



## Briefing Paper - Advanced Training

In the current landscape – gospel need, challenges and opportunity – Yarnton is seeking to change the culture around training through enabling and funding.

An important expression of enabling is helping local churches embrace their responsibility to train and send out gospel workers as an essential and normal part of their missional strategy.

The starting point for a local church is developing a whole-church training culture, where everyone is equipped to be a disciple-making-disciple with the word. Some will be identified as suitable for leadership roles exercising a significant word ministry. And some of them will be identified to be trained and deployed as full-time gospel workers to serve in local churches, exercising a significant word ministry. Fig. 1 illustrates.

**Fig. 1 Whole Church Training Culture**



Foundation training is a church-based training programme, in partnership with an external training provider. It is a first formal step in training for set-apart gospel work. While not everyone will go on to set-apart gospel work – recognising that for some it is discernment process – the intention and expectation is that most will.

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The Yarnton Gospel Workers Trust, 116-118 Walworth Rd, London SE17 1JL. Charity Number 1217749

[www.yarntontrust.org](http://www.yarntontrust.org); [info@yarntontrust.org](mailto:info@yarntontrust.org)

Advanced training is the second formal step in training for set-apart gospel work. The expectation is that everyone undertaking advanced training will go on to serve in a set-apart leadership role in a local church, exercising a significant word ministry.

Across the UK, two routes for advanced training have developed.

### **Route 1 - Leader in Training**

The Leader in Training route reflects the conviction that training to be a gospel worker should happen in the local church.

In other words, not just that the local church has the primary responsibility for the identification, training, sending out and support of gospel workers, but the local church does the training itself.

Leader in Training roles – also referred to as Pastor in Training, Minister in Training or Trainee Christian Leader. The terminology we are using – Leader in Training – embraces men and women, reflecting complementarian principles.

Leader in Training roles are typically for 3 or 4 years, in one, sometimes two local churches.

The training is not exclusively in the local church, but in partnership with an external training provider. Training providers across the UK are committed to working in partnership with local churches for the Leader in Training route.

The Leader in Training route is a relatively recent development. It is important, therefore, not to define it too narrowly. For example, some churches will look for partnership with an external training provider offering a course one or two days a week, in-person or by distance. Other churches with Leader in Training programmes will support people studying for a traditional theological degree full-time.

### **Route 2 - Residential theological study**

The residential theological study route reflects the conviction that training to be a gospel worker is best done through residential theological study.

In other words, the local church, which has the primary responsibility for the identification, training, sending out and support of gospel workers, entrusts that training to a theological college or seminary.

This is a tried and tested route, affording the opportunity for set-apart study in a learning community with peers and faculty.

As the Leader in Training route develops it is very important to protect and promote the residential study route. For some it is the right and best option.

Yarnton will support both routes equally in the same way it expects local churches to support both equally. In other words, a local church matching a Yarnton grant for an individual in a Leader in Training role, and / or matching a Yarnton grant for someone identified, sent and supported in residential study.

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