

Paper G3

Finance Committee

Ending of the Stewardship
Sub-committee

United Church 2017
Church 2017
Reformed Church 2017
Church 2017

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Ending of the Stewardship Sub-committee

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	John Ellis, Treasurer john.ellis@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council thanks all those who have served on the Stewardship Sub-committee, discharges the Sub-committee and agrees that its work should be taken forward within the Finance Committee.

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	To explain the recommendation of the Finance Committee that its Stewardship Sub-committee should be wound up.
Main points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church has handled stewardship questions in a variety of ways in its central structures • Since 2009 one vehicle has been the Stewardship Sub-committee of the Finance Committee • The work done by the Sub-committee recently can now be covered in other ways.
Previous relevant documents	No recent ones. Mission Council minutes for October 2007.
Consultation has taken place with...	Communications staff

Summary of Impact

Financial	Minor savings in meetings costs
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None

Ending of the Stewardship Sub-committee

Background

1. Stewardship has always been an important component of Christian discipleship. The United Reformed Church has sometimes reflected this in its formal structures by having a group dedicated to its exploration and promotion.
2. From 1989 to 1999 an energetic Stewardship Advocate led this work and made his presence felt in very productive ways around the Synods and Districts. The programme "TRIO" (= The Responsibility Is Ours) helped local churches follow up on the stimulus provided.
3. In the early years of this century, responsibility fell to the Life and Witness Committee who had a Stewardship Sub-committee. After the 2007 General Assembly abolished the Life and Witness Committee, Mission Council agreed in October 2007 that the Church's Stewardship Sub-committee should become a sub-committee of the Finance Committee.
4. The Finance Committee initiated various consultations in 2008 which led to the Sub-committee being reconstituted in a different form from hitherto. As questions of strategic policy rested with the Finance Committee, the Sub-committee's role was focused on the generation of attractive resources for the Church.
5. In the early years of the present decade the Sub-committee organised a major revamp of TRIO to make it useful in the Powerpoint age and it remains a valuable resource for congregations. More recently the Sub-committee's output has mainly been the annual leaflets about the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund which are sent to every church. Other leaflets on stewardship themes are available on the website.

Review

6. With the end of the term of the present Sub-committee Convenor imminent, he and the Finance Committee reviewed the work of the Sub-committee. They concluded that it was now possible, partly because of some staff changes in Communications, to cover all that the Sub-committee had been doing in other ways. Although the contributions of certain individuals had been valuable, there was no need for a formal Sub-committee in order for those energies to be available and released.
7. Noting this conclusion and the request of Mission Council for the central committee structures to be streamlined where possible, the Finance Committee agreed at its February 2017 meeting that the Sub-committee should now be discharged. Responsibility for the annual M&M leaflet and any other future initiatives would rest with the Finance Committee.

Recommendation

8. Mission Council is invited to endorse the Finance Committee's conclusion and ratify the decision to end the Sub-committee as a separate part of the Church's committee structure.