

Paper A4

Synod Moderator appointments

Business Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Michael Hopkins michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 9 General Assembly authorises the Assembly Officers to make any appointments of Synod Moderators that cannot wait until Assembly Executive or the next meeting of the General Assembly until General Assembly 2024.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	Enabling appointments to continue.
Main points	Extending permission given at Assembly Executive November 2022.
Previous relevant documents	Emergency resolution at Minute 22/10 of Assembly Executive, November 2022.
Consultation has taken place with...	N/A

Summary of impact

Financial	N/A
External (eg ecumenical)	Failing to make appointments could bring reputational damage to the denomination and place an unnecessary additional burden on other officers and leaders within Synods.

1. The appointment of Synod Moderators is a complex process with a variety of stakeholders. First and foremost, the Assembly owes a great deal of thanks to those in Synods, the Panel for Assembly Appointments and the General Secretariat, who facilitate this process with great care and concern.
2. Changes to the pattern of Assembly Executives meant that in 2022/23 there was a very considerable gap between Assembly Executive in November 2022, and General Assembly in 2023. This would have meant an unreasonable delay in appointing the nominated candidate to serve as Moderator of Northern Synod. Assembly Executive therefore authorised the Officers of the Assembly to make the appointment.
3. Since that time, there have been an unprecedented number of simultaneous retirements and moves, several of which were not expected at the time they

occurred. As such, this has put considerable pressure on the General Secretariat and Synods to facilitate these. This means that not all the nominating groups will be in a position to bring names to General Assembly 2023.

4. With some reluctance, agreement is sought to extend permission for Assembly Officers to make any appointments that are needed in this unusual situation.
5. After General Assembly 2023, there will be a pattern of an online meeting of the Assembly Executive each November and an in-person meeting each February. It is hoped that this, coupled with a more usual number of changes within the Moderators meeting, will enable us to return to making appointments at General Assembly or Assembly Executive in the usual way.
6. For information, the Assembly Officers are: Moderator of the General Assembly, immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly, Clerk of the General Assembly, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Convenor of the Business Committee.