

## **TELT Summary of conversations with other denominations**

As part of the review team's information gathering, discussions were held with representatives of the Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Baptist denominations in New Zealand and the Uniting Church of Australia.

Some of the key themes to emerge across from the various discussions include recognition of the following:

- The importance of preparation for a range of ministry and leadership roles including eldership, ordained ministry of word and sacrament, leadership of specific ministries as well as general pastoral and community ministry through the equivalent of a deacon role.
- The need for ministry preparation to include both theological and ministry formation dimensions, as well as the development of people related leadership capabilities and denominational understanding.
- Effective ministry preparation needs to include learning through both academic study and practical experience. Most denominations include an "internship" dimension in a parish or other ministry setting as part of preparation.
- The quality of mentorship for those preparing for ordination is key and investment is often made in developing the capabilities of mentors.
- Theological education and ministry training is not a one off event but rather a life-long learning process. The shape of preparation for ordination is influenced by this understanding.
- There is benefit in involving in ministry preparation and leadership training both full-time educators and practitioners with specific areas of expertise from within the church.
- While use is often made of distance learning tools, there are also benefits in bringing people together so that they network with and build connections to others going through a similar stage of their learning journey.
- It is important to take into account an individual's past experience and prior learning when shaping the course of preparation they will follow.
- The modern context means it is often difficult to attract people into preparation for ministry and models of preparation need to adapt to ensure that particularly younger people are responding to God's call on their lives.
- Denominations accept the importance of investing in the development of future ministry leaders and do this in a number of ways including in some instances financial support for their training.