

Southern Synod Moderator's Role Description

JOB TITLE:	Moderator of Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church
RESPONSIBLE TO:	General Assembly through the General Secretary
STIPEND:	Stipend authorised by the Plan for Partnership will apply
ROLE OVERVIEW:	To provide spiritual and pastoral oversight, care and leadership within the synod, giving confidence for the Church's mission locally, regionally/nationally, and globally. To provide clear personal leadership to enable and encourage discernment of God's will within the councils of the Church.

This post is for an initial seven-year term with a possibility of renewal for a further five years. The main responsibilities will be subject to review during the term, and at the point of any renewal, as new insights are gained, and circumstances evolve.

Note: ministers, below, refers to both Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers.

Responsibilities and Duties

Synod

1. To work collaboratively with synod officers/committees to facilitate clarity about priorities and to encourage creativity and new ideas about being church; to be an active ex-officio member to all synod committees and task groups.
2. To nurture a sense of community and coherence across the synod by clear communication and leadership to ministers, churches, officers, committees, synod staff and the synod trust company.
3. To play a key role in developing and realising the implementation of the synod strategy (Renew, Reimagine and Renew) by offering theological insight, having a

clear awareness of priorities, and facilitating open discussion within the synod to produce realistic and agreed objectives.

4. To have overall responsibility for ecumenical arrangements in the synod and to encourage ecumenical commitment and endeavour across the synod.
5. To encourage the Church's engagement with public issues.
6. To chair synod meetings.
7. To have oversight of the Synod Office administrative functions other than HR which is the remit of the Synod Clerk.
8. To have oversight of the work of the field staff: Mission and Discipleship Officer, Training and Development Officer, Children's and Youth Development Officer, Ecumenical Development Officer and Safeguarding Officer.
9. To take time for personal reading, reflection, envisioning, prayer and preparation.

Churches

1. To work collaboratively to encourage local churches and partnerships to engage in strategies leading to health, growth, learning and renewal.
2. To visit and provide strategic encouragement to pastorates in vacancy, to suggest names of ministers to vacant pastorates in conjunction with interim moderators of local churches and to preside (except where a deputy is appointed) at all ordinations/commissionings and/or inductions of ministers within the synod.
3. To ensure the development and implementation of the Synod Deployment Strategy for the deployment of stipendiary ministers within the synod's agreed target figures.
4. To work with others to ensure that individual gifts in the churches and committees will be recognised and fostered for the benefit of the whole synod.
5. To visit and lead worship at churches within the synod.

People

1. To ensure active encouragement and support for the spiritual growth, renewal and Christian service of church members of all ages.
2. To have overall responsibility, in partnership with Synod/United Area Pastoral Committees, for providing supportive oversight and pastoral care to serving ministers and their families, local church leaders, retired ministers, minister's widows/widowers and churches.
3. To meet with ministerial candidates and provide them with procedural guidance.
4. To act as an adviser in the URC's provision of support services to ministers (e.g. long term sickness arrangements, welfare, retirement processes).
5. To encourage ministers in spiritual growth and development at all stages in their ministry, in partnership with those responsible for their supervision and ongoing development.

6. To fulfill the responsibilities ascribed to the synod moderator under the Ministerial Disciplinary process and the Incapacity procedure.

Wider Engagement

1. To represent the synod to the wider church and the wider church to the synod.
2. To participate as a member of Assembly Executive and the General Assembly.
3. To take a full part in the moderators' meeting.
4. To be proactive in encouraging fruitful ecumenical activities at a regional/national level, to ensure the United Reformed Church is represented in church leaders' meetings and, where relevant, represent the synod at ecumenical events.
5. To provide leadership for continuing Synod's good, strategically important and fruitful relationship with the Methodist Church particularly with the South East District made possible through the MURC Liaison Committee.
6. To be involved in and to encourage Christian unity within the Synod and to work for peace between faith communities.

Southern Synod Moderator's Person Specification

REQUIREMENTS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	MEASUREMENT
Education and qualifications	• Educated to at least diploma level or equivalent in theology • Ordained minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church	• Evidence of keeping abreast with current theological literature	Applicant's details/interview
Experience	• Experience of leadership and working in close collaboration with other colleagues • Experience of working as a minister in a local pastorate • Experience of working with church or voluntary organisations on strategic plans	• Experience of engagement in the Councils of the church beyond the local • Experience of different church contexts • Experience of working ecumenically • Experience of change management at synod level	Applicant's details/interview
Knowledge	• Awareness of the individuality of local churches and their needs • Deep understanding of the role of the Church in its mission to the world • Deep understanding of the distinctive traditions, ethos and witness of the United Reformed Church	• Understanding of the ethos and polity of other denominations and major faith groups	Applicant's details/interview

Skills and Abilities	• Delegation and team building skills • Skills in project and change management. • Ability to exercise appropriate personal leadership within a conciliar ecclesiology • Ability to discern and deliver the kind of approach which will best promote open and constructive relationships at all levels • Facilitation skills • Conflict transformation skills • Skills in time management. • Ability to assess priorities and plan workload accordingly • IT skills in e-mail and document handling	• Ability to make time for personal study and relaxation • Ability to develop personal gifts. • Ability to interact comfortably in a wide variety of contexts • Energy and aptitude to work while travelling long distances to appointments	Applicant's details/interview
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