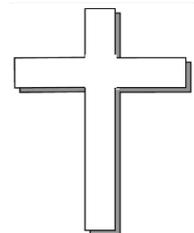




The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD COUNCIL

Lay Ministry



Your guide to the role and responsibilities of this Synod Council Group

New ways of supporting our Synod Mission in a rapidly changing world

What is the Lay Ministry Group?

The Lay Ministry Group is a new group which takes over some of the things currently done in other parts of the synod structure. It is a key member of Synod Council and is authorised by the council to provide oversight and support for the many varieties of lay ministry exercised in our local churches and the wider church.

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

The group is based on the belief that the risen Christ equips his people for ministry, mission and service. With the significant decline in the number of Ministers of Word and Sacraments this group is responsible for helping people to discover and exercise their gifts. It will be the first port of call for individuals and churches seeking help and advice for any form of lay ministry.

What are its primary responsibilities?

Through networkers and local enablers the group will develop an overview of, and develop a plan for, lay ministry in the Synod

- Advocating and promoting various ministries with information about what they might entail
- Accreditation and mentoring of Synod Recognised Lay Preachers
- Supporting and mentoring Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers
- Authorisation of those presiding at communion
- Supporting those in any kind of lay ministry
- Helping people to discern their call and gifting
- Sharing good practice and bringing people together who exercise similar ministries
- Promoting courses including Training for Learning and Service (TLS) and Stepwise
- Liaising with Training and Development to ensure that people receive appropriate training

Who are the members of the group?

- A Synod-appointed convenor will lead the group
- Networkers will be appointed to specific areas of the synod
- Each church will appoint a local enabler who will provide the link between the church and the area networkers
- The group will be responsible for filling its own vacancies, in accordance with Safer Recruitment

Who will attend the Lay Ministries meeting?

This is a new group which will develop its own way of working.

In addition to the convenor and networkers, membership could include one or more TLS supervisors, the Stepwise Co-ordinator, Lay Preaching Commissioner, a representative of the Training and Development Group, and people doing various kinds of lay ministry. Those with specific expertise will be invited to attend when necessary.

Examples of ministries the group will support:

Elders	Church Officers
Children & Youth workers	Music leaders
Lay Preachers	Communion Presidents
Worship leaders	Pastoral Visitors
Synod roles	Denominational roles
I.T. technicians	Leaders in local churches
House Group/Bible Study leaders	Pioneer Ministries

The group also aims to support those looking for help in Christian living in daily life.

If your church has some other kind of lay ministry, let the group know; it could be good news for other churches.

What are the key links with other areas of the Synod?

The Training and Development Group

- For all elements of lay ministry identify the training and development needs.

The Ordained Ministries Group

- Where the exploration of a call leads to a call to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.

Children and Youth

- When Lay Ministry is in the area of Children's and Youth Work.

Resourced Focus Groups - Mission

- When any given piece of Lay Ministry work is focused on Mission or Evangelism.

How can I get involved?

Think about becoming a lay ministry enabler and say "Yes" if approached by your church! This is a vital role which is increasing in importance as we plan for 2025. It also offers great job satisfaction.

This leaflet is produced by the Synod Structures and Priorities Review Group, who will be providing a series of leaflets about the new Synod Council and its supporting functions to assist you in understanding the changes.

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