

Ordination and Induction of Ministers of Word and Sacraments

A meeting of the synod, the ordaining body in the United Reformed Church,

The preparation

The congregation stands as the Bible is brought into the church and placed open upon the lectern, pulpit or Communion table.

Greeting

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith,
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Grace be with all who have an undying love
for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 6:23-24

or

Grace to you and peace from him who is
and who was and who is to come.

Revelation 1:4b

Scripture sentences

Christ is the image of the in- f. -

For the wonders of creation and the beauty of this earth

All **Creator God, we praise you.**

For your gift beyond words in Jesus Christ

All **redeeming God, we praise you.**

For the call to follow and the grace to serve

All **living God, we praise you.**

Let us confess our sin:

for our abuse of your creation

All **Lord, forgive us;**

for our divisions within the one body of Christ

All **Lord, forgive us;**

for our neglect of the gifts of the Spirit

All **Lord, forgive us.**

or

Gracious God,

you call us to be the body of Christ,

yet we often fail in our vocation.

While Christ proclaimed truth, we obscure it.

Though Christ prayed for the unity of all, we remain divided.

While Christ touched the sick and blessed the poor,

we shrink from the demands of justice.

Forgive us. Conform us to Christ.

May all that we do arise from our unity in him,

and may his Spirit renew us,

so that the world might come to believe.

All **Amen.**

In repentance and in faith hear the promise of grace
and the assurance of pardon:

Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself

all things, whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:20

Jesus says: Your sins are forgiven.

Mark 2:5b

He also says: Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Amen.

John 21:15b, 16b, 19b

A prayer for grace may be said such as:

God, the source of every perfect gift:
in Jesus Christ you have given us
your life to redeem us,
your word for our wisdom,
your grace for our guide.
Enter and possess our hearts,
to dwell with us always,
one God, now and for ever.

All

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
we have come to ordain ... N ...
to the ministry of Word and Sacraments
and to induct *them* to exercise this ministry in ...
... N ... was accepted as a candidate
by the United Reformed Church,
has been prepared for ordination by ...
and is commended for ordination by the ... *sending synod*.
... N ... has been called to exercise this ministry in ...
by decision of the church meeting(s) of ...
(*by the appointing body of ...* ,)
with the concurrence of the ... XY ... Synod.

The Ministry of the Word

Readings from Scripture

The following readings are appropriate:

Exodus 33:12-14; Deuteronomy 30:11-20; 1 Kings 19:1-21;
Nehemiah 8:1-12; Isaiah 6:1-8; 49:1-6; 52:7-10; 55:1-13;
61:1-4; Jeremiah 1:4-10.

Matthew 5:1-12; Mark 3:13-19; 6:30-44; 10:35-45;
Luke 4:14-21; 10:1-11; John 13:1-17; 15:1-17; 21:15-19.
Acts 20:17-38; Romans 10:5-15; 12:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13;
2 Corinthians 4:1-15; Ephesians 3:8-21; 4:1-16;
Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Peter 4:8-11; 5:1-4.

The following response may be used after each reading

Hear the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn or song

The Ordination and Induction

Presentation of the candidate

The interim moderator may present the candidate to the presiding Minister with these or similar words:

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

Statement by the Ordinand

The ordinand makes a brief statement about their call to the ministry of Word and Sacraments and to the particular ministry into which they will be inducted.

Narrative of the call

We now hear a statement on behalf of the synod,
outlining the steps which have led to this call.

We shall hear how the congregation(s) of ...
called ... N ... to be Minister.

(We shall hear how ... N ... was appointed

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2. 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.**

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

The presiding Minister (after appropriate consultation) may modify the wording of the following answer (or of question 7 below) to fit the kind of ministry to which the candidate has been called.

**By the grace of God
I promise to lead the church in worship,
to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments,
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,
to take my part in the councils of the Church,
and to give leadership to the Church
in mission to the world.
As a minister of the United Reformed Church
I promise 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.
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.

2. 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.

3.

And may the good work you have begun today
be brought to completion in Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you, Father,
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever.

All **Amen.**

Declaration of Ordination 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 ordained
to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments
within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
and to be inducted to ...

May the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do his will,
working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Hebrews 13:20-21

or

Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21

Welcome

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

Giving of gifts

The newly-ordained Minister may be presented with symbolic gifts, for example:

Receive this Bible,
All **the word of God, living and active.** Hebrews 4:12a

Receive this cup and plate,
All **to hold bread and wine
for the feeding of God's people.**

Receive this water,
All **symbol of baptism and sign of new life.**

Prayers of Intercession

These prayers may be spoken by different voices and may end with the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn or song

Dismissal and blessing

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish
in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Saviour,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power and authority,
before all time, now and for ever.

All **Amen.** Jude: 24-25

or

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, (Creator, Christ and Comforter)
be with you always.

All **Amen.**