

# Paper H4

## Schedule E

### Ministries Committee

#### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Paul Whittle <a href="mailto:moderator@urcscotland.org.uk">moderator@urcscotland.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Decision.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>Resolution 25</b> <b>General Assembly makes the changes to Schedule E as outlined in Appendix 1 of this paper.</b>

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To make changes to Schedule E to reflect the actual categories of ministers who comprise the roll of ministers within the United Reformed Church.
<b>Main points</b>	a) To correct the date in 1c to 2000 b) To make an addition to 1e to reflect synod appointments.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	N/A
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Clerk to General Assembly.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	None.

1. We live in a changing world. Attitudes towards ministry and the shape of ministry within the United Reformed Church have changed since Schedule E was written. As a result, Ministries Committee has 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 which do indeed comprise the roll.
3. The date in which ministers of the former Congregational Union of Scotland became ministers of the United Reformed Church needs to be corrected to 2000.

4. The changing nature of ministers deployed to synod posts or to General Assembly appointments needs to be reflected within the categories also. It would be possible for ministers on Certificates of Eligibility to be eligible to be appointed to such posts.
5. Therefore, Ministries Committee proposes
  - c) a change to the 1e with the additions of the words *or upon appointment within a synod or wider church*;

## Appendix One: 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 the 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.