

Ministries Committee

Schedule E

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Paul Whittle: moderator@urceastern.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 24 General Assembly approves the changes to Schedule E of the Basis of Union as outline in this paper.

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	To reflect the actual categories of ministers who comprise the roll of ministers within our denomination
Main points	a) To make an addition to 1e to reflect Synod appointments b) To remove the category 1f, which no longer exists
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	Clerk to General Assembly

Summary of Impact

Financial	None
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None

1. We live in a changing world. Attitudes towards ministry and the shape of ministry within the United Reformed Church has changed since Schedule E was written. As a result, Ministries Committee have been reflecting on the categories of ministry within our denomination which comprise the roll of ministers.
2. It is not surprising that there have been changes. Ministries Committee sees this paper as a tidying up exercise to reflect the categories of minister that do indeed comprise the roll.
3. It is no longer the case that a minister of another church could transfer to the United Reformed Church without either receiving a call to a local pastorate or being appointed to a post approved by Synod. Ministers transfer to the United Reformed Church through being granted Certificates of Eligibility or of Limited Service where there is a clearly defined ministry within the United Reformed Church.
4. The changing nature of ministers deployed to Synod posts or to General Assembly appointments also needs to be reflected within the categories. It would

be possible for ministers on Certificates of Eligibility to be eligible to be appointed to such posts.

Therefore, Ministries Committee proposes

- c) a change to para 1(e) with the additions of the words *or upon appointment within a synod or wider church*;
- d) the removal of 1(f).

Appendix 1 Schedule E

1. The following constitute the categories of ministers comprising the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church:
 - a) Ministers of the former Congregational Church of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England who became Ministers of the United Reformed Church at its formation in 1972;
 - b) Ministers of the former Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ who became ministers of the United Reformed Church in 1981;
 - c) Ministers of the former Congregational Union of Scotland who became ministers of the United Reformed Church in 2000;
 - d) Ministers who have been ordained as ministers of the United Reformed Church and inducted to a local pastorate (or some other post approved by the synod) after having received a call with the concurrence of the synod or have been appointed to a post by councils of the Church or are associate members of a synod;
 - e) Ministers of other churches who have been granted a Certificate of Eligibility by the General Assembly, or the committee designated by the General Assembly with the responsibility to grant Certificates of Eligibility, and who subsequently transferred to the United Reformed Church upon ordination and/or induction to a local pastorate following a call with the concurrence of the synod *or upon appointment to a post within a synod or wider church*;
 - f) *[Ministers of other churches who, with the approval of a synod, have been permitted by the General Assembly, or the committee delegated by the General Assembly to act on its behalf, to transfer to the United Reformed Church without receiving a call to a local pastorate or without being appointed to a post approved by synod.]*
2. Ministers must conduct themselves and exercise all aspects of their ministries in a manner which is compatible with the unity and peace of the United Reformed Church and the affirmation made by ministers at ordination and induction (Schedule C) and the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the

United Reformed Church (Schedule D) in accordance with which ministers undertake to exercise their ministry.

3. Acting in due exercise of their functions as contained in the Structure of the United Reformed Church, the councils of the Church have authority in certain circumstances (without prejudice to a minister's conditions under the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration) to suspend a minister which involves a temporary ban on the exercise of ministry by the minister concerned but not his/her removal from the Roll of Ministers.
4. A minister under suspension, whether in pastoral charge or not, shall not present him/herself as a minister and shall not preside at communion. The minister shall refrain from all activity which may lead others to believe that he/she is acting as a minister of religion. Suspension also means that the minister may not exercise the ministerial rights of membership of any council of the Church. Suspension does not remove any of the rights accorded by the process of determining the matter which had led to the suspension.
5. A person whose name has been deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church and who remains a member of the URC has the privilege and responsibilities of that membership, but not those of a Minister of Word and Sacraments, and should refrain from all activity which may lead others to believe that he/she is acting as a minister of religion. However, should that person be re-instated to the Roll of Ministers, he/she would, on being called to a pastorate, need to be inducted to that pastorate, but not ordained, since ordination is not repeatable.