

PRESBYTERY OF WA

CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (*CMC)

REPORT TO 3 AUGUST 2019 PRESBYTERY MEETING



Membership

- Margaret Donovan (Chair)
- Rev Dr Anne Wright (Director CEDAL)
- Rev Bev Fabb (Chair, CEDAL)
- Rev Gary van Heerden
- Dr H.S. Kim
- Rev Kim Francis
- Dr Bob French (Co-opted)

The Presbytery has asked each of its committees to outline their strategic priorities for the 2019-2021 period. This was discussed and CMC agreed that its key strategic priorities were:

1. Review of Period of Discernment to make it more user friendly and better assist participants to discern their calling to ministry.

The committee is working on the development of POD nights so that a community is established between those in POD and that they can discuss their ongoing journey with each other, along with discernment input. It is also hoped that they can have time to have their questions answered, and be encouraged. The first POD night was at Kim and Steve's place with Steve sharing his story of call. He spoke about Call, Character and Competence as key areas of focus in thinking about ministry. We hope to have 3 -4 POD nights each year plus the day retreat in February, and invitations to the beginning and ending of the academic year in worship with the Candidates.

Our hope is that with further development of community there will be a smoother transition from starting POD and moving towards their discerned future ministry.

2. Actively promote the call to ministry, both ordained and lay, within the UCA, with the aim of increasing the number of candidates for specified ministries, and also attracting younger candidates.

The uniting Church in WA is facing a significant shortage of clergy in the near future due to the number of serving clergy who are nearing retirement age. There is a particular need for young ministers equipped for next generational work.

In 2019, we are having a Ministry Expo evening on 30th August at St Andrew's church, 182 Bennett St Perth from 6-8pm. This event will be advertised on 98.5 radio station actively in the month prior in the hope that people will not only hear the advertisement but also think about their ministry and consider working with us in the UCA. It is hoped as well that we might gain an interview with the radio station but that is dependent on other factors.

We will actively promote the Ministry Expo also through our normal channels within the church as well, hoping to attract young people who may be exploring options for their careers and may be thinking about ministry.

We continue to seek out ministers and pastors on a case by case basis as we hear about them and follow up possibilities of those who may wish to transfer into the UCA.

3. Encourage more people to become commissioned Lay Preachers.

This is the more difficult challenge. Lay Preacher is a call for which one candidates, having completed a course of study and while continuing to work as a lay person. Our current LPs are all becoming very mature in age! The reason this is a difficult challenge is that most of our newer ministry agents become Pastors, for which they do not need to candidate, just apply for positions for which they hold requisite qualities and qualifications. It may be that the position of Pastor is replacing that of Lay Preacher.

The Lay Preachers Handbook has recently been updated and is available at:

<https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/careers/candidating-for-ministry/>

At present the CMC has no Admin support. In order to progress the above priorities some designated admin support is very much needed.

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