

Paper A4

General Secretariat transitions

Basic information

Contact name and email address	The General Secretary john.bradbury@urc.org.uk
Action required	For information and decision.
Draft resolution(s)	Assembly Executive extends the term of the Revd Philip Brooks to serve as Deputy General Secretary (Mission) until the end of August 2025.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To inform Assembly Executive of expected transitions within the General Secretariat and to reappoint the Revd Philip Brooks to serve as Deputy General Secretary (Mission) until his retirement in 2025.
Main points	The Revd Adrian Bulley will retire as Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship in August 2024. The Revd Philip Brooks will retire as Deputy General Secretary for Mission in 2025.
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	The General Secretariat.

Summary of impact

Financial	No overall change to the current situation.
External (eg ecumenical)	

The General Secretariat is made up of four members: The General Secretary, The Chief Operating Officer, the Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship and the Deputy General Secretary for Mission.

In 2022 The Revd Philip Brooks was appointed to serve as Deputy General Secretary for Mission for two years. This was to avoid making a permanent appointment at a moment the General Assembly Committee structure was under review. Philip was initially appointed as Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith on seven year term, due to conclude in 2024.

Philip has indicated that he would wish to retire in 2025. As has frequently happened before with Ministers serving the General Assembly, when a short extension to their

period of service will take them to their planned retirement date, Assembly or Assembly Executive is asked to extend their term of service to that date without a formal review process. This resolution seeks to extend Philip's service to his planned retirement date.

The Revd Adrian Bulley has indicated he will retire in August 2024. One year before Philip will retire.

It is now clear, following consultation through the Church Life Review and the decisions of the General Assembly in 2023 that we will continue with a three-department structure. The Mission Department serving the Mission Committee, the Resources Department serving the Resources Committee, and the Discipleship Department serving the Ministries, Education and Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Safeguarding Committees.

Given the financial situation we face with a considerable deficit budget, it is conceivable we may face the necessity for a reduction in levels of staffing within the Offices of the General Assembly. This may need to affect the General Secretariat as it will other areas of our activity. The Business Committee is not minded 2024 is the point to seek to reduce its size, given the intensity of Church Life Review activity. The process has begun to seek to appoint a new Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship on a similar basis as currently, with the considerable proviso in the Job Description that it is highly likely the role will evolve and take a different shape over time, as structures continue to evolve along with our staffing and ministry structures within Church House. This would lead the way open, if it becomes appropriate, to reconfigure the General Secretariat as Philip moves into retirement in 2025, giving appropriate time to consider this matter carefully.