A logo with a red bird and a cross

Description automatically generatedGRP Ministry and

Church Council

Role Descriptions

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| Ministry | Church Council |
| Vision / Purpose | The Church Council is the main governing body of the congregation. According to the Uniting Church regulations (3.1.2), Church Council’s main priority is to ***build the congregation up in faith*** *and love.* This means encouraging each member to be active disciples in all aspects of their life.  The point of active discipleship is to participate in Christ’s mission in the world. The church believes that mission (loving and serving the world in God’s name) belongs to God. God is already doing it in millions of different ways within all our communities. Church Council helps the congregation identify what God is doing and then join in as best they can. This is the main purpose of each meeting and should be reflected in whatever agenda is set. |
| Operating days and times | Uniting Church regulations suggest that Church Council should meet at least quarterly. Most congregations meet monthly. This will be determined by your congregations needs. |
| Operating Site | Local Congregation or Hybrid |
| Composition of Church Council | The Church Council comprises of:  The Minister, Pastor or Ministry worker in placement  Members elected by the congregation, for a term defined by the congregation.  Members should be confirmed members or members-in-association who demonstrate faith, commitment, and a willingness to serve. |
| Term of Service | Members are typically elected by the congregation for a term (commonly 1-3 years), renewable based on the local congregation |
| Brief description of the ministry responsibilities | Spiritual oversight and Leadership  Pastoral Care  Mission and Witness  Governance, Compliance and Administration  Relationship with Wider UCA |
| Accountability | Church Council is accountable to the Congregation and responsible to the Presbytery under the UCA Constitution and Regulations.  Operates within the guidance of the Basis of Union, UCA Regulations, and relevant Synod guidelines. |

ROLE DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Spiritual Oversight and Leadership (Reg. 3.1.13 (a))

* Participate in the oversight of worship and the spiritual life of the congregation
* Nurture the faith and discipleship within the congregation
* Support and uphold the Basis of Union and theological commitments of the UCA

Pastoral Care (Reg. 3.1.13 (b))

* Contribute to the provision of pastoral care within the congregation
* Encourage a culture of hospitality, inclusion and compassion
* Support and uphold the Basis of Union and theological commitments of the UCA

Mission and Witness (Reg. 3.1.13 (c))

* Help guide the congregation in engaging with and serving the wider community
* Participate in discerning and supporting the congregation’s mission initiatives and outreach

Governance and Administration (Reg. 3.1.13 (d) – (g))

* Share in the oversight of congregational property, finances, staffing, and legal compliance
* Approve and monitor the church budget, financial reports, and risk management processes
* Ensure compliance with Culture of Safety policies, including safe church officer, working with children and vulnerable persons
* Support the appointment of office-bearers and participation in wider UCA councils

Wider Church Engagement (Reg. 3.1.13 (h))

* Maintain relationships with the Presbytery, Synod and Assembly
* Participate in decision-making processes that reflect the Uniting Church’s conciliar governance structure