



# Safer Recruitment of Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lay preachers are an integral part of the church. Along with the other recognized ministries in the United reformed Church, Lay preaching affirms that ministry is the work of the whole people of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ continues his ministry in and through the church, the whole people of God called and committed to his service . For the equipment of his people for this total ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ gives particular gifts, and calls some of his servants to exercise them in offices duly recognised within

Schedule A paragraph 19 and 20 (page 6) of The Basis of Union  
[https://urc.org.uk/images/the\\_manual/A\\_The\\_Basis\\_of\\_union\\_23\\_01\\_2020.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/the_manual/A_The_Basis_of_union_23_01_2020.pdf)

- 1.2 Among the offices so recognised by the United Reformed Church is that of a lay preacher.

The worship of the local church is an expression of the worship of the whole people of God. In order that this may be clearly seen, the United Reformed Church shall (a) take steps to ensure that so far as possible ordained ministers of the Word and sacraments are readily available to every local church; (b) provide for the training of suitable men and women, members of the United Reformed Church, to be accredited by synods as lay preachers.

Schedule A paragraph 25 (page 6) of The Basis of Union  
[https://urc.org.uk/images/the\\_manual/A\\_The\\_Basis\\_of\\_union\\_23\\_01\\_2020.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/the_manual/A_The_Basis_of_union_23_01_2020.pdf)

- 1.3 The provisions of paragraph 25 are intended to establish the principle that worship should be led by representative persons recognised by the wider church as well as by the local church.

to do and to bear his will all the days of their life.

a)

can be found at [https://urc.org.uk/images/the\\_manual/B-The\\_Manual\\_-\\_Section\\_B-2019.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/the_manual/B-The_Manual_-_Section_B-2019.pdf)

## **2. Safer Recruitment**

- 2.1** The United Reformed Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all within our church communities. The United Reformed Church recognises the importance of carefully selecting, training and supporting all those with any responsibility within the Church.
  
- 2.2** Those thinking of becoming an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher should, where possible,
  - a)