



What next?

- Approach your minister, presbytery secretary or Otira for further details. You can make application through your minister to the presbytery.
- Individuals are encouraged to undertake the Period of Discernment. This process, which usually takes 12 months, may be commenced at any time.
- Both the Period of Discernment and the Lay Preacher training will take into account your prior learning and experience.
- The study component can either be completed externally through Coolamon College or in evening classes at Otira. Lay Preacher accreditation follows completion of studies and practical experience and assessment.
- Learning resources are also available in Tongan, Fijian, Korean and Indonesian languages.
- A small amount of financial assistance towards the study is available from Otira.
- Some people commence the study requirements for the Lay Preaching before deciding whether or not to become a candidate.
- Lay Preachers serve with the supervision and support of their presbytery and the synod.

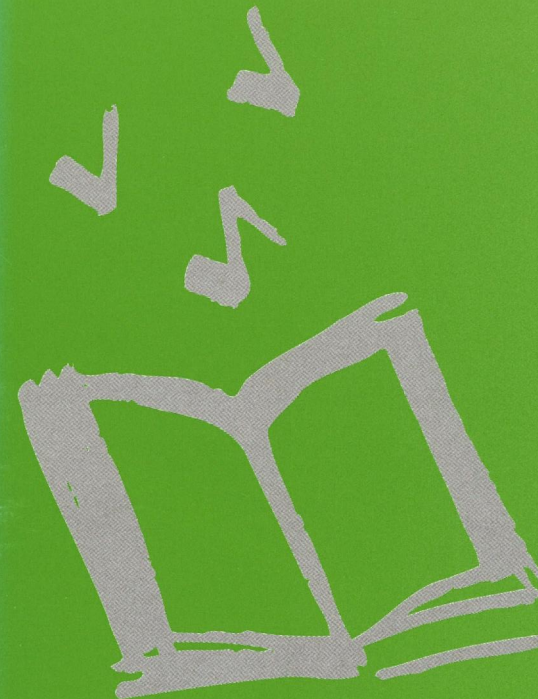
Commission on Education for Ministry
Synod of Victoria
Uniting Church in Australia



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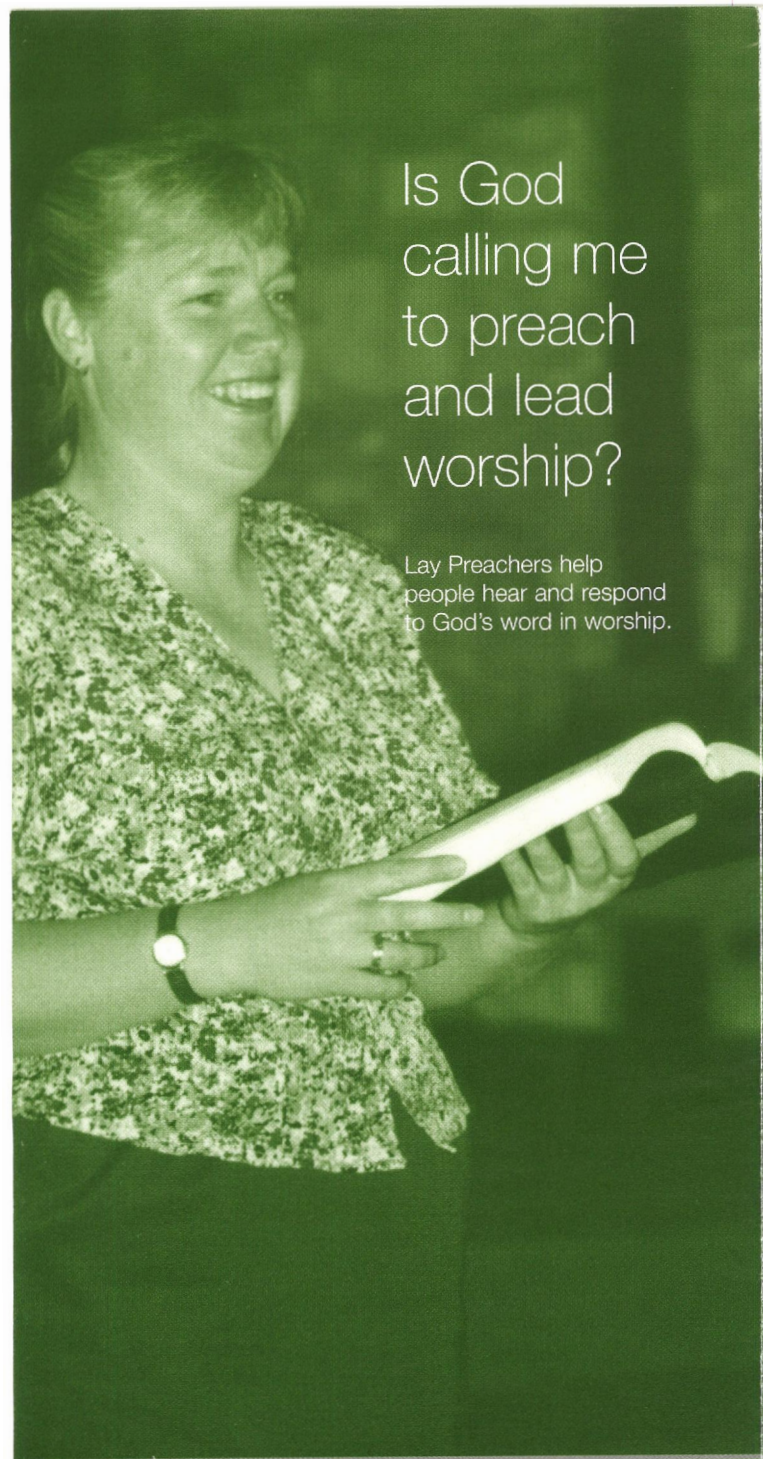


lay preacher

Leading God's people
in worship and preaching

UNITINGchurch

UNITING
church



Is God
calling me
to preach
and lead
worship?

Lay Preachers help
people hear and respond
to God's word in worship.

Prepare.

Lay Preachers have a vital role in helping people to encounter God in worship and to hear and respond to God's word.

Lay preachers develop their faith and gifts by completing a Certificate in Lay Preacher Studies. This includes biblical studies, worship and preaching, and theology, and can be completed part-time and through distance education. Sharing with a local group of lay preacher students is an excellent way to learn together.

Practice.

Lay Preachers also gain practical experience in leading worship and in preaching prior to accreditation. You will receive assistance and feedback from ministers and congregation members. This will help you become more confident and effective in preparing and leading the various aspects of worship.

Preach.

Lay Preachers are available to serve their local congregation and their presbytery as invited by the church council or ministers. They are responsible to the whole church for faithful preaching of the word of God for our lives today. Presbytery and synod lay preachers' networks provide ongoing support and training opportunities.

The ministry of Lay Preacher

Lay Preachers are people who

- are committed to serving God and the church
- show integrity and spiritual maturity
- are keen to study and reflect on God's word
- have developed abilities in communication and leadership
- are passionate about the worship of God and the mission of the church
- can connect with the spiritual needs of the people whom they serve
- are willing to serve at the invitation of church councils and ministers, under the oversight of the presbytery.

Sharon assists the ministers of a large rural congregation by leading occasional worship services, as well as offering worship leadership in nearby churches who do not have a minister. She lives on a farm with her husband and two children.