



Saturday, 14 July 2018

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The peace of the Lord be with you.

I am writing to you from the 15th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia in Melbourne where 265 members, including 20 members from the Synod and Presbytery of Western Australia, are meeting. This council of the church has been meeting together with members from across our Synods and Presbyteries, including the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Congress) and our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, to form this national decision-making body for worship, prayer, Bible Studies and discernment on many issues since last Sunday, 8 July.

One particular decision is that the Assembly resolved by more than a two-third majority 'Proposal 64 Marriage and same-gender relationships' to hold two equal and distinct views on marriage to honour the diversity of Christian belief amongst us.

I want to assure you that the Assembly council intentionally sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, engaged in deep listening as members courageously shared their passionately held convictions as we wrestled together to discern God's will for us.

We, as the Uniting Church are held together by our love of Christ, the teaching of Scripture, our 'Basis of Union' and our rich diversity.

As a valued member of our church, I'm asking you to continue to seek to live as faithful disciples of Christ, whatever your view on this sensitive issue.

This matter has the potential to divide us, so I pray that each of us will deeply and respectfully listen to each other and continue to love each other whatever our perspective and that we will remain united in Christ.

Further information and resources will be available soon. Please visit <https://uniting.church> for further information on the 15th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

In Christ's love

Rev Steve Francis

Moderator

Synod of Western Australia

