**Southern Synod**



LAY PREACHERS: Pathway to becoming a Locally Recognised Worship Leader (previously called 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. **The role** entails leading worship and preaching. This may focus on a person’s own church, whilst others will be willing to serve churches across Synod, if invited to do so. A Locally Recognised Worship Leader is also authorised to preside at the sacraments if they have successfully completed the sacraments course.

Our aim is not 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 a person’s life which should ***excite them*** 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. In discerning this calling, two questions are vitally important:

1. Has God called this person?
2. Do they have the Spiritual gifts for this ministry?

The following pathway becomes the testing of this potential call.

**STEP 1: Initial interest & Recommendation by the local church**

**STEP 2: Allocation of a Mentor & Training**

# STEP 3: Assessment

**STEP 4: Commissioning**

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**STEP 1: INITIAL INTEREST & 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. After an informal interview discussion with the minister (or appropriate alternative Church leader) the potential candidate will need approval by a Church meeting, a DBS check carried out and an application from completed. This is then sent to the Training Officer.

**STEP 2: ALLOCATION OF A MENTOR & TRAINING.** The training officer in discussion with the delegate and their minister / LCL will appoint a mentor to journey with the person from the outset of preparation. The Mentor would normally be a dynamic & enthusiastic minister or lay preacher who would act as a positive role model, & the two will enter into an agreed Apprentice/ Mentor relationship. The Apprentice will watch & learn from the Mentor and increasingly be provided with 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.

The training officer will run the Locally Recognised Worship Leader Course consisting of 8 sessions on a monthly basis.

# STEP 3: ASSESSMENT

Having completed the 8 modules, the Apprentice will have the option of taking an assessed service if they (and their mentor) believe they are ready to do so. This is organised by the Lay Preaching Advocate in discussion with the relevant Lay Preaching Area Co-Ordinator and would take place at a church other than the person’s home church. Three people are part of an assessment panel and these would normally include a minister, (or LCL) a Recognised / Accredited Worship leader / Lay Preacher and a member of the congregation.

# STEP 4: COMMISSIONING

A successful outcome will mean the person is subsequently commissioned as a Locally Recognised Worship Leader. This is instigated by the Lay Preaching Advocate in discussion with the minister / LCL and takes place at the person’s own church. Recognition will also be given 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*

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