

6. Procedures for Local Shared Ministry

Local Shared Ministry is an inclusive term that allows for the roles of ministry to be fulfilled by members of the local church. Local Shared Ministry is distinct from Lay Ministry and Lay Ministry Teams, whose provisions are laid out in Section 5. There are a variety of models and this section provides a broad understanding of what may be understood as Local Shared Ministry.

- 6.1 A local church may seek to explore the options of Local Shared Ministry for theological, missional or economic reasons. Such exploration may be led by the Coordinating Partner, but should include the Participating Partner(s) (including any Regional Forum representatives).
- 6.2 When the form of Local Shared Ministry is clarified, it should be approved by the Local Church Partners and a copy sent to the UCANZ office.
- 6.3 An enabler can be Lay or Ordained. A covenant (for ordained ministry) or employment agreement (for lay ministry) will be required where an enabler is paid. Assistance with employment agreements and covenants is available from regional or national church offices.”
- 6.4 An Enabler (or other form of ministry oversight) is appointed by the Coordinating Partner for a defined term, with the approval of the Participating Partner(s). Any review of that position should also include all of the local church partners. The payment of an Enabler is the responsibility of the local church.
- 6.5 The Enabler oversees the approved process of selection, discernment, confirmation, training and authorisation of the Local Shared Ministry team.
- 6.6 It is essential that any ordination of Local Shared Ministry team members be approved by the Local Church Partners and the validity recognised.
- 6.7 Each member of a Local Shared Ministry team must sign a Code of Ethics.
- 6.8 Members of the Local Shared Ministry team are under the discipline of the partner churches – in the first instance the Coordinating Partner takes a lead.
- 6.9 Any complaints of illegal activities should be notified to the Coordinating Partner authorities and to the police.
- 6.10 Complaints about sexual impropriety, financial irregularities, inappropriate behaviour, breaches of church discipline or ethical standards, or failures of ministry, should be notified to the Coordinating Partner authorities. This is especially important if there are possible implications for liability insurance.
- 6.11 The model of Local Shared Ministry should be reviewed by the local church partners every three years – the Coordinating Partner to convene the meeting.