

Paper I2

Planning for the Legacies of Slavery (LoS) task group

Mission Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	The Revd Bernie Collins bernie.collins@thecrocker.net Mr Alan Yates alan.yates@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council accepts the plan to develop the Legacies of Slavery recommendations presented to MC in November 2019 and to consult with synods and local churches between the General Assemblies of 2020 and 2021, with the aim of bringing refined resolutions to General Assembly in 2021 or 2022.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To develop an agreed plan for the LoS task group to consult widely and bring refined resolutions to General Assembly.
Main points	Mission Council in November 2019 broadly welcomed the report from the LoS task group. Further consultation is needed to refine the recommendations. As with all plans, timings and actions may change.
Previous documents	Paper I1: Healing: hope in action (Mission Council November 2019) - the LoS task group report on the URC's response to CWM's report into the legacies of transatlantic slavery. The Legacies of Slavery Group Work Feedback provided in session ten of that Mission Council.
Consultation has taken place with...	Initial communications have taken place with Children and Youth Work Committee, Youth Executive, Assembly Arrangements Committee, General Secretary and Clerk to General Assembly.

Summary of impact

Financial	A relatively small budget is needed to execute the plan which will be covered by the GIM part of the Mission budget. Subsequent financial impacts will be identified as part of the final submission to General Assembly.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	The plans identify the need for significant consultation with other denominations.

1. Paper I1: Healing: hope in action, the LoS task group report on the URC's response to CWM's report into the legacies of transatlantic slavery, was presented to Mission Council in November 2019. The report highlighted the main legacies remaining from the evil of transatlantic slavery, despite the passage of two centuries since the slave trade was abolished in the UK. The report recommended that the URC should:
 - make an apology for its, and its predecessors', role in slavery and its legacies
 - make suitable reparations
 - work towards eliminating white privilege in the URC and beyond.
2. The conversations within Mission Council in November 2019 broadly supported the paper. There was a deep sense that there is a 'job to be done', a strong desire to act and a recognition that more conversation was needed.
3. This paper puts forward a plan of how the conversations will be taken forward with the aim of refining the recommendations to a position where they can be brought to a General Assembly in 2021 or 2022. The plan targets General Assembly 2021, but there is much to do, and we may find even more needs doing as the plan unfolds; hence the uncertainty in the target General Assembly.
4. There will be many strands to the consultation. The primary internal consultations will be with:
 - the synods and through them with the local churches
 - specific targeted consultations, for example with black URC members and ministers
5. There are a range of possible external consultations, which include:
 - The Baptist Union of GB, who are already well down this path
 - The Church of England; the Archbishop of Canterbury has recently apologised for racism in the church
 - Partner churches in Jamaica and Guyana who could be the recipient of an apology
 - UK Presbyteries of our two Ghanaian partner churches
 - CTE with its significant representation of black churches in England
 - CWM as it continues its work on the Legacies of Slavery
 - Selected additional CWM partner churches, such as our fellow member churches in Europe: the Congregational Federation, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Protestant Church in the Netherlands and the Union of Welsh Independents.

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6. The committee therefore proposes the following resolution above, going forward to a plan for consultation around the Church and report to Assembly in 2021 or 2022.

7. An A3 printed version of this plan will be given to members of Mission Council on arrival at High Leigh. The Excel version of the plan is available on the URC website: www.urb.org.uk/images/MissionCouncil/March2020/I2b_-_Plan_by_categories.pdf. The Excel version has two worksheets, one showing the plan in time sequence and the other by task category.