

Paper D2

The Way Forward: one year on Education and Learning Committee

Basic information

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Action required	None.
Draft resolution(s)	None.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	Review of the strategy for the Education and Learning committee agreed by GA 2020.
Main points	Much of the strategy has been completed or is in process. The paper identifies the remaining priorities.
Previous relevant documents	The Way Forward presented by the Education and Learning Committee, Mission Council, July 2020.
Consultation has taken place with...	N/A

Summary of impact

Financial	None specific to this review process.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None specific to this review process.

The Way Forward: one year on

1. Introduction

1.1 The Way Forward paper presented to General Assembly in 2020 highlighted the significant and valuable ongoing work of Education and Learning (E&L). It proposed a number of new tasks to enable the work of E&L to be more fitting and consistent with the denomination in the early 21st century. As such, the strategy did not represent a major shift, but a development which built on the existing strengths.

1.2 In particular, the paper continued to endorse that the key goal of the Education and Learning Committee, that was agreed through Resolution 51 at General Assembly 2005, is:

'to cultivate a church committed to life-long learning where there is integrated education and training offered to the whole people of God'.

1.3 Seven core sets of tasks were identified, and summarised in a high-level plan.

2. Assessment

2.1 Significant progress has been made for each of these tasks. The assessment is shown in Table 1, together with any further steps that have been identified.

3. Conclusion

3.1 In pursuing this agenda we have not found that any significant elements have been omitted from the original plans. Additionally, what we have learnt in the process will enable us to 'flesh out' the 2005 goal, particularly as our understanding of what the denomination expects from 'integrated' education and learning improves.

Table 1 – Assessment of the Way Forward strategy for Education and Learning

PRIORITIES	CORE TASKS	NEXT STEPS (as of May 20)	WHEN (initial tasks)	ASSESSMENT	FURTHER STEPS (as of May 21)
Current work	EM1/2/3, Stepwise, RCL support, Discipleship Development Strategy (DDS)	Ensure resourcing, both of existing work and the new strategic projects, is sufficient and priorities are set. Maintain momentum on Stepwise. Identify next steps for DDS	Ongoing	Ongoing work was well resourced. EM3 funding increased for 2021. Handover to new Secretary was effective (despite Covid-19), with thanks to previous Secretary for detailed notes. Stepwise development as planned; shift to on-line working smooth and effective. Stepwise offered as possible pathway for training Locally Recognised Worship Leaders. DDS updated and simplified. DD Funding simplified and extended. EM2 revised to meet current needs.	Review resourcing of EM3 prior to retirement of project officer and absorbing her workload into current team's work. Establish DDF process. Review Stepwise resourcing following initial completion of all streams, build in continuing development and begin evaluation process. Establish new URC Learning Hub to house online learning opportunities. Develop process and policy for LRWL (with Ministries).
Carbon neutrality	Green Charter, carbon tracker, carbon offsetting, meeting venue assessment (together with other committees)	Finalise and publish Green Charter, develop carbon tracker, develop proposals for carbon offsetting	31/12/2020	Green Charter finalised and approved. Carbon tracker developed and tested, but not used as no face-to-face meetings have been held since January 2020.	Develop proposals for carbon offsetting. Develop meeting venue assessment process with other core users.
Walking the Way	Support WtW Steering Group	Integrate WtW and DDS. Identify how E&L might enhance our support of WtW.	30/09/2020	WtW project officer fully involved in the revision of the DDS and DDF. Supported the review of WtW.	Take guidance from WtW on how E&LC can help to embed better discipleship within the denomination.
Defining integration	Define what 'success' looks like, Involve Synods and RCLs, Identify integration drivers and barriers	Define what successful integration looks like	31/12/2020	Major denomination-wide consultation initiated to define integration from an E&L perspective.	Prepare proposals to better integrate E&L in line with the consultation
RCL collaboration	Establish where further collaboration is valuable, evaluate ecumenical and governance needs, prepare change plans	Develop a vision of how the RCLs could develop in the future	31/12/2020	The RCLs submitted contributions to the integration consultation. The RCLs are continuing to develop informal 'joined-up' ways of working. Increased communication between E and L, Ministries and RCL Principals.	Formal collaboration proposals for the RCLs will be developed as part of the Integration Consultation process. Continued encouragement for 'organic' collaboration. Introduction of AALP training through RCLs, review and offer funding.
Key partners	Working with Ministries and C&YW Committees, Synods and Ecumenical partners	Develop more effective collaboration within Discipleship dept. and continue meetings with relevant Synod teams	31/12/2020	Joined-up' working with Ministries and CYW is now well developed, as evidenced by joint papers and joint initiatives including the development of the Worship Leader and Lay Preacher pathways and the Lent Packs.	Consider ways in which Synods (especially with their people responsible for E&L) can be better integrated with the E&LC and the RCLs, will be (considered as) part of the Integration Consultation.
Ways of working	Use of video conferencing, Style and frequency of meetings, Committee size and composition, budgetary management	Finalise E&L approach to virtual meetings and its impact on meetings schedule. Develop proposals for committee size and composition.	30/09/2020	Video conferenced meetings now in place and working well. Frequency and style of meetings (post Covid) agreed with only one face-to-face meeting each year. Committee size number reduced from 25 to 18.	Work is ongoing to look at the budget and the balance of E & L spending patterns.