

POSITION DESCRIPTION

MODERATOR OF THE SYNOD OF NSW AND THE ACT

ABOUT THE ROLE

This position is to lead and moderate the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT for a period of three years. The Synod of NSW and the ACT supports approximately 400 Congregations and faith communities, approximately 40,000 members, 12 Presbyteries, and 7 schools and Parish Missions.

The Moderator is one of two key leadership roles in the Synod of NSW and the ACT. The Moderator has a general and pastoral leadership role and works alongside a General Secretary who has an executive leadership role. The Moderator speaks on public issues on behalf of the Synod. In addition to a pastoral and prophetic leadership, the Moderator is responsible for presiding over meetings of the Synod and of the Synod's Standing Committee. The Moderator also has ex officio roles on a range of other bodies including the National Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia.

The Moderator holds the life and vision of God's people before the Synod, Synod Standing Committee, and Synod staff. The Moderator offers pastoral and prophetic leadership into the life of the Synod at large. The Moderator supports the Synod to hear the Spirit and articulate a vision for the future that can be heard and pursued by the whole church. The Moderator may be called upon as an agent of healing and reconciliation in the life of the Synod. Duties are detailed in Regulation 3.6.3.2.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

This role will take responsibility for the following areas:

- Giving general and pastoral leadership to the church, including Ministers and congregations across the Synod
- Presiding over the meetings of the Synod, its Standing Committee and other boards and committee as appropriate
- Speaking on public issues on behalf of the Synod
- Representing the Church on public occasions and in inter-Church councils
- To assist and encourage the expression and fulfilment of the mission and witness of the Church, with particular attention to priorities set by the Synod
- To actively engage with congregations, presbyteries agencies, and schools to this end

Preparing

- To engage in theological and biblical reflection
- To consult widely, listen and reflect
- To engage in professional supervision
- To commission research necessary to facilitate informed public comment

- To engage with Moderator's Reference Group

Participating

- To participate in the development of a vision for the future that can be heard and pursued by the Church

Articulating

- To describe and explain the vision of the church, and to challenge and lead the church into the future
- To interpret and disseminate the vision through networking and media
- To help people understand what it means to be the Church during a time of rapid social and religious change

Leading

- To attend meetings of any council of the church to speak but not to vote
- To exercise a quality of leadership which has both visionary and missionary perspectives
- To make appropriate connections between people across the Synod
- To counsel, advocate and facilitate in appropriate contexts
- To encourage new initiatives
- To help the councils of the Church understand the people of the Church

Representing

- To speak on public issues on behalf of the Synod
- Willingness and capacity to travel across the Synod of NSW & ACT
- To engage in strategically important 'ceremonial' actions of the church and in the context of government
- To be the face of the Church in the community and the political life of the community
- To spend time with key leaders, congregations and service bodies
- To maintain a public presence such as to be recognised and identifiable by both Church and community members as Moderator
- To engage in ecumenical activities and events

Pastoring

- The Moderator offers pastoral leadership to the whole church

Counselling

- To note the extent of the Moderator's role as set out in the Regulations
- To engage closely with the General Secretary in responding to complaints from and against Ministers
- To allocate and prioritise time so that this aspect does not dominate the Moderator's actions and availability

In addition to those outlined above, specific responsibilities also include:

- Reading and understanding the Basis of Union and having a preparedness to work within the polity and ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia

- Abiding by the policies and procedures of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of NSW and the ACT
- Having a genuine willingness to embrace challenges as they arise and to work flexibly in support of the overall key objectives of the Synod Office, Uniting Financial Services, Uniting Mission and Education
- Following policy and procedures in relation to workplace health and safety
- Participating in maintaining a safe working environment for both you and others in the workplace

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

INTERNAL

- Synod General Secretary, Presbytery Chairpersons, Synod Standing Committee and the Synod Meeting
- Moderator's Reference Group

EXTERNAL

- All member Congregations, Presbyteries, Schools, Agencies and Boards.
- Professional relationship with Religious, Government, Community and industry leaders.
- Works with the Church at large, its Ministers, Officers and Members across the Synod.
- Works alongside the President & Officers of the Assembly
- Seeks ecumenical connections, and relationships with community & government representatives

KEY COMPETENCIES

ESSENTIAL

Person Specific

- Proven ability to work respectfully with a wide variety of people
- A holistic and proactive approach to personal and spiritual wellbeing and discipleship
- A high level of energy and drive
- Ability to handle pressure and ambiguity
- Proven ability in oral and written communication
- High-level of self-confidence and personal integrity

Role Specific

- A team leader and a team player who works effectively in collegiate relationships
- Excellent personal time management and prioritization skills and ability to keep a number of activities on track concurrently
- A willingness to be physically present across the Synod of NSW & ACT, this includes extensive travel to rural and regional areas
- Ability to recognize the importance of attention to detail and following through on commitments

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

ESSENTIAL

- Demonstrated experience in pastoral and prophetic leadership
 - Knowledge of the structures and polity of the Uniting Church
 - Demonstrated competence in pastoral counselling situations
 - Demonstrated competence in facilitating ways forward in complex decision processes
 - Demonstrated competence in effective strategic problem solving
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