

General Assembly 2022 Resolutions with implications for local churches and/or Synods

Resolution 52 UK Asylum Policy

General Assembly is appalled at the cruel and unjust nature of the UK's current asylum policies, including the plan to send some asylum seekers to Rwanda. It believes that those fleeing war or persecution should be treated fairly and compassionately irrespective of the situation which has brought them to our country. It directs the Mission Committee to prepare briefing materials and make representations to Government about these matters and **encourages all URCs and their members to write to their MPs to support this call.**

Paper B1 Resolution 2 Children and Youth Work Committee

General Assembly shares the concern of URC Youth Assembly to tackle the stigma surrounding mental ill health. General Assembly strongly encourages individuals to take part in Mental Health First Aid training, and **encourages all local churches, Synods,** and General Assembly staff and committees to help individuals access this training. General Assembly joins Youth Assembly in recommending that **local churches** strive to ensure that at least one person in leadership has undertaken this training and such training is regularly refreshed and renewed.

Paper B1 Resolution 4 Children and Youth Work Committee

To mark the launch of URC Children at General Assembly this year, the United Reformed Church resolves afresh to ensure that **all structures and councils of the church (Church Meeting, Elders' Meeting, Synod,** and General Assembly) are consistently mindful of the voice of children and of the impact of their decisions on children and future generations. To enable this, **all councils of the church** are encouraged to review how they are able to hear and respond to children.

Paper I1 Resolutions 17 (a) and (b) Mission Committee Environmental Policy

- (a) Resolves that urgent action should be taken to reduce carbon emissions **across the whole of church life**, with the aim of reaching net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.
- (b) Adopts the Environmental Policy (link below), and instructs the committees and bodies under its control, and encourages associated bodies (including Trusts, the Retired Ministers Housing Society, and Resource Centres for Learning), **Synods and local churches to adopt as a minimum the practices it sets out.**

[Environmental Policy - United Reformed Church](#)

Become a Greener Church – see [Become a greener church - United Reformed Church](#)

Paper I1 Resolution 16 Mission Committee Reinvigorating the ecumenical vision of the URC

- b) General Assembly reminds **Synods and local churches** that joint or ecumenical members of LEPs have always been and remain members of the United Reformed Church, not just those who were members of the URC at the formation of the LEP.

Paper I3	Resolution 18 (b)	Mission Committee	Korea Peace Appeal
<p>b) General Assembly commends the Korea Peace Appeal and urges Synods, local churches, and individuals to sign the Korea Peace Appeal in solidarity with ecumenical partners in Korea.</p> <p>Click on this link to sign the appeal https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/korea-peace-appeal</p>			
Paper G2	Resolution 8	Finance Committee	Possible one-off payments to ministers and lay staff
<p>General Assembly resolves that, as a gesture of good will towards those serve the Church centrally and bearing in mind the recent energy cost increases for many, with the likelihood of further energy price rises to come later in the year, a gross payment should be made together with October 2022 stipend and salary payments amounting to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £800 in the case of each office holder in receipt of a stipend under the URC Plan for Partnership; and • £500 in the case of each 'Church House' employee. <p>General Assembly urges Synods and local churches to consider these issues for their staff.</p>			

Acknowledgement: The National Synod of Scotland is grateful to Rita Griffiths (Synod Clerk, Mersey) for this table of resolutions and how they impact upon the Synod and local congregations.

What follows is a viewpoint from one of our delegates:

“The proposals for the new pension scheme (which seem fairly generous compared to many other schemes) and the amendments accepted and passed for the one off goodwill payment proposed for Stipendiary Ministers and GA employees to be extended to encouraging local churches and synods to recognise their employees in the same way was encouraging. We were challenged too as to whether goodwill gestures should be extended to those who serve for free in roles for which others receive monetary recompense and how we as a denomination value those (eg. Non-stipendiary ministers). These resolutions highlighted how important it is for the church at all levels to be a positive witness in how it treats those who serve either in a paid/stipendiary capacity or unpaid. Whilst the institution may be struggling, so are they. It was also a reminder too that congregations should maybe review their manses. Are they fit for purpose? Are the heating systems efficient etc – after all, the occupants are expected to heat them?”