

2026 Southern Presbytery Elections: **Presbytery Office Bearers Nomination Form**

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms...” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Officers of the Presbytery fulfil a central role in the leadership of the Presbytery. All Officers of the Presbytery must hold, share and be able to articulate a clear understanding and vision for the place and role of the Presbytery in the life of the Uniting Church and the service of Jesus Christ throughout the Congregations within the Presbytery and in the wider church.

A key role of the presbytery is to ensure that as a wider church we hold one another accountable for being about the mission of God. This is complex, contextual and evolving. Office-bearers should be missional and adaptable in their understanding of church, and in focusing and helping to create a vision for the new presbytery.

Office bearers of the Presbytery are eligible for re-election, noting that the Chairperson and Secretary may only serve a maximum term of 10 consecutive years (reg 3.6.2(k)). All elected positions will assume office from 1 September 2026 for a period of up to (approximately) 2 years in the second half of 2028.

We are seeking members of the existing Presbyteries to discern through prayer and thought those who have the gifts and graces to fulfil the roles of Chairperson and Secretary of the Southern Presbytery. Where possible we encourage nomination of younger persons. If you discern that you would like to nominate a person to be Presbytery Chairperson or Secretary, then you need to put their name below, along with the gifts you believe they bring, and place send it to staff at admin.southern@nswact.uca.org.au

PRESBYTERY CHAIRPERSON

The Presbytery Chairperson is responsible to “constitute, preside and generally direct the business of the Presbytery, to exercise pastoral oversight, and to perform such duties as may be prescribed.” Reg 3.6.2 (c) Therefore, the kind of gifts that the Chairperson of Presbytery needs include wisdom, spiritual maturity, and an understanding of UCA governance and processes. They will also need: spiritual maturity; wisdom; vision for the future; strategic vision, staffing oversight, administration, finance, and the ability to run a meeting in accordance with the Manual for Meetings. The Chairperson will work closely with the Secretary and Presbytery Minister (Team Lead) to shape the vision, mission and working of the Southern Presbytery particularly in this formation period. The Chairperson’s role will be primarily one of oversight and governance with administrative and staff support in fulfilling the operational tasks. The Chairperson will also be supported by up to 2 Deputy Chairs, however these positions will be filled once the initial elections and staff appointments have been finalised.

PRESBYTERY SECRETARY

Responsibilities of the Presbytery Secretary include, but are not limited to: convening presbytery meetings, preparing the Agenda (in collaboration with the Chair) distributing the Agenda, recordkeeping, attending to correspondence, maintaining Presbytery records, dealing with property and disciplinary matters. Skills required to fulfil this role include organizational ability, good communication skills, and ability to work in a team. The Secretary will work closely with the Chairperson and Presbytery Minister (Team Lead) to shape the vision, mission and working of the Southern Presbytery particularly in this formation period. The Secretary’s role will be primarily one of oversight and governance with administrative and staff support in fulfilling the operational tasks.

The Presbytery Secretary will be supported by administrative staff, primarily through the Senior Administrator role.

GENERAL

Nominations for Presbytery Chairperson and Secretary should be for people who have gifts, skills and experience for the roles for which they have nominated and who have been active in the life of the Uniting Church in one of the former Presbyteries for at least 12 months.

We are seeking members of the Presbytery to discern through prayer and thought those who have the gifts and graces to fulfil these roles. Where possible we encourage nomination of younger persons. If you discern that you would like to nominate a person for either of these roles, then you need to put their name below, along with the gifts you believe they bring, and send it to staff at admin.southern@nswact.uca.org.au by Friday 17 July 2026.

You do not need to ask the person you nominate.
You are not able to nominate yourself.

STEP 1

If two or more Uniting Church members of congregations or faith communities within the bounds of the Southern Presbytery nominate the same person, that person will be approached by the Election Task Group and asked to consider their willingness to exercise leadership as a Presbytery Chairperson or Secretary. If they agree, their name will go on the ballot for elections to be held at a Presbytery meeting to be determined.

A person who accepts nomination will be asked to provide a brief biography (max 300 words). Those elected will serve for a period of 1 or 2 years. Please note that nominees may state a preference, but the election process will determine approximately half the committee to serve one year and half for two years to ensure some continuity.

NOMINATOR

Nominator Name.....

Congregation/Faith Community:.....

I would like to nominate..... to be

Chairperson/Secretary (**please circle**) of the Southern Presbytery.

Nominee contact details: (mobile and e-mail if possible)

Mobile

E-mail

Congregation/Faith Community

Current Presbytery

I believe the gifts, skills and experience this person would bring to the role of Chairperson/Secretary (please circle one) are:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

.....

(you may add extra)

People who receive at least 2 nominations will be contacted by the Election Task Group to assess their interest in their name going forward to Presbytery elections for the committee.
If the person is willing go to Step 2 below: