

- prepared to see God involved in society, not just with the Church.
- equipped for community action.
- trusted and respected by the local community.
- vibrant, buzzing and a place where all are welcome.

Change will not happen overnight - but it will happen! A CRCW works in partnership with the church, not as an individual working on behalf of the church.

How are CRCWs funded?

CRCWs are paid a stipend from the URC Maintenance of Ministry fund and ongoing training is funded via the Education for Ministry programme. However, local costs, including housing, travel and administration, are met locally.

We're interested! What next?

- Ask your synod office or the CRCW office (see below) to send details.
- Arrange a meeting between the CRCW Development Worker and your church/synod representatives to discuss the funding application process.
- Complete the application with the assistance of the CRCW Development Worker.

- Submit the application to the CRCW Programme Sub-committee for accreditation. This process, which involves detailed research and assessment, can take between six and 18 months.

A vacancy for a CRCW will be declared once your application has been accredited as a CRCW project.



For further information:

Please contact your synod office or the CRCW Development Worker, Steve Summers

CRCW office
The United Reformed Church
86 Tavistock Place,
London WC1H 9RT

crcw.admin@urc.org.uk
0207 916 8653
<https://twitter.com/CRCWteam>
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Church Related Community Work

Information for local churches



What is community work?

- It brings groups of people together to identify and work on their own issues and opportunities.
- It's about helping people take control of their own lives, building positive local relationships, developing community resources, healing and transforming lives and working towards equal opportunities, justice and peace.
- It seeks to enable the transfer of power from the powerful to the powerless and aims to tackle the causes of poverty, prejudice and discrimination.
- Its context is normally with people within local neighbourhoods who are disadvantaged, disaffected or disappointed, – whether within inner cities, suburban estates, seaside towns or rural areas – community work can happen wherever is a desire for change.



Church Related Community Work ...

- Is recognised by the United Reformed Church as a distinctive, exciting and challenging ministry and vocation.
- Shares in God's vision of the Church as an agent of social change.
- Recognises where the Gospel is being lived out by people and communities, even if they do not use the name of God.
- Is not intended as a means of increasing church membership or imposing values
- Involves commitment to justice and peace and is not afraid of costly involvement with people.
- Is a challenge to both an insular Church and an uncaring society – it is not for those who want an easy life!

Who are Church Related Community Workers?

- Church Related Community Workers (CRCWs) are community developers who enable the church to work within its local neighbourhood. CRCWs are not employed by the church to only work on its behalf or with church members, they are there for everyone!
- CRCWs are called by God, assessed, professionally trained and paid, qualified and commissioned to an accredited church-in-community. They work as equal colleagues with Ministers of Word and Sacraments.



What do CRCWs do?

- Work in partnership with local congregations, church members, elders and Ministers of Word and Sacraments to help the church become more involved with its neighbourhood.
- Enable local churches to work with individuals and community groups, residents' and housing associations, schools, voluntary and statutory organisations.

How might calling a CRCW change my church?

Your church will become:

- more concerned with mission than with maintenance.
- more outward looking.
- a building used by many different groups.
- a resource for community activities.