

# Paper B2

## Proposal for a new formal Children's and Youth Work ministry – update

### Children's and Youth Work Committee

#### Basic information

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<b>Action required</b>	For noting.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>None.</b>

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Update on collaborative work to bring firm proposals to General Assembly.
<b>Main points</b>	Much work has been done. A task group will now be formed to bring final proposals in 2025.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	General Assembly 2023 Paper B1 Recognition of children's, youth and family ministry. Assembly Executive 2024 Paper B1 Towards a formal ministry for children's, youth and / or family work.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	CYDO+ team, Education and Learning Committee, Finance Committee, Ministries Committee, Worship, Faith and Order Committee, Synod Moderators, URC Youth.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	Financial proposals will be presented in 2025.
<b>External (eg ecumenical)</b>	Ecumenical partners are aware of the proposals being explored.

At General Assembly 2023, the following resolution was agreed:

*General Assembly is minded that there should be a formal ministry of URC Children's, Youth and / or Family Minister and asks the Children's and Youth Work Committee, the Ministries Committee and the Education and Learning Committee to consider what*

*would be needed to introduce such a ministry and bring proposals to General Assembly 2024.*

In the past 12 months, a huge amount of work has been undertaken by the Children's and Youth Work Committee (CYWC), in collaboration with Ministries Committee and Education and Learning Committee, to develop these proposals. This work has reached beyond these three committees, and the CYWC has had in-depth discussion with the Worship, Faith and Order Committee, Finance Committee, Synod Moderators, the Synod lead workers for children's and youth work (CYDO+ team), members of URC Youth, the Church Related Community Work Development Worker, discussions at and around Assembly Executive 2024, and youth leaders at the URC Youth Leaders gathering.

What we believe to be a helpful and exciting proposal has emerged that has been shaped by all of these conversations. However, while broadly in favour of the shape of the proposals, Ministries Committee felt unable to support any resolutions that would have looked to action these proposals until some further detailed work had been done:

- It seems that this new formal ministry might best sit alongside Church Related Community Work ministry, creating a new 'Church Related Children's and Youth Work' ministry. This has been met with support since Assembly Executive, and has become a key element of the proposals. Further work is needed to clarify the detail of how the definition of a 'Church- Related' ministry might apply to a new 'Church Related Children's and Youth Work' ministry.
- It is important that a new formal ministry has guiding 'core competencies' or 'marks of ministry' that detail the character and work of the people fulfilling the ministry. There has been some initial work on these, but further work is needed to ensure that these both reflect the level of competencies expect of a ministry of the church, while also reflecting work with children and young people.
- While there has been significant thought and exploration of how local pastorates and Ss might discern the the shape of potential posts with the Synod Moderators, further detailed work is needed to consider how posts might be accredited, managed and reviewed.
- There has been careful thought given to the process of discerning call and, in collaboration with Education and Learning Committee, as to the routes of formation for people responding to call to this formal ministry through Common Awards. It is now timely to draw in the expertise of the Resource Centres for Learning to consider how best to reflect the Church Related nature of the ministry, and seek collaboration with our ecumenical partners.

To address these detailed elements, it has been agreed by the Convenors and Staff Secretaries of Children's and Youth Work Committee, Ministries Committee and Education and Learning Committee that a task group be established of members of each committee to further collaborate and explore the detail needed, before proposals be brought back to a future meeting of Assembly Executive or General Assembly. It is anticipated that the task group will have completed this work by the end of 2024 in order that momentum not be lost.

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While we would have been delighted to bring the full proposals to this year's General Assembly, it is right that we take this time to collaborate further to ensure that they are as comprehensive as possible to enable the church to discern the mind of Christ. In the meantime, our thanks go to all those who have helped shaped the proposals and have joined us on this journey. We remain committed to this work, and look forward to presenting full proposals in due course.