



## GORDON-PYMBLE UNITING CHURCH

### POLICY ON TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER IMAGES OF INDIVIDUALS ON CHURCH PROPERTY AND THE PUBLICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER IMAGES OF PEOPLE BY THE CHURCH

#### Background

The taking of photographs and other images of children and young adults without consent is of growing public concern, particularly with regard to the subsequent distribution and publication of those images in their original or altered form.

The increasing sophistication and availability of digital image editing software and of digital recording and transmission technology in 'spy' cameras and in cameras in mobile phones and tablets and other personal assistant devices have heightened that concern, due to the small size of the equipment, the speed and breadth of wireless data transmission, the ease of use of the software and the prevalence of child abuse and pornography on the internet. A digital image can now be taken quickly and covertly, be altered and printed at home and be transmitted quickly to a vast audience by posting it on the internet or by transmission by email and other modes, such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs.

The Federal Privacy Act 1988 regulates the collection, use and disclosure of images of an individual by certain persons if the individual's identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the image. The Act, and the privacy policy of the Synod (NSW and the ACT) of the Uniting Church in Australia made pursuant to the Act, apply to images made for, or used, by our church<sup>1</sup>.

#### Purpose

Our church, like any private property owner, has the right to regulate the taking of images on the church's premises and what is done with those images. Accordingly, (a) in keeping with the changing community standards and expectations, (b) to address concerns raised by attendees at functions and participants in activities on the church's premises and (c) because, as a matter of common courtesy, it is polite to obtain an individual's permission to take or use a photograph or other image of them, our Church Council has adopted the following policy on

- (a) taking and using photographs and other images of individuals on the church's premises and
- (b) publication, by our church, of photographs and other images of individuals.

for the protection of those individuals.

#### Policy

##### **Individuals taking and using photographs and other images of a child on church premises**

1. An individual may not take a photograph or other image of a child (being a person under 18 years old) on church premises or use that image except where
  - (a) the individual is the child's parent/guardian or
  - (b) the individual, prior to making the image, has obtained the consent of the child's parent/guardian to the making of the image and for the purpose(s) for which it will be used or
  - (c) the exception in 3 below, relating to special ceremonies, applies.

##### **Individuals taking and using photographs and other images of an adult on church premises**

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<sup>1</sup> There is a copy of the privacy policy on the web site of the Synod (NSW and the ACT) of the Uniting Church in Australia at <https://nswact.uca.org.au/media/1915/privacy-policy-march2014.pdf>

2. An individual may not take a photograph or other image of an adult on church premises except where
  - (a) the adult is aware of the image being made of them and has not objected to it or
  - (b) the exception in 3 below, relating to special ceremonies, applies.

### **Individuals taking and using photographs and other images of participants in ceremonies**

3. An individual may take photographs and other images of the **active** participants in a ceremony, such as a wedding or a baptism of a child, where all those participants, or the bride and groom (for a wedding) or the parents of the child (for a christening) have consented to those images of the ceremony being made.

The person conducting the ceremony will require the bride and groom or the parents, as the case may be, to confirm that they and the other active participants have given consent before the ceremony.

### **Publication by our church of photographs and other images of an individual**

4. Images made of an individual, regardless of the location, may not be published by our church (such as on notice boards, on its web site or in Reaching Out) except where the subject or the parent/guardian (in the case of a minor) has consented to it being published by our church.

### **Further information**

Questions about and clarification of this policy can be addressed to:

Rev Steve Aynsley  
Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church

A copy of this policy will be posted on the church's notice board and referred to in appropriate publications as follows:

**Please note:** Out of respect for individuals' right to privacy and as a common courtesy, we ask that photos not be taken of individuals participating in a church activity without their prior consent in accordance with our photography policy.

*April 2019*