

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP SERVICE

Gain a better understanding of the serving ministries of the Uniting Church



is God calling you to step out in a new direction in ministry?

God calls us in many ways

- ... through God's Word
- ... through the encouragement of friends
- ... through new experiences and fresh insights
- ... through prayer and reflection
- ... through your gifts and passions
- ... through entering into a Period of Discernment

In order to fulfill your call, you may need:

- a firmer understanding of the Scriptures
- a greater ability to deal with people
- more confidence in teaching and leading
- In one of the Uniting Church's specified ministries (Minister of the Word, Deacon, Pastor, Lay Preacher).

The specified ministry options

The Uniting Church in Australia recognises two expressions of ordained ministry: the ministry of the Minister of the Word and the ministry of Deacon.

Together with the whole people of God they share in the ministry which Christ committed to those who follow Him as disciples (Acts 1:8)

These are mutually complementary ministries given by the Holy Spirit to lead and build up the whole body of Christ for its life of worship, witness and service.

There are also opportunities for lay people to serve in ministry in a variety of ways including as a Lay Preacher, and the ministry of Pastor.

All ministry and service to God is of equal importance and all make up the body of Christ.

Uniting College offers pathways for people to grow their passions and gifts for servant leadership. You can prepare for a variety of leadership roles and learn in a range of ways.

There are ways to gain an understanding of the ministries of the church and the many ways of serving God:

- Recognise and build on your skills, passions, knowledge and experience.
- Engage in a process that will help both the church and yourself discern your gifts and graces for ministry.

If you have a sense of call to be better equipped for Christian service, or want to explore a new direction in ministry, the Period of Discernment will assist you to discover God's call on your life.

Minister of the Word

Andrew leads a large regional congregation of all ages...

Sybil ministers to a cluster of rural committees...

Kaye is working with refugee families in revitalising a suburban church...

Eric resources country churches across a wide area...

Peter provides pastoral care as a hospital chaplain...

Michaela gives oversight to the work of UnitingCare...

Brant is planting a new congregation in a growing suburb...

Ministers of the Word serve the church in a wide range of ways. Many give leadership to congregations in diverse settings. Ministers also provide pastoral, missional and educational leadership in church agencies.

Ministers of the Word come from all walks of life. Their experience of 'call' and pathway into ministry varies.

People considering ministry are asked to undertake a Period of Discernment under the supervision of the Period of Discernment Coordinator.

At the conclusion of this time, they meet with the Period of Discernment Team to reflect on their call and journey.

A person may seek to become a candidate for ordained ministry and participate in a Selection Process which is overseen by the College.

The Presbytery has adopted a new approach to the education process



The Ministry of the Word is an ordained ministry within the Uniting Church, alongside the Minister of Deacon. These are mutually complimentary ministries.

comprising of roughly equal parts of:

- Ministry Practice
- Formation for Ministry
- Theological Study

This course is two to four years in duration, depending on the candidate's relevant prior learning and capacity for ministry.

Ministry Placements

MoW and MoD Candidates are in ministry placements throughout the core phase of their preparation for ministry. This placement is the primary context for their learning. This placement will be an assigned congregation, faith community or agency appropriate to the person's call to ministry, with responsibilities

appropriate to his or her current capacity for ministry and leadership. A personal Supervisor will be appointed for each candidate, and the candidate is assigned an appropriate Supervisor Group.

Formation

The candidate will meet with a Formation Panel of 5-7 experienced, effective missional leaders regularly through their core phase of training.

Theological Study

Candidates undertake foundational studies through Uniting college, consisting of 36-72 units, and continue their studies in the next phase as part of their continuing education for ministry.



The ministry to which God is calling you may be in your local community or workplace or within a congregation or church agency.

Lay Preacher Studying for accreditation as a Lay Preacher

Leading worship and preaching is both a privilege and a blessing. Worship is at the heart of Christian discipleship and Christian community. Many local church leaders have read the Scriptures, led prayers, shared their faith stories and conducted other aspects of congregational worship.

Lay Preacher studies allow a person to go a step further, grounding them in a deeper understanding of the Bible and Christian teachings, and increasing their understanding and

skill in worship leadership and preaching. As a church we value the ministry of Lay Preachers. We are also committed to equipping them in the best possible way and resourcing them in their service to the Church.

The ministry of Lay Preacher is a specified lay ministry within the Uniting Church. In order to become a Lay Preacher, a person becomes a candidate for this ministry, undertakes prescribed studies and gains supervised practical experience.

Talk to your minister and Uniting College if you would like to pursue this ministry.

Ministry of Deacon

Deacons are called to offer leadership among the people of the Uniting Church in a ministry of service to the world. The primary focus of the ministry of Deacon is on care and compassion for the poor and oppressed and in seeking social justice for all people.

A Deacon is a person who is called to this ministry of loving service, who is recognised by the church as having the gifts and graces essential for this ministry, who has undertaken the necessary theological education for the ministry, and who has been set apart by ordination for ministry as a Deacon.

Diaconal ministry takes Christ as the model: the humble servant who washes feet, the one who preaches good news to the poor, proclaims freedom to the prisoners, sight for the blind, releases the oppressed and proclaims the year of the Lord's favour.

All Christians are called to this ministry of service. Those who are Deacons of the Uniting Church are to embody this ministry in their life and work and are to equip and enable the diaconal ministry of all church members.

Why Deacons?

The Uniting Church has been led into many areas of ministry which focus on the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised people. The church also has been led to take, at times, risky and prophetic positions on issues of social justice at home and abroad.

Through the ministry of Deacon the Uniting Church is responding creatively to God's call to ministry in our time, by providing a body of men and women



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who will exercise leadership in service and justice ministries.

What do Deacons do?

Deacons serve the Uniting Church in many roles and settings:

- Chaplaincy in prisons
- people with disabilities
- people with mental illnesses
- as youth and community workers
- in congregational leadership
- in community service agencies
- in schools, hospitals and many other places
- in mission placements in Australia or overseas

Some diaconal placements include:

In congregations, some specialising in family work, community development, or pastoral care e.g. chaplaincies in prisons, universities, mental health services, aged care and church schools; in church community service agencies and parish missions; in ecumenical placements; with Frontier Services; with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress; and in placements outside the jurisdiction of the church.

While the primary responsibility for worship in congregations lies with the Ministers of the Word and the Elders, Deacons have a liturgical role appropriate to their distinctive ministry.



The Period of Discernment will help you to gain an understanding of the ministries of the church and the many ways of serving God.

Next steps acting on your insights

Once you have discerned your gifts for ministry, your Mentor will support you in finding ways to express this ministry.

This ministry may be in your local community or workplace or within a congregation or church agency: Lay Preacher, Children's/Youth Worker, Pastoral Worker.

Another option might be that you apply to become a candidate for one of the specified ministries of the church: Minister of Pastor, Minister of Deacon, or Minister of the Word.

Each of these ministries has particular selection and training processes. Information about each of these ministries is available from the College.

Ministry of Pastor

What is a Pastor?

The Ministry of Pastor is an opportunity for lay people to serve the Uniting Church in pastoral ministry in a variety of roles.

This new 'umbrella' ministry will incorporate people in a range of tasks within the Uniting Church.

Pastor Roles

A Pastor is a person whose role includes one or more of the following:

- teaching the beliefs and practices of the Uniting Church;
- pastoral oversight of members and/or groups under the auspices of the Uniting Church;
- evangelism or service auspiced by the Uniting Church.

For example:

Youth Workers

Pastoral assistants

Family ministry

Worship pastors

Evangelism and outreach workers

Congregational pastors

Community development workers

Oversight

The Presbytery determines whether a particular role is a Pastor appointment (or the Synod or Assembly in the case of a wider role).

Pastors are accountable to the Uniting Church for the exercise of their ministry. They are supported by the church and act as representatives of the church.

Youth and Children's Ministry

Many people of all ages serve in these areas of ministry in a voluntary capacity. Some are employed as part-time or full-time children, youth or family workers in congregations, some as school chaplains, others with church agencies. The Uniting Church had a specified ministry of youth worker for several years, however in 2008 this lay

The Pastor's job description is determined by the appointing body and approved by the Presbytery.

A Pastor's appointment will be a contracted position, although Pastors may be contracted to fulfill a ministerial placement.

Entry

To become a Pastor, a person must have been a confirmed member or member in association in the UCA for a period of twelve months prior to the appointment.

A person can become a Pastor by applying for a position advertised by the church as a Pastor appointment.

Information about current Pastor vacancies in SA will be advertised in the church media. If appointed to a position, a person is then commissioned as a Pastor.

A person can also indicate their willingness to be considered for appointment as a Pastor.

This involves submitting a profile to the Presbytery.

A person becomes a Pastor only for the duration of their appointment in a particular role.

The ministry of Pastor is not intended as a life-long ministry. People with a sense of call to long-term ministry are encouraged to undertake the Period of Discernment.

Remuneration

Pastors may be full-time or part-time, salaried or voluntary.

The Pastor's remuneration will be determined by the appointing body following guidelines provided by the Presbytery, taking into account job responsibility, qualifications and experience.

ministry came within the new specified lay ministry of Pastor.

You can gain vital knowledge and skills in youth and children's ministry and other areas through connecting with the learning opportunities now taught in units within the Bachelor of Ministry degree, and by finding time to spend with a Mentor.



How do I register or make an enquiry?

The Period of Discernment Administrator, Annette Latham, can be contacted at Uniting College for Leadership & Theology, 34 Lipsett Terrace, Brooklyn Park SA 5032, by phoning on 8416 8431; or by email at annette.latham@flinders.edu.au;

or on the college website www.unitingcollege.org.au



Uniting Church SA



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for Leadership & Theology