

**Presbytery of the South West
Selection, Training and Authorisation of
Worship Team Members and Presbytery Worship Leaders**

The Presbytery of the South West adopts the following Scheme for the selection, training, and authorisation of Worship Team Members and Presbytery Worship Leaders in terms of the Parish Ministry Act (Act II, 2018), section 7(10) as those 'persons selected and trained to a standard determined by the Presbytery of the bounds in accordance with a scheme or arrangement approved by the Presbytery' and who are accordingly eligible to conduct public worship.

This Scheme makes provision for the authorisation of:

(a) Worship Team Members who shall be entitled to lead worship, as a member of a worship team, within the Charge of which they are a member; and

(b) Presbytery Worship Leaders who shall be entitled to lead worship within the Charge of which they are a member; and may be invited to lead worship in any congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery.

1 The Presbytery recognises and authorises:

- (a) the 'Becoming a Worship Team Member' course as the training route for Worship Team Members, with the training provided within their own congregation, or a groups of congregations working together for this purpose,
- (b) the 'Designing and Leading Christian Worship,' presently offered through Trinity College, Glasgow University as the training route for Presbytery Worship Leaders.

2 Any person participating in the 'Becoming a Worship Team Member' course shall require:

- (a) to be nominated prior to commencing the course, as a prospective Worship Team Member by the Kirk Session and Minister/Interim Moderator of the congregation of which they are a member,
- (b) to participate in the four modules and satisfactorily complete associated assignments,
- (c) on completion of the course, to receive a satisfactory assessment leading worship as part of a worship team by the Charge's Minister/Interim Moderator.

3 Any person participating in the 'Designing and Leading Christian Worship' course shall require:

- (a) to be nominated, either before or after undertaking the course, as a prospective Worship Leader by the Kirk Session of the congregation of which they are a member, with an extract minute of the nomination provided to the Ministries, Education, Resources, and Information Technology Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee).
- (b) to provide a letter of support to the Committee from his or her Minister/Interim Moderator.
- (c) to complete the academic requirements of the course and provide the Committee with evidence of passes for all the course assessments.

- 4 Process for the Practical Assessment of Presbytery Worship Leaders:
 - 4.1 Practical Assessment:
 - (a) Once agreement has been reached between the participant and her or his Minister/Interim Moderator that the participant is ready for practical assessment the Minister/Interim Moderator shall contact the Committee to arrange a suitable date, time, and place for the participant to be assessed, in-person, leading a worship service,
 - (b) two assessors from Presbytery, in terms of section 4.2, shall attend the service for assessment, and following this interview the participant to ascertain their character, engagement with the training, and suitability as a Presbytery Worship Leader.
 - 4.2 Assessors:
 - (a) The Committee shall appoint assessors from among the Presbytery's Ministers, Deacons, Readers, and Worship Leaders, with a minimum of one of the assessors being a Minister or Deacon, to assess worship in terms of section 4.1(b),
 - (b) the assessors will forward their written report to the Committee.
 - 4.3 Recognition as a Presbytery Worship Leader:
 - (a) Once the Convenor of the Committee receives the written report and is satisfied that all academic and practical elements have been passed, the person will be recognised as a Worship Leader and permitted to lead worship, on invitation, with any congregation within Presbytery,
 - (b) the person will be presented with a Worship Leader certificate in their home congregation,
 - (c) the Committee will inform Presbytery, who shall note this decision.
 - 4.4 Right to appeal:
 - (a) A nominee whose nomination is not approved by the Committee Convenor shall have a right to appeal to Presbytery,
 - (b) should Presbytery uphold the Convenor's decision the nominee has the right of appeal in terms of the Appeals Act (Act I, 2014).
- 5 Presbytery shall maintain a register of persons authorised as Presbytery Worship Leaders.
- 6 When a person, who has been recognised as a Worship Leader by another Presbytery, can be enabled to serve as a Presbytery Worship Leader if:
 - a) a letter has submitted to the Committee Convenor from the appropriate person of that Presbytery certifying that he or she has been so recognised,
 - b) an extract minute, stating the nomination of the Kirk Session of the congregation of which they are a member of, is provided to the Ministries, Education, Resources, and Information Technology Committee.
- 7 For the avoidance of doubt, no person selected, trained, or authorised in terms of this Scheme shall be entitled to a Pulpit Supply Fee, 'but shall receive reasonable expenses as determined from time to time by the Presbytery' in terms of section 8(2) of Act II, 2018. Therefore, travelling expenses may be paid to Presbytery Worship Leaders, when invited to lead worship within the bounds of the Presbytery.