

LAY PREACHERS: Pathway to becoming a Synod Recognised Lay Preacher

INTRODUCTION

God gives every believer spiritual gifts to be used as effectively as possible in the work of His Kingdom. Lay preaching is one way a person, with the relevant gifts, can serve.

Our aim should not be to simply engage folk in a “*process*”, but to enable, equip & envision men & women to become lay preachers who will make a dynamic difference for the Kingdom of God.

Lay Preaching is not a “*job to do*”, but a calling on our lives which should **excite us** with a **passion** to see God’s people built up to become all God has designed them to be, ready to live for the Lord & serve Him wholeheartedly every day of their lives. Two questions are vitally important:

- a. Has God called me?
- b. Do I have the Spiritual gifts for this ministry?

Someone may not be totally sure this is how God is leading them, therefore the following pathway becomes a further test of that call.

STEP 1: Recommendation by the local Church

STEP 2: Allocation of a Mentor

STEP 3: Fulfil a process of study and equipping

STEP 4: Final assessment

* * * * *

STEP 1: Recommendation by the local Church. Being recommended for lay preaching by a person’s local church is a really important part of discerning a call. This helps to ensure that only appropriate and properly motivated people pursue this path.

STEP 2: Allocation of a Mentor. The New Testament presents many examples of this model, whereby an experienced, recognised leader, takes an “Apprentice” under his / her wing. The Apprentice spends time with their Mentor, watching, listening and learning from the experience.

From the outset of preparation, someone who believes God is calling them to be a Lay Preacher will be linked with a Mentor who is dynamic & enthusiastic, a really positive role model. Normally this will be a minister or lay preacher, & the two will enter into an agreed Apprentice / Mentor relationship. In the first instance, the Apprentice will watch & learn from the Mentor, however as time passes, the Mentor will allocate tasks to the Apprentice, giving increased opportunities to participate in services. At every step of the journey, there will be opportunity for questions and reflection on what has been done and why.

STEP 3: Fulfil a Process of Study and Equipping.

From 2018 the studies for Southern Synod Lay Preaching recognition will be a new 8 session course, held on a monthly basis.

STEP 4: Final Assessment. Having completed the modules, the Apprentice will take a service which will be assessed by a group of people which will normally include a representative from the Lay Preachers Co-ordinators Group plus a representative from the Synod Area Committee.

A successful outcome will mean the person is formally appointed as a Synod Recognised Lay Preacher and an act of commissioning will take place at their local church. Recognition will also take place at the following Synod Together meeting with the presentation of a certificate by the Moderator.

Rev Andy Twilley
Training and Development Officer
training@urcsouthern.org.uk
07552 751600