

Paper B2

URC committees and online meeting

Children's and Youth Work Committee

Basic information

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Action required	Resolutions.
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 10 1. General Assembly requests all General Assembly committees and task groups to have at least one meeting each year entirely online and not during normal working hours (9-5 Monday to Friday). Resolution 11 2. General Assembly also encourages all General Assembly committees and task groups to have the ability for people to join online for all meetings, with 50% of meetings each year to be held outside of normal working hours (9-5 Monday to Friday). Resolution 12 3. General Assembly also invites all councils of the Church at a Synod and local church level to consider these resolutions to see where they can implement them into their structures.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	Making committee meetings more accessible to all.
Main points	Need to make consistent use of online meeting capability and ensure meeting times are accessible for those with work and other commitments.
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	URC Youth.

Summary of impact

Financial	Anticipated reduction in meeting costs (and environmental impact).
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

Back at a Mission Council in 2020, a comment was raised regarding committees within the United Reformed Church, with a concern for the lack of people to fill the roles on our many committees. This is a huge shame, as the URC is filled with people who have many different gifts and talents waiting to be utilised. These are the people that we need to be getting involved in our structures; however, many of them work or study and so cannot currently attend committee meetings. Many members of URC Youth, who would be an asset to a committee, have had to decline their nomination due to the times or locations of the meetings, which is why we bring this resolution.

We realise this resolution will require a big culture shift for many. However, if those who are working or are studying know they can attend at least one meeting a year, then they may be more likely to say yes to the invitation to join a committee or task group.

Throughout the last year, we have seen how easy it is to have a meeting of all different sizes and topics online, and we hope that with this resolution, it will continue. Not only will it make it more accessible for those that work and study like previously stated, it will also make a huge environmental impact. This links to the resolution that was taken to General Assembly in 2020 for the URC to recognise the climate emergency and to challenge all councils, committees and local churches to do everything possible to make URC events and activities eco-friendly.

- General Assembly requests all General Assembly committees and task groups to have at least one meeting each year entirely online and not during normal working hours (9-5 Monday to Friday).
- General Assembly also encourages all General Assembly committees and task groups to have the ability for people to join online for all meetings, with 50% of meetings each year are held outside of normal working hours (9-5 Monday to Friday).
- General Assembly also invites all councils of the Church at a synod and local church level to consider these resolutions to see where they can implement them into their structures.

These resolutions are brought from URC Youth Executive for consideration at General Assembly. Unfortunately, because Youth Assembly was unable to meet for business this year, these resolutions were not able to be approved there, but nonetheless reflect the voice of young people in the URC. Children's and Youth Work Committee are pleased to support these resolutions coming to General Assembly through them.