**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSEMBLY EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY WORKING GROUP**

Dear

I am writing as the Convenor of the Assembly Standing Committee Task Group to establish the Assembly Education for Ministry Working Group.

At the Assembly meeting in July 2012, the Assembly "determined that the Ministerial Education Commission be replaced by an Education for Ministry Working Group."

As part of this proposal, the Assembly authorised the Standing Committee to appoint a Task Group to process the transition from the MEC to the Education for Ministry Working Group.

The Task group has been asked to bring recommendations for a Chairperson for the Working Group and nominations for the 10 people appointed by the Standing Committee: The membership will consist of:

* *A Chairperson appointed by the Assembly*
* *10 people, appointed by the Standing Committee, who have a balance of academic and practical experience and with specific expertise in* 
  + *Strategic, innovative thinking about the future of the church*
  + *Theology*
  + *Missiology*
  + *Ministry Practice*
  + *Formation for Discipleship and Ministry*
  + *Higher Education*
  + *Vocational Education and Training*
  + *Distance Education*
  + *Culturally contextual education*
  + *Practice of theological education*

*including one person from each Synod, and reflecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Uniting Church.*

* *Two persons appointed by the UAICC*
* *Up to 4 co options;*

The Assembly Standing Committee has approved a process for recommending people for the 10 positions in the areas of expertise listed above. The process will involve Synods, Presbyteries, the Assembly MEC, Theological Colleges, MEBs and other interested parties inviting individuals to nominate for the Working Group through an expression of interest. Individuals may also nominate themselves for a position on the Working Group.

We are asking nominees to submit the expression of interest by October 11th to the Convenor of the Task Group at [palmer4c@bigpond.com](mailto:palmer4c@bigpond.com)

Attached to this e-mail are 1) the expression of interest form and 2) the Assembly Minute describing the Vision and Key responsibilities of the new Education for Ministry Working Group.

The Task Group will ensure that the nominations they bring to the November Assembly Standing Committee adequately represent the criteria approved in the Resolution of the Assembly meeting in July 2012.

It is anticipated that the new Education for Ministry Working Group will be in place by the end of 2013.

We invite your prayerful discernment as you consider people who may be willing to serve the Uniting Church in its development of Education for Ministry and who are gifted in the areas listed above.

If you have any questions please contact Deidre Palmer at [palmer4c@bigpond.com](mailto:palmer4c@bigpond.com)

Grace and peace

Deidre Palmer

Convenor

Assembly Education for Ministry Task Group