

Paper D/H1

Marks of Ministry of a Worship Leader and Lay Preacher

Ministries and Education and Learning Committees

Basic information

Contact name and email address	The Revd Paul Whittle moderator@urcscotland.org.uk Mr Alan Yates alan.yates@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council adopts the Marks of Ministry of a Worship Leader and Lay Preacher.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	The paper gives a concise and comprehensive description of what the church can expect of those called to be a Worship Leader or a Lay Preacher.
Main points	The paper follows the principle set down for other ministries of defining competencies for the particular roles of Worship Leading and Lay Preaching.
Previous relevant documents	None.
Consultation has taken place with...	Synod Lay Preaching Commissioners, Synod Moderators, Education and Learning and Ministries Committees.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

1. The following is a concise and comprehensive description of what the United Reformed Church can reasonably expect of people who are called to be a Worship Leader or a Lay Preacher. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list and it is not expected that every Worship Leader or Lay Preacher will exhibit all of these marks. It is acknowledged that what this will look like in each Worship Leader or Lay Preacher will vary depending on the context, the individual, and the specific ministry to which they are called.

Both a Worship Leader and a Lay Preacher in the United Reformed Church (URC) seeks to be:

- **A faithful disciple of Jesus Christ:** caught up in the joy and wonder of God's will and work; seeking always to live a holy life in public and in private; sustained by their own rhythm of prayer, Bible reading and worship; open to journeying as a disciple with others.
- **A person of accountability:** committed to serving as a lay preacher within the conciliar oversight of the church; willing to engage in systems of support and mentoring for Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers; willing to engage in mandatory training including safeguarding; ready to collaborate with others for the mission of God.
- **A crafter of worship:** sensitive to the many traditions and styles within the church yet confident to create and advocate new forms as appropriate by combining theological and liturgical knowledge and understanding with technical and practical skills; able to administer the Sacraments if authorised to do so.
- **A preacher:** passionate and effective in breaking open God's Word in preaching; to be relevant in the world whilst retaining their prophetic edge to equip God's people in their mission and discipleship to share the Gospel and to live God's Kingdom of justice and peace to the full.
- **A lifelong learner:** self-aware and committed to lifelong learning reflecting and reexamining the message they communicate; aware of their own strengths, gifts and limitations and thus willing to seek support when and where necessary; making use of the URC provision for on-going training for lay preachers.
- **A contextual theologian:** delighting in Scripture rooted in the Reformed tradition; able to communicate their own faith and its implications; able to encourage others to discover how these rich resources inspire and sustain faithfulness.
- **A pastor:** demonstrates pastoral care through preaching and prayer; confidently adapts when pastoral circumstances dictate.
- **A public figure:** reliable and effective in representing the Church in preaching and/or service leading.
- **A reformer:** able to help congregations to discern and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit as new chapters open in the life of the Church and others close.

Draft Standards for Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers in the United Reformed Church

The following is a concise and comprehensive description of what the United Reformed Church can reasonably expect of people who are called to be a Worship Leader or a Lay Preacher. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, and it is not expected that every Worship Leader or Lay Preacher will exhibit all of these marks. It is acknowledged that what this will look like in each Worship Leader or Lay Preacher will vary depending on the context, the individual, and the specific ministry to which they are called.

This should be read alongside Marks of Ministry for Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers.

Marks of Ministry for Lay Preachers	Worship Leaders	Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A faithful disciple of Jesus Christ: caught up in the joy and wonder of God’s will and work; seeking always to live a holy life in public and in private; sustained by their own rhythm of prayer, Bible reading and worship; open to journeying as a disciple with others. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is able to speak of their Christian experience; 2. has a real sense of calling to explore leading worship and preaching. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is able to express their Christian experience; 2. has a real sense of calling and commitment to preach the Word of God; 3. is able to give an account of their Christian faith and how they have grown to this point with reference to challenges faced and insights gained.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person of accountability: committed to serving as a lay preacher within the conciliar oversight of the church; willing to engage in systems of support and mentoring for Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers; willing to engage in mandatory training including safeguarding; ready to collaborate with others for the mission of God. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is a member of good standing within the United Reformed Church; 2. seeks to be a faithful disciple through regular habits of worship and prayer; 3. is willing to undertake Safeguarding training for Worship Leaders; 4. is willing to be involved with a mentor or tutor and with others involved in leading worship. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is a member of good standing within the United Reformed Church; 2. seeks to be a faithful disciple through regular habits of worship and prayer; 3. demonstrates enthusiastic commitment to the URC through the wider councils of the church; 4. is willing to undertake Safeguarding for Assembly-Accredited Lay Preachers; 5. is willing to be involved with a mentor or tutor and with others involved in leading worship.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A crafter of worship: sensitive to the many traditions and styles within the church yet confident to create and advocate new forms as appropriate by combining theological and liturgical knowledge and understanding with technical and practical skills; able to administer the Sacraments if authorised to do so. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has a willingness to explore leadership in worship; 2. attends the “presiding at the Sacraments” course organised by the synod, if authorised to do so. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is open to trying new worship styles whilst respecting the breadth of diversity of ages, theology and ecclesiology across the church; 2. takes regular opportunities to attend synod and Assembly lay preaching events to refresh skills and insights; 3. attends the “presiding at the Sacraments” course organised by the synod, if authorised to do so.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preacher: passionate and effective in breaking open God’s Word in preaching; to be relevant in the world whilst retaining their prophetic edge to equip God’s people in their mission and discipleship to share the Gospel and to live God’s Kingdom of justice and peace to the full. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has a willingness to share in the journey of faith; 2. is an effective communicator in sharing the gospel. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has a good grasp of the Gospel to be proclaimed; 2. is passionate about leading worship of quality in a range of settings; 3. is skilled in deepening the faith and worship of others; 4. is an effective communicator in sharing the gospel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lifelong learner: self-aware and committed to lifelong learning reflecting and reexamining the message they communicate; aware of their own strengths, gifts and limitations and thus willing to seek support when and where necessary; making use of the URC provision for on-going training for lay preachers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has a desire to grow in understanding of the Christian faith; 2. takes opportunities to continue learning and growing in the attitudes, skills and knowledge relevant to the role of a worship leader; 3. is open to receive and reflect on feedback. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. takes opportunities to continue learning and growing in the attitudes, skills and knowledge relevant to the role of lay preacher; 2. is aware of their own strengths, weaknesses and potential of self-development; 3. is open to receive and reflect on feedback.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A contextual theologian: delighting in Scripture rooted in the Reformed tradition; able to communicate 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has the ability to see God at work in the world. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has the ability to see, and to draw the attention of others to, God at work in the world.

<p>their own faith and its implications; able to encourage others to discover how these rich resources inspire and sustain faithfulness.</p>	<p>2. Has knowledge of the place of the United Reformed Church within our contemporary world.</p>	<p>2. demonstrates faithfulness to how and why our reformed tradition is important for the contemporary world; 3. has sympathy with the Basis of Union and the ethos of the United Reformed Church.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pastor: demonstrates pastoral care through preaching and prayer; confidently adapts when pastoral circumstances dictate. 	<p>1. treats all people with respect; 2. is committed to ongoing and appropriate training in safeguarding.</p>	<p>1. is able to relate to a variety of people and contexts; 2. has the ability to see God in others; 3. is committed to ongoing and appropriate training in safeguarding.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public figure: reliable and effective in representing the Church when preaching and / or service leading. 	<p>1. is aware of contemporary world events and is able to give a Christian response.</p>	<p>1. is mindful of representing the URC when leading worship and preaching in ecumenical situations; 2. is aware of contemporary world events and is able to give a Christian response.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reformer: able to help congregations to discern and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit as new chapters open in the life of the Church and others close. 	<p>1. understands how worship can play a part in positive change in congregational life.</p>	<p>1. is open to the prompting by the Holy Spirit and is willing to go where the Spirit leads; 2. understands how worship can play a part in positive change in congregational life.</p>