

**DRAFT**

## **UCG vs Non-UCG Approach to Local Church Administration by Pastors and Elders**



If someone **treats you badly**, just remember that there is **something wrong with them, not you**.

Normal people don't go around destroying other human beings.



## Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
<b>Rule of Law</b> .....	4
<b>UCG Values</b> .....	6
<b>UCG Vision</b> .....	6
<b>UCG Mission Statement</b> .....	6
<b>Positioning Statements</b> .....	8
<b>Elder in Good Standing Policy</b> .....	9
<b>Criteria For An Elder To Be In Good Standing</b> .....	9
<b>Notes of sermon by Vic Kubik – Who are our elders and what do they do? (15 Dec 2018)</b> .....	10
<b>Organizational Stewardship</b> .....	12
<b>Ministerial Code of Ethics – Australia (ratified August 2001)</b> .....	13
<b>Personal Responsibilities:</b> .....	14
<b>Family Responsibilities:</b> .....	14
<b>Church and Congregational Responsibilities:</b> .....	15
<b>Responsibility within the Ministry:</b> .....	15
<b>Responsibility within the Community:</b> .....	16
<b>Update from the President, 25 July 2019</b> .....	16
<b>Personal From Ministerial and Member Services</b> .....	17
<b>2019 General Conference of Elders</b> .....	19

**Ministry of Reconciliation or Not and Crow Indian Scouts - Don Ward..... 20**

**Australian Speakers and Writers Guidelines..... 21**

**Summary of Requirements ..... 23**

## Introduction

There is a need to be consistent with the UCG's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules of Association, Vision, MMS policies and guidelines, processes, Pastoral Manual, ABC and other training, subjection to the leadership and authority of the Council of Elders.

We members have noticed that there is sometimes a refusal and belligerence to carry out UCG values, policies, teachings and behaviours. To not want to be supervised and do whatever one wants to do. To be unaccountable for actions and words. Or lack thereof.

## Rule of Law

So has there been dereliction of duty? Or breach of contract?

As HWA wrote in "Romans 13 and the State of California Attack," *Good News*, March 1980:

"Now notice what a "scholarly" commentary says in expounding Romans 13. Speaking of government rulers: "If he rules according to the Constitution nothing can justify (the individual) rebelling against his authority... When the ruler acts thus (contrary to law or the Constitution) he dissolves the compact between him and his people; his authority is no longer binding, but illegal; and it is illegal because he is acting contrary to the laws of the Constitution, according to which, on being raised to the supreme power he promised to govern. This conduct justifies opposition to his government" — and the commentary means in GOD'S sight! (*Adam Clarke's Commentary*)"

Paul Johnson, the famous British historian wrote:

"The rule of law, as distinct from the rule of a person, or class or people, and as opposed to the rule of force, is an abstract, sophisticated concept. It is mighty difficult to achieve. But until it is achieved, and established in the public mind with such vehemence that masses of individuals are prepared to die to uphold it, no other form of progress can be regarded as secure. The Greeks had tried to establish the rule of law but failed. The Romans had succeeded under their republic, but Caesar and his successors had destroyed it. The essence of the rule of law is its impersonality, omnipotence and ubiquity. **It is the same law for everyone, everywhere—kings, emperors, high priests, the state itself, are subject to it. If exceptions are made, the rule of law begins to collapse**—that was the grand lesson of antiquity" ("No Law Without Order, No Freedom Without Law," *Sunday Telegraph*, 26 December, 1999) (emphasis mine).

So, if a minister refuses to have a fair approach to members or refuses to preach and uphold many doctrines of the church such as the Family of God, US & Britain in Prophecy, typology, prophecy, church eras, no abortion, anti-homosexuality, the physical/health aspects of clean & unclean meats etc etc, he no longer has legitimacy. It takes time and effort to produce good quality sermons instead of focusing on the self and wanting everyone to be in awe of their authority.

If he does not get to know the members and utilise their strengths, he does not build a community; or will not follow policies or the church's culture etc? Then what? Aren't the members important?

There were a number of things that attracted us to UCG when it formed in 1995 compared to other groups:

1. rule of law within the church
2. upholding the doctrines we were taught for decades in WCG
3. utilise the gifts and talents within the congregation (presumably there is a policy to make this happen such as requiring ministers to get to know members, have sign up lists for opportunities and workgroups)

As Michael Kelley wrote in *Beyond Today*:

"Drawn to a land of peace instead of turmoil, one governed by the rule of law rather than the whims of despotic dictators"  
("Immigration Crisis," Jan-Feb 2019, p.11)

How similar to us who were drawn to the UCG.

"Should I keep back my opinions at such a time [such as the 21st century], through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself **as guilty of treason towards my country [or Church], and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven**, which I revere above all earthly kings ... Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things, which so nearly concern their temporal salvation?"

- Patrick Henry (1739-99. Prominent member of the American Revolution)

Enoch Powell's famous phrase comes to mind: "All I know is that to see, and not to speak, would be the great betrayal."

Below is a chart with the first column what the UCG is. The adjacent column is to be filled in – a few have been filled in to 'kick start' this. So, what do we want? Answer: the implementation of UCG's values and teachings and not the eschewing of them. The refusal to do so is breach of contract.

## UCG Values

### 1. UCG Vision

UCG statement	Comment
A Church led by God’s Holy Spirit, joined and knit together by what every member supplies, with all doing their share and growing in love to fulfill God’s great purpose for humanity to bring many children to glory (Ephesians 4:16; Hebrews 2:10).	This can only be applied if we have an open church where the gifts and talents are used and not prevented. This means sign up lists, speaker’s club, volunteer lists, work groups (socials, outreach, good works). When there is so little to do, people leave; or when appointments are made for everything and there are no sign-up lists

### 2. UCG Mission Statement

UCG statement	Comment
The mission of the United Church of God, an International Association, is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples.	
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
We believe our Father has called us into a relationship with Him and one another through Jesus Christ.	This is a direct relationship with them and no one must be a stumbling block or get in the way
We believe the immutable Word of God shows how to build loving relationships (I John 1:3) to become conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.	
Therefore we will strive to live by every Word of God, led by His Holy Spirit, enabling these relationships to grow and flourish in humility.	
We believe God the Father, through Jesus Christ, is building His Church, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ	

UCG statement	Comment
Himself being the chief cornerstone, and we, also, as living stones are being built into a spiritual house (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 1 Peter 2:5).	
Therefore as members of the household of God, we grow together into a holy temple for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22).	
We believe God’s plan of salvation includes every individual who yields to Him and Jesus Christ (1Timothy 2:4). His plan includes the calling and perfecting of those who are being converted now as well as those to be converted in the ages to come.	
Therefore it is the duty of the Church to proclaim a message of hope and a call to repentance, to observe all things Christ has commanded, and-to prepare members of the Body of Christ for service.	
We believe all humanity will ultimately have the opportunity to learn of Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection and the good news of the Kingdom of God. We believe the plan of God provides every individual an opportunity to become part of His family (Acts 10:34-35).	
Therefore, in order to maximize the effectiveness of the gospel message, we endeavor to reach all people in a way they can understand with a combination of doctrine, prophecy and Christian living—recognizing that any lasting fruit is produced by the power of God’s Holy Spirit.	
We believe humanity is in urgent need of the gospel message in advance of the events surrounding Christ’s return. We believe Jesus commissioned His Church to declare what is to come, to warn of the consequences of sin, to preach repentance and to proclaim the hope of eternal salvation (Matthew 24:13-14, 21; 28:18-20).	

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Therefore, we take very seriously the Church’s responsibility to boldly preach the gospel to this world with zeal and a sense of urgency (John 9:4).	

### **3. Positioning Statements**

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
We believe building meaningful, godly relationships is taught in Scripture. Therefore we must:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become unified in God and Christ through the Holy Spirit.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love God and keep His commandments.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love one another as Christ loves us.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and practice a ministry of reconciliation.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and live Christ—like service.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak the truth openly in godly love.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster godly relationships among all.</li> </ul>	

We believe we are to strive to attain the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, to develop" leadership for the Church and to prepare a people for works of service. Therefore we must:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide in-depth biblical teaching.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer the great questions of life—does God exist, who is God, what is God, what is His purpose, who is man, what is man, and what is man’s purpose?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop training and educational programs for ministry, members and youth.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the necessary facilities for our local congregations, and for training and education purposes.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the best training and education programs.</li> </ul>	

We believe Christ commissions us to preach the gospel in all the world. Therefore we must:	
--	--



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage the entire Church in fulfilling its mission to preach the gospel.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage members to be like Christ and be lights in the world.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the most appropriate methods to reach and engage various audiences.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ the most effective media technology to deliver a relevant, inspiring, transforming message to the world.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the Media Guiding Principles</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congregational - A spiritual body, unified in doctrine, that grows in Christ-like service, love, care, righteousness, unity, grace and peace.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational - Communication channels and administrative policies and practices that enhance</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewardship - electiveness, unity and godly relationships among employees and volunteers.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public - Proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God, that proclamation continually increases and improves in effectiveness, impact and global reach— leading to repentance and conversion those whom God is calling.</li> </ul>	

### **Elder in Good Standing Policy**

It is hereby resolved that the criteria for an elder to be in “good standing” as referred to in Article 2 of the Constitution of the United Church of God – Australia (under the heading “Elder”), is the policy the National Council establishes with regard to an Elder in Good Standing.

**Criteria For An Elder To Be In Good Standing:**

UCG statement	Comment
1. 1 Must be resolved to conduct themselves in the ministry according to the ethical standards set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and as amplified in	
1. 2 the United Church of God – Australia’s Ministerial Code of Ethics, so that their service in the ministry will be acceptable to God, beneficial to the	
1. 3 United Church of God -- Australia, and that their lives be an example to the United Church of God -- Australia, the community and the world.	

UCG statement	Comment
1. 4 Must maintain a commitment to uphold the Fundamental Beliefs as stated in the Constitution of the United Church of God – Australia.	
1. 5 Must maintain a commitment to uphold the purpose, mission, goals and values of the United Church of God -- Australia.	Values = Vision, Mission Statement, Positioning Statement
1. 6 Must maintain a commitment to uphold the Constitution and Policies of the United Church of God – Australia.	
1. 7 Must be committed to the United Church of God – Australia including regular attendance at United Church of God – Australia Sabbath services, annual Festival services, and to serving his congregation as his age, health and circumstances permit.	

### Notes of sermon by Vic Kubik – Who are our elders and what do they do? (15 Dec 2018)

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/who-are-our-elders-and-what-do-they-do>

UCG statement	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He shows the link to the OT eldership pattern (ie to me this indicates that NT elders are not priests and do not derive from the priesthood. I might add that there are some principles from the latter that apply to the former)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iterates the understanding of the NT words for elder and pastor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their function is to be in the trenches/the streets with the member</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not influenced by the rich</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must hold to the highest ethical standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must know the Bible (I might add he should be preaching the entire counsel of God’s Word)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have enough knowledge of sound doctrine to convict others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

UCG statement	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He then read out a 4 page document contained within the Pastoral Manual (inexplicably the manual is not available for members to see):</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eldership is a calling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often they are expected to give 2 sermons per Sabbath</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should offer to visit members (he used to visit 15-18 per week. I might add – how else do you know their issues to help them or their gifts/talents to utilise them?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Must build a personal relationship with each member</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be on call 24 hours a day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have church clubs, committees (I prefer to call them workgroups), local evangelistic activities, socials (for the nth time since 1995, the ONLY way to do this is to have sign up lists for a speakers club, socials working group, outreach working group, good works working group and this should be spelt out in the manual in a bit more detail)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be compassionate, loving caring (I certainly have experienced the opposite since 1995)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to explain doctrines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be gentle etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watches out for wolves and deals with false doctrines (eg does not let them fester for months and years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not domineering (eg snapping your head off over nothing as some have experienced here)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpers of your joy (ie doesn't take away the joy of salvation from you)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitators, supporting, guiding (when will that ever happen here?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

However, there are some aspects I would like to add:

- False accusations must stop as must bullying and going 'two by two'
- Fundamentals of Belief and other doctrines (inc prophecy and typology) must be preached
- President's weekly letter and Chairman's occasional letter must be promoted to the local congregation

- Spiritual gifts and talents must be used (ie quit the jealousy)
- Sign up lists for speakers clubs, opportunities, good works working group, socials working group etc to build a community
- Encourage in-home study groups to deepen our understanding of Scripture and our doctrines and to forge a spiritual community

## Organizational Stewardship

<https://www.ucg.org/members/news/update-from-the-president-mar-7-2019>

### Several recurring themes came up when it came to identifying the qualities of an effective pastor:

The first series of questions we tackled was: *What are the qualities of an effective pastor? What dynamics need to be in place to encourage a healthy relationship between the elders and members of our congregations? Can you identify any barriers?*

In the next two sections we took a look at how congregations are being spiritually fed through sermons, sermonettes and special music, at what qualities warm and nurturing congregations have, how can we encourage outreach within our communities, and explored the components of our church service formats. Ideas shared included:

UCG statement	Comment
• Use the split sermon church format more during our services.	•
• Conduct discussion groups after services to talk about the sermon. This allows for the pastor to get feedback and go deeper into his sermon topic.	•
• Take into account different learning styles when preparing messages.	•
• Use visual props to emphasize points.	•
• Promote the use of interactive formats where people are encouraged to share thoughts and ideas.	•
• Promote our media guiding principles.	•
• Tell stories and use parables, much as Jesus did in His ministry.	•
• Continue speaker training such as Spokesman Club and homiletics.	•
• Provide a balanced spiritual diet.	•
• Tackle the “tough topics” that people are facing and provide direction.	•
• Go deep into a set of scriptures, rather than jumping all over.	•
• Listening to other engaging speakers and learning from their style can be helpful for those giving sermons and sermonettes.	•
• Be open to variety in special music styles.	•
• Create spaces within our congregations that promote relationship-building.	•

UCG statement	Comment
• Promote individual outreach and “being the change you want to see.”	•
• Focus on meeting the needs of the fatherless and widows.	•
• Avoid being apathetic.	•
• Empower others to take on new responsibilities.	•
• Overcome fears that hold us back and step outside our comfort zones.	•
• Emphasize the need to foster new relationships within our congregations.	•

Our final set of questions revolved around creating space for more involvement and identifying the barriers that exist. Thoughts included:

UCG statement	Comment
• Being open to new ideas.	•
• Rotating responsibilities.	•
• Promoting mentoring relationships.	•
• Being willing to adopt new traditions as we adapt to changing times.	•

## Ministerial Code of Ethics – Australia (ratified August 2001)

Whereas the elders of the United Church of God – Australia are also elders of the United Church of God, *an International Association*, it is hereby resolved that the Ministerial Code of Ethics of the United Church of God, *an International Association*, be adopted by the United Church of God – Australia. This Ministerial Code of Ethics is reproduced below.

### MINISTERIAL CODE OF ETHICS

#### United Church of God, *an International Association*

#### PREAMBLE:

As a minister of Jesus Christ, I accept the duty bestowed on me through ordination by prayer and the laying on of hands. I am dedicated first and foremost to preserving my personal relationship with God, therefore I am committed to base my life upon the foundation of the Word of God. I am resolved to conduct myself in the ministry according to the ethical standards set forth in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and as amplified in this Code of Ethics so that my service in the ministry will be acceptable to God and beneficial to the Church, and so that my life be an example to the Church, the community, and the world.

***While serving as a minister in United Church of God, an International Association, I fully accept the responsibility of these goals and ethical principles:***

**Personal Responsibilities:**

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1. 1 I will strive to maintain my relationship with God through prayer, Bible study, meditation and fasting.	
1. 2 I will endeavor to maintain my physical and emotional health.	
1. 3 I will strive to manage my life by maintaining a balance in the following areas: family matters, church duties and personal needs.	
1. 4 I will not use the office of the ministry to take advantage of any relationship or activity that may lead to a conflict of interest or result in personal or material gain	
1. 5 If I display evidence of substance abuse, addiction, or any diagnosable mental disorder, I agree to seek competent counsel and professional care to recover.	Belligerence, refusal to be reasonable or to u-turn when in the wrong, expectant patterns of behaviour, aggression, limited interests, poor eye contact, lack of empathy, scripted/robotic responses etc are all give away signs. Such must be reported to the Council of Elders and such a one examined by a psychologist

**Family Responsibilities:**

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1. I will place my marriage and family as the highest priority in my life after my personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ.	
2. I will respect the unique role of my wife, recognizing her as a partner in marriage and the family, and will seek to meet her physical, spiritual and emotional	
3. I will regard my children as a gift from God and seek to meet their individual physical, spiritual and emotional needs.	

**Church and Congregational Responsibilities:**

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1. I will strive to faithfully shepherd the congregation(s) I serve by following the example of Jesus Christ in love, service, humility, respect, patience, wisdom and integrity.	Shepherding is not abuse
2. I will strive to faithfully use my time and energies in ministering to God's people through proper work habits and schedules.	
3. In my preaching and teaching responsibilities I will give priority to adequate prayer, planning, and preparation so that my presentations will be biblically-based, doctrinally sound and clearly communicated.	
4. In ministerial counseling I will maintain confidentiality, except in cases where disclosure is necessary within the ministry, to prevent harm to persons, or as required by law.	
5. In my ministerial counseling, I will limit my advice and counsel to my areas of expertise or formal training.	
6. In my capacity as a minister, where possible, I will arrange visits and counseling to avoid being alone with anyone which might give the appearance of wrong-doing. I realize that being alone with a person in visiting or counseling may jeopardize my reputation or ministry.	However, they can go 2-by-2 only if the member permits it under law. Unfortunately, 2-by-2 has led to 2 witnesses against 1 and consequent abuse.

**Responsibility within the Ministry:**

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1. I will endeavor to honor and relate to all ministers, especially those with whom I directly serve, as coworkers in the work of God, respecting their roles and cooperating with them.	
2. I will seek to serve my ministerial colleagues and their families with counsel, support and personal assistance when needed.	
3. I will seek to promote an atmosphere of openness and unity within the body by supporting and appropriately communicating with the Home Office staff and the equivalent office in other countries.	In this case a region's Director Operations or equivalent is the one to be communicated with

**Responsibility within the Community:**

UCG statement	Comment
1. As defined by Jesus Christ, I will accept my duty to be an example and light in the world.	
2. I will practice Christian citizenship without engaging in activities that are illegal, unethical, unbiblical or unwise.	
3. I will endeavor to serve the local community without neglecting my primary responsibility which is to minister within the local congregation(s).	
As a minister serving in the United Church of God, <i>an International Association</i> , I affirm my commitment to uphold:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Fundamental Beliefs as stated in the Constitution of the United Church of God, <i>an International Association</i>.</li> </ul>	Many Fundamentals and supporting doctrines are never mentioned or preached on ever
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The purpose, mission, goals and values of the Church</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Constitution and Bylaws of the Church</li> </ul>	
I am in agreement with this Code of Ethics. I will strive to always practice these ethical principles while serving as an ordained minister of the United Church of God, <i>an International Association</i> .	

**Update from the President, 25 July 2019**

<https://www.ucg.org/members/news/update-from-the-president-july-25-2019>

NB: I have extracted only pertinent portions of it that apply in principle:

UCG statement	Comment
Paul contrasts other spiritual gifts and attributes as secondary, even as <i>nothing</i> , when compared to the gift of divine love and what this love produces. If one even speaks eloquently at the level of the Acts 2 miracle where the disciples were “filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages” (Acts 2:4, NLT), and they don’t speak with the love of God in their words, their words can actually hurt!	



UCG statement	Comment
<p>We all must be careful and aware of how we speak. What motivation drives our words? Do our words truly emanate from divine love? <b>Or do the words we speak sound like careless loud and brash bullying</b>, taking on the ineffectiveness of a “noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” in their thoughtless presentation (1 Corinthians 13:1, NLT)?</p>	
<p>As we work with one another in the Church, we need to be aware of how we come across. Through careless speech, we can offend and create division. We need to be humble and be yielding one to another.</p>	
<p>... This coming week and beyond, when you act, when you speak to someone, or write an e-mail, let us ask God to give us His power of love, His very nature, that our words and actions may reflect our heavenly Father and His power (John 13:35).</p>	

## Personal From Ministerial and Member Services

18 July 2019

NB: I have extracted only pertinent portions of it that apply in principle:

UCG statement	Comment
<p>Our next session was by Darris McNeely and entitled "Speaking to the Mission and the Vision." In this session, <b>Darris emphasized the importance of being sure that the sermons we give to our brethren are mindful of our mission "to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations, and care for those disciples."</b> Darris also emphasized our Vision Statement and how we are to become: <b>"A Church led by God's Holy Spirit, joined and knit together by what every member supplies, with all doing their share and growing in love to fulfill God's great purpose for humanity to bring many children to glory (Ephesians 4:16; Hebrews 2:10)."</b></p>	

UCG statement	Comment
<p>In the afternoon, Steve and Kathe Myers discussed "Becoming a Nurturing Pastoral Couple." <b>In their presentation, they used two different exercises showing the important need for our ministerial couples to nurture our local congregations, with a lesson to focus on the positive side, giving our members the benefit of the doubt and thinking the best of them.</b></p>	
<p>The third afternoon session was "Expository Preaching" in which Darris McNeely discussed the need to present a balanced diet of sermons. He used the example of Paul's sermon on Mars Hill in Acts 17, and showed us how to "expose" the real depth behind the written words of scripture and how to apply them in this present day and age.</p>	
<p>On Tuesday morning, Victor Kubik presented a very timely session about our need of "Going Above and Beyond the Ministerial Code of Ethics." Vic emphasized the ministry's need to be above reproach and to set the proper example for our brethren around the world. He carefully went through our Ministerial Code of Ethics line by line. <b>We must be careful to avoid even the appearance of evil and must deal honestly and uprightly in all our actions and behavior.</b> Vic also mentioned how he keeps a copy of the Strategic and Operation Plan on his desk at all times and is focusing on meeting all of the goals for Congregational Care and Organizational Stewardship.</p>	
<p>I ended the conference with a final session entitled "Unity in the Body of Christ," in which I exhorted and admonished our ministers to strive for unity in their own local congregations and throughout UCG. There are many scriptures in the Bible that speak of unity and against causing division within the Body of Christ. I emphasized the need for true integrity, true humility and genuine godly love in our quest for greater unity.</p>	

## 2019 General Conference of Elders

Posted on Jul 8, 2019 by Ariana Del Signore

<https://www.ucg.org/members/news/2019-general-conference-of-elders>

Cincinnati, Ohio—The annual meeting of the General Conference of Elders convened May 3-6. Present at the Conference were 144 elders and 125 wives, with many more who watched or listened in remotely. The ministry approved the Council’s Strategic Plan, Operation Plan and Budget for 2019-2020. Four council seats were also chosen.

*Ministerial and Member Services:* Mark Welch gave some updated numbers and statistics regarding the ministry and attendance. He also shared nine goals for the coming year(s):

UCG statement	Comment
1. Develop close relationships with all pastors and elders.	
<b>2. Encourage all pastors to be helpers of our members’ joy and to involve all members in service wherever possible. Develop church congregations around the world that are warm and inviting to new attendees.</b>	
3. Visit as many church areas as feasible with the intent to meet as many members as possible and to cultivate a relationship of mutual trust and openness.	
<b>4. Survey every congregation to determine overall satisfaction level of members and to help pastors and elders improve in their service to our local congregations.</b>	
5. Implement annual pastoral and elder self-evaluations, in collaboration with regional pastor and pastors.	
6. Improve regional ministerial conferences and ministerial education, leadership workshops, Pastoral Development Program, all programs and online training.	

UCG statement	Comment
7. Respond to international requests and needs for training and help.	
8. Encourage all pastors to mentor others in their congregations to serve in the ministry.	
<p><b>9. Endeavor to head off conflicts in the early stages—point everyone involved to follow Matthew 18.</b></p> <p><b>The Sabbath on May 4 began with two seminars presented by Darris McNeely and Randy Stiver titled “God’s Unfinished Business With Israel” and “The Tribes of Israel: Always Hidden in Plain Sight.” Both focused on the role of the scattered tribes of Israel throughout history and into modern day events.</b></p>	

## Ministry of Reconciliation or Not and Crow Indian Scouts - Don Ward

Dear Brethren,

I thought you might be interested in reading the message I posted on Elder's Forum today.

Take care,

Don Ward

Houston South

Message may be shared

NB: I have extracted only pertinent portions of it that apply in principle:

UCG statement	Comment
<p>The current crises apparently stemmed from tension between the former administration and the Council. But then after the resignations of the president and two operation managers and the removal of other ministers--the problem spilled over into the local congregations. So the current crisis is not just a matter of a group of power seeking elders.</p>	

UCG statement	Comment
<p><b>The innocent ones here are many of the brethren</b> and some elders. Shall we just turn a callous ear to their plaintiff cries for a good faith effort toward reconciliation? The brethren did not create the situation and neither did most of the elders---but now we are all caught up in it one way or another. So men and brethren what shall we do?</p>	
<p>There are many aspects of doctrine. Some have tried to use the papers on fasting and Sabbath observance to try to show that the problems are clearly doctrinal in nature. But we all know that no doctrine has been changed. But we should ask if there are other doctrinal concerns related to our current situation.</p>	
<p>The original tension that existed between the Council and Administration might have been what some call "administrative differences." But that assertion is debatable. <b>I would submit some of the differences also stemmed from our failure to treat one another in a Godly manner. I suspect that is still the case today.</b></p>	
<p><b>The brethren sit and wait with baited breath hoping that formal moves are being made toward reconciliation. Such cavalier attitudes do not really count the cost of what the fallout will be. We will lose another generation and the gospel will be held back in unrighteousness.</b></p>	

## Australian Speakers and Writers Guidelines

There are a number of responsibilities that are involved. These include, but may not be limited to:

UCG statement	Comment
<p>1. Bringing glory and honour to God and Jesus Christ (Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 2:12);</p>	

<b>UCG statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2. Bringing glory and honour to God and Jesus Christ (Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 2:12);	
3. Upholding the integrity of God’s Word (II Tim. 3:16);	And if not, what is to be done if the sermon/sermonette is of poor quality or lacks depth?
4. Providing sound, biblically based and supportable instruction to God’s people (I Tim. 4:11-16);	
5. Seeking to exhort, comfort, edify and unify the body of Christ (I Cor. 14:3; Eph. 4:13);	
6. Facilitating church services in an organised and ordered manner, avoiding confusion and promoting peace (I Cor. 14:33).	
Along with these responsibilities come a range of accountabilities. These include, but may not be limited to:	
1. Understanding that we will give answer before Christ’s judgement seat, receiving the greater or stricter judgement (James 3:1);	
2. Being seen to uphold the law of the land, where that law does not contravene God’s Law (Acts 4:19; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13-17);	Abuse, slander etc is in contravention of man’s laws, let alone God’s
3. Being seen to uphold the fundamental beliefs, policies and procedures of the United Church of God—Australia.	
4. A speaker may not single out a person who is still living for condemnation. The sin, fault, evil deed, or negative character trait of the person may be condemned, but care should be taken to avoid identifying the person, directly or by innuendo.	However, this goes on and we know whom is referred to. Especially when the minister has to talked with the member first

## Summary of Requirements

UCG Approach or Policy	Issue
Upholding the UCG Constitution	
Upholding the UCG Bylaws	
Upholding the Rules of Association	
Upholding Policy	
Upholding UCG Values	
Upholding ABC and MMS	
Upholding Pastoral Manual	
Decency, fairness, reasonableness	
Ignoring lies from antagonistic ministers and getting to the truth	
Deeply understanding doctrine and preaching/teaching them all	
Openness and transparency	
Non-inconsistency	
Spiritual gifts	
Letting people give sermons when they don't agree with us	
Getting to know the members with the purpose of	
Speakers Club	
Favouritism eschewed	
Appointments vs Fairly utilizing all	
Sign up lists	
Garnering the energy of the congregation	
Take responsibility as a minister	Prepares sermons the afternoon before
Good works working group	
Childish belligerence	
Slander or lying about a member	
Refusal to implement UCG teachings and policies eg using the talents within	
Refusing to preach UCG doctrines such as 'lost' tribes, church eras, place of safety, Millennial sacrificial system	Says that he never does sermons on prophecy or tribes of Israel etc

<b>UCG Approach or Policy</b>	<b>Issue</b>
Sets up working groups (socials, good works, outreach)	
Transparency	Eg weekly newsletter has speakers and topics