

Appendix three

BLUE TEXT – proposed amendments for all ministries

RED TEXT – proposed amendments for specifically for addition of Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Workers

Schedule A paragraphs 19-24

Ministry in the United Reformed Church

19. The Lord Jesus Christ continues his ministry in and through the Church, the whole people of God called and committed to his service and equipped by him for it. This service is given by worship, prayer, proclamation of the Gospel, and Christian witness; by mutual and outgoing care and responsibility; and by obedient discipleship in the whole of daily life, according to the gifts and opportunities given to each one. The preparation and strengthening of its members for such ministry and discipleship shall always be a major concern of the United Reformed Church.
20. For the equipment of his people for this total ministry the Lord Jesus Christ gives particular gifts for particular ministries and calls some of his servants to exercise them in offices duly recognised within his Church. The United Reformed Church recognises that Christ gives himself to his Church through Word and Sacrament and through the total caring oversight by which his people grow in faith and love, the exercise of which oversight is the special concern of elders and Ministers. Those who enter on such ministries commit themselves to them for so long as God wills: the United Reformed Church having solemnly acknowledged their vocation and accepted their commitment shall appoint them **as committed disciples** to their particular ministry and give them authority to exercise it within the church, setting them apart with prayer that they shall be given all needful gifts and graces for its fulfilment, which solemn setting part shall in the case of Ministers and elders be termed ordination and in the case of Church Related Community Workers **and Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Workers** be termed commissioning. In the United Reformed Church all ministries within the life of the Church shall be open to both men and women. Appropriate affirmations of faith shall be made by those entering upon all ministries within the life of the Church.
21. Some are called to the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments.¹ After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be Ministers of local churches, or missionaries overseas, or to some special and approved ministry, and are then ordained and inducted to their office. The ordination and induction of Ministers shall be in accordance with Schedules C and D. They are commissioned to conduct public worship, to preach the Word and to administer the Sacraments, to exercise pastoral care and oversight, and to give leadership to the church in its mission to the world. Their service may be

¹The totality of Ministers who fall within any of the categories defined within Schedule E, Paragraph 1 and are in good standing may be referred to as the Roll of Ministers. Ministers shall conduct their ministry according to the criteria set out in Schedule E.

stipendiary or non-stipendiary, and in the latter case the service is given within an area of a Synod, and in the context it has approved.

22. Some are called to the ministry of Church Related Community Work. After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be Church Related Community Workers in a post approved by the United Reformed church, commissioned to the office of Church Related Community Worker, and inducted to serve in a particular post for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with schedules D&F. Church Related Community Workers are commissioned to care for, to challenge, and to pray for the community, to discern with others, God's will, for the well-being of the community, and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim with love and mercy through the working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world. Their service may be stipendiary or non- stipendiary, and in the latter case their service is given within the area of a Synod and in a context it has approved.
23. Some are called to the ministry of Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Work:- After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Workers in a post approved by the United Reformed Church, commissioned to the office of Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Worker and inducted to serve in a particular post for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with schedules D&G. Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Workers are commissioned to disciple, equip and nurture children and young people and their families both within and outwith the church in partnership with the congregation, to enable fresh perspectives and renewed participation, and to pray for the intergenerational life of the church , to discern with others God's will for the well-being of the church and locality, and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to transform lives for effective service in the world. Their service may be stipendiary or non-stipendiary, and in the latter case their service is given within the area of a Synod and in a context it has approved.
24. Ministers of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers and Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Workers are called to serve by God and, as members of the church, live out their committed discipleship as office-holders, in which their membership, service to, support and relationship with the Church and community has never created, has never been intended to create, and does not create any contractual relations.
25. The church cares for and supports these office-holders, whether stipendiary or non-stipendiary, through careful training, loving nurture, and prayerful oversight. As office-holding members of the church, ministers of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers and Church Commissioned Children's and Youth Workers are accountable through the church's various Councils for the satisfactory performance of their ministries. Through the Councils of the Church, discernment through the Holy Spirit is found regarding: accepting candidates for ministry, the nurture and support necessary for flourishing of church and office-holder, their deployment to

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particular ministries, the oversight necessary for healthy discipleship and for the circumstances when it is necessary to lay down the responsibilities of being an office-holder.