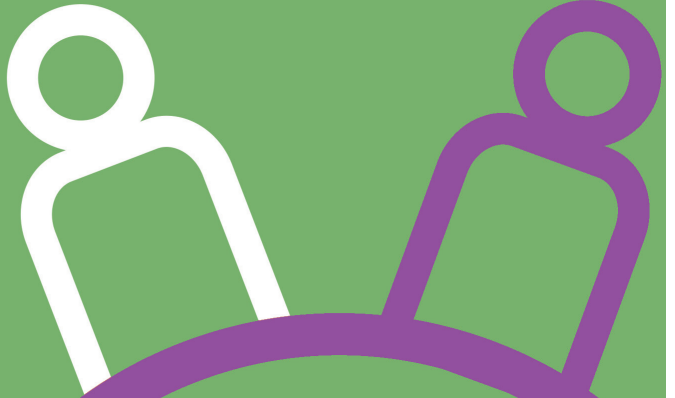




The
United
Reformed
Church



They've asked me to be a
**Church Related
Community
Worker**

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'Particular gifts for a particular ministry'

Church Related Community Work (CRCW) in the United Reformed Church (URC) is a vital part of the ministry of the whole people of God and is based on a vision of the Church as an agent of social change.

The ministry of CRCW was formally recognised by the URC General Assembly in 1987 as a distinctive ministry with equal status to the ministry of Word and Sacraments. Mission Council decisions in 1998 and 2003 extended the CRCW programme to include CRCWs across Scotland, Wales and England, with at least two CRCW posts in every Synod.



'Community Work is about bringing people together, helping them to identify their own problems and opportunities, mobilising people and resources for change [and] implementing a programme of action'

The URC Handbook for CRCW and Local Pastorates

Church Related Community Work ...

- recognises where the Gospel is lived out by people and communities, even if they do not use the name of God
- involves commitment to justice and peace and is not afraid of costly involvement with people
- often happens among people who are disadvantaged, for example by poverty, poor health, limited education and job opportunities and broken social networks
- involves working with individuals and community groups, residents' and housing associations, schools, voluntary and statutory organisations
- happens when CRCWs are commissioned to a church, Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) or group of churches that has been accredited as a CRCW project



- challenges the church to engage with, and to reflect theologically, on local community work so that community development goals are brought into its own life – its order, outreach, worship, mission and ministry.

Who can become a Church Related Community Worker?

- Anyone who has been a URC member for at least two years and who believes that God is calling them to this ministry.
- Those with experience of community development work – prior professional training is not essential.
- Those willing to work in partnership with individuals, congregations, Elders and Ministers of Word and



Sacraments, to help the church become more involved with its neighbourhood.

- Experienced individuals from other denominations can apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to become a CRCW.
- Prospective candidates should discuss their interest with their local church and minister then contact the CRCW Development Worker at United Reformed Church House (details overleaf).

“Our prime purpose in life is to help others.”

Dalai Lama XIV

Training

- CRCW students study at Northern College, Manchester, which is part of the ecumenical Partnership for Theological Education. Although Northern College is the training centre, CRCWs in training do not have to move to Manchester to study.
- Students spend a minimum of eight-twelve hours per week on a placement – within reasonable reach of their home where possible.
- Modules in the first two years are delivered largely in blocks over extended weekends. Modules combine community development learning with contextual theology.

- Graduates of the four-year course receive a foundation degree (FdA) or BTh, accredited by the University of Chester.
- The United Reformed Church normally pays student fees and may provide a maintenance grant.
- The course is endorsed by the England Standards Board for Community Development Training.

Remuneration

The 'terms of settlement' are equal to those for ordained ministers of Word and Sacraments.

Qualified stipendiary CRCW ministers receive a stipend and pension; housing is provided in a manse or a housing allowance is paid. Non-stipendiary CRCW ministers may receive a salary 'from other sources' or work on a voluntary basis.

**"Mission is not just something that the church does;
it is something that is done by the Spirit."**

*The Rt Revd Lesslie Newbigin, Moderator of the
United Reformed Church General Assembly, 1978-1979*

We currently have CRCW projects in:

Blackburn, Bolton, Chelmsford, Chorley, Coventry, Derby, Devon, Doncaster, Essex, Glasgow, Huddersfield, London, Luton, Manchester, Northampton, Sheffield, Somerset, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland and Swansea.

For further information:

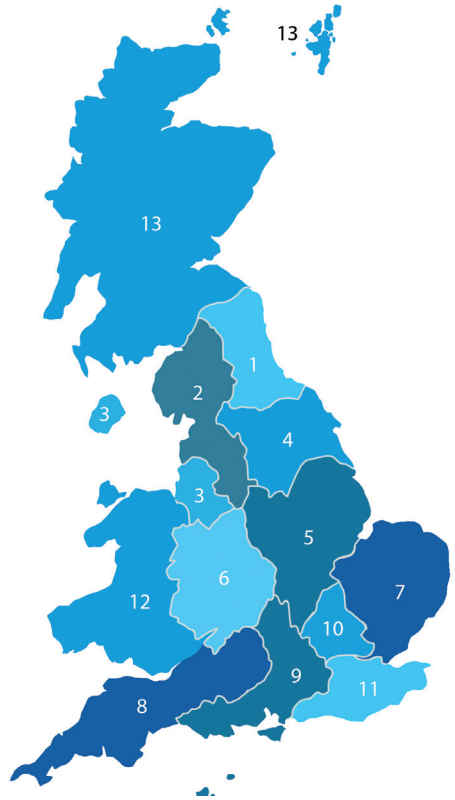
Please contact your synod office or the CRCW Development Worker.

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www.twitter.com/CRCWteam
www.urc.org.uk/ministries



This is one of a series of booklets designed to give information to those who have been asked to consider taking on a role in the United Reformed Church.

The booklets can be read and downloaded at www.urc.org.uk/ask



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