

Paper M4

Clerk

Age of youth representatives

United Church 2017
Church 2017
Reformed Church 2017
Church 2017

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Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Michael Hopkins clerk@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council endorses the Clerk's advice that the clear mind of General Assembly was to change the age of youth representatives to "25 years and under", and directs the Clerk to institute any further changes to the Structure required to enact this the next time that other changes are also being made to the Structure.

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Correcting a drafting error.
Main points	One place was missed when General Assembly corrected the age of youth representatives.
Previous relevant documents	Record of General Assembly 2016, page 34
Consultation has taken place with...	n/a

Summary of Impact

Financial	Nil
External (e.g. ecumenical)	Nil

Age of youth representatives

1. By resolution 42, General Assembly enacted changes to the Structure in multiple places to change the age of youth representatives from “26 years and under” to “25 years and under”.
2. This was initiated at the request of both URC Youth and the Children’s and Youth Work Committee because the age had erroneously been changed in the past.
3. The proposal was agreed unanimously at Mission Council, passed through the Synods without dissent, and was agreed unanimously by General Assembly. On this basis, the Clerk believes the mind of Assembly both to be clear, and to have been reached without contention.
4. It has now been pointed out that paragraph 2(4)A(x) of the Structure also contains a reference to the age of 26 and under, which should also have been amended.
5. There is no process for “short cut” amendments to the Structure.
6. The Clerk has therefore advised Synods that the clear mind of Assembly was that the age of Youth representatives was “25 years and under”, and that they should proceed on that basis, despite an administrative untidiness.
7. Knowing that it will surely not be long before we make further amendments in other areas, it seems a waste of everyone’s time to initiate another change to the Structure today.
8. Mission Council is invited to confirm the Clerk’s advice on the age of youth representatives, and the process for when the Structure might be corrected.

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United Reformed Church • Mission Council, November 2017