



11.

We believe that, by the Holy Spirit, this glorious Gospel is made effective so that through faith we receive the forgiveness of sins, newness of life as children of God and strength in this present world to do his will.

We believe in the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church, in heaven and on earth, wherein by the same Spirit, the whole company of believers is made one Body of Christ, to worship God and serve him and all men in his kingdom of righteousness and love.

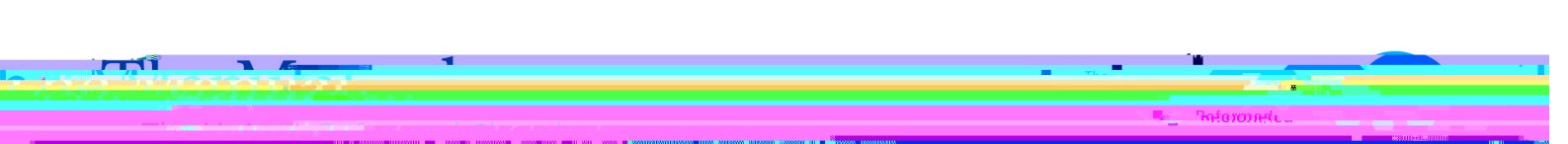
We rejoice in the gift of eternal life, and believe that, in the fullness of time, God will renew and gather in one all things in Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

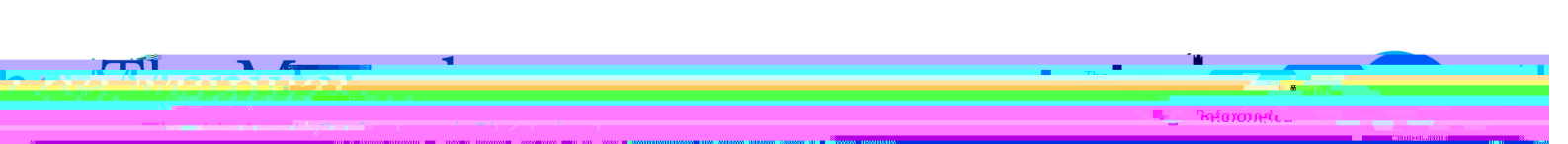
18. The United Reformed Church, under the authority of Holy Scripture and in corporate responsibility to Jesus Christ its ever living head, acknowledges its duty to be open at all times to the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore affirms its right to make such new declarations of its faith and for such purposes as may from time to time be

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Their service may be stipendiary or non-stipendiary, and in the latter case their service is given within the area of a synod and in a context it has approved.⁴

22. Some are called to the Ministry of church related community work. After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be Church Related Community Workers in a post approved by the United Reformed Church, are then commissioned to the office of Church Related Community Worker and inducted to serve in a particular post for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with Schedules D & F. Church Related Community Workers are commissioned to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the well-being of the community, and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world. Their service may be stipendiary or non-stipendiary, and in the latter case their service is given within the area of a synod and in a context it has approved.
23. Some are called to be elders. They share with Ministers of the Word and Sacraments in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local churches, taking counsel together in the elders' meeting for the whole church and having severally groups of members particularly entrusted to their pastoral care. They shall be associated with Ministers in all the councils of the church. elders elected by the church meeting are ordained to their office and are inducted to serve for such limited period as the church which elects them shall determine. All elders are eligible for re-election, and those elected shall enter upon their office by induction. On moving to another local church an





*I promise, by that same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of my life.
And I trust in his mercy alone to bring me into the fullness of the life of the world to come.*

Or: (c)

Q: Do you believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth,
giver of life, redeemer of the world?

A:

Q: Do you repent of your sins, turn away from evil, and turn to Christ?

A:

Q: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

A:

Q: From the beginning, believers have continued in the worship and fellowship of the church:

N, do you commit yourself to this life?

A:

Q: With the whole Church, will you proclaim by word and action the good news of God in Christ?

A:

Or: (d) in a form which includes the following elements:

- a Trinitarian confession of faith
- repentance of sin
- a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord
- a promise to share in the worship, fellowship and mission of the Church.

NOTE: The service, which takes place at public worship, shall include the reading of the Statement contained in Schedule D and a statement regarding the functions of the elders taken from clauses 19, 20 and 23 in the Basis of Union.

Afterwards the presiding Minister shall say to the elders elect: in the light of this Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church and the statement concerning the functions of the eldership, the elders elect are now asked to answer the following questions:

Q: Do you confess again your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Q: In dependence on God's grace do you reaffirm your trust in Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord and your promise to follow him and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life?

Q: 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?

A:

Q: Do you accept the office of Elder of the United Reformed Church in this congregation and do you promise to perform its duties faithfully?

A:

Q: Do you promise as an elder of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, unity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always so far as you are able to build up the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

A:

NB – the final question was added by the General Assembly in July 2021, and applies to all inductions and ordinations of Elders with immediate effect.





Q 3: Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?⁷
*By the grace of God I promise to lead the Church in worship,
to preach the word and administer the Sacraments,*



With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***The living God, the only God,
ever to be praised.***

The life of faith to which we are called
is the Spirit's gift
continually received
through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

***We acknowledge the gift
and answer the call,
giving thanks for the means of grace.***

The highest authority
for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible
alive for his people today
through the help of the Spirit.

***We respond to this Word,
whose servants we are with all God's people
through the years.***

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
We acknowledge the declarations
made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians
and Churches of Christ in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

***Faith alive and active:
gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.***

We conduct our life together
according to the Basis of Union
in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe contain
the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;
but we affirm our right and readiness,
if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union
and to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

***Our crucified and risen Lord,
who leads us in our faith
and brings it to perfection.***

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.
For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide
where differences of conviction
hurt our unity and peace.
***We commit ourselves
to speak the truth in love
and grow together in the peace of Christ.***

We believe that
Christ gives his Church a government
distinct from the government of the state.
In things that affect obedience to God
the Church is not subordinate to the state,
but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ,
its only Ruler and Head.
Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.
***While we ourselves
are servants in the world
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.***

We affirm our intention to go on praying and working,
with all our fellow Christians,
for the visible unity of the Church
in the way Christ chooses
so that people and nations
may be led to love and serve God
and praise him more and more for ever.
***Source, Guide, and Goal
of all that is:
to God be eternal glory.
Amen.***

1. The following constitute the categories of Ministers comprising the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church:
 - a.

(See clause 22 in the Basis of Union)

Affirmations to be made by Church Related Community Workers at commissioning and induction.

NOTE: The service will also include the reading of the Statement contained in Schedule D, and provision will be made for a statement to be made concerning the circumstances of the call. Church Related Community Workers may also make a personal statement about their faith and sense of calling. After the statement has been read the presiding Minister shall then ask one of the following sets of questions:

Either:

Q 1: A.B., Do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

A:

Q 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?

A:

Q 3: Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world? Do you believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people? And will you faithfully proclaim this Gospel?

A:

Q 4: Do you believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ?

A:

Q 5: Are 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, so far as you know your own heart, the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?

A:

Q 6: Do you promise to live a holy life, and to maintain the truth of the gospel, whatever trouble or persecution may arise?

A:

Q 7: Do you promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the well-being of the community? Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church and to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world?

A:

Q 8: Do you promise as a Church Related Community Worker of the United Reformed Church 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?

A: By the grace of God, I do.

Q 9: Will you undertake to exercise your ministry in accordance with the statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church?

A:

Or:

Q 1: A.B., will you confess anew your faith?

: *I confess anew my faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
I 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 believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world.

*I believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people.
And by the grace of God I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully.*

I believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ.

Q 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 for 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.*

Q 3: Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?

*By the grace of God I promise to care for,
to challenge and to pray for the community,
to discern with others God's will for the well-being of the community.*

*I promise to take my part in the councils of the Church
and to endeavour to enable the church
to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God
through working with others in both church and community
for peace and justice in the world.*

*As a Church Related Community Worker of the United Reformed Church
I promise to seek its well-being, purity and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches,
and 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.*

1.