



The
**United
Reformed
Church**
**East Midlands
Synod**

**Service of Induction for Martin Ferris
Saturday 5 September 2020 – Abbots Road,
Leicester**

The Preparation

1. Greeting

Moderator

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith,
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

**Grace be with all who have an undying love
for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 6:23-24

2. Scripture Sentences

Moderator

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all
creation;

for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
he is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the first born from the dead
for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Colossians 1:15-16,18a-b,19a

3. **Hymn: *Have you heard God's voice***
Moderator

4. **Prayers of Praise, Confession and Forgiveness**
Richard Eastman

The response to my words 'Loving God' is '**Forgive us.**'

Almighty and ever-loving God, we praise you, we worship you,
we glorify you.

We give thanks that you are a gracious and merciful God.
Through your love for us you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to
redeem us from our sins and to bring to us eternal life.

But gracious God, we are aware of our shortcomings;
the times that we have failed to live up to our promises;
the times that we have offended you and our neighbours.

For careless comments and hasty remarks.

Loving God, **Forgive us.**

For slothfulness and laziness,

Loving God, **Forgive us.**

For loss of patience and times of anger,

Loving God, **Forgive us.**

For loss of compassion and hardness of heart,

Loving God, **Forgive us.**

For the times that we have failed to protect your creation,

Loving God, **Forgive us.**

For the times that we have forgotten to live as your disciples in the world,

Loving God, **Forgive us.**

Gracious God, guide us in the pathways of righteousness,
Grant to us mercy, compassion and love.

That we may be your disciples and witnesses to the truth,
Forgive us our sins. (pause for silent reflection)

Friends, know this, Jesus said, ‘your sins are forgiven’; he also said ‘Do not sin again’

We can go into the world, in the knowledge that God has forgiven us, and we can be witnesses to the truth and share God’s love with neighbours, friends and strangers.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

5. **Statement**

Moderator

The presiding minister says:

We meet today as the East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church,
in the company of members of the churches of the South & East Leicestershire Area
and friends from far and wide, including those joining us by virtual link.

We welcome you all.

Christians share, through their baptism,
in the ministry of Christ.

The life of faithful discipleship begins
with worship, study of the Scriptures and loving service.

God gives a variety of gifts, from the same Spirit,
and calls each of us to serve
according to our gifts and the needs of the world.
God calls some to be ministers of word and sacraments,
to serve the Church as the Church serves Christ.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we have come to induct
Martin
to serve as a minister of Word and Sacraments in the South &
East Leicestershire Area.
Martin has been called to exercise this ministry
by decision of the Church Meetings of Abbots Road and the
South Leicester Group
with the concurrence of the Southern Synod.

The Ministry of the Word

6. Readings from Scripture

Acts 11: 19-26

Charlotte Ferris

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Eileen Williams

7. Charge to Minister and Pastorate (Sermon!)

Andy Twilley

The Induction

8. Presentation of the Candidate

Syd Henderson

*The interim moderator presents the candidate to the presiding
minister with these or similar words:*

Moderator, I present to you Martin,
for induction into the South & East Leicestershire Area

9. The Call
Moderator

We now hear a statement on behalf of the Pastorate,
outlining the steps which led to this call.

We shall hear how the congregations of the South & East
Leicestershire Area called Martin to be *their* minister.

Firstly, we hear from the Ordained Ministry and Churches
Group – the body with responsibility for the deployment of
ministers across our Synod – the steps that led to the formation
of this new pastorate: **Geoff Townsend**

*In addressing the problem of a reducing number of stipendiary
ministers, the East Midlands Synod has adopted a policy of
creating new style pastorates in which one church will be
identified as a Resource Church, scoped at 50%, with the
remaining pastorate churches becoming the Resource Area and
jointly scoped with the remaining 50%. We were mindful that
the present Minister of the South Leicestershire Group, Rev
Richard Eastman, is due to retire in 2021. Consequently after
discussion with the churches involved, it was decided to create
a new pastorate, the South and East Leicestershire Area, with
Abbots Road becoming the Resource Church and the churches
in the present South Leicestershire Group becoming the
Resource Area.*

*Until Rev Richard Eastman retires in 2021 the new Pastorate
will have 2 full time stipendiary ministers, although he will not
then be replaced. The Ministers will work with the Elders to*

work out their respective roles in this interim period. Initially Martin will work largely with Abbots Road and Richard with the churches in the South Leicestershire Group.

Short statements by the Church Secretaries.

Pam Smith & Di Statham

Statement by the minister-elect

Martin

The minister-elect makes a brief statement about his call to the ministry into which he will be inducted.

11. Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

Helen Lidgett & David Greateorex

This Statement (Basis of Union, Schedule D) is read in one of the approved forms.

12. Affirmations

Moderator & Martin Ferris

All stand as the presiding minister asks the minister-elect to affirm his faith.

1. Martin will you confess anew your faith?

I confess anew my faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,

is the supreme authority
for the faith and conduct of all God's people.
I believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary,
lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross,
and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore,
is the gift of God's very self to the world.
I believe that through him
God's love, justice and mercy are revealed
and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life
are offered to all people.
And by the grace of God
I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully.
I believe that the Church is the people
gathered by God's love
to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God
through Jesus Christ.

2. What leads you to this ministry?

So far as I know my own heart,
I believe that zeal for the glory of God,
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,
obedience to the Holy Spirit
and a desire for the salvation of the world,
are the chief motives which lead me to enter this ministry.
Relying on the strength of Christ,
I promise to live a holy life,
and to maintain the truth of the gospel,
whatever trouble or persecution may arise.

3 Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?

By the grace of God I promise to lead the Church in worship,

to preach the word and administer the Sacraments,
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,
to take my part in the councils of the Church,
and to give leadership to the Church in mission to the world.
As a minister of the United Reformed Church
I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches,
and to endeavour always to build up
the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I undertake to exercise my ministry
in accordance with the statement concerning the nature,
faith and order of the United Reformed Church.
All these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy
Spirit.

13. Promises
Moderator

The presiding minister asks the congregation:

The promises that follow are the opportunity – here and now –
to affirm joyfully the faith of the
Church and your commitment – today and in the days ahead – to
the call issued to Martin.

To comply with Covid-19 guidelines this afternoon one voice
will respond here in church;

Any and all watching at home are encouraged to SHOUT the
response – loud enough for us to hear it in church!

Do you confess again your faith in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

We do.
Representative Voice

Do you receive Martin as from God,
as a minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed
Church?

We do.

Representative Voice

Will you pray for Martin in this ministry,
giving *him* due honour, support and encouragement?

We will.

Representative Voices

*The presiding minister asks members of the local churches
where the minister is to serve:*

Members of South & East Leicestershire Area, do you receive
Martin as from God, to serve among you and to lead you in your
ministry?

We do.

Representative Voice

The presiding minister asks members of the Synod:

Members of the East Midlands Synod,
do you welcome Martin into membership,
and promise to support *his* ministry ?

We do.

Representative Voice

The presiding minister addresses Richard Eastman:

Richard, in the exercise of your ministry alongside Martin,
Do you promise to support and pray for him as colleague?

Richard Eastman

14. Induction Prayer

Moderator

The congregation stands for the induction prayer.

God of every perfect gift,
we praise you that in every age you call your people
to show forth your acts of mercy and love.
We give you thanks that you have called your servant Martin
to serve you as a minister in your Church,
in succession to the apostles
and in company with all who follow in Christ's way.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit
on your servant Martin
as in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
we induct *him* to serve as minister of this Area

Gracious God, dwell with Martin
and strengthen the gifts you have given *him*
that the ministry and mission of your people may bear fruit.

Inspire *him* in leading worship,
in preaching and teaching and service;
may the gospel be celebrated
when *he* presides at the sacraments.

Bless *him* with love and humility to tend your flock,
to feed the hungry, heal the wounded, and find the lost.

Give *him* power and patience
to witness with all Christians to your way,
and to labour with all people of goodwill
for justice and mercy in society.

Watch over *him* in times of trial;
in weariness, disappointment, or frustration;
and keep *him* from complacency and spiritual pride.

Fill *his* home with your peace.
(*Special petitions may be added at this point.*)

Give grace to the people of *these churches*
that they may accept the service God offers them through
Martin. May they work together for the glory of your name.

And may the good work you have begun today
be brought to completion in Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you, Father,
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever.

Amen.

15. Declaration of Induction

Moderator

The presiding minister says:

Representing the East Midlands Synod,
acting on behalf of the United Reformed Church,
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I declare Martin be
inducted to the South & East Leicestershire Area.

Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the Church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21

16. The Welcomes

Welcomes are conveyed by the presiding minister and others duly appointed:

Recorded greetings from:

1. SLG; 2. AR; 3. Ecumenical ; 4 Synod: Clerk

General Assembly: Moderator

17. Prayers of Intercession & Lord's Prayer

Peter Stevenson

18. Hymn: *O Lord, the clouds are gathering*

Moderator

19. Dismissal and Blessing

Martin Ferris

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you always. ***Amen.***