

# Remember!

Those who minister in the Uniting Church are in a pastoral relationship with those in their congregation, and any others who come to them for spiritual care or support.

They have a particular place in the community, with responsibility to ensure that they embody integrity, trust and compassion in all their relationships.

Supervision in ministry is a gift that assists those in specified ministries to serve faithfully and effectively.



## **For more information contact:**

The Secretary of your Presbytery  
Pastoral Relations Committee  
The Synod Secretariat

## **For more information consult:**

*“The Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice”*

*“Professional Supervision:  
A Process of Reflection on  
Ministry Experience”*

*For Church Councils, Congregations,  
Faith Communities and  
Institutions & Agencies*

# The What and Why of Supervision in Ministry.



The National Assembly of the  
Uniting Church in Australia  
<http://assembly.uca.org.au/>

## What is Supervision?

Supervision is a safe, confidential relationship which provides regular opportunities to reflect on one's ministry and relationships. Supervision seeks to enhance the quality of ministry. Supervision supports, challenges, encourages learning, self-knowledge, good use of resources and respect for boundaries.

The focus of supervision is on actual events, on real ministry situations in the context of change and cultural diversity.

*Those in ministry have a responsibility to ensure that they receive regular professional supervision. Such supervision is intended to assist Ministers to maintain the boundaries of the pastoral relationship and quality of ministry'*

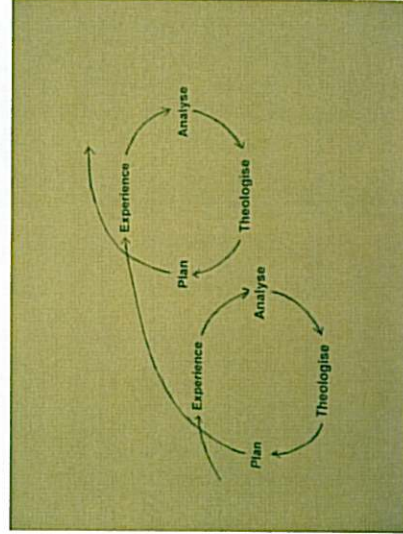
Code of Ethics & Ministry Practice, 3.9(d)

## Why Supervision?

### *Shaped for Ministry*

Those in ministry in the Uniting Church in Australia have responded to a particular call of God to ministry. They are shaped by their own deep faith in Jesus Christ, a critical understanding of the nature of ministry and mission, and knowledge of the Christian tradition. Supervision seeks to enhance the quality of ministry offered as they lead and equip the Church in worship, witness and service.

The process of formation of those in ministry is life-long. Ministry in changing times is dynamic and demands the discipline of theologically reflective practice. A covenant with a supervisor enables the necessary reflection, learning and growth.



## *Supervision is most helpful when ...*

### **Those in Ministry**

- Are committed to a positive response to the call of God
- Are clear about what supervision is.
- Choose a good supervisor.
- Prepare for the supervision, including setting goals.

### **Supervisors**

- Create a safe supportive environment which promotes focused reflection.
- Encourage those in ministry to observe and clarify, become aware, take choices and act accordingly.
- Will assist in the integration of belief and ministry practice.

### **Both parties**

- Have a working knowledge of the *Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice* and the *Basis of Union*.
- Maintain clear boundaries.
- Take responsibility for building trust in the relationship.