

Paper D-H1

The process for becoming a Locally Recognised Worship Leader or an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher

Education and Learning and Ministries Committees

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Alan Yates alan.yates@urc.org.uk Paul Whittle moderator@urcscotland.org.uk
Action required	For information.
Draft resolution(s)	None.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	Following on from paper H1 and H2 at Mission Council March 2021, this paper details the process for those who wish to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader or Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher.
Main points	Appendix 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sets out the different processes for Locally Recognised Worship Leader or Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher.2. Puts in place measures to ensure best practice for supporting those who wish to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader or an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher.
Previous relevant documents	Paper H1 (Mission Council March 2021) Paper H2 (Mission Council March 2021).
Consultation has taken place with...	Lay Preaching Commissioners / Advocates.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None.

Introduction

1. The Education and Learning and Ministries Committees reassured Mission Council at its meeting in March 2021 that a third paper would be brought to General Assembly detailing the process for embarking on learning and training to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader (LRWL) or Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher (AALP).
2. Whilst recognising worship leading and lay preaching as a ministry, the major addition to the previous process is the introduction of an application form, a church meeting reference form, the minister reference form and a personal reference form, as well as a DBS check, to be completed prior to the start of training. This is in keeping with a safer recruitment process for other roles.
3. The process in Appendix One outlines the expected routes for becoming a Locally Recognised Worship Leader or an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher.

Appendix One

The process to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader

1. The candidate approaches their minister / interim moderator to indicate they are interested in worship leading and / or lay preaching.
2. The candidate contacts the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner.
3. The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner sends out
 - a) The application form
 - b) Minister's reference form (or IM or Elder)
 - c) Church Meeting reference form
 - d) One other personal reference form
 - e) An outline of the process.
4. The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner receives the application and additional paperwork. If all in order for LRWL:
 - 4.1 The Lay Preaching Commissioner passes the name of the candidate onto the Synod Training Officer (or equivalent) and puts in place a mentor to reflect with them and offer support.
 - 4.2 A DBS is sought through the local church and checked by the Ministries Office.
 - 4.3 The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner brings the name of the candidate to the appropriate Synod Committee them to undertake either:
 - 4.3.1 a) Stepwise Faith Filled life and Faith Filled Worship,
 - b) a portfolioor
 - 4.3.2 an approved synod course.
5. The candidate embarks on
 - a) Stepwise (Faith Filled Life and Faith Filled Worship) or

- b) relevant synod course for Locally Recognised Worship Leaders.
6. On completion of the course for LRWL:
- 6.1 The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner brings the name of the candidate to the appropriate committee, having checked they have completed all the necessary steps for completion including a final presentation or 1,000-word essay from a list of topics and an assessed service.
 - 6.2 The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner will inform the Ministries Office, who will send the relevant documentation to the candidate and to the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner for completion.
 - 6.3 The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner organises with the candidate and the minister / interim moderator a commissioning service marking their start as an LRWL.

The process to become an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher

- 1. The candidate approaches their minister / interim moderator to indicate they are interested in worship leading and / or lay preaching.
- 2. The candidate contacts the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner.
- 3. The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner sends out:
 - f) the application form
 - g) Minister's reference form (or IM or Elder)
 - h) Church Meeting reference form
 - i) One other personal reference form
 - j) An outline of the process.
- 4. The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner receives the application and additional paperwork. If all in order for AALP:
 - a) The Lay Preaching commissioner sends the forms outlined in 3. for AALP to the Ministries Office for the candidate to be enrolled into the appropriate RCL
 - b) A DBS is sought through the local church and checked by the Ministries Office
 - c) The synod offers a mentor arrange by the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner / advocate
 - a) Reflect with them on their course
 - b) Be present when they lead worship (parts of worship) and feed back to them
 - c) Reflect on extracts from journal with student to help them develop as reflective practitioners
 - d) The candidate attends the course entitled 'You're Welcome – exploring the Ethos and History of the URC'
 - e) The candidate can apply to Education and Learning for funding for Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers.
 - f) The Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner liaises with RCL about safeguarding, funerals and sacraments training either already provided to the student, or the synod may prefer to offer such training if they already have training planned

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- g) The candidate selects the modules as outlined in paper H2 Mission Council (March 2021).
5. The candidate embarks on the Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching Course at the nominated RCL.
6. On completion of the course for an AALP:
- a) The RCL informs the Ministries Office who will send the relevant documentation to the candidate and to the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner for completion
 - b) The Ministries office will check that the Disclosure certificate is in order and issue the Accreditation Certificate and badge to the Lay preaching Commissioner and the annual Education and Learning training grant letter to the candidate
 - c) The Lay Preaching Commissioner organises with the candidates and their minister / local church a Service of Accreditation. The service of Accreditation can be for a group of Lay Preachers.