



# Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg

## Responding to your calling: Ordained Ministry

God, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, calls people to ministry, and those individuals who feel called to ordained ministry are then ordained:

- to preach and teach God's Word,
- to administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to lead the prayers and worship of the church,
- to care for the flock and to support them in their faith,
- to build the church with love and maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

### Starting your journey

Anyone wishing to apply for ordained ministry must follow this approval process:

1. **Initial step:** The first step is to inform the church of which the applicant is a member that they feel called to offer themselves as a recognised preacher. This can be done by speaking with the minister, or one of the church officers or deacons. Then, you will receive an invitation to lead a Service. Following this, the church, in prayer, needs to approve the individual at a regular church meeting.
2. **Notification:** The church secretary notifies the Association secretary by letter. The applicant's name is then submitted to the relevant quarterly meeting conference.
3. **Approval requirements:** To receive Association approval, the applicant is expected to:
  - a) **Preach** 'on trial' in three churches chosen by the Association, and
  - b) attend an **interview** with two members of the quarterly meeting, one of whom, if possible, should be an ordained minister.
4. **Submission of reports:** Once church approval has been received from the three churches (3a), and a positive report has been received following the interview (3b), a report is submitted to the quarterly meeting conference. Upon formal acceptance of the reports, the applicant is placed under the care of the Union's Learning and Development Department, under the supervision of the Director of Training and Development.

Occasionally, if the applicant is already a recognised lay preacher, they will have already followed this process of obtaining approval. However, because this is a specific calling to undertake ordained ministry, the applicant is expected to follow the approval process anew.

## **Training**

Applicants for ordained ministry are expected to complete these modules in full (i.e., including any associated assignments). A module banking system is in place, and any fully completed module will not need to be retaken. Completing the training is expected to take two years.

- Module 1 – Worship and Preaching
- Module 2 – Presenting the Bible: parts (i) and (ii)
- Module 3 – Pastoral Care
- Module 4 – The Sacraments
- Module 5 – The Church
- Module 6 – Part of the World
- Module 7 – About Us
- Module 8 – Placement

## **After completing the training**

With the approval of the Association and the Union's Learning and Development Panel, the successful applicant is presented to the President at the Union's annual meetings, where a certificate will be awarded, and the applicant is recognised in the Yearbook as being available to be called to ordained ministry.

The Learning and Development Panel and the Union will notify churches through various media, such as *Y Tyst*, of any individual who is available to be called. However, neither the Learning and Development Panel nor the Union can guarantee that anyone who is available to be called will receive a call. It is God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides the church(es) in extending a call to minister.