

Reciprocal Protocol for Clearance for Ministry between the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Anglican Province of Victoria (Joint Ministry Protocol)

This protocol details how the Anglican Province of Victoria and the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will recognise the processes, requirements and standards that each denomination uses to ensure their ministers/priests/authorised lay pastors are appropriately screened and in good standing.

1. Denominational requirements

1.1 Uniting Church in Australia

In order to be in good standing, the Uniting Church in Australia – Synod of Victoria and Tasmania requires its ministers to:

- have a positive and current Working with Children Check (Vic) / Working with Vulnerable People Registration (Tas)
- adhere to the Uniting Church's Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice and attend two training sessions on the Code of Ethics each year
- have completed a recognised Safe Church Training Unit within the last three years
- engage in regular professional supervision
- not be involved in any church discipline process.

Uniting Church ministers are also encouraged to maintain a National Criminal History check.

1.2 Anglican Province of Victoria

In order to be in good standing, the Anglican Province of Victoria requires its clergy to have a current clearance for ministry issued from Kooyoora or the licensing Diocese, which requires:

- having a positive and current Working with Children Check
- having a positive and current Police Check
- undergoing a National Register check
- completing a safe ministry check including three referees
- having completed a recognised course of safe ministry training in the last three years
- agreeing to be bound by the Code of Conduct (*Faithfulness in Service*)

2. Reciprocal recognition

The Uniting Church in Australia – Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Anglican Province of Victoria each recognise the screening processes and professional requirements the other church has of its ministers/priests and agree that if a minister/priest is affirmed to be in good standing by their denomination then the appropriate screening and professional requirements have been fulfilled.

3. Requests for Good Standing

When a minister/priest is invited to engage in any ministry within the other denomination, the receiving denomination should request a letter of good standing for that minister/priest.

The letter of good standing should include details of the minister/priest's Working with Children Check/Working with Vulnerable People registration.

3.1 Uniting Church in Australia

For ministers in the Uniting Church in Australia, the request for a letter of good standing should be directed to:

Associate General Secretary
Level 2, Wesley Place
130 Lonsdale St,
Melbourne, 3000
ags@victas.uca.org.au
Phone – 03 9116 1475

3.2 Anglican Province of Victoria

For priests in the Anglican Church, the request for a letter of Good Standing should be directed to the Bishop of the relevant diocese:

Bendigo	Bishop Matt Brain	bishop@bendigoanglican.org.au
Wangaratta	Bishop Clarence Bester	bishop@wangarattaanglican.org.au
Gippsland	Bishop Richard Treloar	bishop@gippsanglican.org.au
Ballarat	Bishop Garry Weatherill	bishop@ballaratanglican.org.au

Contact for the Diocese of Melbourne
Ken Hutton
via the Archbishop's Office
archbishop@melbourneanglican.org.au
Phone – 03 9653 4220

4. Activities not requiring formal clearance processes

The following activities do not require a formal clearance for ministry:

- (a) Attending a Synod or presbytery service as an ecumenical representative;
- (b) Attending an ecumenical service even if that involves participation in the leadership of worship. (NB. Some Anglican dioceses may require a Good Standing for [b])

5. Matters of Pastoral Concern or Discipline

It is noted that the visiting minister/priest must agree to be bound by the Acts, Regulations and Policies of the host denomination so far as they are applicable to the visitor's ministry in the host denomination.

In the case of pastoral breakdown or a charge being laid against a minister/priest, the disciplinary procedures or mediation processes of the church to which the minister/priest belongs are to be followed, and the relevant authority in the other denomination is to be notified.

6. Review

This protocol to be reviewed annually at the meeting of Bishops and Uniting Church Presbytery representatives.

7. Signatures



Metropolitan
Anglican Province of Victoria



Date



Moderator
Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania



Date