



The Methodist Church & United Reformed Church Cross Representation – URC Observers at Methodist Council

Introduction

The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church made an agreement regarding cross representation at the Methodist Council and URC Mission Council, whose representatives are then co-opted onto the Strategic Oversight Group, at the December 2008 Mission Council and the February 2009 Methodist Council. The resolution stated that the cross representation arrangement between both denominations would be reviewed in 2010 which is what this paper sets out to do.

Background

- 1) At the 2008 Methodist Conference and the 2008 General Assembly Resolution 62/2 and Resolution 16 respectively were agreed in identical terms with a commitment to:
‘...work more closely together, using more efficiently the resources of the two Churches to increase our effectiveness in mission and outreach....’
- 2) The February 2009 Council Minute 09.1.12 (ii) stated that: The Council, responding to Resolution 62/2 of the 2008 Conference:
‘invites a representative of the United Reformed Church to be a regular observer at its meetings and wishes to appoint a Methodist observer to attend the Mission Council, with this arrangement being subject to review in 2010.’
- 3) The United Reformed Church decided that the observer at the Methodist Council should be one of the two Assembly Moderators elect. The agreed Methodist Church representative at the Mission Council was the then President designate. In order to provide clarity about succession, amendments to the terms of cross representatives for the Methodist Church are being proposed to parallel the Mission Council’s cross representation proposals.

Strategic Oversight Group

- 4) At the Strategic Oversight Group meeting in January 2011 it was proposed that the Methodist cross representatives should be based on every third President being the rep for three years from designation, ensuring that the cross representative would automatically be a member of the Methodist Council throughout their time on Mission Council. This would ensure continuity and communication.
- 5) The Strategic Oversight Group also proposed that the URC representative to Methodist Council should continue to be a post shared by the two Assembly Moderators, with a handover to their successors at the mid point of their two year term as Moderators and their successors’ terms as Moderators elect. Only one Moderator would attend any one meeting of the Mission Council.

Methodist Council Update

- 6) The April 2011 meeting of the Methodist Council agreed to the proposal in paragraph 4 above, but amending it so that the Methodist representative would be either the President (a Presbyterian) or the Vice-President (a Deacon or lay person) for the whole of the relevant three year term.

Recommendations

- a) The URC continue to provide a representative at the Methodist Council.
- b) The position of URC representative at the Methodist Council should be held by the Assembly Moderators/Moderators Elect, one of whom would attend any particular meeting. The two year term would commence one year before being inducted and would conclude after one year as Moderator.