

16 January 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

**Welcome to the Assembly Executive
Friday 9 to Sunday 11 February 2024
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alferton, Derbyshire DE55 1AU**

1. Introduction

This is the second mailing for next month's Assembly Executive. It includes the following:

- Agenda for our meeting
- Updated list of attendees
- Practical Information sheet
- Travel information
- Map of the venue

The first mailing included a covering letter and a list of attendees. If you are missing any of these papers, please contact Izumi Nishizono, izumi.nishizono@urc.org.uk.

It still seems likely that engineering works will affect rail travel in and around Derbyshire on Sunday 11 February, so please check carefully before buying tickets.

If you are planning on driving to the venue, please help reduce our collective environmental impact by checking the list of people attending to see whether car sharing might be possible.

2. Assembly Executive Papers

The papers for Assembly Executive are now available here: www.urc.org.uk/assembly-executive. There may be some last-minute additions, so please regularly check this page.

Please note that paper Z1, which will be considered in a brief closed session in session 7, will only be available in hard copy and distributed at the venue.

3. En Bloc

At General Assembly and Assembly Executive meetings, we take certain business en bloc. These are items where the Moderator thinks that decisions might be reached responsibly without further discussion. You will see that the agenda includes a slot when these items will be voted on.

I suggest you read the en bloc papers first. This will give you time to contact the author of a paper if you have questions. Authors' names and e-mail addresses are noted on the cover sheets. If you think any of these papers need discussion at Assembly Executive, particularly if you disagree with a proposed resolution, you may ask that a piece of business be removed from en bloc. You must put that request to the Clerk,

michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk by 12:00 on Wednesday 7 February. If six people ask to remove an item, it will be withdrawn from en bloc and added to our agenda.

If a serious difficulty, error, or changed circumstance is noticed in a paper currently scheduled for en bloc, the proposer may ask for it to be withdrawn from en bloc, or the Moderator may rule that the difficulty, error, or changed circumstance requires the paper to be withdrawn from en bloc. Such requests should be made to the Clerk as soon as possible.

I need to remind you too that we really rely on every Assembly Executive member to read the papers and take note of information to relay back to their synods. In using the En Bloc method of decision-making there is no wish to bury information or to avoid discussions which Assembly Executive ought to have. We must all ensure the appropriate flow of information from Assembly Executive to the synods.

Here are the papers the Moderator currently expects to take in en bloc:

- A4 – General Secretariat Transitions
- A5 – Business Committee: minutes secretary
- F2 – Worship, Faith and Order Committee: amending terms of office
- G1 – Pensions Update
- J1 – Nominations Committee
- R2 – Ministerial resignations
- S1 – Safeguarding Committee: criminal record checks
- X1 – Mersey and North Western Synods: synod changes

I look forward to seeing you in Swanwick next month.

Yours sincerely,

