

Commissioning of Locally Recognised Worship Leaders

Introduction

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Psalm 49:1-3

or

Come, listen, all who revere God, and I will tell you what the Most High has done in my life. My mouth cried to God, my tongue extolled the Eternal One. Blessed be the Most High who has not left undone my prayers nor removed loving kindness from me.

Psalm 66:16-17, 20

or

God, our Sovereign, has bestowed on me a disciple's tongue that I may discern how to help those who are tired and weary with a word. Each morning God rouses me and excites my ear to listen as a disciple.

Isaiah 50:4

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the only Head of the Church,

we are now to commission ... N ... as a Locally Recognised Worship Leader, who has been commended by the ... X ... Synod

to lead God's people in worship within this congregation/pastorate.

Statement by the Locally Recognised Worship Leader

The Worship Leader makes a statement concerning their faith and sense of calling.

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 such as the one below:

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.**

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
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

with all our fellow Christians,
for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses,
so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God
and praise him more and more for ever.

All **Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is:
to God be eternal glory.
Amen.**

A f r mations

The congregation is invited to stand as the presiding Minister asks the

In the light of this Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the



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

I do.

Do you promise as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, unity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always so far as you are able to

I do.

Do you promise as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, unity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always so far as you are able to

By the grace of God I do, and all these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The presiding Minister asks the congregation:

Do you, the members of this local church/pastorate receive ... N ... as a Worship Leader and promise *them* your prayerful support and encouragement

All We do.

Commissioning

O Most High,

in worship you proclaimed good news for the poor,

All May we find meaning in the music of Your praise.

O Risen Saviour,

in worship you proclaimed good news for the poor,

freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind, and liberation for the oppressed;

All may we find strength to follow and proclaim your message.

Most Holy Spirit,

in worship you speak to and empower us,

in silence and song, in laughter and listening;

All may we find strength to live as committed disciples.

We give thanks today for ... N ... ,

whom you have called to lead Your people in worship,

and in your name we commission *them*

to be a Locally Recognised Worship Leader to minister in this congregation/pastorate.

Inspire *them* with your Holy Spirit
 so that *they* and always seek deeper understanding of the worship they lead.
 Sustain *them* in *their*
 Keep *them* humble, but make *them* aware of what *they* bring
 to the life and well-being of the Church, as,
 through *their* leading of worship Your people are strengthened.
 Keep *them* ever hopeful and ever joyful.

All Bring ... N ... and all of us at the last
 to full maturity in Christ, in whose name we pray.
 Amen.

Declaration

the only Head of the Church,
 and in accordance with the decision of the Synod,
 of Locally Recognised Worship Leader in this church/pastorate

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Presentation

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The service concludes with the Lord's Supper; a prayer for this is included on
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