

REVIEW OF SYNOD MODERATOR'S JOB DESCRIPTION INCLUDING ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ECUMENICAL WORK OF THE SYNOD

Review Group Report to Spring Synod Together 11 March 2017

Proposed Synod Moderator's Job 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.

Responsibilities and Duties

Synod

1. To play a key role in developing and realising the synod's vision and strategy through the implementation of the Synod Mission Criteria by offering theological insight, having a clear awareness of priorities, and facilitating open discussion within the synod to produce realistic and agreed objectives.
2. To have overall responsibility for ecumenical arrangements in the synod and to encourage ecumenical commitment and endeavour across the synod.
3. To encourage the Church's engagement with public issues.
4. 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.
5. To work collaboratively with synod officers/committees to facilitate clarity about priorities and to encourage creativity and new ideas about being church; to be ex-officio member to all synod committees and task groups.
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 Officer, Training Development Officer, CYDO and Ecumenical Officers
9. To take time for personal reading, reflection, envisioning, prayer and preparation.

Churches

10. To work collaboratively to encourage local churches and partnerships to engage in strategies leading to health, growth, learning and renewal.
11. To ensure the development and implementation of an appropriate strategy for the deployment of stipendiary ministers/CRCWs within the synod's agreed allocation.
12. To visit and provide strategic encouragement to pastorates in vacancy, to suggest names of ministers and CRCWs 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.
13. 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.
14. To visit and lead worship at churches within the synod.

People

15. To ensure active encouragement and support for the spiritual growth, renewal and Christian service of church members of all ages.
16. To meet with ministerial candidates and provide them with procedural guidance.
17. To provide supportive oversight and pastoral care to serving ministers, CRCWs and their families both personally and through the establishment of collegial teams.
18. To have overall responsibility for ensuring, with Synod/United Area Pastoral Committees that the Synod is pastorally effective towards Ministers/CRCWs, Local Church Leaders, Retired Ministers, Minister's widows/widowers and churches
19. To act as an adviser in the URC's provision of support services to ministers and CRCWs (e.g. long term sickness arrangements, welfare, retirement processes).
20. To encourage ministers and CRCWs in spiritual growth and development at all stages in their ministry, in partnership with those responsible for their self-appraisal and ongoing development.
21. To fulfill the responsibilities ascribed to the synod moderator under the Ministerial Disciplinary process and the Incapacity procedure.

Wider Engagement

22. To participate as a member of Mission Council and the General Assembly.
23. To represent the synod to the wider church and the wider church to the synod.
24. To take a full part in the moderators' meeting.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. To be involved in and to encourage Christian unity within the Synod and to work for peace between faith communities.