

# Paper K1

## Pastoral reference and welfare committee

Adjustment of remit

United Church 2017  
Church 2018  
Reformed Church 2018  
Church 2018

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### Basic Information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	The Revd Richard Church <a href="mailto:richard.church@urc.org.uk">richard.church@urc.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>Mission Council assigns the responsibilities in paras 2.1 to 2.3 below to the safeguarding advisory group.</b>

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Some matters presently assigned to the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee would be dealt with more competently by the safeguarding advisory group.
<b>Main points</b>	As above
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Mission Council Paper N, May 2013.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	URC Safeguarding Officer.

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	Better handling of some reputation issues.

# Adjustment of remit

## 1. Committee membership

This is currently as follows: Mrs Wilma Frew (Convenor, to 2019), the Revd Richard Church (Executive Secretary, ex officio), the Revd Clare Downing (from July 2013), Mrs Pam Sharp (from July 2015), Rev Camilla Veitch (from July 2016), one member vacancy, the Revd John Piper (Deputy Treasurer, ex officio), the General Secretary.

## 2. Pastoral Reference work

When the sexual ethics advisory group concluded its work formally in 2012 some of its functions were passed over to the pastoral reference and welfare committee. Several of these items would now be better carried by the safeguarding advisory group.

- 2.1 Item 1 (a) was 'to encourage information, understanding and guidance of events'. The policy and procedure in response to alleged incidents of sexual harassment and abuse is now the responsibility of SAG.
- 2.2 Item 2 (a) covers the Pastoral Reference team co-ordinator role, and the named synod adviser role (currently the Synod Safeguarding Officer). This too should be the responsibility of the safeguarding advisory group.
- 2.3 The Past Case Review process, Phase Two, developed processes for adjudicating on cases of alleged lay misconduct. This was also overseen by SAG.
- 2.4 At a recent meeting, the committee recognised that circumstances had changed since Mission Council agreed that oversight of the above matters be given to PRWC. For example,
  - i) In 2016, the URC appointed its first full time Safeguarding Officer to work with a growing team of Synod Safeguarding Officers.
  - ii) The whole of our Safeguarding work is undertaken in the light of Good Practice 4 which sets out the policies and practices by which the Church discharges its responsibility in this area.
  - iii) The oversight of Safeguarding falls under the safeguarding advisory group who have indicated their willingness to take responsibility for this legacy of SEAG's work.
- 2.5 PRWC therefore seeks Mission Council's permission for these responsibilities to be transferred to the safeguarding advisory group.