

Paper 12

Mission Committee

Partnership Re-Commitment

[Presbyterian Church of Ghana, London and Europe
Presbytery and the United Reformed Church]

United Reformed Church
2017
Church 2017
Church 2017



Paper I2

Mission Committee

Partnership Re-Commitment [Presbyterian Church of Ghana, London and Europe Presbytery, and the United Reformed Church]

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Bernie Collins and Michael Jagessar michael.jagessar@urc.org.uk
Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Council to note and affirm the Partnership Re-commitment • Mission Council to endorse the following resolution as a matter of good order and practice
Draft resolution(s)	<p>a) Mission Council welcomes and affirms the Partnership Recommitment between the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, London and Europe Presbytery, and the United Reformed Church.</p> <p>b) Mission Council recommends as good practice, and requests Church Meetings to consider seriously, the principle that an individual should not serve as an Elder in both of these churches simultaneously. This would not prevent an individual serving as an Elder in one denomination, and at a later time serving as an Elder in the other.</p>

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	
Main points	Re-affirmation of the URC's partnership with the growing London and Europe Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana
Previous documents	2011 Memorandum of Understanding between the PCG and URC
Consultation has taken place with...	Mission Committee Faith and Order Dialogue Group (URC and PCG)

Summary of Impact

Financial	None
External	The Presbyterian Church of Ghana Churches Together in England

Partnership Re-Commitment

[Presbyterian Church of Ghana, London and Europe Presbytery and the United Reformed Church]

1. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) and the United Reformed Church (URC) have had a long relationship as partner Churches. On 15 May 2011 the PCG and URC affirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) their vision of sharing a common commitment to mission in the UK through partnership and a desire to nurture Reformed Churches for immigrants from Ghana that are in formal relationship with both the URC and the PCG.
2. Since then the Presbyterian Church of Ghana has established a sizeable network of congregations in the UK, and a European Presbytery. This mission and ministry continue to grow. In local contexts, especially in London some PCG communities share the worship space of URC Churches, URC ministers are working collaboratively with PCG colleagues, PCG ministerial colleagues share in BAME gatherings, and there are ongoing conversations around ways that the PCG (UK) and the URC can support each other's ministry.
3. Believing that we are guided by the Holy Spirit into a continuing relationship of mutual friendship and partnership in the work of the Gospel, we sense that the time is right for the URC and the PCG (UK) to re-affirm:
 - our common faith in the living and true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
 - our common heritage as Reformed Churches within the Reformed family of Churches;
 - our sharing in, as partners, a common missional calling, a commitment to growing the Church and deepening Christian discipleship, and a desire to enable each other's mission and ministry, as God's Spirit will lead us;
 - our commitment to give and receive from each other, learn from one another, to pray for one another, and to consider practical ways of sharing resources where possible, as we seek to serve and walk the way of abundant life of God in Christ.
4. This renewal of our commitment re-affirms our long and strong partnership links and our desire to grow and deepen our relationship in new and mutually enriching ways.

Resolution

5. Over the last year, we have had a series of conversations, and these continue. One of the practical issues discussed was that of overlapping eldership which we felt would merit attention and guidance from the respective Councils of both the PCG and the URC. To this end, we bring before Mission Council the resolution above.
6. The resolution does not seek to require an elder presently serving with both churches to resign immediately from one or the other. But the principle would imply that as soon as this overlapping service could reasonably be ended (for example on the completion of a stated term in one of the churches), the elder should take the opportunity to stand down. After this they would only serve in one denomination at any one time.

