



Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg

Responding to your calling: Recognised Lay Preacher

In the volume *Worship the Lord: A book of services for Baptists and Congregationalists*, the foreword notes that: “It is the Church’s work to worship God” ... Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is an expression of our belief and faith as well as of our identity as the people of God. It is worship that gives credibility to our gathering together as the body of Christ and in worship the Lord frequently speaks with his people. Through the ministry of Word and sacrament, through praise, confession and prayer, we serve God; God is at its centre and is the focus of our attention.’

Gathering together to worship is the heartbeat of the church, and it is a privilege for the minister, the preacher, or the worship leader to lead the congregation.

Starting your journey

Anyone wishing to apply to be a recognised lay preacher 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 present themselves as a recognised lay 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.

Training

Applicants are required to complete **two full Tier 2 modules**, namely:

1. **Module 1** – Worship and Preaching
2. **Module 2** – The Bible

After completing the training

With the approval of the Association and the Union's Learning and Development Panel, the Union's certificate is presented to the applicant at the Union's annual meetings, and they are noted in the Yearbook as a recognised lay preacher.