

Paper U

Mission Council Advisory Group

Church 2014
United
Church **Reformed**
Church 2014

Paper U



Mission Council Advisory Group

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Roberta Rominger roberta.rominger@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	<p>1. Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, agrees to extend the appointment of the Revd Lis Mullen as interim synod moderator of the Northern Synod until 31st July 2015.</p> <p>2. Mission Council agrees the terms of reference for the Task Group on the Church's engagement with 20 to 40 year olds.</p>
Alternative options to consider, if any	

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	General update with two items for decision.
Main points	
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	

Summary of Impact

Financial	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

Mission Council Advisory Group

1. Five northern synods conversations

Conversations between the five northern synods continue as to ways that they might share the resources of people, programmes and administrative functions across their borders. In May 2013 Mission Council noted that these discussions would take place. Mission Council gave its support and agreed that an interim synod moderator should be appointed to Northern Synod so that various future options could be explored. The Revd Lis Mullen was appointed to serve until July 2014. As these explorations are incomplete, it is recommended that this arrangement should continue for a further year. Lis Mullen is willing to serve.

Resolution 1

Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, agrees to extend the appointment of the Revd Lis Mullen as interim synod moderator of the Northern Synod until 31st July 2015.

2. Officer action

Mission Council authorised its officers to confirm various appointments following the last meeting. These are listed in the Nominations Committee report, Paper J.

3. Review of decision making under the new standing order

In May 2013 Mission Council agreed a new standing order by which business would be divided into three categories: en bloc voting, majority voting and consensus decision making. MCAG undertook to review the new system after it had been tried in the November meeting. There had been many positive comments concerning en bloc voting. MCAG noted the two technical provisions which had been made, both with reference to the process for removing an item from en bloc. The first was the Moderators' ruling that three signatures would be sufficient to call for the removal of an item at Mission Council, rather than the six indicated for Assembly purposes in the standing order. The second was the creation of a single sign-up sheet to enable those wishing to see an item removed simply to add their names rather than having to find two colleagues to sign a special request form with them. Both of these changes had helped to make Mission Council's experience of en bloc satisfactory and MCAG has encouraged that they continue.

4. Observers at Mission Council

People may attend Mission Council as observers at the discretion of the general secretary. For the sake of clarity, Mission Council should understand that observers will not be assigned to discussion groups. They will not participate in decision making and may only speak with the permission of the moderator. Staff in attendance are entitled to speak but should not participate in decision making.

5. Role of committee conveners

One of the issues identified by the 2011-13 Investigation Group chaired by Val Morrison concerned committee conveners. Their role in relation to staff members was not clear, particularly as it operated alongside a system of line management. The Nominations committee took responsibility for issuing advice. They appointed a task group with Kirsty Thorpe, Malcolm Hanson and Frank Kantor as members. This group has produced a paper which was received by MCAG and forwarded to the Medium Term Strategy Group to be included in their consideration of the URC committee structure.

6. Task group on the Church's engagement with 20 to 40 year olds

Terms of reference were agreed by MCAG for Mission Council's consideration. They are appended to this paper.

Task Group for the Church's engagement with 20 to 40 year olds

Terms of reference

General Assembly 2012 expressed concern at the reducing number of young adults in the Church and asked that energy should be devoted to including and integrating them at every level of Church life. In November 2013 Mission Council agreed that a task group should be appointed to consider how the Assembly resolution should be implemented. The Mission Council Advisory Group offers the following terms of reference for the task group.

The Task Group for the Church's engagement with 20 to 40 year olds will:

1. speak with people in this age group to ascertain
 - a. their perception of their faith needs and how these are being met,
 - b. their current experience of the United Reformed Church at every level, identifying good news stories where these exist, and
 - c. their ideas about the sort of Church they would want to be part of;
2. survey the work of partner Churches concerning this age group, significantly the Methodist Church's "Missing Generation" report and its follow-up;
3. explore the Fresh Expressions movement, including participation in the Young Adults Round Table, with a view to identifying experience, insights and methodologies Fresh Expressions can offer for engagement with 20 to 40 year olds;
4. consult with Assembly committees and groups as appropriate, including the Mission, Ministries, Equalities, Education and Learning, Children's and Youth Work, Communications Committees, Racial Justice Advocates, Resource Centres for Learning, TLS Management Group, and the FURY Advisory Board;
5. report to Mission Council in 2015;
6. bring a final report to Assembly 2016, including fully costed proposals for the future.

Resolution 2

Mission Council agrees the terms of reference for the Task Group on the Church's engagement with 20 to 40 year olds.