

# Paper H1

## Ministries committee

### Ministries updates

United Church 2017  
Church 2018  
Reformed Church 2018  
Church 2018

# Paper H1

## Ministries committee

Ministries updates

### Basic Information

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Contact name and email address</b> | The Revd Paul Whittle<br><a href="mailto:moderator@urceastern.org.uk">moderator@urceastern.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Action required</b>                | None  |
| <b>Draft resolution(s)</b>            | <b>None</b>   |

### Summary of Content

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Subject and aim(s)</b>                   | To explore a range of questions of current concern with respect to different aspects of the ministry of the church.  |
| <b>Main points</b>                          | This paper explores a range of ministry issues, including call, models of non-stipendiary ministry, certificates of eligibility, and the use of the ministry budget for funding additional ministries. |
| <b>Previous relevant documents</b>          | None of direct relevance.  |
| <b>Consultation has taken place with...</b> |  |

### Summary of Impact

|                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Financial</b>                  | None                        |
| <b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b> | No direct immediate impact. |

# Ministries Updates

1. Ministries committee is currently working on a number of key issues that were mentioned at the last, or previous, Mission Councils. It is appropriate to offer some updates.
2. Ministries committee continues to address the question of call and concurrence and how that can be practised taking account of today's changing situation for many churches and pastorates. We recognise both the practical and theological issues and the need to take account of how calls have been received and accepted in our denomination and its antecedents. We anticipate bringing something substantive to General Assembly.
3. Ministries committee has continued its thinking about the valuable resource that is non-stipendiary ministry. It recognises the importance of relevant and appropriate ministry for the church in the twenty-first century. As requested by the last meeting of Mission Council, work has been initiated on what might be described as a Model 4 non-stipendiary ministry, more locally based in all senses. We will bring a proposal to establish this to General Assembly.
4. As previously notified, ministries committee has initiated the process of issuing ten certificates of eligibility for stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacraments over a period of three years. The first four such certificates have now been issued and the first of the recipients are beginning to seek a call to a URC pastorate.
5. Ministries committee is currently negotiating with finance committee to ensure that funding is available for the 'funding additional ministries' pilot proposal presented to, and agreed by, the last Mission Council. We are inviting 'bids' to receive this money from all synods who wish to be considered for the pilot, and the next meeting of the ministries committee in late June will decide on the two successful bids. This varies the original suggestion of consulting the RSTG as to the allocation of initial funding, but seems a fairer approach. It is hoped that the first monies will be available for the financial year 2019.