

# Paper I1

Mission Committee

## Memorandum of Understanding Between the United Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

United Church 2015  
Church 2015  
Reformed Church 2015  
Church 2015

# Paper I1



## Mission Committee

Memorandum of understanding between the United Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

### Basic Information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Tracey Lewis tracey.a.lewis@btinternet.com
<b>Action required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mission Council affirms the URC's long standing partnership and historical relationship with the PCK and continues to hold the PCK in prayers.</b></li> <li>• <b>Mission Council receives and endorses the Memorandum of Understanding.</b></li> <li>• <b>Mission Council authorises the Mission Department in conversation with Discipleship, the synods and local congregations to pursue the practical outworking of the Commitment.</b></li> <li>• <b>Mission Council requests the Mission Committee to report back after the first review of the Memorandum has taken place.</b></li> </ul>

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Memorandum of understanding between the United Reformed Church (URC) and the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)
<b>Main points</b>	The changing landscapes in which the URC and the PCK find themselves have resulted in a growing and significant partnership. The momentum and the opportunities before both Churches suggest the need to continue to work intentionally to grow and deepen the relationship between our Churches, so that mission and ministry are undertaken in partnership between our Churches (in both South Korea and the UK) for the sake of God's mission in the world.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	None
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Mission Committee Ministries General secretary URC Korean ministers, ministers of Kingston, New Malden and Bristol Korean/Redland Park URC and Bournemouth International Church

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	Potential sharing of mission partners will have financial implications.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	The memorandum may lead to a new way of sharing resources for cutting edge ministry. As such it could provide a model that could have wider ecumenical implications.

# Memorandum of Understanding between the United Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church of Korea

1. As partner Churches, the United Reformed Church (URC) and the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) share in the life of the Council for World Mission (CWM), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). Our partnership in God's mission has emerged from the historic missionary movement to current expressions of the sharing of mission personnel and resources, mutual accountability and common witness. The PCK treasures its long relationship with the URC, and especially its antecedent denominations' contributions to Christianity in Korea. The URC values the presence of Koreans, their faith and their contributions to our life together.
2. We have sought over the years, through multilateral and bilateral relationships, to deepen our commitment to new forms and expressions of partnership in the world so that God's people and God's world may be blessed. Both the global and local contexts in which our Churches find themselves mean that our partnership has been growing in creative and inspiring ways. This momentum and the opportunities before both Churches suggest that we need to continue to work intentionally to grow and deepen the relationship between our Churches, so that mission and ministry is undertaken in partnership between our Churches (in both South Korea and the UK) for the sake of God's mission in the world.

The URC and the PCK commit to:

- a) hold the mission and ministry of each other in prayer: praying for a peaceful reunification of the two Koreas, peace and justice for life in the UK and in the Korean Peninsula and North East Asia, for nuclear free societies in the world, for persecuted minorities everywhere, including victims of extreme religious violence, for our damaged environment, and for discerning new and creative ways to respond to new mission and ministry challenges;
- b) work together to map, read, interpret and respond to the changing contextual realities in which we will together partner in mission and ministry;
- c) explore opportunities to share good practices and stories that would help to grow, renew and reignite the ecumenical vocation;
- d) therefore work together for a new global ecumenical movement that seeks unity of Christian witness in the midst of immense historical, cultural and geopolitical changes in order to enrich our life and to promote reconciliation and healing in Korea, in the UK and in the world;
- e) recognise mutually that ministers of both the PCK and URC approved, trained and ordained through their respective processes, and who have demonstrated effective and faithful qualities, character and witness are considered valid ministry partners.

The URC and the PCK envision the outworking of these commitments in the following practical ways:

- f) The URC and the PCK continuously exchange information about events and developments within their churches, to better enable congregations to understand and pray for each other. Representatives of the churches will exchange visits to enable them to become acquainted with all aspects of the life and work of the respective churches.
  - g) Members of the URC and PCK who have moved or migrated to either the UK or Korea will be encouraged to develop active relationship with a congregation of the URC or the PCK. Congregations of both the PCK and URC are encouraged to extend hospitality to each other's membership.
  - h) The URC and the PCK will work intentionally to connect with the growing Korean communities in the UK. The URC in partnership with the PCK will help support and resource these communities pastorally and otherwise as able. Through this work we seek to receive one another's gifts, including the gift of ministry, and become a transformed and transforming Christian presence in the new British reality.
  - i) The PCK wishes to draw on the experience and expertise of the URC to respond to the mission and ministry opportunities provided by a growing English speaking population, an increasing multicultural landscape and a younger generation that communicates more readily in English in South Korea.
  - j) The URC and the PCK will explore ways to respond to the growing number of North Korean migrants in the UK, especially in New Malden and Kingston. The PCK is especially keen to work with the URC on this potential mission opportunity to offer some form of ministry to a specific cultural group of Koreans.
  - k) The URC and the PCK will consider the development of joint PCK/URC congregations in the UK, especially in locations with a high Korean population and not currently served by existing URC congregations and in locations of historical missionary significance to the PCK and the URC.
  - l) Both the URC and the PCK will explore the possibility for supervised ministry internship/placement opportunities for cross-cultural learning for ministerial students and ministers in their early years of ministry.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed 18 months from the date of signing by both Churches and annually thereafter.
  4. In obedience to Christ's prayer and intention for the unity of his Body, we acknowledge that this partnership is the result of the design, power and strength of the Holy Spirit. Trusting that what we seek to encourage in this exciting and developing relationship will be fulfilled through that same Holy Spirit, we pray that our witness to each other, the world and to the whole Church will be strengthened, to the glory of God and the praise of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.