

ABOUT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

We are a family of Christians, worshipping in the name of Jesus in about 1500 local churches from Orkney to Cornwall.

'Reformed' means that we delight in the Bible, we do not fear change, and we try to run our churches in ways that take everyone's insight and contribution seriously.

'United' is an important part of our story. We started when English Presbyterians merged with English and Welsh Congregationalists in 1972. Churches of Christ joined in 1981 and Scottish Congregationalists in 2000. The United Reformed Church is, therefore, a Church in three Nations – England, Scotland and Wales. The churches are administered at a regional level through 13 Synods. Synods are regional administrative groupings of churches.

And we are one **'Church'**. We aim to grow through supporting one another and taking decisions together.

The United Reformed Church commits itself to an intercultural journey of embodying God's love, living out God's word, promoting God's justice, and practicing expansive hospitality, the Jesus way—locally and internationally.

The United Reformed Church combines its commitment to the Reformed tradition with a passionate belief that all God's people should be one. It rejoices in being part of more than 400 Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

Worldwide, more than 70 million Christians are members of the Reformed family of churches. They uphold the historic Trinitarian creeds of the church universal and find the supreme authority for their lives in the Word of God in the Bible, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They order their lives through councils of the church, where ministers and lay people together seek the mind of Christ.

Our people hold a range of opinions about theology and church life; the valuing of different insights helps the church understand the wonder of God. In the words of the denominations Statement of Nature, Faith and Order (1990) together we are firmly committed to 'God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.'

We still work as closely as we can with Christians of all traditions and styles. All our tasks and posts are open to women as fully as to men.

Further information can be obtained from the United Reformed Church's website www.urc.org.uk