

Paper J1

Report to General Assembly 2024

Nominations Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Mrs Helen Lidgett hnlidgett@gmail.com Mrs Margaret Marshall nominations.secretary@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision.
Draft resolution(s)	<p>Resolution 46 1. General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Report, subject to the adoptions and corrections contained in supplementary Reports to Assembly.</p> <p>Resolution 47 2. General Assembly accepts the resignations set out in paragraph 6 of this report and discharges them with thanks for their service.</p> <p>Resolution 48 3. General Assembly dissolves the Nominations Committee from the close of General Assembly 2024. General Assembly discharges the officers and members and thanks them for their service. General Assembly transfers its functions and responsibilities to the new Nominations Committee set up by the 2024 General Assembly.</p> <p>Resolution 49 4. General Assembly dissolves the following committees from the close of General Assembly 2024: Finance Committee, Communications Committee, Human Resources Committee and the Church House Management Group. General Assembly discharges the members and thanks them for their service. For the avoidance of doubt, General Assembly transfers any functions and responsibilities not explicitly mentioned to the Resources Committee with effect from the close of General Assembly.</p>

	<p>Resolution 50 5. Assembly thanks the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins for his ten years' service as Clerk of General Assembly and offers him its good wishes for his future ministry.</p>
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Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To appoint members of various committees and groups and external appointments, to note changes to be implemented from General Assembly 2024 and to thank people standing down from service.
Main points	As above.
Previous relevant documents	N/A
Consultation has taken place with...	Wide consultation with staff and officers of General Assembly, Synods, local churches and the committees and groups where appointments are required.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (eg ecumenical)	None.

Report to General Assembly 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 The committee brings to General Assembly for authorisation the names of people to serve as Assembly Officers, as convenors and secretaries of Assembly committees, or as members of those committees, for set periods. It also recommends names of people to serve on various Panels and to represent the United Reformed Church on other bodies.

2. Nominations Committee

2.1 The Nominations Committee has served the United Reformed Church for 52 years with just a few changes to its Terms of Reference. Throughout that time, every Synod has been represented on the Nominations Committee, whose members served for as long as their Synod determined. They brought knowledge of the skills, experience and interests of ministers and members in their Synods to inform recommendations, greatly helped by the experience of the General Secretaries and senior members of staff supporting the Committee. It has been well served by several Secretaries, who since 1987 have been volunteers appointed by Assembly for four year periods with occasional extensions.

2.2 The acceptance by the 2023 General Assembly of the recommendations of the Church Life Review introduced major changes in the way nominations are managed. All officers and members of the current Committee are standing down

at the end of this Assembly (although the Secretary will complete post-assembly work before handing over). We ask Assembly to offer them sincere thanks for their work.

- 2.3 General Assembly will appoint a new Nominations Committee of six people, supported by Nominations Champions in each Synod, the Youth Executive and Global and Intercultural Ministries. Secretarial support will be provided by Church House Administrative staff. The safer recruitment process will be followed for all nominations.

3. Work since the 2023 General Assembly

- 3.1 With the implementation of Church Life Review recommendations, the number of URC Committees has been reduced. The work of the following committees will be incorporated into the Resources Committee: the Church House Management Group, the Communications Committee, the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Advisory Group, and therefore these committees are no longer included in the Nominations list. We ask General Assembly to dissolve these committees, discharge the officers and members, and thank them for their work.
- 3.2 Considerable Committee time has been spent exploring proposals for the future management of the nominations process and ensuring, as far as possible, that there is a smooth handover. It has also responded to the questions posed by the Net-Zero Task Group, and the recommendations of the Positive Action Task Group.
- 3.3 In the course of the year, we have selected 12 people from the Panel for General Assembly Appointments to serve on three Synod Moderator Nominating Groups.
- 3.4 Further members have been nominated to serve on the various panels of the Disciplinary Process. We thank the Revd Andy Braunston for continuing to identify, interview, nominate and train members of the panels.
- 3.5 The Committee sought to ensure that the membership of all Committees and Panels is compliant with the equalities guidelines of the United Reformed Church. Care was taken to ensure the Assembly membership of Nominating Groups for Synod Moderator and Staff appointments reflected as far as possible the diversity of the Church.
- 3.6 The Committee collects and records monitoring data. All those invited to serve on the Church's committees, working groups and Panels were asked to complete a monitoring form. This information is requested to track the URC's journey to becoming an anti-racist church. Following a suggestion made by the Assembly Moderator, we are using a revised terminology in the summary monitoring report for 2023-4 included below.

61 acceptances to the invitations sent were received between September 2023 and April 2024.

Ordained	32	52.5%
Lay	29	47.5%

Male	31	51%
Female	30	49%

An analysis of 74 responses – acceptance/refusals providing monitoring data shows this age spread:

Under 26	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65
3	9	10	18	16	18
4%	12%	13.5%	24.5%	21.5%	24.5%

74 responses gave ethnic origin:

Global Majority	Global Minority ('white')
15	59
20.5%	79.5%

4. Clerk of the General Assembly

4.1 The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins has served as Clerk of the General Assembly for ten years. He has consistently demonstrated an encyclopaedic knowledge of United Reformed Church procedures and policies, which he deployed with wisdom, good humour and necessary flexibility to keep Assembly, Assembly Executive and Mission Council meetings on track. He worked alongside two General Secretaries, the Revd John Proctor and the Revd Dr John Bradbury, advising and supporting them. He has always been willing to advise Synod Clerks and Assembly Committee Convenors and Secretaries, and responded with admirable swiftness to queries.

Faced with unprecedented issues in the light of the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, he produced revised Standing Orders for use in virtual meetings and then hybrid (combined in person and virtual) meetings.

He undertook the role of Clerk as a volunteer, with all its demands on his experience, skills and time, while serving as the full-time minister of local churches. In this time, he also managed to complete his PhD, and wrote a book, 'Pastoral Care in Practice', a helpful guide to a core part of local church life. This year, he was inducted to a new role as Moderator of the Wessex Synod. If Assembly agrees, he will also be the Convenor the Resources Committee.

4.2 The Nominations Committee is sure that Assembly will wish to thank Michael for his long service as Clerk, and wish him well for his future work. It presents a Resolution to that effect.

5. Thanks to all who serve on Assembly Committees

The Church continues to be blessed by many willing members who give their time and gifts to serve on its committees, panels and working groups, or who represent it on outside bodies. The formal acceptance of this report and the long list of names that follows is offered with a real sense of gratitude for all who serve in this way.

6. Resignations

6.1 General Assembly is asked to note the following resignations:

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Committee/Group</i>	<i>Name</i>
2.5	Disciplinary Investigation Panel	Mr Stuart Dew
2.5	Disciplinary Investigation Panel	Mrs Jean Innes
2.5	Disciplinary Investigation Panel	Professor Jean McLelian
2.5	Disciplinary Panel – Senior Member	The Revd Dr Janet Tollington
4.1.1	Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) sub-committee	The Revd Tim Clarke
4.4	Safeguarding Committee	Mr Alex Walker

7. Those to be appointed or re-appointed

Those agreeing to be appointed for the first time, for a further term, and those returning following a break in service are listed in the table below.

Key: ** = new appointment, † = extension of term of service, †† = further term of service after a break.

Ref	Committee/Group	Name	Role	Years
2.2.1	Panel for General Assembly Appointments	The Revd Janet Adamson	Member [†]	GA24- GA26
2.7	Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee	The Revd Ruth Dillion	Member ^{**}	GA24- GA28

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2.7	Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee	Mrs Bridget Akinyombo	Member**	GA24-GA28
4.2	Education and Learning Committee	Mrs Margaret Marshall	Member†	GA24-GA28
5.2	Resources Committee	The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins	Convenor**	GA24-GA28
5.2	Resources Committee	Ms Joanna Morfoh	Member**	GA24-GA28
5.2	Resources Committee	Ms Jane Humphrey	Member**	GA24-GA26
5.2	Resources Committee	The Revd Nick Mark	Member**	GA24-GA28
5.2	Resources Committee	Mr Steve Tringham	Member**	GA24-GA28
5.2	Resources Committee	Mr Tim Llewelyn	Member**	GA24-GA28
5.3	Equalities Committee	Mrs Judy Rogers	Member†	GA24-GA28
5.5	United Reformed Church Trust	The Revd James Breslin	Member†	GA24-GA28
5.5	United Reformed Church Trust	Mr David Greatorex	Member†	GA24-GA28
5.5	United Reformed Church Trust	Mr Clifford Patten	Member†	GA24-GA28
5.5	United Reformed Church Trust	The Revd Nick Mark	Member†	GA24-GA28
5.6	United Reformed Church Pension Trust Ltd	Mr Colin MacBean	Member†	GA24-GA28

5.7	Investment Committee	Mr Lyndon Thomas	Member [†]	GA24-31 December 2026
10.4	Milton Mount Foundation	Mr Ray Dunnett	Member [†]	GA24- GA28
10.4	Milton Mount Foundation	The Revd Kevin Swaine	Member [†]	GA24- GA28
10.5	Silcoates School	The Revd Jason McCullagh	Member [†]	GA24- GA27
10.5	Silcoates School	The Revd Dr Rosalind Selby	Member**	GA24- GA27
Ref.	Committee/Group	Name	Role	Years
11.2	Churches Legislation Advisory Service	Ms Muna Levan Harris	Member [†]	GA23- GA27
11.3	Congregational Fund Board	The Revd Bacheland Yemtsa	Member**	GA24- GA28
11.11	United Reformed Church History Society	The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar	Member [†]	GA24- GA28

8. 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 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 of Assembly. A term of service maybe completed at the discretion of the Convenor 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 names in the following list are submitted for approval by General Assembly and it will be updated after the close of Assembly. The latest list approved by General Assembly, by Assembly Executive or by Assembly Officer Action on its behalf is available at: <http://bit.ly/URCNom>. Committee Secretaries are advised to refer to this list for the membership of their Committee.

Officers of Assembly

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

1. 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 General Secretary and Treasurer and their Deputies, 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.

1.2 Law and Policy Advisory group

Convenor: Ms Morag McLintock [2028][†]

Secretary: Mr Neil Mackenzie [2026][†]

General Secretary

Clerk to General Assembly

Assistant Clerk to 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)

Vacancy (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 [2026] (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 [2025]

Synod Moderator

Mr Bill Potter

Finance Committee

Mr Clifford Patten

URC Trust

Mr Simeon Mitchell

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 Members normally serve for four years

Convenor: The Revd Dr Robert Pope [2026]

Secretaries:

The Minister for Digital Worship: The Revd Andy Braunston

Mission Support Officer: Ms Lindsey Brown

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

Names to be brought by the Assembly Business Committee

2.2.1 Panel for General Assembly appointments

Members usually serve for five years, as training is required.

Retiring 2024

Dr Paul Ashitey (10)	Mr Matthew Barkley (9)
The Revd Sal Bateman (10)	The Revd Lucy Brierley (9)
Mr David Gartside (3)	The Revd Peter Henderson(7)
The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson (9)	Mrs Pippa Hodgson (5)
The Revd George Mwaura (5)	Ms Victoria Paulding (5)
The Revd Paul Robinson (12)	Mr Patrick Sheard (1)
Mr Alex Walker (4)	Mr Reuben Watt (11)

Retiring 2026

The Revd Janet Adamson (13)	Mrs Helen Lidgett (5)
The Revd Reginald Mudenda (11)	Mrs Pat Poinen (1)
The Revd Mark Robinson (9)	Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid (10)

Retiring 2027

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

Retiring 2028

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

2.3 Complaints and Discipline Advisory Group (formerly MIND)

Convenor: The Revd Steven Manders [2026]**

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship

General Secretary

Secretary for Ministries

Consultant to Investigation Team: The Revd Ian Kirby [2027]

Consultant for Ministers: Mrs Fiona Smith [2026]

Training Officer: Vacancy

Synod Moderator: The Revd Bridget Banks [2025]

Convenor for Assembly Commission for Discipline: The Revd Nigel Adkinson [2028]

Senior Member Investigation Team: The Revd Martin Spain [2029]

Secretary Assembly Commission for Discipline: Mr Philip Laws [2026]

Secretary Disciplinary Appeal Commission: The Revd Andy Braunston
Clerk of General Assembly: The Revd Sarah Moore [2030]
Assistant Clerk of General Assembly: Vacancy
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Sharon Barr

2.4 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

2.5 Disciplinary Investigation Panel

Senior Member: The Revd Martin Spain [2029]

Deputy Senior Member: Vacancy

Members (not time-limited):

Mr John Collings

Mrs Chris Harris

Mr Andrew Howes

The Revd Lesley Moseley

The Revd Zadie Orr

Mr Giles Robinson

Mrs Margaret Smith

Mrs Liz Swanwick

Dr Gordon Woods

The Revd Martin Ferris

Mr Keir Hounsome

Ms Alison Jiggins

The Revd Craig Muir

Mr Mark Rigby

Ms Cathy Simpson

The Revd Martin Spain

The Revd Dr Janet Tollington

The Revd Geoff Wright

2.6 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

Ms Mary Coole

Ms Janine Cowie

Mr Remi Ferguson

Mrs Cathy Glazier

The Revd Dominic Grant

Prof Graham Handscomb

The Revd Jonathan Hill

Dr David Jones

The Revd Maria Lee

The Revd Alan McGougan

Ms Morag McLintock

The Revd Sarah Moore

Mr Dean Taylor

Ms Marie Trubic

Mr Gordon Wanless

Ms Nneoma Chima

Mr Ian Corless

Mrs Barbara Ellis

The Revd Peter Flint

Ms Barbara Goom

The Revd John Grundy

The Revd Marcus Hargis

The Revd Terry Jin

Mrs Mary Kelly

The Revd Sue McCoan

The Revd Martha McInnes

Dr James Mawdesley

The Revd Wilbert Sayimani

The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe

Mrs Janet Virr

Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid

2.7 Disciplinary Appeals Commission

Appointed by the Officers of General Assembly

Secretary: The Revd Andy Braunston

The Revd Fiona Bennett

The Revd Bill Bowman

The Revd Clare Downing
Mr Alastair Forsyth
Ms Elizabeth Lawson KC
Mrs Val Morrisson
The Revd Nigel Uden

Mr John Ellis
The Revd Walt Johnson JP
Ms Muna Levan-Harris
Mr Richard Pooler

2.8 Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch [2027]**

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

General Secretary

Deputy Treasurer

Synod Moderator: The Revd Bridget Banks [2026]

Nominated members:

The Revd Ruth Dillon [2028]

Mrs Bridget Akinyombo [2028]

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:

Programme Officer – URC Global Justice and Partnerships

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)

Synod Moderator: The Revd Steve Faber [2024]

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 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: Mrs Maggie Kirkbride [2027]**

Synod Moderator: The Revd Jamie Kissack [2026]

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 [2028][†]

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]

Joint Secretaries: Secretary for Ministries and CRCW and SCM Development Worker

Convenor of the Assessment Board

Representatives:

Synod Moderator: The Revd Jamie Kissack [2025]

SCMs: Vacancy

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

Synod Moderator: The Revd George Felton [2025]

Nominated Members:

The Revd Don Nichols {2026} **

The Revd David Lawrence [2027] **

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 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)

The Revd Gerald England (8)†

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 (3)

4.2 Education and Learning Committee

Convenor: Mrs Pippa Hodgson [2027]**

Secretary: Secretary for Education and Learning

Nominated Members: (nominated by the Nominations Committee)

Mrs Margaret Marshall [2028]

The Revd Andrew Mudharara [2026]**

Ms Maggie Eldridge-Mrotzek [2028]**

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 [2025]

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 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 Samantha Sheehan [2028]

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 [2028][†]

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:

Mrs Kate Yates [2026]**

Synod Safeguarding Practice Group representative:

Ms Julie Rafferty [2026]**

Synod Moderator: The Revd George Watt [2025]

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]

Convenor-elect:

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]**

5.2 Resources Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins [2028]

Nominated members:

Ms Jame Humphrey [2026]

Mr Tim Llewelyn [2028]

The Revd Nick Mark [2028]

Ms Joanna Morfoh [2028]

Mr Steve Tringham [2028]

Vacancy (Human Resources)

Ex-officio Members:

The Chief Finance Officer

Chief Operating Officer – Secretary

Treasurer

Deputy Treasurer

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]†

Ms Judy Rogers [2028]

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. Pensions Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2026]**

Secretary: Pensions Manager

Nominated Members:

Ms Joana Marfoh [2028]†

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) [2028]

Group two (Synods 5, 6, 7, 8, 12):

Mr Clifford Patten (7) [2028]

The Revd James Breslin (5) [2028]

Dr Stephen Thompson (7) [2026]**

Mr David Greatorex (5) [2028]

Mr David Lathbury (6) [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 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 [2028]

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 [31.12.2026]

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

The following are appointed for the 2024 CWM Assembly:

Ms Karen Campbell

Ms Lindsey Brown

The Revd Tim Meadows

Mr Zeerak-Shahbaz

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
Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries

The Revd Professor David Thompson

7.6 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

7.6.1 CTBI Church leaders' meeting

General Secretary

7.6.2 CTBI environmental issues network

The Revd Mike Shrubsole

7.6.3 CTBI consultative group on ministry amongst children (CGMC)

Head of Children's and Youth Work and one other

7.6.4 CTBI interreligious network

Programme Officer (Global, Justice and Partnerships)

7.6.5 CTBI China forum

The Revd John Scott

7.6.6 CTBI Churches' refugee network

The Revd Fleur Houston

7.7 Churches Together in England (CTE)

7.7.1 CTE enabling group

Mission Support Officer

7.7.2 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
One vacancy

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: Mission Support Officer

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 Memona Shahbaz [2027**] Mr Tim Hopley [2025]

8.1.1 Methodist / United Reformed Church strategic oversight group

The General Secretariat

8.2 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

8.3 Conversations between the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe and the Anglican Communion

The Revd Dr Julian Templeton

8.4 Roman Catholic / United Reformed Church Dialogue Group

Co-chair: The Revd Philip Brooks

Co-secretary: Ms Lindsey Brown

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 [2028]

The Revd John Grundy [2025]

The Revd Mark Bates [2026]†

Dr Lesley Coote [2026]**

Synod Moderator: The Revd James Kissack [2024]

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]

Convenor-elect: Vacancy:

Clerk to the governors: The Revd Naomi Young-Rodas [2028]**

Honorary Treasurer (Westminster College): Mr Gilbert Heathcote [2029]**

Principal: The Revd Dr Peter McEnhill

Mr Gilbert Heathcote [2029]**

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 [2027]†

Mr Ray Dunnett [2028]

The Revd Kevin Swaine [2028]

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 [2027]

The Revd Dr Rosalind Selby [2028]

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 [2027] 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][†]

Mrs Margaret Thompson [2024]

Mr Philip Bonnier [2025]

The Revd Derek Wales [2025]

The Revd Julian Macro [2026]**

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

Mr Neil McKenzie [2027]**

11.7 Retired ministers' and widows' fund

The Revd Julian Macro

One vacancy

Ms Liz Sharples

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 [2028]

Mrs Jean Wyber [2027][†]

Dr Simone Maghenzani [2028]**

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 Assembly Executive in February 2024. These updates will not be shown on the website until following General Assembly 2024.