

S2.6 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

STATUS

S2.6.1 These By-Laws provide for the exercise by the Synod of its powers and responsibilities in regard to the work of Uniting World.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

S2.6.2 In accordance with Constitution Paragraph 32, the Synod has established the International Partnership and Development Commission , hereinafter referred to as "the Commission".

MEMBERSHIP

S2.6.3 The Commission is appointed by each ordinary Synod and consists of:

- (a) the Convener;
- (b) a staff person appointed by the General Secretary and
- (c) up to eight other persons.

S2.6.4 The Commission may co-opt up to two further members to ensure balanced representation or to provide the Commission with knowledge, abilities or experience not otherwise available to the Commission.

PURPOSE

S2.6.5 In response to God's purpose for the world and its peoples, the Commission will focus on the vision and utilise the resources of the Church by:

- (a) engaging in God's mission in the world in obedience to the call of Christ (see. *Basis of Union* paragraphs 1 and 2);
- (b) encouraging and supporting the Presbytery and congregations in nurturing local initiatives towards mutual relationships with equivalent councils of partner churches overseas;
- (c) enabling the Church to hear and respond to the needs of all peoples especially the poorest of the poor throughout the world; and
- (d) building and strengthening relationships in mission particularly in Timor Leste (East Timor), Eastern Indonesia and other Indian Ocean rim countries.

RESPONSIBILITIES

S2.6.6 The Commission shall:

- (a) work with churches and other agencies in partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia, to develop programs in mission, justice and peace, human rights and community development;
- (b) assist the Church to witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural, economic, national and racial boundaries (*Basis of Union* paragraph 2), and to act accordingly through the giving and receiving of resources of people, money, theological engagement and experience;
- (c) emphasise a particular care for, and solidarity with, people who are marginalised, oppressed or discriminated against, in their hunger for justice;

- (d) share news regarding Uniting World at meetings of the Presbytery and at Regional Gatherings; and
- (e) work in close conjunction with relevant Synod staff and the Assembly Director of Uniting World.

MEETINGS AND REPORTING

S2.6.7 The Commission will:

- (a) meet at least six times each year; and
- (b) report to the Synod at each ordinary meeting and to the Synod Standing Committee as requested or when necessary.