

Paper 13

Mission and Discipleship

*Walking the Way: Living the life
of Jesus today*
The Walk Continues...

United Church 2017
Church 2018
Reformed Church 2018
Church

Paper I3

Mission and Discipleship

The Walk Continues...

Basic Information

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Action required	Take note
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	This is an update on the continuing work of <i>Walking the Way: living the life of Jesus today</i> , supporting the United Reformed Church's denomination-wide focus on Missional Discipleship.
Main points	
Previous relevant documents	Mission Council 11/15 Papers M1 and M2 Mission Council 3/16 Paper M1 General Assembly Reports 2016, p.11 Mission Council 10/16 Paper M1 Mission Council 5/17 Paper I8 Mission Council 10/17 Paper I3.
Consultation has taken place with...	Mission committee Education and Learning Communications Children's and Youth Work Neil Hudson, London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

Summary of Impact

Financial	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

The Walk Continues...

Since Mission Council last met in November 2017, work on supporting the United Reformed Church's denomination-wide focus on Missional Discipleship has continued apace. This paper emphasises key developments in *Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today*, highlights resources which are now available to support individuals and congregations in exploring Missional Discipleship, and offers an update on future work.

1. Collaboration, Support and Advocacy

- 1.1 The *Walking the Way* steering group met in January 2018 to further unpack some of the core concepts and principles of Missional Discipleship to help in planning future work and direction. Dr Sam Richards, our Head of Children's and Youth Work, assisted the steering group in exploring how to keep a truly intergenerational focus at the heart of everything we do. Neil Hudson of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) helped us to explore issues surrounding the accompaniment of local churches in supporting all people in recognising and living out their call to Missional Discipleship. These sessions have greatly enriched the work of the steering group.
- 1.2 As a result of these collaborations, the steering group highlighted the need to maintain two-way contact with synods. As such, the steering group agreed that synods will be consulted on how Missional Discipleship fits into each synod's structure and strategy. We will use this insight to work individually with synods to ensure effective working relationships with each of them and with the local churches within them.
- 1.3 Work on *Stepwise* continues. This educational model will be offered as a programmatic element of *Walking the Way* to support participants, in ways suitable to their unique needs, in deepening their awareness, knowledge and experience of faith and Missional Discipleship. *Stepwise* will also help people connect with the people and contexts around them as they share their learning experience with others.
- 1.4 Following a series of fruitful meetings with various Church House departments and areas of work, it is clear now, more than ever, that there are many potential points of convergence and collaboration to explore across the denomination in terms of building a Church which supports all people in their Missional Discipleship journey. *Walking the Way* is all about noticing and using these opportunities to work together as we all seek to walk ever closer with Christ.

2. Update on Resources

- 2.1 *Walking the Way* is now present on social media! Members of Mission Council are invited to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, liking and sharing our posts as far and widely as possible. Our social media and web pages will be the main

sources of news, information and resources, so please encourage people to keep visiting these regularly for the latest updates.

- 2.2 Connected with this is an innovative new web page design for resource sharing. Using a Venn diagram design, users will be able to find resources specific to their needs in an efficient, interactive and fun way without needing to trawl through lists of files and links. This should already be active and accessible through our web pages when Mission Council meets. Suggestions for materials on Mission and Discipleship for inclusion in this resource sharing system should be sent to wtw@urc.org.uk for consideration by the steering group.
- 2.3 The series of study booklets delving further into *Holy Habits*, by Andrew Roberts, reported to Mission Council in November 2017, is now available to purchase through the United Reformed Church's Bookstore. These highly recommended materials offer individuals and congregations an opportunity to look further into the ten habits of (Missional) Discipleship covered in the original book, re-imagining them for personal and community life in the twenty first century.
- 2.4 Liturgical ideas for Lent are now available through our webpages to help congregations consider how Jesus' time in the wilderness in preparation for his work might influence their relationship with Missional Discipleship.
- 2.5 A collection of intergenerational activity suggestions is also available through our webpages to assist congregations in allowing generations to inspire and influence each other in Missional Discipleship.

3. Future Work

- 3.1 The upcoming Ministers Gathering (April 30 to May 3) will provide a key opportunity to work with Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers in seeking to build a Church which truly caters for the needs of all people in living out their call to Missional Discipleship.
- 3.2 Plans for the film project reported to Mission Council in November 2017 have evolved into a series of videos which will explore each of the *Holy Habits* through real-life examples to inspire discussion and action in local congregations. Links to these videos will be available on our webpages and social media when they are released.
- 3.3 The steering group looks very much forward to working more closely with the LICC on developing an accompaniment programme to support churches in exploring what it truly means to Walk the Way of Christ in their own contexts. The LICC has extensive experience in this regard, we are keen to learn from and share more widely.
- 3.4 Work continues on planning and commissioning Messy Church and Godly Play sessions on Missional Discipleship. Further updates will be given in due course.