



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE -  
MODERATOR OF THE MINISTERIAL  
RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

THE BAPTIST UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN



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# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## Introduction

As a Union of churches, associations and colleges our life together continues to be rich and varied. In all aspects of Baptists Together, including Council, trustee boards, committees and teams, we look to bring together groups and teams of people who can serve in this way in order to make real our mission.

This short document outlines the role that the Moderator of BUGB's Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC) plays. It provides information on the various aspects of the committee including our discernment process. Please note that this role is carried out on a voluntary basis.

### MODERATOR OF THE MINISTERIAL RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

The Moderator of the MRC plays a key role in upholding the covenant between ministers and the Baptist Union of Great Britain expressed through accreditation. They are required to exercise wisdom and understanding, while being entrusted to act on behalf of Council. They chair the committee and subcommittee meetings of the MRC and makes certain decisions in line with the Ministerial Recognition Rules (MR Rules) on behalf of the committee in between meetings.

### SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

Could you offer to serve in Union life by putting yourself forward?

We hope that you will take time to consider prayerfully whether God may be calling you to serve in this role. If you choose to express your interest, please know that we will be praying for you throughout the process of discernment and appointment. We know from our past experiences that God is faithful in bringing the right people forward at the right time in our Union life.



Lynn Green  
General Secretary  
June 2025



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## Our vision, culture, values and current priorities

**“TO GROW HEALTHY CHURCHES IN RELATIONSHIP  
FOR GOD’S MISSION.”**

### CURRENT PRIORITIES FOR BAPTISTS TOGETHER

Baptist Union Council in March 2025 affirmed BUGB’s current ‘strategic anchors’ and the outcomes we are pursuing for each one are as follows:

Strategic anchor	Concrete outcomes
Nurturing Baptist identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wide ownership of our Baptist identity</li><li>• Baptists speaking prophetically in the public square by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Empowering and resourcing local churches to speak</li><li>◦ Giving input to government legislation based on discernment</li></ul></li></ul>
Strategic collaboration in mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investing in new fruitful mission</li><li>• Evaluating and sharing best practice with a view to return on investment in terms of disciple making / kingdom impact</li></ul>
Developing ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing numbers of minister/leaders</li><li>• Development of under-represented groups</li></ul>
Specialist support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive feedback for services</li><li>• New income generated</li><li>• Balanced budget and financial sustainability</li></ul>

The Ministerial Recognition Committee has a key part to play in supporting the third of these – developing ministry. The decisions made by the MRC, regarding both policy, and individual ministers, aim to maintain rigorous and consistent standards for those we accredit and recognise. At the same time, MRC has to aim for processes that enable rather than obstruct the increase of trained ministers who exhibit the Marks of Ministry and are in strong relationship with each other and the wider Union.

The second of these two aims is especially pertinent in our contemporary situation, in which the number of accredited ministers is declining overall, and the marked drop in the number of those entering training for ministry over the last few years.

The Ministries Team, supported by the MRC, is currently looking at how we encourage more of those in our churches to explore a calling and how to facilitate their ministerial formation.



## Role of Moderator of the Ministerial Recognition Committee

### THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL MINISTERIAL RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

The national Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC) administers the register of Accredited Ministers. It supports the Regional Associations in their oversight of Recognised Local Ministers (RLM). It also maintains a register of Nationally Recognised Pastors, though this category is gradually being replaced by RLM. It deals with all aspects of the accreditation and recognition policy, working closely with the Ministries Team. It decides on all individual ministerial cases, including:

- enrolments;
- secondments to other forms of ministry;
- leave of absence by which a minister may remain on the register whilst temporarily being unable to minister; and
- removals from the register for disciplinary or other reasons.

### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MODERATOR

1. To chair the meetings of the MRC which are currently held three times a year. Preparation includes approximately two days of reading and pondering on the agenda items, together with a longer period of reflection and prayer.
2. To prepare and lead opening worship at the MRC meetings, offering and inviting prayer at various points through the agenda.
3. To liaise with Ministries Team Leader and the Ministerial Recognition Coordinator prior to the meetings. The Team Leader and Ministerial Recognition Coordinator shape the agenda and work through it with the Moderator to identify questions, gaps and possible outcomes.
4. To chair the three-day Residential Selection Conference, held when required, but in recent years at 12- to 18-month intervals. The role is one of availability and being a listening ear to candidates and interviewers during the Conference alongside reading the application paperwork. This includes leading or delegating the leading of worship during the Conference.
5. To chair the smaller Ministerial Recognition Sub-Committees (MR Subs) which take place in-between the main MRCs. These are largely the culmination of a disciplinary process involving a minister. They also involve interviewing ministers who want to transfer into the Baptist Union from another holding body, or who are seeking reinstatement to the list following a period of discipline or other reason. These meetings normally happen in person and usually at Baptist House in Didcot. They typically require a day's reading in preparation and a pre-meeting with the Team Leader and the Ministerial Recognition Coordinator.
6. A confidential listening ear and conversation partner to the Ministries Team Leader. This is especially useful with difficult or complex issues facing individual ministers which may or may



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not invoke a disciplinary process, and in reflecting on wider, strategic questions arising from individual and other situations.

7. Taking decisions in between the main MRCs, known as Moderator's Actions, which come within the clear boundaries of the MR Rules and which do not need to wait for a full MRC meeting. Examples include approving a Leave of Absence request, approving a Minister's change of category on the register, and so on. Where the circumstances are complex, the decision is normally left to the next meeting of the MRC where the panel will collectively decide. Requests for Moderator's Actions take place approximately once a week.
8. Chairing a two-hour online meeting with the Association MRC moderators subsequent to each national MRC to communicate any consequent change of policy or approach and to discuss MRC processes.
9. Regularly holding the ministry and mission of the Baptist Union, the Ministries Team, all ministers and churches in prayer.

### CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE MINISTERIAL RECOGNITION COMMITTEE AS AT JUNE 2025

Those currently serving as members of the MRC are:

Revd Claire Blatchford  
Revd Dan Boakye - interim co-moderator  
Revd Mark Clay  
Revd Linda Donaldson  
Revd Andy Goodliff  
Revd Ruth Goldbourne  
Phil Hindle  
Karen Kaneen  
Revd Lisa Kerry  
Anne Lane  
Revd Emmanuel Ntusi  
Yvonne Timms  
Revd Lucy Wright – interim co-moderator  
(Revd Tim Fergusson)  
(Revd Lee Johnson)

### TERM OF APPOINTMENT

The Moderator is appointed by Council for an initial period of 3 years, and this can then be extended by a further 3 years. They must be an accredited Baptist Minister with BUGB. This is a voluntary unpaid role, although travel expenses will be reimbursed.



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## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on ministerial recognition activities please see our website:

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/347474/Ministerial\\_Recognition\\_Committee.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/347474/Ministerial_Recognition_Committee.aspx)

To see our current ministerial recognition rules please use the following link:

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/482804/Ministerial\\_Recognition\\_Rules.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/482804/Ministerial_Recognition_Rules.aspx)

## Next steps

### EXPRESSING YOUR INTEREST

If you would like to express your interest in this role, please send a letter outlining your interest by email to Rachel Stone, the Union's HR and Safeguarding Team Leader, at the address below. Rachel will be coordinating the appointment process on behalf of the Key Roles Nominations Group. Electronic responses will make it easier for us to share information amongst those involved in the discernment process.

We would be particularly keen to understand:

- Your current situation and ministry role
- Your involvement to date in the wider life of the Union
- Why you feel that this role might be part of your future ministry and service

We would encourage you to discuss this role with Christian leaders you know and trust, and to ask for prayer as you consider whether or not to express your interest.

Further information can be requested and application made by contacting:

[opportunities@baptist.org.uk](mailto:opportunities@baptist.org.uk)  
01235 517730

If you would find it helpful to speak to someone in more detail before deciding whether to express an interest, please contact either Lee Johnson or Tim Fergusson, the Ministry Team Co-Leaders.

Lee Johnson – [ljohnson@baptist.org.uk](mailto:ljohnson@baptist.org.uk)  
Tim Fergusson – [tfergusson@baptist.org.uk](mailto:tfergusson@baptist.org.uk)

### DISCERNMENT AND DECISION

The closing date for expressions of interest is 28 July 2025. Once expressions of interest have been received, we will be meeting with those who appear to meet our skills and knowledge requirements. In the first instance, the Moderator of the Key Roles Nominations Group will speak with you to understand more about your background, your sense of call to service in this way, and to pray with you. At this stage we will also encourage you to speak to one of the Ministries Team Co-Leaders to talk in more depth about the practical responsibilities of the role and how the MRC works.

The outcome of these meetings will be shared with the full Key Roles Nominations Group so that prayerful decisions can be made about which individuals to put forward. You will also be invited to attend a discernment day to meet with the Key Roles Nominations Group and the Ministries Team Co-Leaders.



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During that day there will also be time for you to meet with the Ministries Team for a more in-depth discussion of the work of the MRC and your own experience in working with complex issues.

After the discernment day, the Key Roles Nominations Team will come to a view, and subsequently make a recommendation to Council. The appointment decision lies with Council, and the next Council meeting is taking place in October 2025.

### INDUCTION

Recognising the complex nature of our Union and the need for good support, a full induction programme will be put in place for the eventual appointee to ensure they have good background information and understanding before starting in their role.





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