

**The United Reformed Church**

**Minutes of a meeting of Mission Council held on 13-15 November 2015, at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire.**

**Friday 13 November 2015**

**Session 1**

The meeting of Mission Council began at 2.00 pm. The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair. Worship was led by his chaplain, the Revd Nigel Uden, and the Revd David Grosch-Miller.

**15/26**

After worship, the Moderator welcomed to Mission Council new members, people attending in a new capacity, visitors, and observers.

Those attending for the first time, or returning after a break in service:

The Revd Adrian Bulley	<i>Wales Synod Representative</i>
Mrs Pamela Dent	<i>North Western Synod Representative</i>
The Revd Steve Faber	<i>West Midlands Synod Moderator</i>
The Revd Trevor Jamison	<i>Synod of Scotland Representative</i>
Mrs Barbara Jones	<i>Wales Synod Representative</i>
Mr Peter Knowles	<i>Communications and Editorial Committee Convener</i>
Mrs Rosie Martin	<i>Wessex Synod Representative</i>
Dr James Merrilees	<i>Synod of Scotland Representative</i>
The Revd Professor Neil Messer	<i>Education &amp; Learning Committee Convener</i>
The Revd Andrew Mills	<i>North Western Synod Moderator</i>
Mr Alexander Nunn	<i>FURY Moderator-elect</i>
Mr Kenwyn Pierce	<i>Press and Media Officer</i>
Mrs Sue Russell	<i>Alternate Thames North Synod representative</i>
Mrs Carol Rogers	<i>Alternate for the Convener of the Nominations Committee</i>

Observers:

Ms Rachel Lampard	<i>Methodist Ecumenical Representative</i>
Dr Andrew Bradstock	<i>Former Church and Society Secretary</i>
The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King	<i>Safeguarding Advisory Group</i>
Miss Victoria Paulding	<i>20-40 Task Group Convener</i>

Apologies for absence:

Mrs Wilma Frew	<i>Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee Convener</i>
The Revd Angela Gemmer-Snell	<i>West Midlands Representative</i>
The Revd Gethin Rhys	<i>Ministries Committee Convener</i>
The Revd Edward Sanniez	<i>Thames North Synod Representative</i>
The Revd Professor David Thompson	<i>Law and Polity Advisory Group Convener</i>
Dr Steve Tomkins	<i>'Reform' Editor</i>
Mrs Marie Trubic	<i>Joint Public Issues Team Representative</i>
Mrs Irene Wren	<i>Nominations Committee Convener</i>

The Moderator reminded the Council of the use of consensus cards.

The Moderator advised that supplementary papers were available, and mentioned some minor typographical corrections to published papers.

The Moderator notified that papers A1, D1, G1, R2, and U1 were deemed to be urgent under Standing Order 2.3, and that paper J2 was removed from en bloc because the name of Mr Brian Hosier, proposed for four years further service on the Investment Committee, was added.

The General Secretary proposed that the Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor, Mrs Linda Harrison, the Revd Jenny Mills, and the Revd Simon Walking be appointed as members of the Facilitation Group, if one were to be needed. This was agreed unanimously.

The General Secretary advised the Council of a questionnaire about Church House, which members were asked to complete during the weekend.

The General Secretary gave notice that two vacancies for members of the Mission Council Advisory Group (MCAG), open to any member of Mission Council, would arise at the next meeting.

#### **15/27 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Clerk presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8-10 May 2015, which were agreed unanimously and signed by the Moderator.

#### **15/28 Matters Arising**

##### **Paper C1 of May 2015 – Towards a new logo for the United Reformed Church**

The Convener of the Communications and Editorial Committee, Mr Peter Knowles, reported that the committee planned a revised form of the cross and fish logo, which was shown to Mission Council.

##### **Paper X1 of May 2015 - Synod Moderator Appointment Process**

The Secretary of the Nominations Committee, Mrs Carol Rogers, reported that the Nominations Committee had considered the business referred to them, but the committee had not been able to agree a change because they needed further clarification.

#### **15/29**

##### **Papers M1 and M2 – Missional Discipleship**

The Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), the Revd Richard Church, and the Deputy General Secretary (Mission), Ms Francis Brienen, presented the report, and moved the resolution:

**Mission Council receives the report on Missional Discipleship in papers M1 and M2 of November 2015, endorses the direction of travel, and asks for further information to be given to Mission Council in March 2016.**

Questions were asked, and comments made, which Mr Church and Ms Brienen noted and undertook to consider as the next phase of the work progressed. The resolution was passed by consensus.

Mission Council adjourned at 3.30 pm, for a brief break.

#### **Session 2**

#### **15/30**

Mission council resumed at 4.15 pm. The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch-Miller, was in the chair.

#### **15/31**

##### **Paper H1 – Non-Stipendiary Ministry Age of Application**

In the absence of the Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, presented the report, and moved the resolution:

**Recognising that people are working longer in many occupations and that UK legislation has changed in recent years to enable people to work without fear of age discrimination, Mission Council, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, resolves to remove the age related entry qualifications with regard to non-stipendiary ministry.**

Following questions, the resolution was passed by consensus.

#### **15/32**

##### **Paper H2 - Ministers on the Roll**

In the absence of the Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Craig Bowman presented the report, including examples of the situations that had given rise to these proposals. The resolution was formally proposed by the Clerk, in the absence of the Convener:

1. Mission Council believes that:

- a) recognised ministry is not only an expression of personal discipleship but a continuation of the work of Christ rooted in his body which is the Church;
- b) those presenting themselves as ministers of the United Reformed Church need to be anchored within the denomination for reasons both of support and of discipline;
- c) ministers who have retired from formal positions should be valued not just for their past ministry but for the way in which so many of them continue to model the Christian life for others and make themselves available to serve the church in a variety of ways.

2. Mission Council therefore approves the categories set out in paper H2 of Mission Council November 2015 "Ministers on the Roll" as a means of providing more clarity regarding the status of ministers and expectations of them.

Mr Bowman sought permission to substitute a revised version of paragraph 6.6 in the paper:

"In addition to fulfilling their promises made under Schedule C, all authorised ministers, along with all active ministers, will be expected to have a valid DBS/PVGS check and fulfil any requirements laid upon them by Assembly including any mandatory training. Should any minister fail to fulfil these requirements, they could no longer be regarded as authorised. It would be for the synod in the first instance to monitor such situations and take any necessary action."

Mission Council agreed to the revised form of words being substituted in the report.

Following considerable discussion, the Council was unable to reach a decision, and the business was referred to a facilitation group.

### **15/33**

#### **Paper D2 - Spending Priorities within Education & Learning**

The Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), the Revd Richard Church, presented the report for information. Questions were asked, and comments made, which Mr Church noted and undertook to consider as the next phase of the work progressed.

### **15/34**

#### **Paper D1 - Windermere Centre Support**

The Convener of the Education and Learning Committee, the Revd Professor Neil Messer, presented the report, and moved the resolution:

**1. Mission Council, recognising the diversity of gifts represented by the Resource Centres for Learning within the wider landscape of Christian development and growth, endorses the principle informing the Education & Learning budget for 2016 of maintaining support for the existing Resource Centres for Learning within the context of ongoing deliberations about the best way of supporting the learning of the whole people of God.**

**2. Mission Council congratulates the Windermere Centre and its management committee on the work they have done to ensure the Centre's financial viability, and expresses its support for the Centre's work over the period of 2015-18, subject to the financial support from the Assembly budget being under £150k in each year, and normally under £125k.**

Following questions, to which Professor Messer and the honorary Treasurer responded, the resolution was passed by Consensus.

### **15/35**

#### **Paper G1 - 2016 Budget**

The Treasurer, Mr John Ellis, presented the report, and moved the resolution:

**Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council adopts the budget for 2016 set out in the Appendix of paper G1 of November 2015.**

Following discussion, the resolution was approved by consensus.

### **15/36**

#### **Paper V1 - Inter-Synod Resource Sharing Methods**

The Convener of the Task Group, the Revd Paul Whittle, presented the report, and moved the resolution:

**Mission Council affirms its commitment to inter-synod resource sharing. Recognising that the commitment to both voluntary generosity in giving and gracious acceptance in receiving are serving well, it affirms the importance of the continuance of that spirit, but rescinds the resolution of November 2013 requesting that a proposal be brought to provide a mechanism for inter-synod resource sharing.**

Following questions, it was not possible to find consensus, and the resolution was passed, recognising disagreement.

Mission Council adjourned at 6.15 pm.

### **Session 3**

### **15/37**

Mission Council resumed at 8.00 pm. The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair. A hymn was sung.

### **15/38**

#### **Paper R2 - Historic Cases Review**

The Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), the Revd Richard Church, presented the report and moved the resolution:

**Mission Council, recognising the need for an open consultation on issues of abuse in the Church requests the Safeguarding Advisory Group to bring detailed proposals to the March 2016 meeting of Mission Council.**

Mr Church advised the Council that Ms Cassi Wright had been appointed Safeguarding Officer, beginning work on 1 January 2016.

The Moderator gave permission to the Revd Elizabeth Gray-King to speak.

Mr Church and Mrs Gray-King responded to questions and concerns about how the process was being managed and how the outcomes would be managed. Mr Church gave an undertaking that should the resolution be passed, the proposal brought in March 2016 would give serious consideration to whether or how the detailed proposals would consider predecessor denominations.

The resolution was passed by consensus, following which the Moderator offered prayer.

### **15/39**

#### **Paper A1 - Assembly Finance & Future Planning**

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, the Revd James Breslin, presented the report, and moved the resolutions:

1. Mission Council, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, resolves to instruct the Assembly Arrangements Committee to book all accommodation for future Assemblies.
2. Mission Council requests Synods to pay to the central funds of the Church the difference in the cost of accommodation for their representatives between the £50 *per diem* grant already agreed and the true cost incurred for the 2016 Assembly.
3. Mission Council requests Synods to meet the cost of travel for their representatives attending the 2016 Assembly.

After considerable discussion, the business was deferred to a later session.

**15/40**

Closing worship was led by Mr Grosch-Miller's chaplain, the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller, after which Mission Council adjourned at 9.15 pm.

## **Saturday 14 November 2015**

### **Session 4**

**15/41**

Mission Council resumed at 9.15 am. The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch-Miller, was in the chair. Worship was led by the Revd Nigel Uden, including prayers following terrorist attacks in Paris the previous evening.

**15/42**

The General Secretary intimated that no items had been removed from en bloc business, but the Revd David Tatem would be available at 3:00pm in the Garden Room should anyone wish to have informal discussion on paper I3 (LEP reviews). In light of recent events in Paris, Mission Council encouraged the Moderators to send a letter to our ecumenical partners in France.

**15/43**

#### **Paper I1 - Environmental Policy**

The Convener of the Mission Committee, the Revd Tracey Lewis, presented the report, and notified minor typographical corrections. Members of Mission Council offered comments to help the committee shape what they wished to present to General Assembly in 2016.

The Moderator thanked Dr Andrew Bradstock for his service as Secretary for Church and Society, and in particular for his work on this project.

**15/44**

#### **Paper G2 - Ethical Investment Guidelines**

The Treasurer, Mr John Ellis, presented the report, and proposed the resolution:

**Mission Council, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, agrees to add the following text as an Appendix to the 2010 statement of principles for the use of the United Reformed Church in making investment decisions:**

#### **Application of the Guidelines in relation to Climate Change**

**Those responsible for investment decisions on behalf of the URC and its Trust bodies should:**

- a) engage intensively with those companies in which they are invested that make a significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (such as fossil fuel producers, electricity generation utilities, large energy users, and producers of energy intensive products) to encourage them to assist in the transition to a low carbon economy;**
- b) conduct corporate and public policy engagement wherever possible in collaboration with other investors, including through the Church Investors Group (CIG), the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) and the Carbon Disclosure project (CDP);**
- c) not invest in any company where more than 10% of its revenues are derived from the extraction of thermal coal or the production of oil from oil sands;**
- d) disinvest, after appropriate engagement, from companies that make a significant contribution to emissions of greenhouse gasses and that are considered not to be taking seriously their responsibilities to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy;**
- e) where practicable increase their investments in climate change adaptation, and in sectors and activities such as sustainable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture and storage that may make a significant contribution to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions or facilitating the transition to low carbon economy, to the extent that such investments meet their investment risk/return criteria;**
- f) continue to encourage those organisations that invest money on their behalf to build climate change into their investment practices and processes, in line with the goals and objectives set out in this climate change policy, including through integrating climate change into relevant requests for proposals and due diligence**

processes, making climate change an explicit part of their asset management appointment processes, integrating climate change into their investment principles, and monitoring their asset managers' approach to climate change;

**g) monitor and report periodically on their implementation of this policy.**

After discussion, the resolution was passed, recognising disagreement.

The Revd Dr David Pickering recorded his dissent.

Mission Council adjourned at 10.55 am.

## **Session 5**

### **15/45**

Mission council resumed at 11.20 am. The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair, who led the Council in prayer.

The Moderator drew attention to copies of the latest Joint Public Issues Team report *Enough*, which were available.

### **15/46**

#### **Paper F2 - Authorised Elders**

The Convener of the Faith and Order Committee, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, presented the report. Members of Mission Council offered comments to help the committee shape what they wished to present to General Assembly in 2016. The comments made it clear that Mission Council felt that more work needed to be done before the paper could most helpfully be presented to General Assembly, the General Secretary recommended including some form of executive summary. The Convener gave an assurance that the March meeting of Mission Council would have another opportunity to consider the subject.

Mission Council adjourned at 12.45 pm.

## **Session 6**

### **15/47**

Mission Council resumed at 4.30 pm. The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch-Miller, was in the chair, and the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller offered prayer.

### **15/48**

#### **Items removed from en bloc**

Paper J2, further names from the Nominations Committee, had been removed from en bloc business, because the name of Mr Brian Hosier, to serve for four years on the Investment Committee, had been added since the paper was published.

On behalf of the Convener of the Nominations Committee, Mrs Carol Rogers moved the resolution to appoint the people listed, which was passed unanimously.

The Deputy General Secretary (Mission) reported that Ms Grace Pengelly had been appointed as Secretary for Church and Society from 1 January 2016.

[Although paper J2 was passed at this point, and paper J1 in the forthcoming en bloc business, the names from both papers are recorded together at the later minute, so that the names are all together in one place.]

**15/49**

The General Secretary formally proposed the following items, to be voted upon en bloc:

**15/50**

**Paper B1 - Youth Structures and Guidelines**

Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council agrees that all references to FURY in the Structure, and any other constitutional documents, shall henceforth be deemed to refer to 'URC Youth', and authorises that the name be formally updated in the documents next time they are changed.

**15/51**

**Paper B2 - CYDO Assembly Level Work**

Information paper – no resolution.

**15/52**

**Paper C1 - Review of Communications Department**

Information paper – no resolution.

**15/53**

**Paper I2 - World Church staffing**

1. Mission Council accepts the proposed changes to the structure of the Mission Team;
2. Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council appoints the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar as Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries with immediate effect until 31 August 2020.

**15/54**

**Paper I3 - LEP Review**

Information paper – no resolution.

**15/55**

**Paper J1 Nominations Committee** [The names from paper J2 are also printed here]

1. Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council appoints with immediate effect:
  - a) Mr Sam Brown to serve as a member of the Children's and Youth Work committee until 30 June 2019
  - b) The Revd Dick Gray to serve as convenor of the URC Trust until 2018
  - c) Mr Emmanuel Osae as a member of the URC Trust
  - d) Miss Margaret Atkinson to extend her service as governor of Northern College until 30 June 2016
  - e) Mr Ray Dunnett as a URC appointed governor of the Milton Mount Foundation
  - f) Mr John Ellis as a URC Director of the Congregational Memorial Hall Trust
  - g) Dr Robert Pettigrew as a member of the Educational and Learning committee
  - h) The Revd John Durrell as Convener-elect of the Ministerial Incapacity and Disciplinary Processes Advisory Group (known as "MIND")
  - i) The Revd Kenneth Chippindale as consultant to ministers subject to the Incapacity or Disciplinary Processes
  - j) Mr Robert Christie as a member of the Stewardship sub-committee
  - k) Mr David Greatorex as a member of the Stewardship sub-committee
  - l) Mrs Bridget Micklem as a Trustee of the URC Ministers' Pension Fund
  - m) The Revd Catey Morrison to serve on the Children's & Youth Work committee
  - n) Mr Brian Hosier to serve on the Investment Committee
2. Mission Council resolves to recommend to General Assembly that Mr Ian Hardie be appointed as Treasurer of the Church from 1 July 2017 for six years.
3. Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council appoints the Revd Jenny Mills as Children's & Youth Work Committee Convener-elect for 12 months from General Assembly 2016, and thereafter as Convener until 30 June 2021.
5. Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council appoints the Revd Dr David Alan Pickering as Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland for seven years, from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2023.

**15/56**

**Paper - M3 Hearing God more clearly**

Information paper – no resolution.

**15/57**

**Paper M4 - Postal Voting**

Acting on behalf of the General Assembly, Mission Council affirms the long standing practice of the United Reformed Church and its predecessor denominations, that postal and/or proxy votes are not permitted in the councils of the church on business which is subject to discussion, unless otherwise provided for in Structure, the Rules of Procedure, the URC Act, or Local Church constitutions. This is because we believe such meetings are to seek the will of God, and everyone present is open to the possibility of changing their mind in openness to the Holy Spirit until a decision is made. The views of absent members may be made known to those present before any decision is made, but only those present should make a decision.

**15/58**

**Paper M5 - Church House Refurbishment**

Mission Council authorises the General Secretariat to pursue the path outlined in paper M5 of November 2015, and requests the URC Trust to take responsibility for contract and costs, up to a figure of 1.5 million pounds.

**15/59**

**Paper O1 - HRAG Report**

Information paper – no resolution.

**15/60**

**Paper R1 - Safeguarding General Report**

Information paper – no resolution.

**15/61**

**Paper U2 - Church House Management Group Terms of Reference**

Mission Council adopts the proposed Terms of Reference for the Church House Management Group, with immediate effect.

**15/62**

**Paper Y1 - Immigration Health Surcharge**

**1. Mission Council values the contribution being made to the ministry of the United Reformed Church by those ministers who have come from overseas.**

**2. Mission Council is concerned to learn of the imposition of the Immigration Health Surcharge, which increases the fees involved in renewing a visa to £1270.20 per person for a three-year period.**

**3. Mission Council instructs the General Secretariat, advised by the Ministries Committee and anyone else they wish, working collaboratively with ecumenical partners where possible, to make representations to Her Majesty's government to review their present policy about the Immigration Health Surcharge.**

All these resolutions were approved unanimously.

The Moderator greeted The Revd Dr David Pickering, following his appointment as the next Moderator of the Synod of Scotland.

**15/63**

Having given notice under Standing Order 8.1, the Revd Paul Whittle asked the following question of the Ministries Committee:

“What information can be given as to the currently anticipated number of stipendiary ministers in five or ten years' time, and, assuming an expected continued downward trend, what thinking has taken place, or is likely to take place, between departments within the denomination, as to how we can equip both the ministry and the



laity, and how much freedom might be possible for Synods to create new ways of deploying resources, in order to respond robustly to the challenge of being an effective church over the next ten or so years?"

The Revd Richard Church responded on behalf of the Ministries Committee that in a paper recently presented to Synod Moderators the figure of ministers available for deployment in 2016 is 356, and in 2019 that may have diminished by between 30 and 50 ministers, depending upon assumptions about the cost of ministry on the one hand and the number of people paying in to support stipendiary ministry on the other. The reduction between 2016 and 2025 is likely to be approximately 100. Mr Church observed that predicting numbers is an inexact science. Even a few years ahead these figures can be altered by a range of factors such as pension costs, retirement dates, giving to the Ministry and Mission Fund, inflation, numbers of vocations from within our Church, and numbers of ministers admitted to our Roll from other denominations.

Mr Church suggested that there is a growing consensus around the denomination, expressed through Assembly Committees, that we need to encourage one another to discover afresh our calling to be missional disciples of Jesus Christ. The effect of this emphasis would be to be more focussed in our understanding of what those whose ministry is supported by a stipend can contribute to the enabling and equipping of the church as a whole. MR Church reminded Mission Council that General Assembly has repeatedly reflected on this issue through Patterns of Ministry (1995), Equipping the Saints (2005), and Challenge to the Church (2008). Next year it will do so again, when the Faith and Order Committee reports back on Authorised Elders, and Assembly considers the work on Missional Discipleship.

Responding to whether Synods can be encouraged to deploy flexibly to be more robust in mission, Mr Church stated that General Assembly only involves itself in deployment to ensure that we can pay the numbers of ministers that we deploy, so the means by which any Synod deploys ministers is a matter for that Synod. Mr Church reminded Mission Council that a more radical policy for the deployment of ministry, by delegating budgets to Synods, was tested through Resolution 26 at the General Assembly meeting in 2012, but the Assembly was not minded to proceed with those proposals.

#### **15/64**

##### **Paper H2 – Ministers on the Roll**

Mrs Linda Harrison spoke on behalf of the facilitation group, and proposed that the business be referred back under Standing Order 2.5.9.1 for further consultation, before coming back to a future meeting of Mission Council. This was agreed.

#### **15/65**

The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, took the chair.

##### **Paper A1 – Assembly Arrangements**

Following the earlier discussion, the Revd Andrew Mills proposed, and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith seconded the following resolution:

Mission Council asks the General Secretary to initiate a review of the ways in which our meeting together as General Assembly may develop in the future so that it can better reflect our ethos as a conciliar church through the activity of growing together as the Body of Christ. In particular the review should consider how General Assembly can be funded without calling upon additional finances from individuals and Synods.

During discussion, the word "how" was amended to "whether" in the final sentence, to broaden the terms of the review:

**1. Mission Council asks the General Secretary to initiate a review of the ways in which our meeting together as General Assembly may develop in the future so that it can better reflect our ethos as a conciliar church through the activity of growing together as the Body of Christ. In particular the review should consider whether General Assembly can be funded without calling upon additional finances from individuals and Synods.**

After discussion, the resolution was passed by consensus.

Consideration resumed of the original resolutions proposed by the Committee:

**2. Mission Council, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, resolves to instruct the Assembly Arrangements Committee to book all accommodation for future Assemblies.**

**3. Mission Council requests Synods to pay to the central funds of the Church the difference in the cost of accommodation for their representatives between the £50 *per diem* grant already agreed and the true cost incurred for the 2016 Assembly.**

**4. Mission Council requests Synods to meet the cost of travel for their representatives attending the 2016 Assembly.**

After further discussion these were all passed by consensus.

**15/66**

**Paper Q1 - Joint Property Strategy Group Report**

The Convener, Mr Clifford Patten, presented the report, and responded to questions.

**15/67**

**Paper F1 – What is the Spirit saying to the churches?**

The Convener, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, presented the Report. Mission Council broke into groups in order to discuss it in more detail.

Mission Council adjourned at 6.45 pm.

**Session 7**

**15/68**

Mission Council resumed at 8.00 pm, and the Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair.

The Revd David Grosch-Miller addressed Mission Council upon his recent visits, including to Papua New Guinea and Korea.

Worship was led by the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller. Mission Council adjourned at 9.15 pm.

**Sunday 15 November 2015**

**Session 8**

**15/69**

The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair, and worship was led by the Revd Nigel Uden.

**15/70**

**Paper U1 - 20-40s Task Group Progress Report**

The Convener, Miss Victoria Paulding, presented the report, and moved the resolution:

**Mission Council agrees that the Task Group looking at the Church's Engagement with 20-40-year-olds be extended by two years to thoroughly analyse the research conducted by other denominations, apply this to the United Reformed Church's situation, and instructs them to bring fully costed proposals to General Assembly 2018.**

Following discussion, the resolution was passed by consensus.

**15/71**

The Revd Elizabeth Welch reported upon the group discussions of paper F1, there was some plenary discussion, and members then moved to read the written reports from the groups.

**15/72            Personalia and Thanks**

The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch-Miller, advised that the following had completed their term on Mission Council since the last meeting:

Dr Andrew Bradstock	<i>Secretary for Church &amp; Society</i>
The Revd Stephen Brown	<i>Synod of Scotland Representative</i>
Mr Danny Pigeon	<i>Northern Synod Representative</i>

The Moderator advised that the following were now completing their term on Mission Council:

The Revd Dougie Burnett	<i>South Western Synod Representative</i>
Mrs Linda Harrison	<i>Eastern Synod Representative</i>
Mr Clifford Patten	<i>Eastern Synod Representative</i>

All were thanked for their contribution to Mission Council.

The General Secretary asked the Moderators to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Tina King (formerly known as Tina Yardley), who had printed many materials at Church House, including Mission Council papers, and would soon be retiring. Mission Council expressed its thanks for her work.

The Moderator thanked all the staff and officers for their contribution and support before and during Mission Council. The business being completed, Mission Council adjourned, to meet again on 9-11 March 2016 at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

After a brief break, the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller and the Revd Nigel Uden led closing worship, which included a celebration of Holy Communion.