

# Paper 18

Walking the Way steering group

Walking the Way – living the life  
of Jesus today

UPDATE

United Church 2017  
Church 2017  
Reformed Church 2017  
Church



# Paper 18

## Walking the Way steering group

Walking the Way – living the life of Jesus today - UPDATE

### Basic Information

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<b>Action required</b>	Take note
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>None</b>

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To keep members of Mission Council abreast of developments since the October 2016 Mission Council meeting
<b>Main points</b>	
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Mission Council 11/15 Papers M1 and M2 Mission Council 3/16 Paper M1 General Assembly Reports 2016, p.11 Mission Council 10/16 Paper M1
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Steering Group, Mission Committee

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	

# Walking the Way – living the life of Jesus today

1. The Steering Group has met on three occasions since the last Council meeting, including a residential meeting in February 2017.

## Communicating the vision clearly

2. At its November meeting, mindful of the need for clear communication, the steering group agreed the following description of *Walking the Way: Walking the Way, living the life of Jesus today* aims to refresh and grow our habits of discipleship and mission.
3. The Communications staff have worked with the steering group to produce a logo and livery to identify the *Walking the Way* materials. A high-resolution version is available from Communications on application.
4. A *Walking the Way* PowerPoint presentation has been produced and made available to synods for their spring meetings. The response to these presentations has been positive. The presentation is freely available to be used in other contexts.
5. A project has been started to gather video clips of members of the public talking about what discipleship means to them. These will be edited to form conversation starters for use at synod and in local churches, and will be available in the autumn of this year.
6. An animated sequence to further thinking about *Walking the Way* will be made available for use at the autumn synod meetings.
7. Next year it is hoped to encourage churches with a film of good stories from around the United Kingdom of churches who are developing fresh ways of faith development in their contexts.

## Supporting local churches

8. In February the steering group heard about the progress being made to develop Holy Habits as a congregational resource which is shared between the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. Each of the ten habits has a booklet accompanying it for local churches to use in any order they wish. The Holy Habits material was due for publication in September this year. However, since the meeting of the steering group we have been informed that due to a change in strategy Methodist Publishing will no longer publish the resource. The BRF have expressed an interest in publishing Holy Habits instead and a final decision on this is due in early April.
9. Leaflets will be distributed to local churches in September to explain *Walking the Way: living the life of Jesus today* to local congregations and to encourage participation. Accompanying the leaflet will be a brief liturgy which could be used on Advent Sunday, 3 December 2017, to mark the beginning of this emphasis within the life of the United Reformed Church.

10. Work is progressing on the successor programme to TLS and more information will be made available.
11. Some thought is being given to producing materials for Lent 2018 themed around *Walking the Way*.

## Resourcing the process

12. A meeting is to be held in Birmingham during July to draw together practitioners from the synods and from the Resource Centres for Learning to listen to the initiatives which are taking place around the country and to share news on developments in *Walking the Way* which are taking place. We hope that this will strengthen links between all the various groups and help to ensure that we pursue a common vision.
13. Reference was made in our last report to a *Walking the Way* development manager being appointed to hold all the strands of *Walking the Way* together. The post was advertised in April and interviews for this post will be held on 23 May.
14. Bookings for the Ministers Conference 2018 have now opened and it is hoped that it will prove a significant occasion to hear from ministers directly about their hopes and concerns for this emphasis. We are delighted that the main speakers at this conference will be the Revd Dr Peggy Kabonde, General Secretary of the United Church of Zambia and the Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams, currently Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. Both of our speakers have a wealth of experience in being disciples and encouraging the life of discipleship in others.
15. It has for several years been Mission Council's wish that funding from the Council for World Mission's Mission Support Programme should be used for discipleship development in our Church. Indeed this has been a significant feature of our thinking around costs and possibilities, but we could not be granted the money until clear plans were in place. The Steering Group is now very pleased to report that our application for funding was approved in December. We are grateful for this generous support from the worldwide CWM family for *Walking the Way*.