

The Purpose of the Task Groups

Together, as God's Church, we are exploring our future path.

The Church Life Review (Phase 1) paved the way for three important task groups to help discern our next steps. General Assembly 2023 agreed three separate task groups will: -

- Develop models for future employed, lay workers.
- Devise options for providing HR, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and similar support to local churches.
- Create models for the effective and faithful use of our gifts and resources.

These task groups are instigated on the strength of General Assembly resolutions and will be integral to the design of future services and structures. They form Phase 2 (design) of the Church Life Review.

Remit: - Finance and Resource Sharing Task Group

The Resource Sharing Task Group (the Task Group) will: -

- Develop models for resource sharing, between and within Synods and General Assembly.
- Produce a feasibility study for each model.
- Examine the legal and structural changes they may require.
- Evaluate each model against the values and principles agreed by General Assembly.
- Provide recommendations and options to General Assembly in 2025.

This may be achieved by: -

- Utilising feedback from the previous finance and trust consultation event to identify potential models for resource sharing between Synods and General Assembly.
- Undertaking feasibility studies of potential models and assessing the opportunities for implementation.
- Considering the administrative, management and practitioner infrastructure necessary to for any future models to be effective.
- Evaluating potential options against the values and principles agreed by Assembly and providing *three* recommendations.

- Consulting churches and Synods upon potential roles and identify the feasibility and cost of differing infrastructure models.
- Identifying the wider structures and resources necessary for lay employed ministries to be effective in churches, and the key steps required to realise these.
- Liaising with other Task Groups to ensure complementarity of action.

Church Life Review – Finance and Resource Sharing Task Group – Terms of Reference

Name of group	Church Life Review – Phase 2 (design), Finance and Resource Sharing Task Group
Membership and appointment	<p>Up to ten suitably qualified and experienced individuals appointed by the Business Committee. Final size of the Task Group to be at the discretion of Business Committee.</p> <p>Limited to one member from each synod.</p> <p>Where possible geographic representation and a balance of gender, ethnicity, lay and ordained interests will be sought.</p> <p>Others may be co-opted to the group for a set period of time, if their knowledge, skill or role will support the work of the Task Group.</p> <p>A technical knowledge of URC financial systems, accountancy and financial literacy will be present within the group. The Task Group can call upon professional legal, financial, and other technical expertise, as required and administrative support can be provided.</p>
Convenor	The convenor will be selected by the Business Committee using safer recruitment
Frequency of Meetings 7 Quoracy	<p>The Task Group will meet as required to fulfil its remit – this may average to two meetings each calendar month, with additional residential and day events from time-to-time.</p> <p>Please note, Task Group members may be delegated authority for specific actions by the Task Group.</p> <p>The Task Group seeks to be inclusive and will attend to communication or any other needs to assist full participation.</p>

	<p>Equally, the Task Group can determine whether meetings take place in the evenings or during the day, based upon the availability of its members.</p> <p>The meetings of the Task Group will be quorate with two thirds of its members present for decision making and with one third for discussion. In the event of a meeting not being quorate for decision making, any actions considered can be ratified by email.</p>
<p>Records of meeting and data</p>	<p>Records of meetings, reports, feasibility studies, supporting data and information and all other relevant materials, will be kept and stored electronically in a central CLRG area. Meeting notes will be available within 5 working days.</p> <p>Information will be stored and handled, in line with URC GDPR and data handling policies and procedures</p>
<p>Reporting mechanisms</p>	<p>The Task Group will be accountable to the Church Life Review Programme Board, and any other groups identified by them.</p> <p>Reporting arrangements will be agreed with the Programme Manager,</p> <p>The Task Group may act on behalf of others involved by the Church Life Review Programme, where this is clearly recorded and agreed by the Board/Programme Manager.</p> <p>The Task Group will ensure relevant stakeholders/staff/groups are apprised of, and kept up to date on, all significant issues that are likely to arise, or which have occurred between meetings.</p> <p>The Task Group will receive and respond to updates from the Programme Board, team members, other groups/stakeholders.</p>

<p>Functions and delegated authority</p>	<p>The Task Group will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing models for resource sharing, between and within Synods and General Assembly. • Producing a feasibility study for each model. • Examining the legal and structural changes they may require. • Evaluating each model against the values and principles agreed by General Assembly. • Holding detailed consultations with Synods, Trust Companies, fundholders, staff, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders. • Providing recommendations and options to the Business Committee with a view to General Assembly in 2025. • Working within the resources delegated by the Business Committee. <p>The Task Group: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may draw upon professional, consultancy and administrative resources to support, undertake, inform or advise their work, as agreed with Business Committee. • will act in accordance with the actions agreed by the Business Committee. • may act on behalf of others involved in the Church Life Review Programme, where this is clearly recorded and agreed by the Board/Programme Manager and Business Committee. <p>Task Group members may be delegated authority for specific actions by the Task Group.</p> <p>The Task Group will refer items of expenditure to Business Committee who will follow their delegated authority from the Finance Committee/Resources Committee in relation to the Church Life Review Fund.</p>
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Scope	<p>What is included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring all options available for financial resource sharing between Synods and General Assembly • Exploring all options for effective utilisation of funds and resources insert options identified at the previous finance and trust meetings. <p>What is excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific work to explore the legal viability of resource sharing model
Inter-dependencies	<p>Interdependencies with other CLR task groups will be managed by: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the work of the group each month with the Programme Manager • Agreeing with the Programme Manager, and Programme Board/ Business Committee how to progress work which overlaps with others remits, or which may impinge upon other areas of activity across the URC. <p>Current work progressing the legal structures of the URC will be pertinent to the recommendations provided by this Task Group, and consultations and some joint activities may be helpful.</p>
Version	<p>Draft 2 – January 2024</p>