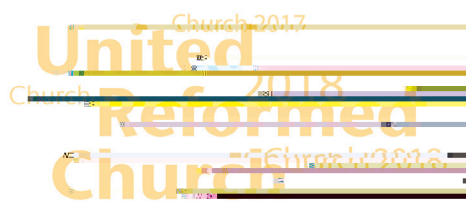
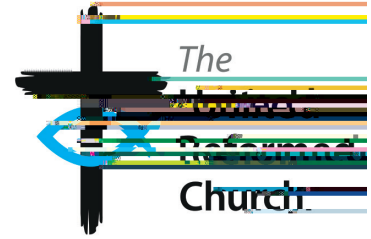


Paper P2

Law and polity advisory group

The standards for eldership





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The standards for eldership

Basic Information

Contact	The Revd Professor David Thompson, convenor dmt3@cam.ac.uk
Action required	For discussion
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	The commitments made by our elders.
Main points	A suggestion that a new promise for elders be considered as an addition to those presently made.
Previous documents	Nothing very recent.
Consultation has taken place with...	A number of cases has been raised with LPAG over a period of years, from various quarters.

Summary of Impact

Financial	No impact on budget.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	This concern is paralleled in a number of other Reformed churches in different parts of the UK, and we may in due course be able to learn from their experience.

The standards for eldership

1. From time to time the law and polity advisory group has been asked by the Moderators' meeting collectively and particular synod officers to explain the sanctions that exist for disciplining elders in local churches, who act in a way that threatens the unity of those churches. Unfortunately, the Basis of Union and The Structure are not very helpful in the matter. Local churches have been expected to exercise the appropriate discipline, without troubling the synod. In larger churches, where there is