



## Placements Committee

---

### Purpose

To outline the process by which the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod may nominate a lay person as a Minister of Religion marriage celebrant.

### Scope

The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod is responsible to nominate the names of Ministers of Religion to be authorised as marriage celebrants under the Marriage Act 1961.

It is normal for an ordained Minister to preside at marriage services. However, there may be instances where it is necessary and appropriate to nominate a person serving in the Ministry of Pastor as a marriage celebrant.

### Process

1. A person serving in a placement or ministry location, recognised in the Ministry of Pastor, will make application to their Presbytery with a request to be nominated as a marriage celebrant.
2. In dealing with the request, the Presbytery must satisfy itself that:
  - there is a clear need for the Uniting Church to authorise someone to celebrate marriages in that local congregation or setting;
  - there is no ordained Minister readily available to minister in that community, or there is a special case to justify nominating an additional person;
  - the person is serving in a placement or ministry location in the Ministry of Pastor.
3. Once satisfied, the Presbytery must provide (through a suitably qualified Minister) training in:
  - the theology of Christian marriage,
  - the theological pastoral and teaching dimensions of the Uniting Church's Service of Marriage,
  - the legal requirements for solemnisation of marriages, and
  - knowledge of appropriate avenues for preparation for marriage counselling.The training should include practical training involving the provision of mentoring through at least one marriage.
4. Once the training is completed, the Presbytery then recommends the application to the Associate General Secretary.
5. If satisfied that all requirements of the church and the Marriage Act 1961 have been met the Associate General Secretary will arrange for the applicant to complete the forms required by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and forward the completed forms to the Registrar.



## Placements Committee

---

6. While the person is proposed because of the needs of a particular place and community, the person is authorised to celebrate marriages on behalf of the Uniting Church anywhere in Australia. However, s/he must respect the church's ministry in other places.
7. If the Celebrant is asked to conduct a marriage service elsewhere, s/he will refer the couple to the Minister or Lay Celebrant in that area. The Celebrant will only agree to conduct the wedding if the local Minister or Lay Celebrant invites them. It is unethical to agree to conduct a marriage without an invitation from those in ministry in that place. (This is the church's expectation of ordained Ministers when they are asked to conduct marriages in other places.)

### Conclusion of placement or ministry location

1. Nomination as a marriage celebrant is only for the period that the applicant is serving in the placement or ministry location identified. At the conclusion of the placement or ministry location, the Associate General Secretary will automatically notify the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages that the nomination is to be removed.

### Revisions & Reviews

#	Date	Reason	Author / Reviewer	Approved
1	11/1/2018	Review of existing procedure	D Fender, Ass Gen Sec	D Fender, Ass Gen Sec