



The
United
Reformed
Church
General
Assembly

United Reformed Church
General Assembly 2023

Order Paper

Monday 3 July 2023

Please retain each Order Paper as the material may be relevant on any day of the Assembly

RESOLUTION 51

The proposers wish to move this in a slightly amended form:

General Assembly empowers the Business Committee, in consultation with the Nominations Committee, to set up a working group to examine: a) What models of employed lay work can be effective within local churches. b) What infrastructure is necessary to be provided by the wider church to support employed lay ~~ministry~~ work in local churches.

[We want to change “ministry” to “work” both to broaden it out and to avoid confusion between local ministries and accredited ones.]

Then what was para (c) we want to put as a NEW resolution 51A in this form:

General Assembly asks the Mission and Discipleship Departments to look at how mission, evangelism and ministry which would lead to the emergence of new United Reformed Church communities of discipleship and worship might be encouraged and resourced.

PAPER E2

General Assembly

- a) affirms the human dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people and asserts their right, within and beyond the URC, to live without threat of violence and hatred;
- b) commits to furthering the church’s understanding of, and pastoral care for transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people in the church, both locally and across the denomination and requests the Equalities Committee to facilitate this;
- c) recognises the church’s failure to challenge the assumptions and patterns of behaviour which lead to transphobia* and acknowledges that church sometimes perpetuates these patterns;
- d) supports the right of all to receive affirming non-directive support and healthcare, and to express their sexuality, gender and identity without coercion or the fear thereof.

*In this instance we define transphobia according to the Crown Prosecution Service definition as “any incident / criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.”