

# Baptist Union of Great Britain

## TRAINING FOR LAY PASTORS AND PREACHERS

### Course Descriptor

#### LEADING PUBLIC WORSHIP

##### ***Aims***

The aims of this module are:

- to enable participants to reflect upon the nature of Christian worship and its constituent components;
- to help participants explore the relationship between their understanding of Christian worship and their own personal experience within different church contexts;
- to explore significant issues in relation to public worship;
- to consider how to approach the preparation and leading of worship with theological understanding;
- to explore the theological and practical issues associated with the rites of passage;
- to develop participants' skills and confidence in leading public worship.

##### ***Description***

This module explores the thinking behind the Christian practices of public worship and teaching. It encourages an holistic approach to worship through the study of its nature as a place of corporate meeting with God and declaration of God's acts. Students will be introduced to the biblical foundations for corporate worship in both Old and New Testaments and to the relationship between worship and doctrine. The value of different worship traditions and styles (e.g. freedom and liturgy), and the place and use of symbols, ceremonies and sacraments will be examined. It will look at how to create an act of worship and the skills needed to lead worship. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to develop their abilities in specific areas, such as the leading of all-age worship and our understanding of the Lord's Supper. This will include appraisal of their planning and leadership and an opportunity to reflect on the experience.

##### ***Learning Outcomes***

At the end of this module students will be able to:

- explain some of the significant issues raised by Christian public worship today;
- prepare and lead worship with theological insight or help others to do so;
- have confidence in the practical skills of preparing and leading worship in church;
- approach rites of passage common to Baptist Churches with understanding.

##### ***Assessment***

There will be two assignments to be completed. It is expected that at least one of these will be a written piece of work (1200-1500 words) on a theme central to the area of learning covered in this module. The other will involve leading worship within the context of a local church, and reflection upon both the experience and the preparation. The local Association will normally be involved in the assessment of this module.