

Paper M5

Clerk

Composition of Assembly Commissions

United
Church
Reformed
Church
2016
Church 2016
Church 2016



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Composition of Assembly Commissions

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Michael Hopkins clerk@urc.org.uk
Action required	Resolution
Draft resolution(s)	<p>Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council resolves that appeals heard by a Commission of Assembly (other than those relating to the Ministerial Disciplinary Process) shall consist of five people, who shall be appointed by the Assembly Officers:</p> <p>A current or former Moderator of the General Assembly (who shall act as chair), a Synod Moderator or Synod Clerk, and three other persons who shall be members of General Assembly.</p> <p>The Assembly Clerk and General Secretary, or their deputies, shall be present to advise all parties on procedure, and to facilitate the meeting and record the decision, respectively.</p>

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Clarifying commissions to hear appeals other than the Disciplinary Process
Main points	The Mission Council agreed principle for hearing appeals by a Commission in 1994, however subsequent structural changes in the church render those inoperable as literally written. The purpose of this paper is to agree formally how those principles operate within the structures that the URC now uses.
Previous relevant documents	n/a
Consultation has taken place with...	n/a

Summary of Impact

Financial	n/a
External (e.g. ecumenical)	n/a

Composition of Assembly Commissions

1. Appeals, usually from decisions of Synods, come before the Assembly from time to time. These are usually dealt with by a Commission of Assembly, both so that they may be heard in a timely fashion, and so that an enormous body of people is not expected to make detailed decisions.

2. The Mission Council agreed principles for how such Commissions would be set up in 1994, however subsequent structural changes in the church render those inoperable as literally written.

3. The purpose of this paper is to formally agree how those principles operate within the structures that the United Reformed Church now uses. This paper is proposing no changes of principle, merely of practice in current circumstances. A resolution is proposed to safeguard the church in the event of an appellant not accepting the legitimacy of a Commission not appointed in accordance with the letter of the 1994 resolution.

4. Therefore it is proposed that:

Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council resolves that appeals heard by a Commission of Assembly (other than those relating to the Ministerial Disciplinary Process) shall consist of five people, who shall be appointed by the Assembly Officers:

A current or former Moderator of the General Assembly (who shall act as chair), a Synod Moderator or Synod Clerk, and three other persons who shall be members of General Assembly.

The Assembly Clerk and General Secretary, or their deputies, shall be present to advise all parties on procedure, and to facilitate the meeting and record the decision, respectively.

