

Paper C4

Communications and editorial committee

Update on the continuation
of the print Yearbook

Church 2014
United
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Church Church 2014

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Communications and editorial committee: Update on the continuation of the print Yearbook

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	John Humphreys jhumphreys@urcscotland.org.uk
Action required	None – information only.
Draft resolution(s)	None
Alternative options to consider, if any	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	The continuation of the print Yearbook.
Main points	To continue printing the Yearbook without the need to carry out a consultation.
Previous relevant documents	None
Consultation has taken place with...	Mission Council (Questionnaire in March 2014) and the communications and editorial committee.

Summary of Impact

Financial	No. This decision is a continuation of the current position.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	No

Update on the continuation of the print Yearbook

1. Background

In October 2013 the communications and editorial committee overturned a previous decision to produce an online only version of the Yearbook, and agreed: 'to produce a Yearbook for 2014 and 2015 and conduct a consultation during the next 18 months, on the use and production of a print Yearbook'.

The 2014 Yearbook was available from Easter 2014 (and sold out by June); production of the 2015 Yearbook is currently underway and will be available from early January 2015.

2. The consultation process

At the March 2014 meeting of Mission Council the first stage of the consultation took place when members were asked for their views on the future of the Yearbook and to state if their preference was for online only or to continue to make a print version available. The majority of respondents favoured retaining a printed version.

The second stage of the consultation has been planned as a Yearbook consultation questionnaire to be sent out with the annual returns questionnaire at the end of October.

3. Committee update and decision

At the August committee meeting the question was raised as to whether a consultation was necessary as two things were becoming clear:

- a) The majority of those asked thus far were in favour of retaining a printed Yearbook and;
- b) The thinking around moving to an online Yearbook had been driven by one person and was flawed – data protection restrictions mean that emails and contact numbers cannot be made available online in the way that people expected or needed.

The committee agreed to report to Mission Council that: 'In due consideration of the law on privacy and data, we have decided to not go through with the Yearbook consultation as the Yearbook, in its full content, is not viable as an online resource at this point.'

A printed version of the Yearbook will continue to be produced for the foreseeable future.

4. Development of the online Yearbook

Development of the online Yearbook has been ongoing. Much of the information found in the print Yearbook is now available online and can be easily accessed from the homepage of the main URC website or via the URC media app. Work is ongoing to improve the amount and quality of online information but the directory of ministers is conspicuous by its absence – and it is unlikely that the online version will ever be able to include full address details of all ministers. It should also be noted that we have put a temporary stop to some of the work needed to get more information online pending a decision on the Church House database.

