



# What next?

- Approach your minister, presbytery secretary or Theological Hall for further details.
- Find out about the Period of Discernment if you have not already done so. This process, which usually takes 12 months, may be commenced at any time.
- Following the Period of Discernment, you may apply to become a candidate for the Minister of the Word. A selection process is conducted annually, involving a synod selection panel and a representative from your presbytery.
- Preparation for becoming a minister of the Word involves theological study and ministerial formation in the Uniting Church Theological Hall.
- Usually, candidates do a Bachelor of Theology or a Master of Divinity Course (both three years full time). Ministerial formation involves several field placements over a semester or during the vacation period, each in a variety of situations.
- The Period of Discernment and your theological studies will take into account prior learning and experience.

*Robyn felt God's call to ministry at 18 years of age. Ordained when she was 24, she is presently part of a team ministry in a large rural community.*

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




## For more information contact

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# minister of the word

Ordained ministers serving in congregations  
and communities



Is God  
calling me  
to the  
ministry of  
Word and  
Sacraments?

Ministers of the Word are ordained by the church to exercise servant leadership, to preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments, and offer pastoral and spiritual counsel.

# Preacher

**Ministers of the Word** are ordained by the church to preach the Gospel in word and act. Preaching can take place in many settings and various forms.

Ministers work in local congregations, specified settings or as chaplains in hospitals, schools, prisons, industries, the armed services, and the like.

# Presider

**Ministers of the Word** have primary responsibility for the leadership of worship. Supported by elders, ministers prepare people for church membership, and baptise converts to the Christian faith and infants.

Ministers preside at the celebration of Holy Communion. Ministers teach the faith and give theological leadership to the faith-community.

# Pastor

**Ministers of the Word** provide pastoral care to people in need in congregations, chaplaincy settings or the wider community.

Ministers help to discern gifts in others, offering education and training for their particular ministries. Ministers guide people in their Christian discipleship and offer them spiritual and pastoral counsel.

## The ministry of the Word

Ministers of the Word are people who

- exhibit a strong sense of God's call on their life, and are committed to serving God through the church
- shape their lives by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as heard through the Scriptures
- have spiritual maturity and personal integrity
- exercise leadership in the life and work of the church
- accept the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church
- have enthusiasm for the church's mission, and a desire to share their faith
- have skills in communication and pastoral care
- have a capacity for learning and for personal and spiritual growth
- accept the oversight of the church

*David was the General Manager of a large retail corporation before being 'prompted' by God. After initial conversations with his minister, David thought a lay ministry position was in order, but after further discussions and prayer he offered himself for the ministry of the Word, aged 46.*