

# What is Presbytery?

A brief introduction  
to the  
Presbytery of Western Australia



Uniting Church in Australia  
Presbytery of Western Australia



A WELCOMING  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY

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# *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 government.

### **Government 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 in WA, apart from those in the Kimberley region. It was formed in 2006 when the former five Presbyteries amalgamated into one Presbytery. The Presbytery of WA meets three times a year, but its work continues through its committees and networks. Many volunteers and a small staff team maintain the work of Presbytery.



The **Chair of Presbytery** is **Rev Ken Devereux** who can be contacted on [chair.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:chair.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au)

The **Secretary of Presbytery** is **Rev Reuben Edmonds** 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 [treasurer.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:treasurer.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au)

The **Presbytery Officer and Presbytery Minister (Strategic Priorities)** is **Rev Claire Pickering** who can be contacted on [presofficer@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:presofficer@wa.uca.org.au) or [claire.pickering@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:claire.pickering@wa.uca.org.au)





The Presbytery Support Administrator is Ned Radov who can be contacted on [presadmin@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:presadmin@wa.uca.org.au)

The Presbytery of WA has six committees...

- Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC)
- Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)
- Thrive Mission Committee (Thrive)
- Presbytery Property Committee (PPC)
- Committee for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL)
- Candidates for Ministries Committee (CMC)

...and three networks.

- Intercultural Network
- Uniting Generations Network
- Rural and Remote Ministry Network

## ***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)

## ***Strategic Priorities Working Group (SPWG)***

The Synod and Presbytery Standing Committees agreed on four *Key Strategic Priorities*, including *Strategic Priority 1 – Strengthening Congregations*. The PSC appointed the SPWG to achieve the objectives of *Strategic Priority 1*: resourcing congregations and faith communities, ministry agents and lay leaders to engage in effective ministry and mission; promoting an intergenerational and intercultural culture; and developing strategic plans for forms of future ministry and for properties. To contact SPWG email [claire.pickering@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:claire.pickering@wa.uca.org.au)

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

The role of the PRC is pastoral oversight of ministers, and congregations and faith communities. The PRC:

- Promotes the health of congregations and faith communities, 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, congregations and faith communities.
- 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 complete an Annual Report and 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 **Sue Strutt** who can be contacted on [sustr60@gmail.com](mailto:sustr60@gmail.com)



The **Presbytery Minister (Pastoral)** is **Rev Ana Lea'aetooa** who can be contacted on [pmpastoral@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:pmpastoral@wa.uca.org.au)

## **Thrive Mission Committee (Thrive)**

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 for congregations.
- Providing mentors for congregations who want to develop a Fresh Expression of Church.
- Supporting congregations who operate a community service for the benefit of their local community.
- Assisting the Presbytery to develop overall Strategic Mission Directions.



The **Chair of Thrive** is **Yvonne Robinson**  
who can be contacted on  
[socks@westnet.com.au](mailto:socks@westnet.com.au)

The **Presbytery Minister (Mission)** is  
**Rev Luke Williams** who can be contacted  
on [pmmission@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:pmmission@wa.uca.org.au)



## ***Presbytery Property Committee (PPC)***

The PPC is responsible for:

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



The **Chair of the Property Committee** is **Heather Hamblin** who can be contacted on [property.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:property.presbytery@wa.uca.org.au)

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

CEDAL provides oversight of the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation (UCEF) which is the Assembly approved UCA theological college in WA. UCEF provides education and formation of both lay and ordained for ministry so they may grow in faith, discipleship and leadership. Its overall aim is that “the Uniting Church in WA will be an inclusive and inquisitive community of life-long learners, open to growing in the way of Christ and serving the mission of God.” UCEF 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.



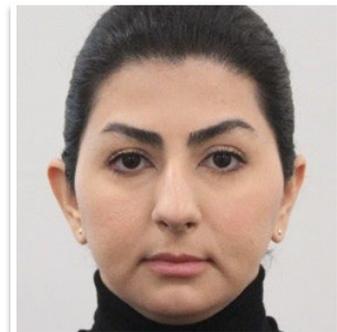
The **Chair of CEDAL** is **Dr Karen Flowers** who can be contacted on [karen.flowers1@outlook.com](mailto:karen.flowers1@outlook.com)

The **Formation and Learning Culture Co-ordinator** is **Rev Ruth Vertigan** who can be contacted on [ruth.vertigan@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:ruth.vertigan@wa.uca.org.au)



The **Education and Resources Co-ordinator** is **Rev Andy Broadbent** who can be contacted on [andy.broadbent@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:andy.broadbent@wa.uca.org.au)

The **Administration Assistant for CEDAL** is **Mashid Zadeh** who can be contacted 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)

## ***Intercultural Network***

The Uniting Church Assembly holds a vision for an *intercultural* church, where all cultural groups seek to be in relationship with each other and share in leadership, mission and ministry. The role of the Intercultural Network is to promote and encourage the church to embrace the vision of becoming an intercultural church.

In doing so the network:

- Promotes intercultural relationships within and between congregations and provides opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural encounters (including special events) to learn from one another.
- Supports CALD congregations, faith communities and fellowships by walking alongside them, listening to and sharing stories, and seeking solutions for issues or needs through collaboration within the Network or by raising concerns with the Presbytery.
- Ensures CALD leaders, ordained and lay, are supported, equipped and enabled to effectively lead their communities and to also provide leadership within the wider Presbytery community.
- Reminds the members of the Presbytery that the Intercultural Network is open to all who are interested in the church becoming intercultural.



The **Convenor of the Network** is **Rev Judy Sanderson** who can be contacted on [judyprathermoore@yahoo.com](mailto:judyprathermoore@yahoo.com)

## **Uniting Generations Network**

A healthy church is one that includes a wide range of ages actively participating in the life and mission of the church. The Network aims to assist congregations in their ministry with children, families, youth, young adults, and to develop intergenerational church practices so that all ages grow in faith and discipleship.

The Network seeks to build up relationships between congregations and faith communities so that we can support and encourage one another; share ideas and resources; and develop partnerships. It does this by holding regular gatherings, sending out newsletters and promoting events that supports this ministry.



**The Convener of the Network is Rev Sione Lea'aetoa** who can be contacted on [sione.leaaetoa@outlook.com](mailto:sione.leaaetoa@outlook.com)

**The 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 faith communities in rural and remote areas.

The Network provides regular worship resources for congregations without a minister in placement in both city and rural locations.



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



## **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 and faith communities.

## **For more information**

For more information about the Presbytery committees and networks go to the Presbytery pages on the Uniting Church WA website: [Presbytery - Uniting Church Western Australia \(unitingchurchwa.org.au\)](http://unitingchurchwa.org.au).

## Contact List

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