Record of Assembly 2023

The United Reformed Church

The United Reformed Church General Assembly

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Produced by the Communications Team, on behalf of the Business Committee
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A note from the General Secretary:

This year, we have revised the format of the Record of Assembly. It's function is to record the decisions the General Assembly took. To make the Record more useful, the resolutions Assembly agreed are now presented in numerical order, to correspond with the Book of Reports. This hopefully makes it easier to cross-reference the decisions made with the reports Assembly was considering.

Previously, the Record has simply been a printed version of the minutes, which also include information about matters such as when business was remaindered, or the time at which Assembly adjourned each day. The Minutes of the Assembly are all available on the General Assembly website at: **www.bit.ly/generalassemblypapers**

We hope you find the new format helpful.

Yours faithfully,
John P Bradbury

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The United Reformed Church General Assembly

Matters for consideration and action from General Assembly 2023

The list of General Assembly resolutions below are of particular relevance to local churches, Synods and ministers, and should be taken note of and acted upon as appropriate.

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Ministers

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69 Removal of Incapacity Process

Roll of Assembly 2023

The Assembly met through a hybrid arrangement of an in-person meeting at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire and by video conferencing.

Moderator
1. The Revd Fiona Bennett

Clerk
2. The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins

Assistant Clerk
3. The Revd Sarah Moore

General Secretary
4. The Revd Dr John Bradbury

Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)
5. The Revd Adrian Bulley

Deputy General Secretary (Mission)
6. The Revd Philip Brooks

Chief Operating Officer
7. Mrs Victoria James

Moderator-elect of the General Assembly
8. The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

Convenors of General Assembly Standing Committees, except the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee
9. Business Committee – The Revd Mark Robinson
10. Children's and Youth Work Committee – The Revd Paul Robinson
11. Communications Committee – The Revd Dr Peter Stevenson
12. Education and Learning Committee – Mr Alan Yates
13. Equalities Committee – The Revd Jo Clare-Young
14. Faith and Order Committee – The Revd Dr Robert Pope
15. Finance Committee – Mr Ian Hardie (Treasurer)
16. The Deputy Treasurer – Mr Vaughan Griffiths
17. Ministries Committee – The Revd Mary Thomas
18. Mission Committee – Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte
19. Nominations Committee – Mrs Helen Lidgett
20. Safeguarding Committee – The Revd Roger Jones

Convenor of the United Reformed Church Trust
21. Ms Catriona Wheeler

Two most recent former Moderators
22. The Revd Clare Downing

Mr Peter Pay died in office.

Former Moderators (two places)
23. The Revd John Marsh
24. The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch

Resource Centres for Learning
25. Northern College Staff – The Revd Dr Adam Scott
26. Northern College Student – Mrs Carol Clack
27. Scottish College Staff – The Revd Dr John McNeil Scott
28. Scottish College Student – Mr David Townsend
29. Westminster College Staff – The Revd Peter Ball
30. Westminster College Student – Miss Abigail Perrow

United Reformed Church Youth (three places)
31. Youth Assembly Moderator – Miss Philippa Osei
32. Youth Assembly Moderator Elect – Miss Heather Moore
33. Youth Assembly GA/AE rep – Miss Laura Everard

United Reformed Church Chaplain to HM Forces (one place)
34. Vacant

Northern Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
35. The Synod Moderator – The Revd David Herbert
36. The Synod Clerk – The Revd Dr Trevor Jamison
37. The Revd Kim Plumpton
38. The Revd Sally Bateman
39. The Revd Philip Gray
40. The Revd David Grosch-Miller
41. The Revd Joan Grindrod Helmn
42. Ms Lisa McAvoy
43. Mr Sean Bell*
44. Mrs Sheila Duncan
45. Mr Willie Duncan
46. Dr Donna Moore
47. Mrs Pippa Hodgson+ ^
48. Vacant
49. Vacant
50. Vacant

North Western Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
51. The Synod Clerk – Mr Tim Hopley
52. The Revd Michael Aspinall
53. The Revd Martyn Coe
54. The Revd Jonnie Hill
55. The Revd Sheila Coop
56. The Revd Mike Walsh
57. The Revd Ruth Watson
58. The Revd Lisa Wilson
59. The Revd Martin Whiffen

60. Mrs Fozia Aftab
61. Mrs Barbara Aspinall
62. Ms Elizabeth Hall
63. Mr Aftab Mughal
64. Mr John Skipworth
65. Mr Damian Tipler*
66. Miss Jadan Turner*

Mersey Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
67. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Geoff Felton
68. The Synod Clerk – Ms Rita Griffiths
69. The Revd Murray George
70. The Revd Dr Nick Jones
71. The Revd Ronald Reid
72. The Revd Ruth Wilson
73. Mrs Patricia Cansfield
74. Mrs Hazel Davies
75. Mrs Barbara Ellis
76. Mr Paul Franklin
77. Ms Emma Jackson*
78. Ms Patricia Reilly
79. Ms Charlotte Samson*
80. Mrs Jean Taylor
81. Dr Ruth Winterburn
82. Vacant

Yorkshire Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
83. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Jamie Kissack
84. The Synod Clerk – Mr Tim Crossley
85. The Revd Fran Kissak
86. The Revd Steven Knapton
87. The Revd Zaidie Orr
88. The Revd Dr Nicola Robinson
89. Miss Katherine Buckland
90. Mrs Gillian Chapman
91. Mrs Margaret Knapton
92. Mr Dan Morrell
93. Mr Daniel Raddings*
94. Miss Lydia Raddings*
95. Mrs Teresa Raddings
96. Mrs Clare Westgarth
97. Ms Megan Westgarth*
98. Vacant

East Midlands Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).

99. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Geoffrey Clarke
100. The Synod Treasurer – Mr David Greatorex
101. The Revd Ruth Allen
102. The Revd Solomon Aryee-Brown
103. The Revd Clare Davison
104. The Revd Craig Muir
105. The Revd Professor Stephen Orchard
106. The Revd Jane Wade
107. Mr Luke Framji
108. Mr Derek Graham
109. Mr Charles Leggat*
110. Mrs Ann Luckett
111. Mrs Barbara Moses
112. Mrs Isabel Plaatjies
113. Miss Rebecca Smith*
114. Mrs Ruth Tompsett

West Midlands Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).

115. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Steve Faber
116. The Synod Clerk – Mrs Rachel Wakeman
117. The Synod Treasurer – Mr Steve Powell
118. The Revd Debbie Brown
119. The Revd James Hamilton
120. The Revd Andrew Mann-Ray
121. The Revd Graham Sweeney
122. The Revd Chris Watson
123. Mr John Fletcher
124. Mrs Julie Jefferies
125. Ms Kirsty Mabbott
126. Mr Mervyn Davies ^
127. Miss Kati Waynes
128. The Revd Tim Meadows+
129. Vacant
130. Vacant

Eastern Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).

131. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Lythan Nevard
132. The Synod Clerk – The Revd David Coaker
133. The Synod Treasurer – Mr Gilbert Heathcote
134. The Revd Dr Catherine Ball
135. The Revd Adam Earle
136. The Revd Sohail Ejaz
137. The Revd Mark Hayes
138. The Revd Joshua Norris

139. The Revd Anne Sardeson
140. The Revd Dr Janet Tollington
141. The Revd Nigel Uden
142. Mrs Claire Coster
143. Miss Chloe Elmer*
144. Mr Richard Lewney
145. Mrs Joan Smith
146. Mr Brandon Stein*

South Western Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
147. The Synod Clerk – Mrs Rachel Leach
148. The Synod Treasurer – The Revd Richard Gray
149. The Revd Dougie Burnett
150. The Revd Aiyana Gardner-Houghton
151. The Revd Tracey Lewis
152. The Revd Dr Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde
153. The Revd Stephen Newell
154. The Revd Jayne Taylor
155. The Revd Neil Thorogood
156. Mrs Janet Gray
157. Mr Alex Mabbott
158. Mr Paul Winter
159. Ms Marie Trubic
160. Vacant
161. Vacant
162. Vacant

Wessex Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
163. The Synod Clerk – Miss Karen Bell
164. The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo
165. The Revd Tim Clarke
166. The Revd Wayne Hawkins
167. The Revd Glyn Millington
168. The Revd Wilbert Sayimani
169. The Revd Wendy White
170. Mrs Jill Abrahams
171. Mrs Sheilagh Courtnage
172. Mr George Faris
173. Mrs Linda Jackson
174. Mr David North
175. Ms Pat Oliver
176. Mr Clive Snashall
177. Miss Maya Withall*
178. Miss Eden Withall*

Thames North Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).

179. The Synod Moderator – The Revd George Watt
180. The Synod Clerk – Ms Nneoma Chima
181. The Revd Margaret Ali
182. The Revd Brian Buschkill
183. The Revd Yufen Chen
184. The Revd Dominic Grant
185. The Revd John Hardakar
186. The Revd John Macaulay
187. The Revd Noble Samuel
188. The Revd Sally Thomas
189. Ms Hilda Darkwah
190. Mrs Jane Fredjohn
191. Mr Peter Knowles
192. Mrs Muna Levan-Harris ^
193. Ms Aaliyah Stewart*
194. Vacant

Southern Synod
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).

195. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Bridget Banks
196. The Synod Clerk – The Revd Russell Furley-Smith
197. The Synod Treasurer – Mr John Denison
198. The Revd Ruth Armstrong
199. The Revd John Grundy
200. The Revd Dr George Kalu
201. The Revd Martin Knight
202. The Revd Nadene Snyman
203. Mrs Rita Brown
204. Dr Joyce Edeki
205. Mrs Nnenna Kalu
206. Mr Alan Kirby
207. Miss Mercy Nimako
208. Miss Zara Shahbaz*
209. Mr Zeerak Shahbaz*
210. Miss Pamela Tolhurst

National Synod of Wales
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).

211. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Simon Walkling
212. The Synod Clerk – Ms Megan Price
213. The Synod Treasurer – Mr Chris Atherton
214. The Revd John Hayton
215. The Revd Stella Hayton
216. The Revd Martha McInnes
217. The Revd Branwen Rees
218. The Revd David Salsbury

219. Mrs Bethan Trott
220. Miss Joanna Harris*
221. Mr Mike Ricketts Hein
222. Miss Ore Kassim*
223. Ms Maggie Kirkbride
224. Mx Isla Munnik*
225. Mrs Kate Wolsey
226. Vacant

National Synod of Scotland
(16 places – at least five of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least five of which shall be Elders or "lay". Any two within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment).
227. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Paul Whittle
228. The Synod Clerk – The Revd Jan Adamson
229. The Revd Stewart Cutler ^
230. The Revd Susan Henderson
231. Mrs Margaret Fairgrieve
232. The Revd Nick Mark
233. The Revd Helen Mee
234. Dr Ewen Harley
235. Ms Morag McLintock
236. Mr Duncan Walker ^
237. Miss Myra Rose
238. Mrs Lesley Thomson
239. Miss Victoria Turner
240. Vacant
241. Vacant
242. Vacant

British and Irish Ecumenical representatives (five places)
243. The Rt Revd Sally Foster-Fulton (Church of Scotland)
244. Mr Christopher Webb (Church of England)
245. The Revd Dr Reynaldo F Leão-Neto (Methodist Church in Britain)
246. Dr Nicola Brady (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)
247. Dr Anna Krauss (Council of Lutheran Churches)

International Ecumenical representatives (five places)
248. Pfarrer Martin Henninger (Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz)
249. The Revd Najla Kassab ^ (The World Communion of Reformed Churches)
250. The Revd Dr Gordon Cowans ^ (The United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands)
251. The Revd Bohyun Kim ^ (The Presbyterian Church of Korea)
252. Mrs Nancy Lin^ (The Presybyerian Church of Taiwan)

Council for World Mission (one place)
253. The Revd Dr Graham McGeoch

*indicates those Synod representatives aged 25 or under at the time of their appointment.

+indicates those appointed to a vacant place from another Synod under Rule 1.5.

^indicates those attending online.

Business of General Assembly

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.

Agreed.

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.

Agreed.

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.

Agreed.

A3 – Business Committee: General Assembly and URC Trust

Resolution 4

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.

Agreed.

Resolution 5

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.

Agreed.

Resolution 6

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.

Agreed.

Resolution 7

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.

Agreed.

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.

Agreed.

A4 – Business Committee: Synod Moderator appointments

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.

A5 –Business Committee: Mediation and Reconciliation Resource

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.

B1 – Children's and Youth Work Committee: Recognition of children's, youth and family ministry

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

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

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.

The Revd Paul Robinson brought an amendment to resolution 13, that 'believes', be replaced with 'is minded that', which was accepted. He then moved the resolution.

Resolution 13

General Assembly is minded that 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.

Agreed.

It was noted that the Worship, Faith and Order Committee would also need to be involved in such a consultation if a formal ministry were to be proposed.

C1 – Communications Committee: Communications Strategy

The Revd Dr Peter Stevenson, Convenor of the Communications Committee, presented papers C1-C5, and invited Assembly to discuss the paper in informal groups.

Mr Stevenson moved resolutions 14-19:

Resolution 14

General Assembly adopts the Communications Strategy, and instructs the Communications Committee and Communications Team to:

- **undertake a research project to build a communications profile of each local church and Synod**
- **to produce a series of easy-to-use, time saving toolkits to help churches to communicate more effectively**
- **to create a network of Communications Advocates in each Synod who can be an informal link between the Communications Team, resources available, and local churches and the synods**
- **share the new Design and Digital Visual Identity Guide.**

Agreed.

Resolution 15

General Assembly requests that the URC website, www.urc.org.uk, be the website on which all Assembly-approved work is hosted, making searching for URC resources and information easier. General Assembly tasks the Communications Committee and the Communications Team to work with those hosting URC websites outside of the URC's domain to consolidate those websites into the URC's website by General Assembly 2025.

Agreed.

Resolution 16

General Assembly urges all churches without a website, or with a website that has been inactive for more than six months, to use iChurch to engage digitally with all those who are interested in attending worship or activities taking place in church buildings.

Agreed.

Resolution 17

General Assembly strongly encourages the United Reformed Church at all levels and in all teams to use the revised Design and Digital Visual Identity to ensure quality and consistency across the work of the denomination.

Agreed.

Resolution 18

General Assembly urges everyone connected to the Church to read *Reform*, the magazine of the URC, either in print or digitally.

Agreed.

Resolution 19

The United Reformed Church thanks all who helped with the Church's 50th anniversary.

Agreed.

The Assembly Clerk moved the following resolution en bloc:

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.

Agreed.

E2 – Equalities Committee: Affirming the human dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people

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.

The facilitation proposed an amended resolution 21:

Resolution 21

General Assembly:

a) affirms the human dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people and asserts their right, within and beyond the URC, to live without threat of violence and hatred;

b) 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 and requests the Equalities Committee to facilitate this;

c) recognises the Church's failure to challenge the assumptions and patterns of behaviour which lead to transphobia* and acknowledges that Church sometimes perpetuates these patterns;

d) supports the right of all to receive affirming non-directive support and healthcare, and to express their sexuality, gender and identity without coercion or the fear thereof.

*In this instance we define transphobia according to the Crown Prosecution Service definition as “any incident / criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender”.

The General Secretary agreed to ensure that the Equalities Committee would undertake to do work on de-transitioning.

Assembly agreed that the asterisk and footnote be deleted.

At the Moderator’s suggestion, Assembly agreed to address and decide upon each clause as a separate resolution.

Resolution 21a

General Assembly affirms the human dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people and asserts their right, within and beyond the URC, to live without threat of violence and hatred;

Agreed.

Resolution 21b

General Assembly 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 and requests the Equalities Committee to facilitate this;

Agreed.

Resolution 21c

General Assembly recognises the Church’s failure to challenge the assumptions and patterns of behaviour which lead to transphobia and acknowledges that Church sometimes perpetuates these patterns;

Agreed, with dissent registered by the Revd Geoff Felton.

Resolution 21d

General Assembly supports the right of all to receive affirming non-directive support and healthcare, and to express their sexuality, gender and identity without coercion or the fear thereof.

Agreed, with dissent registered by the Revd Geoff Felton.

En bloc resolutions

The Assembly Clerk moved the following resolutions en bloc:

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.

Agreed.

G3 – Finance Committee: Retired Ministers Benevolent Fund

Resolution 23

The Treasurer sought the permission of the General Assembly to withdraw the resolution, which was agreed, and agreed to undertake the consultation suggested in the resolution by correspondence.

Agreed.

G5 – Finance and Ministries: Stipendiary Ministers Target Numbers

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.

G5 – Facilitation Group

The Facilitation Group moved resolution 24a:

Resolution 24a

General Assembly encourages Synods not currently supporting the M&M Fund from Synod resources to do so, as they are able, and those already giving such support to consider increasing that amount.

Agreed.

The Treasurer, Mr Ian Hardie proposed resolutions 24 and 25:

Resolution 24

General Assembly resolves that going forward the target number of stipendiary ministers should be set so that the direct cost of supporting the ministry from the Assembly budget moves in line with the most recent changes in M&M giving, which are known before the start of each relevant year.

Resolution 25

Recognising that further work is required to ensure this policy is introduced at an appropriate time and in a way which is workable for Ministries Committee's planning purposes, General Assembly directs that the disregard of the 2012 policy by the Finance Committee and URC Trust in preparing the 2023 budget should be extended to apply also to the 2024 budget with firm proposals for the date of introduction of the new

policy and details of its implementation being brought for consideration by the 2024 General Assembly.

Agreed.

The Assembly Clerk moved the following resolutions en bloc:

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.

Agreed.

H2 – Ministries Committee: Core Competences for CRCW

Resolution 27

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

Agreed.

H3 – Ministries Committee: Pastoral Supervision Policy

Resolution 28

General Assembly adopts the URC Pastoral Supervision Policy.

Agreed.

H4 – Ministries Committee: Extension of Retirement Age

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.

H5 – Ministries Committee: Withdrawal of Call

The Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Mary Thomas, presented paper H5 and moved resolution 30:

Following discussion, the proposers withdrew paragraphs 4.10 and 4.11 of the policy.

The Committee agreed to an amendment proposed by the Revd Nigel Uden, and seconded by a number of members of Assembly:

Add the words: 'and instructs the Ministries Committee to bring a revised policy to General Assembly 2024.' The amended resolution was put:

Resolution 30

General Assembly adopts the URC Withdrawal of Call Policy and Procedure, and instructs the ministries Committee to bring a revised policy to General Assembly 2024.

Agreed.

I2 – Mission Committee: Poverty and Inequality in the UK

The Secretary for Church and Society, Mr Simeon Mitchell, presented Paper I2, and Ms Sarah Lane Cawte moved resolution 31:

Resolution 31

Victoria Turner proposed an amendment: to section b adding the words, challenges the stigmatisation and discrimination shown towards those in poverty in the UK.

A number of members seconded the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

The amended resolution 31 was put:

In response to the Gospel call to challenge poverty and structures that cause marginalisation, General Assembly:

a) expresses its deep concern at the rising levels of poverty in the UK over the last 15 years, recognising that in a wealthy economy such as the UK, poverty is not inevitable but a result of political choices and systemic injustices

b) calls upon political leaders to make a commitment to work towards the eradication of structural poverty in the UK, challenges the stigmatisation and discrimination shown towards those in poverty in the UK, and encourages churches and church members to raise these issues with candidates in the lead-up to the next General Election

c) asks the Mission and Ministries Committees and the synods to reflect on how the Church could better demonstrate its commitment to people experiencing poverty and marginalisation in allocating resources for ministry and mission, and bring proposals, if appropriate, to a future General Assembly.

Agreed.

I3 – Mission Committee: Legacies of Slavery

Ms Sarah Lane Cawte presented Paper I3, and moved resolutions 32-35:

The Moderator proposed that the resolutions 32-35 be addressed as a group.

Agreed.

Resolution 32

General Assembly resolves that anti-racism training should become mandatory for specific groups and individuals who occupy positions of leadership and influence within the URC. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Officers of the General Assembly**
- **The General Secretariat**
- **Staff Secretaries**
- **Assembly Committee Convenors and Secretaries**
- **Synod Moderators**
- **Synod Clerks**
- **Members of the Panel for General Assembly appointments**
- **Members of the Assessment board**
- **The Assembly Standing Panel on Discipline**
- **The Disciplinary Investigation Panel**
- **The Commission Panel**
- **The Disciplinary Appeals Commission List**
- **The CYDO+ Team**
- **Synod Racial Justice Coordinators and Advocates (RJAs)**
- **Active Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers (Categories 1, 2, 5 and 8 as defined in the Active Ministers Policy, Paper H5 Assembly Executive 2021)**
- **Members of Assembly Committees and Advisory Groups**
- **Training and Development Officers (TD+ Network)**
- **Synod Mission Enablers.**

Resolution 33

General Assembly asks the Legacies of Slavery Task Group to work with the Ministries and Education and Learning Departments to explore how and when anti-racism training can be rolled out more widely in the URC, particularly to include those roles defined as URC Office holders.

Resolution 34

General Assembly endorses the schedule and timetable of mandatory anti-racism training outlined in the Legacies of Slavery Task Group report and agrees an initial budget of up to £20,000 to meet the cost of training sessions and related expenses up to General Assembly 2024.

Resolution 35

General Assembly recognises that further funds will be required as the anti-racism training is rolled out more widely, and asks the Legacies of Slavery Task Group to bring updated costings to General Assembly 2024 informed by the actual costs incurred in delivering the early stages of the training.

Following discussion, during which Assembly's agreement was noted that this matter is 'vital, urgent and needs work fast', resolutions 32-35 were put to the vote together.

Agreed.

Resolutions 36 and 37 were put:

Resolution 36

General Assembly endorses the work of the Legacies of Slavery Task Group, the direction of travel outlined in the task group's report, and asks the task group to continue its exploration of regional and global proposals, aiming to bring costed proposals to General Assembly 2024.

Agreed.

Resolution 37

General Assembly asks Mission Committee to maintain the existence of a Legacies of Slavery Task Group to steer the future work as outlined in the task group report.

Agreed.

I4 – Mission Committee: The Ecumenical Vision

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

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:

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.

The Clerk moved resolutions 40-42 en bloc.

J1/J2/J3 – Nominations Committee: Report 2023

Resolution 40

General Assembly offers profound thanks to Mr Ian Hardie for his work as URC Treasurer over the past six years.

Agreed.

Resolution 41

General Assembly appoints Mr Alan Yates to serve as URC Treasurer from General Assembly 2023 to General Assembly 2029.

Agreed.

Resolution 42

General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out in paragraph 9 of paper J1 of Assembly 2023, subject to the additions and corrections contained in supplementary reports to Assembly papers J2 and J3 and on the Order Papers.

Agreed.

N1 – Church Life Review

Ms Victoria Turner moved resolution 43:

Resolution 43

General Assembly commends the five reflections on the theology of money to the whole United Reformed Church and its associated Charities and Trust Companies for prayer, reflection, and study.

Agreed.

Ms Turner moved resolution 44:

Resolution 44

General Assembly commends the Theos report, The United Reformed Church: A Paradoxical Church at a Crossroads, to local churches and Synods for prayer, study, and reflection.

Agreed.

The Revd Steve Faber moved resolution 45:

Resolution 45

General Assembly commends to Synods and local churches the resource 'Flourishing Churches' for prayer, study, reflection and action.

Agreed.

The General Secretary moved resolution 46:

Resolution 46

General Assembly affirms the vital role of Synods in connecting, affirming, and resourcing local churches.

Agreed.

The Revd Steve Faber moved resolution 47:

Resolution 47

The Revd Craig Muir proposed an amendment that at Principles a) the words after 'effectively' be deleted. A number of members indicated their willingness to second.

The amendment was agreed.

General Assembly adopts the following Values and Principles as the basis for future decision making concerning the use and sharing of financial resources across Synods and the General Assembly:

Values:

a) As the United Reformed Church, we value conciliar decision making where we:

- **listen to each other, and the urgings of the Holy Spirit**
- **act with humility**
- **act with grace and generosity**
- **seek to consider the good of all God's people, fostering obedience to the Gospel and furthering justice and climate care, rather than narrow self interest**

b) We believe that transparency about our decision making helps us be accountable to each other, and to God, whose mission we seek to serve.

c) We will use the charitable funds at our disposal lawfully and ensure the activity carried out with them is compliant.

Principles:

a) We seek to use our resources effectively

b) We look to be efficient, as part of our commitment to good stewardship.

c) We will take considered risks for the Kingdom.

d) We prioritise partnership within and beyond the United Reformed Church.

e) We value local diversity within the family of the United Reformed Church, rather than constraining uniformity.

Agreed.

The Revd Steve Faber moved resolution 48:

Resolution 48

Mr George Faris proposed an amendment to add the word 'ideally' to the final paragraph before 'to General Assembly 2024'. The amendment was accepted by the proposer, and put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

General Assembly believes God is calling us to financial resource sharing across the United Reformed Church in accordance with the values and principles it has adopted. It empowers the Business Committee, in consultation with the Nominations Committee, to appoint a task group to:

a) Develop a range of different models of resource sharing.

b) To carry out detailed feasibility work for each model.

c) To determine what structural or legal changes might be necessary to enable each model to function.

d) To evaluate each model against the values and principles General Assembly has adopted.

e) To report back, ideally to General Assembly 2024.

Agreed.

The General Secretary moved resolution 49:

Mr George Faris proposed an amendment to add the word 'ideally' to the final paragraph before 'to General Assembly 2024'. The amendment was accepted by the proposer, and put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Resolution 49

General Assembly empowers the Business Committee, in consultation with the Nominations Committee, to set up a task group to explore ways in which, in accordance with the values and principles adopted, the wider Councils of the United Reformed Church might offer consistent, locally accessible, support functions for local churches in areas including (but not exclusively):

- **finance**
- **property**
- **health and safety**
- **human resources**
- **safeguarding**

It asks the task group to bring a model, or models, ideally to General Assembly 2024, with feasibility studies and costings.

Agreed.

The General Secretary moved resolution 50:

Resolution 50

General Assembly invites the General Secretariat and PLATO to re-establish the PLATO handbook (or equivalent), providing a central online resource of advice and pro formas for trust, property, financial and related matters for local congregations, to be available online at the latest by General Assembly 2025.

Agreed.

Miss Victoria Turner moved resolution 51:

Resolution 51

General Assembly empowers the Business Committee, in consultation with the Nominations Committee, to set up a working group to examine:

a) What models of employed lay work can be effective within local churches;

b) What infrastructure is necessary to be provided by the wider Church to support employed lay ministry work in local churches.

Agreed.

Resolution 51a

General Assembly asks the Mission and Discipleship Departments to look at how mission, evangelism and ministry which would lead to the emergence of new United Reformed Church communities of discipleship and worship might be encouraged and resourced.

Agreed.

N1/N2a – Church Life Review Group

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

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.

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.

N2 – Church Life Review Group

The General Secretary moved resolution 54:

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:

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.

Resolutions 56 and 57 were agreed.

Resolution 58

The General Secretary withdrew resolution 58.

The Revd Steve Faber moved resolutions 59, 60, and 61, combined to form a new resolution 59.

Resolutions 60 and 61 became part of a composite 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:

- **A convenor (who may be the Treasurer)**
- **The Treasurer (if not the Convenor)**
- **The Chief Operating Officer (who will be the Executive Secretary)**
- **The Chief Finance Officer.**

b) Five further members, reflecting the diversity of the Church, with collective expertise in the areas of: finance, property, human resources and communications.

c) 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.

The Clerk introduced resolutions 62-70 en bloc.

P1 – Law and Polity: Simplifying Processes

Resolution 62

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.

Agreed.

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.

Agreed.

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 (ASPD). 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.

Agreed.

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 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 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.

Agreed.

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.

Agreed.

Resolution 67

Assembly Amends Section O Appendix S as follows:

Insert new paragraph 3 and renumber:
When a warning contains directions 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 directions and to refer back to the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline any failure to abide by them.

Insert a new paragraph 8 and renumber:
When directions are issued along with a curtailment, 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 directions and to refer back to the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline any failure to abide by them.

Agreed.

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…

Agreed.

R5 – MIND: Removal of Section P from The Manual of the United Reformed Church

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.

Agreed.

X1 – East Midlands Synod: 2023 Resolutions for Ukraine

Mr Derek Graham, on behalf of the East Midlands Synod, presented paper X1, and moved resolution 71:

Resolution 71

a) Out of its concern for its brothers and sisters in the Churches in Ukraine which are members with us in the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (the United Methodist Church in Ukraine, the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine and in particular the Transcarpathian Reformed Church, the Reformed Church ofUkraine), the United Reformed Church sends greetings to the respective Conference and Synods of the three Churches.

b) 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.

Following discussion, Assembly agreed.

X2 – North Western Synod: YoURChurch

The Revd Fran Kissack, presented Paper X2, and moved resolution 72:

Resolution 72

General Assembly receives the online congregation YoURChurch as a local church of the URC, and commits to continuing further work on the issues of Church Membership.

Agreed.

X3 – North Western Synod: Illegal Migration Bill

Mr John Skipworth, on behalf of the North Western Synod, moved resolutions 73-76.

After discussion, the resolutions were remitted to a Facilitation Group.

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

Resolution 73

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.

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.

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.

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.

Agreed.

The Clerk moved the following resolution en bloc.

X5 – South Western Synod: Bristol Korean Church becoming a local United Reformed Church

The Revd Dougie Burnett, on behalf of the South Western Synod, moved resolution 78:

Resolution 78

General Assembly receives The Bristol Korean Church as a local church of the United Reformed Church.

Agreed.

Resolution 79

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

Agreed.

Resolution 80

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

Agreed.

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.

Agreed.

The Revd Nigel Uden, on behalf of the Nominating Group, moved resolutions 82 and 83:

Resolution 82

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.

Agreed.

Resolution 83

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.

Agreed.

The Revd Adrian Bulley, Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship, introduced resolution 84.

Resolution 84

General Assembly appoints the Revd Lindsey Sanderson to be Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2031.

Election of Moderator of the General Assembly 2024-25

The Revd Timothy Meadows was duly elected as Moderator of the General Assembly 2024-25.

Ministers and Church Related Community Workers

Marjorie Ayton
Arthur Baker
Peter Ward Beaman MBE
Peter David Bellamy
David Bending
David Bernard Brown
Gillian Brown
Emily Constance Browne
Betty Reta Chadwick
Jessie Clare
Christina Margaret Copley
Stanley Crane
Harold Dixon
Angus William Duncan
Michael Lindsay Forster
John Ewart Francis
Norman George
Derek Gill
William Graham
Alan Johnson
Anthony James Lawford Jones
Pamela Constance Lewis
Thomas Lowe
Janet Loveitt
Roderick MacFarlane
Alexander Mailer
Nina Mead
Gordon Palmer
Charles E L Price
Eric Rippingham
Susan Elizabeth Roberts
Alan Smith
Marion Joyce Thomas
Margaret Tilley
Brian David Treharne
Aileen D Walker
John Donald Waller
Douglas Greig Watson
Mark George Westerman
Richard Johnson Wiggins
Jean Sydney Wilkinson
Donald Trevor Woffenden
Peter Wright
Joyce Eleanor Yates
Jennifer Yule

Rosemary Buxton (CRCW)

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 Synod

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
Geoffrey Christopher 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

Address to the throne

The Revd Clare Downing read the Address to the Throne, and the Assembly agreed that it be sent to the King:

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty:

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, meeting in Derbyshire, sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the first time that the General Assembly has met since your Accession to the Throne and Coronation. We assure you of our prayers as you undertake your new role and responsibilities. We value the historic right to make an Address to the Throne, and its recognition of this nation's tradition of religious tolerance. Since becoming King, you have spoken of the importance of freedom of religion and belief, and pledged to protect the diversity of our country and the space for faith in our national life. We welcome and affirm you in this commitment.

Many around the world do not enjoy this freedom. A record number of people have been forced to flee their homes to escape a fear of persecution because of what they believe or who they are, or because of conflict. The recent sinking of a boat of migrants in the Mediterranean with the loss of hundreds of lives was a tragic reminder of the vulnerable situations faced by many refugees. In this context, the General Assembly expressed its deep concern about current proposals from Your Majesty's Government to prevent people from seeking asylum in the UK, as contrary to our commitment to protecting human rights. When the Illegal Migration Bill was introduced to parliament, the Moderator of General Assembly joined other Church leaders to observe that "If ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring our neighbour and walking by on the other side, this is it."

The call to love and serve our neighbours, locally and globally, is central to our understanding of what it is to be church. The General Assembly reflected on how to live out that calling in an ever-changing society as it discussed the results of a wide-ranging review of church life. It also considered the particular struggles that many in our communities are currently facing as a result of the rising cost of living and deepening levels of poverty in the UK. We are shamed and angered that despite our national wealth, unprecedented numbers have needed to use food banks and warm spaces over the last year. The General Assembly called upon political leaders to make tackling poverty a greater priority.

As you repeatedly argued as Prince of Wales in recent years, the scale and nature of the challenges of economic inequalities and the climate emergency highlight the need for a paradigm shift in our economic system. In the sermon at your Coronation service, as the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke about the transformative Kingdom that Jesus Christ announced, he pointed out that "the privilege of power brings a duty to serve". This applies to systems as much as it does to individuals. At a time when our economy holds such power over people's lives and the life of the planet, it is vital that it serves and enables the flourishing of all life. That life of service is, of course, one to which you committed yourself at your Coronation, following the example of Jesus.

As those who know the same calling upon our lives, we pray that the God who is love will strengthen, sustain and guide Your Majesty throughout your reign.

Report of an Appeal to the General Assembly

by the Revd Dr JunSoo Park, against a decision of the Ministries Committee

1. The Revd Dr JunSoo Park appealed against the decision of the Ministries Committee withdrawing his Certificate of Eligibility.

2. The appeal followed the procedure laid down under the Structure of the United Reformed Church paragraph 5 and the Rules of Procedure paragraph 9.

3. The officers of the Assembly appointed the following to serve as members of the Commission. Neither the appellant, nor the Ministries Committee, objected to any of the names:
   Mr Alan Yates, former Moderator of General Assembly, to convene the Commission
   Ms Nneoma Chima, Clerk of Thames North Synod
   Ms Hilda Darkwah, Thames North Synod
   The Revd Mark Robinson, Convener of the Business Committee
   The Revd Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of the South Western Synod.

4. The Clerk of the Assembly was present to advise both the Commission and the two parties, to facilitate the process, record the decision, and prepare the report for Assembly.
   Mr Damian Tipler, a member of URC Youth, was present to provide technical support.

5. The Revd Dr JunSoo Park was accompanied by Mr Richard Roberts. The Ministries Committee was represented by the Secretary, The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, and The Revd Andy Braunston another member of the Discipleship staff team.

6. Papers, submitted by both parties, were circulated in advance. A further paper submitted by the Appellant had been circulated the day before.

7. The hearing took place by video conference, on 24 February 2023. The Commission began at 9.30am and completed its business at 14.15pm. The Commission began with the Convener explaining the process, including the fact that the panel was acting on behalf of the General Assembly and there was no right of appeal against the decision, and that the decision would be sent in writing within seven days. The Convener led those present in prayer.

8. Mr Roberts presented Dr Park's case, and members of the Commission asked questions.

9. Mrs Furley-Smith and Mr Braunston presented the response of the Ministries Committee, and members of the Commission asked questions.

10. The Convener thanked the parties for their time and submissions. The parties were asked to leave, while the panel considered the submissions of the parties.

11. The panel were aware of the seriousness of the matter under discussion, and gave full consideration to everything that they had read and heard. The panel determined that additional evidence provided by the Ministries Committee was not directly relevant to the question in hand, which was whether or not the correct decision had been reached at the meeting of the Accreditation sub-committee on 1 December, with the information available to it at the time in considering whether to withdraw the appellant's Certificate of Eligibility

or not. It is clear that some processes were imperfect, but the panel saw no evidence to suggest that any process was inadequate or undermined, and therefore any imperfections do not amount to any procedural unfairness. The validity of a report put to the Accreditation sub-committee, and upon which they based their decision, was accepted. On a balance of probabilities, the panel did not accept that there had been any failure to obtain evidence, nor to take full account of all the evidence and important facts. Likewise, the panel did not accept that imperfections of process or communication changed the facts under consideration. The report presented to the Accreditation sub-committee set out facts, and the committee made a decision based upon those facts, the response from the appellant, and the committee's interview with the appellant. The panel finds that this was not pre-determined because the evidence shows that the Accreditation sub-committee only reached a decision once it had the report, the response, and the interview. It was suggested to the panel that the appellant's actions were following advice received from another minister, however this was uncorroborated and the panel were unable to rely on this.

The panel finds that the allegation of a failure to take into account cultural and linguistic factors is not agreed. This is because the panel decided that the problems shown were behavioural, rather than cultural. The appellant had been living in the UK for some years, and obtained advanced qualifications using English. Furthermore, the notes from the meeting of the Accreditation sub-committee meeting showed advanced linguistic interaction and understanding.

The panel is not able to support the suggestion that removing the Certificate of Eligibility is an "excessive sanction". The term "sanction" implies both a process and also that there were a range of possible decisions which the Accreditation sub-committee could have chosen. Neither of those were true or possible. At the meeting of the Accreditation sub-committee, they had before them the outcomes of a report, reflections from the appellant, and their own interview with him. The choice they faced was a binary one of whether to stick to their original decision to issue a Certificate of Eligibility or to change their mind and revoke the Certificate of Eligibility.

The panel acknowledged all the evidence provided by both parties in supplement to that available to the Accreditation sub-committee, but has determined that this would not have affected its decision.

As such, the Appeal is dismissed. As a decision on behalf of the General Assembly, there is no further right of appeal, and church process is now at an end.

12. The Convener closed the meeting in prayer.

24 February 2023

Church closures

Northern Synod

Blyth United Reformed Church

A communion plate indicates that the church at Blyth existed prior to 1777. The earliest records suggest the church began as a Protestant reformatory congregation under the leadership of the Revd David Craig, schoolmaster and minister. Blyth was booming and the growing congregation soon built its first meeting house, Ebenezer Chapel, in Church Street. However, the church split over whether to join the newer Presbyterian Church in England. Those who joined were energised by the ministry of the Revd John Reid. The congregation quadrupled and the foundation stone of the new building was laid in 1874. Work was completed in 1876, at a total cost of £5,000.

In 1973, Blyth Presbyterian Church became part of the United Reformed Church and flourished for many years. However, in 2007 it became very clear that, due to the age of the building and a dwindling elderly congregation, it would not be possible to keep the premises. It was agreed with the minister, the Revd Yvonne Tracey, to take up the kind offer of some rooms in St Wilfrid's Catholic Church. This was an emotional and challenging time, but the congregation soon settled in and continued worshipping as Blyth URC.

Following the pandemic, it became clear that Blyth URC could no longer continue as a church. Although only a peppercorn rent was paid to St Wilfrid's, with very little money in the bank, it was with heavy hearts that the decision was made to close on 18 December 2022. It is hoped that the small, elderly congregation will be able to continue to worship together as it continues on its journey to find a new spiritual home.

North Western Synod

Halton United Reformed Church

In 1866, in order to restrain the Sabbath-breaking pursuits of Halton, Lancaster Independent Church rented a barn on Low Road which they converted for the use of Divine Service. A gallery was shortly added to accommodate a growing congregation, and soon they were looking for a site to build a new church.

On the 7 September 1897, a plot of land on Kirkby Lonsdale Road was purchased for the sum of £140. Plans were drawn up for a building to accommodate 200 worshippers and a schoolroom for 120 scholars, there being 80 on the roll already. The first stone was laid on 2 March 1898 and the Congregational Chapel was officially opened on 21 September 1898 at an approximate cost of £1,000.

In the 1970s, the now present URC had an expanding congregation, and an upstairs schoolroom was added to accommodate a growing Junior Church. Monthly coffee mornings were introduced to help finance the new addition, and fundraisers, parties and outings became regular features. In 1998, the church celebrated its centenary year with monthly lunches served after each Communion Service. Pews were replaced at this time by comfortable seating in order to provide greater flexibility in services and the use of the premises.

Halton URC took pride in being an all-inclusive church and became one of the first URC congregations to register the building for same sex marriage. The size of the congregation fell and it was necessary to close the church; the final service of Thanksgiving being held on 18 February 2023.

Harrington United Reformed Church

In February 1881, the Presbytery of Carlisle recognised a group of people then gathering for Presbyterian-style worship in the old Assembly Hall in Harrington, Cumberland, as a preaching station. By December of the same year, these faithful people had bought a piece of land, constructed a building, been recognised as a sanctioned charge, and called a minister. The Revd James Montgomery Bonnar was inducted as part of the opening service on 6 December 1881.

The church grew quickly, attracting migrants from Scotland and Ireland who came to Cumberland to find work or to take management positions in the local iron and steel industries. The church became a key part of the local community and many people in the village remember attending the Sunday school or the uniformed organisations when they were young. The church experienced declining membership and attendance over recent decades and the remaining members made the decision to close in 2022.

A short closing service was held in the grounds of the church on 9 October, attended by members, Cumbria partnership ministers and ecumenical colleagues. Some of the former members continue to meet monthly with the encouragement and hospitality of their closest ecumenical partner, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

Penrith and Penruddock United Reformed Church

Penrith and Penruddock URC was the sole descendant of many causes of Old Dissent not only in Penrith but also in surrounding villages of Great Salkeld, Kirkoswald, Renwick and Penruddock and other preaching stations.

Penruddock's witness began in 1654 under the ministry of the Revd Richard Gilpin, rector of Greystoke. Gilpin, with his successor, the Revd Anthony Sleigh, and John Noble, an influential dissenting yeoman farmer who gathered non-conformists in his home, became known as the "Three Penruddock Puritans".

A small rural chapel was built in the 18th century and served by the minister of Penrith Presbyterian Church in Lowther Street. It finally closed in 2010.

Penrith had a surfeit of churches. Ebenezer Chapel (Congregational) was built in 1824, its congregation having previously met in a room in the town. The present gothic-style church was built in 1865 by the Revd William Brewis, the only church in Penrith with a spire!

The former Presbyterian church in Lowther Street traces its history to 1660 when the Revd Roger Baldwin was ejected as vicar of Penrith. In 1785 a chapel was opened in Rowcliffe Lane, Penrith, and that building still exists. The present church was built in Lowther Street in 1884 by the Revd John Tannahill.

Dwindling congregations in the 1980s saw Duke Street and Lowther Street became one congregation.

However, the retirement of our minister, the Revd Nick Mark, followed by the pandemic placed extra burdens on the elders and members. The final Sunday morning service was held on 17 July 2022 at the usual time. It was deliberately not a "closing" service as the witness continues.

As a plaque dedicated to the Three Penruddock Puritans states: "Whose Faith Follow".

Sale United Reformed Church

In 1968, Sale Congregational Church and Sale Presbyterian Church came together to form a union. They held their inaugural service on 11 January 1968, and in 1972 became Sale United

Reformed Church. During the lifetime of this union, many groups have been formed within the church: The Women's Guild, Young Wives Club; Tuesday Club; Church and Society.

For many years the Church had a strong bond with the Waldensian Churches in Italy and shared many visits back and forth.

The church was heavily involved with Churches Together in Sale and was one of eight local congregations that came together to form and financially support a Debt Centre and Job Club, as well as supporting the local Foodbank.

Scouting and Guiding Groups were affiliated to the church for many years.

"Dorothy's" Memory Café was founded in 2018 and was named in memory of one of our church family; it was a thriving mission project up until the pandemic.

Each year in August we held a two day event – "Holiday at Home", for those residents in our local community who were no longer able to go away on holiday.

Early in 2022, following many meetings, the members at Sale URC took the sad but very brave decision to close. A "Farewell Service" was held on Sunday 23 October; the Revd Jonnie Hill led the service with many church family members taking part and a congregation of over 160.

Yorkshire Synod

Cottingley Community Project

Although constituted as a formal church in 1991, the story of the Cottingley Community Project goes back to the development of the Cottingley Estate in South Leeds in the 1970s. Through several conversations within the south Leeds URC community, the Methodist Church and the Church of England, a decision was made to share premises on the newly built estate.

In conjunction with Leeds City Council a property was built that incorporated other community facilities, including a doctors' surgery and pharmacy. The first sharing agreement was signed in 1982.

As an estate church with a distinct catchment area, the church fostered a sense of being in an area that was quite isolated geographically as it was situated between several key multi-lane arterial roads. Although it had the support of the three denominations and was housed in a community building, regular worship ceased in July 2019 and it was felt that it was not viable to attempt a resumption after the Covid-19 pandemic. So, on 6 July 2022, the church formally closed, with the trustees from the three denominations looking to transfer the running of the building to another Leeds-based social charity.

Trinity Keighley

The closure of Trinity Keighley marks the end of over 290 years of witness in Keighley by a church that was both a seat from which many churches were founded and a pioneer in ecumenism before the URC was created.

The independent cause in Keighley was founded on "Upper Green" in 1730 as the town was about to expand as a result of industrialisation. As the town grew in the nineteenth century, members founded Devonshire Street (1856), Utley (1871), Marlborough Street (1879), Knowle Park (1893) and Ingrow (1908) Congregational churches. A Sunday School was built on Spencer Street (1877). On the closure of Upper Green chapel in the 1930s, the congregation realised

that much of its mission was to be in Keighley's suburbs and founded the mission at Riddlesden, which became a separate church in 1964.

By the late 1960s the building on Devonshire Street was too expensive to maintain and, in a bold move, joined with Albert Street Baptist Church on the Spencer Street site to form Christ Church LEP working in partnership with Ingrow and Knowle Park URCs in the town and Baptist churches in the Worth and Aire Valleys. In 1997, these three joined as Trinity Keighley church on the Knowle Park site in a new building.

The church ministered to a wide social demographic but found it difficult to recover from the 2020-21 pandemic. The final URC service was held on Sunday 23 October 2022.

Happily, the building has been acquired by the Methodist circuit for mission for that part of Keighley and the closing congregation have blessed them in their work for the future.

Wesley Road Chapel

The Wesley Road Local Ecumenical Partnership in west-central Leeds came to a quiet yet dignified end in September 2022. It comprised a partnership of United Reformed, Methodist and Baptist congregations and part of the complex on Wesley Road is still being used by the Leeds South and West Methodist Circuit for their offices.

Armley Congregational Church was founded in 1866 in the rapidly expanding western suburbs of Leeds, and by the late 19th century had established itself close to Leeds Prison on Oak Road. When a former New Connexion chapel became available on Hall Lane, the congregation moved and played a central role in the mission of the Church in what was now an inner city area. By the 1970s it was an integral part of the former Leeds District's Inner West Leeds Ministry initiative with Trinity St David's URC on Woodhouse Lane, Leeds (now since closed).
The discovery of dry rot in 1988 led to discussions with the existing Methodist/Baptist LEP at Wesley Road and in the autumn of 1990 Armley URC became the third member of this partnership. This brought together a Free Church ecumenical project which had begun in the early 1980s.

Sadly, falling numbers and an aging congregation meant that the respective causes accepted that the mission in that part of Leeds had drawn to a close, and the final services were held in July 2022.

East Midlands Synod

Burton Joyce United Reformed Church / Burton Joyce Community Church

Largely funded by a local tradesman, Samuel Milne, the Congregational Chapel was built in 1869. Often known as "top chapel", its popular Sankey and Moody hymns provided a great attraction. Well known for its anniversaries, teas and concerts, it built a strong following in the village.

Food and fellowship continued to be a major source of outreach, with harvest suppers, soup lunches and catering for teas at open gardens. When Nottinghamshire County Council stopped issuing bibles to pupils starting secondary schools, the congregation took on the task with special services at the beginning of each September.

From 2008, with the establishing of Churches Together, and consequent united services, the church became an LEP with the Methodist Church in 2014. Although not an easy decision for everyone, the new LEP of Burton Joyce Community Church held its first service at Pentecost led by the Revd Malcolm Fife.

With only small numbers of ageing members, the congregation's future was limited. The Revd Richard Byass (Methodist) with The Revd Louise Gee (URC) continued to offer ministry. Covid-19 hit and, with most of the members shielding, the opportunity was taken to assess the church's future. The building reopened with two services in in September and October 2021, moving to an afternoon service.

Sadly, but inevitably, the resolution was passed to close the church, the last non-conformist church in the village. Some members have moved to the Church of England, which has given a warm welcome. Thanks are offered to all those who have supported the congregation physically and spiritually.

Friary United Reformed Church

On 5 September 1897, 25 members of Friar Lane Congregational Chapel marched over Trent Bridge with banners flying to plant a church in the emerging suburb of West Bridgford. Services were held in the cricket ground pavilion until March 1899 when the site was completed on Musters Road. Over the years, the buildings were affected by two fires, floods, and serious storm damage, none of which seriously affected continuing worship.

Over the first 50 years, rapid growth was followed by fluctuating fortunes, with reducing numbers and financial difficulties. However, under the energetic leadership of the Revd Victor Tudor (1951-1963), membership, outreach and financial stability all increased. Youth work developed, amateur dramatic performances were re-established, and plans were made for a new congregational church in Clifton. The dynamism of the church continued under several subsequent ministers, with numbers increasing in part as a result of other churches in the vicinity closing. Unfortunately, from the 1990s few families and new younger members joined the church and gradually membership declined. Since 2007, the church has shared ministerial resources.

In more recent years, a key element of the mission of Friary Church has been the "Friary Drop-In", started in 1988 by the church before becoming a local ecumenical initiative. In 1996, it was established as an independent charity which continues to develop its services today.

With insufficient active members able to fulfil Elder and trustee responsibilities, the Elders recommended to Church Meeting that members should plan for closure. In March, with much sadness, the Church Meeting formally resolved to cease public worship from the premises on 18 June 2022.

Rothwell United Reformed Church

Founded in 1655, the first congregation worshipped in a "three bayed Barn"; then, during the times of persecution, covertly in Rowell Woods. The ministry of the first pastor, John Beverly, was short-lived as he died after three years. The first church was then erected in 1735, with additional rooms and an organ added over the next 100 years.

The original church was built to accommodate 600 people but, by the mid-1980s, there were just 65 members and 15 children. Various outreach initiatives were undertaken, including "family times" (2019), which produced a good response. However, during the pandemic activities ceased and it was difficult to rebuild afterwards.

In 1985, over 1,000 members and friends from other local churches came together to record BBC's Songs of Praise, with people "buzzing" for the next twelve months.

However, with an aging building, Rothwell URC was hit by dry rot, woodworm and death watch beetle. As a listed building, over several years grants from English Heritage (£280,000), other grants, and gifts from individuals allowed repair work to go ahead.

By April 2022, members were becoming elderly and unable to carry out tasks they had previously performed. With offerings and lettings income not meeting the outgoings, it was time to take stock. On 4 July 2022, the decision was taken that the church would close on 2 October 2022.

West Midlands Synod

Christ Church

In 1985, the United Reformed and Methodist churches in Ross-on-Wye joined together in a partnership to worship under one roof, forming a Local Ecumenical Partnership using the existing Methodist premises.

The first Methodist Society was formed in Ross-on-Wye in 1808 and a Congregationalist Church was established in the 1600s. The latter joined the Congregational Union of England and Wales in 1848 and became known as the Ross United Reformed Church in 1972.

Following the formal agreement between the Methodist and URC congregations, the new church was known as Christ Church Ross-on-Wye, with joint membership of the Monmouth and Ross Methodist Circuit and the URC West Midlands Synod. The two congregations established suitable working relationships, taking account of existing organisational arrangements and rationalising functions. The leadership arrangements drew on both Methodist Church and URC traditions.

After five years the church moved into the Hereford Methodist Circuit and Hereford URC Group of Churches. Over the years, the membership developed many links with local churches and activities within the town, supporting faith and worship groupings, Scouting, youth clubs, a Girls Brigade, drama and social activities, and activities for the elderly, including hot meals.

The membership declined as the age profile rose. Several relaunch and redevelopment ideas did not prevent declining numbers, and the disruption caused by the recent pandemic led to church members having to decide whether to continue with fewer members, increased running and maintenance costs, and no real prospect of building a new community. It made the brave decision to close at the end of August 2022.

Hatherton United Reformed Church

No report given.

Potters Green United Reformed Church

No report given.

Wollerton United Reformed Church

No report given.

South Western Synod

United Church Kingswood

Both Whitfield Tabernacle and the Moravian Church, Kingswood, were founded during the heyday of the 18th Century Evangelical Revival, when George Whitfield and John Cennick were actively preaching in the local area. In April 1992, Whitfield URC joined the Moravian Church to form one congregation on the Moravian site: United Church Kingswood.

Under the ministry of the Revd Basil Rogers, the fellowship grew together. In 2000, Moravian minister the Revd Jan Mullin was appointed, followed in 2005 by the Revd Thom Stapleton. From 2012 to 2014 Mr Rogers accepted ministerial responsibilities, assisted ably by the Elders and lay preachers from the congregation until the Revd Patsy Holdsworth was appointed in 2015.

During this period, worship at festivals and special services were well attended. Concerts, flower festivals and exhibitions were organised; lunch club and coffee mornings were popular. March 2007 saw the 250th anniversary of the opening of the first Moravian Church on the present site.

New heating systems were installed in the sanctuary and halls, display panels were put up, the sanctuary was re-painted and some pews were replaced with new chairs. New “United Church” signs and notice boards were erected and disabled access installed.

Worship, witness and outreach continued against a background of vandalism, a gradual decline in membership and a fall in attendance. Then came Covid-19. The church closed for much of 2020 and did not really recover. The Revd Patsy and a small number of faithful members did all they could to continue but, despite much prayer, discussion and publicity, the decision was made to close. The final worship service was held in January 2023.

Wessex Synod

Andover United Reformed Church

No report given.

Sarisbury Green United Reformed Church

The story of the Congregational Church in Sarisbury Green began in about 1800, when William Reed began to hold services in his house. The growth of the congregation made it necessary to provide a place of worship and a chapel was built in Swanwick Lane in 1803. In 1881, a church was built in the grounds of the house of Mr Quinton Hogg for the use of the Free Church people of Sarisbury Green, and was known locally as “the Tin Tabernacle”. In 1886, the church was removed from the grounds in sections and re-erected in Bridge Road. Intended as a temporary building, it provided a permanent place of worship until 1931 when the present building was opened.

The church was named after the poet and hymn writer, the Revd William Tidd-Matson, who spent the last twelve years of his ministry at Sarisbury Green.

In 1972, Sarisbury Green, Locks Heath and Swanwick Lane Congregational Churches united to form the Solent Area United Reformed Church. In 1974, the Swanwick Lane Church closed after the compulsory purchase by Fareham Borough Council to enable road improvements to be made.

The Solent Area United Reformed Church was dissolved in 1982 and Sarisbury reverted to being a separate congregation, although between 1982 and 1985 ministry was shared with Warsash United Reformed Church.

For several years the church acted as a drop-off point and sub-depot for the Samaritan’s Purse “Operation Christmas Child” shoebox appeal, and members filled, sorted and checked many thousands of shoe boxes destined for underprivileged children in Africa and Eastern Europe.

Summertown United Reformed Church

Congregational worship in Summertown dates from the early nineteenth century but the present building opened in 1894. Until it ceased taking ordinands, the church enjoyed close links with Mansfield College, and members of the church were involved in the publication of both the New English Bible in 1970 and the hymn book Rejoice and Sing in 1991. Members of Tyndale Congregational Church were welcomed after the latter closed in 1962.

Summertown URC has always had a strong sense of outreach. A former minister, the Revd Henry Moxley, was closely associated with the founding of Oxfam, while work with the local community has, in recent years, included monthly lectures, study groups, and activities for toddlers and the elderly. Saturday cake stalls for charities reflected growing ecumenical links after the formation of the URC in 1972.

An ambitious scheme of repairs and the addition of a new kitchen and facilities for the disabled as recently as five years ago was followed by periods of closure due to Covid-19, from which the church never recovered.

Consequently, the small and increasingly elderly congregation concluded early in 2022 that it could not maintain worship at Summertown. On 3 April 2022, the church meeting voted unanimously, but with great sadness, to close the church. A final Sunday service was held on 29 May and a special service of thanksgiving to mark 178 years of witness in Summertown was held on 30 July. A commemorative book of photographs has since been produced for members and friends of the congregation.

Thames North Synod

Woodford Green United Reformed Church

Woodford Green URC was founded over 130 years ago as Chingford Congregational Church. At the time, the only churches in Chingford were the parish church, a Brethren hall, and a Wesleyan chapel. Following the opening of Chingford station in 1880, the area had slowly developed from quiet country village into an urban district.

Mr Walter Beeching and Mr John William Clark, at one time members of Abney Park Congregational Church in Stoke Newington, moved to Chingford and formed the idea of setting up a new Congregational church there. A site was acquired at the corner of Buxton Road and The Drive for this purpose. The cost of the land and buildings was £2,200, with the Spicer family contributing £1,700 and church members raising £500.

The Church began meeting on 18 November 1888, initially in the upper rooms above a shop on the corner of Station Road and Garfield Road. The first building in Buxton Road was completed in 1890 and was named Spicer Hall. It was the congregation’s meeting place for the next twenty years until the present building was opened on 19 May 1910.

The current halls, next to the first house in Buxton Road, were constructed in 1923. Spicer Hall remained in use by the church and local community until 2004 when it was sold and converted for residential purposes, the sale proceeds being used towards the modernisation and integration of the remaining church buildings, which exist today.

The church was known as Chingford Congregational Church until October 1972 when it became Woodford Green United Reformed Church. A closing service was held on 26 June 2022.

Southern Synod

Beckenham United Reformed Church

In 1878, Beckenham Congregational Church was the first non-conformist church to be built in the area. Initially, a schoolroom was built to be used as a small church (still in use as the Leslie Thompson Hall). It soon became too small for worship and the main church for a congregation of 450 was built at a cost of £18,000, including ancillary buildings and incorporating a marvellous Hunter organ.

During the First World War, the premises were used as a Soldier's Club. During the Second World War, the buildings suffered from bomb damage. During this time a youth club started and, until its closure, members from that club still attended the church. A very competitive Badminton Club met every week, as well as all the uniformed organisations. There were pantomimes, dances, jumble sales, luncheon clubs, Harvest Suppers, and even holidays were arranged for seniors.

In 1972, the church became Beckenham United Reformed Church. In 1978, it celebrated its centenary with a pageant in which nearly all the members participated.

In 2002, with an aging congregation, rising upkeep, and major building work, the decision was made to move out of the sanctuary. Alterations were made to the Large Hall, creating a multipurpose worship area. Fortunately, the steeple of the original church is still a prominent feature in the local area.

Over the past 20 years, worshipping in the hall has been successful. Sadly, though it was realised that, due to dwindling numbers, the time had come to close the church. The last service took place on Sunday 26 June 2022. Thanks are offered to God for the many people who have worshipped in this place.

Christchurch United Reformed Church

Christchurch Congregational Church was founded in 1885 as a mission of Dorking Congregational Church. Requesting independence from Dorking in 1934, the church outgrew its original building so a new one was built on the main street and completed in 1911. Church halls were added in 1930. It became a thriving church with regular Sunday services, a large Sunday School membership and several youth organisations. In later years it enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the primary school next door. In the 1990s the church entered into an LEP with St. Peter's Church of England. However, a change in demographics in Walton-on-the-Hill meant the congregation started to diminish and the youth organisations closed.

Following Covid-19, with the sharing arrangement dissolved, the church spent two and a half years trying to improve the fabric and attractiveness of the building, ably supported by lay preachers. It was hoped to attract increased attendance but, sadly, numbers continued to decline to the point where the building became unviable. In September 2022, the Elders resolved unanimously that the church would close permanently as of 31 December 2022.

The final service was a magnificent occasion attended by about 100 people, including lay preachers, friends from other churches, moderators, and the mayor. It was a carol service for which the preacher was the Revd Andy Twilley from Southern Synod and it proved to be a grand finale indeed.

Trinity Bromley United Reformed Church

With a spire rising to a height of 118 feet, Trinity was a well-known landmark in Bromley North for 127 years. Opened on 26 June 1895, it was the culmination of the vision of five émigré Scots to establish a Presbyterian Church on Freelands Road in Bromley. The memorial stone was laid by Mr James Goodman of Clapham who had lent £9,400 to pay for the building and furnishings.

By 1900 many societies and classes had been established for the congregation and the local community including Sunday School, a Children's Mission Band, the Sewing Guild, and aLiterary Society. There was strong support for members who were missionaries in China and Taiwan.

Towards the end of the 1920s, Trinity helped establishing a church, St John's, in Orpington. Disaster struck in 1935 when, on the afternoon of the 40th Anniversary, the church was struck by lightning during a fierce storm.

During both World Wars, the church supported the war effort, running clubs for the forces as well as supporting Belgian refugees and sending items of clothing to those serving abroad.

The years between 1946 and 1970 were a period of emerging stability and growth.
The centenary in 1995 and the 120th anniversary in 2015 were both very happy occasions.
Sadly, with declining numbers the story of Trinity came to an end in 2022.

Thanks are offered for all that Trinity has meant to members, past and present, and for its Christian witness in Bromley for the past 127 years. There is rejoicing that the building will continue to be used as a place for Christian worship by another church congregation.

National Synod of Wales

Aberedw

Aberedw Congregational Church was first formed in the mid-19th century and, for many years, was without a permanent home. Members were content to meet in local cottages, farmhouses and even barns. The first minister was the Revd Richard Lloyd of Gwendwr. In 1868, Mr Thomas Thomas of Crown, Builth Wells, bought a parcel of land called "The Shoemakers Plot" near the village. Part of this land was given over to the construction of the present chapel, its foundation stone being laid in 1870.

The chapel joined with the URC in 1972 and prospered for another 50 years. Sadly, in recent years attendance dwindled, weekly services changed to monthly gatherings and regular ministry was no longer available. The inevitable and difficult decision was made by the remaining members to close in December 2022.

There has always been a close bond between the churches in Builth Wells, which continues to this day. Members have joined those of other closed URC congregations in the area at the Alpha Ecumenical Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Wales.

Central Ecumenical Church

Central Ecumenical Church in Maesteg started life in 1847 as Bethel Baptist Chapel. It was rebuilt in 1859 in a Romanesque style and renovated in 1947. The chapel joined with the United

Reformed Church in 1972. An LEP comprising the URC, Baptist Union of Wales and Methodist Church in Wales was formed in 1985.

The congregation voted to leave the LEP in 2022 and continues its life as Central Church under the leadership of the Baptist Union of Wales. There is a strong community at the chapel, which witnesses to the Christian faith and is making a positive contribution to the local community and internationally, through links to South Africa, Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone.

Castle Square

Castle Square United Reformed Church, Treforest, held a thanksgiving service on 30 October 2022 to give thanks for the 117 years of work and witness since it first opened its doors as a spiritual home.

The church began life as Castle Square English Congregational Church when the 1904-05 revival, led by Evan Roberts, was sweeping Wales. In the 117 years since then, its happy, friendly church family has welcomed folk from all walks of life. It has been led by 12 ministers and enjoyed five Interim Moderators and many visiting preachers.

In 1972, Castle Square became part of the United Reformed Church and has been active in the life of the URC.

There was, of course, much sadness as members met in the church for the last time, but they believe that their mission is complete and that God is saying to them: “Well done, thou good and faithful servants.”

National Synod of Scotland

East Mains United Reformed Church

Markethill Church of Christ was founded in 1954 by the Churches of Christ Glasgow District when the new town of East Kilbride was being constructed. The East Mains area was adjacent to the original village of East Kilbride. The “newcomers” were mainly young married couples from Glasgow and, thanks to the Revd Alan Robinson, the church became the focal point in many people’s lives, catering for all ages. The congregation grew rapidly, moving from a hall church to a brand new building. As the years passed the young people grew up, married, and moved to new areas, but most of the older people stayed and still live in the East Mains area.

In 1981, the congregation became East Kilbride United Reformed Church and had a joint ministry with Shawlands URC in Glasgow. The large church building was replaced by a multi-purpose church/hall in 1999. Though now URC, the congregation retained some of its Churches of Christ traditions, including the weekly celebration of Holy Communion.

In 2000, the church became East Mains URC and since then has shared in a joint ministry with Righead URC, also in East Kilbride, following the union with the Congregational Union of Scotland. The new church premises were well used by the local community and there is a flourishing chaplaincy with West Mains Additional Support Needs school, which continues.

Due to the increasing frailty of the members and the demands of governance and compliance the members decided that the congregation needed to close. The final service was held on Sunday 14 August 2022.

Jubilee ministers, 2023

Years of service	Name	Synod	Date of ordination
50	Bruce Douglas Drew Stuart	Southern	1 July 1973
50	John Raymond Smith	Scotland	18 August 1973
50	Reginald William Rooke	East Midlands	5 October 1973
50	David Holt Roberts	Mersey	1 July 1973
50	John Henry Oldershaw	Southern	24 July 1973
50	Gerald Roy Muttram	Eastern	14 July 1973
50	John Richard Landon	Mersey	10 June 1973
50	John Brian Jenkinson	Yorkshire	1 July 1973
50	Geoffrey Arthur Harmer	South Western	10 February 1973
50	Kenneth Brian Charles Fear	West Midlands	1 July 1973
50	Geoffrey N Collins	Southern	6 September 1973
50	Malcolm Bernard Clarke	East Midlands	4 August 1973
50	Kah Geh Chong	Thames North	1 July 1973
50	Kenneth Chippindale	West Midlands	15 September 1973
50	Elizabeth June Caswell	Eastern	23 June 1973
50	Angus Wilkieson Allan	Scotland	8 June 1973
50	William Raymond Pryde Adams	South Western	14 July 1973
60	Alan Luther Willcocks	Wales	4 July 1963
60	Robert John Way	Yorkshire	28 November 1963
60	Paul Robert Smith	Yorkshire	1 September 1963
60	Robert Gerald Scribbins	Southern	1 July 1963
60	Peter David Scotland	Southern	9 July 1963
60	Peter Roland Page	Eastern	1 January 1963
60	Peter Cedric Moth	Northern	5 October 1963
60	Arnold Christopher Mellor	Wessex	21 September 1963
60	Ian Norman McPherson	West Midlands	5 October 1963
60	James Martin	North Western	1 July 1963
60	Donald Norman Macarthur	Thames North	1 July 1963
60	Daphne Hull	Yorkshire	1 January 1963
60	Richard Henry Hambly	Mersey	25 September 1963
60	Geoffrey Christopher Dunstan	East Midlands	20 October 1963
60	Valerie Jean Dinning	West Midlands	26 September 1963
60	J Charles Brock	Wessex	1 November 1963
60	Brian Alfred Bowyer	Southern	24 July 1963
70	Mark Wilson	Scotland	2 December 1953
70	Howard John	Southern	22 July 1953
70	Bernard Swain Holt	East Midlands	10 July 1953

Nominations

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 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 latest list approved by General Assembly is available at: **http://bit.ly/URCNom.**

Officers of General Assembly

Clerk to General Assembly:	The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins [2024]
Assistant Clerk to Assembly:	The Revd Sarah Moore [2024]
Clerk-elect to General Assembly:	The Revd Sarah Moore [2030]
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Alan Yates [2029]
Assembly Moderator:	The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson
Assembly Moderator-elect:	The Revd Timothy Meadows
Immediate past-Assembly Moderator:	The Revd Fiona Bennett

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, 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 Moderator's 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]
Mr Edward Hoddinott-Leighton [2026]**
One vacancy

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)	Mr Michael Williams (2)

Ms Alison Lee (3)
Mr David Figures (4)
Mrs Judith Booth (5)
Mr Matthew McDade (6)
Mr Peter West (7)
Mr Roger James (8)
Vacancy (9)
Mr Christopher Buckwell (10)
Mr Colin McCracken (11)

1.4 Resource sharing task group

Convenor: The Revd Steve Faber [2024] (Synod Moderator)
Secretary: Mr Chris Atherton
Treasurer: Vacancy
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	Synod Moderator
Mr Bill Potter	Finance Committee
Mr Clifford Patten	URC Trust
Mr Simeon Mitchell	Secretary for Church and Society
Ms Victoria James	Chief Operating Officer
Ms Maya Withall	URC Youth
Ms Judy Harris	URC Children
Mr Matthew McDade	Synod Property Officer
Ms Eileen Newington	Synod Green Apostle

2. General Secretariat

2.1 Worship, 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 Relations: The Revd Philip Brooks
The Minister for Digital Worship: The Revd Andy Braunston
Nominated members:
The Revd Dr Andrew Prasad [2029]
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 Ron Forster (1)	Mr Tim Hopley (2)
Mrs Rita Griffiths (3)	Mr Tim Crossley (4)
Mr David Greatorex (5)	Mrs Rachel Wakeman (6)
The Revd David Coaker (7)	Ms Rachel Leach (8)

Ms Karen Bell (9)
The Revd Russell Furley-Smith (11)
Mr John Collings (13)
Ms Nneoma Chima (10)
Ms Megan Price (12)
In attendance:
Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries
Equalities Committee representative

Notes: General Assembly Resolution 54 mandates the replacement of this Committee with a new Nominations Committee of six members.

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)
Dr Paul Ashitey (10)
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)
The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson (9)
Ms Victoria Paulding (5)
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 2027

Mrs Sue Brown** (9)
Mrs Wendy Dunnett** (9)
Mr Trevor Orr** (4)
Ms Lorraine Downer** (10)
The Revd Elaine Hutchinson** (6)

Retiring 2028

Ms Megan Price (12)**
Mrs Barbara Ellis (3)†
Mrs Helen Lidgett (5)†
Mrs Sheila Davies (3)†
Mr Bill Robson (13)††
Mr Donald Swift (3)**
The Revd Alison Hall (3)†
Ms Linda Austin**
Mrs Rita Griffiths** (3)
The Revd Stephen Manders**

2.3 Ministerial incapacity and discipline (MIND) advisory group

Convenor: The Revd Steven Manders [2026]**
Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)
Synod Moderator: The Revd Bridget Banks [2027]
Convenor of the Assembly Commission
Secretary to the Assembly Commission for Discipline: Mr Philip Laws [2026]
Consultant for ministers and CRCWs: Mrs Fiona Smith [2026]
Senior Member of the Disciplinary Investigation Panel: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Consultant for mandated groups: The Revd Ian Kirby [2027]
Training coordinator: The Revd Andy Braunston [2024]
General Secretary; Clerk of General Assembly; Assistant Clerk of General Assembly;
The Designated Safeguarding Lead; 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 Bill Bowman
The Revd Andy Braunston	Ms Mary Coole
Mr Ian Corless	Ms Janine Cowie
Mrs Barbara Ellis	The Revd Peter Flint
Mr Alastair Forsyth	Mr Remi Ferguson
Mrs Cathy Glazier	The Revd Dominic Grant
Ms Barbara Groom	The Revd John Grundy
The Revd Marcus Hargis	Prof Graham Handscomb
Dr David Jones	Mrs Mary Kelly
The Revd Sue McCoan	The Revd Alan McGougan
The Revd Martha McInnes	Ms Morag McLintock
The Revd Sarah Moore	Dr James Mawdesley
The Revd Wilbert Sayimani	The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe
Mr Dean Taylor	Mrs Janet Virr
Mr Gordon Wanless	Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid

2.5 Disciplinary Investigation Panel
Senior Member: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2028]
Deputy Senior Member: The Revd Martin Spain [2029]
Members (not time-limited):

The Revd Dr James Coleman	Mr John Collings
Mr Stuart Dew	The Revd Martin Ferris
The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King	Mrs Chris Harris
Mr Keir Hounsome	Mr Andrew Howes
Prof Jean McClellan	Ms Alison Jiggins
The Revd Craig Muir	The Revd Lesley Moseley
The Revd Zadie Orr	Mr Andy Russell
Mr Mark Rigby	Mrs Margaret Smith
Ms Cathy Simpson	The Revd Martin Spain
Mrs Liz Swanwick	The Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Dr Gordon Woods	The Revd Geoff Wright

2.6 Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline
Minister members:
The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

The Revd Nick Mark	The Revd Raymond Singh

Elder members:

Mr Tim Crossley	Mr Dodie Khurshid
Ms Sandra Wood	

2.7 Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee
Convenor: The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch [2027]**
Deputy Convenor: Vacancy
Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

General Secretary — Deputy Treasurer
Synod Moderator: The Revd Bridget Banks
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-elect: The Revd Wilbert Sayimani [2024 -2028]**
Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Mission)
The Revd Katrina Hackett (1) [2027]** — Mr Aftab Mughal (2) [2025]
The Revd Stuart Nixon (3) [2026] — The Revd Barry Welch (4) [2027]**
The Revd Jane Wade (5) [2027]** — The Revd Debbie Brown (6) [2027]**
The Revd Alex Clare-Young (7) [2027]** — The Revd Henriette Wentink (8) [2027]†
The Revd Ray Stanyon (9) [2025] — The Revd Eddie Boon (10)** [2027]**
The Revd Martin Knight (11) [2026]** — The Revd Branwen Rees (12) [2026]†
The Revd John Bremner (13) [2027]**

3.1.1 Commitment for Life (CfL) reference group

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

3.1.2 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 and Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Scotland
Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales
Nominated members:
Ms Victoria Turner [2025] — Mr Andy Lie [2027]†
Co-opted Members:
The Revd Dr Graham Adams [2024] — The Revd Dr Mark Godin [2024]
The Revd Dr John Parry

3.1.3 Joint Public Issues Team strategy and policy group

Deputy General Secretary (Mission) — The Revd Steve Faber

3.1.4 Rural strategy group (United Reformed Church/Methodist)

Future being reviewed by the Mission Committee.

3.1.5 Pioneer and Fresh Expressions enabling group

Representatives:
Mission Committee — Ministries Committee
Education and Learning Committee — Children and Youth Work Committee
URC Pioneer Network

3.1.6 Legacies of Slavery Task Group

Convenor: Professor David Reynolds
Secretary: Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries
Programme Officer (Global Justice and Partnerships)

The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo	The Revd John Campbell
The Revd Zaidie Orr	Ms Victoria Turner

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 sub-committees
Convenor of the Assessment Board
Nominated members:

Mrs Gill Bates [2024]	Mr Chris Kellett [2025]
The Revd Lesley Moseley [2025]	The Revd Terry Jin [2027]**

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 Moderator: The Revd Jamie Kissack [2024]
SCMs: The Revd Tim Clarke [2024]
CRCWs: Ms Jo Patterson [2026]**
Nominated Members:

The Revd Alison Micklem [2025]	The Revd Carole Marsden [2026]]**
The Revd Jacob Bali [2026]**	

4.1.2 Maintenance of ministry sub-committee

Under review.

4.1.3 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 [2027]†
Secretary: Secretary for Ministries
Nominated Members:

The Revd Don Nichols {2026] **	One vacancy

Representative Members:

Tenants:	The Revd Dr Martin Camroux
Retired Ministers' Housing Society:	The Revd Simon Walkling
Co-opted member:	The Revd David Coote

4.1.4 Assessment board

Members usually serve for five years as training is required.
Convenor: Professor Bill Gould [2026]†

Retiring 2024
The Revd Jan Adamson (13)
The Revd Gerald England (8)
Mr Mark Tubby (7)

Retiring 2025
Ms Mercy Nimako (11)
Ms Liz Sharples (5)
The Revd Samuel Silungwe (5)

Retiring 2026
The Revd Lis Mullen (2)
The Revd Sue McCoan (10)

Retiring 2027
The Revd Jamie Kissack (4)
The Revd Tim Lowe (4)
Mrs Kate Yates (10)
The Revd Jacob Bali (11)
Mr Simon Loveitt (4)

Retiring 2028
Mr Keith Reading

4.2 Education and Learning Committee

Convenor: Mrs Pippa Hodgson [2027]**
Convenor-Elect: Vacancy
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 and Youth Work officers: Mr Richard Knott [2026]**
- EM1 students

Non-voting members: (nominated by the appropriate group)
Synod Moderator: The Revd Clare Downing
Methodist Church representative (in attendance as required):
Mr Richard Armiger [2026]
RCL Principals:
The Revd Dr Robert Pope (Interim)
The Revd Dr Adam Scott
Secretary for Ministries

4.2.1 Education and Learning finance sub-committee

Convenor: Convenor of the Education and Learning Committee
Current Education and Learning Committee member with finance experience
Secretary for Education and Learning
United Reformed Church Treasurer
Chief Finance Officer

Deputy General Secretary Discipleship
In attendance: Finance staff, as appropriate
Education and Learning Administrator as note taker
The current Education and Learning Committee member is 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 Revd Julian Sanders [2025]
Ms Caroline Akinyele [2025]

4.4 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 Coordinator
Nominated Members:
Mr Alex Walker [2026]** — Mrs Kate Yates [2026]**
Synod Safeguarding Practice Group representative:
Ms Julie Rafferty [2026]**
Synod Moderator: The Revd George Watt

National Synod of Scotland representative: Ms Ruth Goold [2026]**
URC Advocated Survivors Group representatives (up to two): 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:
Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid [2025]
Mr Reuben Watt [2026]**

Note: General Assembly Resolution 53 mandates a revised composition of the Business Committee

5.2 Communications

Convenor: The Revd Lucy Brierley [2027]
Convenor-Elect: Vacancy
Secretary: Head of Communications
The Revd Tim Lowe [2024]†
Mr Dan Morell [2024]†
The Revd Heather Whyte [2024]†
Three vacancies

5.3 Equalities Committee

Convenor: The Revd Naison Hove [2026]
Secretary: The Revd David Salsbury [2027]†
URC Youth Equalities and Diversity Representative: Ms Megan Westgarth [2027]**
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]**
Ms Kirsty Mabbott [2027]**
The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo [2027]**

5.3.1 Affirmative Action task group

Convenor: Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries
Secretary: Equalities Committee Secretary
Representative Members:
Mission Committee: Ms Lindsey Brown
URC Youth: Ms Philippa Osei
Members:
Ms Muskaan Jonathan
The Revd John Macaulay

The Revd Andrew Mudharara — The Revd George Mwaura
Mrs Pat Poinen

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] — The Revd Simon Copley [2025]
Mr Gordon Wanless [2025] — Mr Bill Potter [2026]††
Mr Chris Atherton {2027]**

5.4.1 Pensions Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2026]**
Secretary: Pensions Manager
Nominated Members:
Ms Joana Marfoh [2024] — The Revd John Piper [2025]†
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 [2026]
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] — Mr David Greatorex (5) [2024]
The Revd James Breslin (5) [2024] — Mr David Lathbury (6) [2026]†
Dr Stephen Thompson (7) [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]
Mr Joel Sainsbury [2027]** — One vacancy

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 [December 2027]†
Deputy chair: Mr Lyndon Thomas
Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones
Church Nominated Trustees/Directors:
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: Mr David Coote
(Pending a review of MoM sub-committee)
Convenor of the Investment Committee: Mr Richard Nunn
Member Nominated Trustees/Directors:
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]
Mr Mark Kirkbride [2027]**
Mr Timothy Lancaster [2027]**
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 the Church of England
Mission Committee nomination

6.2 Methodist Conference
The Revd Geoffrey Clarke

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
Representatives will be appointed in 2023 for the 2024 CWM Assembly

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 Professor 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 Middle East contact group
Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7.6.8 CTBI Churches' refugee network
The Revd Fleur Houston

7.6.9 Churches Together in England (CTE)

7.7 CTE enabling group
Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7.7.1 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
Professor 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 [2024]†
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
The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo [2026]

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
Vacancy

10.4 Milton Mount Foundation
Mrs Daphne Bembridge [2023]
Mr Ray Dunnett [2024]
The Revd Kevin Swaine [2024]
The Revd Derek Lindfield [2026]†
Mrs Ann Bulley [2028]**
Five 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 [2027]†
Mrs Mary Steele [2027]†
Mr Mike Hart [2024]
The Revd Howard Sharp [2027]**
One vacancy

11.4 Congregational Memorial Hall Trust

Mr John Ellis [2027]†
Mr Philip Bonnier [2025]
The Revd Julian Macro [2026]**
Mrs Margaret Thompson [2024]
The Revd Derek Wales [2025]
One vacancy

Representatives serve four-year terms which may be renewed.

11.5 Historic England Places of Worship Forum

Convenor of the listed buildings advisory group

11.6 Lord Wharton's Charity

One vacancy

11.7 Retired ministers' and widows' fund

The Revd Julian Macro
Ms Liz Sharples
One vacancy

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]
Dr Simone Maghenzani [2028]**
Mrs Jean Wyber [2027]†

Council Members serve five-year terms which may be renewed

11.12 World Day of Prayer

England, Wales and 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]**

Details of these appointments were updated by the Nominations Committee Secretary following the General Assembly July 2023.

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The United Reformed Church

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