



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
General  
Assembly

United Reformed Church  
General Assembly 2023

# Order Paper

Friday 30 June 2023

Please retain each Order Paper as the material may be relevant on any day of the Assembly

“MOCK MOTION” – an opportunity to understand how debates and decisions work

## Paper U1

The dress code for General Assembly

National Synod of Scotland

### Basic information

Contact name and email address	Tam O'Shanter, <a href="mailto:Tamo@urcscotland.org.uk">Tamo@urcscotland.org.uk</a> Robert Burns, Burns@urcscotland.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	<b>Resolution 007</b> General Assembly agrees that all GA members (online and inbuilding) will wear kilts throughout the entirety of the meeting of General Assembly 2023.

### Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To create kilted harmony
Main points	The wearing of the kilt would improve the health and well being of all members of GA, by inspiring unity through visual harmony and improved air circulation.
Previous relevant documents	General Assembly July 2022, All Clerks to the General Assembly shall wear wigs.
Consultation has taken place with...	Siggah Haggis

### Summary of impact

Financial	Significant
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

## **ROUTINE PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

### **Resolution 79**

General Assembly appoints Ms Nnemoa Chimea (Convener), Mrs Linda Jackson, and the Revd Nick Mark as tellers for the election of the Moderator of the General Assembly 2024-2025.

### **Resolution 80**

General Assembly appoints Ms Morag McLintock as Convener of Tellers for any counted votes at this meeting of General Assembly.

### **Resolution 81**

General Assembly appoints the following to form any facilitation groups that may be needed: The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo, the Revd Tracey Lewis, the Revd Zaidie Orr, the Revd Branwen Rees, the Revd Wilbert Sayimani, the Revd Dr Adam Scott, the Revd Dr John McNeil Scott, the Revd Sally Thomas, and the Revd Neil Thorogood.

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATES**

General Assembly is asked to note the following amendments to the Nominations list at J1/J2/J3 in the Book of Reports for General Assembly 2023.

### **J1 1.9. Those to be appointed or re-appointed**

4.1.1. Accreditations Sub-Committee should be Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Sub-Committee.

### **J1 10.11 List of Appointments**

2.2 Nominations Committee: The Revd Ron Foster is the representative of Synod 1.

9.2.1 Cheshunt Foundation: Mr Guy Morfett has finished his term, and the URC representative is now the Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo.

### **J3 Item 10.11 Assembly Committees and other Appointments**

#### **2.3 Ministerial incapacity and discipline (MIND) advisory group**

Add: Senior Member of the Disciplinary Investigation Panel

#### **2.5 Disciplinary Investigation Panel**

Add:

Deputy Senior Member: The Revd Martin Spain [2029]

Member: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington (not time limited)

### **10.4 Milton Mount Foundation**

Delete 'vacancy' and replace with Mrs Ann Bulley [2028]

The Nominations Committee wishes to intimate to the General Assembly that it will be undertaking a careful tidying up of its lists in preparation for the fully updated list being published in the Record of General Assembly. If any further errors have been spotted, please notify the Secretary of the Nominations Committee as soon as possible.

## **ASSEMBLY CLERK**

Following a Nomination Group convened by the Revd Nigel Uden, these resolutions are proposed:

### **Resolution 82 - Assembly Clerk**

General Assembly appoints the Revd Sarah Moore as Clerk of the General Assembly from the close of General Assembly 2024 to the close of General Assembly 2030.

### **Resolution 83 – Assistant Clerk**

General Assembly extends the term of office of the Revd Sarah Moore as Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly to the end of General Assembly 2024, and instructs the Business Committee to review the role description and terms of office for this role, to report to Assembly Executive in February 2024 and General Assembly 2024.

\* \* \* \*

### **Resolution 69 – Incapacity procedure**

Add an additional section:

(e) General Assembly dissolves the panel listed at paragraph 2.7 Standing Panel for the Incapacity Procedure of the report of the Nominations Committee, and thanks the members of this panel for their willingness to serve the United Reformed Church in this way.

\* \* \* \*

### **Resolution 71 - East Midlands Synod**

Following further discussions with the Mission Committee, East Midlands Synod seek the permission of General Assembly to move part (b) of resolution 71 in an amended form:

General Assembly instructs the Mission and Finance Committees in conjunction with Synods and working with ecumenical partners to determine what help might appropriately be offered to our sisters and brothers in the Transcarpathian Reformed Church as a result of the Russian invasion and the ongoing consequences of the war in Ukraine.

## **PAPERS REMOVED FROM EN BLOC BUSINESS**

The following papers have been removed from en bloc business:

A4 – Synod Moderator Appointments

A5 - Mediation and Reconciliation Resource

G5 - Stipendiary Ministry Target Numbers

H4 - Extension to Stipendiary Ministerial Service Beyond Retirement Age

X2 - North Western Synod YoURChurch

X5 – Bristol Korean Church

At the time of writing, it is proposed to take A4, A5, G5, and H4 during session 8 after en bloc business, at around 1415 on Sunday;

X2 during session three, after the election of the next Moderator of the General Assembly, at about 1010 on Saturday;

and X5 at the start of session two, 2000 on Friday.

## **MODERN SLAVERY POLICY – STATEMENT FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023**

At General Assembly 2021, two resolutions were passed in relation to our response as a Church to issues of Modern Slavery:

- Resolution 50 1) General Assembly expresses its wish that there be a statement of URC policy on modern-day slavery and directs the General Secretariat to undertake the research and preparation of such a proposed policy for Church House and Assembly business, consulting with other officers and committees as necessary. The draft policy is to be proposed to Mission Council / the Assembly Executive or General Assembly no later than the Assembly meeting in 2023.
- Resolution 51 2) General Assembly directs the Safeguarding Advisory Group / the Safeguarding Committee to draft, in consultation with others as necessary, clear guidance, including any necessary amendments to Good Practice 5 and Safeguarding training, that will help churches and individuals identify those subject to this form of abuse and how to take steps to prevent it.

### *Current Position*

Work in relation to both Resolutions has begun but have not progressed far enough to meet the timeline set out in the original Resolutions. This is regrettable and we apologise. The reasons for the delay are twofold. Firstly, there have been significant staff changes in both Safeguarding and the Admin & Resources teams since General Assembly 2021. Secondly, key personnel who could have been driving this work forward have been consumed by the pensions consultation and subsequent changes in pension arrangements.

That said, work has been started in relation to both Resolutions and their different aspects and progress can be summarised as follows:

- An agreement has been reached with The Clewer Initiative for the URC to partner with them moving forward and to have access to their resources.
- Train the trainer sessions have been set up with The Clewer Initiative and will take place in September 2023.
- An initial draft of a policy for Church House has been prepared.

### *Next Steps*

The next steps to achieve all the outcomes sought from these Resolutions and to achieve a coordinated and consistent approach to the issue of Modern Slavery are as follows: -

1. Draft an overriding statement for the Church.
2. Ensure the resulting statement and policy are in line with the The Clewer Initiative's resources and Safeguarding Good Practice 6.
3. Consult with interested parties across the denomination.
4. Respond to the Consultation feedback.

### *Timescale*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
July- Sept 23	Conclude preparatory work on the statement and policy
Oct-Nov 23	Consultation with: -

	Church House Connective Synod Moderators and Clerks PLATO URC Trust Committee Convenors and Secretaries
Dec - Jan	Respond to consultation feedback
Feb 24	Bring to Assembly Executive