

**THE STATUS OF MINISTERS OF OTHER CHURCHES SERVING A UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OR A SINGLE-CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP WHICH INCLUDES THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, OR A GROUPING OF CHURCHES OF DIFFERENT TRADITIONS INCLUDING THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, SUCH AS A UNITED AREA**

**The status of ministers from other churches in the wider councils of the church is made clear in section B of the Manual, *The Structure of the United Reformed Church*.**

In Section B 2(3)(A)(xix) of *The Manual* one of the functions of the district council is given as:

*To make recommendation to the synod for appointment to service on district council of: -*

*(III) Ministers of other churches appointed to serve on behalf of the United Reformed Church in charge of a United Reformed Church or in an ecumenical group including United Reformed Church interests*

**It is the responsibility of the district council to take the initiative and make recommendation to the synod.**

**Once the synod has formally approved the recommendation of the district council, the minister becomes not only a member of district council but also, automatically, of the synod. See *The Manual*, section B 2(4)(a) below**

*2(4) The Synod being representative of the local churches and district councils in that synod or nation united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern shall consist of:*

*(a) All ministers, registered pastors (in Scotland) and church related community workers who are for the time being members of district councils within the synod or nation.*

**Where there is a formally constituted Local Ecumenical Partnership, the Ecumenical Committee recommends that the constitution includes the following:**

*Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in this LEP shall be members of the ..... District Council and ..... Synod.*

**The Ecumenical Committee recommends:**

- 1.** that the district council makes its recommendation to the synod as soon as the call (the appointment) is officially agreed. There is no need to wait until the minister is in post. It will be for the district council, in consultation with the minister, to decide when the extent of ministry within the United Reformed Church warrants such a recommendation
- 2.** that the district council presents the minister either with a copy of the Manual, or with sections A, B, E and F of the Manual, being *the Basis of Union, The Structure of the United Reformed Church, Baptism and the Basis of Union, and Presidency at the Sacraments*. All sections can be downloaded from the United Reformed Church web-site.
- 3.** that the district council takes note of the advice paper on inductions of ministers from other churches which is attached to this paper.
- 4.** that the synod clerk, following the synod approval of the district recommendation, presents the minister with a formal letter setting out the responsibilities of synod membership and therefore district council membership, including the possibility of holding office within those councils.