



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**United Reformed Church General Assembly  
Nottingham 2018**

**ORDER PAPER**

**Friday 6 July 2018**

**PLEASE RETAIN EACH ORDER PAPER, AS THE MATERIAL MAY BE RELEVANT ON ANY DAY OF ASSEMBLY**

**Formal matters, all proposed by the Assembly arrangements committee, to be taken early in the business of Assembly today:**

**Pastoral listeners**

The following are available as pastoral listeners during Assembly, and will be introduced on the first day:  
The Revd Dr Jason Askew                      Mrs Janet Gray                      The Revd Craig Muir

**Resolution 33 (*Group B - majority vote*)**

General Assembly appoints the following as members of any facilitation group that may be required for this Assembly:

Mr Jake Convery	The Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor	The Revd Steve Faber
The Revd Louise Franklin	Mr Keir Hounsome	The Revd Naison Hove
Ms Hannah Jones	The Revd Fran Kissack	Mr Peter Knowles
Mrs Rosie Martin	The Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	The Revd Ruth Whitehead.

**Resolution 34 (*Group B - majority vote*)**

General Assembly appoints Ms Morag McLintock as convenor of tellers for this Assembly.

**Resolution 35 (*Group B - majority vote*)**

General Assembly appoints as tellers for the election of Moderators of General Assembly 2020-22 the Revd Sarah Moore, the Revd Dr John Bradbury and Ms Catriona Wheeler, with Ms Wheeler to serve as convenor.

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**General Assembly task group: two matters**

**Correction to Resolution 6(e)**

Instead of 'close of General Assembly 2018' read 'start of General Assembly 2020'.

**Resolution 36: Additional resolution from the task group**

**36. The Deputy Treasurer of the Church shall be a member of General Assembly.**

This point was omitted in error from the task group's report. The Moderators will be asked to put it to Assembly between Resolutions 14 and 15. As with those two resolutions, a two-thirds majority will be required.

The reason for proposing this is that oversight of the URC's complex financial affairs is divided as a job share between the Treasurer and Deputy. Both serve on Mission Council, and both ought to contribute to General Assembly. At present the Deputy Treasurer has no automatic place in Assembly; this ought to be rectified.

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## Children's and youth work committee

### Additional information about Resolution 22: Charter for Children in the Church

Assembly will be helped in considering the Charter if it has a copy of it. Here it is:

#### Charter for Children in the Church

1. Children are equal partners with adults in the life of the church;
2. The full diet of Christian worship is for children as well as adults;
3. Learning is for the whole church, adults and children;
4. Fellowship is for all - each belonging meaningfully to the rest;
5. Service is for children to give, as well as adults;
6. The call to evangelism comes to all God's people of whatever age;
7. The Holy Spirit speaks powerfully through children as well as adults;
8. The discovery and development of gifts in children and adults is a key function of the church;
9. As a church community we must learn to do only those things in separate age groups which we cannot in all conscience do together;
10. The concept of the 'Priesthood of all Believers' includes children.

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#### Ministries committee: three matters

#### Correction to the roll of the committee, page 123:

The roll of the committee also included Sam Elliot (from 2017).

#### Additional information about Resolution 27: active ministers

Should this resolution be removed from en bloc and considered under consensus process, the moderators intend to deem it 'urgent', as the work of ministries committee in nurturing good practice around the Church depends on having a working definition of an 'active minister'.

#### Resolutions 37 and 38: Additional business from the ministries committee:

This short paper was omitted in error from the *Book of Reports*.

#### Funding for the Retired Ministers' Housing Society (*Group C - consensus decisionmaking*)

##### Basic Information

Contact name	The Revd Paul Whittle: <a href="mailto:moderator@urceastern.org.uk">moderator@urceastern.org.uk</a>
Action required	Decision
Draft resolutions	<p>37. Recognising the valuable work undertaken by the Retired Ministers' Housing Society, General Assembly gives thanks to all who have contributed to that across the years, particularly, at this point, recognising the monies raised in response to the appeal launched in 2006.</p> <p>38. General Assembly recognises the continuing needs of the society and encourages appropriate giving in various forms to aid its work.</p>

##### Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	<p>To give thanks for monies raised for the Retired Ministers' Housing Society from many synods giving a percentage of the sale proceeds of redundant buildings, and to note that this has helped the society reach a much stronger financial position.</p> <p>To encourage the continuance of giving to the society and to support the year-on-year work.</p>
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Previous documents	The 2006 appeal for funding towards the Retired Ministers' Housing Society.
Consultation has taken place with ...	The Retired Ministers' Housing Society. The URC finance committee, through the Treasurer.

#### Summary of Impact

Financial	Possible review of certain financial policies
External	No direct immediate impact

1. The Retired Ministers' Housing Society (RMHS), whilst rightly an independent entity, is an important part of the ministry of the United Reformed Church.
2. Funding the RMHS is therefore part of our Christian commitment, and generous support has come from many quarters over the years.
3. For more than a decade, a particular funding stream for the society has been the allocation by a number of the synods of a percentage of the proceeds of sales of redundant church buildings other than manses. This form of giving emerged from a special appeal made in 2006. As a result, the society is now in a much stronger financial position than it was in 2006.
4. Nonetheless, the year-on-year assistance that the RMHS has received from individuals and legacies, as well as from synods in meeting some specific housing needs, continues to be valued highly, and support of these kinds will remain important. The ministries committee joins with the society in thanking the Church and its people for these tangible marks of encouragement and help.

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#### Members' resolution 39, supported by the mission committee:

##### Draft resolution: the 'hostile environment' (*Group C – consensus decisionmaking*)

39. In the light of recent revelations about the treatment of some members of the 'Windrush generation' and other migrants, General Assembly:
- a) expresses its deep concern that the government's 'hostile environment' policies (now being referred to as the 'compliant environment') are leading to destitution, discrimination and distrust in society;
  - b) calls for an approach to immigration that treats every individual, whatever their status, with humanity, dignity, respect and fairness;
  - c) encourages church members to study the Joint Public Issues Team's new report on this subject, and consider taking the actions outlined in the report;
  - d) directs the mission committee to work with others to make appropriate representations to government, to make the Church's concerns known.

This matter gained wide publicity too late to be discussed in the *Book of Reports*. This resolution is now brought under Standing Order 5.4 by Ms Francis Brien and the Revd Steve Faber, who note that they have the support of the mission committee. Contact [francis.brien@urc.org.uk](mailto:francis.brien@urc.org.uk).

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#### Resolutions 40 and 41: Nominations committee

##### Supplementary report of the committee (*Group C - consensus decisionmaking*)

Contact names	The Revd Ray Adams <a href="mailto:ray.adams12@btinternet.com">ray.adams12@btinternet.com</a> Mr George Faris <a href="mailto:gfaris48@gmail.com">gfaris48@gmail.com</a>
Draft resolution(s)	40. General Assembly notes and approves the changes set out in Section B of the report.  41. General Assembly appoints those named in Section C of the

	report.
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#### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	1) To clarify various details of the nominations list. 2) To make additional appointments.
<b>Main points</b>	See detail of report.
<b>Consultation with...</b>	All synods are represented on the committee.

#### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>External</b>	Some of these roles involve ecumenical contact and collaboration.

#### A. Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in Scotland

An appointment has been made to this post, which is supported 50-50 by the Assembly and the National Synod. The Revd John Bremner has been appointed from October.

#### B. Amendments to published list of nominations

##### 1.2 Human resources advisory group

The dates of conclusion of current/extended service are:

Convenor: Mr Geoff Shaw [2021]

Mr Mike Gould [2020] - this a final two-year extension

Mr Alastair Forsyth [2019]

Mrs Bridget Fosten [2020]

##### 3.1 Mission committee

###### i. The correct end dates for the following are:

The Revd Hilary Smith (3) [2020]

The Revd Ray Stanyon (9) [2021]

Mr Martin Hayward (11) [2019]

###### ii. The Revd David Sebley has resigned so a new representative is required from the Eastern Synod to serve to the end of General Assembly 2022.

##### 5.5 United Reformed Church Trust

The statement 'Members normally serve for six years' is incorrect and should be replaced by:

'Members normally serve for four years, and may only serve a maximum of two terms (eight years).'

##### 5.6 The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Ltd

The members of the fund, appointed by the members, are:

The Revd Paul Bedford [2018]

The Revd James Breslin [2021]

The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2019]

The Revd Caroline Vodden [2022]

#### C. Amendments to the list of those to be appointed

##### 2.4 Disciplinary process commission panel

The following to serve until June 2023: Mrs Wendy Dunnett, the Revd Alan McGougan and Ms Mary Slater.

##### 3.1 Mission committee

Mrs Angela Bogg to represent North Western Synod and the Revd Robert Jordan to represent South Western Synod until the end of General Assembly 2022.

##### 4.1.4 Ministries - Retired ministers' housing subcommittee

The Revd Simon Walkling to be the representative Synod Moderator until the end of General Assembly 2022 rather than the Revd Andrew Mills.