

Uniting Church in Australia

**MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**RULES**

**Course of Study for the Specified Ministry of Lay Preacher**

1. There shall be a Course of Study for the specified ministry of Lay Preacher.
2. The Course shall comprise studies as specified by the Ministerial Education Commission which shall determine and oversee standards.
3. The Course shall reflect the emphases of the Uniting Church as expressed in the Basis of Union.
4. The Course shall take account of the various competencies and gifts of applicants and shall keep in mind the inter-relatedness of the ministry of Elder, the ordained ministries and the ministries of all persons.
5. The Course shall include a course of basic studies and demonstrated competency in language, preaching and liturgical leadership.
  - (a) Basic studies shall include
    - (i) Biblical studies. The historical and literary understanding of the Old and New Testaments and their contemporary interpretation.
    - (ii) Theological studies. Christian doctrine as received by the Uniting Church in Australia in the Basis of Union, the historic creeds and contemporary interpretation; including the doctrines of the Trinity, Person and Work of Christ, Holy Spirit, creation, church and sacraments, and the relation of theology to mission and contemporary issues.
    - (iii) Worship and Preaching. The theology and practice of community worship and the use of traditional and contemporary forms; the theology and practice of preaching, including traditional and contemporary models of preparation and presentation.
  - (b) Competency in preaching and the presiding at worship services shall be supervised and assessed by those designated by the Presbytery concerned consultation with the Synod Lay Preachers Committee or its equivalent.
  - (c) Language competency shall be demonstrated in the language in which the person is to preach and may require a course in comprehension and expression in that language.

6. On the recommendation of the Synod Lay Preachers Committee, the Ministerial Education Commission may grant exemption from particular components of the course provided evidence is submitted that the person has training and/or experience which are at a satisfactory standard.
  - (a) Credit for not more than one biblical topic and one theology topic may be granted for courses done outside a Uniting Church context.
  - (b) Where any exemption is given from the course, the remaining study shall reflect the emphases in Clause 3 above.
7. The course of study will be administered by a committee appointed by each Synod for the purpose. The committee shall determine the appropriate form of the course for persons from that Synod which may include course components offered by the National Network for Distance Theological Education. Such courses of study shall be submitted to the Ministerial Education Commission for approval.
8. The Ministerial Education Commission shall exercise its responsibility through a committee on the specified ministry of Lay Preacher set up for this purpose and responsible to the Executive of the Commission.

Approved by the Commission, 8/7/94.

Approved by Assembly Standing Committee March 1995