Position Description:
Director of the Christian Research Association

The purpose of the Christian Research Association is to conduct research and review the research of others in order to provide up-to-date and reliable information about religious faith and church life in Australia.

The Director is responsible to the Board of the Christian Research Association for achieving the purposes of the Association by organising and conducting programs of research within the budget agreed by the Board of the Association.

More specifically, the Director is responsible for:
- identifying specific research projects,
- sourcing funding for such research,
- managing the conduct of the projects,
- appointing and managing staff who assist in the research and in the work of the CRA,
- reporting the findings of projects both orally and in written reports, and
- reporting to the wider public on research on church life and the Australian culture, both orally and through books and articles and other written publications.

The Director is also responsible to the Board for the maintenance of the office of the Christian Research Association, including managing a budget of more than $200,000 per annum; managing a staff of 2 part-time and several casual employees; marketing both research capacity and research products; editing and producing the quarterly journal *Pointers*, occasional research papers and other publications; building senior and associate membership, and subscriptions to publications of the Association; and the smooth operation of the computers, communications and IT.

The ongoing development of the work of the Christian Research Association needs a person with insight into the present life of the churches and Australian culture and with the innovative ability to use research to help shape the future ministry and life of the churches.

The Director will have academic credentials and insight and will be able to understand contemporary scholarship and conduct research that will be both academically rigorous and applicable in practical ways in the life of the churches. The academic disciplines most fundamental to the research of the Christian Research Association are theology and sociology.

The successful applicant must have an understanding of and a commitment to promote the principles of Christianity and Gospel values within the workplace. A background in practical forms of ministry within the churches would be a great advantage.

Skills required include:
- research skills, with a high level of skills in either qualitative and quantitative research and familiarity with the other major form of research;
- communication skills, in both written and oral forms, for reporting on research and communicating with the Board members, clients, the Australian churches and the Australian public;
- theological skills to evaluate how research interacts with the theological and ministry dimensions of the church, how this shapes the form and content of research projects, and how research findings might be applied in ministry and in the development of church life;
- management skills (both for managing the office of the Association and for managing research projects) and including some understanding of budgets, timelines, management of staff and the ethics of conducting research;
• ability to communicate with members of different denominations.

Qualifications required:
A doctorate in sociology or practical theology or associated discipline with special reference to religion and Western culture.
A broad understanding of Australian culture, of religious faith and the various Christian denominations in Australia.

Experience required:
• Demonstrated ability to conduct research related to ministry according to the principles and methods of sociology, interpreting research findings and applying them within church contexts and in recognition of theological considerations;
• Demonstrated ability to manage research projects and a small office for the conduct of research.
• Demonstrated ability to communicate the findings of research both orally and in written forms, such as through published articles and books.
• Demonstrated ability to understand and to communicate with people of different denominational traditions.

Position Details:
The position will commence on 1st July 2016. Holidays will be four weeks per year, plus appropriate arrangements for carer's leave and sick leave. Long service leave will be available after 10 years, and thereafter every 8 years. A part-time or job-share arrangement could be negotiated. Remuneration will be negotiated. (The current incumbent receives remuneration in line with that of a Uniting Church minister.)