

Paper F1

Faith and order committee

Update

United Church 2017
Church 2017
Reformed Church 2017
Church 2017



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Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Alan Spence: alanandsheila@googlemail.com Philip Brooks: philip.brooks@urc.org.uk
Action required	For information
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Update on the work of the faith and order committee
Main points	This paper offers an update on the role of the faith and order committee
Previous relevant documents	None
Consultation has taken place with...	N/a

Summary of Impact

Financial	None
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None

Faith and order committee

1. The faith and order committee has recently been reflecting on the nature of its role in the mission of the United Reformed Church. Here is a brief summary of our thoughts.
2. We do not see it as part of our role to try and shape the agenda of the denomination or to advance any particular project or programme. Rather we understand ourselves as a theological ‘think tank’ for the General Assembly or Mission Council acting in its name, as it considers questions of doctrine or order. This means that generally we expect to find ourselves responding to tasks to do with these issues that are asked of us by the Assembly.
3. We do however see that there is a role for us in identifying particular pieces of work being carried out by the Church which may have a faith and order element to them. Our aim would be to offer advice in the early stages of such work to assist in its formulation. Sometimes, however, we might of ourselves identify an issue of doctrine or order that arises in our Church’s wider life that we would wish to bring to the attention of the Assembly. Further, our committee might on occasion believe that there is a particular theological resource that we could helpfully develop should the Assembly encourage us to do so.
4. In our communications, we are aware that weighty theological language is not always helpful. We aim to provide input to the wider church in an accessible format with summary documents wherever possible. Faith and order remains a valuable space and resource to assist the United Reformed Church in its mission.

