

Ministries Committee report to Synod March 2021

The work of Ministries Committee has taken a new shape with Stepwise beginning to rolled out more fully and with Roy Lowes as our Stepwise Advocate. There are several Faith filled Life streams starting about now around the Synod and it is hoped that a Faith Filled Leadership stream will happen later in the year. There is a lot of excitement around Stepwise and it will be good to see how it works out in practice. The Leadership stream is particularly good for Elders and a Worship stream for those interested in leading worship/ lay preaching. It is clear that from now on everyone needs to start with the Introductory course Faith filled Life.

The good news is that our Synod has grants to cover people wishing to do a Stepwise course, namely a Lay Preachers Grant for individuals and an Enabling grant for a larger church group.

If you are interested in Stepwise please contact Roy

Mission Council meets just after Synod where future lay preaching accreditation will be discussed and in particular the training to happen if you want to be an Assembly Accredited lay preacher. The details when known will be reported to a future Synod. Many lay preachers are stepping down at the moment and we wish to thank them for their service. At the same time we want to challenge you and your churches to encourage people to train for worship leading. There are all sorts of ways to do this from being Assembly Accredited to being part of a very local worship team – all of which are of value.

Another new piece of work is thinking about Non-Stipendiary Ministry Model 4.

This model can be used for a piece of Synod recognised work in a particular place, with training on the job. It is proving a popular option for those candidating for Ministry. The onus is more on the Synod although we would receive support from Resource Centres for Learning. We are investigating the implications of this for the Synod and are also seeking to discover what training there will be for Ministers working alongside and supporting those who become NSM Model 4. At the same time a parallel training for NSCRCW Model 4 is being developed (possibly the longest job title in the URC?)

Also currently on our agenda – candidating for Ministry; Spring School/training days for Ministers and local church leaders; Walking the Way; Elders training. We are seeking some new members of the Committee so please think about people who might be persuaded to join a worthwhile piece of work for the Synod. This is also an opportunity to thank all those who are part of the Ministries Committee, they make every meeting such a joy

Lythan Nevard
Convenor