

# What is Continuing Education for Ministry?



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*“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.”*

*Charles Darwin*

*“It’s all about learning,  
continually improving,  
and adapting to conditions.”*

*Ricky Ponting, 23 November, 2008  
(after the first test against NZ in Brisbane)*

*“By any means necessary”*

*Jean-Paul Sartre / Malcolm X*

## **What IS Continuing Education for Ministry?**

Most important is the word “FOR”. Continuing Education for Ministry (CEM) is about what makes you the most effective and satisfied minister you can be.

You can’t be satisfied without being effective. You can’t be effective without being satisfied.

CEM is focussed on enabling you to be who God is calling you to be, and to do what God is sending you to do.

CEM is about three areas:

- Head – knowledge
- Hands – skills
- Heart – spiritual maturity and psychological health

Continuing education includes many modes, such as:

- Intentional mentoring
- Conferences, short courses, field exposure, study tours.
- Guided reading and journaling.
- TAFE and adult education courses, eg computer skills.
- Higher education, both theological and “secular”.

Will typically have three phases in any one placement:

1. When newly arrived in a new placement: What will make me effective HERE?
2. Mid-way through a placement: What am I rusty on and may need to update?
3. Approaching another placement: What will equip me for where I feel God is calling me?

Some things in the third category may carry over from placement to placement, eg a PhD or developing spiritual direction practice.

## **What is NOT Continuing Education for Ministry?**

Hobbies.

Things that are required or part of your role (eg Presbytery retreat, attending Synod, Code of Ethics training, supervision).

Doing what you already know and enjoy.

A distraction from ministry.

A burden on top of ministry.

A way of filling in two weeks leave.

Limited to just one mode.

(Don't let yourself be sold a degree course if that is not equipping you to fulfil your call!)