

Induction of Ministers of Word and Sacrament

A meeting of the District/Area Council, the inducting body in the United Reformed Church, shall be constituted. The Moderator of the Synod (or deputy) shall be invited by the Council to preside. The service shall normally be held in the pastorate to which the minister is being inducted. If desired the Lord's Supper may be celebrated.

1. Greeting
2. Scripture Sentences
3. Hymn or Song
4. Prayers of Praise, Confession and Forgiveness
5. Statement
6. Readings from Scripture
7. Sermon
8. Hymn or Song
9. Presentation of the Candidate
10. Statement by the minister-elect
11. Narrative of the Call
12. Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church (Schedule D)
13. Affirmations (Schedule C)
14. Promises
15. Hymn of the Holy Spirit
16. Induction Prayer
17. Declaration of Induction
18. Welcome
19. Giving of Gifts
20. Prayers of Intercession
21. Hymn or Song
22. Dismissal and Blessing

The Preparation

The congregation stands as the Bible is brought into the church and placed open upon the lectern, pulpit or communion table.

1. Greeting

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:23-24

or

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.

Revelation 1:4b

2. Scripture Sentences

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; **for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created.**

He is the head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Colossians 1:15-16,18a-b,19a

3. Hymn or Song

4. Prayers of Praise, Confession and Forgiveness

We praise you, God, the Creator:

through your love and power all things came to be and continue in their being.

We praise you, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh:

through your death and resurrection

we are reconciled to the Father

and born into a new and living hope.

We praise you, Holy Spirit, the Giver of life:
**through wind and fire the Church was born,
and by your gifts the body of Christ is built up.**
With the whole Church on earth
and in heaven we praise you:
one God for ever.

Amen.

or

For the wonders of creation and the beauty of this earth
Creator God, we praise you.
For your gift beyond words in Jesus Christ
redeeming God, we praise you.
For the call to follow and the grace to serve
living God, we praise you.

Let us confess our sin:
for our abuse of your creation
Lord, forgive us;
for our divisions within the one body of Christ
Lord, forgive us;
for our neglect of the gifts of the Spirit
Lord, forgive us.

or

Gracious God,
you call us to be the body of Christ,
yet we often fail in our vocation.
While Christ proclaimed truth, we obscure it.
Though Christ prayed for the unity of all, we remain divided.
While Christ touched the sick and blessed the poor,
we shrink from the demands of justice.
Forgive us. Conform us to Christ.
May all that we do arise from our unity in him,
and may his Spirit renew us,
so that the world might come to believe.

Amen.

In repentance and in faith hear the promise of grace
and the assurance of pardon:

Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself
all things, whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:20

Jesus says: Your sins are forgiven.

Mark 2:5b

He also says: Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me.

Thanks be to God.

John 21:15b,16b,19b

Amen.

A prayer for grace may be said such as:

God, the source of every perfect gift:
in Jesus Christ you have given us
your life to redeem us,
your word for our wisdom,
your grace for our guide.
Enter and possess our hearts,
to dwell with us always,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

5. Statement

The presiding minister says:

We meet today as the XY District/Area Council
of the United Reformed Church,
in the company of members of churches from
(representatives of)
and friends from far and wide.
We welcome you all.

either

Christians share, through their baptism,
in the ministry of Christ.
The life of faithful discipleship begins
with worship, study of the Scriptures and loving service.
God gives a variety of gifts, from the same Spirit,
and calls each of us to serve
according to our gifts and the needs of the world.
God calls some to be ministers of Word and Sacraments,
to serve the Church as the Church serves Christ.

or

Christians share, through their baptism,
in the ministry of Christ,
and all Christians are called to be ministers of God's love.
God calls some to be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists,
some to be pastors and teachers,
to equip the Church for the work of ministry
and to build up the body of Christ.

continuing with ...

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
we have come to induct N to serve
as a minister of Word and Sacraments in
N has been called to exercise this ministry
by decision of the church meeting(s) of
(*by the appointing body of ...*,)
with the concurrence of the XY District/Area Council.

The Ministry of the Word

6. Readings from Scripture

The following readings are appropriate:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Exodus 33:12-14; Deuteronomy 30:11-20; I Kings 19:1-21;
Nehemiah 8:1-12; Isaiah 6:1-8; 49:1-6; 52:7-10; 55:1-13;
61:1-4; Jeremiah 1:4-10.

New Testament:

Matthew 5:1-12; Mark 3:13-19; 6:30-44; 10:35-45;
Luke 4:14-21; 10:1-11; John 13:1-17; 15:1-17; 21:15-19.
Acts 20:17-38; Romans 10:5-15; 12:1-21; I Corinthians 12:4-13;
2 Corinthians 4:1-15; Ephesians 3:8-21; 4:1-16;
Philippians 2:1-16; I Peter 4:8-11; 5:1-4.

The following response may be used after each reading

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

7. Sermon

8. Hymn or Song

The Induction

9. Presentation of the Candidate

The interim moderator may present the candidate to the presiding minister with these or similar words:

Moderator, I present to you N, for induction into...

10. Statement by the minister-elect

The minister-elect makes a brief statement about his/her call to the ministry into which he/she will be inducted.

11. Narrative of the Call

We now hear a statement on behalf of the District/Area Council, outlining the steps which led to this call.

We shall hear how the congregation(s) of called N to be *its/their* minister.

(We shall hear how N was appointed to exercise this ministry in the post of)

An appointed person may make a short statement on behalf of the District/Area Council and the congregation or other appointing body.

Alternatively, short statements may be made on behalf of the Council by a representative/representatives of the congregation(s) or appointing body.

12. Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

This Statement (Basis of Union, Schedule D) is read in one of the approved forms.

13. Affirmations

All stand as the presiding minister asks the minister-elect to affirm his/her faith.

1. Will you confess anew your faith?

**I confess anew my faith in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**I believe that the Word of God
in the Old and New Testaments,
discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
is the supreme authority for the faith
and conduct of all God's people.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary,
lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross,
and who was raised from the dead
and reigns for evermore,**

is the gift of God's very self to the world.

**I believe that through him God's love,
justice and mercy are revealed
and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life
are offered to all people.**

And by the grace of God

I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully.

**I believe that the Church is the people
gathered by God's love**

**to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God
through Jesus Christ.**

2. What leads you to this ministry?

So far as I know my own heart,

**I believe that zeal for the glory of God,
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,
obedience to the Holy Spirit**

**and a desire for the salvation of the world,
are the chief motives**

which lead me to enter this ministry.

Relying on the strength of Christ,

I promise to live a holy life,

**and to maintain the truth of the gospel,
whatever trouble or persecution may arise.**

3. Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?

The presiding minister (after appropriate consultation) may modify the wording of the following answer (or of question 7 below) to fit the kind of ministry to which the candidate has been called.

By the grace of God

**I promise to lead the church in worship,
to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments,
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,
to take my part in the councils of the Church,
and to give leadership to the Church
in mission to the world.**

As a minister of the United Reformed Church

**I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches,
and to endeavour always to build up
the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I undertake to exercise my ministry
in accordance with the Statement
concerning the Nature, Faith and Order
of the United Reformed Church.**

**All these things I profess and promise
in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

or the affirmations may be made in this way:

1. N, do you confess anew your faith in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
I do.
2. Do you believe that the Word of God
in the Old and New Testaments,
discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
is the supreme authority
for the faith and conduct of all God's people?
I do.

3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world?
Do you believe that through him
God's love, justice and mercy are revealed
and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life
are offered to all people?
And will you faithfully proclaim this gospel?
**By the grace of God this I believe
and this I will proclaim.**
4. Do you believe that the Church
is the people gathered by God's love
to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God
through Jesus Christ?
I do.
5. Are zeal for the glory of God,
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,
obedience to the Holy Spirit
and a desire for the salvation of the world,
so far as you know your own heart,
the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?
They are.
6. Do you promise to live a holy life,
and to maintain the truth of the gospel,
whatever trouble or persecution may arise?
Relying on the strength of Christ, I do.
7. Do you promise to fulfil the duties of your charge faithfully,
to lead the church in worship,
to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments,
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,
to take your part in the councils of the Church,
and to give leadership to the Church
in its mission to the world?
By the grace of God, I do.

8. Do you promise,
as a minister of the United Reformed Church,
to seek its well-being, purity and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches
and to endeavour always to build up
the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?
By the grace of God, I do.
9. Will you undertake to exercise your ministry
in accordance with the Statement concerning
the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church?
**I will, and all these things I profess and promise
in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

14. Promises

The presiding minister asks the congregation:

Do you confess again your faith in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

We do.

Do you receive N as from God,
as a minister of Word and Sacraments
of the United Reformed Church?

We do.

Will you pray for N in this ministry,
giving *him/her* due honour, support and encouragement?

We will.

*asks members of the local church(es) where the minister is
to serve:*

Members of, do you receive N as from God,
to serve among you and to lead you in your ministry?

We do.

(asks members of the appointing body:

Representatives of, do you receive N as from God,
to minister among you?

We do.)

asks members of the District/Area Council:

Members of the XY District/Area Council,
do you welcome N into membership,
and promise to support *his/her* ministry?

We do.

15. Hymn of the Holy Spirit

16. Induction Prayer

The congregation stands for the induction prayer.

God of every perfect gift,
we praise you that in every age you call your people
to show forth your acts of mercy and love.
We give you thanks that you have called your servant N
to serve you as a minister in your Church,
in succession to the apostles
and in company with all who follow in Christ's way.

Renew the gift of your Holy Spirit
on your servant N
as in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
we induct *him/her* to serve as

Gracious God, dwell with N
and strengthen the gifts you have given *him/her*
that the ministry and mission of your people may bear fruit.

Inspire *him/her* in leading worship,
in preaching and teaching and service;
may the gospel be celebrated
when *he/she* presides at the sacraments.

Bless *him/her* with love and humility to tend your flock,
to feed the hungry, heal the wounded, and find the lost.

Give *him/her* power and patience
to witness with all Christians to your way,
and to labour with all people of goodwill
for justice and mercy in society.

Watch over *him/her* in times of trial;
in weariness, disappointment, or frustration;
and keep *him/her* from complacency and spiritual pride.

Fill *his/her* home with your peace.
(Special petitions may be added at this point.)

Give grace to the people of *this church/these churches/
this community/ this hospital Trust/
this university/ this place of work*
that they may accept the service God offers them through N.
May they work together for the glory of your name.

And may the good work you have begun today
be brought to completion in Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you, Father,
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever.

Amen.

17. Declaration of Induction

The presiding minister says:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and representing the XY District/Area Council
of the United Reformed Church,
I declare N be inducted to

May the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do his will,
working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Amen.

or

Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
for ever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Amen.

18. Welcome

The right hand of fellowship is given by the presiding minister and others duly appointed, who may include representatives of the local church(es), the District/Area Council and the General Assembly, as well as ecumenical, civic and community representatives.

19. Giving of Gifts

The minister may be presented with symbolic gifts, for example:

Receive this Bible,
the word of God, living and active.

Hebrews 4:12a

Receive this cup and plate,
**to hold bread and wine
for the feeding of God's people.**

Receive this water,
symbol of baptism and sign of new life.

20. Prayers of Intercession

These prayers may be spoken by different voices and may end with the Lord's Prayer.

21. Hymn or Song

22. Dismissal and Blessing

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish
in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Saviour,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power and authority,
before all time, now and for ever.

Jude:24-25

Amen.

or

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, (*Creator, Christ and Comforter*)
be with you always.

Amen.

