

# Paper D1

Education and Learning Committee  
Windermere Centre Support

United Church 2015  
Church 2015  
Reformed Church 2015  
Church 2015



# Paper D1

## Education & Learning committee Windermere Centre Support

### Basic Information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	The Revd Dr Neil Messer <a href="mailto:neil.messer@winchester.ac.uk">neil.messer@winchester.ac.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mission Council, recognising the diversity of gifts represented by the Resource Centres for Learning within the wider landscape of Christian development and growth, endorses the principle informing the Education &amp; Learning budget for 2016 of maintaining support for the existing Resource Centres for Learning within the context of ongoing deliberations about the best way of supporting the learning of the whole people of God.</b></li> <li><b>Mission Council congratulates the Windermere Centre and its management committee on the work they have done to ensure the Centre's financial viability, and expresses its support for the Centre's work over the period of 2015-18, subject to the financial support from the Assembly budget being under £150k in each year and normally under £125k.</b></li> </ol>

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	The paper comments on the improved financial health of the Windermere Centre, and seeks to place this within the context of the United Reformed Church's continued support for Resource Centres for Learning over the medium-term.
<b>Main points</b>	As the United Reformed Church explores <i>Missional Discipleship</i> it is important to maintain existing resources in order to prepare for strategic decisions to be taken by General Assembly in 2016.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Minutes of Mission Council November 2014 Record of General Assembly 2012 accepting budget for 2013.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Windermere management committee, Education & Learning Finance sub-committee, URC Finance committee.

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	The committee budget has been accepted by the Finance committee.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	All the Resource Centres for Learning are engaged in active ecumenical relationships in diverse ways according to their contexts.

# Windermere Centre Support

1. In agreeing a temporarily increased budget for the Education & Learning committee for 2015-17, Mission Council of November 2014 asked that recommendations should be brought about priorities for education and learning that will support the well being and future vitality of the Church's recognised ministries.
2. The work done on this is reported on elsewhere to this Mission Council meeting by the Revd Richard Church Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship).
3. In preparing a budget for 2016 the Education & Learning committee has been particularly aware of the work that is being done on Missional Discipleship and which, if Mission Council accepts the outline proposal, will begin to come to fruition over the next 18 months.
4. *Missional Discipleship* seeks to draw together the four Resource Centres for Learning more closely with the synods, in line with the intentions of the 2006 training review and to ensure that the whole people of God are supported in their discipleship and equipped for mission. What shape this will take is yet to be determined, and the Education & Learning committee is convinced that it is important at this time to continue to support all four Resource Centres for Learning . This is in anticipation of proposals coming to General Assembly in 2016 concerning *Missional Discipleship*, intended to shape the future resources available for this endeavour through the United Reformed Church.
5. In 2015 the Education & Learning committee was able to restore funding levels to the Resource Centres for Learning, which had been cut temporarily in January 2013, when the three Colleges were asked to draw from their reserves, and financial targets for the Windermere Centre were set at 2012 levels.
6. The Education & Learning committee have been impressed by the work done by the Windermere management committee to develop new pricing policies and ways of working. The result is a Business Plan for 2015-18 and financial outcomes for recent months which show a significant improvement in the financial health of the Windermere Centre. The Business Plan has been scrutinised and accepted by the URC Finance committee, who agree with the Education & Learning committee that the Centre has made good use of the additional marketing support that it was given. Current projections suggest that the investment needed by the Centre from the Assembly budget will reduce from £146k in 2014 to £120k in 2018.

