

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.