



# MEDIA RELEASE

# UNITING CHURCH

Immediate Release  
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To: Newsdesk

From: Kim Cain, Media Liaison 0419 373 123

**VICTORIAN UNITING CHURCH LEADER PAYS TRIBUTE  
TO DR DAVIS MCCAUGHEY, 1914-2005.  
FORMER GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA  
AND  
INAUGURAL PRESIDENT OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**

The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, wishes to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Rev Dr Davis McCaughey A.C, M.A., D.D., LL.D, F.A.C.E.

Dr McCaughey, 90, died this morning, 25 March, 2005.

Dr McCaughey, as founding President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Governor of the State of Victoria, lecturer in New Testament Studies for the Presbyterian Church and as Master of Ormond College at Melbourne University, served the Victorian and Australian community with grace and distinction.

The Moderator of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania, the Reverend Sue Gormann said, "Dr McCaughey shared a vision of unity and hope with the people of Victoria inspired by a love of God lived out in the service of humanity through learning, understanding and compassion.

"Coming to Australia from Ireland (Belfast) in 1953 as Professor of New Testament for the Presbyterian church, Dr McCaughey's vision, theological insight and wisdom lay as foundation stones of the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia.

"It was his fervent hope that a new witness to Christ through the unity of the churches would bring an era of mission and ministry to the life of the church in Australia. He carried this vision through the entirety of his ordained ministry of 63 years.

"His theological work formed the basic theological insight to the *Basis of Union*, the foundational theological document that led to the uniting of majority of the Presbyterian Church, and all of the Methodist Church and the Congregational Church, to form the Uniting Church in Australia.

"Dr McCaughey was the inaugural President of the Assembly of the Uniting Church, from its formal inauguration at Sydney Town Hall on 22 June 1977 to 1979.

"His vision of unity fundamentally changed the shape of the Church in Australia.

MORE

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"He served the Victorian community with distinction as the Governor of Victoria from 1986 - 1992. He was deeply committed to education serving as Deputy Chancellor of Melbourne University 1978-79, Master of Ormond College from 1959 –1979 and helped with the foundation of La Trobe University. He was on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches for 14 years between 1961 and 1975.

"Dr McCaughey gave graciously of his time in the theological and spiritual formation of hundreds of theological students.

"He was an internationally respected author of many theological books, monographs and academic works. He generously and circumspectly gave wise counsel to the church and community when requested.

"The Victorian and Australian community owes a debt of gratitude to Davis McCaughey, a man of learning, spiritual insight and vision.

"It is my hope that the Uniting Church will continue that unifying work of faithfulness to Christ and compassion in the community that so inspired and energised him.

On behalf of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania I extend to his wife Jean and all the McCaughey family our heartfelt condolences with a deep sense appreciation for his life and ministry with us.

**MEDIA INFORMATION: Kim Cain, Media Liaison 0419 373 123**