

**General Assembly of Unitarian  
and Free Christian Churches**

**Approved Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee held  
on  
Sunday 13 April 2014  
At Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire**

**Present:** Rev Martin Whitell (Convenor), James Barry, Rev John Clifford,  
Joan Cook, Robert Ince and Alison Thursfield.

**In Attendance:** Derek McAuley (Chief Officer)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Louise Rogers and Jacqueline Woodman

**2. 2020 Congregational Development Programme**

A report was received from Ash James on behalf of the 2020 Leadership Team, following their meeting on 20 March 2014, containing details of the three applications for support, consideration of each application and the following recommendation to the Executive Committee:

“After detailed discussion and consideration against the stringent criteria established for this process, it was unanimously agreed by the 2020 Team that this application from Derby Unitarians should be commended to the EC of the GA for their full support.”

The 2020 Team were commended for their work and thanked for manner in which they had undertaken the difficult task.

The Convenor introduced the three applications; each of which had their own strengths. Discussion took place on the applications. It was highlighted that the Executive Committee should not seek to duplicate the work of the 2020 Team in assessing bids. The recommended application from Derby Unitarians was seen as a realistic and not over ambitious prospect for growth. The need for support and a team approach was highlighted which would be provided by the 2020 Team.

The Convenor reported that Louise Rogers had asked that her view that no application should be approved given her questions about the principles underpinning the 2020 programme be presented to the meeting.

After discussion **It was agreed that the application from Derby Unitarians for support from 2020 be approved.**