

# Paper M4

Clerk-elect of Assembly

Follow up from Resolution 19  
at General Assembly

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



## Clerk-elect of Assembly: Follow up from Resolution 19 at General Assembly

### Basic Information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Tim Meachin, <a href="mailto:tim.meachin@talktalk.net">tim.meachin@talktalk.net</a> , convenor children's and youth work committee, for specific questions on young people. Michael Hopkins, clerk-elect, <a href="mailto:minister@farnhamurc.org.uk">minister@farnhamurc.org.uk</a> , for all other queries.
<b>Action required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<p><b>1. Mission Council extends the consultation period on resolutions 19 B2, B3, B4 and 19E of the 2014 General Assembly from 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2016.</b></p> <p><b>2. Mission Council resolves to amend the Structure of the United Reformed Church by adding the words 'members of the United Reformed Church (save for those in categories (g), (k), (l), (m) and (n)) as follows' to the first sentence of paragraph 2(6).</b></p> <p><b>3. Mission Council resolves to amend the Structure of the United Reformed Church by deleting the words 'being members of the United Reformed Church' from Paragraph 2(6)(k).</b></p> <p><b>If passed, then the general secretary will move that it be referred to synods under paragraph 3(1) of the Structure with responses to be received by 31 March 2016.</b></p>
<b>Alternative options to consider, if any</b>	n/a

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To make sense of the partial passage of a series of linked resolutions, which do not make sense taken alone.
<b>Main points</b>	Extension of consultation date on parts already agreed. Decision on whether or not under-26 reps at General Assembly need to be members. Decision on six additional reps from the Synod of Scotland to be decided at a future date.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Paper M2 of March Mission Council 2014. General Assembly Book of Reports 2014, pages 50-57. General Assembly order paper, Saturday 5 July. General Assembly Record 2014, pages 15-17.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Synod moderators and clerks were notified of the informal suggestion not to proceed with consultation quickly. Assembly officers. Children's and youth work committee.

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	n/a
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	n/a

# Follow up from Resolution 19 at General Assembly

1. Resolution 19 at General Assembly suffered the unfortunate fate of being drafted and presented to Mission Council by one Clerk, and presented to Assembly by another, through nobody's fault.
2. All the parts were linked together, and only made sense as whole, but Assembly passed some parts, while others were withdrawn for further consultation, which has caused immense confusion.
3. One object of Resolution 19 was a simple tidying up (which I suspect everyone now wishes we'd never started) by moving the words 'being members of the United Reformed Church' from each category to a combined list at the top of the paragraph. The part of the resolution creating the combined list was deferred to allow further consultation with FURY, but the parts of the resolution deleting the words lower down were in some cases passed. This means that in some cases the qualification of membership of the United Reformed Church is being removed (remember none of this takes effect until the ratification after consultation), but not re-instated where it was always planned to.
4. In order to allow time to resolve this, it is proposed that the consultation agreed by General Assembly with the synods be extended by twelve months, which will still leave time for resolution to be ratified by General Assembly in 2016.
5. General Assembly voted that the FURY reps at Mission Council did not need to be members of the United Reformed Church, accordingly the proposal before Mission Council is that General Assembly membership be treated in the same manner, for consistency and fairness.
6. The part of the resolution relating to the Synod of Scotland's number of representatives was also deferred. If this can be resolved in time to be added to the consultation, then the whole resolution can be considered by synods on one occasion, so synods are advised to wait until May 2015 Mission Council, to see if this is so.
7. The danger of continuing to ratify an incomplete set of resolutions would be to create further unnecessary confusion over relatively minor matters.

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United Reformed Church • Mission Council, November 2014