

Uniting Church Survey of Lay Worship Leaders & Preachers

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

This survey is for both 'accredited' and 'non-accredited' lay members of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) who lead worship and/or preach regularly.

Who should complete this survey?

- lay worship leaders and preachers
- people who have been commissioned as Lay Preachers
- people who are candidates for the ministry of Lay Preacher

The survey is part of the Uniting Church in Australia's national review of the ministry of Lay Preacher. It is conducted by the Assembly Ministerial Education Commission (MEC). This review will help the UCA shape the ministry of Lay Preacher for the future and also help the church discern how to resource other lay leaders.

The MEC is keen to hear from all people who lead and preach regularly (at least every three months).

This survey is the first of three steps in the review. It is designed to gather information about lay leaders currently involved in preaching and leading worship.

The review is considering the following areas:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Selection, training and accreditation
- Continuing education and resourcing
- Supervision and support

This survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete. If you wish, you can provide your contact details, as we will draw the names of four people who will each receive a \$50 book voucher.

Data will not be personally identifiable in published findings. Information gathered under the auspices of this project will be held and protected by the Ministerial Education Commission.

Questions about this review can be directed to

MEC Lay Preacher Review

c/- Uniting College

34 Lipsett Terrace

Brooklyn Park SA 5032

Tel: 08-8416 8420

Email: mec@unitingcollege.org.au

An on-line version of this survey is available at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UCALaySurvey>

**PLEASE RETURN BY
31 MAY**

While we prefer you to complete the on-line version, if you are unable to, please complete this form and **return it to the above address by 31 May.**

Thank you for your participation.

A: PERSONAL DETAILS

1. Have you already completed an online version of this survey?
 - Yes (Please DO NOT complete this survey. We already have your online responses)
 - No
2. Gender
 - Male
 - Female
3. Age
 - 15-19 years
 - 20-29 years
 - 30-39 years
 - 40-49 years
 - 50-59 years
 - 60-69 years
 - 70+ years
4. Synod: _____
5. Presbytery: _____
6. What is the main language that you speak at home? (eg English, Korean, Tongan, etc)

7. What culture, race and/or language groups do you belong to?

8. What is your highest education qualification?
 - Primary school
 - Some secondary school
 - Completed secondary school
 - Trade certificate
 - Diploma or associate diploma
 - Bachelor degree from a university or equivalent institution
 - Postgraduate degree or diploma
9. Have you obtained any of the following qualifications in theology or ministry? (please tick all that apply)
 - Certificate
 - Diploma
 - Degree
 - Postgraduate certificate or diploma
 - Postgraduate degree
 - Doctorate
 - Other (please specify) _____

10. Please enter your postcode _____

B: YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE UNITING CHURCH

11. Are you a member of the Uniting Church?
 - Yes, I am a confirmed member of a Uniting Church congregation
 - Yes, I am a member in association of a Uniting Church congregation
 - I attend a Uniting Church congregation but I am not a confirmed member or a member in association (**GO TO Question 13**)
12. For how long have you been a member of a Uniting Church congregation (or its "parent" denominations)?
 - Less than 1 year
 - 1-2 years
 - 3-5 years
 - 6-10 years
 - 11-20 years
 - More than 20 years
13. If you have been a member of an/other denomination/s, please indicate which one/s
 - Anglican
 - Apostolic
 - Assemblies of God
 - Baptist
 - Brethren
 - Catholic
 - Christian City Church
 - Christian Outreach Centres
 - Christian Reformed
 - Christian Revival Crusade
 - Churches of Christ
 - Lutheran
 - Methodist
 - Missionary Alliance
 - Orthodox
 - Presbyterian
 - Salvation Army
 - Seventh-day Adventist
 - Uniting
 - Vineyard Fellowship
 - Other: _____

14. How often do you usually lead worship or preach in the following settings?

	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Less frequently	Never
A service in my home congregation							
Another "cluster" or "linked" congregation							
Another UCA congregation							
A church of another denomination							
An aged care facility							
A school							
A camp or conference							
Other :							

C: THE MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE IN WHICH YOU LEAD

The following questions address the context in which you most often lead worship and/or preach. This may or may not be the congregation in which you hold membership. If you regularly lead worship and/or preach in more than one place, please tell us about the place in which you most often lead.

15. Are you a member of the congregation in which you lead?
 Yes No Don't know
16. How long have you been leading worship or preaching in this congregation?
 Less than 1 year
 1-2 years
 3-5 years
 6-10 years
 11-20 years
 More than 20 years
17. Before leading worship and/or preaching in this congregation, were you regularly leading worship and/or preaching elsewhere?
 Yes, at another Uniting Church congregation
 Yes, at a church of another denomination
 No
18. Where is the congregation or worshipping community in which you most often lead worship and/or preach? Is it in a ..
 City centre
 City suburb
 Regional centre (population 20,000+)
 Large rural centre (popn 10,000-20,000)
 Rural service centre (popn 2000-10,000)
 Small rural town (population 200-2000)
 Rural area (popn less than 200 people)

19. What is the average weekly worship attendance in the service in which you most often lead worship and/or preach?
 < 20 people 20-49
 50-74 75-99
 100-149 150-199
 200-349 > 350 people
20. Language/s used in the worship service in which you most often lead

21. Are there any other significant characteristics of this worshipping community (eg culture, age, style)? Please specify if this is an aged care facility or school etc.

22. Average weekly worship attendance across ALL services in this congregation (If you have more than one weekly service please add attendances of all services together)
 < 20 people 20-49
 50-74 75-99
 100-149 150-199
 200-349 > 350 people

23. Is this congregation or worshipping community part of a 'cluster' or linked with other congregations in terms of ministry?
 Yes No Don't know
24. IF YES, How many congregations, including this one, are part of this 'cluster' or arrangement?

25. Approximately how many lay people regularly preach and/or lead worship in this congregation? (By "regularly" we mean at least every three months. By "lead worship" we mean leading most or all of the worship service.)
 Accredited Lay Preachers: _____
 Other lay people: _____
26. Which of the following forms of ministry does this congregation have?
 A resident ordained minister
 A cluster or resource minister
 A lay ministry team
 A resident pastor (lay)
 Don't know
 Other: _____

D: BECOMING INVOLVED

27. Are you an accredited Lay Preacher? (By accredited we mean that you have completed training and have been officially recognised as a Lay Preacher in your Presbytery/Synod)
 Yes, I am an accredited Lay Preacher **(PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 29)**
 I am a candidate in training to become an accredited Lay Preacher **(PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 29)**
 No, I have not been accredited as a Lay Preacher, nor am I training to become one
28. What prompted you to begin leading worship or preaching? *(Please select all that apply)*
 Asked or encouraged by Minister
 Asked or encouraged by member of congregation or church council
 Felt a sense of call from God
 Seeking to develop and use my gifts
 Wanting to deepen my faith
 Shortage of preachers and worship leaders in our congregation
 Other: _____
(PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 33)

29. Were you regularly leading worship and/or preaching before becoming a Lay Preacher candidate? *(By regularly we mean at least every three months)*
 Yes, leading worship regularly
 Yes, preaching regularly
 No
30. What prompted you to become a Lay Preacher *(please select all that apply)*
 Asked or encouraged by Minister
 Asked or encouraged by member of congregation or church council
 Felt a sense of call from God
 Felt a need to be better equipped to lead
 Seeking to develop and use my gifts
 Wanting to deepen my faith
 Shortage of preachers and worship leaders in our congregation
 I had been leading worship/preaching and it seemed like an appropriate next step
 I was seeking validation/recognition from the church for my ministry
 Other: _____

31. Did you experience any significant difficulties with the selection and accreditation process?
 Yes No

32. Are there ways in which the selection and accreditation process could be improved?

E: CONDUCTING THE SACRAMENTS

33. Are you currently authorised by your Presbytery to conduct the sacraments?
 Yes No **(GO TO Q 35)**
34. In what contexts are you authorised to conduct the sacraments?

F: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

35. Thinking now about ALL the places you preach or lead worship, how often do you usually do the following?

	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Less frequently	Never
Preaching							
Leading prayers							
Presenting Bible readings							
Leading children's segment							
Leading music or singing							
Preparing multimedia							
Conducting Holy Communion							
Preparing 'prayer stations'							
Other:							
Other:							
Other:							

36. Are you asked or expected to perform other duties (e.g. conduct funerals, worship committee)?

- Yes
- No (**GO TO Q 38**)

37. Please describe and indicate how often

G: TRAINING & RESOURCING

38. Did you do any training before preaching or leading worship regularly? (*Tick all that apply*)

- Yes, I undertook training prior to being accredited as a Lay Preacher
- Yes, I received training, but not for Lay Preacher accreditation
- No, I have not undertaken any training in leading worship or preaching (**GO TO Q 46**)

39. Did you begin this training AFTER 2000?

- Yes
- No (**GO TO Q 46**)

40. What method/s of preparation and training did you undertake? (*Please tick all that apply*)

- Group-based learning
- One-to-one coaching or mentoring
- Individual distance learning
- Online learning
- Other: _____

41. Who conducted this training?

42. If you know, please tells us what material or curriculum was used

43. Which of the following were helpful aspects of this training? (*Please tick all that apply*)

- Depth of teaching
- Practical examples
- Use of media (eg. DVD)
- Engaging teachers
- Feedback from teachers
- Interaction with other learners
- Reading and resource materials
- Theological foundations
- Relevance to my congregation
- Online resources
- Other: _____

<p>44. In what way/s could this training have been improved?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>45. What additional topics or skills would have been helpful in your training?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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46. In terms of your ongoing learning, how often do you utilise the following?

	At least monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Rarely/Never
Reading				
Internet				
DVDs or CDs				
Weekend / short course				
Lay Preacher gatherings				
Bible study group				
Formal study				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				

<p>47. In what ways has your congregation or its leaders helped you gain skills in worship leading and preaching (other than training courses)?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>49. Which areas would you like to learn more about? <i>(Please tick all that apply)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching approaches/styles <input type="checkbox"/> Biblical background <input type="checkbox"/> Theology <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing prayers and liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Visual arts <input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia & technology <input type="checkbox"/> Church Year/Seasonal Celebrations <input type="checkbox"/> Funerals/other pastoral services <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary worship <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative worship <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<p>48. What organisations or groups have conducted any courses, seminars or workshops that you have attended in the last 3 years?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>50. You are welcome to give specific details about your ongoing learning needs</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

H: FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS

51. Please indicate how often on average you receive each of the following

	Every time I lead	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	In last 5 years	Never
Formal review by Church Council						
Informal feedback from Congregation members						
Informal feedback from other leaders						
Feedback from minister or resource minister						
Formal review by Presbytery						
Other:						
Other:						
Other:						

52. What have been the most helpful aspects of this feedback?

53. In what ways could this feedback be improved?

I: LAY PREACHER ASSOCIATIONS

54. Does your Synod or Presbytery have a Lay Preachers' Association or similar group to support worship leaders and preachers?

- Yes
- No **(GO TO Q 59)**
- Not sure **(GO TO Q 59)**

55. Please name this association or group

56. Have you attended gatherings organised by this group?

- Yes, I regularly attend such gatherings **(GO TO Q 58)**
- Yes, I occasionally attend such gatherings **(GO TO Q 58)**
- I used to attend such gatherings but no longer do so
- No, I have never attended such gatherings
- Our Association or group does not organise such gatherings **(GO TO Q 59)**

57. Is there any particular reason why you don't attend? (Please tick as many as apply)

- I don't know when they meet
- The timing is not convenient for me
- The location is not convenient for me
- It is not relevant for me
- Other: _____

(GO TO Q 59)

58. In what ways does this Association or group provide support?

59. What kinds of additional support would enhance your ministry as a worship leader or preacher?

60. Please comment on how the ministry of accredited "Lay Preacher" is generally regarded in your congregation

J: THE FUTURE

61. In your view, what are the main reasons why some worship leaders and preachers don't choose to become accredited Lay Preachers?

62. What are your hopes for the ministry of Lay Preacher?

63. What would encourage more people to be equipped and to serve as lay worship leaders and preachers?

64. We are interested to hear if there are other issues you would like to raise regarding the ministry of lay preachers and worship leaders. What else would you like to tell the review team?

Tick here if you would like to be entered in the draw to receive one of four \$50 book vouchers

Tick here if you are willing to be contacted personally by the research team should we seek further information. (Note that you will not necessarily be contacted)

If you have ticked either of the boxes above, please enter your contact details. (Your contact details will not be used for any purpose in accordance with UCA privacy policy)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Thanks so much for taking part in this process. If you would like to make any further comments, you are welcome to contact us.