

The process to Ordination

Below is the process set down in the Uniting Church in Australia Regulations for people who believe they are called to become a Minister of the Word or Deacon.

1. The person identifies a possible call to vocation in a specified ministry and explores this through a [Period of Discernment](#). At the conclusion, the Period of Discernment coordinator will advise the relevant presbytery of the outcome.
2. The presbytery provides the applicant with the Application to Candidate Form and a letter with the dates for Synod Selection Panel meetings. The presbytery also seeks reports and comments from the applicant's minister, church council and nominated referees.
3. Applicants must have been [confirmed members](#) of the Uniting Church in Australia for the previous 12 months and be eligible to gain entrance to a degree course at university.
4. The applicant will be interviewed by the presbytery or one of its designated committees to determine the qualifications and potential of the applicant; their spiritual maturity and motivation, personality and character. The outcome will be conveyed to the Synod Selection Panel as either commending, deferring commending or rejecting the application.
5. If commended, relevant documentation supplied by the applicant and presbytery will be forwarded to the selection panel and the applicant advised of the panel meeting dates.
6. At Selection Day 1, applicants receive information about appropriate medical checks, psychological tests and the police check. An appointment will be made for the psychological test but applicants are responsible for arranging their medical and police checks. The applicant will meet their interview team to share their Period of Discernment portfolio and sense of call. There will also be discussion about the [Code of Ethics](#) for ministers.
7. At Selection Day 2, applicants, and where appropriate the interview team, receive feedback from the various tests and the applicant engages in more intentional conversation with the interview team. The interview team will determine the outcome of the application by:
 - acceptance of the applicant for the ministry applied for, with or without conditions; or
 - deferral of the application, with or without any conditions which must be satisfied before further consideration of the application; or
 - acceptance of the applicant for a form of ministry other than that for which application was made; or
 - encouragement of the applicant to continue to exercise a ministry as a lay member of the church, but rejection of the application to serve in one of the specified ministries.
8. The applicant will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application and the training may commence.