

What next?

- You may commence a **Period of Discernment** at any time. Approach your minister or presbytery secretary for further details.
- In consultation with you, a mentor will be appointed.
- You and your mentor will work out a discernment plan, involving the kinds of activities mentioned overleaf. This will take into account your prior learning and experience.
- Your ministry experience will involve practical service in a local church or community setting.
- You may receive a Certificate of Participation at the end of the Period.



For more information contact

Perth Theological Hall
Worship Centre
Murdoch University
GPO Box 76
Bull Creek WA 6149
Phone 9360 6880
Fax 9360 6889



The Period of discernment

A time for seeking direction
about discipleship and ministry

UNITING
Church in Australia

Is God
calling you
to step out
in a new
direction?

The Period of Discernment is
a time for you to hear and
respond to God's call to
Christian service.

Seek.

A time to explore. The **Period of Discernment** is a guided process of seeking God's will for your life.

In the **Period of Discernment**, you will spend regular time in prayerful reflection and conversation under the direction of a mentor— a time for journeying and discovery.

Study.

A time to learn. You will deepen your faith through learning about the church's rich heritage of faith and the challenge of mission in today's world.

The **Period of Discernment** provides an opportunity for learning about the Bible, Christian teachings and the church's ministry.

Serve.

A time to grow. You will be encouraged to develop your gifts through supervised 'hands on' ministry opportunities in a local church or community settings.

Following the **Period of Discernment** you may wish to seek further preparation for Christian ministry. The Period of Discernment helps both you and the church explore opportunities for serving God in everyday life.

The Period of Discernment

This time of reflection, conversation and ministry experience may lead you to

- a deeper sense of your relationship with God
- new understanding of your leadership role in your local congregation
- a clearer sense of vocation in your workplace
- a deeper sense of Christian discipleship in your everyday life
- a better understanding of the Bible and Christian teaching
- a sense of being called to offer for one of the church's specified ministries:

Community Minister

Deacon

Lay Pastor

Lay Preacher

Minister of the Word

Youth Worker

God calls us all to live out our baptism in service to Christ in the church and in the world. The Period of Discernment offers a chance for you to hear and respond to God's call in the next step of your spiritual journey.