

# Paper H8

## Amending the Basis of Union Paragraph 24

Worship, Faith, and Order and Ministries  
Committees

### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Andy Braunston <a href="mailto:andy.Braunston@urc.org.uk">andy.Braunston@urc.org.uk</a> Nicola Furley-Smith <a href="mailto:nicola.furley-smith@urc.org.uk">nicola.furley-smith@urc.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Acceptance of resolution.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>Resolution 28</b> General Assembly amends the Basis of Union paragraph 24 to read <b>(new words in blue)</b>  24. All other ministries recognised by the uniting churches at the date of unification (as defined by the United Reformed Church Act 1981) shall continue to be exercised in the United Reformed Church without further commissioning, subject always to the decisions of the General Assembly. The URC shall determine from time to time what other ministries may be required and which of them should be recognised as ministries in the whole church. It shall decide how those who are to exercise them shall be set apart. <b>The affirmations in Schedule B (adapted for the particular ministry) shall be made by those entering upon all such ministries within the life of the church.</b>

### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To ensure that all public ministries of the church have parity of esteem and expectations.
<b>Main points</b>	The Expansive Language Working Group reported to the Worship, Faith and Order Committee an anomaly in that the service in <i>Worship From</i> to commission Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers had affirmations based on Schedule B (those used for Elders) and the Statement on the Nature Faith and Order. The Group put the same requirements in the new service for Locally Recognised Worship Leaders but drew the Committee's attention to this anomaly.

	<p>The Committee, mindful of the old maxim <i>what we pray so we believe</i> thought that the long-standing practice in <i>Worship From</i> was a good one. Those whom the church has discerned a call to various forms of ministry Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers, Locally Recognised Worship Leaders, Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers and new ministries which may emerge, eg youth and family workers, should have parity of esteem. To prescribe a public affirmation of faith and behaviour is to ensure that no existing or new ministry is diminished by having different requirements for their public recognition. Rather than revise the Basis every time a new ministry is recognised we hope the language suggested is clear enough to cover all the ministries that God raises up in the Church.</p>
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Ministries.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	

## Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None.
<b>External (eg ecumenical)</b>	