



AUC Staff
AUC Executive Committee
Conference & Division Presidents, Secretaries and CFO's
Conference Aged Care CEO's
Conference Education Directors
CSR Church Governance Reference Group
CSR Aged Care Reference Group
CSR Schools Reference Group
CSR Consultative Forum
Conference Departmental Directors
National Education Council
School Principals

31 July 2020

Church Structure Review Update

It has been a while since our last communication in regards to the Church Structure Review, during this time we have been busy with consultation and developing the models for consideration. We have recently employed a Communications Officer so we are now well placed to resume regular updates on the Church Structure Review, with the plan to publish them every fortnight at this stage.

Since it has been a while we would like to remind you all of why we are doing the Church Structure Review. The churches number one mission is to spread the Gospel, as commissioned to us by Jesus in Matthew 28:19. This is something that the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation has been doing since the inception of the General Conference in 1863. From that time Seventh-day Adventists around the world, and eventually Australia, have been spreading the Gospel and the church has been growing. So why would we want change if the church seems to be doing well as it is?

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As with anything, as the world grows and changes, we should also grow and change, adjusting how we do church so the Gospel can be spread further afield. This is why the Union was tasked to explore potential options which would make the church better. The Church Structure Review process is looking at 'how can we do church better' and can we change the current structure of the church to allow us to maximise the use of our resources and finances. We are doing the review to make the church stronger and it will allow us to refocus on why the church exists and what our mission is.

In our previous communication we stated that the consultation process was commencing with the Conference Executive Committees and Boards and that both the school and aged care sectors were working on their structure options for a single operating entity. We have been able to meet with all the conference executives and boards, six of these were done in person and three were held via Zoom. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we were only able to hold four town hall meetings in Victoria with the remainder of the town hall meetings being postponed until travel restrictions are eased.

This does not mean that the process has stalled. Using the feedback we received from the meetings that were held, we are progressing with the detailed design work with the Consultative Forum, Conference Officers, Education Directors and Aged Care CEO's.

The Consultative Forum has now met three times since June to discuss the feedback and look into specifics around role descriptions and functions to support the model options under consideration. The Consultative Forum is set to meet every three weeks through to November to guide and review the detailed design work.

The Education Directors and Aged Care CEO's will also meet on a regular basis to bring clarity to their structure options prior to wider consultation. There is also complimentary work being done through Quality Adventist Churches and this will also be considered in support of the detailed design.

The Church Structure Review program is in a cycle of iteration, meaning that there are some procedures and actions which need to be done repeatedly in order to come to a successful outcome. The cycle will allow us to review all of the details associated with the options and we hope to bring you more specifics of this detailed work in future communications leading up to the November AUC Executive Committee meeting. As we get closer to deciding on a potential change for the church in Australia, we need to ensure that we completely understand what each option entails.

As we stated before, the process has not stalled, rather we are using this time to dig deeper so that we will be able to better engage with you in the process. The Consultative Forum will be meeting on Friday August 7, in our next communication we will have an update on how things are progressing.

Warm Regards from the Church Structure Review Team

Tim, Cat, Jorge, Michael & Peter