

Paper Y2

Children's Assembly
National Synod of Wales

Church 2014
United
Church **Reformed**
Church Church 2014

Paper Y2



National Synod of Wales: Children's Assembly

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Shelagh Pollard synodclerk@urcwales.org.uk
Action required	Resolution
Draft resolution(s)	<p>a) Recognising that children and young people are equal partners in the life of the United Reformed Church, Mission Council deeply regrets that there will not be a Children's Assembly alongside General Assembly in Wales in 2014.</p> <p>b) While recognising the pressures of budgetary constraints Mission Council urges General Assembly to restore the invaluable Children's Assembly in future years as part of our common life.</p> <p>c) Mission Council requests the Assembly Arrangements Committee, in consultation with the Finance Committee, to present options as to whether the reinstatement of Children's Assembly should be achieved by increasing the overall budget for General Assembly or by cutting other aspects of General Assembly to keep within the agreed budget.</p>
Alternative options to consider, if any	

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Reinstate Children's Assembly as an integral part of General Assembly.
Main points	Inconsistency of commitment to full participation by children in the life of the Church and excluding them from GA.
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	Children within the synod, Assembly Arrangements Committee, Finance Committee, Children's and Youth Work Committee.

Summary of Impact

Financial	Possible increase to budget for GA or cut to other areas of GA budget to keep within the agreed budget.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None

Children's Assembly

1 The United Reformed Church believes in the ministry of the whole people of God: women and men, young and old, ordained and lay, and has acknowledged this over many years in many documents including "Charter for Children" (General Assembly 1990) and "A vision for youth and children's work" (General Assembly 2008).

2 The United Reformed Church is committed to enabling children and young people to play a full and creative part in the denomination's life. This was fundamental to the children's and youth development officers programme.

3 Part of the remit of the children's and youth work committee is to facilitate the involvement of young people in all councils of the Church

4 The commitment of the United Reformed Church to the development of children and young people, to a clear recognition that they have a ministry to offer as well as to receive, and to their participation in the life and ministry of the whole Church is beyond doubt.

5 In a separate but parallel programme covering some of the issues being addressed in General Assembly, members of Children's Assembly have contributed to the discussion and debate of the General Assembly to the great benefit of all.

6 After budget cuts, including a substantial cut to the budget of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, were agreed by General Assembly in 2012, Mission Council agreed that the cost of a Children's Assembly could not be covered by the budget for General Assembly 2014, though for some this decision was taken with a heavy heart. Yet, to exclude children from participation in General Assembly by cutting Children's Assembly seems inconsistent with the Church's fundamental belief in the worth of children and the contribution they can make to the Church as a whole.

7 Both adults and children have benefited from the participation of children in Children's Assembly and in General Assembly as a whole. Children's Assembly is an important aspect of our life together and should be reinstated.

Resolution

a) Recognising that children and young people are equal partners in the life of the United Reformed Church, Mission Council deeply regrets that there will not be a Children's Assembly alongside General Assembly in Wales in 2014.

b) While recognising the pressures of budgetary constraints Mission Council urges General Assembly to restore the invaluable Children's Assembly in future years as part of our common life.

c) Mission Council requests the Assembly Arrangements Committee, in consultation with the Finance Committee, to present options as to whether the reinstatement of Children's Assembly should be achieved by increasing the overall budget for General Assembly or by cutting other aspects of General Assembly to keep within the agreed budget.

