



What next?

When we hear God's call to step out in new directions or to connect with others in new ways, we can call on the community of faith to support, guide and equip us:

- by supporting us in prayer
- with a support group or mentor
- with a process of discernment about our possible direction
- with resources for study and learning
- with opportunities to test and develop our gifts in hands-on service
- with connections with people and programs in the wider church
- with multimedia learning resources - video, CD, CD-ROM, DVD, the Internet
- with connections with people from other denominations or other faiths

As local communities of faith we support one another and help one another to discern and respond to God's call. Talk with your minister or congregational leaders about where God might be leading you.

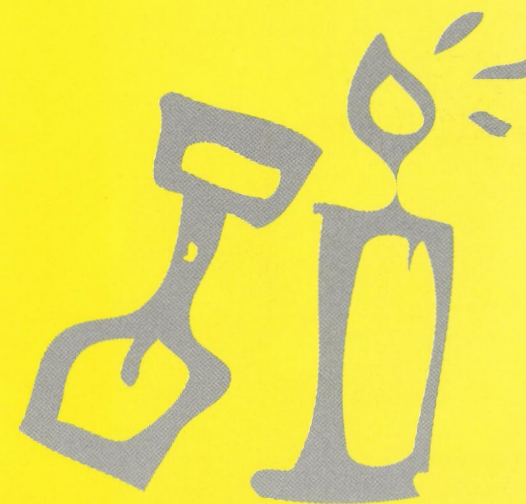
Commission on Education for Ministry
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Uniting Church in Australia



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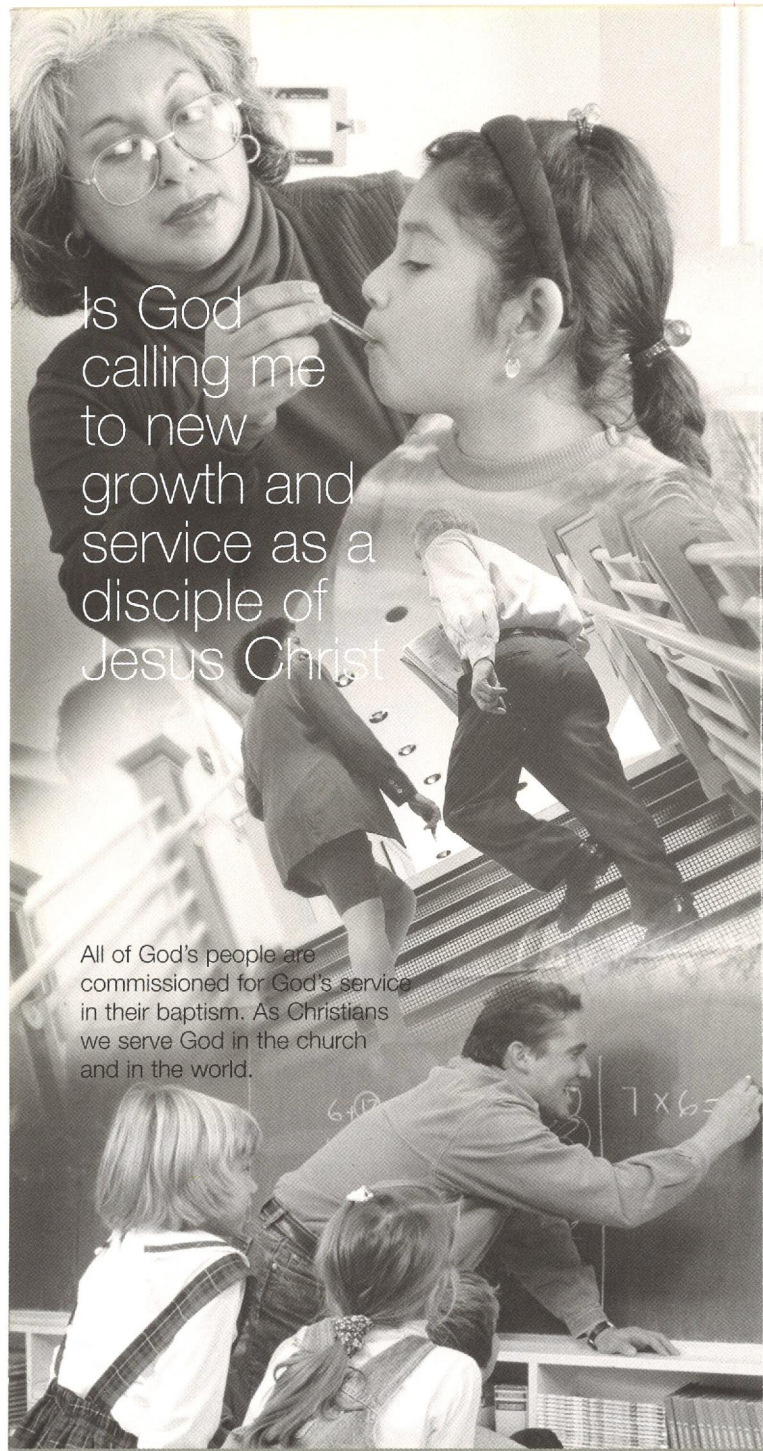
disciples

vocational and commissioned

Growing in faith and serving God in everyday life

UNITINGchurch

UNITING
church



Is God
calling me
to new
growth and
service as a
disciple of
Jesus Christ

All of God's people are
commissioned for God's service
in their baptism. As Christians
we serve God in the church
and in the world.

See

Many times in our lives God opens doors and shows us new possibilities - for our selves and our world. Sometimes we are called on by the local congregation or the wider church to exercise gifts in ministry and mission. In our everyday lives God also calls us to live as faithful disciples. Whatever our life situation or work place, our vocation is to be followers of Christ - at home, at work, in the local community.

Step

Being a follower of Christ is about taking risks, stepping out of our comfort zones. To be part of Christ's continuing mission in the world is to hear and respond to God's call to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to feed the hungry, to comfort the lonely, to declare and demonstrate faith, hope and compassion. Is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone?

Serve

As local congregations identify the gifts and skills of members for mission and recognise the hurts and hopes of people in the community, they recognise and commission people for these tasks and calling.

Lay ministry may involve serving food, planning budgets, teaching a class, fixing windows, planning worship, arranging flowers, visiting the hospital, playing music, waxing floors, praying for others, taking minutes in meetings and more.

Ministry within the gathered community of faith

Some lay ministry roles may have a particular title and role to which people are commissioned by the local church, such as

- Eldership
- Church councillor
- Christian Educator
- Youth Leader
- Bible Study Leader
- Music Leadership
- Property and Finance Convenor

Congregations are encouraged to commission, support and equip people for these roles within the congregation. When the church does this we remind ourselves that ministry is the role of the whole people of God, not just a few

Ministry in everyday life

Faith is part of everyday life. God calls us to live hopeful, compassionate, truthful, faith-filled lives in our homes, our schools, our work places, neighbourhoods, shopping malls, farms, factories - wherever and with whomever we spend our days. Perhaps God is calling, challenging, changing you and the way you see things:

like the mechanic who chose to work with people with mental illness

like the grandmother who started her B.A. at 72 years of age

like the local government manager who started questioning tendering procedures

like the farmer who helped start a prayer group with other farmers

like the retired school teacher who supports the local Aboriginal co-operative