

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season ; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction."

2 Tim 4:2



Serving The Churches

We are extremely grateful to the many lay preachers who serve their own and other churches through the ministry of leading worship and preaching. We recognise that this is crucial for many churches, and also that those who engage in this ministry exercise great commitment, doing this on top of their daily work.

Affirming A Ministry

One of the ways that the Association can affirm this ministry is to provide support and training, and to help people to gain accreditation as "Lay Preachers" or "Lay Pastors". The gaining of the accreditation is an important affirmation of those who do this ministry, and also indicates to the churches those who have sought to enhance and hone their gifting in this area. It is not



only our smaller churches, but also larger ones during a pastoral vacancy, who would value having a list of those who are accredited by the Baptist Union as lay preachers.

Lay Accreditation

The Baptist Union has a training programme for lay ministries which is now being organised by our Baptist Colleges. The training course consists of a range of different modules with more required for recognition as a Lay Pastor.



What might this mean for you? **Steps Towards National Lay Accreditation**

***In all your considerations remember that you are seeking God's will in partnership with others.
You do not want to be where God doesn't want you to be.***

- Talk about your sense of call to Lay Preaching - with your partner and family, with your minister and / or church leader with the Regional Minister.
- Consider, in conjunction with your minister and the Regional Minister, how and when to apply.
- Ask your church to test and confirm your call and potential.
- Submit an application form to the Association. Of the four referees named, two must hear you preach. A form reference will be supplied direct to them,

before they hear you.

- Make enquiries at Baptist Colleges about the possibilities for training.

Following the Process Through

- Two members of the Ministry Committee will visit you.
- Another two will observe you leading worship and preaching.
- References will be taken up.
- You will be interviewed.
- If the outcome is positive you will be commended for training and engaging in this ministry.
- Complete the training modules with one of the Baptist Colleges.
- Engage in a preaching ministry for a minimum of two years.
- During this time you will be expected to devise your own practical development plan and will be linked with a member of the Ministry Group to help you work this through.
- On completion of the training there is a further interview process to examine your competence as a preacher and to consider commending you for national accreditation as a Lay Preacher.
- Again, two members of the Ministry Group will observe you leading worship and preaching in order for them to complete new preaching reference forms.
- You will be required to obtain a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure