

Paper J1

Report to General Assembly 2023

Nominations Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Helen Lidgett hnlidgett@gmail.com Margaret Marshall Nominations.secretaryh@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 40 1. General Assembly offers profound thanks to Mr Ian Hardie for his work as URC Treasurer over the past six years. Resolution 41 2. General Assembly appoints Mr Alan Yates to serve as URC Treasurer from General Assembly 2023 to General Assembly 2029. Resolution 42 3. General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out in paragraph 9 of this report, subject to the additions and corrections contained in supplementary reports to Assembly.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To appoint members of various committees and groups.
Main points	As above.
Previous relevant documents	N/A
Consultation has taken place with...	Wide consultation with Synods, local churches and the committees and groups where appointments are required.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (eg ecumenical)	None.

Report to General Assembly 2023

Introduction

- 1.1 The committee brings to General Assembly for authorisation the names of people to serve as Assembly Officers, as convenors and secretaries of Assembly committees, or as members of those committees, for set periods. It also recommends names of people to serve on various Panels and to represent the United Reformed Church on other bodies.

Nominations Committee

- 2.1 Every Synod is represented on the Nominations Committee, whose members serve for as long as their Synod determines. They bring knowledge of the skills, experience and interests of ministers and members in their Synods to inform recommendations. There have been several changes of personnel during the year and we thank all those who have relinquished the role as well as the current membership. The Committee is also greatly helped by the presence and experience of a former moderator of General Assembly, the General Secretary or a Deputy General Secretary and the Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries. It is well served by a volunteer Secretary.
- 2.2 The number and range of church committees and groups is decided by General Assembly and Assembly Executive and the Committee's role is to serve the requirements of the Church. We note the recommendations of the Church Life Review and remind Assembly that rationalisation of the committee structure of the United Reformed Church will improve the effectiveness of the nominations process, reduce the number of people we need to populate committees and greatly reduce the heavy workload of the Committee Secretary.

Current work

- 3.1 So that Assembly committees can support the work and mission of the United Reformed Church, the Nominations Committee relies on the willingness and commitment of members and ministers of the United Reformed Church who generously give their time to serve. It is a challenge to identify new people with relevant skills and experience, but this is done in several ways:
 - a) The committee members, through consulting their own synod networks, bring names of people who are then considered, approached, and if they agree, are nominated for appointment by Assembly (or Assembly Executive).
 - b) Assembly committees and staff secretaries are encouraged to make suggestions, recognising that often they have the clearest understanding of their own needs and knowledge of suitable people. They are reminded of the importance of preparing role descriptions for their committee's work and keeping them up to date.
 - c) A process of consultation with committee secretaries and, where appropriate, the General Secretary or a Deputy General Secretary has been introduced for potential candidates to serve as committee convenors and deputy convenors.
- 3.2 In the course of the year we have selected 20 people from the Panel for General Assembly Appointments to serve on six Synod Moderator Nominating Groups and the recruitment panel for the Chief Operating Officer. Each Synod Moderator

Nominating Group consists of a Convenor and three members drawn from the Assembly Panel and four members from the Synod.

- 3.3 Further work has been done over the past year in nominating members to serve on the various panels of the Disciplinary Process and the appointment of a secretary to the Assembly Commission on Discipline. Once again, we thank the Revd Andy Braunston and the Revd Dr Janet Tollington for continuing to identify, interview, nominate and train members of the panel.

4. **URC Treasurer**

The United Reformed Church is served by an Honorary Treasurer, in a voluntary capacity. Mr Ian Hardie completes six years in this role at General Assembly 2023.

Mr Hardie has indicated that he does not wish to serve a further term. In the words of the General Secretary: "We need to express profound thanks to Ian. He has gone above and beyond in almost every way, and on his watch we've had to navigate the pandemic, the need to close the old pension schemes and initiate new schemes, and over this last year the escalating cost of living. He has steered the finances through these troubled waters with a cool head, a heart for the church and its ministers and steady support for the URC finance staff and committees." Assembly is asked to express its sincere gratitude to Ian.

The General Secretary undertook a search to find a successor to serve as Treasurer. After careful consideration, Mr Alan Yates has agreed to offer himself to General Assembly to serve in this capacity.

Mr Yates served as Moderator of General Assembly from 2018-20 and, therefore, has good in-depth knowledge of the URC. Prior to the abolishment of District Councils, Alan was treasurer for Chiltern District Council, a role that required good communication skills rather than accounting knowledge. Throughout his career he has been an operations director, a consulting programme director and a client director. In all of these roles he had responsibility for profit and loss (P&L) and budgets. In the final years of his remunerated working life, he ran his own company. Although being small it still required the full gamut of accounting practice, from payroll to VAT and from P&L to statutory accounts. Since 2020 Alan has been a director of Churches Mutual Credit Union, and he has been their president since 2022.

We bring his name to General Assembly which is invited to appoint him for an initial term of six years from General Assembly 2023 to General Assembly 2029.

5. **Clerk of General Assembly**

The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins completes two terms of service as Clerk of General Assembly in 2024. A search is underway to find a successor to serve as Clerk-elect from General Assembly 2023 and as Clerk for six years from General Assembly 2024. The post has been advertised in *Reform*. At the time of writing, the process is not complete, but we hope to bring a name to General Assembly for approval in a supplementary paper.

6. **Equalities**

- 6.1 The Committee seeks to ensure that the membership of all committees and Panels is compliant with the equalities guidelines of the United Reformed Church.

Care is taken to ensure the Assembly membership of Nominating Groups for Synod Moderator and Staff appointments reflect as far as possible the diversity of the Church.

- 6.2 The Committee held a discussion on the recommendations of the Positive Action Task Group and noted several implications for its work. It hopes that the racism awareness training recommended in the report can be implemented as soon as possible.
- 6.3 The Committee collects and records monitoring data. All those invited to serve on the Church's committees, working groups and Panels are asked to complete a monitoring form. This information is requested to track the URC's journey to becoming an anti-racist church. Following a suggestion made by the Assembly Moderator-elect we are using a revised terminology in the summary monitoring report for 2022-23 included below.

95 acceptances were received between September 2022 and April 2023.

Ordained	54	56%
Lay	41	44%

Male	33	35%
Female	53	56%
Not stated	9	9%

An analysis of 80 responses providing monitoring data shows this age spread:

Under 26	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65
3	14	9	9	28	17
4%	18%	11%	11%	35%	21%

80 responses gave ethnic origin:

Global majority	Global minority ("white")
16	64
20%	80%

7. Thanks to all who serve on Assembly Committees

The Church continues to be blessed by many willing members who give their time

and gifts to serve on its committees, panels and working groups, or who represent it on outside bodies. The formal acceptance of this report and the long list of names that follows is offered with a real sense of gratitude for all who serve in this way.

8. Resignations

8.1 General Assembly is asked to note the following resignation:

Ref	Committee/Group	Name
2.4	Assembly Commission for Discipline	Mr Stephen Thornton

9. Those to be appointed or re-appointed

Those agreeing to be appointed for the first time, for a further term, and those returning following a break in service are listed in the table below.

Key: ** = new appointment, † = extension of term of service, †† = further term of service after a break.

Ref	Committee/Group	Name	Role	Years
2.1	Faith and Order Committee	The Revd Dr Andrew Prasad	Member**	GA23-GA27
2.1.1	Panel for General Assembly Appointments	Ms Megan Price	Member**	GA23-GA28
2.1.1	Panel for General Assembly Appointments	Mr Donald Swift	Member**	GA23-GA28
2.3	Ministerial Incapacity and Discipline	The Revd Ian Kirby	Member†	GA23-GA25
2.7	Standing Panel for the Incapacity Procedure	The Revd Roy Lowes	Member†	
2.7	Standing Panel for the Incapacity Procedure	Dr Ewen Harley	Member†	
3.1	Mission Committee	The Revd Wilbert Sayimani	Deputy Convenor**	GA23-GA27
3.1.3	Interfaith Enabling Group	Mr Andy Lie	Member**	GA23-GA27
4.1.1	Accreditations Sub-Committee	The Revd Carole Marsden	Member**	MAR23-GA26
4.1.1	Accreditations Sub-Committee	The Revd Jacob Bali	Member**	MAR23-GA26
4.1.3	Retired Ministers' Housing Sub-Committee	The Revd Don Nichols	Member**	MAR23-GA26
4.1.4	Assessment Board	Mr Keith Reading	Member**	GA23-GA28
4.3	Children's and Youth Work Committee	Mr Mathew Barkley	Member†	GA23-GA27

4.3	Children's and Youth Work Committee	Mr Reuben Watt	Member [†]	GA23-GA27
4.4	Worship Reference Group	The Revd Sam Silungwe	Convenor [†]	GA24-GA28
5.2	Communications Committee	The Revd Tim Lowe	Member [†]	GA23-24
5.2	Communications Committee	Mr Dan Morrell	Member [†]	GA23-24
5.2	Communications Committee	The Revd. Heather Whyte	Member [†]	GA23-24
5.3	Equalities Committee	Mrs Janet Raven	Member ^{**}	MAR23-GA26
5.4	Finance Committee	Mrs Jane Humphreys	Member [†]	GA23-GA27
5.4	Finance Committee	Ms Joana Marfoh	Member [†]	GA23-GA27
5.4	Finance Committee	Mr Chris Atherton	Member ^{**}	GA23-GA27
5.4.1	Pensions Committee	The Revd Dr Janet Tollington	Convenor ^{**}	MAR23-GA26
5.7	Investment Committee	Dame Katharine Barker	Member [†]	GA23-GA27
9.1	Northern College Governors	The Revd Raymond Singh	Governor [†]	GA23-GA25
9.2	Westminster College of Governors	The Revd Ryan Sirmons	Member ^{**}	MAR23-GA28
9.2	Westminster College of Governors	Mr John Ellis	Member [†]	GA23-GA29
11.3	Congregational Fund Board	Mrs Mary Steele	Member [†]	GA23-GA27
11.4	Congregational Memorial Hall Trust	Mr John Ellis	Member ^{0†}	GA23-GA27
11.12	World Day of Prayer	The Revd Jane Weedon	Member ^{**}	GA23-GA27
11.13	Westhill Endowment Trust	The Revd Clare Callanan	Member ^{**}	GA23-GA27
11.13	Westhill Endowment Trust	The Revd Dr Kathryn Price	Member ^{**}	GA23-GA27

10. Assembly committees and other appointments

Notes:

1. The General Assembly Moderator, the Assembly Moderator-elect, the Immediate-past Assembly Moderator and the General Secretary are members *ex officio* of every standing committee. Deputy General Secretaries are members *ex officio* of every standing committee within their department. Any *ex officio* member may arrange for an appropriate deputy, such as any Deputy General Secretary or an officer of Assembly, to attend on their behalf. Any committee may invite other

Assembly officers (or their deputies) or staff members to attend in a non-voting capacity where the business so requires.

2. Symbols have been used as follows: ** denotes those whom General Assembly is invited to appoint for the first time; † denotes those who have been invited to extend their periods of service; †† denotes those returning after a break.
3. Numbers in round brackets following names indicate the member's synod: (1) Northern, (2) North Western, (3) Mersey, (4) Yorkshire, (5) East Midlands, (6) West Midlands, (7) Eastern, (8) South Western, (9) Wessex, (10) Thames North, (11) Southern, (12) Wales, (13) Scotland. This numbering is not shown where it is not relevant.
4. When a member of a committee is there as a representative of another body or a particular category, this is indicated in round brackets following the name.
5. Committee membership is normally for a period of four years, though this may sometimes exceptionally be renewable. Committee convenors serve an additional preliminary year as convenor-elect. In sections one to five of the report, appointments with a different term are noted.
6. Dates in square brackets following names indicate the date of retirement, assuming a full term.
7. In accordance with the decision of General Assembly 2000, some nominations are made directly by the National Synods of Wales and Scotland.
8. New committee members normally take up their roles at the conclusion of General Assembly.
9. Nominations to Assembly committees and their subcommittees, and to advisory and task groups serving Assembly and Assembly Executive, should be of members of the United Reformed Church, or youth representatives who meet the criteria for membership of Assembly. A term of service may normally be completed if someone ceases to be a member of the URC during their term.
10. Nominations of URC representatives to external bodies should either be URC members, or youth representatives who meet the criteria for membership of Assembly, or URC staff who have relevant expertise. The nomination of a staff member would automatically lapse if the person concerned ceased to hold a URC post.
11. The names in the following list are submitted for approval by General Assembly and it will be updated after the close of Assembly. The latest list approved by General Assembly, by Assembly Executive or by Assembly Officer Action on its behalf is available at: www.bit.ly/URCNom.

Officers of Assembly

Clerk to General Assembly:	The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins [2024]
Assistant Clerk to Assembly:	The Revd Sarah Moore [2023]
Clerk-elect to General Assembly [2023]:	Pending appointment
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Alan Yates [2029]

1. Assembly Executive

Assembly Executive acts on behalf of General Assembly. It consists of the officers of Assembly, the immediate past and elect Assembly Moderators, the deputies to the General Secretary and Treasurer, the Assistant Clerk, four representatives from each synod, normally, but not necessarily, including the moderator and the Synod Clerk, together with the convenors of Assembly committees, the chair of the United Reformed Church Trust and three members for URC Youth, including the URC Youth Moderator. In attendance are staff secretaries, Assembly Moderators' chaplain and others as appropriate.

1.1 Human resources advisory group

Convenor: Mrs Bridget Fosten [2027]

General Secretary

Deputy General Secretary (Administration and Resources)

Nominated members:

Mrs Barbara Ellis [2024]

Two vacancies

1.2 Law and Polity advisory group

Convenor: Ms Morag McLintock [2028]

Secretary: Mr Neil Mackenzie [2026][†]

General Secretary

Clerk of General Assembly

Assistant Clerk of General Assembly

Synod Clerk representative: Mr Tim Hopley [2027]**

Property, legal and trust officers' representative: Ms Muna Levan-Harris

Nominated members:

The Revd Steven Manders [2025] Mr Dean Taylor (2026)

In attendance: Legal Adviser

1.3 Listed buildings advisory group

Convenor: The Revd Dr James Mather [2025] (nominated by the group)

Secretary: Mr Geoff Milnes [2025] (nominated by the group)

General Secretary

Synod Representatives:

Vacancy (1)

Ms Alison Lee (3)

Mrs Judith Booth (5)

Mr Peter West (7)

Mr Gerry Prosser (9)

Mr Guy Morfett (11)

Mr Michael Williams (2)

Mr David Figures (4)

Mr Matthew McDade (6)

Mr Roger James (8)

Mr Christopher Buckwell (10)

1.4 Resource sharing task group

Convenor: The Revd Steve Faber [2024] (Synod Moderator)

Secretary: Mr Chris Atherton

Treasurer: The Revd Dick Gray

Miss Margaret Atkinson

Mr Mike Gould

URC Treasurer

1.5 Net Zero task group

Convenor: The Revd Chris Baillie

Representative members:

Deputy General Secretary (Mission)
The Revd George Watt
Mr Bill Potter
Mr Clifford Patten
Mr Simeon Mitchell
Ms Victoria James
Ms Maya Withall
Ms Judy Harris
Mr Matthew McDade
Ms Eileen Newington

Synod Moderator
Finance Committee
URC Trust
Secretary for Church and Society
Chief Operating Officer
URC Youth
URC Children
Synod Property Officer
Synod Green Apostle

1.6 Review of Church Life Group

The Revd Dr John Bradbury
The Revd Steve Faber
The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson
Mrs Muna Levan-Harris

The Revd Lindsey Sanderson
Ms Victoria Turner
The Revd Dr Phil Wall
Dr Gordon Woods

2. General Secretariat

2.1 Faith and Order Committee

The convenor and nominated members normally serve for six years.

Convenor: The Revd Dr Robert Pope [2026]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

General Secretary

Nominated members:

The Revd Dr Andrew Prasad [2027]

The Revd Sue McCoan [2026]

Ms Diana Paulding [2026]

The Revd Kristin Ofstad [2026]

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson [2027]

2.2 Nominations Committee

Synods appoint and decide terms for their representation.

Convenor: Mrs Helen Lidgett [2025]

Secretary: Mrs Margaret Marshall [2026]

A past Moderator of General Assembly

General Secretary

Synod Representatives:

The Revd Dr Trevor Jamison (1)

Mr Tim Hopley (2)

Mrs Rita Griffiths (3)

Mr Tim Crossley (4)

Vacancy (5)

Mrs Rachel Wakeman (6)

The Revd David Coaker (7)

Ms Rachel Leach (8)

Ms Karen Bell (9)

Ms Nneoma Chima (10)

The Revd Russell Furley-Smith (11)

Ms Megan Price (12)

Mr John Collings (13)

In attendance:

Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries

Equalities Committee representative

2.2.1 Panel for General Assembly appointments

Members usually serve for five years as training is required.

Retiring 2024

The Revd Jan Adamson (13)

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson (9)

Dr Paul Ashitey (10)

Ms Victoria Paulding (5)

Mr Matthew Barkley (9)
The Revd Lucy Brierley (9)
Mr David Gartside (3)
Ms Pippa Hodgson (5)
The Revd Paul Robinson (12)
Mr Alex Walker (4)

Mr Reuben Watt (11)
The Revd Sal Bateman (10)
The Revd Peter Henderson (8)
The Revd George Mwaura (5)
Mr Patrick Sheard (1)

Retiring 2026

The Revd Reginald Mudenda (11)
Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid (10)

The Revd Mark Robinson (9)
Mrs Pat Poinen (1)

Retiring in 2028

Ms Megan Price (12)

Mr Donald Swift (3)

2.3 Ministerial incapacity and discipline (Mind) advisory group

Convenor: The Revd Steven Manders [2026]

Secretary: Staff Secretary

Synod Moderator: The Revd Clare Downing [2023]

Convenor of the Assembly commission

Secretary to the Assembly Commission for Discipline: Mr Philip Laws [2026]

Convenor of the review commission of the incapacity procedure

Secretary of the review commission of the incapacity procedure

Consultant for ministers and CRCWs: Mrs Fiona Smith [2026]

Consultant for mandated groups: The Revd Ian Kirby [2027]

Training coordinator: The Revd Andy Braunston [2024]

General Secretary; Clerk of General Assembly; Secretary for Ministries; legal adviser

2.3.1 Secretary to the Assembly Appeals Commission:

The Revd Andy Braunston

2.4 Assembly Commission for Discipline Panel

Convenor: The Revd Nigel Adkinson [2028]

Deputy Convenor: Dr David Jones [2028]

Members (not time-limited):

The Revd Nigel Adkinson
The Revd Andy Braunston
Mr Ian Corless
Mrs Barbara Ellis
Mr Alastair Forsyth
Mrs Cathy Glazier
Ms Barbara Groom**
ProfGraham Handscomb**
Dr David Jones
The Revd Sue McCoan
The Revd Martha McInnes**
Dr James Mawdesley**
The Revd Wilbert Sayimani
Mr Dean Taylor**
Mrs Janet Virr
Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid**

The Revd Bill Bowman
Ms Mary Coole**
Ms Janine Cowie**
The Revd Peter Flint**
Mr Remi Ferguson**
The Revd Dominic Grant**
The Revd John Grundy**
The Revd Marcus Hargis
Mrs Mary Kelly
The Revd Alan McGougan
Ms Morag McLintock
The Revd Sarah Moore
The Revd Alistair Smeaton**
The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe
Mr Gordon Wanless

2.5 Disciplinary Investigation Panel

Senior Member: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2028]

Deputy Senior Member: Vacancy

Members (not time-limited):

The Revd Dr James Coleman**	Mr Stuart Dew**
The Revd Martin Ferris	The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King**
Mrs Chris Harris**	The Revd Derek Hopkins
Mr Keir Hounsome**	Ms Alison Jiggins**
Prof Jean McClellan*	The Revd Lesley Moseley
The Revd Craig Muir	The Revd George Mwuara
The Revd Zadie Orr**	Mr Andy Russell
Mr Mark Rigby	Ms Cathy Simpson
Mrs Margaret Smith**	Mrs Liz Swanwick**
The Revd Martin Spain	The Revd Geoff Wright

2.6 Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline

Minister members:

The Revd Tessa Henry-Robinson [2027]**

The Revd Nick Mark [2027]**

The Revd Raymond Singh [2027]**

Elder members:

Mr Tim Crossley [2027]**

Mr Dodie Khurshid [2027]**

Vacancy

2.7 Standing panel for the incapacity procedure

This panel is normally convened by the member with legal experience.

Members serve one or two five-year terms.

Secretary: Vacancy

Synod Moderator: The Revd Simon Walkling [2023]

Past Moderator of General Assembly: The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe [2026]

Commission officer for the incapacity procedure: The Revd Roy Lowes [2027]

Mr David Nash (legal experience) []

Dr Ewen Harley (GP) [2027]

2.8 Pastoral reference and welfare Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch (2027)

Convenor-Elect: Vacancy

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

General Secretary

Deputy Treasurer

Synod Moderator: Vacancy

Nominated Members:

The Revd Dr Irene John [2024]

One Vacancy

Mrs Hilary Miles [2026]**

3. Mission Department

3.1 Mission Committee

Convenor: Sarah Lane Cawte [2028]†

Deputy Convenor: The Revd Wilbert Sayimani [2027]**

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Mission)

Ms Katrina Hackett (1) [2027]**

Mr Aftab Mughal (2) [2025]

The Revd Stuart Nixon (3) [2026]
Vacancy (5)
The Revd Alex Clare-Young (7) [2027]**
The Revd Ray Stanyon (9) [2025]
The Revd Martin Knight (11) [2026]**
The Revd John Bremner (13) [2027]**

The Revd Barry Welch (4) [2027] **
The Revd Debbie Brown (6) [2027]**
The Revd Henriette Wemtink (8) [2027]**
Vacancy (10)
The Revd Branwen Rees (12) [2026]†

3.1.1 International exchange reference group

Convenor: The Revd Dr Ana Gobledale [2028] †
Synod Moderator: Vacancy
Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries
Nominated member: Vacancy

3.1.2 Commitment for Life (CfL) reference group

Convenor: Mr Richard Lewney [2028] †
At least two CfL advocates
Representative of mission committee
Representative of Global Justice Now
Programme Officer for Global Justice and Partnerships
Representative of mission team
Representative from Christian Aid

3.1.3 Interfaith enabling group

The convenor is nominated by the Mission Committee.
Convenor: The Revd Tracey Lewis [2028] †
Secretary: The Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Scotland
Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales
Nominated members:
Ms Victoria Turner [2025]
Co-opted members:
The Revd Dr Graham Adams [2024]
The Revd Dr John Parry

Mr Andy Lie [2027] †

The Revd Dr Mark Godin [2024]

3.1.4 Joint Public Issues Team strategy and policy group

Deputy General Secretary (Mission)
The Revd Steve Faber

3.1.5 Rural strategy group (United Reformed Church/Methodist)

Future being reviewed by the Mission Committee.

4. Discipleship department

4.1 Ministries Committee

Convenor: The Revd Mary Thomas [2026]**
Secretary: Secretary for Ministries
Leadership in worship advocate: Vacancy
Synod Moderator: The Revd Jamie Kissack [2024]
Convenors of the Accreditations (CRCW and SCM), Maintenance of Ministry and Retired Ministers' Housing subcommittees
Convenor of the Assessment Board
Nominated members:
Mrs Gill Bates [2024]
The Revd Lesley Moseley [2025]
Chris Kellett [2025]

4.1.1 Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) sub-committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Paul Dean [2025]

Secretary: to be confirmed

Convenor of the Assessment Board

Representatives:

Synod Moderators: The Revd Jamie Kissack [2024]

SCMs: The Revd Tim Clarke [2024]

CRCWs: Vacancy

Nominated Members:

The Revd Alison Micklem [2025]

The Revd Carole Marsden [2026]**

The Revd Jacob Bali [2026]**

4.1.2 Ministries – Maintenance of ministry sub-committee

Under review

4.1.3 Ministries – Retired Ministers' Housing Society sub-committee

Terms of service shall be for four years with the possibility of a further term of four years. The convenor shall be a member of the Ministries Committee nominated by that Committee.

Convenor: The Revd Paul Whittle [2023]**

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Nominated Members:

The Revd Don Nichols [2026]** One vacancy

Representative Members:

Tenants: Vacancy

Retired Ministers' Housing Society: Vacancy

4.1.4 Assessment board

Members usually serve for five years as training is required.

Convenor: Professor Bill Gould [2026]

Retiring 2023

The Revd John Danso (10)

Mr Dan Morrell (4)

Retiring 2024

The Revd Jan Adamson (13)

Mr Mark Tubby (7)

The Revd Gerald England (8)

Retiring 2025

Ms Mercy Nimako

The Revd Samuel Silungwe

Ms Liz Sharples

Retiring in 2026

The Revd Lis Mullen (2)

The Revd Sue McCoan (10)

Retiring 2027

The Revd Jamie Kissack (4)

Mrs Kate Yates (10)

Mrs Simon Loveitt (4)

The Revd Tim Lowe (4)

The Revd Jacob Bali (11)

Retiring in 2028

Mr Keith Reading

4.2 Education and Learning Committee

Convenor: Mrs Pippa Hodgson [2027]**

Convenor-Elect: Vacant

Secretary: Secretary for Education and Learning

Nominated Members: (nominated by the Nominations Committee)

Mrs Margaret Marshall [2024] The Revd Tim Meachin [2024]

The Revd Andrew Mudharara [2026]**

Ex-officio members:

a General Assembly moderator (current, past or elect)

General Secretary

Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

Representative Members: (nominated by the appropriate group)

RCL Principals: The Revd Dr John McNeil Scott [2026]**

Synod Training and Development Officers: The Revd Dr Rob Hoch [2026]**

CYDOs and other Children's and Youth Work officers: Mr Richard Knott [2026]**

EM1 students

Non-voting members: (nominated by the appropriate group)

Synod Moderator:

RCL Principals: The Revd Dr Robert Pope (Acting)

The Revd Dr Adam Scott

Secretary for Ministries Methodist Church Representative

4.2.1 Education and Learning finance sub-committee

Chair: Mrs Pippa Hodgson

Minutes Secretary: Secretary for Education and Learning

Co-opted Member: The Revd Edward Sanniez

Ex-officio: URC Treasurer, Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship),

Convenor of the Education and Learning Committee

Staff in attendance: Chief Finance Officer

The chair and member are appointed by the Education and Learning Committee.

4.2.2 Stepwise development Group

Convenor: The Revd Alison Davis

Administrator: Stepwise Programme Assistant

Secretary for Education and Learning Stepwise Programme Manager

Education and Learning Instructional Designer

Education and Learning Programme Officer (by invitation)

Convenor of the Stepwise Learning Standards Board

Representatives – serving appropriate terms of service:

Children's and Youth Work Committee: Mr Leo Roberts

Synod mission enablers network: The Revd Stuart Radcliffe

Synod training and development officers: Vacancy

Resource Centres for Learning: A tutor

Together Ethnic and Minority URC: The Revd Zaidie Orr

Co-opted Members:

The Revd Simon Goddard (Fresh Expressions)

The Revd Peter Henderson

Mr Iain Johnston (Faith in Community Scotland)

The convenor and the co-opted members are appointed by the Education and Learning Committee.

4.3 Children's and Youth Work Committee

Convenor: The Revd Paul Robinson [2024]

Convenor Elect: The Revd Samantha Sheehan [Convenor from General Assembly 2024]

Secretary: Head of Children's and Youth Work

URC Youth Moderator

URC Youth Moderator-elect

Pilots representative

Nominated members:

Mr Matthew Barkley [2027]†

Mr Reuben Watt [2027]†

The Revd Janine Atkinson [2024]

The Reverend Julian Sanders [2025]

Ms Caroline Akinyele [2025]

4.4 Worship Reference Group

Convenor: The Revd Sam Silungwe [2028]†

Secretary: The Minister for Digital Worship

Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

Nominated Members:

The Revd Dr Ana Gobledale [2024]

Co-opted Member:

The Revd Anne Sardeson

4.5 Safeguarding Committee

Convenor: The Revd Roger Jones [2026]**

Secretary: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

Secretary for Ministries

Training and Development Coordinator

Policy Development Co-ordinator

Nominated Members:

Mr Alex Walker [2026]**

Mrs Kate Yates [2026]**

Synod Safeguarding Practice Group Representative: Ms Julie Rafferty [2026]**

Synod Moderator:

National Synod of Scotland Representative: Ms Ruth Goold [2026]**

URC Advocated Survivors Group Representatives (up to 2): Group not yet operative

Independent members:

Mr Tim Carter (Methodist Church) [2026]**

Ms Fi Cisneros [2026]**

In attendance:

Head of Children's and Youth Work

Secretary for Education and Learning

5. Administration and resources Department

5.1 Business Committee

Convenor: The Revd Mark Robinson [2025]

Secretary: General Secretary

Moderator of General Assembly

Moderator-elect and Immediate-past Moderator of General Assembly

Clerk of General Assembly

Assistant Clerk of General Assembly

URC Treasurer

Nominated members:

Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid [2025]

Mr Reuben Watt [2026]**

5.2 Communications

Convenor: The Revd Dr Peter Stevenson [2023]

Convenor-Elect: The Revd Lucy Brierley [2027]
Secretary: Head of Communications
The Revd Tim Lowe [2024] Mr Dan Morell [2024]
The Revd Heather Whyte [2024] Ms Joy Aldred [2024]
Two vacancies

5.3 Equalities Committee

Convenor: The Revd Naison Hove [2026]
Secretary: The Revd David Salsbury [2023]
URC Youth Equalities and Diversity Representative
Nominated members:
The Revd Jayne Taylor [2027][†] The Revd Jo Clare-Young [2024]
Mrs Rosie Martin [2024] Ms Judy Rogers [2024]
Dr Ruth Shepherd [2024] Mrs Janet Raven [2026]**
One vacancy

5.4 Finance Committee

Convenor: URC Treasurer
Deputy Treasurer: Mr Vaughan Griffiths [2025]
Chief Finance Officer Chair of the URC Trust
Nominated members:
Mrs Jane Humphreys [2027][†] Ms Joana Marfoh [2027][†]
Ms Denise Harman [2024] Mr Chris Atherton [2027]**
The Revd Simon Copley [2025] Mr Gordon Wanless [2025]
Mr Bill Potter [2026]^{††}

5.4.1 Pensions Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington (2026)**
Secretary: Pensions Manager
Nominated Members:
Ms Joana Marfoh [2024]
Co-opted members, maximum of three:
Mr David Martin
Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer Convenor of the Investment Committee
Convenor of the Maintenance of Ministry sub-committee
Deputy General Secretary (Administration and Resources)
In attendance:
Chief Finance Officer
Secretary for Ministries (for Ministers' Pension Fund matters)

5.5 United Reformed Church Trust

Members normally serve for four years and may only serve a maximum of two terms (eight years). The directors of the Trust appoint new directors from those appointed as members. The members of the Trust elect the chair from among their own number and appoint a secretary and deputy secretary.

Chair: Ms Catriona Wheeler
Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones
Deputy Secretary: Mr John Samson
Members:

Group one (Synods 1, 2, 3, 4, 13):
The Revd Nick Mark (13) [2024]
Group two (Synods 5, 6, 7, 8, 12):

Mr Clifford Patten (7) [2024]
The Revd James Breslin (5) [2024]
Ms Catriona Wheeler (5) [2026]†

Mr David Greatorex (5) [2024]
Mr David Lathbury (6) [2026]†

Group three (Synods 9,10,11):

The Revd Julian Macro (9) [2025]

The Revd John Macaulay (10) [2026]**

There is one vacancy for a group member.

URC Youth appointee: vacancy

Moderator of General Assembly

Clerk of General Assembly

General Secretary

Treasurer

In attendance:

Convenor of the investment committee

Minute secretary

Chief Finance Officer

5.5.1 Church House management Group

Convenor: Deputy General Secretary (Administration and Resources)

General Secretary

Chief Finance Officer

Nominated members:

Dr Ian Harrison [2024]

Mr Adam Lester [2024]

Two vacancies

5.5.2 Remuneration Committee

Convenor: Mr William McVey

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Administration and Resources)

Ms Sushila Jetha (Methodist HR)

URC Treasurer

In attendance: Chief Finance Officer

5.6 The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Ltd

Terms run until the AGM in September. The directors of the Trust appoint new directors from those appointed as members. The board members elect the chair from among their own number and appoint the company secretary.

Chair: Mrs Bridget Micklem

Deputy chair: Mr Lyndon Thomas

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Church Nominated Trustees/Directors:

Mrs Bridget Micklem [December 2023] Mr Colin MacBean [2024]

Mrs Faith Paulding [2025]

Convenor of the Pensions Committee: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington

URC Deputy Treasurer: Mr Vaughan Griffiths

Convenor of the Maintenance of Ministry sub-committee: The Revd David Coote
(Pending a review of MoM Sub-Committee)

Convenor of the Investment Committee: Mr Richard Nunn

Member Nominated Trustees/Direct

The Revd Caroline Vodden [2026]

The Revd Daniel Cheyne [2026]

Two Vacancies

5.7 Investment Committee

Convenor: Mr Richard Nunn [2026]

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Members:

Dame Katharine Barker [2027] †

Mr Lyndon Thomas [2024]

Vacancy

URC Treasurer

Convenor, Pensions Committee

Chair of United Reformed Church Trust or another director
Chair of United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust or another director
Treasurer, Westminster College
In attendance: Chief Finance Officer

6. Representatives to meetings of sister churches

6.1	General Synod of Church of England	The Revd Tim Meadows
6.2	Methodist Conference	The Revd Roy Fowler
6.3	Congregational Federation	Mission Committee Nomination
6.4	Church of Scotland	Assembly Moderator and synod representative
6.5	United Free Church of Scotland	Synod nomination
6.6	Scottish Assembly of the Congregational Federation	Synod nomination
6.7	Scottish Episcopal Church	Synod nomination
6.8	Methodist Church in Scotland	Synod nomination
6.9	Baptist Union of Scotland	Synod nomination
6.10	Presbyterian Church of Wales	Assembly Moderator
6.11	Union of Welsh Independents	Synod nomination
6.12	Covenanted Baptists	Synod nomination
6.13	Church in Wales Governing Board	Synod nomination
6.14	Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church	Mission Committee Nomination

7. Representatives on ecumenical church bodies

The following have been nominated as United Reformed Church representatives at the major gatherings of the ecumenical bodies listed.

7.1 World Council of Churches 2022 Assembly

Delegates: The Revd Sarah Moore and Ms Karen Campbell.

7.2 Council for World Mission Assembly

Ms Karen Campbell will be attending the 2023 CWM Assembly online.

7.3 World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) General Council

Representatives are appointed for each meeting of the Council.

7.4 Conference of European Churches Assembly

Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and one other

7.5 The Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council

The Revd Rowena Francis

The Revd Prof David Thompson

Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries

7.6 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

7.6.1 CTBI Church leaders' meeting

General Secretary

7.6.2 CTBI senior representatives' forum

General Secretary

Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7.6.3 CTBI environmental issues network

The Revd Mike Shrubsole

7.6.4 CTBI consultative group on ministry amongst children (CGMC)

Head of Children's and Youth Work and one other

7.6.5 CTBI interreligious network

Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7.6.6 CTBI China forum

The Revd John Scott

7.6.7 CTBI Korea group

The Revd David Grosch-Miller

7.6.8 CTBI Middle East contact group

Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7.6.9 CTBI Churches' refugee network

The Revd Fleur Houston

7.7 Churches Together in England (CTE)

7.7.1 CTE enabling group

Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7.7.2 CTE group for evangelisation

Deputy General Secretary (Mission)

7.8 Action of Churches Together in Scotland (Acts) members meeting

Appointed by the National Synod of Scotland

7.9 National Sponsoring Body for Scotland

Appointed by the National Synod of Scotland

7.10 Churches Together in Wales (CYTUN)

Appointed by the National Synod of Wales

7.11 Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales

Appointed by the National Synod of Wales

7.12 Free Church education committee

Prof Graham Handscomb

Mrs Gillian Kingston

7.13 European Churches' environmental network

The Revd David Coleman

7.14 Churches' Committee on funerals and crematoria

The Revd Sally Thomas

7.15 Churches' forum for safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead

7.16 Churches' network for nonviolence
Head of Children's and Youth Work

7.17 Churches Visitor and Tourism Association
Mrs Valerie Jenkins

7.18 Joint liturgical group
The Revd Dr Ana Gobledale

8. Representatives on formal bilateral and multilateral Committees

8.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church liaison group
Co-convenor: The Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Synod Moderator) (five-year term) [2026]
Co-secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Scotland
Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales
Nominated Members – serving one or two four-year terms:
The Revd Tim Richards [2024] Mr Tim Hopley [2025]

8.1.1 Methodist/ United Reformed Church strategic oversight group
General Secretary A General Assembly Moderator
Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

8.2 Church of England - United Reformed Church Contact Group
Co-Chair: The Revd Ruth Whitehead [2024]
Co-Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
The Revd Dr Susan Durber [2024] Mr John Ellis [2024]
The Revd Tim Meadows [2024]

8.3 EMU Partnership (Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in Scotland and the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland) [see note 7]
Appointed by the National Synod of Scotland

8.4 Conversations between the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe and the Anglican Communion
The Revd Dr Julian Templeton

8.5 Roman Catholic/United Reformed Church Dialogue Group
Co-chair: The Revd Dr John Bradbury
Co-secretary: The Revd Philip Brooks
Members:

Mr John Cornell	The Revd Dr Sarah Hall
The Revd Jason McCullagh	The Revd Lindsey Sanderson

9. Representatives on governing bodies of theological colleges, etc

9.1 Northern College
The Revd Raymond Singh [2025][†] Mrs Margaret Marshall [2024]
Mr Willie Duncan [2025] The Revd John Grundy [2025]
The Revd Mark Bates [2026][†] Dr Lesley Coote [2026]**
In attendance: Secretary for Education and Learning

9.2 Westminster College: board of governors

Governors serve six-year terms, which may be renewed.

Convenor: The Revd Nigel Uden [2026]

Clerk to the governors: The Revd Naomi Young-Rodas [2028]**

Honorary treasurer (Westminster College): Mr Andrew Grimwade [2023]†

Acting Principal: The Revd Dr Robert Pope

Mr John Ellis [2029] †

Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid [2025]

The Revd Stuart Scott [2023]

The Revd David Miller (2028)**

The Revd Ryan Sirmons (2028)

Note 1: A further six governors are appointed by the Cambridge Theological Federation, the University of Cambridge, Anglia Ruskin University, the college's teaching staff, its students and the Cheshunt Foundation.

Note 2: The Secretary for Education and Learning and the URC Treasurer are normally in attendance.

9.2.1 The Cheshunt Foundation

Mr Guy Morfett

9.2.2 Cambridge Theological Federation

Convenor, Westminster College governors

10. Governors of colleges and schools with which the United Reformed Church is associated

10.1 Caterham School Southern Synod Moderator

10.2 Eltham College Mr Martin Fosten

10.3 Walthamstow Hall Mrs Isabel Heald

10.4 Milton Mount Foundation

Mrs Daphne Bembridge [2023]

Mr Ray Dunnett [2024]

The Revd Kevin Swaine [2024]

The Revd Derek Lindfield [2026]†

Vacancy

5 URC governors serve four-year terms, which may be renewed.

10.5 Silcoates School

The Revd Jason McCullagh [2024]

Vacancy

Governors serve three-year terms.

10.6 Taunton School

Baptist governor at present

10.7 Bishops Stortford College

Mr Richard Harrison

11. Miscellaneous

The United Reformed Church is represented on a variety of other national organisations and committees as follows:

11.1 Arthur Rank Centre

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell

11.2 Churches Legislation Advisory Service

Ms Muna Levan Harris [2023]

General Secretary

11.3 Congregational Fund Board

The Revd Janine Atkinson [2023]

Mr Mike Hart [2024]

Mrs Mary Steele [2027]†

Two Vacancies

11.4 Congregational Memorial Hall Trust

Mr John Ellis [2027†]

Mr Philip Bonnier [2025]

The Revd Derek Wales [2025]

Representatives serve four-year terms which may be renewed.

Mrs Margaret Thompson [2024]

Two Vacancies

11.5 Historic England Places of Worship Forum

Convenor of the listed buildings advisory group

11.6 Lord Wharton's Charity

Vacancy

11.7 Retired ministers' and widows' fund

The Revd Julian Macro

Ms Liz Sharples

Mr Anthony Bayley

11.8 Roots for Churches Ltd

The Revd Jenny Mills**

Nominated by the Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

11.9 Samuel Robinson's Charities

Mr Tony Alderman

11.10 Scout Association – URC General Assembly Chaplain

The Revd Keith Morrison

This appointment is made by the Children's and Youth Work Committee.

11.11 United Reformed Church History Society

The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar [2024]

The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe [2023]

Council Members serve five-year terms which may be renewed.

Mrs Jean Wyber [2027]†

11.12 World Day of Prayer

England, Wales and Northern Ireland: The Revd Jane Weedon [2027]**

Scotland: Synod appointment.

11.13 Westhill Endowment Trust

The Revd Clare Callanan [2027]**

The Revd Dr Kathryn Price [2027]**