

Paper M2

The Church's risk assessment and management process

URC Trust

Basic information

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Action required	For information – an update on progress since May 2019.
Draft resolution(s)	None.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	For information – an update on progress since May 2019.
Main points	Training has taken place. The updated process was initiated in August 2019 with the majority of committees/groups returning their spreadsheets before 31 December 2019. A risk process for churches is being developed.
Previous relevant documents	Paper L2 Mission Council March 2018 Paper L2 Mission Council May 2019.
Consultation has taken place with...	The risk process review panel; convenors and secretaries of various committees/groups and synod representatives who attended training sessions.

Summary of impact

Financial	Limited to expenses for those attending meetings and training events.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None.

1. The members of the risk process review panel are: Alan Yates (chair), Jane Baird, Michael Davies, Gordon Wanless, Sandi Hallam-Jones, John Samson, Neil Mackenzie and Bill Potter.
2. Training was delivered to around 50 people at sessions in High Leigh, London, Nottingham, Bristol, Manchester and Glasgow. 60% of attendees were from synods.

3. Ten Assembly Committees and synods were represented at the training events. Representatives from advisory and other groups also attended.
4. The training was well received. Some minor tweaks to the spreadsheet were made as a result of feedback from the training sessions.
5. A modified version of the spreadsheet was distributed to synods to use if desired.
6. The updated process was initiated in August 2019 with an overwhelming majority of committees and groups making their returns by the deadline of 31 December 2019.
7. An initial review of the spreadsheets received indicates that the process has been taken seriously and that committees have given careful consideration to the risks that they hold and the management or mitigation of those risks.
8. Distinguishing between a 'risk' and an 'issue' has proved, as expected, to be the most challenging part of the exercise.
9. Responses are being collated and the resulting report, in addition to the usual reporting to URC Trust, will come to Mission Council in November 2020.
10. Whilst the process was originally intended for Assembly committees and other central groups and bodies, a number of synods have expressed an interest in using the updated methodology.
11. A number of attendees at the training sessions expressed the need for a risk management process for local congregations. Alan Yates spoke to a meeting of the Synod Clerks who endorsed the requests.
12. A simplified risk management process for churches has been devised and will be available at Mission Council.
13. The risk process review panel will meet by conference call on 2 March 2020 to assess the success (or otherwise) of the first use of the updated process and to determine if any changes are needed to the process or the training based on the actual submissions.
14. The group thanks all those involved for their attendance and participation at training events and for their willingness to use a new methodology.