

Matter referred from General Assembly for consideration by Church Meetings

Synods have been encouraged to discuss this matter at their autumn meetings in 2019

RESOLUTION ABOUT THE PROMISES MADE BY ELDERS

General Assembly, meeting in Nottingham in July 2018, resolved to make the following addition to Schedule B of the Basis of Union, which sets out the promises made by elders of the Church:

Question and Answer:

Q. Do you promise as an elder of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, unity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always, so far as you are able, to build up the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

A. By the grace of God I do, and all these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Comment:

The thinking behind this resolution is set out on page 21 of the Assembly's *Book of Reports*, which is available on-line:

<https://www.urc.org.uk/images/General-Assemblies/Assembly2018/BookofReports2018w.pdf>

The main point is that the promises presently made by elders say little about what elders are expected to be and to do. This additional promise, although broad and general, is also quite weighty, and thus fills that gap.

The Assembly would like this matter to be considered again by General Assembly 2020.

*The date for responses from Church Meetings to the General Secretary is therefore **31 December 2019**.*