

Sunday 2 July

Assembly was led in worship by the Chaplain, and Bible study by Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Session seven

The Revd Neil Thorogood, on behalf of the Facilitation Group, introduced and proposed a revised Resolution 73:

Resolution 73

- A. General Assembly invites churches and members of the URC to write to their MPs and prospective Parliamentary candidates expressing their opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill (2023) and urging them to support the development of safe and legal routes for those seeking asylum**

- B. General Assembly expresses deep concerns about the Illegal Migration Bill on the grounds that it potentially breaches the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) and undermines the UK's long - standing commitment to the protection of human dignity.**

- C. General Assembly affirms its support for the aim of the Convention in maintaining an internationally recognised legal standard of human dignity that reflects the nature of God, revealed in the Bible, and urges the UK government to uphold it.**

Agreed

Church Life Review Group

Papers N1/N2a

The Revd Steve Faber reported, and moved the Resolutions:

Resolution 52

1. Principles

a. General Assembly adopts the following principles in making decisions about its Committee structures:

i. The General Assembly will provide the infrastructure and resources necessary to efficiently support the work of local churches and Synods.

ii. The General Assembly will only exercise the functions of the life of the church that are not more appropriately carried out at local or Synod level.

iii. The General Assembly will reduce the number of committees and people required to populate the committee structure to make it proportionate to the current size of the United Reformed Church.

iv. The General Assembly will ensure coherence between the Committee Structure and the General Assembly staffing structure to facilitate joined-up strategic thinking and operations.

b. The committees of the General Assembly will:

i. provide integrated decision making and delivery between different areas of General Assembly work as much as is possible to avoid duplication or lack of coherence.

ii. work only at the level of strategy, policy and governance.

iii. be scalable, allowing work to contract or expand as the needs and overall size and level of activity of the Church changes.

iv. trust General Assembly staff and Office holders to operationalise adopted strategies and policies, ensuring accountability through appropriate governance structures.

Agreed

Resolution 53

General Assembly amends the composition of the Business Committee to be made up of:

a) An Independent Convenor (who shall be an officer of the General Assembly).

b) The General Secretary who shall serve as Executive Secretary.

c) The Moderator of the General Assembly.

d) The immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly.

e) The incoming Moderator of the General Assembly.

f) The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk to the General Assembly.

g) The Treasurer to the General Assembly.

h) The other members of the General Secretariat.

i) Two members appointed by the General Assembly to reflect the breadth and diversity of the United Reformed Church, ~~one of whom will normally be under the age of 26~~ **one of whom shall be a member of URC Youth.**

j) The Business Committee may invite others to be in attendance when it will assist the making of Assembly Arrangements or the strategic oversight of

the business of the Church.

An amendment was proposed by the Assembly Clerk, seconded by members of URC Youth:

In clause i), delete text after the comma, and replace with '*one of whom shall be a member of URC Youth*'.

The amendment was carried

Owing to pressure of time, a decision on the amended Resolution 53 was deferred to a later session.

The Chaplain led Assembly in worship; the preacher was the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Revd Sally Foster-Fulton.

Assembly adjourned for lunch.

Session eight

The minutes of Saturday's session were approved.

Resolution 53, as amended, was put:

Resolution 53

General Assembly amends the composition of the Business Committee to be made up of:

- a) An Independent Convenor (who shall be an officer of the General Assembly).**
- b) The General Secretary who shall serve as Executive Secretary.**
- c) The Moderator of the General Assembly.**
- d) The immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly.**
- e) The incoming Moderator of the General Assembly.**
- f) The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk to the General Assembly.**
- g) The Treasurer to the General Assembly.**
- h) The other members of the General Secretariat.**
- i) Two members appointed by the General Assembly to reflect the breadth and diversity of the United Reformed Church, one of whom shall be a member of URC Youth.**
- j) The Business Committee may invite others to be in attendance when it will**

assist the making of Assembly Arrangements or the strategic oversight of the business of the Church.

Agreed

URC Treasure

Stepwise

The Revd David Salsbury and Mr Steve Summers presented a celebration of the Stepwise programme.

En bloc Resolutions

The Assembly Clerk moved the following Resolutions *en bloc*:

A1 – Business Committee: MIND remit and name

Resolution 1

General Assembly:

- a) removes any reference to the now defunct Incapacity Process from the Ministerial Disciplinary and Incapacity Processes Advisory Group terms of reference;**
- b) adds oversight of the Complaints Process (section Q) to the remit of the Ministerial Disciplinary and Incapacity Processes Advisory Group;**
- c) renames the Ministerial Disciplinary and Incapacity Processes Advisory Group as the Complaints and Discipline Advisory Group;**
- d) notes that Complaints and Discipline Advisory Group may be abbreviated as CDAG.**

A2 – Business Committee: Changes moving to one Moderator of GA

Resolution 2

1. General Assembly resolves to change paragraph 2(6)(i) of the Structure with effect from the close of General Assembly 2023, removing text struck through, and inserting new text in italics:

The current text reads:

- i. ~~Two in total~~ *Such number as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine* from the following: former Moderators of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, past chairmen of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, past presidents of the Congregational Church in England and Wales, former Moderators of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, former chairmen or presidents of the Annual Conference of the Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland, former presidents of the Annual Conference of the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland, provided that such former officers are members of the United Reformed Church and that they shall have been elected by a college consisting of all such past and former Moderators, presidents and chairmen as are members of the United Reformed Church;**

Resolution 3

General Assembly determines the number of former Moderators to be members of General Assembly in that category shall be FOUR for the time being.

A3 – Business Committee: General Assembly and URC Trust

Resolution 4

1. General Assembly authorises the Business Committee and the General Secretariat to begin conversations with the URC Trust on behalf of the General Assembly concerning the nature of the relationship between the United Reformed Church and the United Reformed Church Trust.

Resolution 5

2. General Assembly also authorises the Assembly Officers to appoint anyone else they deem necessary to represent the General Assembly in these conversations if urgency means that such an appointment cannot wait until Assembly Executive or the next General Assembly.

Resolution 6

3. General Assembly requires any proposed changes to the relationship between the General Assembly and the URC Trust be brought to a future General Assembly, or Assembly Executive in the case of urgent matters, for agreement.

Resolution 7

4. General Assembly authorises the Chief Operating Officer to commence a consultation with all Church House employees under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 regarding transferring their employment from the Church to the United Reformed Church Trust.

Resolution 8

General Assembly authorises all future new contracts and contract renewals relating to its work to be taken out by the United Reformed Church Trust rather than in the name of the Church.

D1 – Education and Learning: Recruitment of a Westminster College Principal

Resolution 20

Assembly resolves to alter the guidance given in Resolution 17 of 2014 so that the post of Principal of Westminster College shall be open to members of the United Reformed Church and to members of those Churches which belong to one or more of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, Council for World Mission, World Council of Churches.

G2 – Finance Committee: URC Trust Accounts 2022

Resolution 22

General Assembly notes the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2022.

G4 – Finance Committee: Churches' Energy Crisis Fund

G6 – Finance Committee: URC Legacy Fund

Resolution 26

General Assembly resolves that half of the current balance in the URC Legacy Fund be transferred to the Annenberg Fund with a view to that latter fund being available to meet expenditure of Church Life Review projects on external expertise and/or capacity building, such as temporary additional staffing.

H2 – Ministries Committee: Core Competences for CRCW

Resolution 27

General Assembly adopts the updated URC Core Competencies for Church Related Community Workers.

H3 – Ministries Committee: Pastoral Supervision Policy

Resolution 28

General Assembly adopts the URC Pastoral Supervision Policy.

J1/J2/J3 – Nominations Committee: Report 2023

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

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.

P1 – Law and Polity: Simplifying Processes

Resolution 62

1. General Assembly resolves that, for the avoidance of doubt, any volunteer serving the General Assembly may in principle be treated under the Disciplinary Process for Office-holders.

Resolution 63

General Assembly removes the entirety of section 4 of the Rules of Procedure,

'suspension and removal of volunteers serving at denominational level', as this is no longer needed.

R1 – MIND: Redrafting Section O 5.2

Resolution 64

Change of wording in Section O 5.2

Current wording:

5.2 If the Investigation Team concludes that the allegations against a minister do not amount to a prima facie case, or that even if proven they would not merit formal disciplinary sanctions, the Team will report accordingly to the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline. On receiving such a report the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline must take safeguarding advice, and must then declare the Process and any suspension terminated from that point, save that it may refer the report back to the Team on one occasion for reconsideration.

Proposed wording:

5.2 If the Investigation Team concludes that the allegations against a minister do not amount to a prima facie case, or that even if proven they would not merit formal disciplinary sanctions, the Team will report accordingly to the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline. On receiving such a report, the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline must take safeguarding advice and may refer the report back to the Team on one occasion for reconsideration. It must then send the report to the minister for comment. The ASPD will then consider the report, any response from the minister, and then declare the Process and any suspension terminated from that point.

R2 – MIND: Amendment to Section O Appendix J

Resolution 65

Assembly amends Section O Appendix J by inserting:

A new paragraph 3:

In deciding whether to impose a suspension or not, the Synod Moderator (in cases of urgency), the Assembly Standing Panel on Discipline, or the Assembly Commission for Discipline (as the case may be) must consider:

- i. the nature of the allegations made against the minister and/or any admissions made which, if proven, would indicate that serious misconduct had occurred,**
- ii. any ongoing risks to individuals or to the credibility of the Church's witness,**
- iii. any risk of interference with evidence or witnesses,**
- iv. the length of time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the alleged/admitted misconduct and the conduct of the minister during the intervening period,**
- v. advice from the Safeguarding Officer, and**
- vi. more generally whether it would be reasonable in the particular circumstances of the case to impose a suspension.**

Amendment of existing paragraph 3:

Any decision to suspend a minister must be communicated immediately by the

Moderator making the decision, any member of the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline making the decision, or the Secretary of Assembly Commissions for Discipline if the decision is made by a Commission. It must be accompanied by a brief statement of reasons. Suspension takes effect immediately upon notification by any method. If the decision is initially communicated orally, a note is to be made of the time of the communication, and **a written confirmation notice of suspension** signed by the person notifying the suspension must be delivered to the minister as soon as practical thereafter. **The written notice of suspension must contain the following:**

- i. the reasons for the minister's suspension,**
- ii. that suspension does not imply any view about the correctness of any allegations made concerning the minister**
- iii. that suspension does not affect any stipend or pension arrangements**
- iv. that any conduct on the minister's part during the suspension which breaches or contravenes either Paragraph 4 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union or the Paragraph 4 Part II of Schedule F to the Basis of Union (whichever is relevant) may be taken into account by the Assembly Commission or, in the event of an appeal, by the Appeals Commission.**

Add a new paragraph 4

If, in the opinion of the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline or the Assembly Commission for Discipline, and considering safeguarding advice, it seems wise, a minister may be suspended for only part of their role. (For example, when a minister is in a multi-church pastorate and the alleged misconduct does not impact the other churches or the credibility of the Church's witness.) A clear notice of suspension will be drawn up with the statements outlined in paragraph 3, above, making clear which areas of ministry the minister is suspended from and which areas may continue, and served upon the minister.

And renumbering the remaining paragraphs.

R3 – MIND: Monitoring Cautions and Warnings

Resolution 66

Assembly Amends Section O Appendix M as follows:

Insert new paragraph 10:

When a caution contains steps to be taken to remedy any harm and ensure the admitted misconduct is not repeated, the Ministries Committee will appoint two people to work with the Moderator of the Synod concerned or, in the case of General Assembly posts, the Assembly Representative for Discipline, to monitor compliance with those steps and to refer back to the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline any failure to undertake those steps.

R4 – MIND: Disciplinary Investigation Panel Increase

Resolution 68

Assembly Amends Section O Appendix K to read:

1: The Disciplinary Investigation Panel comprises up to thirty members of the United Reformed Church appointed by the General Assembly or, in its name, by Assembly Executive...

R5 – MIND: Removal of Section P from The Manual

Resolution 69

General Assembly:

- a) abolishes the procedure outlined in Section P of the Manual “Procedure for dealing with cases of incapacity involving ministers or Church-Related Community Workers”
- b) rescinds Resolutions 14 and 15 from the 2007 meeting of the General Assembly and any and all resolutions passed since by Mission Council, Assembly Executive or the General Assembly concerning the content and operation of the Procedure for dealing with cases of incapacity involving ministers or Church-Related Community Workers.
- c) removes the text of Section P Procedure for dealing with cases of incapacity involving ministers or Church-Related Community Workers from the Manual of the United Reformed Church
- d) notes that all references in the Structure to the “Procedure for dealing with cases of incapacity involving ministers or Church-Related Community Workers” are now obsolete and shall be removed.
- (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.

T2 – Safeguarding Committee: Whistleblowing Policy

Resolution 70

General Assembly adopts the Whistleblowing Policy outlined in paper T2 of General Assembly 2023 and commends it to church meetings, Elders’ meetings and Synods for consideration, implementation and dissemination.

X4 – North Western and Mersey Synods: Synod changes

Resolution 77

General Assembly transfers Macclesfield & Bollington United Reformed Church from the North Western Synod into Mersey Synod, and instructs the two Synods to effect this transfer at a date convenient to all parties, and to notify that date to the General Secretary.

Assembly Agreed

Business Committee: Synod Moderator appointments Paper A4

The Assembly Clerk presented Paper A4 and moved Resolution 9:

The Clerk responded to questions, assuring Assembly the nominations process and the opportunity to object to a nomination remain.

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.

Agreed

Business Committee: Mediation and Reconciliation Resource Paper A5

The General Secretary presented Paper A5 and moved Resolution 10:

Resolution 10

General Assembly instructs the Business Committee to consult widely and bring costed proposals for a URC-wide Mediation and Reconciliation Service to Assembly Executive 2024.

Agreed

Finance and Ministries: Stipendiary Ministers Target Numbers Paper G5

The Treasurer, Mr Ian Hardie, presented the Paper and moved Resolutions 24 and 25.

Following discussion and a proposed amendment, Paper G5 and its resolutions were remitted to a Facilitation Group.

Ministries Committee: Extension of Retirement Age Paper H4

The Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Mary Thomas, presented paper H4 and moved Resolution 29:

Resolution 29

General Assembly adopts the updates to the URC Policy for the Extension to Stipendiary Ministerial Service beyond the Normal Retirement Age (formerly Duty to Consider).

Agreed, with some dissent

Mission Committee The Ecumenical Vision Paper I4

Ms Sarah Lane Cawte presented Paper I4, and moved Resolutions 38 and 39:

Resolution 38

General Assembly endorses the measures for ecumenical working and resource sharing outlined in Reinvigorating the Ecumenical Vision of the URC Part 2 and encourages Synods to consider how they might make use of them to assist in addressing the areas of under-resourcing of our ecumenical commitments and in developing new ecumenical relationships.

Agreed

Resolution 39

General Assembly instructs the Ministries Committee to allocate six ministry of Word and Sacraments posts, available to Synods by application and open to all Ministers of Word and Sacraments with a specific call to ecumenical working, and which will not reduce Synod stipendiary ministry deployment targets, to provide ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament in identified local ecumenical contexts, whether existing or new.

The Revd Steve Faber moved an amendment to replace 'reduce' with 'count against'

Seconded by the Revd Geoffrey Clarke.

The amendment was *carried*.

The amended Resolution 39 was put:

Resolution 39

General Assembly instructs the Ministries Committee to allocate six ministry of Word and Sacraments posts, available to Synods by application and open to all Ministers of Word and Sacraments with a specific call to ecumenical working, and which will not count against Synod stipendiary ministry deployment targets, to provide ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament in identified local ecumenical contexts, whether existing or new.

Agreed

yoURChurch

The Moderator greeted the leadership team of yoURChurch. Assembly welcomed yoURChurch with applause into the community of the URC.

New and Jubilee Ministers

The Moderator welcomed new ministers:

Solomon Aryee-Brown - East Midlands Synod
Fliss (Felicity) Barker - Northern Synod
Adam Earle - Eastern Synod
Mark Hayes - Eastern Synod
Kate Hunt - North Western Synod
Nicola Robinson - Yorkshire Synod
Lisa Wilson - North Western
Lesley Thomson - National Synod of Scotland

Assembly gave thanks for Jubilee ministers:

Ordained 1953

Bernard Swain Holt
Howard John
Mark Wilson

Ordained 1963

Brian Alfred Bowyer
J Charles Brock
Valerie Jean Dinning
Geiffrey Chrstopher Dunstan
Richard Henry Hambly
Daphne Hull
Donald Norman Macarthur
James Martin
Ian Norman McPherson
Arnold Christopher Mellor
Peter Cedric Moth
Peter Roland Page
Peter David Scotland
Robert Gerald Scribbins
Paul Robert Smith
Robert John Way
Alan Luther Willcocks

Ordained 1973

William Raymond Pryde Adams
Angus Wilkieson Alan
Elizabeth June Caswell
Kenneth Chippindale
Kah Geh Chong
Malcolm Bernard Clarke
Geoffrey N Collins
Kenneth Brian Charles Fear
Geoffrey Arthur Harmer
John Brian Jenkinson
John Richard Landon
Allen Ross Morton
Gerald Roy Muttram
John Henry Oldershaw
David Holt Roberts
Reginald William Rooke
John Raymond Smith
Bruce Douglas Drew Stuart

The Chaplain offered prayer for those starting out on ordained ministry and those celebrating anniversaries of their ordination.

Session nine**URC Treasure****Vocation and Call**

The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, the Revd Jenny Mills, and Dr Sam Richards gave a presentation on Vocation.

Members of the Equalities Committee presented paper E2 – *Affirming the human dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people* – and moved Resolution 21.

Resolution 21

General Assembly:

- a) affirms the human dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender nonconforming people and asserts their right, within and beyond the URC, to live without threat of violence and hatred.
- b) recognises the church's failure to challenge the norms on which transphobia is built and acknowledges that sometimes it has perpetuated these norms.
- c) commits to furthering the church's understanding of, and pastoral care for transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people in the church, both locally and across the denomination.

The Revd Sally Bateman proposed an amendment: *that the word 'asserts' be changed to 'affirms'*

Seconded by Ms Rebecca Smith

The amendment *fell*

The Resolution was remitted to a Facilitation Group

The General Secretary moved Resolution 54:

General Assembly:

- a) Determines that all Nominations to serve the ongoing work of the General Assembly will be made in accordance with Safer Recruitment policies.**
- b) Instructs the Business Committee, in consultation with the officers of the current Nominations Committee, to appoint a Nominations Committee of six members, reflecting the diversity of the Church. Its Terms of Reference will be:**
 - i. To adopt and keep up to date processes for Nominations, including proformas for application forms, guidance for interviews, and other resources necessary to facilitate the nominations process.**
 - ii. To receive from Committees (on behalf of themselves, or subcommittees, groups, panels, boards or representatives to outside bodies that are accountable to them), and external bodies Role Descriptions and Person Specifications, and to disseminate these widely through a variety of communications approaches and through**

Nominations Advocates, seeking nominations and applications.

iii. To receive from Committees, Groups, Boards and external bodies names of people who have applied, been interviewed, and received appropriate references. To check that appropriate process has been followed, that appointment would recognise appropriate diversity, and when approved, forward names to General Assembly or Assembly Executive to confirm appointment. Committees are responsible for interviewing for any subcommittees or boards/panels that are accountable to them, or representatives to bodies that report to them.

iv. To maintain a list of those available to serve on recruitment processes for General Assembly ministerial or staff appointments and to forward to the General Assembly or the Assembly Executive the names of those appointed or nominated for appointment.

v. To liaise with external bodies with URC representation, so that General Assembly can make appropriate nominations or appointments in accordance with safer recruitment principles

vi. To support and enable Nominations Advocates to effectively disseminate opportunities for service within their networks.

c) Instructs each Synod, URC Youth and the Racial Justice Advocates Network (working with the Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries) to each appoint a 'Nominations Advocate' to be responsible for assisting with the dissemination of opportunities for service within their respective networks.

d) Instructs the Business Committee, in consultation with the Officers of the current Nominations Committee, to bring this new process into being as soon as possible.

e) Recognises the need for staff administrative support for the good functioning of this process and instructs the General Secretariat to enable this.

Agreed

Ms Victoria Turner moved Resolution 55:

General Assembly instructs the Business Committee to appoint an independent external consultant to advise on the range of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work, and a small reference group of three to support their work. The remit should include:

a) Mapping the current work of the General Assembly in the field of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and assessing its effectiveness.

b) Engaging with the work of ecumenical partners and others in the charity sector to ascertain best practice which might inform our work.

- c) Advising on a draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.**
- d) Advising on appropriate structures and mechanisms to enable the delivery of an EDI policy and effective accountability mechanisms.**
- e) The Business Committee should report to General Assembly 2024 on the progress of this work bringing any appropriate resolutions.**

It was noted in discussion that, while it would not be realistic or appropriate in such a small group to include representatives of groups and interests within the URC, the voices of young people, and all interested people would be heard.

Agreed

The Revd Steve Faber moved Resolutions 56 and 57:

Resolution 56

General Assembly renames the Faith and Order Committee the ‘Worship, Faith and Order Committee’ with the following membership:

- a) A Convenor**
- b) The Secretary for Ecumenical Relations**
- c) The Minister for Digital Worship**
- d) Five members appointed by the General Assembly**
- e) The Secretary for Ecumenical Relations or the Minister for Digital worship will normally function as the Secretary for the Committee.**

Resolution 57

General Assembly adopts the following remit for the Worship, Faith and Order Committee:

- a) to address issues of worship, faith and order on behalf of the URC**
- b) to participate in and respond to ecumenical and inter-faith discussions on faith and order issues**
- c) to advise the assembly, its officers and committees on questions of worship, faith and order**
- d) to listen to concerns raised by Local Churches, Synods and individuals and to advise as appropriate**
- e) to publish and disseminate occasional materials relating to worship, faith and order**

f) to act as a sounding board for the Minister for Digital Worship

g) to receive reports from the United Reformed Church Spirituality Group.

General Assembly thanks the members of the Worship Reference Group for their service and dissolves the group from the close of General Assembly 2023.

It was noted in discussion that the Worship, Faith and Order Committee might be encouraged to work, where appropriate, with URC Youth.

The General Secretary withdrew Resolution 58

The Revd Steve Faber moved Resolutions 59, 60, and 61, combined to form a new **Resolution 59.**

Resolution 59

General Assembly agrees in principle to the creation of one Resources Committee to bring together responsibility for the areas currently covered by the Church House Management Group, the Communications Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Human Resource Advisory Group.

General Assembly:

a) agrees the membership of the committee shall be:

- i. A convenor (who may be the Treasurer)**
- ii. The Treasurer (if not the Convenor)**
- iii. The Chief Operating Officer (who will be the Executive Secretary)**
- iv. The Chief Finance Officer**
- v. Five further members, reflecting the diversity of the Church, with collective expertise in the areas of: finance, property, human resources and communications.**

b) instructs the Business Committee to bring full terms of reference for the committee to Assembly Executive 2024 for adoption.

c) invites the Nominations Committee to bring nominations for the new committee to serve from the close of General Assembly 2024 or a later meeting of General Assembly or Assembly Executive.

Agreed

Assembly adjourned for dinner.

The Revd Clare Downing took the Chair

The Convener of the Children's and Youth Committee, the Revd Paul Robinson, presented the report of the Children's and Youth Work Committee, Paper B1, and moved Resolutions 11-13

Resolution 11

1. General Assembly recognises the work of many people in local churches among children, young people and families as ministry, and celebrates the gifts, time and energy that are shared to introduce and journey with children and young people in faith in Jesus. Local churches are warmly encouraged to commission these people to these key ministry roles.

Agreed

Resolution 12

2. General Assembly acknowledges the ministry of Children's, Youth and Family Leaders in local churches and invites Synods to work with the Children's and Youth Work Committee and Ministries Committee to develop appropriate schemes to offer accreditation and recognition of these roles.

Agreed

Resolution 13

3. General Assembly believes there should be a formal ministry of URC Children's, Youth and/or Family Minister and asks the Children's and Youth Work Committee, the Ministries Committee and the Education and Learning Committee to consider what would be needed to introduce such a ministry and bring proposals to General Assembly 2024.

Owing to pressure of time, a decision was deferred until the next session.

The Chaplain led Assembly in prayer and Assembly adjourned at 21.35.