

Paper A1

Mission Council/Assembly Executive and General Assembly

Business Committee

An update on decisions and ongoing work

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Adrian Bulley adrian.bulley@urc.org.uk
Action required	For information – updates.
Draft resolution(s)	None.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	An update on the work of the committee to date.
Main points	Arrangements for: November 2020 Mission Council, March 2021 Mission Council, Assembly Executives beyond March 2021, July 2021 General Assembly and General Assemblies beyond 2021.
Previous relevant documents	None.
Consultation has taken place with...	Officers of standing committees.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None.

The first meeting of the new Business Committee took place in late September.

1. November 2020 Mission Council

Having reflected in detail on the July meetings of Mission Council and General Assembly, the decision has been taken to use the standard Zoom (as opposed to Zoom Webinar) for this meeting because the platform is now more familiar, enables greater interaction, engenders a sense of being in community with colleagues, and gives the opportunity to use breakout rooms for smaller group discussion.

2. March 2021 Mission Council

The committee has reached the decision that this meeting should be held virtually, using Zoom, over three days (Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 March). The booking at High Leigh has been cancelled.

3. Assembly Executives beyond March 2021

Bookings have now been made as follows:

- 22 to 24 November 2021 at High Leigh;
- 28 to 30 November 2022 at High Leigh;
- 27 to 29 November 2023 at The Hayes;
- 25 to 27 November 2024 at High Leigh.

4. July 2021 General Assembly

- a) Meeting for General Assembly in a conference centre will inevitably feel somewhat different to meeting on a campus or in a public building.
- b) The committee is determined that the main purpose of General Assembly will be to conduct its business in the context of prayer and Bible study.
- c) Parallel sessions will remain an important part of the agenda of General Assembly, offering an opportunity for members of Assembly to engage with the work of the Assembly's committees in a more intimate and less formal setting. This will apply whether or not a committee is reporting in writing in a given year. The committee is producing guidelines for committee officers to make best use of these opportunities.
- d) We do not anticipate inviting a key-note speaker in 2021.
- e) There will not be the same opportunities for fringe meetings as there have been in the past. All meals will be taken in The Hayes' dining rooms, so the possibilities for members of Assembly to take packed lunches to another venue will not present themselves. In short, we do not anticipate making provision for fringe meetings, although it may be possible for a small interest group so to organise themselves that they can gather together over a meal to share in conversation.

5. General Assemblies beyond 2021

Bookings have now been made with The Hayes as follows:

- 8 to 11 July 2022;
- 30 June to 3 July 2023;
- 12 to 15 July 2024.