

Paper C1

Improving integration within education and learning in the URC

Education and Learning Committee

Basic information

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Action required	Mission Council is invited to shape the consultation plan, and then the Education and Learning Committee will be responsible for the consultation.
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council accepts the plan to consult with named bodies to develop a view of how education and learning within the URC can achieve the integration envisioned in the 2005 General Assembly.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To consult, as widely as necessary, to gather ideas of how to improve integration within education and learning in the United Reformed Church.
Main points	
Previous relevant documents	Resolution 51 at General Assembly 2005. The Way Forward presented by the Education and Learning Committee, Mission Council, July 2020.
Consultation has taken place with...	The General Secretary and Education and Learning staff team.

Summary of impact

Financial	None specific to this consultation process.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None at present, but there may be ecumenical implications identified during the consultations.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In the autumn of 2019, The Education and Learning Committee (E&LC) started to consider its ongoing strategy. This culminated in a report that was approved by the Mission Council in July 2020. The Way Forward recognised that we had not yet reached the goals set by the General Assembly in 2005, and that they were still highly relevant. The key goal of the Education and Learning Committee, paraphrased from Resolution 51 at General Assembly 2005, is to cultivate: *“a church committed to life-long learning where there is integrated education and training offered to the whole people of God”*.
- 1.2 The plan presented as part of the Way Forward strategy included a key task to ‘Define Integration’ and went on to explain that the essence of the task was to ‘Define what ‘success’ looks like’. This task, in conjunction with the other defined tasks, recognises that integration for its own sake is not the goal; it must, at least, enhance the delivery of *life-long learning offered to the whole people of God*.
- 1.3 At the E&LC meeting in July, following Mission Council’s approval of The Way Forward, the committee agreed that the integration task should focus on possible changes to make education and learning more integrated rather than simply defining ‘what success looks like’; and in doing so will need to be consultative.
- 1.4 The purpose of this short paper is to define how and when the consultation will take place, who will be involved and when Mission Council will be provided with the feedback.

2. Approach

- 2.1 The aim is to consult with a wide group of stakeholders in a transparent manner. The expectation is that these consultations will identify ways in which integration can be improved and how it will benefit the URC. Consultations are expected to take place before the end of February 2021. Initial findings from these consultations will be presented to Mission Council in 2021, together with the suggested next steps.
- 2.2 The consultations will be undertaken by Convenor and Secretary of the E&LC, and the acting Deputy General Secretary Discipleship.

3. Stakeholders

- 3.1 Two groups of stakeholders will be consulted:
 - core stakeholders who will be directly involved in making the changes that will enhance integration; and
 - wider stakeholders who will possibly be impacted by any changes.
- 3.2 The core stakeholders are:
 - RCLs

- Assembly Committees, notably Education and Learning, Children and Youthwork, Ministries and Mission;
- The Ministries staff team;
- The Education and Learning staff team;
- The General Secretariat, and the Deputy General Secretary Discipleship; and
- Synods, particularly Moderators and Synod staff/committees with Education and Learning responsibilities.

3.3 The wider stakeholders are:

- EM1 students and EM2/3 ministers;
- Those involved in managing, developing, and participating in Stepwise;
- URC Youth; and
- Global and Intercultural Ministries.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Education and Learning Committee put forward the following resolution for the consideration of Mission Council:

Mission Council accepts the plan to consult with named bodies to develop a view of how education and learning within the URC can achieve the integration envisioned in the 2005 General Assembly.