

## 8. Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand

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### 8.1 PARTNERSHIP

- 8.1.1 Like Cooperative Ventures, UCANZ is also a visible sign of partnership. The Partner Churches are
- the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia,
  - Christian Churches New Zealand,
  - the Congregational Union of New Zealand,
  - the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa,
  - the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
- 8.1.2 The work of UCANZ is funded by grants from the five partner churches.

### 8.2 FORUM

- 8.2.1 Meets bi-annually, with representation invited from all Cooperating Ventures and Partner Churches.
- 8.2.2 The business meeting of Forum will allow up to two voting representatives from each local church, and up to two voting representatives from each Partner Church. All other people may have observer status and the opportunity to speak.
- 8.2.3 Elects a chairperson(s).
- 8.2.4 Elects up to nine people to be members of Standing Committee.
- 8.2.5 Receives a report on the work of Standing Committee and may approve directions or papers presented by Standing Committee.

### 8.3 STANDING COMMITTEE

- 8.3.1 Role of the Standing Committee
- Promotes partnership, ecumenism, and church unity
  - Encourages opportunities for churches to work together
  - Reports annually to the Partner Churches
- 8.3.2 Standing Committee comprises;
- Chairperson(s) elected by the Forum
  - Up to nine members elected by the Forum
  - Up to two representatives from each Partner Church
  - The Executive Officer of UCANZ
- 8.3.3 An elected member may serve no more than six consecutive years. A chairperson may serve no more than four consecutive years.
- 8.3.4 Standing Committee may co-opt up to three members to provide necessary skills.
- 8.3.5 Standing Committee may appoint sub-committees to undertake specific tasks; including finance, personnel and forum preparation. People from outside the Standing Committee may serve on such sub-committees.

## 8.4 UCANZ OFFICE

- 8.4.1 The Executive Officer and Administration Assistant work to administer those things which can be shared as Cooperative Ventures.
- 8.4.2 The UCANZ office:
- administers the Partner Support Fund – on behalf of MCNZ, PCANZ, CCNZ and CUNZ
  - administers the Cooperative Ventures Removal Scheme
  - collects statistics
  - keeps a database(s) that records details relevant to the life of Cooperative Ventures.
  - Maintains a file of Schedules, Letters of Appointment, Changes of Coordinating Partner, Changes of Ministry,
- 8.4.3 Through the office, UCANZ provides support, advice, and encouragement to Partner Churches, regional courts, church leaders and Cooperative Ventures in the working out of their partnerships.
- 8.4.4 The UCANZ office asks Coordinating Partners to convene meetings to discuss a particular local church situation when necessary.

## 8.5 UCANZ TASKS

- 8.5.1 Partner Support Fund
- The Partner Support Fund provides a way for local churches to make a single contribution to the wider work of the Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Christian Churches, Congregational Union.
  - Diocesan levies for Cooperative Ventures with Anglican partners are not allocated through the Partner Support Fund.
  - Regional Court levies are not collected by UCANZ.
  - The Partner Support Fund is administered by the UCANZ office, who report to the Partner Churches annually on the performance of the fund (see 9.3.2).
- 8.5.2 Cooperative Ventures Removal Scheme
- The Cooperative Ventures Removal Scheme allows a collective response to the cost of moving ministers throughout New Zealand.
  - Any Cooperative Venture may join the scheme in accordance with the guidelines (see 9.3.1).
- 8.5.3 Statistics
- The UCANZ office collates statistics for the use of all the Partner Churches.
- 8.5.4 Records
- The historical records of UCANZ and its predecessors (Joint National Committee on Church Extension, National Churches Unity Council, Forum of Cooperative Ventures) will be deposited, when appropriate, in the Archives, Knox College, Dunedin.