



MINISTRY IN SECULAR EMPLOYMENT

An introduction




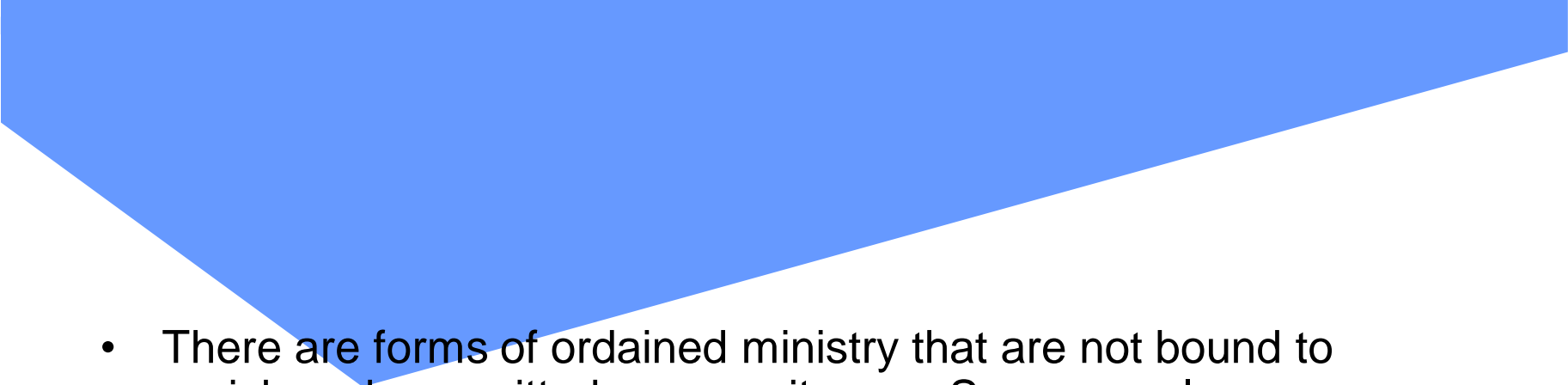



❖ *Our faith imposes upon us a right and a duty to throw ourselves into the things of the earth*
Teilhard de Chardin

❖ *The duty of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw and knew I saw - all things in God and God in all things*
Mechthild of Magdeburg

❖ *This then is salvation: when we marvel at the beauty of the created things and praise their beautiful Creator*
Meister Eckhart



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- There are forms of ordained ministry that are not bound to parish and committed community.....Some people sense a deep call to ordained ministry, but can't see themselves exercising that straightforwardly in the parochial system as it is now because they feel called to the marginal setting.
The Most Revd Rowan Williams, The Archbishop of Canterbury

- If we are to meet the needs of society, and move from maintenance to mission, we need to focus less on the structures of the churchto recognise, equip and authorise greater varieties of ministry in the church. Secular ministers, lay and ordained, are called to their tasks through the experience of living the Christian life in the secular sphere.
The Rt. Rev Colin Bennetts, The Bishop of Coventry
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What is Ministry in Secular Employment?

- It is ministry focused in the workplace
- practised by ordained and lay Christians of any denomination
- through any kind of paid or unpaid secular work.
- Work and working relationships are its raw material.
- The ministry is full-time and integrated with other forms of church related ministry.
- Some people may hold authorised positions within the church, but this would not be the primary focal point of their ministry.



What do Ministers in Secular Employment (MSEs) do?

- They see their secular work as their ministry
- exercised in and through the work they do daily.
- Their ministry is integral to their work and the workplace.
- As employees or as employers in a workplace, or in any other occupation, they are saying that this work, these situations, these people and the people for whom the work is done, all matter to the God who has called them and to God's Church.



Within the places where they work, MSEs have opportunities to:

- Influence events in the direction of the Kingdom
- Integrate faith with working life
- Make themselves available to offer confidential pastoral support
- Stand with those who need support
- Ease burdens and help others realise joys



Ministers in Secular Employment have diverse callings.

- A sample group of members of CHRISM includes people working as a:
Label Printer, Dental Surgeon, Information Technology Manager, Special School Teacher, Energy Economist, Managing Director, Civil Servant, Teacher.
- They are to be found in many places - the UK, the USA, Canada, France, Australia ...
- Whenever they lead worship or discussion in church, their experience of faith at work becomes an invaluable resource.



How does this ministry relate to other ministries?

It complements –

- the ministry of all Christians at work
- the work of stipendiary clergy or those employed in the sector ministries as permanent or visiting chaplains in industry, hospitals, colleges and other places of work
- the insights and concerns of ministers working in neighbourhoods and parishes
- organisations dedicated to exploring the links between faith and work
- work based faith and work groups



How do you become an MSE?

Anyone who exercises a Christian ministry focused in their workplace may be an MSE. You might already be an MSE if you have a Christian commitment to serve others through and within your work, with or without a licensed position in the church.

Some churches acknowledge Ministry in Secular Employment as part of their ministerial structures. You might hold, or be training for, an authorised position within the church, for example as a Reader, Elder, Accredited Lay Minister or ordained Deacon or Priest, but wish to continue working in a secular environment and to focus your ministry there.



How do you become an MSE?

Sometimes it is possible that you may be licensed, in consultation with your employer, to a particular MSE role connected with your work.

In some circumstances you may transfer to this vocation from another form of ordained ministry by resigning from paid ministry to take up a secular job.

Advice and support are available from members of CHRISM and your own denominational staff.



How do you find out more?

- By talking to an MSE you know.
- By contacting members of CHRISM (CHRistians In Secular Ministry) – the current officers and committee members are listed on the CHRISM web site
- By attending conferences organised by CHRISM.
- By becoming a subscribing member of and obtaining MSE literature such as the CHRISM Journal 'Ministers-at-Work'
- By consulting the adviser for vocations in your denomination (ask your local minister to point you in the right direction).
- By attending seminars relating to vocation organised by your denomination.



What is CHRISM and how does it help?

- CHRISM is the cross-denominational UK-based association of MSEs and their supporters. It has world-wide contacts.
- It offers support to MSEs through its quarterly journal (Ministers-at-Work), other occasional publications, annual conferences, retreats and other opportunities to make contacts and share experience.
- Membership and publication details are on the web site www.chrism.org.uk.



The CHRISM mission is:

To help ourselves and others to celebrate the presence of God and the holiness of life in our work, and to see and tell the Christian story there.



The Message:

As Ministers in Secular Employment we live out our vocation through meeting God at work.

By choosing to share the daily experience of our work colleagues, we celebrate the presence of God, and see and tell the Christian story.

This affirmation of God's concern for every aspect of creation is an essential part of the ministry, mission and life of the church.

