

The United Reformed Church  
Minutes of Assembly Executive meeting  
Held via Zoom  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Present**

The Revd Tim Meadows Moderator  
The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Immediate Past Moderator  
Ms Catriona Wheeler, Moderator-Elect, Chair of Trust

The Revd Dr John Bradbury, GS  
The Revd Jenny Mills, DGS Discipleship  
Mrs Victoria James, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr Vaughan Griffiths, Deputy Treasurer

The Revd Philip Brooks, DGS Mission  
Mr Alan Yates, Treasurer

*Committee Convenors*

The Revd Samantha Sheehan, Children's and Youth Work  
The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, Resources  
Ms Pippa Hodgson, Education and Learning  
The Revd Jo Clare-Young, Equalities  
The Revd Dr Robert Pope, Worship, Faith, and Order  
The Revd Mary Thomas, Ministries  
Ms Sarah Lane Cawte, Mission  
Mrs Victoria Blunt, Nominations  
The Revd Roger Jones, Safeguarding

*URC Youth*

Miss Heather Moore URC Youth Moderator  
Miss Maya Withall, URC Youth Moderator Elect  
Miss Jadan Turner, URC Youth

*Synod Representatives*

Northern

The Revds Kim Plumpton and Sally Bateman, Mr Willie Duncan, The Revd Dr Trevor Jamison

North Western

The Revd Clare Downing, Ms Elizabeth Hall, Mr Tim Hopley, The Revd Mike Walsh

Mersey

The Revd Geoff Felton, The Revd Ruth Wilson, Ms Rita Griffiths, The Revd Dr Nick Jones

Yorkshire

The Revd Jamie Kissack, Mr Tim Crossley, The Revd Fran Kissack, Mr Daniel Raddings

East Midlands

The Revd Geoffrey Clarke, Mr David Greatorex, Dr Graham Jennings, The Revd Jane Wade

West Midlands

The Revd Steve Faber, The Revd Elaine Hutchinson, Mr Steve Powell, Mrs Rachel Wakeman

Eastern

The Revds Lythan Nevard and Dave Coaker, Mr Richard Lewney,

South Western

The Revd David Downing, Mrs Rachel Leach, The Revds Richard Gray and Neil Thorogood

Wessex

Miss Karen Bell, The Revd Helen Everard, The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem, Mr Clive Snashall

Thames North

The Revd George Watt, Ms Nneoma Chima, Mr Peter Knowles, The Revd Sally Thomas

Southern

The Revds Bridget Banks and Russell Furley-Smith, Miss Pam Tolhurst, The Revd Martin Knight

Wales

The Revd David Salisbury, Mr Chris Atherton, The Revd Julie Kirby, Ms Megan Price

Scotland

The Revds Lindsey Sanderson, Jan Adamson, and Susan Henderson, Mr Douglas Maxwell

### *In Attendance*

The Revd Andy Braunston,	Minutes Secretary, Minister for Digital Worship,
Ms Andrea Heron, Chaplain,	The Revd Andrew Mann-Ray, Chaplain,
Ms Morag McLintock, Law and Polity	Mr Andy Middleton, Legal Adviser,
Mr Andy Jackson, Communications,	Mrs Ann-Marie Nye, Communications Officer,
Dr Steve Tomkins, Reform,	Mr Laurence Wareing, Reform,
Mr John Samson, Finance,	The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Ministries,
Dr Sam Richards, Children & Youth Work,	Mrs Sharon Barr, Safeguarding,
Mr Myles Dunnett, Church Life Review,	Mr Steve Summers, Community Engagement,
Mr Roo Stewart, Public Issues	The Revd Dr Lesley Moseley, E&L Transitional Lead,

### *Ecumenical Observers*

The Revd Dr David Chapman, Methodist Church

### *Apologies*

The Revd Sarah Moore, Clerk	The Revd Mark Henry Robinson, Business Committee
The Revd Anne Sardeson, Eastern Synod	The Revd Sarah Gower Church of England

### *Observers*

The Revd Martin Hayward, Southern Synod Clerk	Ms Laura Taylor, Technical Support
Ms Izumi Nishizono, Admin Support	

## **1: Worship**

The Moderator, The Revd Tim Meadows took the chair and invited the chaplain, Ms Heron, to lead the Executive in worship.

## **2: En Bloc Business**

The Moderator invited Dr Bradbury, General Secretary, to move the one En Bloc Resolution, R1. The Moderator invited Executive to vote by means of an online poll. The resolution passed

unanimously.

### **3: Resources Committee**

The Moderator invited The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, Convenor of the Resources Committee to move the resolutions in Paper G1. Dr Hopkins introduced the Treasurer, Mr Alan Yates.

Mr Yates, introduced papers G1 and G2 and noted some errors and late changes to the figures. The correct budgeted figure for 2024 is a net expenditure of £857,937. This will be corrected in the paper online.

The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem asked about the arrangements for the, now closed, URC defined benefit pension scheme. Mr Yates explained this was, in essence, the purchase of an insurance policy to cover all future pension costs in the closed scheme. The most recent valuation showed the fund to be in surplus. In response to a further question from Dr Micklem, Mr Yates noted that a thanks to Synods for their contributions had not yet been sent. In response to a question from Mr Steve Powell, Mr Yates was unable to predict what next year's savings might be. Mr Yates was also not able to predict what the 2027 budget might contain.

In discussion Dr Micklem suggested that the projection of the M&M budget remaining stable for the next few years is not realistic. Mr David Greatorex noted that local church pledges for M&M in his synod were down. In response Mr Yates noted there is always a risk in making projections. He also noted he had acknowledged before that the M&M process is broken and the URC needs to explore different ways to fund ministry.

The Moderator invited Executive to vote by means of an online poll. The Budget for 2025 was unanimously agreed.

The Moderator invited Assembly to note, via means of an electronic poll, the target figures for 2026 and 2027. Assembly unanimously noted these.

### **4 Business Committee Appendix to Budget**

The Moderator invited Dr Bradbury to briefly address Executive about this paper. Dr Bradbury presented the paper for information purposes. There was no discussion.

The Moderator closed the meeting with the Grace.