Commissioning for Church Related Community Workers

A meeting of the synod shall be constituted. The Moderator of the Synod (or their deputy) shall be invited by the synod to preside. The Commissioning shall normally be held in the church-in-community where the Church Related Community Worker is to serve. It should be adapted to local circumstances, with opportunities for participation by those who will work with the Church Related Community Worker. If desired the Lord’s Supper may be celebrated after the prayers of intercession.

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# The preparation

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

*All* **let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

*All* **let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.**

## Scripture sentences

Psalm 95:1-2

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,

*All* **and his faithfulness to all generations.**

or

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people;

*All* **no more shall the sound of weeping be heard or the cry of distress.**

They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity.

*All* **Before they call I will answer,**

**while they are yet speaking I will hear.**

or

Thus says the Lord; I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem;

*All* **old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem.**

**And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing.**

or

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,

*All* **coming down out of heaven from God.**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

*All* **See, the home of God is among mortals.**

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,

*All* **and God himself will be with them.**

Psalm 100:5

Isaiah 65:19, 23a, 24

Zechariah 8:3a, 4a, 5

Revelation 21:2a, 3

## Hymn or song

Loving God,

whose love we live to serve,

so that all the world may see the wonder of it, take hold of us again as we worship here, and give us the mind of Christ,

so that we may rediscover your presence in the community around us,

and recognise your Spirit at work in every act of human kindness, in every plea for justice,

in every call to service

and in every challenge to our complacency. Take hold of us again,

fill us with love for each other

and our neighbours, and by our faithfulness,

let your justice, joy and peace extend to more and more,

so that the thanks and praise we offer now

may increase,

to your glory and our delight, now and for evermore.

*All* **Amen.**

Faithful God,

you called your Church into being

to proclaim your integrity to the world, and to live in the truth of it.

*All* **Forgive our faithlessness, and make our witness true.**

Loving God,

you called your Church into being

to assure the world of your unfailing love and to live in the power of it.

*All* **Forgive our lovelessness,**

## Prayer of Approach

**Prayer of Confession**

**and give us grace to love our neighbours as you, in Christ, have loved us.**

God of justice,

you called your Church into being to serve your cause,

and to challenge prejudice and oppression.

*All* **Forgive our prejudice,**

**and our hardness of heart;**

**fill us with compassion**

**and make us merciful.**

God of peace,

you called your Church into being

to teach the world the things that make for peace.

*All* **Forgive our enmity and bitterness, make us truly your daughters and sons and makers of peace,**

**with Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The saying is sure

and worthy of full acceptance:

*All* **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

**Thanks be to God**

**who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

We are met today as the ... XY ... Synod of the United Reformed Church,

with the members of ... church-in-community, representatives of ... and other friends.

All Christians are called to the duty and delight of continuing the ministry of Christ

in the Church and for the world.

Some are called to the ministry of Church Related Community Work,

challenging the community while caring and praying for it, so the Church can proclaim the love and mercy of God and can work with others for peace and justice.

... N ... was accepted by the United Reformed Church as a candidate for this ministry

has been prepared for commissioning by ... *college/course,*

commended for commissioning by ... *sending synod* and has been called to serve here by decision of ... *CRCW Covenant partners.*

or

... N ... has served as a Church Related Community Worker in ... AB ... for the past ... years

and has been called to serve here by decision of ...

*CRCW Covenant partners.*

**Statement**

# The Ministry of the Word

## Readings from Scripture

The following readings are appropriate:

*Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):*

Deuteronomy 15:1-11; Psalm 15; Isaiah 58:1-12;

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Zechariah 8:1-8

*New Testament:*

Matthew 5:1-16; Matthew 7:7-20; Matthew 19:16-30;

Mark 4:21-32; Luke 1:46-55; Luke 6:20-31; Luke 14:7-14;

John 4:5-15, 21-30, 39-42; Philippians 2:1-11; Revelation 21:1-7

**Sermon**

**Hymn or song**

# Commissioning and Induction

## Presentation of the candidate

An appropriate person may present the candidate to the presiding Minister in these or similar words:

Moderator, I present ... N ... to you, for commissioning and induction.

## Statement by the church-in-community

In the case of an ecumenical appointment this statement should include contributions from ecumenical partners.

## Statement by the candidate

The candidate makes a brief statement about their call to this particular ministry. In the case of a first commissioning this should include their call to the ministry of Church Related Community Work.

**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.

## Affirmations

All stand as the presiding Minister asks the Church Related Community Worker

to affirm their faith.

1. ... N ... , will you confess anew your faith?

**I confess anew my faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**I 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 the faith**

**and conduct of all God’s people.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead**

**and reigns for evermore,**

**is the gift of God’s very self to the world. I believe that through him God’s love, justice and mercy are revealed**

**and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life**

**are offered to all people.**

**And by the grace of God**

**I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully. I believe that the Church is the people gathered by God’s love**

**to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ.**

1. What leads you to this ministry?

So far as I know my own heart,

I believe that zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Holy Spirit

and a desire for the salvation of the world, are the chief motives

which lead me to enter this ministry. Relying on the strength of Christ,

I promise to live a holy life,

and to maintain the truth of the gospel, whatever trouble or persecution may arise.

1. Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?

**By the grace of God, I promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God’s will**

**for the wellbeing of the community.**

**I promise to take my part in the councils of the Church and to endeavour to enable the Church**

**to live out its calling**

**to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others**

**in both Church and community for peace and justice in the world.**

**As a Church Related Community Worker of the United Reformed Church**

**I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches,**

**and always to build up**

**the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I undertake to exercise my ministry in accordance with the Statement**

**concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church.**

**All these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

or the affirmations may be made in this way:

* 1. ... N ... , do you confess anew your faith in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

* 1. 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 the faith and conduct of all God’s people?

**I do.**

* 1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross,

and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore,

is the gift of God’s very self to the world?

Do you believe that through him

God’s love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people?

And will you faithfully proclaim this gospel?

**By the grace of God this I believe and this I will proclaim.**

* 1. Do you believe that the Church

is the people gathered by God’s love

to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God

through Jesus Christ?

**I do.**

* 1. Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Holy Spirit

and a desire for the salvation of the world, so far as you know your own heart,

the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?

**They are.**

* 1. Do you promise to live a holy life,

and to maintain the truth of the gospel,

whatever trouble or persecution may arise?

**Relying on the strength of Christ, I do.**

* 1. Do you promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community,

to discern with others God’s will

for the wellbeing of the community?

Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church

and to enable the Church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God

through working with others in both Church and community

for peace and justice in the world?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

* 1. Do you promise as a Church Related Community Worker in the United Reformed Church

to seek its well-being, purity and peace,

to cherish love towards all other churches, and to endeavour always to build up

the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

Will you undertake to exercise your ministry in accordance with the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order

of the United Reformed Church?

**I will, and all these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## Promises

The presiding Minister asks members of the church-in-community and representatives of the synod to respond to the following questions:

Do you confess again your faith in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**We do.**

Do you receive ... N ... as from God, to serve among you here

and with you in the world?

**We do.**

Do you promise to pray for each other and for ... N ... ; and do you promise to share with *them*

in seeking and doing the will of God,

to give them encouragement, consideration and support,

so that you grow together in faith, hope and love?

**We do.**

## Hymn of the Holy Spirit

**Commissioning prayer**

The congregation remains standing for the commissioning prayer.

Eternal God, you have called us into the Church

to proclaim the gospel and make it effective in the world;

and, in your Holy Spirit, we receive all the gifts we need.

We give thanks, today, because you have given ... N ... the necessary gifts to challenge and encourage us

in our work within the community where we live. As we receive *them* in the name of Jesus Christ, and as we commission *them* to your service here, strengthen and encourage *them*

with the assurance of your Holy Spirit’s constant presence, so that *they* may face the future, with all its responsibilities, calmly and confidently but also with excitement and joy.

Give *them* ever deeper understanding of your ways with the world,

keep *them* compassionate and courageous in all *their* dealings with other people,

so that *they* may discover

their infinite value as your daughters and sons.

Through *their* ministry

may all of us be more and more challenged and inspired to respond to human need;

that our work and prayer might help all to find their voice

and the strength to build a better community, at one with itself,

in the peace and joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Declaration of Commissioning and Induction

The presiding Minister says:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and representing the ... XY ... Synod of the United Reformed Church,

I declare ... N ... to be commissioned and inducted

to the ministry of Church Related Community Worker to work with ... church-in-community

and ... XY ... Synod:

## Signing of the CRCW covenant

Five copies of the Church Related Community Work covenant are signed by the Church Related Community Worker and representatives of the church-in- community, the CRCW programme sub-committee and the synod.

## Welcome

The right hand of fellowship is given by the presiding Minister and others duly appointed, who may include the church-in-community, the synod and the General Assembly as well as ecumenical, civic and community representatives.

## Giving of gifts

The Church Related Community Worker may be presented with gifts.

## Prayers of Intercession

These may be offered by someone from the church-in-community and end with

the Lord’s prayer (if not used earlier).

Help us, God, to trust you

and to find your purpose

in everything that happens to us.

Be there with us in every experience, speak to us through other people, and give us what it takes

to express your love for the world in all our words and works.

Take us where you want us to go, renewing our faith and hope, forgiving our sin,

perfecting our praise

and filling us with confidence,

so that your name may be glorified in us

as it has been already and will be for ever

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Go to the world again in confidence;

play your part in God’s creation and never lose heart.

Put your faith in the risen Christ, who will match his stride to yours until your journey’s end.

And the blessing of the Eternal God,

**Prayer of commitment**

**Hymn or song**

**Dismissal and blessing**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, *(Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit)*

be with you all.

*All* **Amen.**