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Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	<p>5. General Assembly agrees to use the Newbigin Pioneering HUB to train and support its lay pioneer ministers.</p> <p>6. General Assembly recognises the ministry of Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers as a ministry of the United Reformed Church and instructs the Ministries Committee to bring 'Marks of Ministry of a Lay Pioneer' to the Assembly Executive for adoption.</p>

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To recognise a new ministry of Assembly accredited Lay Pioneers and to train them through the URC Newbigin Pioneering HUB.
Main points	There is an opportunity to work with CMS and seedbeds in establishing a newly accredited ministry of lay pioneers which a) builds on work already begun in Mission Committee through the Fresh Expressions and Pioneering Task Group b) to support and train lay pioneers through the Newbigin HUB c) and, as both denominations celebrate 50 years, to work in cooperation with the Congregational Federation.
Previous relevant documents	Patterns of Ministry (1995) Equipping the Saints (2004) A Challenge to the Church (2008) What is the Spirit saying to the churches?: the future of the United Reformed Church (2015) Fresh Expressions Enabling Group Report Mission Council June 2019.
Consultation has taken place with...	Ministries, Children's and Youth Work, Education and Learning and Mission Committees, Congregational Federation.

Summary of impact

Financial	To be funded from existing Ministries budget.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	Planning involvement of, and possible partnership with, the Congregational Federation as the first Free Church HUB which will open the HUB up to other denominations

3.6 The Ministries Committee has prepared a safer recruitment policy for Lay Pioneers and

provides ongoing encouragement, connection, support and communication. Training brings a level of accountability, denominational recognition, and access to wider resourcing.

4.7 The cost of the course for six modules will total £600, or £300 for URC approved participants. It is anticipated that the CMS Certificate course will be open to lay persons of other Free Churches, creating a potential income stream to support the community.

4.8. The curriculum will consist of:

- x What is Pioneering mission?
- x Mission spirituality
- x Reading the Bible for context
- x Missional community engagement
- x Church in mission
- x Missional entrepreneurship.

Other modules are available, such as:

- x Missional leadership
- x Rural pioneer ministry
- x Justice and reconciliation
- x Doing theology
- x Reflective practice.

4.9 Delivery of the course will be in hybrid form

- x Three residential weekends at Greenhouse, near Bromsgrove
- x Three Saturdays – in person at Lodge Road or online access (hybrid)
- x Six evenings – in person at Lodge Road or online access (hybrid)
- x Plus online small groups / learning circles and one-to-one mentoring
- x This equates to 14 hours teaching per module (weekend or day, plus two evenings)
- x Presentation to panel and graduation day at the end of the course

- 4.14 We perhaps need to remind ourselves that, given the Church at best is relational, it can only flourish by relating deeply to the variety of people within and around it. Church at best is flexible, and patterns of church life that have worked in the past may not serve the future.⁷ It is our hope that a newly accredited ministry of lay pioneering will enable others to flourish in God's love and shalom.

⁷ Mission Council Appendix five Report from the 20-40 task group from GA2018 Book of Reports page 22