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Participation of those aged Over 26 in the URC

Provision for young People aged 11-25

Since its beginning 39 years ago, FURY has provided young people aged 11-25 within the United Reformed Church the opportunity to become involved in the Church, to meet other young Christians and to represent themselves and other young people to the wider Church.

At an Assembly level, FURY provides 3 events each year and the opportunity to organise and lead these events. In addition, young people are able to gain experience, for example in writing for and editing a magazine and running a website. These are all important provisions to aid the development the young people, but even more important is the way that FURY enables young people to remain engaged with the Church, at a time in their lives when this may not happen in their local church to such an extent.

Many people say that FURY has become their church, whilst some go as far as admitting that without FURY, they would no longer be a Christian.

After FURY

When people reach the age of 26, this provision ceases. It is to be hoped that by this age, people are properly integrated within the life of the Church in other ways and that there will not be a void left in their lives through no longer being involved in FURY.

However, by looking at our churches, the absence of the people aged 20-40 is only too apparent.

Along with the Youth and Children's Work Committee, FURY has identified this issue and believes the Church needs to act on this. The Church at every level should aim to use young people's talents and allow them to grow; churches should aim to properly integrate people at a local level, particularly from the age of 20 upwards. To develop the spirituality of young people, and in the interests of moving the Church forward, the United Reformed Church at every level should act towards this now.

Resolutions

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church accepts the recommendations laid out in the report from FURY Executive and resolves to work towards solutions of the issues surrounding the lack of integration in the Church of people aged 26 upwards.