

Paper A1

Accessing the Legacies of Slavery Fund for small-scale transactions (up to £5,000)

Business Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Karen Campbell, Secretary karen.campbell@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 1 Assembly Executive resolves that, with immediate effect, the Faith in Action Committee will have delegated power to approve expenditure of up to £5,000 per transaction from the Legacies of Slavery Fund. Expenditure of amounts greater than £5,000 will continue to require the approval of the Business Committee.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	Easier access to the Legacies of Slavery Fund (LoS Fund) for ongoing small transactions (e.g. consultancy fees) working towards the bigger repairing justice commitments being achieved.
Main points	The Faith in Action Committee to be given delegated power to approve small-scale expenditure of up to £5,000 per transaction incurred by the Legacies of Slavery (LoS) Task Group in pursuit of its repairing justice mandate. Note: This might include multiple payments which aggregate to more than £5,000 over a period of time – e.g. ongoing consultancy fees.
Previous relevant documents	Paper G5, Resolutions 17 & 18; Governance 14-16 - July 2024 General Assembly.
Consultation has taken place with...	Chief Finance Officer; Deputy General Secretary Faith in Action; Business Committee.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (eg ecumenical)	Several ecumenical partners are 'watching this space' to see how the URC's commitments to acts of repairing justice develop. Easier access to relatively small-scale funds will enable the Legacies of Slavery Task Group to further its remit more quickly – enabling the Group to engage the services of paid external consultants to help guide our journey and enter

	into mutually beneficial partnership arrangements with relevant external organisations (eg the Synergy Network) as we explore how best to proceed.
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1. GA 2023 committed the URC to acts of repairing justice as a concrete follow-up to the statement of Confession & Apology adopted by GA2022.
2. Resolution 18, GA 2024, created the LoS Fund to resource the commitment to concrete action. At that time, focus was on the large-scale expenditures which we proposed to make - to establish mentoring projects in the UK, support the development of New Free Villages in Jamaica, and to establish a positive Black identity project connecting African and African-descent participants across diverse contexts. Responsibility for approving expenditure from the Fund was given to the Business Committee.
3. In the time since the Fund was established, it has become apparent that some smaller-scale expenditure is required to facilitate progress towards achieving the bigger aims - this includes, but is not limited to, fees to engage external consultants who can bring specific expertise to guide us in our journey, membership of ecumenical networks engaged in related work, and administration costs pertaining to our partner organisations, including The Churches' Reparations Action Forum (CRAF JA).
4. The LoS Task Group needs a 'lighter' mechanism for accessing such funds on an as-and-when basis. We are therefore asking that the Faith in Action Committee, under whose remit the LoS group operates, be given delegated authority to approve expenditure requests up to the amount of £5,000.
5. We ask that the £5,000 cap be applied to any single transaction, but that it be noted that cumulative costs could exceed £5,000 in aggregate – eg engaging the ongoing services of a particular consultant, or ongoing admin costs for the same partner. This would be subject to the scrutiny of the Faith in Action Committee.