

Paper J5

Granting the Worship, Faith, and Order Committee Permission to Coopt Members

Worship, Faith, & Order Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Robert Pope, rpp20@westminster.cam.ac.uk	Convenor
Action required	Decision	
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 45 General Assembly grants the Worship, Faith, and Order Committee permission to coopt members who currently represent the United Reformed Church in ecumenical or international bodies, or who can bring specialisms for particular piece of work.	

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To grant the WFO Committee the power to coopt
Main points	Resolution 56 of General Assembly 2023 noted the Worship Faith and Order Committee comprised the Convenor, the Secretary for Ecumenical Relationships (now the Head of Ecumenical Relations and Evangelism), the Minister for Digital Worship and five members. The Committee feel that, from time to time, it would be useful to coopt other members – ecumenical colleagues, those who represent the URC on ecumenical bodies, and those who may have particular expertise for projects that the Committee takes on.
Previous relevant documents	Resolution 56 General Assembly 2024
Consultation has taken place with...	None

Summary of impact

Financial	Slight for the annual residential meeting. Other meetings are held virtually.
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External (eg ecumenical)	The General Secretary is exploring with the Methodist Church, initially, about a number of areas where our respective Worship, Faith, and Order Committees might work together.
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The United Reformed Church sends representatives to ecumenical bodies such as the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe but there is no natural place in our revised structures for them to report on the work of those bodies or for reports from those bodies to be received and, where necessary, for a response to be written. WFO would seem to be the most natural place for that to happen.

As currently written, the remit and membership of WFO does not enable the coopting of members to the Committee when specific pieces of work might require particular expertise.

This request is not open-ended. It applies only to those URC representatives to ecumenical and international bodies who have no formal means of reporting back to the denomination or to those asked, for a discrete period, to assist WFO with particular pieces of work. No maximum number is specified, because of the unpredictability of the numbers of those who represent the Church on international or ecumenical bodies but it will only ever be small.

WFO asks General Assembly to agree to amend the membership of the Committee as follows:

The Worship, Faith and Order Committee comprises:

A Convenor

The Head of Ecumenical Relations and Evangelism

The Minister for Digital Worship

Five members

Coopted members to include:

- Representatives of the United Reformed Church on ecumenical bodies for the duration of their period of service
- Ecumenical colleagues whose remit is ecumenical or doctrinal
- Those with necessary expertise who would assist the Committee in particular areas of work