

# **MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

## Introduction

Traditionally in Scotland Ministers have held a special place in the heart of the nation as a whole and not just within the Church. Over the last fifty years or so society has changed radically and the ministries of the Church are also now going through a time of radical change; congregations as well as Ministers are beginning to see new and exciting patterns of church emerge.

**All Christians are called to be Minister to those around them. Within this context the ordained minister has a particular role and function:**

- Offering Leadership and reflecting on where the Church should be going
- Enabling others to play their full part in the sharing the gospel
- Preaching, teaching and leading worship
- Working in the context of a larger team

## Communication

Being an able communicator is vital to this role as preaching, teaching and leading worship are core elements of this ministry.

**A Minister of Word and Sacrament is called to:**

- Offer leadership in communicating the gospel through word and service
- Set before people the challenges and opportunities presented by Christ
- Help congregations to understand how best to serve their community or parish
- Teach people to pray and help develop their spiritual insight and direction

## Caring and Encouraging

Ministers care for and encourage people in a wide variety of circumstances, including times of deep sorrow and of great joy. Ministers are invited into people's homes, meet them at work, in hospital, at school and in many different places, so flexibility is important.

Ministers work with people inside the Church and beyond it. People may not always agree with the Minister or the Minister with them, so Ministers must have patience and understanding – respecting the views of others and respecting the right to differ.

Ministers cannot alone meet all the different expectations that people put on them. An important part of their role is to encourage the whole people of God to work together. Ministers also work in partnership with others who seek to serve their community and parish. This means Ministers have to be team players as well as effective leaders. Theirs will be the essential task of seeing the potential in others and enabling that potential to develop.

Ministers expect much of other people and much is expected of them.

## Celebration and Worship

The gospel is good news and something to celebrate. In the modern context people will not necessarily worship every Sunday. Ministers need to devise ways of structuring worship and interpreting the gospel so that God's message remains relevant and accessible to society today.

At Christmas, Easter and Pentecost the worshipping congregation often becomes the focus for the wider community. Ministers here may help communities to capture a sense of the power and presence of God.

At baptisms, weddings, funerals and other critical points in the life of individuals and the community, Ministers offer support and try to enable people to explore the difficult questions which often are raised at such key points.

Ministers not only lead worship but also encourage others to be involved in doing so.

## **The Extent of the Challenge**

Most ministers still serve in the context of a Parish. Others are involved in full-time chaplaincy in hospitals, prisons, industry and in the armed forces. Some are called to serve in some of Scotland's poorest parishes, known as Priority Areas. New forms of ministry (including New Charge Development) acknowledge that we are working in a missionary situation in post modern Scotland.

Auxiliary ministers carry out similar duties to those of the full-time minister, but the expectations are different. Auxiliary ministers work under the supervision of a full-time minister and are appointed by Presbytery to carry out certain designated duties. They will receive no stipend, as this part-time work is often carried out in conjunction with another career.

\*\* Please note that the Ministries Council is consulting with Presbyteries on a proposal for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM), which it is hoped will be presented to the General Assembly in May 2011. If approved, OLM will effectively replace Auxiliary Ministry. For more information, please contact the Ministries Council.\*\*

## **Resources**

*Called or Collared*, Francis Dewar

*The Way of Life*, Gary Badcock

*Ministry in Three Dimensions: Ordination and Leadership in the Local Church*, Steven Croft

*Fit to Lead: Sustaining Effective Ministry in a Changing World*, Chris Edmonson

*Transformational Ministry*, Michael Jinkins

*In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*, Henri J M Nouwen

*The Wounded Healer*, Henri J M Nouwen

*Under the Unpredictable Plant*, Eugene Peterson

## **Where do I go from here?**

Should you wish further information or wish to apply to be considered for training as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, full time or auxiliary, please contact:

Ministries Council

e-mail: [vocation@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:vocation@cofscotland.org.uk)

Tel: 0131 225 5722 ext 348/419

For more information on requirements for Ministry of Word and Sacrament Candidates, full time and auxiliary, please see the relevant handbook on the website:

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/ministries\\_resources#cps](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/ministries_resources#cps)

### Course Requirements for Full Time Ministry of Word and Sacrament

<b>Mode A For candidates with a degree or equivalent in a discipline other than theology (the regular course):</b>	
<i>Minimum period of three years</i>	<i>15 months full-time</i>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completion of Theological studies at a recognised institution</li> <li>▪ Placements (2x25 weeks p-t, 1x10 weeks f-t)</li> <li>▪ Conference programme</li> <li>▪ Guided reading, Bible examination by portfolio and other Church assignments</li> <li>▪ Participation in Church College activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-time placement and participation in conference programme</li> </ul>

<b>Mode B For candidates without a degree or equivalent professional qualification:</b>	
<i>Minimum period of four years</i>	<i>15 months full-time</i>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completion of Theological studies at a recognised institution</li> <li>▪ Placements (2x25 weeks p-t, 1x10 weeks f-t)</li> <li>▪ Conference programme</li> <li>▪ Guided reading, Bible examination by portfolio and other Church assignments</li> <li>▪ Participation in Church College activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-time placement and participation in conference programme</li> </ul>

<b>Mode C For candidates with an undergraduate degree in theology prior to acceptance as a candidate:</b>	
<i>Minimum period of two years</i>	<i>15 months full-time</i>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two years of postgraduate studies at a recognised institution</li> <li>▪ Placements (2x25 weeks p-t, 1x10 weeks f-t)</li> <li>▪ Conference programme</li> <li>▪ Guided reading, Bible examination by portfolio and other Church assignments</li> <li>▪ Participation in Church College activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-time placement and participation in conference programme</li> </ul>

<b>Mode D (i) For candidates studying theology, with at least two years of theological study yet to be undertaken:</b>	
<i>Minimum period of two years</i> <b>Stage 1</b>	<i>15 months full-time</i> <b>Stage 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completion of a theological degree at a recognised institution</li> <li>▪ Placements (2x25 weeks p-t, 1x10 weeks f-t)</li> <li>▪ Conference programme</li> <li>▪ Guided reading, Bible examination by portfolio and other Church assignments</li> <li>▪ Participation in Church College activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-time placement and participation in conference programme</li> </ul>
<b>Mode D (ii) For candidates studying theology, with one year of theological study yet to be undertaken:</b>	
<i>Minimum period of two years</i> <b>Stage 1</b>	<i>15 months full-time</i> <b>Stage 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completion of a theological degree at a recognised institution</li> <li>▪ One year of postgraduate studies at a recognised institution</li> <li>▪ Placements (2x25 weeks p-t, 1x10 weeks f-t)</li> <li>▪ Conference programme</li> <li>▪ Guided reading, Bible examination by portfolio and other Church assignments</li> <li>▪ Participation in Church College activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-time placement and participation in conference programme</li> </ul>

### Course Requirements for Ministry of Word and Sacrament (auxiliary)

<i>Minimum period of three years</i> <b>Stage 1</b>	<i>12 months part-time</i> <b>Stage 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of nine modules from Certificate/Diploma in Christian Studies (Aberdeen)</li> <li>• <i>Jesus of Nazareth, the Man and the Myths</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading the Hebrew Bible</i></li> <li>• <i>Criticism and Defence of Christianity</i></li> <li>• <i>Religion in Scotland</i></li> <li>• <i>St Matthews Gospel</i></li> <li>• <i>Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counselling</i></li> <li>• <i>Theology of the Reformers</i></li> <li>• <i>Introduction to Worship</i></li> <li>• <i>Theological Questions</i></li> <li>• Placements (2x25 weeks p-t in years 2 and 3)</li> <li>• Conference Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part-time placement and participation in conference programme</li> </ul>

### Course Information

The course is undertaken by distance learning.  
The person to contact is:

Dr Leigh Clayton  
Course Co-ordinator  
Centre for Lifelong Learning  
University of Aberdeen  
Regent Building

King's College  
Aberdeen  
AB24 3FX  
Tel: 01224 272 164    [www.abdn.ac.uk/lifelonglearning](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/lifelonglearning)

## **Funding**

The nine courses will be paid by the Ministries Council. Those candidates who wish to undertake the full range of courses, allowing them to qualify for the Diploma in Christian Studies may do so, though this is not a requirement for ordination. This additional study would be at the individual's own expense.