

Paper M3

Officers of Assembly
Recall of Assembly

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



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Officers of Assembly: Recall of Assembly

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	General secretary john.proctor@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	<p>a) Mission Council directs the Assembly arrangements committee to make contingency plans for a one-day recalled meeting of the General Assembly on 27 June 2015 in Birmingham.</p> <p>b) Mission Council resolves to consider in May 2015 whether to recall General Assembly, in the light of returns from the Church-wide consultation on the marriage of same-sex couples.</p>
Alternative options to consider, if any	Rejecting a), in which case it will be impossible to plan for a recall of Assembly next summer. Amending b) and recalling the Assembly now, to meet in June.

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	To consider recalling the Assembly, to discuss the marriage of same-sex couples.
Main points	Contingency plans for this must be made early to keep options open; a decision to recall can and should be delayed, while we find out what the Church has to say.
Previous relevant documents	Assembly papers from Cardiff, July 2014.
Consultation has taken place with...	Assembly moderators and clerk, synod moderators' meeting, Assembly arrangements convener and staff.

Summary of Impact

Financial	Contingency plans – possibly £5,000. A recalled one-day Assembly – up to about a further £30,000, depending on what personal expenses are covered by the Church.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	Some members of Assembly are from other churches, and would need to be invited.

Recall of Assembly

- 1 The General Assembly may be recalled by either of its moderators or by Mission Council. It was suggested during discussion at Cardiff that the Assembly could be recalled for one day, to continue the same-sex marriage conversation, bring this to an agreed conclusion, and enable the Church to go forward on the basis of any decision taken. Our consultation on this issue lasts until 31st March.
- 2 While aware of their personal power to recall Assembly, both moderators would welcome the advice of Mission Council, and they are unlikely to act in this matter in ways that run counter to that advice.
- 3 There are no specific criteria to be met before an Assembly is recalled.
- 4 If Mission Council does not make contingency plans for a recall now, the chance of doing so next summer will be lost. Hence resolution a). If Mission Council recalls Assembly before the consultation is complete, it will appear to presume on the outcome of the consultation. Hence resolution b).

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