

# Paper U1

## Written Reporting to General Assembly

### Mission Council Advisory Group

#### Basic information

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<b>Action required</b>	Decision.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, approves the pattern for the routine reporting of Assembly Committees as contained in Paper U1.</b>

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Committee Reporting to General Assembly.
<b>Main points</b>	To approve a biennial pattern for the routine reporting in writing of committees to General Assembly.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	N/A
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	The three Deputy General Secretaries and most committee conveners.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	N/A

1. With the return to an annual General Assembly from July 2021, some thought is needed (even at this distance) to the pattern for the routine reporting of Assembly committees in order that those committees may be clear about what is required of them.
2. In order not to burden committees unhelpfully with the need to prepare a written report on an annual basis, it is suggested that each committee continue to report to Assembly every other year.

3. This is not to preclude committees from bringing business to Assembly in the years when they are not routinely scheduled to report, but it means that a full, general written report will not be required every year.
4. Some reports - Mission Council/Assembly Executive (including reference groups, advisory groups, task groups, etc.), Finance Committee, Nominations Committee and Synod Moderators - will still be required on an annual basis, but it is suggested that other committees be divided across a two-year cycle as follows:

**Odd numbered years**

Mission  
Communications  
Equalities  
Pastoral Reference and Welfare

**Even numbered years**

Discipleship (Children and Youth  
Work, Ministries, Education and  
Learning)  
Business  
Faith and Order

5. If this pattern of reporting is acceptable, some further thought will be required about the nature of parallel sessions at Assembly. These might offer committees who are not reporting that year an opportunity to highlight a few aspects of their ongoing work and engage in conversation with members of Assembly.
6. Consultation has so far taken place with the three Deputy General Secretaries and most committee conveners, with this direction of travel being universally welcomed.