

A transformational & prophetic ministry

- The CRCW ministers role is to enable the church to engage with community development in the neighbourhood, to theologially reflect on and develop that work and to enfold community work goals and processes within its own life; its order, outreach, worship, mission and ministry.
- CRCW ministers will work in partnership with individuals, congregation(s), elders and minister(s) of Word and Sacraments, in order for all to become more involved with local neighbourhood and community action.
- URC CRCW ministers are commissioned to a particular church, Local Ecumenical Partnership or Group of Churches that has successfully completed the process of accreditation as a CRCW Project and has been prepared to work alongside a CRCW minister in their local neighbourhood.



Remuneration for CRCW Ministers

The 'terms of settlement' are equal to those for ordained ministers of Word and Sacraments.

Qualified stipendiary CRCW ministers receive a stipend and pension; housing is either provided in a manse or a housing allowance is paid.

Non-stipendiary CRCW ministers may receive a salary 'from other sources' or work on a voluntary basis.

Where does the URC Church Related Community work take place?

Currently, URC CRCW ministers are deployed in:

NEWHAM, SWANSEA, BOLTON,
SOUTHAMPTON, NEWCASTLE,
MANCHESTER, NORTH EAST BLACKBURN,
BIRMINGHAM, SHEFFIELD, LUTON,
SUNDERLAND & BOLDON,
NORTHAMPTON, BETTWS

A community work project is a starting point; a means of intervention in a local situation. It is not an end in itself nor is it confined to the provision of services.

The context of community work is normally but not exclusively among people who are disadvantaged e.g. by poverty, poor health, limited education and job opportunities and broken social networks. Therefore CRCW ministers work with a wide variety of groups including Credit Unions, Residents Associations, Campaigning Groups, Local Authority, etc.

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>
www.urc.org.uk/discipleship



Creating Change in Communities
and the Church



Creating Change in Communities
and the Church



Could God be calling you to the ministry of Church Related Community Work?



“Assembly acknowledges that in Church Related Community Work ministers, properly trained and properly employed, the Lord Jesus Christ is giving particular gifts for a particular ministry and is calling such individuals to exercise them in an office which is duly recognised within His Church.”

URC General Assembly 1987



Produced by The United Reformed Church, September 2015

Introduction

Church Related Community Work (CRCW) in the United Reformed Church is an important ministry within the ministry of the whole people of God and depends on a vision of the church as an agent of social change.

The URC ministry of CRCW began in 1981. In 1987 it was formally recognised by the URC General Assembly as a distinctive ministry of equal recognition and status with the ministry of Word and Sacraments. The URC Mission Councils 1998 & 2003 reviewed the CRCW programme and agreed that it should be extended to at least 26 posts across Scotland, Wales and England, with at least 2 CRCW ministers in every Synod.



Community Work

“Community Work is about bringing people together, helping them to identify their own problems and opportunities, mobilising people and resources for change, implementing a programme of action and evaluating and reforming the programme in the light of experience and reflection.”

The URC Church Related Community Work Handbooks for CRCW ministers and Local Pastorates



Church Related Community Work

- Recognises where the Gospel is being lived out by people and communities, even if they themselves do not use the name of God.
- Brings many new challenges to existing church congregations. Engaging with the local community opens up the possibility of seeing and hearing God from those outside the church and to allow such Good News to transform and enrich the church's own community.
- It is one way for the church to share in God's mission.
- Involves commitment to justice and peace and is not afraid of costly involvement with people.

Who can become a CRCW Minister?

- Anyone who believes that God is calling them to this particular ministry and has been a member of the URC for at least two years.
- Professional training is not essential but having some insight into and experience of community development work is important.
- They should begin by discussing the matter further with their local church and minister then contact a CRCW Development Worker.
- Alternatively, individuals who are appropriately qualified in Community Work and in Theology and who are in 'good standing' with their own recognised church denomination may be eligible to become a URC CRCW minister by applying for a Certificate of Eligibility.

How are CRCW Ministers trained?

- The candidates selected for CRCW training study at Northern College, Manchester, which is part of the Partnership for Theological Education, an ecumenical federation of theological colleges based at Luther King House. Although the training is organised from there, CRCW ministers-in-training do not have to move to Manchester to study, but will inevitably involve the need for regular overnight accommodation provided at Luther King House.
- Time spent on a placement varies starting with a minimum requirement of 8—12 hours/week and extending to 12 hours/week spread out over the year. Placements are chosen by the College and, as far as possible, are in reasonable reach of the student's home.
- Currently there are 6 modules taught in both years 1 and 2. These are usually, but not exclusively, delivered in blocks often based around extended weekends. Many of these have been re-designed in a creative way to combine community work with those of contemporary theological and biblical insights, as well as drawing on the resources of Pastoral Theology. Alternate years there are also 4 workshops planned throughout the year
- Alternate years there are also 4 workshops planned throughout the year
- It is important to be aware that 3rd and 4th year CRCW students will need to attend midweek in order to either complete their BA or start on the MA (this will not be able to occur on weekends.)
- CRCW ministers-in-training normally study full-time for 4 years for the Foundation Degree (FdA) or BTh (University of Chester). There is also the possibility of studying for an MA
- The United Reformed Church normally pays the fees and may provide a maintenance grant.
- The course is endorsed by the England Standards Board for Community Development Training.