



Continuing Education for Ministry Agents

E/8.1

Purpose

This policy provides the framework for managing continuing education for ministry agents across the Queensland Synod. The framework is based on "*Seeking a Heart of Wisdom – Guidelines for Continuing Education Uniting Church Ministry Agents*".

Scope

The policy applies to all ministry agents engaged in ministry placement and other religious activities of the Uniting Church in Australia within the bounds of the Queensland Synod. Ministry agents, who have elected only to be available for supply, will need to satisfy the Placements Committee of their current practice, gifts and skills to undertake the proposed supply arrangement.

Policy

1. The Uniting Church in Australia Regulations

The Duties of a Minister (Regulation 2.2.1) provides for a calling to be exercised by "*(xi) the enhancement of the Minister's own gift for the work of ministry*" of which continuing education plays a critical part.

2. Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice

Section 3.4 (Professional Conduct – Competence) identifies that:

- a. Ministers have a responsibility to maintain high standards of knowledge and skills in all the areas of ministry relevant to their placement. This responsibility requires that Ministers undertake continuing education appropriate to this ministry.

3. 28th Synod

Resolution 10.91 urges Presbyteries to require annual reports and learning plans from all people in placement.

4. Seeking a Heart of Wisdom

Published by the Uniting Church Assembly's Ministerial Education Committee 2011 and endorsed by Assembly Standing Committee 18-20 November 2011 (resolution 11.67.02), the document acknowledges that through the Holy Spirit, the church recognises particular people who have a calling to leadership for which they are ordained or commissioned.

The 1997 Report of the Task Group to Review Ministerial Education recognised that in order to respond to the urgent mission needs of the Australian community, "*... the UCA needs faithful leaders who can enable the church to call people to faith in Jesus Christ, to witness to God's call for a just world, and to be a community which is a sign of God's promises for the world.*"

The goals of Ministerial Education are to prepare Ministers with the following qualities and competencies:

- A growing faith and spirituality that will sustain their lives in ministry
- A conscious and critical commitment to ministry and mission
- Knowledge and appreciation of the tradition of the church
- Skills appropriate for their particular ministry
- Critical imagination



In order to achieve these goals, the Uniting Church is committed to life-long continuing education for all members, and in particular for all those called into leadership ministries.

5. Fostering Continuing Education for Ministers in Your Presbytery

This document can be used as a guide for Pastoral Relations Committees and Presbytery Ministers to implement “Seeking a Heart of Wisdom” and by association, this policy.

Presbyteries play a crucial role in helping ministers be enthused for their ministry and ongoing education. Presbyteries are encouraged to reflect on ministry needs in their region, and to arrange continuing education events to address these areas. Congregations, agencies, schools, and other ministry placements should be consulted in determining local needs. Presbyteries likewise will aid ministers in assessing their own needs for continuing education to help realise and renew their passion for ministry.

Every Presbytery is different, and each ministry setting has its own call and challenge. Continuing education will therefore take a different shape in each setting, and different approaches will be used within each presbytery.

Related documents

[B1.1 Privacy Policy POL-0001](#)

[E8.1.1 Continuing Education for Ministry Agents](#)

[E8.1.1.1 Continuing Education Learning Agreement Form](#)

[The Uniting Church in Australia Regulations](#) (Reg 2.2.1 Duties of a Minister)

[Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice](#) (3.4 Competence)

[Minutes of the 28th Synod](#) (Resolution 10.91)

[Seeking a Heart of Wisdom – Guidelines for Continuing Education Uniting Church Ministry Agents](#) (published by the Uniting Church Assembly’s Ministerial Education Committee 2011, endorsed by Assembly Standing Committee 18-20 November 2011 resolution 11.67.02)

[Fostering Continuing Education for Ministers in your Presbytery: Ideas for implementing “Seeking a Heart of Wisdom”](#) (approved by the Assembly’s Ministerial Education Committee 2002 J02/11.3)

Definitions

Term	Meaning
The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod (also called we or us or the Church)	Means the functions and activities of the Uniting Church in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• within and in relation to the bounds of the Queensland Synod; and• outside the bounds of the Queensland Synod (where managed by parts of the organisation located within the bounds of the Queensland Synod), under the <i>Uniting Church in Australia Act 1977 (Qld)</i> .
Ministry agent	Includes Uniting Church in Australia candidates, community ministers, deacons, deaconesses, interns, lay pastors, ministers of the word, pastors, youth workers and ministers from other denominations serving in approved placements in the Queensland Synod.
Supply Minister	A ministry of short duration, usually extending from a few weeks to twelve months, most commonly when the placement is vacant or the Minister is on extended leave. Persons providing ministry in a supply capacity will not normally be considered for permanent call to that placement.
Presbytery minister	Means the minister responsible for ministry agents in all placements

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Term	Meaning
	within the geographical boundaries of the presbytery or their delegate.
Placement	An approved placement (Regulation 2.6.3(a)(i)) in a congregation or other body wherein ministry is exercised.
CEM	Continuing education for ministry agents
Framework	Means the operational requirements of fulfilling the regulations for the provision of Continuing Education for Ministry Agents

Revisions

Document number		E8.1			
Version	Approval date	Approved by	Effective date	Policy owner	Policy contact
3.0	26.09.2024	Remuneration and Nomination Committee (Res RNC_240926_12)	01.01.2025	Ministry and Mission	Associate General Secretary
Next scheduled review		01.07.2028			