

# What is Presbytery?

A brief introduction  
to the  
Presbytery of Western Australia



Uniting Church in Australia  
Presbytery of Western Australia



A WELCOMING  
**CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY**

# What is Presbytery?

## A Brief introduction to the Presbytery of WA

Since the beginning of the Christian movement leadership has been very important. Jesus called disciples to be with him and to go out in mission. Such concern for leadership was already present within the Jewish faith. The letters of the New Testament talk about spiritual gifts of shared leadership. In this long tradition the Uniting Church also recognises the importance of faithful leadership and good governance.

### Governance in the Uniting Church

According to our founding document, the Basis of Union, the Uniting Church is governed by a series of inter-related councils made up of members of the church, both women and men, who have been elected because of the gifts and graces they have to build up the body of Christ. Each council is to wait upon God's Word and to seek to discern and obey God's will in the matters for which it has oversight. Each council must recognise the limits of its authority and give heed to other councils.

**Congregations** are central to the life of the Uniting Church, worshipping, witnessing, and serving as a fellowship of the Spirit of Christ. Their role is to meet regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share in the wider responsibilities of the church, and to serve the world.

**The Church Council** is elected to have oversight of a congregation. They are responsible to build up the congregation in faith and love, sustain its members in hope, and lead them into a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.

**The Presbytery** is a council made up of ministers in placement and members elected by congregations. It has oversight of the faith and discipline of ministers and the life and mission of congregations. The Presbytery's role is to encourage congregations to strengthen one another's faith, bear one another's burdens and exhort them to fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus.

**The Synod** is a council made up of ministers and lay members elected by the Presbytery and representatives of agencies under the oversight of Synod, such as schools and community service agencies. The Synod has general oversight of the direction and administration of the church's worship, witness, and service.

**The Assembly** is a national council made up of ministers and lay members elected by Presbyteries and Synods. It has determining responsibility for matters of doctrine, worship, government, and discipline, promotes the mission of the church, sets standards for theological education, and seeks closer union with other churches.

## Presbytery of WA

The Presbytery of WA has oversight of all congregations and faith communities of the Uniting Church south of Port Hedland in WA. It was formed in 2006 when the former five Presbyteries amalgamated into one Presbytery. The Presbytery of WA meets three times a year, but it's work continues through its committees and networks. Many volunteers and a small staff team maintain the work of Presbytery.



The Chair of Presbytery is  
Alison Xamon



The Secretary of Presbytery is Rev Bev  
Fabb who can be contacted on  
[secretary.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:secretary.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au)



The Treasurer of Presbytery is Janine  
McDonald who can be contacted on  
[janine.mcdonald@ucic.org.au](mailto:janine.mcdonald@ucic.org.au)



The Executive Officer of the Presbytery is  
Rev Chris Crause who can be contacted on  
[chris.crause@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:chris.crause@wa.uca.org.au)



The Administration Support Worker for the Presbytery is  
Amanda Badenhorst who can be  
contacted on [amanda.badenhorst@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:amanda.badenhorst@wa.uca.org.au)

The Presbytery of WA has five committees and three networks.

### ***Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC)***

The role of the PSC is to act for the Presbytery between meetings on matters urgent or emergent that require a decision before the next Presbytery meeting. They also provide support, advice and direction to Presbytery Committees and Networks and can initiate the development of policy, goals, strategy, and programs for the Presbytery. To contact PSC email [secretary.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:secretary.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au)

### ***Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)***

The role of the PRC is pastoral oversight of ministers and congregations. The PRC

- Promotes the health of congregations including helping them to reflect on their ministry and mission through Life and Witness consultations, providing confidential advice and support about any issues they encounter and promoting good relationships between ministers and congregations.
- Provides pastoral support and counsel to ministers, helping them to reflect on their calling through Vitality of Call consultations and consultations about the extension of placements beyond 10 years.
- Provides oversight of ministers who are required to provide an Annual Report to Presbytery and also deals with any complaints made against a minister.
- Assists congregations who are seeking to call a new minister and arranges the induction of new ministers.
- Supports congregations who do not have an ordained minister in placement, including authorising lay people to preside at the sacraments.
- Oversees the process for appointing a lay person to a Pastor position in a congregation.



The Chair of PRC is Rev Ivan Clark  
who can be contacted on  
[noranda.rev@gmail.com](mailto:noranda.rev@gmail.com)



The Presbytery Minister (Pastoral) is  
Rev Lorraine Stokes who can be contacted on  
[lorraine.stokes@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:lorraine.stokes@wa.uca.org.au)

## ***Thrive Mission Committee***

The role of Thrive is to encourage, support, assist and resource congregations to discern and actively participate in the mission of God in their local communities. It does this by

- Resourcing congregations to develop their own Mission Plan
- Providing regular training in Mission Shaped Ministry
- Provides mentors for congregations who want to develop a *Fresh Expression* of church.
- Support congregations who operate a community service for the benefit of their local community
- Assists the Presbytery to develop overall Strategic Mission Directions

Thrive also acts as the Property Committee of the Presbytery which is responsible for

- Advising congregations about any property matters, including considering applications from congregations to ensure they enhance the mission of the church, are financially viable and are in line with Presbytery and Synod policies.
- Regularly inspect all congregational properties to ensure that they are fit for purpose and maintained in a good and safe condition.



The Chair of Thrive is Rev Greg Ross who can be contacted on [revgregross@internode.on.net](mailto:revgregross@internode.on.net)



The Presbytery Minister (Mission) is Rev Rob Douglas who can be contacted on [rob.douglas@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:rob.douglas@wa.uca.org.au)

## **Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL)**

CEDAL provides education and formation of both lay and ordained for ministry so they may grow in faith, discipleship and leadership. Its overall aim is “to build an informed and integrated learning community directed to the mission of God” CEDAL provides

- Formation of those preparing for ordained ministry in the Uniting Church, support for newly ordained ministers and continuing education for experienced ministers
- Development of the competencies of those lay people called to the ministry of Lay Preacher or Pastor
- Orientation to the Uniting Church for ministers from other churches seeking to be recognised as UCA ministers.
- Education for lay members who want to grow in faith and develop skills for ministry, including those called to serve as elders or Church Councillors, lead worship or to celebrate the sacraments.



The Chair of CEDAL is Dr Karen Flowers who can be contacted on [karen.flowers1@outlook.com](mailto:karen.flowers1@outlook.com)

The Education Co-ordinator (Ordained Ministries and Perth Theological Hall Principal) is Rev Dr Cathie Lambert who can be contacted on [cathie.lambert@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:cathie.lambert@wa.uca.org.au)

The Education Co-ordinator (Lay and Continuing Education) is Rev David Kriel who can be contacted on [david.kriel@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:david.kriel@wa.uca.org.au)

If you want information about CEDAL events, contact the CEDAL PA on [PA.Education@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:PA.Education@wa.uca.org.au)

### **Candidates for Ministries Committee (CMC)**

CMC has oversight of all those preparing for the ministries of Deacon, Minister of the Word or Lay Preacher. CMC

- Promotes a sense of call to ministry within the congregations of the Presbytery

- Supports those who are seeking to discover God's call through a Period of Discernment
- Accepts candidates for the ministry of Lay Preacher, appoints a Mentor to assist in their formation for this ministry, and refers them to CEDAL for the development of their competencies.
- Recommends applicants for one of the ordained ministries to the Synod Selection Panel and, if they are accepted as candidates, provides oversight and pastoral support during their period of formation.
- Recommends to Presbytery when a person is ready for ordination as a Deacon or Minister of the Word, or commissioning as a Lay Preacher. CMC may also terminate candidature if it believes this is necessary.

The Chair of CMC is Rev Bev Fabb who can be contacted on [candidates.ministry@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:candidates.ministry@wa.uca.org.au)

### ***Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Network***

Many congregations in the Uniting Church worship in languages other than English and most congregations include a mixture of cultures and languages. The purpose of this Network is to provide forums where congregations can share their experiences of working cross-culturally, support one another, raise any issues of concern with Presbytery officials and plan shared events.



The Convenor of the Network is Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams who can be contacted on [katalina.williams@ucic.org.au](mailto:katalina.williams@ucic.org.au)

### ***Uniting Generations Network***

A healthy church is one that includes a wide range of ages, helping all ages to grow in faith and discipleship. This Network aims to promote ministry with children, families, young people and young adults.

It provides regular forums where congregations can share their experiences and support one another, shares resources, and holds events which support and resource this ministry.



The Convenor of the Network is Rev Kim Francis who can be contacted on [kim.rose.francis@gmail.com](mailto:kim.rose.francis@gmail.com)



The Presbytery Children, Families, Youth and Young Adult Co-ordinator is Pastor Julie Ridden who can be contacted on [julie.ridden@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:julie.ridden@wa.uca.org.au)

### ***Rural and Remote Ministry Network***

WA covers a huge area and ministry in rural and remote areas has its own unique challenges and gifts. There are many small congregations in rural areas who do not have a minister in placement. This Network is open to people who either lead congregations in rural or remote areas or are interested in rural and remote ministry. The Network provides opportunity to connect with others, share experiences, hear and voice concerns, give mutual support and create and deliver practical ways of supporting leaders and communities in rural and remote areas.



The Convenor of the Network is Yuko Tonai-Moore who can be contacted on [tonaimoore@gmail.com](mailto:tonaimoore@gmail.com)

The Presbytery is currently seeking to fill the position of Rural Resource Minister

### **In Conclusion**

Central to the mission of God is the life and witness of congregations and faith communities. The role of the Presbytery is to support, resource, encourage, enhance, and develop the ministry and mission of congregations.