

Leading to formal Theological Education

Trainers are those currently serving in gospel ministry who have an ability and willingness to impart ministry skills and a desire to share their lives with METRO trainees. It requires a commitment of about six hours per week to mentor one METRO trainee plus ongoing training to hone their own ministry and training skills.

Therefore METRO is not an alternative to formal theological education but rather prepares and complements. The METRO traineeship experience becomes a filter through which theological study is viewed. The trainee understands theology within the proper context of evangelism and church building. Trainees come to theological study with minds eager for the rigorous study required to answer the exegetical and theological questions raised by two years of ministry.

The Fine Print

The session must fully support the program with full understanding that it will require the minister's time in training their trainee.

The congregation must be prepared to pray for, personally minister to, support and encourage a METRO trainee and possibly their spouse and family.

The METRO traineeship lasts two years and is full-time. The congregation must be prepared to employ the trainee under an employment package that is outlined by the METRO committee as compliant with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

METRO requires a total package of around \$36,000 in each of the two years. The METRO committee will fund annually (through a subsidy to the congregation) up to 2/3 of the package (\$24,000). METRO will match 2 dollars for every dollar (up to \$12,000) that is raised in total by the combination of the church and personal support the trainee raises.



It is important to realise METRO funds are limited and we try to apply these where the needs are greatest. If your church can afford not to require the maximum amount that METRO gives (\$24,000), then gospel generosity is encouraged so METRO funds can be applied elsewhere.

METRO trainees will be viewed as employees of the training church, and will have to comply with requirements for annual leave, sick leave, superannuation and Workcover.

METRO Trainees must:

1. Be members of the Presbyterian Church.
2. Along with their proposed trainers and training churches, complete the application process as provided at the METRO website (www.metrotraineeship.org.au) including an interview between the METRO committee and the proposed trainer and trainee.
3. Demonstrate sound Christian living and a clear understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. Be able and willing to commit to a two-year program.
5. Have a desire to serve God through the Presbyterian Church.

METRO Mythbusters

METRO IS ONLY FOR CITY CHURCHES

METRO stands for Ministry Equipping Training Recruiting Organisation and not METROpolitan. We are committed to training wherever we find suitable people because Jesus is Lord of every region – city and country.

METRO IS AN EASY WAY TO GET AN EXTRA WORKER FOR YOUR CHURCH

There is no such thing as a METRO worker. There are only METRO trainees. METRO is all about a trainee being connected to a trainer in a training relationship. And it's not easy! If anything, having a METRO trainee increases the workload of the trainer (usually the minister) perhaps by at least a day a week. Taking on a METRO trainee is an investment by a church into someone they would like to see trained in gospel ministry. It's not about what you can get out of a trainee but what you can invest in them for the long-term building of God's kingdom.

METRO IS ONLY FOR PEOPLE HEADING INTO ORDAINED MINISTRY IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

METRO is primarily directed at training future pastors but not exclusively so. METRO is a great preparation for people considering theological training and full time gospel ministry. While there is an extensive pre-Bible college reading program as part of our "Thinking Like Jesus" strand and lots of opportunities to experience ministry in our "Serving Like Jesus" strand, there is absolutely no requirement for METRO trainees to proceed to ordination (nor even theological training).

METRO IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE

METRO is not a substitute for theological college but a good preparation for theological college. Having experienced hands-on ministry under a minister for two years is an invaluable preparation for someone to enter college for years of study to be a gospel minister. A traineeship can also help to clarify a person's convictions and suitability for further ministry training.

METRO IS ONLY FOR MEN

METRO training is for both men and women as the Lord Jesus wants disciples of all people. METRO is primarily directed at training future pastors and so it is focused on males but it is not exclusively restricted to men.

METRO CAN PROVIDE ME WITH A TRAINEE

Trainees don't fall out of trees but are raised up God and identified by trainers. METRO trainees are home grown. Typically, a METRO trainee is someone who is all ready being discipled and trained within your church. METRO is the extension of that existing training relationship.

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METRO GIVES PEOPLE UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF MINISTRY

The reverse is true! The METRO training program is shaped around a training relationship with the local minister in which the trainee is exposed to both the highs and the lows of gospel ministry. It would be hard to imagine a better way to give anyone more realistic expectations of ministry than to be in such a relationship full time for two years!

METRO IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF CHURCHES.

METRO is open to all but will only work when we identify that there is a suitable trainee, trainer and training church. All Presbyterian churches are welcome to apply.

METRO IS POOR PREPARATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY

A METRO trainee is trained by a Presbyterian minister in a Presbyterian church using a course overseen by a course overseen by the METRO committee of the Presbyterian Church.

METRO IS A FAD AND BAND FIX

METRO is not seeking to be a short-term fix in terms of raising pastors for churches or seeking to imitate contemporary ministry fads. Lord willing, effective METRO traineeships will play their part in the long-term raising of gospel workers for God's kingdom regardless of short-term fixes and current fads.





In summary:

- 01** METRO will provide a two-year full time traineeship for those considering a future in Gospel ministry. The emphasis will be on training in practical ministry skills of evangelism and bible teaching.
- 02** The supervision of such trainees will be under suitable trainers. Trainers will be those involved in full time gospel ministry, actively involved in their local church setting, and who are approved by their Session and deemed suitable by the METRO committee and will be required to comply with the requirements of a METRO training program.
- 03** The METRO committee will supervise the training program, co-ordinate the training and provide a considerable proportion of the funding for METRO trainees.

The Shape of the Strategy:

Trainers are those currently serving in gospel ministry who have an ability and willingness to impart ministry skills and a desire to share their lives with METRO trainees. It requires a commitment of about six hours per week to mentor one METRO trainee plus ongoing training to hone their own ministry and training skills.

The three broad areas of training which are covered are:

- 1. Being like Jesus** – personal godliness and holiness in the Christian life.
- 2. Serving like Jesus** – hands on ministry skills including the running of small groups, evangelistic programs, bible teaching and training courses.
- 3. Thinking like Jesus** – thinking theologically which involves the shaping of convictions, the molding of the Christian mind; shaping a theological framework in order to guard the gospel.

Why is it needed?

God has richly blessed us as a denomination with the unique privilege of knowing Him through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This Gospel has been given to us, not just to enjoy the privilege of proclaiming it amongst ourselves, but also to a world desperately needy of salvation. As good stewards of the Message, it is our task to see it entrusted to the next generation of word ministers, so that the task of Gospel proclamation can continue (2 Timothy 2).

A MINISTRY TRAINING STRATEGY

One of the ways we can fulfill our Gospel commission is by establishing a ministry training strategy. This ministry strategy is known as METRO. Its function will be to identify and train faithful and competent gospel workers, who will proclaim the saving work of Christ to the World.

They will be trained as Bible teachers, committed to expounding the Word of God primarily as pastors but not exclusively so. They will be innovative leaders who can shepherd God's people and break new ground for the Gospel. They will minister primarily as ordained parish ministers but not exclusively so. Some may end up ministering in specialist ministries, including women's ministries, amongst students, youth, ethnic groups; both here and overseas.

WELCOME TO METRO



We can praise God for the recent Graduation of our 2015 METRO and YouthMETRO trainees.



M E T R O