

Towards more visible unity: affirmations from a URC/Methodist consultation

BASIC INFORMATION

Contact Name and Details	John Howard john_d_howard@hotmail.com 01902 332508; Chris Sissons sissonsc@methodistchurch.org.uk 020 7467 5278
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For information and potential discussion
Potential Outcomes	The Councils might wish to make the affirmation and/or call for further work to be done to take the matter forward

SUMMARY OF CONTENT

Subject and Aims	In April 2010 a URC-Methodist Consultation was held under the auspices of the Methodist-URC Liaison Committee entitled "Closer Working". One of the outcomes was a desire that both locally and on behalf of the whole of our denominations, our Churches would be given and take the opportunity to make their progress on their journey to visible unity more visible. A recommendation to that affect is presented to the Mission Council and the Methodist Council at their joint meeting for information and to see if the Councils wish to take this matter forward.
Main Points	• The recommendation from the Consultation • The proposed affirmation

Uniting Churches in Britain

The United Reformed/Methodist consultation "Closer Working" meeting at Woodbrooke Hall Birmingham in April 2010, affirms both the valuable ecumenical work taking place across Britain and the urgent mission imperative to more effectively empower this work. We call upon our two churches to work with the Church of England, the Episcopal Church of Scotland and the Church in Wales, to create a higher profile for a movement towards visible unity that brings into being "Uniting Churches in Britain". The consultation therefore invites the appropriate bodies of our two churches (both "centrally" and locally) and any other interested churches to make the following affirmation:

We recognise that the Anglican/Methodist Covenant, the growing shared work between the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church and agreements between our two churches in Scotland and Wales mean that the three churches, Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed are on a journey together with a goal of full visible unity. We invite others who share this goal to join us on this journey. To aid the recognition of this journey together in the mission work we undertake, we commit ourselves to work together to become more visibly "Uniting Churches in Britain".