

Paper X4

Northern Synod

Tenure of synod moderator

Church 2014
United
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Church Church 2014

Paper X4



Northern Synod: Tenure of synod moderator

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Melanie Campbell, synod clerk Northern Synod Melanie.campbell@urc-northernsynod.org
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Mission Council resolves to extend the term of the Revd Lis Mullen as synod moderator for Northern Synod until July 2016.
Alternative options to consider, if any	

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	The subject of this report is the proposal to extend the appointment of the moderator in Northern Synod until July 2016.
Main points	The proposal to extend the moderator's term of office is intended to offer Northern Synod the time to benefit from the Revd Lis Mullen's ministry, and also to fully prepare for calling a permanent moderator.
Previous relevant documents	Mission Council advisory group (Paper U) March 2014
Consultation has taken place with...	Mission Council advisory group; The Revd Lis Mullen (who is willing to serve, if so approved); All churches in Northern Synod; Synod meeting, which strongly supports the proposal.

Summary of Impact

Financial	Neutral
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

URC Northern Synod: Interim synod moderator

Background paper to the resolution

Introduction

1. The Revd Lis Mullen was appointed to be Interim Moderator for Northern Synod with effect from October 2013. In March 2014, Mission Council extended this arrangement until 31st July 2015 (Resolution 14/16 (3), Mission Council advisory group paper U).

The current situation:

2. The appointment of an interim moderator for Northern Synod was intended to provide some 'breathing space' after some difficult times. It was also to allow the opportunity to take account of discussions about future collaboration across the four northerly synods in England and the Synod of Scotland.

3. Whilst discussions across the northerly synods are continuing, there are no plans to amalgamate either synods or the moderator roles, and so Northern Synod will be seeking to find a moderator for the longer term.

4. There is much work taking place across Northern Synod under the leadership and guidance of the Revd Lis Mullen, which is effectively preparing and energising the synod as we look ahead to the future. It is important that synod has the opportunity to consolidate the benefits of Lis' ministry before completing the steps necessary to calling a new moderator. This all takes time, and for this reason, during the summer months, all churches across the synod were asked to consider the possibility of extending Lis' term of office with us, for a further year.

5. At October's synod meeting a discussion, led by an independent chair, the Revd Dr Jack Dyce, considered this suggestion. Synod unanimously supported the resolution to seek permission from Mission Council, to extend Lis' term of office until 31st July 2016, and to designate her as moderator for the remainder of her term.

6. The Revd Lis Mullen retires in July 2016 and Mission Council may wish to note that there will be no further requests to extend this post.

Recommendation

a) Northern Synod requests Mission Council to extend the Revd Lis Mullen's term of office as Synod Moderator until 31st July 2016.

