

Deacon Intensive Feb 11th-15th, 2019

Venue: UTC, North Parramatta

The Deacon Intensive is a compulsory aspect of formation for all UCA Deacon candidates.

Rev Dr Rhonda White, Lecturer in Practical Theology based at United Theological College (UTC) will coordinate and run the course, using the national framework set for the Deacon Intensive. Rhonda will be supported by Deacons for various aspects of the course. Deacon candidates should check with their sending college to check logistics regarding their participation.

Colleges are asked to contact Rhonda to indicate which Deacon candidates will be undertaking the course in February 2019. Colleges will usually cover the costs for travel, course fees and accommodation.

Contact: Rhonda White
rhondaw@nswact.uca.org.au,
0411 503 718



Deacons - Uniting Church in Australia are those who:

- hold up **service** as an inescapable response to the Gospel;
- **encourage** all God's people in their service of God inside and outside the church;
- are **advocates** for justice, sharing in the church's justice ministries; standing beside people who are disadvantaged or oppressed, encouraging others to work for justice and calling the church to costly action;
- are **carers** who offer encouragement and support, standing beside those who suffer, and encouraging others to use their caring gifts;
- are **pioneers** serving on the fringes in areas of life where social, economic and political changes are exposing new needs which are frequently remote from the experience of church-goers;
- are **educators** whose special task is to educate the church on justice issues and community needs;
- are **enablers** who encourage other people to recognise and use their gifts of service;
- are called to be **prophets** prepared to challenge injustice and offer alternatives;
- are **bridge builders** between the church and the community

Every two years UCA Deacons & Deacon candidates gather for professional development, to build collegial relationships and to be encouraged in their particular expression of diaconal ministry.

DUCA

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DUCA CONFERENCE
DUCA MEETING
DEACON INTENSIVE
FEBRUARY 2019
SYDNEY



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR UCA DEACONS
4-6TH FEBRUARY 2019 (SYDNEY)

This conference is offered by Uniting (NSW/ACT) for those involved in pastoral practice. UCA Deacons are invited to participate.

Pastoral Strength: Spirituality in untrusting waters

Chaplains and those working in pastoral care are increasingly called to provide spiritual support to people with no-label for their spirituality; to support people of other faiths and no faith and to nurture those that have been wounded by previous church experiences. We are learning new ways to open doors and create safe sacred times and spaces cross-culturally.

The program will feature international guests, and cross-cultural, spiritual and contemplative based practitioners.

Contact: Rev Jean Shannon,
Head of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Practice,
Uniting
M: 0418 213 073 e: jshannon@uniting.org



DUCA gathering and business meeting

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th February, 2019

Venue: Parramatta

The UCA Deacons biennial meeting will include:

- Catching up with ministry colleagues
- Sharing news about Deacons in each Synod
- meeting new Deacons and candidates
- Opportunities to promote the Ministry of Deacon
- DIAKONIA (world news)
- DIAKONIA World Assembly, Chicago (2017) reflections
- DIAKONIA Asia-Pacific (DAP) news
- DIAKONIA Asia-Pacific (DAP) Conference (2019), Fiji
- DIAKONIA World Assembly, Darwin (2021)
- Ecumenical relationships with other Deacons
- Emerging trends and opportunities
- Issues and challenges in the UCA
- Formation for diaconal ministry & news from EMC
- DUCA organisation and planning.

Deacon candidates

Formation for diaconal ministry includes participation in the Deacon Professional Development (4th-6th February 2019), participation in the Deacons (DUCA) gathering (7th-8th February), and participation in the Deacon Intensive (Monday 11th-Friday 15th). These aspects are a compulsory part of formation for all Deacon candidates. Usually Deacon candidates will do all three in the one year (especially as the DUCA conference is biennial and the formation needs to be done prior to ordination), but may be varied depending on individual needs (ie Deacon candidates may do Deacon Intensive in one year, and attend the Deacon conference in a subsequent year). This will usually be done in consultation with the academic advisor responsible for their course requirements.