

Paper X1

2023 Resolutions for Ukraine

East Midlands Synod

Basic information

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Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 71 From East Midlands Synod a) Out of its concern for its brothers and sisters in the Churches in Ukraine which are members with us in the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (the United Methodist Church in Ukraine, the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine and in particular the Transcarpathian Reformed Church, the Reformed Church of Ukraine), the United Reformed Church sends greetings to the respective Conference and Synods of the three Churches. b) General Assembly instructs the Mission and Finance Committees to determine what help can be given to our brothers and sisters in the Transcarpathian Reformed Church to assist in the eventual process of reconstruction as a result of the Russian invasion.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To support the Protestant Churches of Ukraine.
Main points	To show solidarity with Christian partners in Ukraine by sending greetings. To offer financial support when the war eventually comes to an end towards the reconstruction of the work of the Reformed Church in Ukraine.
Previous relevant documents	None.
Consultation has taken place with...	General Secretary, Clerk to Assembly, The Community of Protestant Churches in Europe.

Summary of impact

Financial	If the second resolution is passed in Assembly, this may result in a financial contribution to the Transcarpathian Reformed Church if the Mission and Finance Committees make such a determination.
External (eg ecumenical)	Strengthening ecumenical ties with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe.

These resolutions were put to East Midlands Synod by St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church, Nottingham at the March 2023 Synod meeting, which by co-incidence met at St Andrew's with Castle Gate. The Synod agreed unanimously to bring these resolutions to General Assembly.

Background

Many of our churches and church members have given generously in support of the Ukrainian War effort. However, most, if not all, of this giving has been directed towards the government or to charities working to provide medical assistance for all Ukrainians. What we have not done is target help to our coreligionists in the Reformed family.

All three churches identified are small. The largest and oldest, the Reformed Church, has about 100 congregations, the Lutherans have 18 and the Methodists 7. In common with many of the smaller Protestant Churches in Eastern Europe, particularly those in countries where Orthodox Christianity is the majority religion, even before the outbreak of war they frequently felt themselves to be isolated and ignored by their coreligionists elsewhere in Europe. This remains true, although all three are members of their respective confessional bodies, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council and the World Communion of Reformed Churches. The URC is also a member of the latter.

In the aftermath of World War Two, our Church, particularly the Presbyterian part, was greatly helped and encouraged by financial and other assistance offered by other Churches in our Reformed family towards the process of reconstruction. The eventual end of the war with Russia will leave the Church in Ukraine needing to recover from the damage caused by the invasion. The offer of both moral and financial support from other members of the Reformed family would help greatly with this and additionally show that we remember and value the help we received in the 1940s.

It is not the intention of this resolution to dictate what help the United Reformed Church should offer to our Ukrainian coreligionists. That would be for the two committees charged with this matter to determine. Rather, it is to enable us to show formally and officially the concern for them that has already been shown unofficially and to enable us to do for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters what was once done for us.