

Paper C2

Digital Charter

Communications Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	The Revd Peter Stevenson (Convenor) revdpete@btinternet.com Andy Jackson (Head of Communications) andy.jackson@urc.org.uk
Action required	To note.
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council commends the new Digital Charter and revised Social Media Guidelines to all who engage with the Church digitally.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	This is a voluntary pledge to encourage everyone engaging with the United Reformed Church digitally, on all channels and at all levels, that the digital environment is a positive place for conversations to happen, and that those conversations should be positive, safe, respectful and dignified.
Main points	To be an example of a denomination that can be safe, respectful, and dignified at all times, even when there are differences of opinion.
Previous relevant documents	Paper C1 and C3, Mission Council, March 2021.
Consultation has taken place with...	Consultation has taken place with the Communications Committee.

Summary of impact

Financial	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

This is a voluntary pledge to encourage everyone engaging with the United Reformed Church digitally, on all channels and at all levels, that the digital environment is a positive place for conversations to happen, and that those conversations should be positive, safe, respectful and dignified.

The conversations we have on our social media accounts can positively help change someone's newsfeed (what they see on social media).

Whether you're a member of clergy or a churchgoer, we all have different views and areas of interests that affect what we find interesting and engage with online. Comments made and posts shared online have the potential to go viral in this country and around the world very quickly.

We want people to enjoy online conversations and be safe and respectful. There are a number of ways the digital world can be as fruitful as when we speak in person.

- Safeguarding – social media and the internet needs to be a safe place for all. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of children, young people or vulnerable adults, please contact your local safeguarding coordinator, or your [Synod Safeguarding Officer](#).
- Honesty and truth – check what you post is fair and factual.
- Considerate – the world and its diversity can be both interesting and challenging. We are not going to agree with everyone, nor will everyone agree us. But let's be constructive in how we engage online.
- Welcome – let's be welcoming in the language we use and not use words that exclude others or use those that people outside the Church might not relate to.
- Inspiration – use social media in way that engages and attracts others to our faith. After all, we represent Christ.
- Community – as one Church, we have many brothers and sisters. Let's treat those around us as such.
- Agree to the United Reformed Church's social media guidelines – see Paper C3, Mission Council, March 2021.