



Fundraising Policy

A/4.1

Purpose

The Fundraising Policy outlines the expectations, and obligations required when undertaking activities designed to raise funds on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod ("Church"). This policy supports the Church's vision, mission and ministry, within the Queensland Synod. Compliance is achieved through adherence to the Principles.

Scope

Exclusions: This procedure is **not** intended to apply to the agencies, regulated businesses, colleges and schools of the Church. This policy applies to all activities planned within the bounds of the Synod of Queensland, on behalf of the Church conducted as part of the ministries of congregations and faith communities, presbyteries, Synod office, and applies to all activities involving fundraising.

The church council is responsible for the oversight of all activities involving fundraising by or within the congregation and will oversee local arrangements which are appropriate for the congregation size, taking into account availability of suitable leaders, local need and demographics. Synod and presbytery committees with oversight of activities for fundraising, have the same obligations as those described for church councils.

Legal Trading Name

The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod has a **legal name** 'The Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (Q.)' pursuant to the *Uniting Church in Australia Act 1977*. When undertaking fundraising activities such as making funding applications, submissions, and sponsorship agreements, the following wording should be used The Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (Q.) trading as <insert name of church>. For example, The Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (Q.) trading as The Gap Uniting Church.

Legislative requirements and Uniting Church Resolutions

Uniting Church Resolutions relevant to fundraising activities by the church, are contained specifically in **Synod in Session Minute 80.58, Synod in Session Minute 89.115, Council of Synod Minute 94.48, and Council of Synod Minute 95.49.**

In summary:

1. Requests all agencies of the Uniting Church to refrain from using gambling as a means of raising finance.
2. Requests Parish Councils to ensure that Church buildings, including halls, are not used for functions for gambling.

And in relation to applications and submissions for funding:

3. Determines that Uniting Church applications to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund, and similar funds operated by clubs and casinos, should aim to resource services within the fields of health, community services or community development

All fundraising by charities is regulated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). However, the following appeals for support are **not** regulated under QLD fundraising law:

- those solely for the advancement of religion conducted by, or on behalf of, any recognised religious denomination, or
- those for a charitable or community purpose by, or on behalf of, any recognised religious denomination (except in the case of door-to-door or street collections).



The Uniting Church in Australia is a recognised religious denomination.

Charitable and tax status

Only charities endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR) can offer tax deductions for donations. Even if a charity is endorsed as a DGR, tax deductible donations may be subject to certain conditions. Please note:

- The Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (Q.) is a registered Charity, and does have Tax Concession Status.
- The Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (Q.) **does not have** DGR status
- The Uniting Church In Australia Qld Synod Scholarship Fund **does have** DGR status

The principles

Statement

The Church is committed to ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner. The Church recognises that fundraising activities will be conducted throughout the synod to contribute to the mission, goals and objectives of the Church. In addition, it recognises that staff may seek to conduct fundraising activities for other non-Church activities

The following principles detail the standards expected when raising funds:

1. All fundraising activities will comply with all relevant laws.
2. All funds obtained through fundraising activities must be dispersed for the purpose stated and include reporting and acquittal of all funds collected via the fundraising activity.
3. All fundraising activities should target the general public, congregations, and the local community where possible, when raising funds on behalf of the Church.
4. Any communications made in the course of carrying out a fundraising activity must be truthful and non-deceptive.
5. All personal information collected during a fundraising activity must be treated as confidential information and is not to be sold, given away or disclosed to any third party.
6. Staff or volunteers directly or indirectly employed by the Church shall not accept commissions, bonuses or payments for any fundraising activities undertaken on any Church premises.
7. Fundraising activities will not be permitted if they in any way reflect negatively on the Church or its wider community. This also includes fundraising activities which may contribute to excessive noise or a potential disturbance to a neighbourhood or community which in turn may impact on the reputation of the Church.
8. Internal fundraising, which is fundraising activities for the Church and its activities must be for the stated purpose and are to comply with the Church's stated mission and purpose. Internal emails, mailing lists and phone directories may be used for the purpose of prospecting for these fundraising activities. However, internal mailing lists phone directories and mailing lists **are not** to be used for the purpose of soliciting for external fundraising events or activities.
9. Fundraising for a cause external to the Church: Any fundraising activities for an external cause conducted for an individual, community organisation, school or sporting club, must address the essential needs of the individual or group. In addition, the activity **must not** be in conflict with the values of the Church. For example, acceptable activities would include the raising of money for a specific purpose—equipment or sporting uniforms or to assist towards an individual to attend a specific event e.g. to represent Queensland



in a sport. Such appeal activities are to be not for profit and **must** have be endorsed by the church council or presbytery committee if the appeal is to occur on behalf of the Church.

10. All fundraising through gambling activities, including raffles or bingo games will **not be** permitted to occur on behalf of the Church or the Property Trust to raise or obtain funds. However, pursuant to Uniting Church Resolutions, applications for grants from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund are permitted, with the provisions that they should “aim to resource services within the fields of health, community services or community development”. It is further suggested that a decision to make such an application by a congregation, occur **only after** obtaining approval by the church council.
11. This policy does not prevent individual staff and volunteers from “networking” with each other on an informal basis or inviting individuals to participate in external events not associated with the Church.

Related documents

[A/4.1.1.1 Helpful Tips for Writing Your Grant Application](#)

[A/4.1.1.2 Tips for Finding Suitable Grants](#)

[A/4.1.1.3 Grant Funding Template](#)

[A/4.1.1.5 Guidance Notes for Fundraising](#)

[A/4.1.1.6 Guidance Notes for Organising Appeals](#)

[A/4.1.1.7 Gifts in Wills \(Bequests\)](#)

A/4.7 Corporate Sponsorship Policy

A/4.7.1 Corporate Sponsorship Procedure

[A/4.7.1.1 Guidance Notes for Obtaining Sponsorship](#)

A/4.7.1.2 Template Sponsorship Agreement

[B/1.1 Privacy Policy](#)

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Fundraising	Means any effort to obtain money, goods or services for the purpose of funding or benefiting an individual group, organisation or cause.
Church	Means the activities of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod.
Queensland Synod	Means the work and activities of the Uniting Church in Australia performed within the bounds of the state of Queensland, and includes all congregations and presbyteries, the Synod office including Trinity Theological College, Raymont Residential College and Alexandra Park Conference Centre.
Staff	For the purpose of this policy only, staff means ministry agents, faculty members and lay staff.