Address to the Throne **URC Mission Council, July 2020**

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

The Mission Council of the United Reformed Church, acting on behalf of its General Assembly, sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are meeting by video conference on the day when our General Assembly should have convened at the University of Aston. As with so many events this year, the coronavirus pandemic has forced a change of plan. We are finding new ways to gather, worship, confer and serve together, while staying safely apart – just as our church congregations have done while our buildings have been in lockdown. The doors may have been shut, but the church has been far from closed.

Your Majesty's broadcast address at the height of the crisis was hugely appreciated. In it, you noted that coronavirus was "a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all." Like you, we mourn the lost lives and the missed opportunities. Like you, we applaud the selfless devotion shown by health service staff, carers and key workers – and rejoice in the many acts of compassion and creativity that the crisis has prompted.

The pandemic has also drawn attention to some significant inequalities in British society. Mortality rates have been much higher in deprived areas and among people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, who are more likely to live in overcrowded housing and work in frontline roles with higher risks of exposure. Asylum seekers and other migrants have missed out on much of the available government support. The lockdown increased pressure on families living in poverty, with foodbanks telling us that more children are going hungry, and parents of young children experiencing the biggest impact on their mental health. Debt and unemployment levels look set to rise. In this new reality, our churches will continue to serve and stand alongside their local communities: sharing God's love, calling out injustice, and providing practical support.

We know from our partner Churches around the globe that there are many places where the virus has had an even more severe impact. An additional 60 million people risk falling into extreme poverty this year. As a Church, we urge continued support for agencies such as Christian Aid and for initiatives to release poorer nations from their debt burden. The growing challenges in this country should not diminish our commitment to the world's poorest communities.

General Secretary: The Revd John Proctor
john.proctor@urc.org.uk
020 7916 2020
www.urc.org.uk

As we begin to emerge from lockdown, our society finds itself at a critical moment, when we as a Church pray that the choices made will be guided by values of justice and love. As the rainbows fade,

The

Conflicts of interest around pension funds at the Mission Council and General Assembly

There are a number of different conflicts of interest around the decision-making relating to pension funds.

Ministers[1] who are members of the Ministers Pension Fund, their spouses or civil partners, and their dependent children, have an obvious interest. This interest takes more one form: some may wish to support a Defined Benefit scheme to protect the guaranteed nature of their pension; however, some may wish to support a move to a Defined Contribution scheme in order to secure their interests through stabilising the long term health and robustness of the Fund.

People who are members of the Lay Staff Pension Fund, their spouses or civil partners, and their
to protect the guaranteed natureof their pension; however, some may
ribution scheme in order to secure their interests through
ealth and robustness of the Fund.

of a local church of the United Reformed Church, including Local Ecumenical
hurches, also has an interest because the size of their contributions to the
will change depending upon which decisions are taken. Some may wish to
s low as possible, while others may wish to make a larger contribution in order
t they perceive as a benefit to their minister.

ns made by Mission Council and General Assembly, are in the best interests
he views of its members, acting in their representative capacities. This is only
and consultation amongst its members has taken place. If everyone with a
ct of pensions was removed from the decision-making, there would only be a
s would not enable effective, representative decision making to take place. It
those that have declared and recorded a conflict of interest are included. This
on made.

t of the Pension funds will be considered by the United Reformed Church Trust
e Law and Polity Advisory Group have

To: Members of Mission Council, staff in attendance and observers

Dear Colleagues, 26 June 2020

2. Three late business papers are now available on the URC website, as follows:

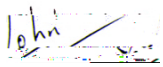
Resolution 13	New Mission Projects: detailed information from Eastern Synod
Resolution 28	Supplementary Nominations, adding to list in the Book of Reports
Resolution 42	A new resolution, with contingency plans for the next meeting of Mission Council. The moderators designate this as En bloc.

3. Now a general point about the wording of resolutions. We shall consider almost every resolution in a different setting – at either a different council or a different time – from the plans originally made. We therefore require in most cases modest changes of wording. The wordings in the Book of Reports, and in the Mission Council papers for March, are not the authoritative and latest versions. The authoritative and latest versions are at the foot of the letter sent a fortnight ago (and included again at the foot of this letter).

4. You will realise that, when we discuss Resolutions 20 and 22 about pensions, most of us will have a personal interest as well as a formal responsibility. Many of us work for the Church and belong to its pension schemes; some have already retired and benefit from these schemes; the great majority of us help to support the schemes through our giving in local congregations. You might think that this would commit all of us to silence, leaving nobody in a position to join the discussion. However, advice from the Charity Commission for England and Wales indicates that these interests need not prevent members of Mission Council sharing in the discussion and in any decision. The Clerk will make a formal statement to this effect during our meeting, which we shall hope to post on the website in advance. Meanwhile, we shall need to ask you to declare your interests by returning a simple form, which will be sent to you.

5. Finally an apology for an error in the Book of Reports. On page 45, the great bulk of the work in collating our list of closed churches was actually done by Mrs Ann Barton, whom we thank warmly for her careful efforts in this task.

Yours sincerely,



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Resolutions for Mission Council, July 2020

Communications Committee
Resolution 16 (page 65)
Mission Council encourages all churches without websites to set one up as a matter of urgency, and to consider using the URC's iChurch initiative.

Resolution 17 (page 65)
Mission Council welcomes the new look and feel of print publications used since 2019, and encourages all Synods, committees and departments to use the design and digital visual identity guidance from the communications team, so that all materials produced by the Church can share the same quality and consistency.

Resolution 18 (page 65)
Mission Council encourages all members and friends of the Church to read Reform, the magazine of the United Reformed Church, and to subscribe to it so that, as it also approaches its 50th anniversary, it can continue to challenge, debate, refresh, enrich and inform.

Education and Learning Committee
Resolution 19 (page 91)
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council endorses the direction for the Education and Learning Committee described in the Way Forward paper on pp91-98 of the Book of Reports.

Finance Committee and Pensions Committee
Resolution 20 (page 114)
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council, being representative of Local Churches, Synods and the whole Church, confirms the Church's commitment to the pensions promises already made, and wishes any consideration of future pension arrangements for the Church's Ministers of Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers, missionaries and staff to keep clearly in mind:

a) The Church's warm gratitude for the commitment, gifts and service of those who work among us and serve in our name;
b) The Church's desire to deal with these people honourably in their retirement;
c) The Church's desire to act as a responsible employer, for the people we employ and for our stipendiary office-holders.

Resolution 21 (page 114)
Mission Council thanks Dr Chris Evans, on his retirement as Convener of the Pensions

face the Church.

Resolution 22 (pa

Ministries Committee
Resolution 23 (page 156)
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council adopts the Gift Policy contained on pp157-8 of the Book of Reports.

Resolution 24 (page 159)
This proposes a change to the Basis of Union, which is beyond the powers of Mission Council. The matter must therefore be deferred until Assembly can meet.

Resolution 25 (page 162)
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council adopts the policy for pastoral supervision set out on pp162-7 of the Book of Reports.

Mission Committee: Environmental Task Group
Resolution 26 (page 188)
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council directs the Environmental Task Group to consult on a travel and expenses policy for the URC which (i) encourages consideration of the purpose of travel and its environmental impact, (ii) introduces a carbon budget for international travel on URC business, and (iii) incentivises low-carbon travel modes, with a view that proposals should be brought to a future General Assembly, or to the Assembly Executive if necessary.

Mission and Discipleship: Walking the Way Steering Group
Resolution 27 (page 195)
Mission Council, in affirming the work of the Walking the Way Steering Group, encourages those who plan the Church's budget to seek ways of funding its continuing work at the level indicated on p202 of the Book of Reports, according to the priorities set out on pp195-201.

Nominations committee
Resolution 28 (page 203)
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pp204-223 of the Book of Reports, subject to the additions, amendments and corrections contained in the supplementary report to Assembly.

Safeguarding Advisory Group
Resolution 29 (page 227)

a) Having already endorsed the safeguarding strategic plan 2020-2025, Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility in the United Reformed Church.

b) Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council directs all local churches and synods and those who oversee safeguarding arrangements in the Church to implement the safeguarding strategic plan in ways that promote the welfare of the URC and the well-being of the community in which the Church is placed.

Resolutions remaindered from the cancelled Mission Council in March

From Paper B1 at Mission Council: Children's and Youth Work
Resolution 34:
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council welcomes the review of the United Reformed Church's Child Friendly Church Award and commends the new Children and Youth Friendly Church scheme to replace this from 2020 as an award to be made by children's and youth work committee on behalf of the denomination to churches completing the approval process.

From Paper C2 at Mission Council: Communications
Resolution 35:

a) Mission Council recognises the contribution of Reform to the life and work of the United Reformed Church and notes the commitment of the Communications Committee and staff team to continue its growtsoetand development over the fiyeear period from January 2021 to December 2025, a period that includes the 50th anniversary of the URC and the magazine.
b) Mission Council acknowledges with thanks the work of the Reform team and the wider Communications Team in making savings and reducing the financial cost to the Church, and endorses the further changes outlined in the report.
c) Acting on behalf of General Assembly, and noting the decision in March 2020 by the Officers of Assembly to support Reform in 2021,soetission Council resolves to support Reform over the subsequent four year period to December 2025 by continuing with a reduced annual subsidy, not to exceed £50,000 annually, and asks the Communications Committee to make regular repor

From Paper I4 at Mission Council: Walking the Way
Resolution 38:
Mission Council instructs the Walking the Way Steering Group to establish a small task group to bring forward detailed proposals for the celebration of the URC's upcoming 50th anniversary.

From Paper J3 at Mission Council: Nominations
Resolution 39:
Mission Council approves the proposals for synod nominations to the Mission Committee.

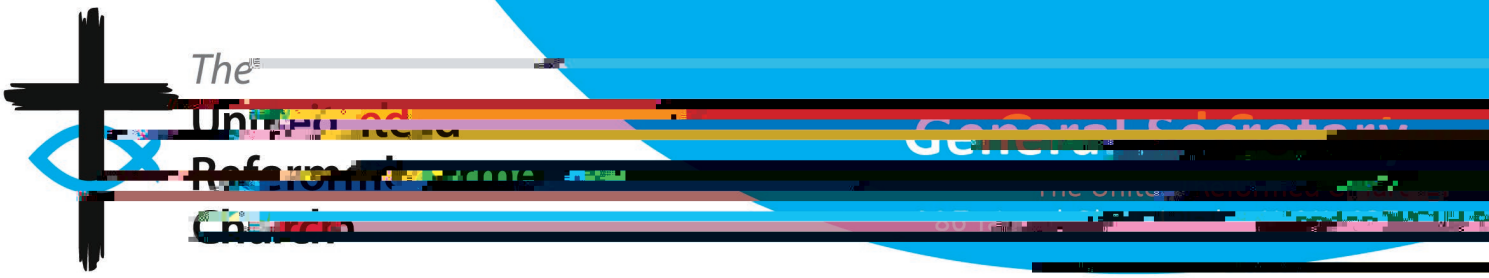
From Paper R3 at Mission Council: Safeguarding Advisory Group
Resolution 40:
Mission Council expects a standardised approach to safeguarding training across the United Reformed Church and strongly encourages all those who are working with children, young people and adults at risk in the life of the Church to access the new basic safeguarding training.

From Paper U1 at Mission Council: Mission Council Advisory Group
Resolution 41:
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council, approves the pattern for the routine reporting of Assembly Committees as set out in Paper U1.

New Resolution: contingency plans for next meeting of Mission Council
Resolution 42:
Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council authorises the Officers of Assembly to take such steps as may be needed to arrange the next meeting of Mission Council, as either a virtual or a physical meeting.

Basic Information

Action required	Decision authorises the Officers of Assembly to take such steps as may be needed to arrange the next meeting of Mission Council, as either a virtual or a physical meeting.



Unit– on Zoom (codes to be advised nearer the time)

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Wessex Synod

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c) Acting on behalf of General Assembly, and noting the decision in March 2020 by the Officers of Assembly to support Reform in 2021, Mission Council resolves to support Reform over the subsequent four year period to December 2025 by continuing with a reduced annual subsidy, not to exceed £50,000 annually, and asks the Communications Committee to make regular reports to Mission Council.

From Paper D1 at Mission Council: Education and Learning
Resolution 36:

a) Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council resolves that from 2021 the normal route to becoming a Synod-Recognised Lay Preacher in the United Reformed Church will be based on Stepwise, in accordance with the proposals given in Appendix A of this paper;
b) Mission Council requests the Education and Learning Committee, in consultation with the Ministries Committee and appropriate committees and officers of the Synods, to develop and publish detailed guidance by the end of 2020 for implementing the resolution above.

From Paper I2 at Mission Council: Mission Committee
Resolution 37:
Mission Council accepts the plan to develop the Legacies of Slavery recommendations presented to MC in November 2019 and to consult with synods and local churches between the General Assemblies of 2020 and 2021, with the aim of bringing refined resolutions to General Assembly in 2021 or 2022.

From Paper I4 at Mission Council: Walking the Way
Resolution 38:
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Resolutio9 38:

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Resolution 33

Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council:

a) re-designates the Standing Orders as “Standing Orders for Physical Meetings”, with immediate effect;

b) adopts the “Standing Orders for Virtual Meetings”, with immediate effect;

c) declares, for the avoidance of doubt, that where a majority of those present at a meeting are physically gathered, it shall be a physical meeting conducted according to the Standing Orders for Physical Meetings, and where are a majority of those present at a meeting are not physically gathered, it shall be a Virtual Meeting, conducted according to the Standing Orders for Virtual Meetings;

d) reminds the whole United Reformed Church of the longstanding provision in the Rules of Procedure: “1.3 …The Standing Orders which are printed in the

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Clarifying provisions for Virtual Meetings, and for Virtual Attendance, by updating the Rules of Procedure. Simplifying the Standing Orders to make them practical for Virtual Meetings.
Main points	Enabling Virtual Meetings to occur in ordered but efficient ways. Many private and public bodies, including many charities, have had to devise rubrics of this kind. We have learned from good practice elsewhere. Within the new Rules of Procedure, a good deal of material relies heavily upon work already done by the Church of Scotland; while within the new Standing Orders, sections 1-6 are based upon material from local authorities, and sections 7-17 have largely been copied across, or nearly so, from our existing Standing Orders. What is offered here is not innovation and extensive new drafting, with the risk of it being full of holes, but rather much of this is already approved and used, and that which is new has been tested by others first. It is important to note that both the Rules of Procedure and the Standing Orders can be amended by the Mission Council, or its successor, on a single vote. What is offered represents our best endeavours to provide something workable now for immediate use. However, if it becomes apparent that improvements could be made these can effected by a single vote of the General Assembly or Mission Council, i.e. if what we have is not perfect, it is not set in stone forever.
Previous relevant documents	None.
Consult ation has taken place with...	The General Secretary, the Synod Clerks, the Assembly Officers (current and elect). Guidance published by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, the Charity Commission of England and Wales, and the charity regulators in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Ecumenical partners, particularly the Church of Scotland and the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Local authorities offering information on virtual meetings.

Summary of Impact

Financial	n/a
External (e.g. ecumenical)	n/a

Resolutions 32 and 33

STANDING ORDERS FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS

1. Records of Virtual Meetings

1.1 Any streaming and/or recording[2] of Virtual Meetings does not replace the formal minutes of the meeting and the decisions made. Formal minutes shall continue to be maintained and retained.

2. Operating Procedure

2.1 The Virtual Meeting will commence when them [(A)11B7-0.001 T1664.14 Tm [(The V)1 (i)1 th

9.4 A member of the Assembly may deliver to the General Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting of the Assembly a notice in writing of a motion (which notice must include the name of a seconder) to be included in the Assembly agenda. If the subject matter of such a notice of motion appears to the General Secretary to be an infringement of the rights of a Synod through which the matter could properly have been raised, the General Secretary shall inform the member accordingly and bring the matter before the Business Committee which shall advise the Assembly as to the procedure to be followed.

9.5 Proposals for amendments to the Basis and Structure of the URC, which may be made by the Mission Council or a committee of the General Assembly or a Synod, shall be in the hands of the General Secretary not later than 12 weeks before the opening of the Assembly. The General Secretary, in addition to the normal advice to members of the Assembly, shall, as quickly as possible, inform all Synod Clerks of the proposed amendment.

9.6 It shall not be in order, whether in en bloc business or any other decision-making, to move a motion or amendment which:

9.6.1 contravenes any part of the Basis of Union, or

9.6.2 involves the Church in expenditure without prior consideration by the appropriate committee, or

9.6.3 pre-empts discussion of a matter to be considered later in the agenda, or

9.6.4 amends or reverses a decision reached by the Assembly at its preceding two meetings unless the Moderator, Clerk and General Secretary together decide that changed circumstances or new evidence justify earlier reconsideration of the matter, or

9.6.5 is not related to the report of a committee and has not been the subject of 21 days' notice under Standing Order 9.4, or

9.6.6 simply reaffirms existing work.

The decision of the Moderator (in the case of 9.6.1, 9.6.2, 9.6.3, 9.6.5, and 9.6.6) and of the Moderator with the Clerk and the General Secretary (in the case of 9.6.4) on the application of this Standing Order shall be final.

The business

10.1 If notice has been given of two or more motions on the same subject, or two or more amendments to the same motion, these shall be taken in the order decided by the Moderator on the advice of the Clerk.

10.2 A report presented to the Assembly by a committee or Synod, under Standing Order 9.1, shall be received for debate, unless notice has been duly given under Standing Order 9.4 of a motion to refer back to that committee or Synod the whole or part of the report and its attached motion(s). Such a motion for reference back shall be debated and voted upon before the relevant report is itself debated. To carry such a motion two-thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. When a report has been received for debate, and before any motions consequent upon it are proposed, any member may speak to a matter arising from the report which is not the subject of a motion.

10.3 During the meeting of the Assembly and on the report of a committee, notice (including the names of proposer and seconder) shall be given to the Clerk of any new motions which arise from the material of the report, and of any amendments which affect the substance of motions already presented. During the course of the debate a new motion or amendment may be stated orally without supporting speech in order to ascertain whether a member is willing to second it.

10.4 No motion or amendment shall be spoken to by its proposer, debated, or put to the Assembly unless it is known that there is a seconder. The only exceptions to this are motions presented on behalf of a committee, of which printed notice has been given, and the procedural motions in Standing Orders 10.13, 10.14, and 10.15. The procedural motions in Standing Orders 10.13, 10.14, and 10.15 may be moved and spoken to without the proposer having first obtained and announced the consent of a seconder. They must, however, be seconded before being put to the vote, and precedence as between the procedural motions is determined by the fact that after one of them is before the Assembly no other motion can be moved until that one has been dealt with.

10.5 A seconder may second without speaking and, by declaring the intention of doing so, reserve the right of speaking until a later period in the debate.

10.6 An amendment shall be either to omit words or to insert words or to do both, but no amendment shall be in order which has the effect of introducing an irrelevant proposal or of negating the motion. The Moderator may rule that a proposed amendment should be treated as an alternative motion.

10.7 If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved. If an amendment is rejected, a further amendment with a different outcome may be moved.

10.8 An amendment which has been moved and seconded shall be disposed of before any further amendment may be moved, but notice may be given of intention to move a further amendment should the one before the Assembly be rejected.

10.9 The mover may, with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Assembly, alter the motion or amendment proposed.

10.10 A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Assembly. Any such consent shall be signified without discussion. It shall not be in order for any member to speak upon it after the proposer has asked permission to withdraw unless such permission shall have been refused.

10.11 Alternative (but not directly negative) motions may be moved and seconded in competition with a motion before the Assembly. It shall be for the Moderator, on the advice of the Clerk, to rule when motions shall be considered as alternatives under the Terms of this Standing Order.

10.11.1 When such draft alternative motions have been received by the General Secretary, the Moderators may ask the General Secretary (e)-[(w)nu(c)-1 (r)-3 it (us)-1 [illegible]

The voting process is repeated until one motion achieves a majority of those voting.

10.11.4 Once a sole motion remains, further discussion is permissible and votes for and against that motion shall be taken in the normal way and in accordance with Standing Order 4.

10.12 In the course of the business any member may move that the question under consideration be not put. This motion takes precedence over every motion before the Assembly. As soon as the member has given reasons for proposing it and it has been seconded and the proposer of the motion or amendment under consideration has been allowed opportunity to comment on the reasons put forward, the vote upon it shall be taken, unless it appears to the Moderator that an unfair use is being made of this rule. Should the motion be carried, the business shall immediately end and the Assembly shall proceed to the next business.

10.13 In the course of any discussion, any member may move that the question be now put. This is sometimes described as “the closure motion”. If the Moderator senses that there is a wish or need to close a debate, the Moderator may ask whether any member wishes so to move; the Moderator may not simply declare a debate closed. Provided that it appears to the Moderator that the motion is a fair use of this rule, the vote shall be taken upon it immediately it has been seconded. When an amendment is under discussion, this motion shall apply only to that amendment. To carry this motion, two-thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. The mover of the original motion or amendment, as the case may be, retains the right of reply before the vote is taken on the motion or amendment.

10.14 During the course of a debate on a motion any member may move that decision on this motion be deferred to the next Assembly. This rule does not apply to debates on amendments since the Assembly needs to decide the final form of a motion before it can responsibly vote on deferral. The motion then takes precedence over other business. As soon as the member has given reasons for proposing it and it has been seconded and the proposer of the motion under consideration has been allowed opportunity to comment on the reasons put forward, the vote upon it shall be taken, unless it appears to the Moderator that an unfair use is being made of this rule or that deferral would have the effect of annulling the motion. To carry this motion, two-thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. At the discretion of the Moderator, the General Secretary may be instructed by a further motion, duly seconded, to refer the matter for consideration by other councils and/or by one or more committees of the Assembly. The General Secretary shall provide for the deferred motion to be presented again at the next Meeting of the General Assembly.

11. Timing of speeches and of other business

11.1 Save by prior agreement of the Business Committee, speeches made in the presentation of reports concerning past work of Assembly committees which are to be open to question, comment or discussion shall not exceed five minutes.

11.2 The Assembly may meet in parallel sessions or Breakout Rooms to consider the past work of Assembly committees for questions and comments. Any draft motions arising therefrom must be dealt with in a plenary session of the Assembly.

11.3 Save by the prior agreement of the Business Committee, speeches made in support of the motions from any Assembly committee, including the Mission Council, or from any Synod shall not in aggregate exceed 15 minutes, nor shall speeches in support of any particular committee or Synod motion exceed 5 minutes, (e.g. a committee with four motions may not exceed 15 minutes). The

Resolution 13

Mission Projects in Eastern Synod

Basic Information

Contact address	The Revd Paul Whittle: moderator@urceastern.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council receives the new pieces of mission work at Love's Farm, St Neots, and at North Avenue, Chelmsford, as Mission Projects of the United Reformed Church.

1. Love's Farm Church

1.1 Love's Farm is a new community of around 1500 houses on the edge of St Neots. In 2013 Churches Together in St Neots, with St Neots URC taking a lead role, approached the Eastern Synod seeking a grant from its Pioneer Fund to support a Pioneer Minister, based in Love's Farm, to develop the embryonic church that was emerging. A grant of £250k was awarded to support this post for five years, and a house provided to be the manse. The grant has since been renewed for a second five-year period. The appointee, the Revd Helene Tame, is an Anglican, but the post is fully funded by the URC Synod.

1.2 The work has grown significantly. Breakfast Church meets every Sunday, bar the first in the month, and can attract over fifty people. Messy Church meets on the first Friday of the month. Little Loves is a parent/carer and toddler group meeting on a Thursday morning, and hosted by the Breakfast Church team. The Youth Club is every Friday evening and the Youth Café after school on Wednesdays in term time. Helene has a good role as community chaplain and the church seeks to engage with and support the community in a variety of ways.

1.3 Helene herself writes: "We have seen a real deepening of faith despite some significant challenges. I continue to reflect on the reality that our growth and faith journey rarely happens in a straight line. I know that God has brought us together as a church community and got us this far – I continue to trust the onward journey to him."

1.4 Love's Farm is still in its relatively early days, but is a church community in its own right. Recognition of this is overdue. The Synod is committed to supporting the continuance of this work and is in conversation with the Church of England at local and diocesan level to explore how we can more intentionally sustain this work as a bilateral ecumenical partnership. Synod recognized Love's Farm as a Mission Partnership in October 2019 and commends it to Mission Council for recognition as such.

2. North Avenue Christian Centre, Chelmsford: ‘Hope in the Community’

2.1 In 2019 Eastern Synod recognised North Avenue Christian Centre as a Mission Project.

2.2 Following the decision to close North Avenue United Reformed Church in mid-

Resolution 28

Nominations: Supplementary Report

Basic Information

Contact name and
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	(Book of Reports pp204-223)
Consultation has taken place with...	All synods are represented on the Committee.

Summary of Impact

Financial	None

1. Amendments to published list of nominations to be noted

Mission Council is asked to note the following amendments to the Nominations list in the Book of Reports for General Assembly 2020:

2.2.1 Panel for General Assembly Appointments
Ms Sandra Bailey has resigned from the panel.

5.1

4.5 Worship Reference Group
The Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) should be added as a member.

9.2 Westminster College Board of Governors
The Revd Dr Rick Mearkle will resign from the Westminster College Board of Governors on 31 August 2020 to take up a part-time teaching post at the college.

2. Amendments to published list of nominations for approval

Mission Council is asked to note and approve the following amendments to the Nominations list in the Book of Reports for General Assembly 2020:

4.1.1 Accreditations (CRCW+SCM) Subcommittee
The Secretary for Ministries and the CRCW Development Worker will act as Joint Secretaries, as this new subcommittee builds up experience in handling its remit. A further resolution will be brought to Mission Council or General Assembly, not later than spring 2022, either amending this arrangement or extending it.

4.2.2 Stepwise task and finish group
The latest membership is:
Convenor: Professor Graham Handscomb
Administrator: Stepwise Programme Assistant
Secretary for Education and Learning — Stepwise Programme Manager
Education & Learning Instructional Designer — Project Manager for Walking the Way
Education & Learning Programme Officer (by invitation)
Representatives – serving appropriate terms of service:

Children's and youth work committee:	Mr Leo Roberts
Mission committee:	The Revd Stuart Nixon
Synod training and development officers:	The Revd Peter Henderson
Resource Centres for Learning:	a tutor
Together Ethnic and Minority URC	The Revd Zaidie Orr

Co-opted Members – co-opted by the Education and learning committee for appropriate terms of service:

Mr Pete Atkins (Fresh Expressions)	The Revd David Downing
Mr Iain Johnston (Faith in Community Scotland)	

8.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church Liaison Group

i. The Synod Moderators have nominated the Revd Paul Whittle as the URC co-convenor for a further year.
ii. The Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Scotland (the Revd John Bremner) is a member of the group.
iii. The Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales (vacancy) is a member of the group.
iv. The Revd Roy Fowler is serving until the end of General Assembly 2021.
v. The Revd Tim Richards is serving until the end of General Assembly 2024.
vi. Nominated members serve 5-year terms, which may be renewed.