

Paper I1

Mission committee

Funding our Fresh Expressions

Church 2014
United
Church **Reformed**
Church Church 2014

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Mission committee: Funding our Fresh Expressions

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Francis Brien francis.brien@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council resolves to request the Council for World Mission to de-designate the unused funds of the mission programme support fund phase 2 (MSP2) and to allocate the funds towards the expansion of the post of co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions.
Alternative options to consider, if any	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Review and Funding of the post of co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions.
Main points	As part of the wider mission team review, the post of co-ordinator of Fresh Expressions has also been reviewed. Based on the outcomes of the review and the new areas for development identified, the review group recommends that the post is made full-time and that additional funding for this is found by asking CWM to de-designate unused funds from MSP2. The mission committee endorses the review group's recommendations and asks Mission Council to consider approving such a request to CWM.
Previous relevant documents	None
Consultation has taken place with...	The Fresh Expressions post review group, URC Chief finance officer, CWM european regional secretary, within the mission committee.

Summary of Impact

Financial	None
External (e.g. ecumenical)	Increased URC participation in the Fresh Expressions initiative.

Co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions: review and funding request

1. As part of the Mission Team review the post of co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions was also reviewed, conducted by a small review group appointed by the mission committee. As this does not concern an Assembly appointment, the outcome of the review was reported back to the Mission Committee and not to the human resources advisory group.
2. The United Reformed Church currently employs a half-time co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions, who is part of the (ecumenical) Fresh Expressions team but who works mainly within the URC. The current postholder, Ms Linda Rayner, is on a three-year contract, which is due to end on 31 December 2014.
3. Having reviewed the achievements and assessed the ongoing needs for the Fresh Expressions post, the review group reported back to the mission committee in September 2014 that it was satisfied that the objectives of the post had been achieved. It also agreed that there was an ongoing need for the Fresh Expressions post and identified new priorities for the post for the future. These include, among others, greater embedding of fresh expressions in the life of the church through training, advocacy and networking; and advocating and supporting the establishment of pioneer places. The group recommended that in order to achieve these, and the other priorities, the post should be made full-time.
4. The group also explored how an increase of staff time could be funded and concluded that the additional £22,000 per annum (on average) could not be found within the current mission team budget without staff or programme reductions elsewhere. The legacy fund was also considered as a source of funding, but as the legacy fund has already provided for Fresh Expressions, another application could not be made. The group therefore recommended that Mission Council be asked to request de-designation of unused funds from the mission support programme (MSP2) from the Council for World Mission. The unused MSP2 funds stand at £79,000 and would be sufficient to fund an increase of the Fresh Expressions post from 50% to 100% for at least three years. Mission committee considered this and agreed to bring this request to Mission Council.
5. The MSP2 funding was allocated to support the work on a campaign for radical welcome, which led to the development of the Zero Intolerance campaign. When the Mission Council agreed to discontinue the ZI campaign in May 2012, it strongly encouraged all churches to continue to work on developing their radical welcome. It was understood that the remainder of the MSP2 funds could be used for this purpose. Some further work was done using MSP2 funding. However, in the last year there has been no call on the unused MSP2 funds and it is for this reason that mission committee asks Mission Council to approve a request to CWM to de-designate the unused MSP2 funds for the increase of the Fresh Expressions post from 50% to 100%.

