

The Four Phases of Ministry

Phase 1

Period of Discernment

The *Period of Discernment* (POD) is a structured process that allows you to formally explore the ways in which God may be calling you into ministry. There are many pathways: ordained, lay, full-time, part-time, paid, voluntary, chaplaincy, youth ministry, and much more. The list is as varied as the people of God.

Completing a POD is a necessary first step for those who believe they are being called into ordained ministry, yet everyone will benefit by exploring God's plan for their life with the guidance of experienced mentors. A POD normally takes one year.

Phase 2

The Core Phase

Candidates for an ordained ministry are supported by the Faculty and Presbytery leaders in developing a pathway for their theological and ministerial formation. All candidates move through a program designed to form in them vibrant faith, theological wisdom, confident ministry voice and identity, emotional maturity and self-awareness.

The standard program is three years and involves academic study, field-based ministry practice, and participation in the workshops, worship and hospitality of a formation community.

Phase 3

First three years in Ministry

Phase 3 Formation is a program of retreats and support for those in their first three years of ordained ministry. It recognizes that the transition into a formal placement in the church (or beyond!) is joyful and occasionally nerve-wracking. Discussing those experiences with colleagues nurtures our ongoing formation in ministry.

The focus of Phase 3 is providing opportunities to reflect on experiences 'at the coal face' and the ways in which Core Phase learnings can serve us in ministry practice, with the support of ministry colleagues, mentors, and experienced supervisors.

Phase 4

Continuing Ministry

Formation is a life-long experience. Education and ongoing ministerial formation are vital to you and to your ministry community.

Perth Theological Hall provides a variety of programs in continuing education.