

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY WORKING GROUP
STANDARDS FOR FORMATION AND EDUCATION
FOR THE SPECIFIED MINISTRY OF LAY PREACHER

The following requirements for the specified ministry of Lay Preacher are as determined by the Assembly Standing Committee. These include requirements for Phase 2 of Lay Preacher formation and education. Within the context of worship, Lay Preachers provide encouragement and equipping for the witness and service of the people of God in God's world.

The relevant UCA Regulations are as follows:

2.2.3 Definition and Scope of the Ministry of Lay Preacher

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.

2.3.4 Process for Candidature and Selection of Lay Preachers

2.4.4 Training for a Lay Preacher

2.4.7 Recognition of Lay Preachers

3.1.3 (j) Responsibilities of the Presbytery

1. The Education for Ministry Working Group shall provide national oversight of Lay Preacher formation and education on behalf of the Assembly Standing Committee.
2. Formation and education for Lay Preachers shall be based on a national competency and assessment framework as specified by Education for Ministry Working Group. These competencies shall be equivalent to the general competencies for the specified ministry of Pastor in relation to worship and preaching and the core competencies.
3. Formation and education for Lay Preachers shall
 - a. reflect the beliefs and ethos of the Uniting Church as expressed in the Basis of Union;
 - b. take account of the existing competencies and gifts of applicants;
 - c. take account of the inter-related ministries of the whole people of God, including the particular responsibilities of specified ministries and church councils;
 - d. provide varied learning approaches for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
 - e. include a range of approaches to teaching, learning and assessment appropriate to adult education.
4. Competencies for Lay Preachers shall include
 - a. preparing material for worship appropriate to local contexts
 - b. facilitating shared planning of worship services
 - c. setting up and utilising worship spaces
 - d. speaking and leading in worship settings
 - e. undertaking exegesis of biblical texts
 - f. developing sermons appropriate to local contexts
 - g. presenting sermons appropriate to local contexts
 - h. ability to articulate a biblical and theological basis for Christian worship
 - i. ability to explain the shape and elements of Christian worship
 - j. ability to undertake evaluation and act on feedback
 - k. ability to articulate the scope and implications of the "Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Lay Preachers"

5. Assessment of Lay Preacher competencies shall be undertaken according to the principles of validity, sufficiency, fairness and currency.
6. Assessment of learners shall include recognition of prior learning in determining current competency.
7. Courses of education and assessment methods conducted within synods shall be approved by the Synod Ministerial Education Board (MEB) or another body appointed by it. Assessments shall be conducted by people approved by the MEB or another body appointed by it. The Working Group shall review education and assessment undertaken within synods at least every five years (normally within the Review of the MEB and its associated agencies.)
8. Formation of Lay Preacher applicants in the responsibility of the Presbytery in which they hold membership. Formation shall include
 - a. regular participation in the worship or a congregation or faith community
 - b. supervision in the preparation and leading of worship and feedback by an ordained Minister, accredited Lay Preacher, or other person/s designated by the presbytery
 - c. participation in the spiritual disciplines of prayer and study of the Scriptures
 - d. reflection on the Basis of Union and ethos of the Uniting Church
 - e. reflection on the UCA Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Lay Preachers
9. When a Presbytery determines that the applicant is to be recognized as a Lay Preacher, the Assembly Lay Preacher Certificate shall be issued by the Presbytery.

Approved by the Standing Committee, March 2016

WORSHIP & PREACHING COMPETENCIES

These competencies are equivalent to worship and preaching competencies for Pastors.

Units of Competency

1. Prepare and lead worship
 2. Prepare and present sermons
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Unit of Competency – Prepare and lead worship

Elements of competency

1. Prepare material for worship

Performance criteria

- a. articulate a biblical and theological basis for Christian worship, with particular reference to the UCA and its traditions
- b. explain the elements of Christian worship, with particular reference to the 'Service of the Lord's Day' in *Uniting in Worship 2*
- c. explain the seasons of the church year and the contribution of the Revised Common Lectionary
- d. identify the spiritual, cultural and contextual characteristics of the worshipping community
- e. identify and access resources relevant to worship
- f. prepare an order or plan for worship connecting both theological and contextual sources

2. Facilitate shared planning of worship services

Performance criteria

- a. identify, affirm and encourage the use of others' skills and gifts in leading worship
- b. facilitate group planning processes which foster collaboration, consensus and shared responsibility
- c. contribute to the choice of music, visual and other creative elements of worship
- d. facilitate shared evaluation of worship services

3. Set up and utilise worship spaces

Performance criteria

- a. demonstrate awareness of the spatial characteristics of a worship space, including seating, symbols, visibility, lighting and sound
- b. demonstrate appropriate ways to use and adapt a worship space for particular worship services
- c. liaise effectively with people responsible for preparing the worship setting, including music, sound, lighting, projection, visual and other elements

4. Speak and lead in worship settings

Performance criteria

- a. read aloud and speak with sufficient clarity and articulation and appropriate timing and mood
- b. demonstrate effective use of microphones and presentation aids (if required)
- c. provide clear introductions, directions and explanations to facilitate participation in worship
- d. use appropriate gestures and movement to accompany speaking
- e. lead extemporaneous prayer in an appropriate manner
- f. demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the work of the Spirit during worship

Unit of Competency – Prepare and present sermons

Elements of competency

1. Undertake exegesis of biblical texts

Performance criteria

- a. understand the history and main theological themes of the books of the New Testament
- b. understand the history and main theological themes of the books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)
- c. understand the main literary forms and styles of the Old and New Testaments
- d. understand and apply exegetical approaches and skills in studying biblical texts
- e. identify and access appropriate reference materials including recent and relevant commentaries and dictionaries

2. Develop sermon appropriate to congregational or group context

Performance criteria

- a. understand a range of preaching styles and how they might be appropriate to different communities, contexts and times
- b. address the pastoral, educational and missional characteristics of the congregation or faith community
- c. express key doctrines of the Christian faith within preaching
- d. draw upon theological and historical insights, cultural and contemporary references, and personal experience in crafting appropriate sermons

3. Present sermons

Performance criteria - as for 'Speak and lead in a worship setting' above in terms of sermon delivery, taking into account a range of sermon approaches or styles as appropriate