

Ministry of Lay Preacher

Road Map

Being Called

Doing a period of discernment or starting some study can be a great way to explore God's call. For more information talk with your minister or Rev Andy Broadbent.

Apply

Apply to your minister and church council to be a Lay Preacher Candidate. If they say "yes", your application will go to your presbytery.

Study

Start or continue your study through our theoretical and practical lay online units.

Practise

Learn and practise your craft through involvement in worship leadership and preaching in your local congregation. Assessments will give you valuable feedback.

Recognition

Once you have successfully completed your study and met all competency requirements of the Assembly, your presbytery will decide if they will then recognise you for the specified Ministry of Lay Preacher.

To find out more contact:

Rev Andy Broadbent, Education and Resources Coordinator
andy.broadbent@wa.uca.org.au | 08 9260 9800



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia



A WELCOMING
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY



Becoming a Lay Preacher

The ministry of Lay Preacher is a specified lay ministry within the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA).

The Ministerial Education Commission (MEC) of the UCA Assembly establishes the rules for the education, training and competency of Lay Preachers.

Lay Preachers read scriptures, lead prayers, share faith stories and conduct other aspects of congregational worship.

To become a Lay Preacher a person must become a candidate for training and undertake prescribed studies and supervised practical experience. Studies in lay preaching ground students in the Bible and christian teachings. It also increases their understanding and skills in worship leadership and preaching.

How to Become a Lay Preacher

Education, Training & Competency

Prospective Lay Preachers will receive training in the following areas to ensure they are fully prepared for their role, in accordance with the standards established by the MEC.

Biblical studies – the historical and literary understanding of the Old and New Testaments and their contemporary interpretation.

Theological studies – Christian doctrine as expressed by the UCA in the Basis of Union, which includes examination of historic Creeds, the Trinity, the Person and Work of Christ, and their implications for mission, contemporary challenges, and interpretation.

Worship and Preaching – the theology and practice of community worship and of preaching, including traditional and contemporary forms.

All Lay Preacher candidates will also undertake some form of formation study around working within the doctrine, ethos and polity of the Uniting Church and understanding the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Lay Preachers. Competency in preaching and leading worship will be supervised and assessed by persons designated by the Presbytery.

Recognition of Prior Learning or Experience may be applied to this training. Speak directly with Rev Andy Broadbent for clarification in your circumstances.



Educational Paths

The Presbytery of Western Australia offers two UCA Assembly approved study options. Both are available online, with the flexibility of self-paced learning. Regardless of your choice, you will be integrated into a supportive local cohort. Your educational direction will be tailored through discussions with the program coordinator, Rev Andy Broadbent.

Mentors

In addition to the support of the program coordinator, as a Lay Preacher candidate, you will be provided with a mentor to help and encourage you along the journey.

Assessment

Written assessments are not onerous and different learning styles and educational backgrounds are accommodated. Candidates will normally be required to conduct three services that are assessed as satisfactory; at least one of those needs to be at a congregation other than the Candidate's 'home' church. At least one of those must involve leading the whole service.

The Candidate will normally be required to indicate additional preaching and worship leading, for experience and practice but not assessment, at least equal to the number of services assessed. As a guide, it is suggested that it will be best if the assessed services are conducted towards the end of the Candidate's study program, when the majority of the biblical, exegesis and practical education program have been completed.

