



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Application to the Synod Lay Preachers' Association
for a certificate recognising
Continuing Education of a Lay Preacher

Lay Preacher

Name of Lay Preacher:

Congregation:

Presbytery:

Lay Preacher's Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Date:	Brief Description of Continuing Education:	Points Claimed:
Total points claimed (see over page):		

Church Council

The Church Council affirms that the above named Lay Preacher has gained at least 10 points for Continuing Education over a two year period as detailed in guidelines agreed by the Synod Lay Preachers' Association 2010 (see over page).

A Certificate of Continuing Education is requested for this Lay Preacher.

Reviewed at the Church
Council meeting held on:

Secretary of Church Council:

Phone/E-mail:

Signature:

Please e-mail lpasecretary@victas.uca.org.au or send the completed application to:
The Secretary, Alastair Davison, Synod Lay Preachers' Association
503 / 2 Barnet Way, Richmond, Victoria 3121

Vic/Tas LPA Committee of Management Secretary

Date received:

Certificate presented:

Signature:

GUIDELINES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LAY PREACHERS

Group A Six points for completing a formal learning course such as

- one unit for Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity or other tertiary course taught at Pilgrim Theological College or another associated college of the University of Divinity (formerly MCD);
- one Lay Preacher intensive unit or similar continuing education intensive course in which the whole course is completed and all work submitted for assessment OR in which the Lay Preacher has prepared and presented sessions during the course.

Group B Five points for completing a formal learning activity such as

- continuing education courses arranged and assessed through the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) or the University of Divinity, or regionally, including completion of pre-reading and course exercises, and submission of some work for assessment;
- continuing education courses arranged and assessed through other Uniting Church theological colleges;
- intensive courses at the CTM/Pilgrim, such as *Uniting Church Studies* or *Caring and Teaching in Church and Community*, and completion of written or other course requirements;
- participation in the Pilgrim Theological College Formation programme for the equivalent of one semester, including completion of any work for assessment;
- other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management.

Group C Four points for completing a self-directed activity assessed by a qualified person such as Presbytery Minister or local minister such as

- writing a book review on a topic related to Lay Preaching that shows how the insights gained will be used;
- assessment by the local minister or Presbytery Minister of a service of worship led by the Lay Preacher, following which the Lay Preacher lists strengths and weaknesses with a plan to address them appropriately;
- theological and ministry-focussed conferences arranged by the CTM, such as *Wisdom's Feast*, or *Teaching and Preaching in the Year of ...* duration: three or more days;
- participating in one group D or E activity and submitting a response showing what the Lay Preacher has learned (a total of four points);
- other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management.

Group D two points for participation in

- the Synod Lay Preachers' Association Annual Conference or Education Day;
- theological and ministry-focussed conferences arranged by the CTM, such as *Wisdom's Feast*, duration one or two days;
- training sessions for Lay Preachers conducted within the Presbytery;
- the National Lay Preachers' Conference;
- working with a Spiritual Director and making a covenant around issues of the Lay Preacher's ministry;
- Presbytery retreats or schools of ministry or theology;
- other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management.

Group E one point - up to a maximum of six points from this group in one application

- attending presentations on topics relevant to Lay Preaching given by visiting speakers and noting helpful material;
- listening to two tapes, CDs or DVDs on themes relevant to Lay Preachers and noting helpful material;
- reading a book relevant to Lay Preaching;
- participating in a local short-term Bible Study group, of four or more sessions;
- participating in the series of Bible Studies at Synod or Assembly meetings;
- other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management.

Synod of Victoria & Tasmania Lay Preachers' Association

Guidelines for Continuing Education

The expectations of the Uniting Church regarding continuing education of Lay Preachers are summarised in the Assembly document *Seeking a heart of Wisdom*¹, the UCA *Regulations*² (inc. 2.10.4) and *The Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Lay Preachers*³ (2.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7). Links to each document appear below.

To assist Lay Preachers, presbyteries and local ministers as they exercise these responsibilities, the Synod Lay Preachers' Association at its AGM in April 2010 adopted a systematic process to encourage, enable and assess the continuing education in which each Lay Preacher engages.

Five groups of continuing education opportunities are described, of varying complexity and time commitment. Completed items from each group equate to a number of points. A Lay Preacher is expected to be self-directed in choosing topics and opportunities that will enhance their ministry, building on strengths and addressing weaker areas. Conversation with a supervisor may help to clarify areas for focus in continuing education for the ensuing 12 months.

The expectation is that 10 points be achieved over each 2-year period, overseen by the local Minister (or Church Council) and encouraged by the presbytery Lay Preachers' Committee (where one exists) or Presbytery Minister.

When completed, acknowledgement by the local Church Council enables application to the Synod Lay Preachers' Association for a certificate of recognition to be issued.

Normally presentation of certificates occurs at the Annual Conference of the Lay Preachers' Association. Active Lay Preachers could anticipate receiving a fresh certificate every 2 years.

1. Seeking a Heart of Wisdom

<http://sa.uca.org.au/pastoral-relations/supervision-documents/Seeking-a-heart-of-wisdom.pdf>

At the 1997 Assembly, the Uniting Church affirmed the importance of continuing education, and asked of all its Ministers (and by implication ministry agents) that they enter into continuing education agreements to foster their faith and understanding.

2. UCA Regulations

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/Regulations/2015ConstitutionAll-withcorrectedMfM.pdf>

2.10.4 (b) withdraw recognition if...no longer conforming to standards of a member and Lay Preacher of the church

3. Lay Preacher Code of Ethics

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/ASCMinutes/2007/asc0703attachc.pdf>

2.2 (d) It is expected that Lay Preachers provide leadership: by engaging in ongoing study

3.3 Teaching – It is, therefore, vital that Lay Preachers continue to seek opportunities to learn and grow on their understanding of the scriptures.

3.4 Competence

(a) Lay Preachers have a responsibility to maintain high standards of knowledge and skills in all areas of ministry relevant to their preaching and worship. This responsibility requires that Lay Preachers undertake continuing education appropriate to this ministry.