

UNDERSTANDING TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AT COROUNITING

It is a requirement of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Constitution & Regulations (1.1.14) that the Coromandel Valley Uniting Church (CoroUniting) Church Council keep and maintain a Membership Register of worshippers at CoroUniting. The four categories of Membership as defined in the UCA Regulations are:

- **Confirmed Member**
- **Member-in-Association**
- **Baptised Member**
- **Adherent**

There is no obligation to have your name on the Membership Register, but this is necessary if you wish to vote at meetings of the congregation.

Only Confirmed Members and Members-in-Association are eligible to vote at meetings of the congregation.

BECOMING A CONFIRMED MEMBER

To become a confirmed member, you must have first been baptised with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and submitted a request to the CoroUniting Church Council for membership approval. As part of one Holy and Apostolic Church, the UCA acknowledges a need for only one water baptism, regardless of the Christian denomination where this was administered. This could be by sprinkling as an infant or by immersion when older. Baptisms through CoroUniting that give a candidate the opportunity to profess the Lordship of Jesus Christ publicly (eg. not infant baptism) are deemed to have met the criteria for Confirmed Membership.

If you would like to be contacted by someone from CoroUniting to discuss Baptism, Membership or Confirmation further, please provide your details on the form inside this booklet.

Let's talk about Membership

G'day everyone, I love being a part of CoroUniting. It's my particular place in God's world where I hear from God in preaching, where I worship together with God's people and is the particular context where I am called 'to love one another'. Formalising that membership according to church regulations won't really affect that. You won't even find formalising membership in the bible. So why are we encouraging you to formalise your membership with us? Well it's really useful for a range of reasons.

- *The Bible calls us to worship in an orderly way (1 Cor 14:40). Such membership is an expression of good order.*
- *It helps the leaders lead. The elders have responsibility in Christ to shepherd the flock. It's really helpful for us to know who the flock actually are (1 Peter 5:2).*
- *It's a way of publically confirming your belonging with us. Becoming a member is a bold and faithful covenant act and a way of publicly sealing what is true for us in Christ. Like other public covenant acts (baptism, marriage) membership can give you hope to hang in there when things go rough and is a symbol of God's promise to lead us through together. And that's a great witness to the gospel (John 13:34-35).*
- *You can help us make decisions. By becoming a member of Coro you are saying publically "I get what Coro is about and I want to help us get to where God is calling us". According to the current ordering of the church, you won't be able to vote on decisions if you're not a formal member.*

Yeah it can seem like a rigid formality. I get that. But part of my joyful submission to Jesus is my submission to the people whom he calls to serve me (Romans 13:1-3). That can be scary because they are flawed like me, but as Jesus is the one who builds and governs his church it's OK for me to submit to the human structures he puts in place (Hebrews 13:17).

If you decide not to be a formal member that doesn't make you any less a true member of us, as Christ's Church. The Spirit of Jesus and faith in him through baptism does that. You just haven't made your commitment to us public. That's OK too. We are just saying it would be helpful for us if you did.

Blessings



Membership Declaration Form

For the purposes of complying with the Uniting Church of South Australia (UCA SA) Synod Privacy Policy, I consent to my details (or those of children under my care) being placed on a Membership Register of Coromandel Valley Uniting Church to facilitate meetings of the congregation and to provide non-identifiable statistics to the UCA SA Synod, in accordance with the Constitution & Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia.

I declare that I wish to (please tick one of the following on this page or next):

Be registered as a Confirmed Member

All persons who have been received into confirmed membership by CoroUniting, whether by baptism and confirmation at CoroUniting or by transferring membership from another Uniting Church or denomination.*

Be registered as a Member-in-Association

- a) *A member of another Christian denomination but not actively engaged in the life of that denomination and participating in the corporate life of the congregation and accepting the polity and discipline of the Church; or*
- b) *Participating actively in the corporate life of two congregations of the Church and is enrolled as a confirmed member of the other congregation.*

Be registered as a Baptised Member

All baptised persons, including children and adults who are not yet confirmed (ie. have not made a formal public declaration of faith at CoroUniting). Baptised Members may attend and speak at meetings of the congregation but do not have voting rights.

Be registered as an Adherent

Persons who though not Confirmed or Baptised Members or Members-in-Association, regularly attend the services of worship and share in the life of the Church. Adherents may attend and speak at meetings of the congregation but do not have voting rights.

* see back page

Alternatively,

- I wish to be contacted by someone from CoroUniting to further discuss Baptism, Membership or Confirmation.**
- I do not wish to be placed on the Membership Register of CoroUniting.**

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____