



MIDDLE RIDGE UNITING CHURCH
264 Stenner St Middle Ridge

16th – 18th June 2023

Lay Preachers Report

Please pray for...

- For the upcoming National Lay Preacher's Conference that it will be inspiring and encouraging to all those who share this gift.
- For those who have gifts in preaching to be encouraged to 'have a go'.
- For those who travel and offer to share their gifts around this Presbytery that they know God's presence with them as they prepare and serve.

Report

The PRC continues to seek someone to coordinate this wonderful group of lay preachers who faithfully serve in this Presbytery. Also we would encourage congregations to 'give people a go' at preaching amongst their local church community. Remember to seek out the support of one of our ordained ministers within the Presbytery to support, guide and encourage them.

[Trinity College Qld](#) offers resources and course for those wanting to be recognised as a [Lay Preacher](#) within the UCA and also resources that congregation members can access for their own personal learning called [Trinity on Tap](#).

National Lay Preacher's Conference information (attached at the end of this report). The Presbytery of the Downs recognises the importance and value the gifts and service of Lay Preachers amongst the congregations. We see value in offering quality education opportunities to Lay Preachers and upcoming preachers.

[Preachfest 2023](#) is an event being offered 1st – 3rd November (online and in person) through the NSW/ACT Synod to encourage and support people to grow in their ministry.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received
2. That recognised Lay Preachers may apply to the Presbytery for a 50% subsidy for continuing theological education (ie. National Lay Preachers Conference or study at Trinity College Queensland).
3. That Church Councils may apply to the Presbytery for a 50% subsidy for theological education (ie. National Lay Preachers Conference or study at Trinity College Queensland) for those they identify as having the gift of preaching and teaching.

4. That the Presbytery agrees to the Guidelines for subsidy (See Attached)

Report Submitted by:

Name: Rev Yvonne McRostie

Position: Secretary of Pastoral Relations Committee

Email Address: pm@downspresbytery.org.au

Phone Number: 0427962781

If you have questions, please email before the meeting.

Draft Lay Preachers Education Subsidy Guidelines

The Presbytery of the Downs recognises the importance and value the gifts and service of Lay Preachers amongst the congregations. We see value in offering quality education opportunities to Lay Preachers. In recognition of this the Pastoral Relations Committee is proposing:

Recognised Lay Preachers may apply for a 50% reimbursement or part payment of fees for continuing theological education (ie. National Lay Preachers Conference or study at Trinity College Queensland).

Applicants must be:

- Participants within a Uniting Church congregation or faith community
- Have the support of their minister, pastor, Church Council or Faith Community Point of Contact.
- Agree to offer their gifts as a Lay Preacher within the Presbytery for a period of a year after the
- Are volunteers (not being paid for pastoral work).

Application is made to the Presbytery Standing Committee. Fees may be paid either by

1. Reimbursement of Fees
2. Prepayment of fees directly to education provider

To apply:

1. Fill in both pages of Form 1 (attached)
2. Signed by sponsoring church minister/leader/contact person
3. Email form and **Tax Invoice** to Standing Committee: treasurer@downspresbytery.org.au
4. You will be notified by email if your application is successful.

Any successful applicant can later request reimbursement of mileage at 25c/km if they live more than 75km from the venue that offers the study.

Application for reimbursement of mileage can be made by submitting Form 2 (attached) to the Presbytery Treasurer: treasurer@downspresbytery.org.au

**Presbytery of the Downs:
Request for Subsidy Lay Preacher Continuing Education (Form 1)**

Applicant Details	
Name	
Phone	
Email	
Address	
Sponsoring Church Details	
Church Name	
Minister* Name	Phone
Minister* Email	
Payment Options (<i>circle 1</i>)	Please attach copy of Tax Invoice
A.	Part Payment directly to Education Provider
BSB	
Account Number	
Account Name	
Date Payment required	/ /
B.	Reimbursement to applicant
BSB	
Account Number	
Account Name	
Course Details	
Name of the Course/Study	
Location	
Date of Course	Start date / / Finish date / /
Contact Details	Phone

Applicant

I, _____ (applicant) request consideration of a 50% subsidy of Lay Preachers continuing Study and agree to serve as a Lay Preacher as I am able within the Presbytery for a period of one year.

_____ / ____/____ (sign and date)

Sponsoring Church

I, _____ (Minister/Pastor/Leader/Contact*) of _____ (name) Uniting Church within the Presbytery of The Downs recognise that the applicant is a participant within our local congregation/faith community.

_____ / ____/____ (sign and date)

* where no minister is in placement a supply member of the Church Council may sign. For Faith Communities the local point of contact recognised by the Presbytery may sign.

Please email completed form to treasurer@downspresbytery.org.au & cc pm@downspresbytery.org.au

Please attach copies of Tax Invoice for consideration



EMPOWERING LAY PREACHERS

For anyone that preachers or is interested in preaching or in leading worship. Share in a wonderful couple of days and be encouraged, supported and challenged in your ministry.



4 - 6 AUGUST 2023

**UCA SYNOD OFFICE
60 BAYLISS STREET, AUCHENFLOWER**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CENVA](https://www.trybooking.com/cenva) 

For the program and more information please go to the website
<https://ucaqld.com.au/national-lay-preachers-2023/>

2023 National Conference of Lay Preachers – Conference Information

Starts	3.00 PM	Friday 4 th August 2023
Finishes	After Lunch 1 PM	Sunday 6 th August 2023

Address of Conference

Uniting Church in Australia, Synod Office
60 Bayliss Street
Auchenflower, Brisbane 4066

Meals included in Conference Cost are

Friday	Afternoon tea and Dinner
Saturday	Morning tea, Lunch, Afternoon tea, and Dinner
Sunday	Morning tea, Lunch and Afternoon tea

Vision Books

A book stall will be open from Saturday 10 AM till Sunday 5.00 PM

Presentation Topics

Topics of include emphasis on preaching, preaching resources, theology, multicultural ministry, indigenous ministry, children's ministry, and more.

Breakout Groups

There will be two times on Saturday afternoon where there will be a choice of groups to attend. Presenters will hold the same group activity twice. There will be at 4 options at each breakout time.

Other Activities

Friday will begin with Introductions and Prayer.

Saturday and Sunday will begin with a short worship service.

The National Lay Preachers report will occur during Saturday morning.

The breakout groups are on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday afternoon there will be a time for a Lay Preacher Question and Answer time, as well as a Lay Preacher resources panel discussion.

The conference will end on Sunday afternoon with a time of reflection on the conference and the Conference will end with a short time of Prayer.