

## Briefing Paper on UCA relations with Papua

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### Overall commitment:

The UCA relationship with the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua is through our partner church, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua (GKI-TP). As with all partner relationships, the UCA through UnitingWorld is committed to being guided by our partner church regarding the ways in which we engage.

In 2012 the UCA Assembly passed a resolution (see next page) that positions the UCA to work in solidarity with our partner to improve human rights and wellbeing of the people in Papua, and supports Papuans to voice their vision for their future.

Then President of the UCA Andrew Rev. Prof. Dutney, with UnitingWorld's support, presented this resolution to the Indonesian Ambassador. The presentation set out:

- UCA's longstanding relationships and commitments to a number of partners across Indonesia
- UCA's relationship with GKI-TP and the ways in which we were supporting our partner
- UCA's call for an end to violence in Papua and a just approach to human right abuses.

### Ecumenical Advocacy:

The UCA is a member of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) and in regular contact with the Indonesian Communion of Churches (PGI). The UCA is also member of International Coalition for Papua (ICP). This ecumenical organisation monitors human rights conditions, publishes reports, supports dialogue with the Indonesian Government, and voices international concerns through the WCC and the UNHRC. UnitingWorld is working with the ICP to coordinate a number of stakeholder meetings in Sydney in November 2016 and UnitingWorld will assist several Papuans from GKI-TP to attend.

In recent years, the UCA has primarily advocated for Papua through these ecumenical bodies. This choice has enabled UnitingWorld to continue engagement with other Indonesia church partners as well as GKI-TP, fund and visit projects in Papua, and support dialogue and collaboration between GKI-TP and other Indonesian groups. However, the letter from the Moderator of GKI-TP dated 14 June 2016 marks a significant shift in GKI-TP's call on our support.

### UCA program/partnership engagements:

The UCA through UnitingWorld, the WA Synod, the SA Synod and the Vic/Tas Synod continue to support our partner church GKI-TP and Papuans more broadly. The UCA programs in Papua include:

- Health clinic and HIV/AIDS program (UnitingWorld)
- Economic development focused on women (UnitingWorld)
- Exchange between theological colleges and postcolonial theology conference (UnitingWorld)
- English language program and sanitation project (WA synod)
- Health projects in Numfor-Biak region (SA Synod – now completed)
- Support for Papuan refugees in Australia (VicTas synod)

### South East Asia Regional Office:

In May 2016 UnitingWorld established an office in Bali to promote regional collaboration between partners and provide program support to the partners in the region, including Papuan programs. The office plans to bring together partners across Indonesia, Timor Leste and Philippines in areas of mutual support, capacity building, learning and sharing.

## 2012 UCA National Assembly resolution

### 12.38 WEST PAPUA

- (a) continue to express solidarity with the people of Papua by resourcing and supporting our partner church, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua, in its ministry of peace and reconciliation, and in its call to for all Papuans to have an effective voice in determining their future;
- (b) welcome President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's stated commitment to working with the churches in Papua to end violence, and, with our partner church, call on the Indonesian Government to withdraw military forces from a security role among local communities in Papua, to hand all these responsibilities to the police, and to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice;
- (c) affirm initiatives taken by the Synod of Western Australia, the Synod of South Australia and Uniting Church congregations and communities with UnitingWorld as the Uniting Church in Australia engages in Papua;
- (d) encourage more Uniting Church communities to engage in similar actions; and
- (e) express to the Australian Government our concerns for Papua and call on the Australian Government to support initiatives that involve peace, reconciliation and the development of an effective voice for all Papuans regarding their future.