

Paper M1

Walking the Way Steering Group
The Next Steps





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Basic Information

Contact name and email address	The Revd Richard Church DGS (Discipleship) richard.church@urc.org.uk Ms Francis Brienen DGS (Mission) francis.brienen@urc.org.uk
Action required	For information
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	To keep members of Mission Council abreast of developments since General Assembly
Main points	
Previous relevant documents	Mission Council 11/15 Papers M1 & 2 Mission Council 3/16 Paper M1 General Assembly Reports p.11
Consultation has taken place with...	Steering Group London Institute of Contemporary Christianity

Summary of Impact

Financial	Employment costs of a project manager Consultancy costs of LICC consultancy Publicity Costs (all subject to CWM application)
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

Walking the Way - the next steps

1. The steering group has met twice since General Assembly in July and September.
2. A ministers' consultation has been booked for 30 April to 3 May 2018 at Yarnfield Manor Conference Centre, Stone, Staffordshire. A planning group has begun its work.
3. Feasts & Festivals – a brochure has been produced with ideas of ways in which local churches can engage with events, mission opportunities, liturgies and Bible studies which have been produced to help the URC celebrate the centenary year of 2017. The brochure will be supplemented by a dedicated webpage and contact email address for sharing news of events and answering queries.
4. Work is progressing on a Walking the Way booklet to be circulated to churches in the autumn of 2017. It will include resources for reflection on and engagement with discipleship for personal and group use. It will also contain a guide to further useful resources.
5. Education & Learning have set up a task and finish group to set about the design of a new discipleship course, which will complement the other materials which Walking the Way is producing. The group will set the framework and commission writers to produce fresh materials which can be used by all those wishing to deepen their discipleship.
6. Resourcing the vision – a gathering has been held at Carrs Lane, Birmingham to consider how we can strengthen the common life of prayer within the denomination with particular reference to discipleship. We are heartened by the widespread interest in praying for this process as it unfolds in many parts of the church.
 - a. The steering group was pleased to hear of the development of an online daily devotional being written by writers drawn from across the denomination starting in Advent 2016. Plans are in hand for it to be available through the URC website as well as by email. This is being co-ordinated by Mr Andy Braunston.
7. The steering group decided to use the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity in a consultative role. They have invited Mr Neil Hudson to meet with them at their September meeting. LICC have worked with the Methodist Church to help local churches in their ethos to be better able to envision and equip local churches as communities of disciples.
8. An application for CWM funding has been made to fund the employment of a project manager, to fund publicity and advocacy materials and to ensure that the many different strands of the Walking the Way agenda are woven together in order that vision, task and accountability are properly dealt with so that local churches have confidence in the changes which it is hoped that this emphasis will effect.
9. Accountability – this emphasis has emerged from the work of the Mission Committee and the Education & Learning Committee. Mission Council appointed the Steering Group to carry forward this work. Recognising that the scope of the work will involve other committees in due course, it seems sensible that while the constituent committees hold the budget and the Steering Group directs and plans the work, the General Secretariat shall be responsible on a day to day basis for the conduct of this process.

