

Relevant Uniting Church Regulations

SELECTION PANEL OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTER

2.3.2.4 (a) Each application for candidature shall be considered by a selection panel comprising the members appointed by the Ministerial Education Board pursuant to Regulation 3.7.4.3(c)(iii)(3).and a representative appointed by the applicant's Presbytery. A Presbytery may appoint a different representative in relation to each application for candidature from the Presbytery.

Duties

- (b) The selection panel shall have before it all relevant documents and:
- (i) arrange for medical, psychological and other assessments;
 - (ii) seek further information as it considers necessary;
 - (iii) meet with the applicants; and
 - (iv) determine the outcome of applications forwarded by Presbyteries.
- (c) In considering the applications before it, the selection panel shall have regard, among other things, to:
- (i) the spiritual maturity and motivation of each applicant;
 - (ii) the capacities and assessed potential for leadership of each applicant;
 - (iii) the ability and assessed potential of each applicant to fulfil the requirements of the course of studies(where applicable) and the responsibilities of the specified ministry;
 - (iv) the most appropriate vocational direction for each applicant in accordance with the applicant's gifts;
- and
- (v) the character and personality of the applicant.
- (d) The selection panel shall determine the application by:
- (i) acceptance of the applicant as a candidate for the ministry applied for, with or without any conditions attached to that acceptance, or
 - (ii) deferral of the application, with or without any conditions which must be satisfied before further consideration of the application; or
 - (iii) acceptance of the applicant for a form of ministry other than that for which application was made, or
 - (iv) encouragement of the applicant to continue to exercise a ministry as a lay member of the Church but reject the application and shall give written notice to the applicant
- and notify the Presbytery of its decision within 14 days of the decision being made.
- (e) The resolution of the selection panel accepting an applicant shall:
- (i) specify the ministry for which the applicant is accepted as a candidate and, if appropriate, specify any conditions which may attach to the acceptance, and make recommendations relative to the candidature; and
 - (ii) refer the candidate to the Ministerial Education Board.

RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF THE PRESBYTERY OR THE SELECTION PANEL

- 2.3.2.5** (a) An applicant may appeal against a decision made pursuant to Regulation 2.3.2.3(b), or 2.3.2.4(d)(ii), (iii) or (iv), only on the ground that correct procedures have not been followed in accordance with the Regulations.
- (b) The appeal is to be made within 14 days of receipt of the communication of the decision. The appeal shall be lodged with the Synod Secretary in writing.
- (c) The Synod Standing Committee shall appoint an appeal committee of three persons to determine the matter. The appeal committee shall consult with the applicant and the Presbytery and, when appropriate, the selection panel. The appeal committee shall then either dismiss the appeal or require the Presbytery or the selection panel to reconsider the application. A decision of the appeal committee shall be final.

PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT

- 2.3.1** (a) Any member of the Church may engage in a period of discernment subject to and in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Assembly Standing Committee (on the advice of the Ministerial Education Commission). The purpose is to enable the member and the Church together to discern the nature of the ministry to which God may be calling the member.
- (b) A member of the Church who is considering making application for candidature to either of the two ordained ministries shall engage in a period of discernment.

2.3.2 PROCESS FOR CANDIDATURE FOR A MINISTER

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED OF AN APPLICANT FOR CANDIDATURE

- 2.3.2.1** (a) An applicant for candidature as a Minister shall satisfy the Presbytery:
- (i) that the applicant is, and for the period of twelve months prior to making an application under Regulation 2.3.2.2 has been, a confirmed member of the Church;
- (ii) that the applicant is suitable in character, personality and spiritual maturity and has the capacity to exercise the responsibilities of the specific ministry for which application is made; and
- (iii) that the applicant has engaged satisfactorily in the period of discernment.
- (b) The Presbytery may waive the 12 month requirement in (a)(i) in exceptional circumstances.
- (c) An applicant for candidature as a Minister shall, in addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), satisfy the Presbytery:



- (i) that the applicant has satisfactorily completed the final years of secondary education at a level sufficient to secure entrance to a degree course in an Australian University; or
- (ii) that the applicant has educational qualifications acceptable to the Assembly as equivalent thereto; provided that any applicant who cannot so satisfy the Presbytery may be permitted to proceed with the application upon condition that prior to final determination of the application by the Synod selection panel under Regulation 2.3.2.4, an academic qualification referred to in sub-paragraphs (c)(i) and (c)(ii) is obtained or the applicant undertakes and satisfactorily completes a pre-candidature course of education which complies with the standards prescribed from time to time by the Ministerial Education Commission and for which course credit may, where appropriate, be given in the course of training for the specific ministry.

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDATURE FOR MINISTER

- 2.3.2.2** (a) Any person seeking to become a candidate shall make written application to the Presbytery through the Minister of the Congregation (or through the appropriate member of the ministerial team in the Congregation) in which the applicant holds membership and shall make available to the Presbytery such additional information and material as is prescribed under these Regulations or as may be required by the Presbytery or by the Ministerial Education Board, including information on the applicant's participation in the period of discernment.
- (b) An application may be lodged at any time prior to the commencement of a course of study or during a course of study or subsequent to a course of study, provided that any candidate must fulfil or have fulfilled the pre-requisites for and the demands of the course of study as set out in these Regulations.
 - (c) Acceptance as a student of a theological college neither presupposes nor precludes subsequent acceptance as a candidate.
 - (d) Acceptance as a candidate does not preclude subsequent acceptance for service in one of the other specified ministries of the Church.
 - (e) Any former certificated candidate of the Church may apply to a Presbytery for readmission as a candidate, in which case Regulations 2.3.1 to 2.3.2.5 shall apply.

PRESBYTERY RESPONSIBILITIES IN SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTER

- 2.3.2.3** (a) As soon as possible following receipt of an application the Presbytery shall request a confidential report from the appropriate Minister and shall seek comment from the Church Council where the applicant's membership is held and other referees, and shall then consider the application in accordance with the Regulations.

The Presbytery or a designated committee of the Presbytery shall:

- (i) receive the application together with the confidential report of the Minister and the comments of the Church Council;
 - (ii) consider the references submitted by the nominated referees and by other persons as it sees fit;
 - (iii) interview the applicant;
 - (iv) conduct such other tests or call for such other information as it may require or as may be required by the selection panel; and
 - (v) prepare a report and recommendation to the selection panel.
- (b) In considering its report and recommendation under Regulation 2.3.2.3(a)(v) the Presbytery or Presbytery committee shall satisfy itself regarding the matters mentioned in Regulation 2.3.2.1, and have regard, among other things, to:
- (i) the nature of the services to be performed within the ministry for which application is made;
 - (ii) the present qualifications and apparent potential of the applicant;
 - (iii) the spiritual maturity and motivations of the applicant; and
 - (iv) the applicant's personality and character.
- A two-thirds majority of members present shall be required to commend the applicant to the Synod selection panel as suitable for candidature. Alternatively, the Presbytery may defer such commendation or may reject the application.
- (c) Where the Presbytery resolves to commend the applicant to the selection panel, the Presbytery shall forward to the selection panel its report and resolutions together with other reports, references and information conveyed to it in accordance with Regulation 2.3.2.2 and 2.3.2.3.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION BOARD

Responsibilities

3.7.4.3 (c) The responsibilities of the Ministerial Educational Board shall include the following:

- (iii) either separately or in co-operation with the Synod or agency of the Church:
 - (3) appointing members of selection panels other than the Presbytery representatives and making facilities available for the proper and professional appraisal of applicants for the ministries of the Church;

DUTIES OF AN ORDAINED] MINISTER (See Para 3, Constitution)

2.2.1 (a) Within the ministry of the whole Church, Jesus Christ calls men and women to proclamation of the gospel in word and deed through the ministry of the Word and the ministry of Deacon. This calling is exercised by:

- (i) preaching of the Word;
- (ii) presiding at the celebration of the sacraments;
- (iii) providing for other persons to preside at worship and/or preach within the pastoral charge in which the Minister is in placement;
- (iv) witnessing in the community to the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- (v) guiding and instructing the members of the Church and equipping them for their ministry in the community;
- (vi) nurturing candidates for baptism and confirmation;
- (vii) pastoral oversight and counsel wherever needed;
- (viii) serving in the community, especially among those who are hurt, disadvantaged, oppressed or marginalized;
- (ix) careful attention to administrative responsibilities;
- (x) due observance of the discipline of the Church;
- (xi) the enhancement of the Minister's own gifts for the work of ministry;
- (xii) pioneering new expressions of the gospel and encouraging effective ways of fulfilling the mission of the Church.