

We encourage churches to consider their life and mission in the light of the five marks of mission:

**Tell** – to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

**Teach** – to teach, baptise and nurture new believers

**Tend** – to respond to human need by loving service

**Transform** – to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

**Treasure** – to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Wessex Synod is formed by all the United Reformed Churches in our province. You can see where all the churches are by following this link:

[Synod map](#)

Representatives from all churches meet as a council of the church twice a year.

The Synod appoints committees that consist of people from local churches gathered to support God's mission through our congregations along with partners from the wider church.

The functions of the Synod are laid out in section B of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and can be found at <https://www.urc.org.uk/the-urc-manual>



Walking  
the Way

### **Wessex Synod Strategy**

As Christians, our primary call is to be disciples of Jesus. As members of the United Reformed Church we are to follow that call together, whatever our age or ability.

To fulfil this call, we need to be people who both as individuals and together are:

#### **Growing in faith**

- learning more about faith through study of scripture together and separately
- working out how we can live the life of Jesus in our own contexts
- developing our prayer lives

#### **Speaking of faith**

- sharing our stories with each other
- sharing our faith with those outside the church and inviting them to join the journey with Jesus

#### **Living out faith**

- sharing the love of God in acts of worship
- sharing the love of God through our service to our local communities and beyond
- working alongside Christians of other denominations

The role of Synod is to support our churches in mission, provide care and oversight, and to act on behalf of all our churches in matters that need to be dealt with corporately. Wessex Synod serves our churches by:

### **Developing Leadership**

- encouraging leadership development within local congregations
- encouraging vocations to specific ministries – Lay Preachers, Ministers of Word & Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers
- the deployment of stipendiary and appointment of non-stipendiary ministers
- the creative use of Church Related Community Worker and Special Category Ministry posts
- providing leadership of the URC at a regional level

### **Providing Learning Opportunities**

- offering and signposting opportunities for spiritual and practical learning
- being a forum where we can learn from each other's experiences

### **Providing Practical support**

- provision of grants and loans for buildings and people
- providing specialist support and advice – buildings, safeguarding, employment
- provision of manses
- co-ordinating the Ministry & Mission fund and Inter-Synod Resource Sharing

### **Offering Pastoral Care**

- providing support, encouragement and challenge for ministers
- offering pastoral care to churches, especially during periods of ministerial transition or other challenging circumstances

### **To fulfil this strategy Wessex Synod will:**

- Offer a call to a covenant relationship to all churches and people within our Synod
- Support and encourage all people within our Synod to participate at every level whatever their age or ability
- Form committees and groups and appoint advocates to actively carry out and monitor this strategy
- Use our financial and property assets with good stewardship to promote our mission
- Provide a Synod Ministry Team consisting of:
  - Synod Moderator
  - Development and Support Officers
  - Children and Youth Development Officers
  - Employment Advisor
  - Safeguarding Team
  - Wessex Trust Staff
  - Administrative support staff