

Overview:

The ministry of Lay Pastor is a specified ministry, normally stipended and full time. It is a pastoral ministry within a local or particular setting. Lay Pastors are a significant and valued part of the life of the church in NSW.

- A Lay Pastor candidate will have accumulated life experience that helps equip them for ministry
- Within the local Christian community a Lay Pastor fulfils a very similar role to a Minister of the Word. However they are lay people, commissioned as Lay Pastors when they commence an approved placement or other ministry position recognised by a Presbytery.
- As lay people, Lay Pastors must still receive permission from the Presbytery in which they are placed to conduct the sacraments.
- Lay Pastors have the same stipend and conditions as Ministers of the Word, except that superannuation is offered under a lay staff scheme.



THE ELM CENTRE
EDUCATION FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY

For more information contact:

Karyl Davison
Associate Director ELM
Centre for Ministry
16 Masons Dve
North Parramatta NSW 2151
(02) 8838 8904
karyld@nsw.uca.org.au

Initial Education Program:

There are 8 units, not of equal duration, which must include each of the following areas:

1. Biblical and Theological studies, including an overview of themes, skills for in-depth study, UC studies, Christian doctrine, theological reflection and study of the Basis of Union.
2. Worship & Preaching, including preparation and planning, leading worship and resources for worship and preaching.
3. Ministry and Pastoral Care, including commencing a new ministry, visitation, grief and loss.
4. Mission and Evangelism, including the focus and context of mission, education and nurture within the church, community and school.
5. Sacraments, including practice and procedures, theology of Baptism and Holy Communion.
6. Marriage and Funerals, including legal procedures, resources and pastoral care.
7. Administration, including the organisation of the UCA, an overview of regulations and the Basis of Union, meeting procedures and Synod resources.
8. Spirituality and Formation, including practice of spiritual disciplines and developing personal resources.



Uniting Church in Australia
NSW Synod Board of Education
ELM Centre

Lay Pastors Information

For those exploring their sense of call to the specified ministry of Lay Pastor

Requirements for Applicants: Assembly regulations require an applicant for the ministry of Lay Pastor to be:

- A confirmed member of the UCA for at least 12 months
- A person who accepts the doctrine, organisation and discipline of the Uniting Church
- Someone active in the life and leadership of the church
- A person whose life experience contributes to ministry
- A person who has satisfied the Synod in relation to the profession of their faith, sense of call, ability to minister effectively and preparedness to work where the Synod deems appropriate
- Are an Accredited Lay Preacher of the Uniting Church
- Has engaged in a Period of Discernment.

Enquiries: Initial enquiries should be made to The ELM Centre. They will guide you through the application process.

Application Process:

1. Once the preliminary requirements are complete, you can obtain an application form for the Specified Ministry of Lay Pastor from ELM. Contact Peter Harvey on peterh@nsw.uca.org.au or (02) 8838 8910.

2. The ministry of Lay Pastor is defined as child-related employment in a religious organisation and will require a *Working with Children* check under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998. Therefore all applicants for Lay Pastor will be asked to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration and Consent Form for a police record check.

3. On receiving the application, the ELM Centre will:

- seek references from the Church Council and Minister of the applicants congregation.
- Seek references from the Presbytery. This will need to include a completion certificate for the Period of Discernment
- seek a copy of the applicant's statement of their discernment of call
- arrange a formal interview with the Synod Lay Pastors Committee which will consider:
 - Spiritual maturity and motivation
 - The applicant's personality and character
 - The applicant's sense of call, profession of their faith, ability to minister effectively and willingness to work where the Synod places them
 - The nature of applicant's gifts for this ministry and their capacity to complete the required preparation.

4. The Board of Education will determine the application. If successful the candidate will

who will determine the relevant education and training for each candidate.

5. When the candidate has completed the required educational process, the candidate will be referred to the Board of Education through ELM.

6. The candidate should prepare their profile, available from the Sandra Wright, Synod Secretariat on 8267 4325 or sandraw@nsw.uca.org.au

7. The candidate's name will then be provided to ACOMP (Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements for placement.

8. Once in placement, the Presbytery will provide a mentor and pastoral support and assist with the development of a continuing education program in consultation with the Director of Continuing Education.

9. The Board of Education ELM provides an annual in-service for all Lay Pastors in co-operation with the Board of Mission and the School of Continuing Education.

Information on Education Program:

Pastor Val Steward
Lay Pastors Training Committee(CSM)
12 Leichardt Street
Waverley NSW 2024
vsteward@bigpond.com

Information about the POD:

Karyl Davison, ELM Centre on
8838 8904 or karyl@nsw.uca.org.au

Education for Lay Pastor Candidates:

the rules of the Ministerial Education Commission specify the course of study required for the ministry of Lay Pastor.

The INITIAL program totaling 350 hours or the equivalent to 10 weeks full time study. The Continuing Education program is a further 200 hours per year for the duration of Pastoral Ministry.

The education component is tailored to the needs of each candidate and ministry area, and the candidate may be granted exemptions from parts of the education program for which they have equivalent prior learning, qualifications or experience.



Information about the Initial Education program is also available from ELM.
8838 8910
peterh@nsw.uca.org.au

Period of Discernment: The POD is a process that enables the church and an individual together to discern God's call on the person for future ministry.

Some Lay Pastor applicants may have spent years testing and exploring their sense of call. However, the POD provides mentoring with study, practice and reflection that allows the wider church to support those who feel called to ministry and leadership. It is a requirement for any person applying for a specified ministry in the UCA.

Please call ELM for a POD Information Kit on 8838 8910 or email peterh@nsw.uca.org.au