



## Resource Centres for Learning – Current contributions to the wider church beyond initial ministerial education

Each box below shows an area of our work. The ‘bullet points’ are *examples* of the sorts of work we do in these areas; they are not exhaustive lists; and we accept invitations to work with synods, churches, and groups of people with specific interests or needs on an *ad hoc* basis. The Resource Centres for Learning (RCLs) are there for the whole church.

Much of the time of most RCL tutors is devoted to Education for Ministry Phase 1 – initial ministerial education. Working on the average figures calculated by the URC for a ‘good working week’ (2010 General Assembly), we estimate about 6,500 hours are spent beyond EM1 by all the RCL tutors between them in a working year, plus more than 120 services of worship led in the wider church. The tutors travel widely, responding to requests from local churches and through Synods.

The number of people who benefit from this service is inestimable. We encounter and influence 100s of people every year with this sort of work, and through them 1,000s of others. So 30-65 people may attend various preaching events on each occasion at the RCLs, and they take what they have gained and preach, between them, 100s of services to 1,000s of people. One of the tutors might write an article for *Reform*, and we do not know how many read it and use something for their next Bible Study, Church Meeting or act of worship. We see all the candidates at Assessment Conferences, 100s of ministers at various conferences, 100s of people in churches we preach in and so on. We are delighted to be able to contribute in these ways.

LAY PREACHERS and WORSHIP LEADERS	ELDERS	CONTINUING MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT	SUPPORTING SYNODS IN THEIR TRAINING	STEPWISE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Conferences and workshops</li> <li>• Getting started on leading worship courses</li> <li>• One-off day courses (eg preparing for lectionary year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular training</li> <li>• Refreshers</li> <li>• Communion training</li> <li>• Synod requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher events</li> <li>• Spring (etc) schools and Ministerial conferences</li> <li>• Sabbatical support</li> <li>• Furthering education (eg minister taking an MA)</li> <li>• Safer Sacred Space (SSS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funerals and weddings training for lay people</li> <li>• Congregational ‘away days’</li> <li>• Any particular requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘expert witness’ input</li> <li>• Advising on standards of assignments and marking</li> <li>• Attending meetings</li> <li>• Piloting ‘streams’</li> </ul>

<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b>	<b>ECUMENICAL WORK</b>	<b>VOCATIONS</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL WORK</b>	<b>PREACHING</b>
<p>Often under the 'Walking the Way' banner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal development events</li> <li>• Retreats</li> <li>• Tailor-made, individual learning programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with CTBI</li> <li>• Specific Scottish partnerships</li> <li>• Ecumenical participants attend many of our courses</li> <li>• Support for JPIT</li> <li>• Core work also offered to other churches (eg SSS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting and supporting an annual vocations day</li> <li>• Supporting individual enquirers personally</li> <li>• Attending Assessment Conferences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Council for World Mission (CWM) and World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)</li> <li>• Writing materials, conferences, committees</li> <li>• Hosting visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to requests to preach across the whole denomination and in other denominations</li> </ul>
<b>WRITING MATERIAL</b>	<b>20-40 AGE GROUP</b>	<b>INTERFAITH WORK</b>	<b>ONGOING SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>COMMITTEES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles, bible studies for <i>Reform</i></li> <li>• Contributions to URC Daily Devotions</li> <li>• Contributions to the URC Prayer Handbook</li> <li>• Writing bible study notes for other publications</li> </ul>	<p>Responding to the General Assembly Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing an internship programme</li> <li>• Consulting with younger people about their needs and wishes/responding to specific requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Woolf Institute</li> <li>• Participation in Interfaith Scriptural Reasoning Group</li> <li>• Engagement with Interfaith Scotland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting research and writing across the URC</li> <li>• Research/writing that contributes to scholarship in theology, mission, biblical studies etc</li> <li>• Giving lectures across the wider church</li> </ul> <p>This also enables us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervise dissertations and research by existing students or ministers in their further education, and</li> <li>• To support the next generation of URC educators/ training officers etc</li> </ul>	<p>Working on committees so that RCLs support the work of the whole URC, and that today's URC is embedded in the RCLs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Learning</li> <li>• Faith and Order</li> <li>• CRCW Course and Programme Committees</li> <li>• Liaising with various Moderators' meetings</li> <li>• Synod committees</li> <li>• Attending General Assembly</li> </ul>