

B MINISTERIAL VACANCIES 7 Induction of Ministers

- 1 The arrangements for an Induction are the responsibility of the Area Pastoral Committee on behalf of the Synod. Normally this responsibility will be carried out by the Interim Moderator.
- 2 The local church(es) and the minister-elect should be fully consulted. Both may make suggestions as to hymns, Bible readings, who should take part and other matters of content and procedure.
- 3 Particular care should be given as to who should be invited to:
 - a) Preach the sermon
 - b) lead the prayer of induction
 - c) lead the intercessions

It is advisable that the preacher should be a person of some maturity and with experience of Christian ministry.

- 4 In order further to recognise the Pastoral Committee's role in the provision of ministry, it is recommended that a statement on behalf of the Council be included in the service.
- 5 Greetings should be given by right hand of fellowship and a few brief words. See order of service for guidance as to who should take part.
- 6 In preparing the Order of Service, the United Reformed Church Services Book should be consulted and material used as appropriate.
- 7 The responsive version of "Statement of Nature Faith and Order" is available in leaflet form from the Synod Office and copies may be obtained for use and return. Alternatively, the wording is to be found in 'Rejoice and Sing' (number 761).
- 8 The Moderator of Synod should be kept fully in the picture as arrangements are made and should, as the person appointed by the District Council to preside, be consulted before the Service Paper is printed. When printing has been done, two copies should be forwarded to the Moderator.

- 10 **Draft Order of Service** A suggested outline follows. It may be varied to meet local requirements.

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| 1 | THE APPROACH
Call to Worship
Hymn of Praise
Prayer of Adoration and Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Statement of Purpose | <i>Moderator</i>

<i>Representative of the Area</i>

<i>Moderator</i> |
| 2 | THE WORD
Reading(s) from the Bible

Hymn of Preparation
Sermon | <i>perhaps read by member(s)
of local church(es)</i>

<i>invited preacher</i> |

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3	THE RESPONSE Hymn of affirmation Introduction to the act of Induction Statement on behalf of Pastoral Committee Statement on behalf of the pastorate Statement by the minister-elect Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church	<i>Moderator Convener or another Secretary or other representative President of the District Council</i>
4	THE ACT OF INDUCTION Questions to the Minister-elect <i>(Revised Schedule agreed by Assembly 1994 - see Guideline 2.9)</i> Questions to the local church <i>(to be printed - see URC Service Book 1989)</i> Questions to the District Council <i>(to be printed - see URC Service Book 1989)</i> Hymn of the Holy Spirit Prayer of Induction Declaration of Induction Greetings	<i>Moderator Moderator Moderator Moderator or invited person, perhaps known well to minister-elect Moderator Representatives of: pastorate Area Pastoral Committee churches of other denominations local community the Synod and the United Reformed Church (the Moderator)</i>
5	THE DEPARTURE Prayers of Intercession Hymn of praise and/or discipleship The Blessing	<i>invited person Newly inducted minister</i>

Note : It is usual to include the following rubrics:

- a. At the beginning: a request to the congregation to stand as those leading the worship enter.
- b. At the end: a request for the congregation to remain standing until those leading the worship have withdrawn.
- c. Also at the end: an invitation to refreshments, if these are to be served, and an indication of where they can be found.

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It is also usual for a retiring offering to be collected and forwarded to the Synod Office for the Ministerial Training Fund