



Uniting Church in Australia

PRESBYTERY OF TASMANIA

## GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS POLICY

### Document Control:

<b>Committee Responsible:</b>	<b>Presbytery Standing Committee</b>		
<b>Commencement Date</b>	Feb 2014		
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>	May 2016	<b>Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>	July 2018	<b>Revision Date:</b>	July 2018
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>	July 2020	<b>Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>	May 2022	<b>Revision Date:</b>	26 May 2022
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>	May 2024	<b>Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>		<b>Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>		<b>Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Revision Date Due:</b>		<b>Revision Date:</b>	

# GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS POLICY

## **Purpose:**

The Presbytery recognises the commitments to discernment in community that underlie the Uniting Church's *Manual for Meetings*, including the importance of building community and clear communication for faithful discernment and decision-making. Presbytery members and staff attend church meetings from all over the state and the Presbytery is conscious of the stresses and strains that this can cause. The Presbytery wishes to have a policy that is sensitive to the wellbeing and safety of church members and also allows the church to conduct its business in appropriate ways. The policy is to be reviewed two yearly.

## **Details:**

1. Meetings of the Presbytery in council are about building community and discerning together the will of God. In order to hear and be heard clearly, wherever possible Presbytery members will be present in person, or with everyone using online systems such as Zoom.
2. When appropriate the Presbytery will consider the use of online teleconference or videoconference systems such as Zoom, to facilitate meetings, in order to reduce the burden of travel including personal travel time and environmental impacts.
3. Consideration will be given to the choice of meeting venues so that we honour the fact that we are a presbytery for the whole state and seek to reduce the burden of travel as far as we are able. For Presbytery gatherings, this means regular rotation between the main regional locations (North-west, North, Midlands, South). For Presbytery committees this generally means a central location (North) supplemented by online systems as appropriate, and periodic meetings in other locations.
4. Presbytery recognises that travel to Presbytery Gatherings and committee meetings should normally take place in business working hours and that the start and finish of presbytery-related meetings should recognise this fact. Meetings will generally not start before 10am and finish no later than 3.30pm so that people are able to get home in a reasonable time, particularly during winter or inclement weather. Continuation of meetings beyond a 3.30pm conclusion would require a determination of the meeting. Presbytery will consider ways of ensuring meetings of committees are held at times and locations which include the maximum number of people, including members who have paid employment during working hours.
5. For Presbytery Gatherings, local churches will be asked to provide morning tea and a light lunch and refreshments at a minimal cost to presbytery members.
6. For the meetings of Presbytery committees (Pastoral Relations Committee, Presbytery Standing Committee and Resource and Development Committee), the Presbytery will provide lunch or dinner.

## **Responsibility:**

Presbytery Standing Committee

**Monitoring Evaluation and Review**

To be reviewed every two years

**Attachments:**

Nil