

**Application to the Synod Lay Preachers’ Association**

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| CONTINUING EDUCATION OF A LAY PREACHERPurpose to encourage the Lay Preachers to learn and extend their skills and understanding |
| Lay Preacher |
| Name:  |  |
| Congregation: |  |
| Presbytery: |  |
| Lay Preacher’s Address: |  |
| Phone: |  |
| WWCC/R or WWVP | **Number**:  |
| **Expiry Date**:  |
| E-mail: |  |
| Date | **Brief Description of Continuing Education** | **Points Claimed** |
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| Total points claimed (see over page): |  |
| I have gained at least 10 points for Continuing Education over a two-year period as detailed in guidelines agreed by the Synod Lay Preachers’ Association 2010 (see over page) and request the issuing of a Continuing Education Certificate.Signed Date  |
| Please email lpasecretary@victas.uca.org.au or send the completed application to:The Secretary, Synod Lay Preachers’ Associationc/-7 Marys Hope Rd, Rosetta, 7010, Tasmania |
| Please send a copy to your Church Council and Presbytery Minister or LP Committee |

**for a certificate recognising**

Synod Lay Preachers’ Association guidelines
for Continuing Education

The expectations of the Uniting Church regarding continuing education of Lay Preachers are summarised in the Assembly document *Seeking a heart of Wisdom*, the UCA *Regulations* (inc. 2.10.4) and *The Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Lay Preachers* (2.2, 3.2, 3.4, 3.7).

To assist Lay Preachers, presbyteries and local ministers as they exercise these responsibilities, the Synod Lay Preachers’ Association at its AGM in April 2010 adopted a systematic process to encourage, enable and assess the continuing education in which each Lay Preacher engages.

Four groups of continuing education opportunities are described, of varying complexity and time commitment. Completed items from each group equate to a number of points. A Lay Preacher is expected to be self-directed in choosing topics and opportunities that will enhance their ministry, building on strengths and addressing weaker areas. Conversation with a supervisor may help to clarify areas for focus in continuing education for the ensuing 12 months.

The expectation is that 10 points be achieved over each 2-year period, overseen by the local Minister (or Church Council) and encouraged by the presbytery Lay Preachers’ Committee (where one exists) or Presbytery Minister. When completed it is to be sent directly to the Synod LP Committee of Management Secretary for processing and issuing of a certificate. A copy should be sent to the local Church Council and the appropriate Presbytery Minister which enables the presbytery and congregation to encourage the Lay Preacher

Normally presentation of certificates occurs at the Annual Conference of the Lay Preachers’ Association. Active Lay Preachers could anticipate receiving a fresh certificate every 2 years.

**Group D – one point (up to 6 points max. from this group with any one application) for:**

* Visiting speakers on topics relevant to Lay Preaching
* Listening to Christian tapes/CDs/videos on relevant themes
* Reading a relevant book
* Local congregation’s short-term Bible study group
* Participation in Synod/Assembly meeting Bible studies
* Other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management on advice from the CTM.

**Group C – two points for participation in:**

* The Synod Lay Preachers' Association Annual Conference or Education Day
* The Presbytery of Tasmania’s Lay Preachers’ Annual Conference or Field Days
* Prayer Retreats arranged by the Synod.
* Theological and ministry focussed conferences arranged by the CTM (eg. ‘Wisdom’s Feast’)
* Training sessions for Lay Preachers conducted within the Presbytery.
* National Lay Preachers’ Conference
* An intentional covenant with a Spiritual Director around issues of ministry
* Other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management on advice from the CTM.

**Group B – four points for completing a self-directed activity assessed by a qualified person (eg Presbytery Minister or local Minister) such as:**

* Writing a book review that shows how the insights gained will be used in ministry.
* Requesting the local Minister or Presbytery Minister to assess a service of worship conducted by the Lay Preacher, following which s/he lists strengths and weaknesses with a plan to address appropriately.
* Participation in a group C or D activity and submitting a response showing what the Lay Preacher has learned (total of 4 points for this exercise).
* Other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management on advice from the CTM

**Group A - five points for completing a formal educational activity such as:**

* Continuing Education programs and other courses arranged and assessed through the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Pilgrim Theological College or the University of Divinity
* Continuing education opportunities arranged and assessed through partners colleges in other synods e.g. Uniting Mission & Education (NSW.ACT), Trinity Theological College (Qld), Uniting College for Leadership and Theology (SA)
* Study intensives at Pilgrim Theological College or the University of Divinity eg. 2 week unit: “Caring and teaching in church and community”
* Participation in Pilgrim Theological College’s Formation programme (semester length) or a Formation Focus week.
* Other as approved by the LPA Committee of Management on advice from the CTM

Form Revised May 2018