

Commissioning and Induction of Church Related Community Workers

Welcome and Call to Worship

including one or more Scripture sentences, in simple or responsive form
(suitable sentences include Psalm 95:1-2; Psalm 100:5; Isaiah 65:19,23a,24;

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Hymn or song

Prayers of Approach

Beginning with praise:

Loving God,
whose love we live to serve,
so that all the world may see the wonder of it:
take hold of us again as we worship here,
and give us the mind of Christ,
so that we may rediscover your presence in the community around us,
and recognise your Spirit at work in every act of human kindness,
in every plea for justice,
in every call to service,
and in every challenge to our complacency.

Take hold of us again,

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and by our faithfulness,

let your justice, joy and peace extend to more and more,

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may increase, to your glory and our delight,

now and for evermore.

All **Amen.**

Continuing with Confession:

Faithful God,
you called your Church into being
to proclaim your integrity to the world,
and to live in the truth of it.

All **Forgive our faithlessness,
and make our witness true.**

Loving God,
you called your Church into being
to assure the world of your unfailing love
and to live in the power of it.

All **Forgive our lovelessness,**

God of justice,
you called your Church into being
to serve your cause,
and to challenge prejudice and oppression.

All **Forgive our prejudice,**



Readings from Scripture

The following readings are appropriate:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Zechariah 8:1-8.

New Testament:

Matthew 5:1-16; Matthew 7:7-20; Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 4:21-32;
Luke 1:46-55; Luke 4:14-21; Luke 6:20-26

Statement by the Candidate

The candidate makes a brief statement about *their* call to this particular ministry.
The candidate makes a brief statement about *their* call to the Ministry of Church Related Community Work.

Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC

(URC Basis of Union, Schedule D)

This Statement is to be read aloud in one of the two prescribed forms.

VERSION II is printed here, however **VERSION I** may be used if preferred.

With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift
continually received through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

All **We acknowledge the gift and answer the call,
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible,
alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

All **We respond to this Word, whose servants we are
with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ
in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

All **Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union
in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe
contain the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;

to change the Basis of Union
and to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the living Christ.

**All Our crucified and risen Lord,
who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.
For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide

**All We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love
and grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church
a government distinct from the government of the state.

the Church is not subordinate to the state,
its only Ruler and Head.

Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

All While we ourselves are servants in the world



VERSION I

... N ... , do you confess anew your faith in one God,
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I do.

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

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I do.

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lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross,
and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore,

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Do you believe that through him
God's love, justice and mercy are revealed
and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life

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Do you promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community,

Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church
and to enable the church to live out its calling

to proclaim the love and mercy of God
through working with others in both church and community

By the grace of God, I do.

Do you promise

as a Church Related Community Worker 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

By the grace of God, I do.

Will you undertake to exercise your ministry

in accordance with the Statement concerning

I will, and all these things I profess and promise

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

or

VERSION II

**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.**

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**So far as I know my own heart,
I believe that zeal for the glory of God,**

Do you promise to pray for each other and for ... N ... ;
and do you promise to share with *them*
in seeking and doing the will of God,
to give *them* encouragement, consideration and support,

All **We do.**

According to circumstances, the presiding Minister may also invite representatives of other bodies to make a similar promise using suitable words.

Hymn of the Holy Spirit

(NOTE: At a Commissioning and Induction, this hymn is instead used earlier in

A possible hymn of the Holy Spirit is included on page a1.

Induction Prayer

The presiding Minister prays:

Eternal God, you have called us into the Church
and, in your Holy Spirit, we receive all the gifts we need.
We give thanks, today, because you have given ... N ...
the necessary gifts to challenge and encourage us
in our work within the community where we live.
As we receive and induct *them*
strengthen and encourage *them*
with the assurance of your presence, your purpose, and your power.
Energise *them* in *their* tasks of caring, of challenge, and of prayer;
bless *them* with resilience, imagination, and hope
in the discerning of your will for this community's well-being.
Here, and in the councils of the Church,
and in every place where community is found,
let doors and hearts be opened, through *their*
Give *them* joy in *their* ministry,
Watch over *them* in times of trial; in weariness, disappointment, or frustration;
and keep *them* from complacency and pride.
Fill *their* home with your peace.

(Special petitions may be added at this point)

Give to *them*, and to all of us,
 ever-deeper understanding of your ways in the world;
 keep *them*, and all of us,
 compassionate and courageous in engaging with other people,
 and labouring with all people of goodwill for justice and peace in society.
 Through ... N ... 's ministry here
 may all of us be more and more challenged and inspired to respond to human
 need;

and the strength to build a better community, at one with itself,
 Amen.

All

Declaration of [Commissioning and] Induction

The presiding Minister says:

and representing the ... X ... Synod of the United Reformed Church,
 I declare ... N ... to be [commissioned and] inducted
 to the Ministry of Church Related Community Work
 with ... Church-in-Community.

Signing of the CRCW Covenant

Copies of the Church Related Community Work Covenant are signed by the
 Church Related Community Worker and representatives of the Church-in-
 Community, the CRCW programme sub-committee, and the synod.

Welcome

The newly inducted CRCW is greeted by the presiding Minister and by others
 duly appointed, who may include representatives of the Church-in-Community,
 and of such local grouping or area of churches as may exist within the synod,
 as well as by ecumenical, civic and community representatives.

Giving of gifts

The Church Related Community Worker may be presented with gifts.

Prayers of Intercession

the Lord's Prayer (if not used earlier).

Prayer of Commitment

Help us, God, to trust you

Be there with us in every experience,

and give us what it takes to express your love for the world

in all our words and works.

Take us where you want us to go,

renewing our faith and hope, forgiving our sin,

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

All

Amen.

Hymn or Song

Dismissal and Blessing

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