

Profile Form for Nominees for President-elect

Regulation 3.6.26 (b) requires that the Assembly Standing Committee provide advice to the Church on the challenges and issues which may be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years. This is to assist the discernment process as the Church nominates and elects the President – elect.

In July 2008 the ASC addressed itself to this responsibility and offers this guidance to the Church.

- ❖ Continuing significant relationships with wide sections of the Australian community through avenues beyond our congregations.
- ❖ The multicultural and inter-faith reality of Australia.
- ❖ The quantity and quality of our Ministers and matters relating to call and training of Ministers and lay leaders.
- ❖ The UCA has a willingness to experiment in new Christian communities and ways of being the church.
- ❖ The aging demographic within the UCA and the sense of disconnect with the church by younger generations.
- ❖ Ongoing need for discernment between the things that are of God and culturally supported ways of being an organisation.
- ❖ Need to relate with initiative across a wide range of constituencies including the diversity of the UCA, the media, inter faith and ecumenical leaders and internationally with other churches.
- ❖ Capacity to assist the UCA develop forms of evangelism appropriate to the theology and traditions of the UCA

Name:

Rev Dr Andrew Dutney

Nominated by:

Synod of South Australia

Synod of residence:

South Australia

Age range:

(under 30, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69)

50-59

Personal Interests

Andrew is married to Heather. He enjoys spending time with friends and family, cooking, eating, listening to and playing music, reading, going to movies and supporting his footy club.

Personal Placement / employment
(relevant church experience)
Theology

2008-	Principal, Uniting College for Leadership &
2001- 2008	Associate Professor Flinders University Principal, Parkin-Wesley College
1989-2001	Associate Professor Flinders University Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Parkin-Wesley College
1985-1989	Minister, Wesley College Chapel Parish Chaplain, Wesley College and the University of Sydney
1982-1985	Assistant Minister, St Andrews Parish Church, Leven, Scotland

As Principal of Parkin-Wesley College Andrew has been the key leader in a major reform of ministerial and lay education in the SA Synod – reshaping curriculum, staffing and governance around a vision for the development of effective missional leaders, lay and ordained.

From 1996 until 2006 Andrew was the chairperson of the South Australian Council on Reproductive Technology the statutory body which advises the health minister on the regulation of South Australian reproductive medicine units. He was the foundation Director of the *Centre for Theology, Science and Culture*, a joint activity of Flinders University and the Adelaide College of Divinity. Andrew is well-known to the South Australian public as a media commentator on religion, ethics, spirituality and society. He is in high demand as a speaker at community events. He is widely published in theology and ethics.

Since the publication of his first book, *Manifesto for Renewal* (1986), Andrew has been one of the leading interpreters of the history and theology of the Uniting Church; helping a new generation to share the vision of the UCA's founders. He has nourished an expectation among ministers and members that they are part of an innovative, outward-looking church that is constantly seeking new opportunities to respond to God's call to mission. He holds several positions of responsibility in the Uniting Church, both in South Australia and nationally.

Passion:

(Name up to three things you feel passionate about)

Sharing the vision of the Basis of Union in a way that people can identify with, and in a way that energizes people to action

Contributing an explicitly Christian point of view to the public discussion of the issues of the day

Mentoring and supporting members of the church as they try to discern and respond to God's call to ministry

Vision for the UCA:

(limit of 400 words, can be provided on separate sheet)

See attached

In light of the advice provided by the ASC on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years I can/will

(limit of 400 words, can be provided on separate sheet)

See attached

Vision for the UCA

The Basis of Union's vision is of a church called into being as a sign, foretaste, and instrument of God's goal: "reconciliation and renewal...for the whole creation" (paragraph 3).

Reconciliation is what we're all about. So we must be a church that transgresses and transcends whatever fractures and divides our world.

- It means being a church with a passion for and practical commitment to reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.
- It means being passionate about sharing the message of God's love for the world confident that the Gospel still has the power to heal and transform broken lives and societies.
- It means being a multi-generational, multi-ethnic, cross-cultural network of congregations and agencies with genuine relationships with people on the edges of Australian society and with Christian communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa.
- It means working harder at enabling the participation and leadership of women in the church.

And when any of this feels it's just too hard we will find the strength and hope to persevere in the knowledge that this "reconciliation and renewal...for the whole creation" is actually God's work. Its fulfilment is already pledged in the ascension of the risen crucified One and in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I see the UCA's vitality coming from the health of its congregations – a diversity of local communities of reconciliation. There's no single model for local church life. Neighbourhood congregations, regional churches, linked lay-led congregations, faith communities, house churches and emerging new forms of Christian community and outreach all have a place in the future of the UCA.

I know that there's a lot that's imperfect about church life, but this is a statement of vision. I'm allowed to say that I'm one of those who really believe that the local church is the hope of the world. For the local church is a sign, foretaste and instrument of "reconciliation and renewal...for the whole creation". It's a beachhead of the kingdom of God.

In light of the advice provided by the ASC on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years I can/will

...relate well to a wide range of constituencies within the UCA and in the wider community. This is fundamental to my capacity to give leadership in the areas identified by the ASC.

...communicate the founding vision of the UCA. I am able to help groups and individuals catch the excitement of that vision and own the permission it gives to imagine and implement fresh responses to the call of God to mission in changing times and circumstances. In this context I see it as a priority to help the UCA become more confident about outreach and witness, developing forms of evangelism that are consistent with our vision.

...contribute to revitalization in our specified ministries. God is calling the Ministers we need (and all the Ministers we need) for the UCA to be the best it can be. It is with real excitement, then, that I have been involved in encouraging members of the church as they discern the gifts that God has given them for ministry and service and supporting them as they respond to God's call – some to particular roles within their local congregations or in the wider community and some to the ministry of the Word, ministry of Deacon or ministry of Pastor. I've found it just as exciting to work with current Ministers as they rediscover the radical possibilities of God's call to ministry.

...give leadership in public theology – engaging in the public discussion of the issues of the day from a Christian perspective. I believe in being pro-active in this, rather than waiting for editors to decide that the church might have something entertaining to say for once. It creates opportunities to explicitly connect the community service of UCA agencies to the Christian faith and message. It also encourages members of the church to be more confident about being Christian in their daily, public lives and conversations as well as in their private lives.

...encourage new ways of being the church. I am excited, for example, by the different ways younger generations hear the Gospel and God's call to discipleship and mission. I'm passionate about ensuring that the resources, wisdom and story of the UCA are available to them for their journey of faith and that their distinctive insights are honoured in the wider church.