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Human Sexuality Task Group

Registration of civil partnerships on church premises

At the last meeting Mission Council agreed in principle to take a resolution on this matter to the 2012 General Assembly. The Government then began a consultation process prior to publishing detailed proposals: although it has now been announced by the Equalities Minister that religious organisations may apply from 5 December, the detailed proposals were not available to the task group when it met at the beginning of November and so the full report and draft resolution will have to wait until the March Mission Council. United Reformed Churches will not be able to apply before the Assembly has made its decision.

Westminster College Consultation

The consultation took place in September and a factual report is included below. A fuller verbal report, reflecting on the experience and indicating the way in which the task group intends to widen the discussion, will be made at this meeting.

Also included below are some Guidelines for good conversation which were made available to the Consultation by permission of the United Methodist Church in Norway. They are commended to Mission Council, both for its own discussion of sensitive subjects, and for any discussion that may take place in other contexts.

It is hoped that copies of three of the main papers given at the Consultation will be available at Mission Council for those who would like to read them. The task group hopes that they will also find a place on the URC website.