

Ministerial Formation Lead, The Baptist Union of Great Britain

April 2026

Welcome — and thank you for taking the time to explore this role.

This is a significant moment for the Ministries Team and for Baptists Together. We are entering a season of reshaping the way we inspire, form, and support a new generation of Baptist minister and leaders. The Ministerial Formation Lead is a key appointment in this journey — someone who will help us cultivate healthy, accountable, justice-shaped leaders who are rooted in our shared identity and equipped for God’s mission.

We long to see more women and men discerning a call to ministry, and to see them formed within an ecosystem that nurtures Christlike character, theological depth, emotional and spiritual health, and a deep commitment to justice. This role will help us strengthen that ecosystem — from initial discernment through to lifelong formation.

If you are passionate about inspiring people to serve, and about shaping leaders who flourish in every Baptist ministry context, I encourage you to read this pack prayerfully and reflectively. We hope it gives you a clear sense of our vision, our hopes, and the culture we are seeking to build.

As you consider whether to express your interest, please know that we are praying for you — for wisdom, clarity, and God’s leading. Whatever you decide, may you know God’s blessing in your ministry and in the communities you serve.



Revd Lee Johnson
Ministries Team Leader



The Baptist Union of Great Britain

Role Profile

Job title:	Ministerial Formation Lead
Reports to:	Ministries Team Leader
Direct reports:	-
Location	Baptist House, Didcot plus home working

A. Job Purpose

In conjunction with the Ministries Team Leader, to support and help to develop Baptist missional leaders across the entire ecosystem of ministerial development—from initial discernment and training through to lifelong formation. This role ensures that leaders grow in Christ-likeness, theological depth, emotional and spiritual health, and share God’s heart for justice.

B. Key Responsibilities

Develop the National Formation Strategy

- Partnering with Associations and Colleges shape and deliver a coherent, lifelong formation pathway for ministers and leaders, rooted in the Marks of Ministry.
- Seeking to encourage all Associations in Baptists Together to offer access to training for Recognised Local Ministry.
- Developing a formation plan that seeks to cultivate healthy rhythms of discipleship, theological reflection, emotional resilience, and spiritual maturity.
- Seeking to embed lifelong formation hubs into the fabric of Baptist life.

Oversight of Learning Hubs and Formation Structures

- In conjunction with the Ministries Team Leader, partner with Local Formation Leads to develop learning hubs.
- In conjunction with the Justice Enabler ensure just leaders are formed and just leadership is embedded in Baptists Together.
- Network with and bring leadership to Local Formation Leads to develop a clear Baptists Together strategy for learning and formation hubs.
- Support Local Formation Leads, Colleges, and Associations in delivering high-quality formation experiences.
- Ensure consistency, quality, and theological coherence across all hubs and pathways.
- Ensure that all aspects of Baptist ministry life are supported; this would include church planters, pioneers, chaplains, CYF workers, etc.



Recruitment and Growth of New Ministers

- Support the Ministries Team Leader in the national strategy of increasing the number of ministers entering formation, contributing to the target of 350 people entering or completing formation for accredited or recognised ministry by 2028.
- Work with Associations, Colleges, and the Ministries Team Leader to ensure shared accountability for recruitment goals.
- Ensure provision of mentoring and events that support those exploring a calling.

Identity and Baptist Distinctives

- Embed the Declaration of Principle and Baptist identity into all formation processes.
- Promote covenantal relationships, mutual accountability, and congregational discernment.

Collaboration, Team Contribution and Reporting

- Reporting to the Ministries Team Leader.
- Work closely with the Ministerial Ethics and Integrity Manager, Association and College partners.
- Working with the Justice Enabler and Ministries Supervisor.
- Contribute to resource development, process development, and shared national formation initiatives.
- Ensure freshness and integrity of Baptists Together promotional materials and webpages where appropriate.
- Maintain accurate records and produce appropriate reports when required.

Changes to this role profile

This role profile is designed to be illustrative rather than exhaustive. The Baptist Union may add to the responsibilities of the Ministerial Formation Lead any tasks or activities that they see as relevant and appropriate to the role and will discuss any such additions with the post-holder.



C. Culture and Working Style at BUGB

Across our Union our culture and working style is still developing, and can be best described in the following words:

Our vision as a movement is “to grow healthy churches in relationship for God’s mission.”

The Baptist Union of Great Britain is committed to *intentionally* developing a culture where we...

- ***Seek to be a movement of Spirit led communities.*** As those who have encountered the living Christ, to intentionally seek his will and purpose for our local churches and every expression of our shared life. (Galatians 5:22-25)
- ***Feel like one team*** – celebrating diversity; valuing, respecting and trusting each other as we work together in partnerships - making sure everyone feels included and listened to. (I Corinthians 12:24b-27)
- ***Embrace adventure*** – being serious about discipleship, willing to take risks, pioneer and move out of the comfort zone of familiar ways of doing things. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- ***Inspire others*** – with a generosity of spirit, energise and motivate people to be all that God created them to be. (Ephesians 5:1 & 2)
- ***Share a Hunger*** for God’s coming Kingdom – nurturing a “holy discontent” that arises from our desire to give practical expression to our vision of God’s purpose for creation - confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly attitudes to power, wealth, status and security both within and beyond our Union. (Matthew 6:9 & 10)

We expect all staff working as part of the national specialist teams to model high standards of professional and personal behaviour, and to work in ways that demonstrate our values to those we work with and support.

D. Personal Attributes and Experience

Person Specification

Essential

- A passion for developing the next generation of Baptist Ministers and Leaders.
- Strong theological grounding and ability to articulate Baptist identity and ecclesiology.
- Demonstrated experience in ministerial formation, theological education, and leadership development.
- Deep commitment to forming healthy, accountable, justice-shaped leaders.
- Ability to work collaboratively across Associations, Colleges, and national structures.
- Strong organisational, project-management, and communication skills.
- Ability to inspire and support emerging leaders.
- Commitment to justice, equity, and the wellbeing of all people.

Desirable

- Experience leading training programmes or Learning Hub-style environments.
- Experience in curriculum design, adult learning, or spiritual formation.

Christian ethos

The Baptist Union of Great Britain is a Christian denominational body. The nature of this role means that the postholder must be a committed Christian and an active member of their church. This is not a post where there is a requirement for the postholder to be an accredited Baptist minister, but you will need to be able to demonstrate a good understanding of Baptist life and the way in which the various bodies of our Union work together to form and develop Baptist ministers.

Salary and practical arrangements

This role is offered on a full-time basis, with time split between working at home and at our offices at Baptist House in Didcot.

The starting salary for the role is £40,000 per annum.

We also offer a range of staff benefits including:

- a contributory pension scheme, which includes life assurance cover and income protection in the event of serious illness
- An electric car leasing scheme
- a voluntary benefits package (Perkbox) that gives discounts for a wide range of everyday expenditure (eg supermarkets, high street retailers, restaurants, cinema tickets)
- free parking at our Didcot offices

We provide good training and development support for new joiners, and on an ongoing basis, as well as regular feedback on performance and progress.



Next steps

If you would like to express your interest, please send a full CV and a covering letter outlining your interest by email to Rachel Stone, our Union's HR Team Leader, who will be coordinating the appointment process. Electronic responses will make it easier for us to share information amongst those involved in the appointment process.

We would be particularly keen to understand:

- Your current role and previous relevant experience
- Your interest in this role and how you see this forming a part of your ongoing ministry

We are not worried about the format or length of your letter, but we would encourage you to be clear and concise, so that we can easily recognise your skills and strengths.

We ask for details of three referees (including email addresses), one of which should be in leadership of your church. Please indicate if we can take up any or all of these references prior to interview, otherwise any offer will be subject to satisfactory references.

Contact details: opportunities@baptist.org.uk

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role before expressing your interest, please contact Lee Johnson, the Ministries Team Leader at ljohnson@baptist.org.uk.

Selection and Decision

The closing date for applications is 1.00pm on Thursday 14 May. After a shortlisting process, we will hold interviews on Wednesday 27 May at Baptist House. Interviews will be carried out by a small panel, and there will be opportunity to meet with members of the Ministries Team. You will be asked to give a presentation as part of this process and will be given more details nearer to the time. We will also ask you to write a reflective piece about ministerial formation priorities.

Induction

Recognising the complex nature of our Union, the seniority of this role and the need for good support as the new appointee takes up their role, a full induction programme will be put in place to make sure that our new appointees have good background information and understanding before they start with us.

Appendix 1

Ministries Team Vision Document

Vision Statement

Growing healthy churches in relationship for God's mission by: Forming Baptist missional leaders—healthy¹, accountable, and rooted in our shared identity² and congregational life—so they can guide others toward Jesus and bring gospel transformation with integrity, justice, and wisdom.

Why this vision and why now

We have agreed a broad vision for the need for more ministers and leaders,³ and BUGB has recognised this as a strategic anchor.

Recognising the age profile of our current cohort of accredited Baptist Ministers, we can assume that around 150 ministers will retire by the end of 2028. From our current average figures, we can assume that another 90 will leave the list for other reasons in that same time frame.

We need to shape the Ministries Team for ministerial growth in line with our vision and strategic anchor. However, we don't just want more ministers; we need more healthy ministers.

We have discussed these themes at length, and Tim has worked hard on a plan that includes an ecosystem of ministers and leaders. This ecosystem should be a place for all who are called to Baptist leadership to dwell, learn, and flourish.

For this vision and these ideas to become reality, we need to change. Part of that change needs to include a structural overhaul of the Ministries Team.

However, structural change needs to flow from a coherent plan and vision.

This document sets out a plan for structural change based on a vision for the growth and development of missional leaders who embody the Marks of Ministry⁴: **Mature** as disciples of Christ; **Accountable** to others; **Relational** in approach to leadership; **Kingdom-focused**; **Servant-hearted** and **sacrificial**.

¹ Healthy leaders could be described as individuals who lead from a place of emotional, spiritual, relational, and physical wellbeing, enabling them to exercise influence with integrity, resilience, and wisdom.

² https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220595/Declaration_of_Principle.aspx

³ https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/330645/Our_priorities.aspx

⁴ <https://www.baptist.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=244139&view=browser>



Expanding these, our Baptist family needs leaders who are Christ-centred and biblically-rooted; theologically literate and wise in practice; emotionally, spiritually, physically and relationally healthy; embedded in our shared Baptist identity and in congregational life; committed to justice, safeguarding and the dignity of all people; missionally courageous and deeply engaged with the world in which they live. Such leaders enable gospel transformation in the communities they serve.

The vision is for ministerial and leadership formation that is not a moment but a lifelong journey. It encompasses everything from initial training right through to the Continuing Ministerial Development⁵ of even our most experienced ministers. Throughout, it affirms our responsibility to form those who are not only gifted but also of good character, and who embody integrity, accountability, humility and the just treatment of all people.

Four Pillars

This broad vision can be understood through four pillars.

1. Formation⁶

We form women and men who respond to God's call—whether those formally accredited or recognised, or those acknowledged as leaders in their local church. We nurture leaders within an ecosystem of lifelong formation that cultivates healthy rhythms of discipleship, theological reflection, emotional resilience, spiritual maturity, and a deep commitment to justice, mercy, and humility. This ongoing process strengthens wellbeing and continually shapes leaders who grow in wisdom, character, and Christlikeness as they serve.

2. Identity⁷

We embed in leaders a strong sense of shared identity by cherishing the Declaration of Principle. Our identity is rooted in congregational discernment under the Lordship of Christ; the belief that every person bears the image of God and is welcomed equally into the kingdom through baptism; and our common passion to share the good news of Jesus. We see this expressed in covenantal relationships of mutual accountability, equity among our ministers and leaders, a commitment to the safeguarding and just treatment of all people across our churches, Associations and Colleges.

3. Mission⁸

We equip leaders to bring gospel transformation, embodying the reconciling work of Christ in their communities. By this, we equip their faith communities for mission—mission that includes clear and compassionate evangelism, the proclamation of the good news of Jesus, and active participation in God's healing and renewing work in the world.

⁵ https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/347475/Continuing_Ministerial_Development.aspx

⁶ Romans 12:2; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 2 Peter 3:18; Micah 6:8

⁷ Romans 12:5; Hebrews 10:23-24

⁸ John 20:21; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Luke 4:18-19

4. Justice⁹

We develop just leaders who guide others toward Jesus through Christlike character, ethical practice, and a commitment to justice that shapes their ministry, their faith community, and the culture of BUGB. We understand leadership as influence exercised with humility, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility for the wellbeing of others.

These four pillars should be understood as a whole—formation shapes identity; identity fuels mission; mission requires just leadership. These four commitments help us build a culture where leaders are supported, communities are safe, and justice is woven into the fabric of our shared life.

Measurable Goals (Balanced Scorecard)

1. Formation

- By the end of 2028 we will see 350 new ministers accredited or recognised or on the pathway to accreditation or recognition. (We have approx 100 in training for accreditation or RLM at present. To meet the target of 350, we therefore need an average new intake of 80 per year, for 26/27/28.)¹⁰
- By 2028, ensure 75% of our current accredited and recognised ministers have completed a CMD audit in the previous twelve months.

2. Identity

- By the end of 2028, see 75% of our accredited and recognised ministers engaging during the previous twelve months with at least one aspect of the wider life of Baptists Together. This might include a Baptist ministers' cluster; an Association ministers' conference; Baptist Assembly; Association days, boards or committees; Baptist working groups or round tables; moderating a BUGB church; and the like.

3. Mission

- In 2026/27/28, document and share 25 / 50 / 50 new stories each year of Baptist Ministers and leaders involved in gospel transformation, highlighting baptisms, mission, justice, community impact, and new pioneering projects.

4. Justice

- By the end of 2028, ensure that 100% of accredited and recognised ministers complete required Just Leadership training, strengthening a culture of equity across BUGB.

⁹ Mark 10:43-45; Isaiah 1:17; James 3:17; 1 Peter 5:2-3