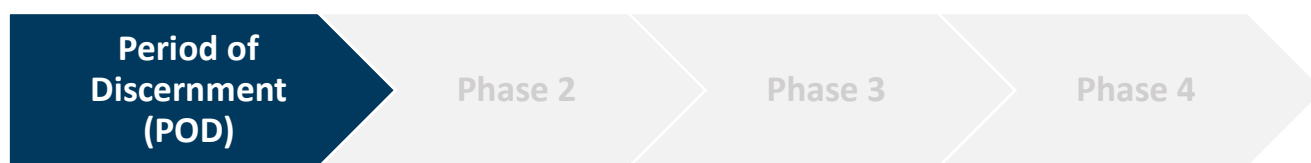




The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Go Deep Handbook



The Go Deep ministry experience is aimed at providing a significant opportunity for participants to discern God's leading. The Go Deep ministry experience is undertaken simultaneously with the applied learning and discernment inherent in the Go Wide space.

The Go Deep activity provides POD participants with a ministry experience in which they will be encouraged to choose from one of the following contexts in which to develop and complete their Go Deep Project:



Workplace



Home and neighbourhood



Local Congregation



Flexible Options

The Go Deep project is fundamentally about discernment rather than assessment. The project is intentionally experiential and provides space to explore God's leading and activity within a given context. Projects will have nuances and variations in each context. Therefore, a project outline is provided in this handbook that includes steps to take, a framework and suggested resources.

Given the flexible nature of the POD, participants are free to modify their project or develop something new as long as this is endorsed by both their mentor and the Presbytery POD coordinator.

Project Outlines

The following outlines for each of the possible Go Deep Projects provides an overview of what is required. This is a guide that allows for participants and mentors to be clear about the shape and focus that a project can have.



Context: Workplace Project

Goal

To explore what ministry and mission looks like in your workplace.

Time

40 hours over six months

Resources

The Workplace Project will require Participants to engage with the following resources:

- *Gospel Centred Work* by Tim Chester

It is recommended that Participants engage with some or all of the following books (and/or those resources recommended by their Mentor):

- *God at Work: Live each day with purpose.* by Ken Costa
- *Deep Work: Spiritual practice in our workday world* by Jenny Tymms
- *Every Good Endeavour* by Tim Keller

Actions

1. Spend time journaling and discussing with your mentor: what it is that you are hoping to learn from this experience?
2. Utilise the first 4-6 weeks engaging with the required and recommended resources. Throughout the engagement with these resources, make a note of various opinions, concepts and questions that stand out. It is vital that participants record these in their journals for future reference. Furthermore, it is important to continue to explore these various avenues with a mentor and through personal reflection to hear what God is saying.
3. Select between 3-6 principles outlined in *Gospel Centred Work* that connect most strongly with personal struggles or missional opportunities in your workplace. Engage with each principle by considering the relevant scriptures, praying into the issues (especially the relationships involved) and consider what initiatives or innovations can be developed and enacted. Ensure that regular journal entries are made that recount what God has done.
4. The participant is expected to use the following reflection questions to help discern what God is saying through the project:
 - In what ways is this project developing people's faith in Christ?
 - In what ways is this project encouraging/growing/developing the body of Christ (church)?
 - In what ways is this project proclaiming the love of Christ to the world?
 - In what ways does this project connect or not connect with your heart and gifts?
 - Do you see yourself being involved in ministry within this context in the future? (Why/why not?)
 - Describe how your relationship with God and your growth as a disciple is being affected by this experience.

It is important for the participant to ensure that they journal the answers to these reflection questions.

Mentoring sessions will provide space to explore what God is saying in and through the answers and reflections emerging from these questions.



Context: Home and Neighbourhood Project

Goal

To explore what ministry and mission looks like from your home and in your neighbourhood.

Time

40 hours over six months

Resources

The Home and Neighbourhood Project will require Participants to engage with the following resources:

- *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* by Sam Chan

It is recommended that Participants engage with some or all of the following books (and/or those resources recommended by their Mentor):

- *Serving a Movement* by Tim Keller

Actions

1. Spend time journaling and discussing with your mentor: what it is that you are hoping to learn from this experience?
2. Utilise the first 4-6 weeks engaging with the required and recommended resources. Throughout the engagement with these resources, make a note of various opinions, concepts and questions that stand out. It is vital that participants record these in their journals for future reference. Furthermore, it is important to continue to explore these various avenues with a mentor and through personal reflection to hear what God is saying.
3. Formulate a presentation of the Gospel that is relevant to your project context. Use Chapter 3 of *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* to guide the development of your Gospel presentation.
4. Pray for an opportunity to share (and then do so if the opportunity arises) the gospel presentation that you have crafted, ensuring you reflect on and journal what is emerging, especially in relation to what God is saying.
5. The participant is expected to use the following reflection questions to help discern what God is saying through the project:
 - In what ways is this project developing people's faith in Christ?
 - In what ways is this project encouraging/growing/developing the body of Christ (church)?
 - In what ways is this project proclaiming the love of Christ to the world?
 - In what ways does this project connect or not connect with your heart and gifts?
 - Could you see yourself being involved in ministry within this context in the future? (Why/why not?)
 - Describe how your relationship with God and your growth as a disciple is being affected by this experience.

It is important for the participant to ensure that they journal the answers to these reflection questions.

Mentoring sessions will provide space to explore what God is saying in and through the answers and reflections emerging from these questions.



Context: Local Congregation Project

Goal

To explore what ministry and mission looks like in a local church setting.

Time

40 hours over six months

Resources

The Local Congregation Project will require Participants to engage with the following resources:

- *UCA Basis of Union*
- *Provocative Church* by Graham Tomlin

It is recommended that Participants engage with some or all of the following books (and/or those resources recommended by their Mentor):

- *Leading Better Bible Studies* by Karen and Rod Morris

Actions

1. Spend time journaling and discussing with your mentor: what is it that you are hoping to learn from this experience?
2. Utilise the first 4-6 weeks engaging with the required and recommended resources. Throughout the engagement with these resources, make a note of various opinions, concepts and questions that stand out. It is vital that participants record these in their journals for future reference. Furthermore, it is important to continue to explore these various avenues with a mentor and through personal reflection to hear what God is saying.
3. Consider which ministry/group area you wish to experience. This needs to be a ministry and/ or mission activity, not a planning group, committee or task group. Possible areas include:
 - Youth and children's ministry
 - Leading worship and/or preaching
 - Bible study or other small groups
 - Playgroups
 - Outreach groups such as men's shed, emergency relief, school-based groups
 - Pastoral care: hospital visiting, congregational visiting, healing/support-based groups
4. Talk to the leader/minister about joining the team and what requirements might exist, including various meetings, planning and training sessions. All relevant Safe Ministry with Children training and approvals (Blue Cards) will be required for this project.
5. Engage in learning about your ministry through a range of different means, including:
 - a. Attending a workshop/conference
 - b. Meeting with practitioners from other Congregations



- c. Reading books or listening to Podcasts, relevant to the project ministry area, that are recommended by your Mentor, Minister or leader
6. In consultation with your minister/leader design a small project that you can plan, do and evaluate within six months. Ideas could be:
 - Organise and run an event that connects church and community
 - Organise and run an event that educates your church on a particular issue
 - Develop and run a four-session bible study course on a specific topic
 - Run a creative worship event
7. The participant is expected to use the following reflection questions to help discern what God is saying through the project:
 - In what ways is this project developing people's faith in Christ?
 - In what ways is this project encouraging/growing/developing the body of Christ (church)?
 - In what ways is this project proclaiming the love of Christ to the world?
 - In what ways does this project connect or not connect with your heart and gifts?
 - Could you see yourself being involved in ministry within this context in the future? (Why/why not?)
 - Describe how your relationship with God and your growth as a disciple is being affected by this experience.

It is important for the participant to ensure that they journal the answers to these reflection questions.

Mentoring sessions will provide space to explore what God is saying in and through the answers and reflections emerging from these questions.



Context: Flexible Option

Examples of possible contexts that could fit within the flexible options include expressions of ministry within a Congress or multicultural setting, School Chaplaincy or Chaplaincy within a UnitingCare or Wesley Mission Qld context.

Goal

To explore what ministry and mission looks like within a context chosen by the Participant in consultation with their Mentor and approved by the Presbytery POD Co-ordinator.

Time

40 hours over six months

Resources

The Participant and Mentor need to agree on a selection of books, podcasts or other resources that will inform the Project.

Actions

1. Spend time journaling and discussing with your mentor what it is that you are hoping to learn from this experience?
2. Utilise the first 4-6 weeks engaging with the required and recommended resources. Throughout the engagement with these resources, make a note of various opinions, concepts and questions that stand out. It is vital that participants record these in their journals for future reference. Furthermore, it is important to continue to explore these various avenues with a mentor and through personal reflection to hear what God is saying.
3. Develop a clear plan that has concise actions outlining what the participant needs to undertake in order to engage in discernment practices within the relevant context.
4. The participant is expected to use the following reflection questions to help discern what God is saying through the project:
 - In what ways is this project developing people's faith in Christ?
 - In what ways is this project encouraging/growing/developing the body of Christ (church)?
 - In what ways is this project proclaiming the love of Christ to the world?
 - In what ways does this project connect or not connect with your heart and gifts?
 - Could you see yourself being involved in ministry within this context in the future? (Why/why not?)
 - Describe how your relationship with God and your growth as a disciple is being affected by this experience.

It is important for the participant to ensure that they journal the answers to these reflection questions.

Mentoring sessions will provide space to explore what God is saying in and through the answers and reflections emerging from these questions.