

Paper M4

Mission Council Advisory Group
Same-sex marriage in the
Isle of Man

United
Reformed
Church
Church 2016
2016
Church 2016



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Basic Information

Contact name and email address	John Proctor john.proctor@urc.org.uk
Action required	Resolution
Draft resolution(s)	<p>Following the passing of Resolution 7 of the Assembly of 2016, Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) notes that under the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2016 (Isle of Man), the marriage of same sex couples is now lawful in the Isle of Man; b) recognises that the competence and functions of Church Meetings in the Isle of Man are no different from those of any other Church Meeting in the United Reformed Church; c) accepts that the definition and role of a 'governing authority' in the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2016 are in essentials the same as those of a 'governing authority' under section 26(A)(1) of the Marriage Act 1949 in England and Wales; and therefore d) declares, for the avoidance of doubt, that paragraph B of Resolution 7 applies to Church Meetings in the Isle of Man in the context of the Manx legislation as it does to Church Meetings in England and Wales; and further e) directs that, in the Isle of Man, paragraphs C, E and F of Resolution 7 shall apply with the necessary modifications.

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	To place Church Meetings in the Isle of Man in the same position as those in England and Wales, following changes in Manx legislation in late July 2016.
Main points	Marriages between same-sex couples in the Isle of Man are now permitted on much the same terms as England and Wales, and this resolution seeks to place our Church Meetings there in the position as England and Wales.
Previous relevant documents	Reports General Assembly 2016. Minutes of General Assembly
Consultation has taken place with...	Moderator of the Mersey Synod.

Summary of Impact

Financial	n/a
External (e.g. ecumenical)	No difference to England and Wales

Same-sex marriage in the Isle of Man

1. Resolution 7 of the 2016 General Assembly declared that Church Meetings were the relevant “governing authority” for whether a local church of the United Reformed Church did or did not wish to apply for registration for the solemnization of marriages between same sex couples, according to the law of England Wales.
2. The Minutes of General Assembly, from the afternoon of Sunday 7 July, record that: “The General Secretary made a statement, being a post-script to the debate on marriage of same sex couples the previous day...Legislation was under preparation in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and it might be appropriate for Mission Council to deal with any URC response to that legislation”.
3. Legislation in the Isle of Man received royal assent on 22 July 2016, which provided for the marriage of same sex couples in terms almost identical to England and Wales.
4. As such, the following resolution is brought, so that Church Meetings in the Isle of Man are in the same position as those in England and Wales:

Following the passing of Resolution 7 of the Assembly of 2016, Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly:

- a) notes that under the **Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2016 (Isle of Man)**, the marriage of same sex couples is now lawful in the Isle of Man;
- b) recognises that the competence and functions of Church Meetings in the Isle of Man are no different from those of any other Church Meeting in the United Reformed Church;
- c) accepts that the definition and role of a 'governing authority' in the **Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2016** are in essentials the same as those of a 'governing authority' under section 26(A)(1) of the **Marriage Act 1949** in England and Wales; and therefore
- d) declares, for the avoidance of doubt, that paragraph B of Resolution 7 applies to Church Meetings in the Isle of Man in the context of the Manx legislation as it does to Church Meetings in England and Wales; and further
- e) directs that, in the Isle of Man, paragraphs C, E and F of Resolution 7 shall apply with the necessary modifications.

