

Review of the ministry of Lay Preacher: Survey of Presbyteries

This survey is being conducted on behalf of the Ministry Education Commission (MEC) at the request of the National Assembly as part of a review of the ministry of Lay Preacher.

The review will assist the MEC to:

1. identify whether the **definition** and **rules** relating to the ministry of Lay Preacher are adequate for the future needs of the Church and make recommendations to the Assembly regarding any necessary Regulation changes
2. identify issues related to **selection, training and continuing education** of Lay Preachers and make recommendations to the body or agency appointed by each Synod

As such, this investigation requires consideration of:

1. the range of contexts in which Lay Preachers serve
2. the roles and tasks that Lay Preachers perform
3. the roles and recognition of non-accredited lay preachers and worship leaders
4. processes and standards for training and assessment of Lay Preachers
3. supervision and support for Lay Preachers

This questionnaire is **one part of the process** of achieving the above. It requests information from each of the Presbyteries about their congregations and the Lay Preachers and others who serve in them. **We are grateful for your important involvement in this review process.**

1. How many congregations are in your Presbytery? _____
2. How many accredited Lay Preachers are currently serving in your Presbytery? _____
3. Approximately what percentage would be aged
 - a. <30 years _____
 - b. 30-49 years _____
 - c. 50-69 years _____
 - d. 70+ years _____
4. In terms of gender, approximately what percentage are
 - a. Male _____
 - b. Female _____
5. What are the racial/cultural groups represented?

6. How many Lay Preachers have been accredited in past five years? _____
7. How many Lay Preacher candidates are currently in training? _____
8. Who conducts training of Lay Preachers candidates in your Presbytery?

9. What ongoing training and resourcing is available?

10. What are the main ways in which people are recruited to become Lay Preachers?

11. What Lay Preacher Associations, gatherings or events exist in your Presbytery?

12. Please give us an estimate of the number of people (not accredited as Lay Preachers) who regularly (at least once per quarter) preach or lead worship in congregations in your Presbytery? (By "lead worship" we mean people who are leading most or all of the worship service) _____

Thinking now about people who are **not accredited** Lay Preachers or Lay Preacher candidates...

13. In what ways are such people equipped to preach and/or lead worship in your Presbytery?

14. In the past five years, how many such people have undertaken training in worship or preaching?

15. How many such people are currently undertaking training?

This next question is designed to help us gather a national snapshot of where and how Lay Preachers serve.

16. What proportions of accredited Lay Preachers are serving congregations or communities (eg aged care facility)...

a. in which there is an ordained minister in placement? _____

b. under the oversight of cluster or resource minister? _____

c. where there is no ordained minister in placement? _____

d. other (please specify) _____

17. How many congregations would have an ordained minister or Lay Preacher leading worship **less than monthly**?

18. What do you see as the main issues concerning the ministry of Lay Preacher in your Presbytery?

19. Please make any additional comments here

Your name _____

Your position _____

Your phone number/s _____

Your email _____

20. Who (if not yourself) is the best contact person for future questions about this survey and about the ministry of Lay Preacher in your Presbytery?

Name _____

Position _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for your valuable input.

Please return this form to:

Lay Preacher Review
c/- Uniting College
34 Lipsett Terrace
Brooklyn Park
SA 5032
by 31 March

Any questions or comments can be addressed to mec@unitingcollege.org.au or phone 08-8416 8420