

## WLP 3.0 Release Note

For new enrolments from September 2020



### BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Worship: Leading & Preaching is the authorized training pathway for local preachers and worship leaders, and a key theological training resource for the whole church. Our goal in continuing its development is to raise levels of theological literacy across the church by making access to theological education easier and removing obstacles to learning, especially for those called to serve as Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.

Previous new versions have simplified the user interface and portfolio structure, and introduced simple printing and searching facilities. This version, WLP 3.0, transforms the process of building and assessing portfolios and seeks to eliminate issues like these:

- Platform incompatibility, especially concerning Word and PDF forms
- The complex and error-prone “portfolio upload” process
- The disconnect between learning outcomes and portfolio requirements and resultant tutor anxiety around assessment
- Lack of facilities to support formative assessment and student-tutor interaction

WLP 3.0 introduces a new way of building and assessing portfolios which eliminates the problematic Word and PDF forms for most purposes, and transfers tutor assessment online.

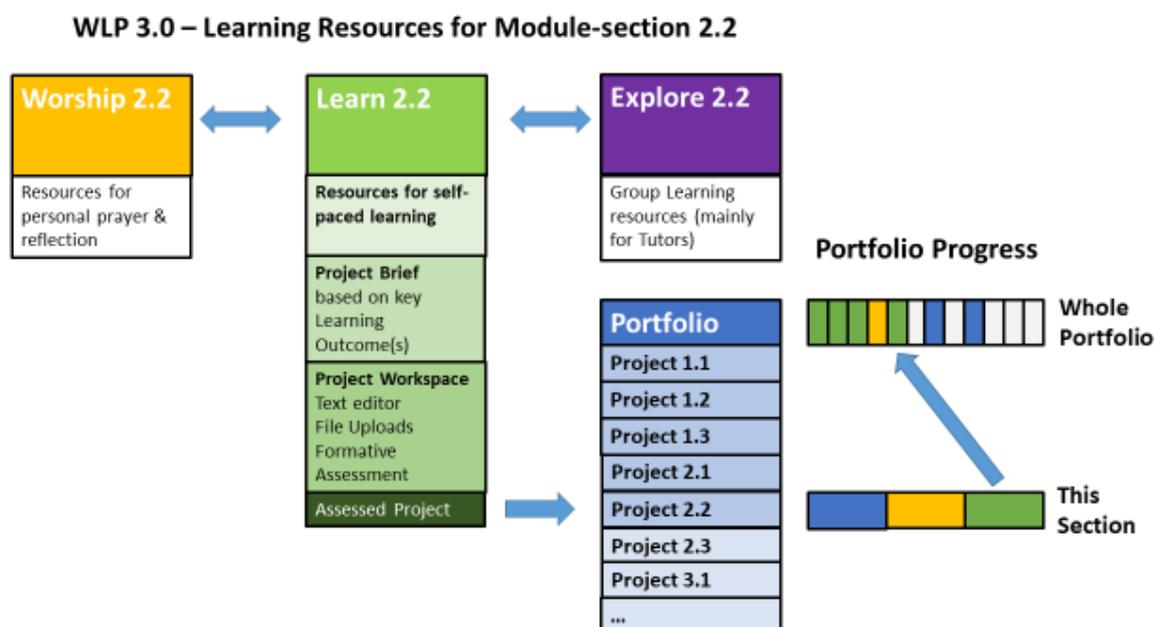
WLP 3.0 will initially be introduced for new enrolments only, and support will be provided to them and their tutors via the Learning Network in the regions. The current version, WLP 2.0 will remain operational as long as required, and until all students are transferred although it is hoped that the advantages of WLP 3.0 will cause its rapid adoption by all users.

### DESIGN CONCEPT

WLP 3.0 provides a new course website, although most of the learning content remains the same, and the same “look and feel” of WLP 2.0 has been retained. The main visible differences for users are that the **Prepare** parts of each Module-Section have been renamed **Learn** and become the main route followed by the student through the course. Each module-section includes a Project that the student completes as they go. These are completed and assessed online and automatically included in the students’ portfolio without the need for any separate upload process.

The portfolio process has however completely changed, removing many of the complex options which have proved so difficult for students and tutors to navigate. Students are no longer expected to compile their portfolio items in a set of four folders, before uploading them to Moodle for moderation.

The following diagram illustrates the structure of a typical module-section in WLP 3.0:



## KEY CHANGES

The key changes in WLP 3.0 are:

- Most Word and PDF **Forms** and **Cover Sheets** have gone. Information previously on forms is now input directly into Moodle online, eliminating compatibility problems for users with different computers and devices. Forms are retained for assessment and feedback of services by circuits and can be completed either electronically or by hand.
- There is now no need to zip portfolios and upload them to Moodle for moderation. Portfolios are built online and formative feedback from tutors also takes place online, as does moderation. Where online student-tutor interaction is not possible, other communication methods are possible.
- Each portfolio now consists of twelve **Projects**, one per module-section. These are completed as students work through the **Learn** material.
- For work previously included in Portfolio Folders 1, 2 and 3, equivalent **Projects** are now included within module-sections. There is therefore no resulting change in student workload.
- **Project Workspaces** are provided for each **Project**. These provide free-form text editing facilities, allowing students to write textual items online or copy text from other programs as they wish. The Project Workspace also provides for communication with the Tutor, who, when notified, can assess and comment on their students' work. A record is kept of this dialogue, thus providing evidence of formative feedback during the portfolio process.
- **Theological Themes** have gone. These were primarily provided to allow mapping of portfolio items onto the primary themes of the modules. However, they required complex rules to match the themes to the modules and to specify what needed to be

included in a portfolio. This complexity also generated anxiety for Tutors when trying to assess whether a portfolio item addressed a particular Theological Theme or not.

- **Apply & Reflect**, which contained a range of ideas and suggestions for portfolio items, has gone. Instead, a Project Brief is included for each module-section, based directly on a key Learning Outcome. A range of options has been provided in most Projects to maintain a variety of creative possibilities for students.
- **Projects** are assessed with direct reference to the Learning Outcomes of the module-section where they appear – assessment of each project will be against five key questions rather than a complex matrix of criteria on the Cover Sheet for the item.
- **Media types** (and their accompanying of Cover Sheets) have gone. Students are still encouraged to employ a wide range of creative skills in their projects, and guidance is provided for Tutors in assessing different media types in the Guide to Portfolios.
- A course-wide notepad facility called **My Notes** is provided to enable students to keep notes or journal entries. This is confidential to the student and kept in their own Moodle profile and can be used to collect ideas and suggestions for Projects.

## TRANSITION PROGRAMME

Initially, WLP 3.0 and the current WLP 2.0 will be run in tandem. The intended transition to WLP 3.0 is as follows:

1. From September 2020, new WLP students will be enrolled on WLP 3.0. They and their Tutor will be provided with an information pack for WLP 3.0. The specialist Learning & Development Officer in their region will be informed and will be able to provide advice and guidance. If there are particular reasons why a student wishes to enroll on WLP 2.0, this option will be available until the end of 2020. From this point forward, all new enrolments will be on WLP 3.0.
2. From December 2020, when the autumn moderation round is complete, students who have successfully completed their Portfolio A will be transferred to WLP 3.0 for modules 5-8. They and their tutors will also be provided with an information pack. Once more, if there are specific reasons why a student wishes to remain with WLP 2.0, this will be possible at this point.
3. Also from December 2020, all existing students on WLP 2.0 will be invited to transfer to WLP 3.0, recognising that those who have already committed much work to their portfolio may wish to continue on WLP 2.0.
4. At a future date to be decided, after all remaining users have been contacted about transferring to WLP 3.0, WLP 2.0 will be switched off.

A new set of Guides specifically for WLP 3.0 are in preparation and will be issued to all students enrolling on WLP 3.0 and their Tutors. For further information, please contact the Local Preachers' Office at [localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk).

**Bob Bartindale**, Officer for Worship & Local Preachers, July 2020