 1 of the Queensland bylaws, means any governing body (by whatever title), within the Church, which has decision-making or advisory authority or responsibility in respect of a discrete activity or set of activities within the Church and in respect of which the Synod has decision making responsibility.

Revisions

Document number		F/1.1			
Version	Approval date	Approved by	Effective date	Policy owner	Policy contact
1.0	02.08.2018	Synod Standing Committee	02.08.2018	Associate General Secretary	Associate General Secretary
Next scheduled review		02.08.2021			