

25 June 2024

To All Attendees of General Assembly

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to provide detailed information about the General Assembly 2024 meeting from Friday 12 to Monday 15 July. Please read this letter carefully as it includes important links and instructions, including the introduction session for new attendees, transportation arrangements, and other key details.

1. Agenda

A copy of the agenda for General Assembly 2024 is attached to this letter. Please review it to familiarise yourself with the schedule and topics of discussion.

2. Reports to General Assembly

All meeting papers have been uploaded to the URC website. You can access them here: <https://urc.org.uk/general-assembly-papers>. If you have requested a paper or a large print copy, it will be available for collection at the registration desk at the venue, unless you have requested an early copy by post.

3. New Attendees Introduction

Michael Hopkins, the General Assembly Clerk, is inviting new attendees and all interested delegates to a scheduled Zoom session on Thursday, 11 July at 7:00pm.

Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84849107364?pwd=7Hf14a4McOyVpVaVagD3PTmDjFQo7j.1>

- Meeting ID: 848 4910 7364
- Passcode: 764341

4. En Bloc

At General Assembly, certain business items are handled En Bloc, meaning decisions can be made without further discussion. Please read the En Bloc papers first and contact the author if you have any questions. Author names and email addresses are on the cover sheets of the reports.

If you believe any En Bloc item needs discussion, particularly if you disagree with a proposed resolution, you may request its removal by emailing the Clerk at michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk by noon on Monday, 8 July.

If three or more people request removal, the item will be added to our agenda. It is essential that all members read the papers and relay information back to their Synods. The En Bloc method is not intended to bypass necessary discussions.

En Bloc Papers:

- Business Committee: A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A10
- Ministries: H2, H6, H8
- Law and Polity Advisory Group: P1
- Nominations: J1, J2
- Safeguarding: T1
- Eastern Synod: X1

5. Amendments to Papers and Resolutions

Before Assembly, discuss potential amendments with the proposer. If you wish to continue with an amendment, notify the Clerk at michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk so it can be included in the General Assembly Order Paper.

6. First-Time Speaker Cards

The Moderator will introduce First-Time Speaker cards, one of which will be given to each member. These cards can be used once to give first-time speakers at the assembly priority. These cards are to be retrieved / returned after use. They are non-transferable and must not be shared.

7. Transportation

For those traveling by train, volunteers will provide transportation between Alfreton station and the venue. Please use the form linked below to indicate your arrival and departure times on 12 and 15 July. For other times or travel via Derby station, please arrange your own transport.

Transportation Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/bDzPKSJ9sx>

8. Standing Orders

The rules for conducting business at General Assembly can be found in the 'Standing Orders'. Please review them to understand the procedural guidelines:

Standing Orders: <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/standing-order-physical-virtual-meetings.pdf>

9. Election of Moderator for 2025-2026

A paper ballot will be conducted immediately after the candidate presentations. Voting will close promptly for counting.

10. Minutes

Minutes will be posted on the website each evening after business closes and presented for approval the next day.

11. Order Paper

Notify the Clerk of any business matters, such as changes or proposed amendments, at michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk as soon as possible. The order paper for the following day will be published on the website after business closes each day.

12. Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist at General Assembly. If you can help, please contact Sam Bircham at samantha.bircham@urc.org.uk.

13. Parallel Sessions

On Saturday evening after dinner, there will be four parallel sessions where members can engage with committee work more intimately. The sessions are:

Parallel Sessions:

- A: Business Committee (A1, A2) & Finance Committee (G1) & Mission Committee (I1)
- B: Worship, Faith and Order Committee (F1) & Ministries Committee (H1)
- C: Communications Committee (C1) & Equalities Committee (E1)
- D: Education and Learning Committee (D1) & Children's and Youth Work Committee (B1, B2)

14. Praying with GEAR

The Group for Evangelism and Renewal will facilitate early morning prayers on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday during Assembly. More details will be available at The Hayes.

15. Live Streaming

Business sessions and Sunday morning worship at 10:30 AM will be live streamed on the URC website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page.

16. Social Media

Please refrain from posting to social media during business sessions. Information shared on social media is subject to defamation laws. Reports on the business will be posted on the URC website and social media channels once approved throughout the day.

Thank you for your commitment to Assembly. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. P. Bradbury" with a stylized flourish underneath.

John Bradbury
The Revd Dr John Bradbury