

The United Reformed Church
Minutes of a meeting of Mission Council held 15 17 November 2019
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER

Session 1

The meeting of Mission Council began at 1400 with worship led by the Revd Elaine Colechin, Bible study was led by Dr Alison Gray. The Moderator, Mr Derek Estill, was in the chair and declared Mission Council open

19/26

The Moderator welcomed everyone, identifying new members and those attending as alternates

Apologies had been received as follows

The Revd Dr Alan Spence

Convener of Faith and Order Committee

Ms Katie Hendersons Katie

— odhW

ede

entativ

19/28 Matters arising

Paper D2 from the May 2019 meeting describing the “nails of ministry” had unfortunately used some terminology which may have inadvertently clashed with the Ministerial Disciplinary Process. As such the General Secretary proposed a revised opening to the document, which made no changes of substance but resolved the clash of wording.

“Meeting in May 2019 the Mission Council of the United Reformed Church adopted the following concise and comprehensive description of what the Church can reasonably hope to see evidenced in people who are called to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments. It was acknowledged that what this will look like in each minister will vary depending on the context, the individual, and the specific ministry to which they are called. This description replaces the ‘Seven fundamental qualifications for ministry’ adopted by General Assembly in 1982. In adopting this paper Mission Council also resolved to encourage the Ministries Committee, Education and Learning Committee, Resource Centres for Learning and relevant committees in all the Synods to use this description as the basis for consistency in guidance and reporting in relation to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.”

This was agreed by consensus.

19/29 Facilitation Group

The General Secretary, the Revd. John Proctor, proposed and Mission Council appointed Mrs Mel Campbell, the Revd Dr Phil Wall, Mr Reuben Watt, and the Revd Ruth Whitehead to be a Facilitation Group.

19/30 Paper B1

Childrens and Youth Work

The Revd. Jerry Mills and Dr Sam Richards presented the report of the Childrens and Youth Work Committee, and moved the Resolution.

Mission Council approves the revised remit for a Plots subcommittee (replacing the previous constitution) to come into effect from January 2020.

Mission Council agreed by consensus.

19/31 Paper G1

Finance committee – Budget 2020

The Treasurer, Mr Ian Hirdle, presented the 2020 budget and moved the Resolution.

Mission Council adopts the 2020 budget as set out in the appendix to the Paper G1 and a letter for November 2019 Mission Council.

Following brief discussion, Mission Council agreed by consensus.

Mission Council adjourned at 1530.

Session Two

Mr Estill reported on the process of appointing a Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship).

Mission Council adjourned

Session Three

Mission Council resumed at 2000 Mr Derek Estill was in the Chair:

19/36 Paper MI

General Secretariat – Resourcing Worship

Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council confirms that the membership of Mission Council shall be as set out in resolution 19E of General Assembly 2014 until the close of General Assembly 2030 and from that point shall then be:

1 Moderator(s) of Assembly

2 Moderator(s)-elect of Assembly

3 Immediate past Moderator(s)

4 General Secretary

5 Deputy General Secretaries

6 Clerk and Assistant Clerk

7 Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer

8 Conveners of all Assembly standing committees, except the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee

9 Four further representatives of each Synod nominally from among the Board members

Mr Ioannis Athanasiou responded to questions on Paper R1; the Resolution was discussed and a number of textual alterations were made with the agreement of the proposers

During discussion, it was agreed by Mr Athanasiou and Mr Church that the Safeguarding grid

1 Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, agrees that the size of the environmental task group be increased from four to six members, and that the Revd David Glenan and Ms Alison Greaves be appointed to the vacancies

2 Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, asks all synods and Assembly committees to report back to the environmental task group about their progress in implementing the Environmental Policy by 29 February 2020 with a view to a full report being made at the 2020 General Assembly and annually thereafter:

Jl list of nominations

1 Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council notes and approves the changes set out in section one of paper Jl of Mission Council November 2019 to the list of nominations agreed by Mission Council in May 2019

2 Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council appoints according to the nominations in section two of paper Jl of Mission Council November 2019

**O2 Human resources advisory group- Tenure of Principal of Westminster College
Mission Council confirms that appointments to the role of Principal of Westminster College are for an initial period of seven years with the possibility of that appointment being renewed for successive periods of up to five years**

Mission Council agreed by consensus

The Revd Ray Adams, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, sought help in finding nominees particularly for the Equal Opportunities Committee and Church House Management Group

19/43 Fall of the Wall (from 1939)

**The Revd James Best proposed the resolution, which was formally seconded by the Clerk
Mission Council commends the November 2019 declaration agreed between the United Reformed Church and the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz for consideration by its Confessional and Ecumenical Partners in Europe, and instructs those who represent the United Reformed Church thereon to bring it to their attention**

Mission Council agreed by consensus

19/44 Paper HB

Ministries Committee- Pastoral Supervision

**The Revd Paul Whittle presented Paper HB for discussion, outlining and updating principles for Pastoral Supervision
Mission Council divided into groups**

**Plenary sessions resumed at 1750 and each group reported briefly on their discussion
Mr Whittle requested written notes from each of the groups, and individual contributions to the discussion**

Mission Council Adjourned at 14 0

Session Eight

Mission Council reconvened at 2000 The Revd Haine Cole led Mission Council in evening prayers

Mission Council adjourned at 2015

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Session Nine

Worship including the Sacrament of Holy Communion, was led by the Revd David Coaker. During the service, the Moderator, Mr Derek Estill, led the induction of the Revd Nicola Fuley Smith as Secretary for Ministries. Bible study was led by Dr Alison Gray.

Session Ten

19/45 Paper B

Nominations Committee

Mr Alan Yates was in the Chair:

The General Secretary presented paper B and the Resolutions

1 Mission Council notes and approves the changes set out in part one of paper B of Mission Council November 2019 to the Nominations list agreed at the May 2019 meeting of Mission Council.

Mission Council agreed by consensus

2 Mission Council appoints according to the nominations in part two of paper B of Mission Council November 2019

Mission Council agreed by consensus

3 Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, appoints the Revd Janie Kissack to be Moderator of Yorkshire Synod from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2027

Mission Council agreed by consensus

Mr Brian Jolly left the room and in moving resolution 4, Mr Rector stated that the regular process for seeking a nomination had been followed. Since Mr Jolly's nomination had been announced twelve people in North Western Synod (in some cases writing on behalf of an elders' meeting) had written to the General Secretary questioning or opposing Mr Jolly's suitability for the role. Mr Rector informed Mission Council that an mitigating strategy had been agreed with Mr Jolly, and on that basis presented the nomination to Mission Council for decision.

4 Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, appoints the Revd Brian Jolly to be Moderator of North Western Synod from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2024

After discussion, Mission Council agreed by consensus

5 Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, appoints the Revd Sarah Moore to be Assistant Clerk of General Assembly from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022

Mission Council agreed by consensus

The Revd Nigel Udent took the Chair:

19/46 (from 19/40)

Legacies of Slavery

Mr Alan Yates reported on feedback from group discussion on the Legacies of Slavery paper:

The Moderator thanked those who had arranged this meeting of Mission Council, Church House and Communications staff. J d n seir sn Nh ml edm enyr - th r