

# Paper M3

General Secretary

Youth representation in councils  
of the Church

United Church 2017  
Church 2017  
Reformed Church 2017  
Church 2017



# Paper M3

## General Secretary

Youth representation in councils of the Church

### Basic Information

<b>Contact</b>	John Proctor, <a href="mailto:john.proctor@urc.org.uk">john.proctor@urc.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council gives final approval to the amendments to the Structure of the URC set out in Paper M3.</b>

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Offering more flexible and practical criteria for the representation of URC Youth in Synod meetings and General Assembly.
<b>Main points</b>	Following reference to the Synods, the changes to the Structure are now ready for a final vote.
<b>Previous documents</b>	General Assembly papers 2014, Resolution 19B(1) (which was eventually deferred). Record of General Assembly 2016, Resolution 42.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	All of the Synods.

### Summary of Impact

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

# Youth representation in councils of the Church

## Content of the resolution

- 1.1. We value very highly the URC Youth representation on our councils, and realise that many young people who are heavily involved in the life of the United Reformed Church have not yet become Church Members. Can these young people be appointed to represent URC Youth at Synod or Assembly, if they are not members of the URC? This resolution provides a way of allowing them to do so, if they have the appropriate confidence of their Local church or their peers.
- 1.2. The resolution also corrects an anomaly over the age limit that defines youth.

## Process of the resolution

- 2.1. The proposed changes to the Structure were passed unanimously by the General Assembly in July 2016 (as Resolution 42), and were then referred to the Synods. All of the Synod Clerks have replied to the General Secretary by the due date of 31<sup>st</sup> March, and none of the Synods has asked that the matter be not proceeded with.
- 2.2. The changes are now presented to Mission Council for approval, and this requires a two thirds majority. Mission Council is free to accept or reject the changes, but cannot amend them at this stage. Should Mission Council accept the changes, these will have completed their process of approval, and will be part of the Structure of the URC with immediate effect.
- 2.3. The changes are set out overleaf, affecting paragraphs 2(4)(i), 2(6)(b) and 2(6)(k) of the Structure of the URC. Paragraph 2(4)(i) concerns the membership of Synods, and paragraphs 2(6)(b) and 2(6)(k) concern the membership of General Assembly,

## Changes to the Structure of the URC proposed in paper M3

### a) Membership of Synods

**Current wording of paragraph 2(4)(i):**

2(4)(i) Two young people, being members of the United Reformed Church, nominated by the Synod's youth forum, committee or equivalent;

**Proposed new wording:**

2(4)(i) Two young people, *actively involved and engaged with the United Reformed Church at local, synod or assembly level, who have the confidence of their local church or the confidence of the Synod's youth forum, committee or equivalent;*

### b) Membership of General Assembly

**Current wording of paragraph 2(6)(b):**

2(6)(b) Among the representatives of Synods shall be included at least two from each Synod aged 26 or under, at the date of appointment. Should a Synod prove unable to make such an appointment it may appoint from another Synod but these persons must be 26 or under at the date of appointment;

**Proposed new wording:**

2(6)(b) Among the representatives of Synods shall be included at least two from each Synod aged 25 or under, at the date of appointment. *These representatives need not be members of the United Reformed Church, but must be actively involved and engaged with the United Reformed Church at local, synod or assembly level, and have the confidence of their local church or the confidence of the Synod's youth forum, committee or equivalent;* should a Synod prove unable to make such an appointment it may appoint from another Synod but these persons must be 25 or under at the date of appointment;

**Current wording of paragraph 2(6)(k):**

Such number of representatives of the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth, being members of the United Reformed Church, as the Assembly shall from time to time determine (at present three);

**Proposed new wording:**

Such number of representatives of *United Reformed Church Youth, associated with a young people's group in a local church or United Reformed Youth groups at Synod or Assembly level, who have the confidence of their local church or the confidence of URC Youth,* as the Assembly shall from time to time determine (at present three);