

# Paper M6

General Secretary

Marriage of same sex couples  
in Guernsey

United Church 2017  
Reformed Church 2017  
Church 2017



# Paper M6

## General Secretary

### Marriage of same-sex couples in Guernsey

#### Basic Information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	John Proctor <a href="mailto:john.proctor@urc.org.uk">john.proctor@urc.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Resolution
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<p><b>Following the passing of Resolution 7 of the Assembly of 2016, Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) notes that under the Same-sex Marriage (Guernsey) Law 2016, the marriage of same-sex couples is now lawful in Guernsey;</li> <li>b) recognises that the competence and functions of the Church Meeting in Guernsey is no different from those of any other Church Meeting in the United Reformed Church;</li> <li>c) accepts that the definition and role of a 'governing authority' in the Same-sex Marriage (Guernsey) Law 2016 are in essentials the same as those of a 'governing authority' under section 26(A)(1) of the Marriage Act 1949 in England and Wales; and therefore</li> <li>d) declares, for the avoidance of doubt, that paragraph B of Resolution 7 applies to Church Meetings in Guernsey in the context of Guernsey legislation as it does to Church Meetings in England and Wales; and further</li> <li>e) directs that, in Guernsey, paragraphs C, E and F of Resolution 7 shall apply with the necessary modifications.</li> </ul>

#### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To place Church Meetings in Guernsey in the same position as those in England and Wales, following changes in Guernsey legislation, enacted on 2 May 2017.
<b>Main points</b>	Marriages between same-sex couples in Guernsey are now permitted on much the same terms as England and Wales, and this resolution seeks to place our Church Meeting there in the position as England and Wales.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Reports to General Assembly 2016. Minutes of General Assembly, 2016
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Moderator of the Wessex Synod, and the Local Church Leader of Guernsey URC.

#### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	n/a
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	No difference to England and Wales

# Marriage of same-sex couples in Guernsey

1. Resolution 7 of the 2016 General Assembly declared that Church Meetings were the relevant 'governing authority' for whether a local church of the United Reformed Church did or did not wish to apply for registration for the solemnization of marriages between same-sex couples, according to the law of England Wales.
2. The Minutes of General Assembly, from the afternoon of Sunday 7 July, record that: 'The General Secretary made a statement, being a post-script to the debate on marriage of same-sex couples the previous day...Legislation was under preparation in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and it might be appropriate for Mission Council to deal with any URC response to that legislation'.
3. Legislation in Guernsey was enacted on 2 May 2017, which provided for the marriage of same-sex couples in terms almost identical to England and Wales.
4. As such, the following resolution is brought, so that Church Meetings in Guernsey are in the same position as those in England and Wales:

## **Following the passing of Resolution 7 of the Assembly of 2016, Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly:**

- a) **notes that under the Same-sex Marriage (Guernsey) Law 2016, the marriage of same-sex couples is now lawful in Guernsey;**
- b) **recognises that the competence and functions of the Church Meeting in Guernsey is no different from those of any other Church Meeting in the United Reformed Church;**
- c) **accepts that the definition and role of a 'governing authority' in the Same-sex Marriage (Guernsey) Law 2016 are in essentials the same as those of a 'governing authority' under section 26(A)(1) of the Marriage Act 1949 in England and Wales; and therefore**
- d) **declares, for the avoidance of doubt, that paragraph B of Resolution 7 applies to Church Meetings in Guernsey in the context of Guernsey legislation as it does to Church Meetings in England and Wales; and further**
- e) **directs that, in Guernsey, paragraphs C, E and F of Resolution 7 shall apply with the necessary modifications.**

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United Reformed Church • Mission Council, May 2017