

## Membership in the Uniting Church in Australia

For those who want to participate in the life of the church on a more formal basis, there is the capacity to become an official member of the Uniting Church to participate in the formal processes of the church (for example, being part of the discernment process at Congregational meetings to select leaders).



Membership in the Uniting Church can be taken out in two ways: as a “confirmed member” (or just “member”) or a “member-in-association”.

A “member” is a baptised person recognised by the Church Council as being within the pastoral responsibility of the church.

A “member-in-association” is a person who participates in the life of a congregation of the church while maintaining membership in another congregation or denomination and is recognised as having such rights and responsibilities as may be prescribed.

Both members and members-in-association can hold office within the Uniting Church, such as being an elder or a member of the church council.

An “adherent” on the other hand, is a person who participates in the worship life and life of the church but who is not a member (according to the following definitions), or who has not transferred their membership to the Gladstone UC.

Under the current Uniting Church regulations, only those who are confirmed members or members in associated are able to vote at congregational meeting (budgets, elections, calling of new ministers, approving building projects) and are able to be an Elder or Church Councillor. Only those who are members or members-in-association can be a representative at Presbytery (regional), Synod (state) or Assembly (national) meetings or can candidate (steps to become a minister within the Uniting Church).

If you have not been recognised as a member or member-in-association in the Gladstone UC but would like to investigate the possibilities of doing so, please speak to Rev. Allan. If you hold membership within another congregation of the Uniting Church and would like to transfer your membership to the Gladstone UC, you can also contact the congregation where your membership is held and ask them to transfer your membership. If you would like to maintain membership in a congregation of a different denomination but would also like to become a member-in-association of the Gladstone UC, please see Rev. Allan. If you do not have membership in any other UC or other congregation but have been baptised, see Rev. Allan.

Remember though, you are welcome at the Gladstone UC and any Uniting Church whether you are a formal member or not.