



## Presbytery Meeting- 16 March 2024

### Proposal 3

#### CMC- Recognition of Lay Preacher

##### **That the WA Presbytery agrees:**

To recognise Carolyn Ebell- Taylor as a Lay Preacher and request the Chairperson of Presbytery to arrange for this to be recognised in a service of worship, including presentation of a Certificate of Recognition as a Lay Preacher.

##### **Rationale**

A Lay Preacher is one of the four specified ministries of the Uniting Church. The others are Minister of the Word, Deacon and Pastor

According to the Uniting Church

*The ministry of Lay Preacher is one in which lay persons may participate in the proclamation of the gospel and in witness to Christian faith and experience, and for which they have received gifts and are called by the Holy Spirit.*

Carolyn Ebell- Taylor is a life-long member of the Uniting Church and is well grounded in the theology and ethos of the Uniting Church. She began a Period of Discernment in mid 2019 to explore what ministry God may be calling her to. Carolyn completed her POD in April 2021 when she discerned a call to the ministry of Lay Preacher. She was accepted as a candidate for the ministry of Lay Preacher and began her training for this ministry in mid 2021.

Carolyn has successfully completed Mission Shaped Ministry, Safe Church, Basis of Union, and Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Lay Preachers courses. She has a Working with Children's Card and a National Police Clearance and is clear about her responsibility to keep up to date with ethical ministry standards training. In 2007 she completed a Certificate in Theology at Wollaston College which provided her with a solid theological understanding. She is continuing theological education towards a Diploma of Ministry at Morling College demonstrating her commitment to life- long learning and keeping up to date in her theological understanding.

Since the start of her candidature, Carolyn has been actively preaching and leading worship across a variety of congregations. This experience has enabled her to develop a flexible and adaptable approach to different worship contexts. CEDAL have assessed her as being competent in all the areas outlined in the Standards for Formation and Education of Lay Preachers.

Her Mentor, Rev Caroline Gepp, who has observed many services Carolyn has taken, says "Carolyn gives solid preparation to her work and this is evident in her leading of worship. She embraces this ministry with pastoral sensitivity, theological diligence and creative insight."

Carolyn is an active member of Kalamunda Uniting Church where she leads Girls Brigade and participates in worship leadership. She has an active faith where a life of prayer, study of Scripture and putting faith into action are normative. Carolyn is a very busy person with family and work responsibilities as well as church and study commitments. She is learning how to set boundaries to ensure she does not get over loaded. She has set limits on the number of services she is prepared to lead in order to ensure she has adequate time for preparation for each service and is able to lead a worship service which is meaningful for the congregation.

Both CEDAL and Carolyn's Mentor provided reports to CMC recommending that she was ready to be recognised as a Lay Preacher. Representatives of CMC also met with Carolyn and affirmed this recommendation.

***Mover: Rev Bev Fabb (Deacon)***

***Seconder: Rev Anne McAndrew***