

Catalyst

A National Network of Evangelical Congregations, Agencies and Leaders

Vision

By God's grace, and with confident humility, Catalyst has the faith to envisage that by 2030 the Uniting Church is known across the nation for:

- Conversion growth in and through its congregations, agencies and faith communities
- It's flourishing church planting and revitalization movement
- A healthy pipeline of young leaders from many cultures being effectively developed for missional engagement
- Its confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ to transform lives and communities.

Values

In line with our Statement of Belief (Appendix), the Catalyst Network will be:

1. Christ centred - Conversion to Christ as the primary source of growth
2. Future orientated - Mentoring young leaders in evangelism and discipleship
3. Biblical - Grounded in scripture and guided by an orthodox understanding of the Basis of Union
4. Spirit-led and Charism based - Prayer, boldness and Holy Spirit gifting
5. Mission Driven - Church planting and replanting / revitalizing
6. Connected - Networks of fruitful leaders and congregations sharing thinking and resources
7. Generous - Generous resourcing for congregational mission
8. Innovative - Organizational agility that changes to serve the mission
9. Relevant - Faithful relationships in a changing world
10. Intercultural – Reflecting Australia's cultural mix and honouring the first peoples of Australia.

Structure

Catalyst will seek incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 as soon as practicable. Catalyst will develop its own constitution consistent with its mission, vision and values.

Catalyst will serve the church in ways consistent with the Basis of Union and Constitution of the Uniting Church, engaging where relevant with the various councils of the church.

In order to live its mission and reach for its vision, Catalyst will work with the councils of the church to explore the formation of non-geographic presbyteries and synods where congregations with a shared theological ethos and vision will encourage, support and equip one another and their members in mission.

Membership

Upon completion and acceptance of a membership application, membership of Catalyst will be open to any congregation or ministry agent of the Uniting Church in Australia. Catalyst will also develop associate membership / partnership. Application for congregational membership will require a decision of the Church Council.

Leadership

At its first meeting of members, Catalyst will elect its office bearers and board in accordance with its constitution. Until that time, Catalyst will be led by an Interim Steering Group.

It is envisaged that the Catalyst Network will require state and regional leadership established to support and encourage the mission, vision and values of the network being appropriated in local contexts.

Appendix: Catalyst Network Statement of Belief

We believe...

1. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. We believe God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is the creator
3. We believe human beings are created in the image of God
4. We believe the essence of sin is rejection of and rebellion against God
5. We believe this sin resulted in a broken relationship with God, each other and creation (Gen 3: 8-24); and is further reflected in a broken world and in idolatry, immorality, dishonesty, greed, injustice, abuse (self, others and creation), selfishness and the like
6. We believe in the Centrality of Jesus Christ:
 - a. Fully God, fully human
 - b. Lived a life of perfect obedience
 - c. Died for our sin
 - d. Was physically resurrected
 - e. Will come again as the judge of all
7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the gift of eternal life through Christ
8. We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives and indeed the whole of creation
9. We believe we are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ alone
10. We believe the bible, including the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God. Our faith, teaching and lives are nourished and regulated by the truth of the biblical witness.
11. We believe the bible (the word of God) points beyond itself to Jesus Christ (the Word of God) on whom alone our faith, hope and salvation rests
12. We believe our purpose in life is to love God fully and to love others as Christ has loved us and so participate in building God's Kingdom of love, peace and justice
13. We believe we are called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in word and action, in the power of the Holy Spirit
14. We believe we are called to turn away from sin (see 4&5 above) and to grow in Christ-like character exemplified in the fruit of the Spirit
15. We believe we are called to celibacy in singleness and loving faithfulness between a man and woman in marriage
16. We believe that through faith in Christ we are united with all other believers in Christ's Body – the Church – and that this finds expression through our participation in a local church
17. We believe we are called to unity within the local church and throughout the whole Christian Church
18. We believe all believers (regardless of age, gender, social standing or culture) are gifted by the Holy Spirit and all gifts lead to service that builds God's kingdom
19. We believe Christ gave us two sacraments – baptism and the Lord's supper – both of which remind us of and connect us with Christ's death and resurrection
20. We believe prayer is communicating with God (listening and speaking) and a means by which God connects us with and includes us in His will and purpose

Note: these statements are based on and subservient to the Christian Scriptures, the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.