

# Paper I3

## URC 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee: Ongoing Plans

### Walking the Way Steering Group

#### Basic information

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<b>Action required</b>	For information only.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	N/A

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	This paper provides an update on planning for the URC's 50th jubilee in 2022.
<b>Main points</b>	Planning for events and resources to complement and support local celebration of this important milestone is ongoing, with previously reported ideas taking shape alongside new possibilities. Further information about how to engage with these events and resources will be available in due course.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Mission Council 03/21, Paper I3 Mission Council 11/20, Paper O1.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Finance, Ministries, Education and Learning, Children's and Youth Work, Ecumenical and Interfaith, Global and Intercultural Ministries.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	Consultation is ongoing with the networks represented in the planning group, as well as the Finance Committee and Finance office, to make the most of existing budgets, interdepartmental budget planning and existing sources of funding within the URC.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	Ecumenical partners are being consulted on the use of venues across London ahead of a service of worship on Saturday 1 October 2022, to which they will be invited. Work is ongoing with the Congregational Federation on a publication marking our shared anniversary.

## **1. Time to celebrate**

- 1.1 Following the instructions of Mission Council in March 2020, the Walking the Way Steering Group established a planning group to prepare for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee of the United Reformed Church in 2022. Members of Assembly are invited to revisit the papers mentioned above for an overview of plans which have emerged thus far.
- 1.2 It has been clear throughout the process that celebration is important. In general, it offers a chance to focus on all that is good within our own story and to reflect on what really matters to us. It also helps us to plan for the future. In marking such a significant milestone as 50 years of a denomination's life and witness, the opportunities to benefit from these qualities of celebration are particularly strong.
- 1.3 Consequently, it is important to mark this jubilee in ways which are accessible, useful and beneficial to as many people as possible across the length and breadth of the denomination's reach.
- 1.4 It is clear that local churches and synods wish to mark this jubilee in different ways, which is very exciting. The planning group's priority is to organise events and resources which will complement these celebrations and enable everyone to join together in shared experiences and opportunities.

## **2. Events**

- 2.1 A service of worship is being planned for the afternoon of Saturday 1 October 2022, in Methodist Central Hall Westminster in London, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972. It is hoped as many people as possible from across the denomination will be able to attend. The hall has been secured for this date, and plans are being made for the content and logistics of this service.
- 2.2 The planning group is hoping that several venues, including Church House and the buildings of local URCs and ecumenical partners, will be available for people attending the service to visit during the day, to offer information, workshops, reflection, discussions, catering and other support for visitors ahead of the service.
- 2.3 Plans for a service of worship on the anniversary of the debate in Parliament of the United Reformed Church Bill in the Palace of Westminster are still being considered. A list of supporting MPs and members of the House of Lords have been passed to the chaplain of the Speaker of the House of Commons to assist with this.

## **3. Resources**

- 3.1 In terms of resources, a free pack of materials for local churches to encourage and support local celebration of this important milestone is being planned.
- 3.2 A worship resources competition will enable people of all ages and abilities from across the denomination to share their creative skills in four categories (traditional hymn / song, contemporary hymn / song, rap, poem). Contributions to this competition will be shared across various media to allow as many people as possible to view, use and benefit from this content, and prizes will be issued at General Assembly in 2022.

- 3.3 An intergenerational picture book is also being planned to open up the URC's story in accessible and engaging ways.
- 3.4 Progress with books and publications for the jubilee, including history texts, a book on hymnody, and a joint publication with the Congregational Federation in recognition of our shared 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, have been affected by the global Covid-19 pandemic, particularly through the restriction of library access. However, work continues on these publications which are due for publication at various points throughout 2022.
- 3.5 Branding and merchandise, both free and for purchase, will be made available for individuals to use in marking the celebrations, as well as some offered to local churches wholesale to enable them to raise funds.
- 3.6 More information about all of these resources, including how to obtain them, will be provided in due course. They will be available from the URC Bookshop, [www.urcshop.co.uk](http://www.urcshop.co.uk), and the URC website, [www.urc.org.uk/50](http://www.urc.org.uk/50).

#### **4. Finance**

- 4.1 As more detailed information about the costs of planning emerges, as well as the need to make early payments to secure venues and other resources, the need for a formal jubilee planning budget has become increasingly apparent.
- 4.2 Consultation is ongoing with the networks represented in the planning group, as well as the Finance Committee and Finance office, to make the most of existing budgets, interdepartmental budget planning and available sources of funding within the URC.

#### **5. Branding**

- 5.1 Sara Foyle from the Graphics Team has been working on a range of logos for the 50<sup>th</sup>, some of which are shown overleaf. Our thanks to her and to Gavin Micklethwaite, a former head of design at Christian Aid, who helped narrow down the concepts from a complex brief from the planning group.



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