

27 May 2025

Dear friends and colleagues,

I have been informed that you will be attending this year's General Assembly in July. To assist you in preparing, a Frequently Asked Questions booklet will be available on the URC website at www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly.

I am writing now to provide some preliminary information about the meeting:

1. Dates and times

The General Assembly will take place from Friday 4 July to Monday 7 July. We have a full agenda over these four days, which includes business sessions, worship services, regular breaks, one-hour lunch breaks, free time, and breakout rooms. Please ensure you keep all four days free in your diary.

2. Agenda and more

A full agenda will be circulated soon, along with information about the resolutions and papers that the Moderator proposes to be approved En Bloc.

3. Reports to General Assembly

All papers for the meeting will be uploaded to the URC website during the week commencing 13 June.

4. Printed papers

Option one: the link to the form has already been circulated, so there is no need to submit another request. However, if you have not completed the form yet and would like a printed copy of General Assembly papers to be collected at the venue, then please contact Izumi directly at izumi.Nishizono@urc.org.uk by **Thursday 29 May 2025** at the latest. If you require a large print version or other format, please specify this in your email request.

Option two – this option is for those who genuinely cannot access the reports online and require a hard copy in advance of the General Assembly meeting. Please contact Izumi Nishizono by email (if you have not submitted a request already), no later than **Thursday 29 May 2025**, and include your full name and address. We will do our best to provide a copy in advance of the meeting, but we are not responsible for any postal delays.

5. New members of Assembly

The Assembly Clerk will lead an introductory session for new members on Thursday 3 July, via Zoom. More details will follow.

6. Hearing loop

This will work if hearing aids are set up to work with the hearing loop system. If you have never used a hearing aid with a loop system before, please ensure it has been programmed prior to your arrival. Boots or Specsavers offer this service. If this is not done beforehand, you will be

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unable to use the hearing loop at the venue.

7. Mental health advisors

We are seeking volunteers to serve as mental health advisors who have completed mental health first aid training. This role can be shared across the four days of Assembly. Those interested should contact Samantha Bircham at **general.assembly@urc.org.uk** and are asked to send a recent photo.

8. Volunteers for chaplaincy

We also welcome volunteers to assist the chaplains during the Assembly. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, please contact the chaplains directly:

Andrew Mann-Ray: **amannray1979@gmail.com**

Andrea Heron: **andrea.heron@btinternet.com**

9. Musicians and assembly band

Musicians who would like to be part of a group leading music during Assembly sessions are invited to bring their instruments. If you are willing to participate in forming an assembly band, please contact the chaplains listed above.

10. Live streaming

The business sessions of the General Assembly, including the Sunday morning worship (at 10:30am), will be live streamed on the URC website and YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/URCUK.

11. Parallel sessions

We will be recording the parallel sessions and will make them available on our YouTube channel after the General Assembly. These sessions allow teams not presenting resolutions to update the Assembly about their work.

12. Questions

Any questions about the General Assembly business should be addressed to Mark Robinson at **mark.robinson@urc.org.uk**. Any queries about practical arrangements should be directed to Samantha Bircham at **general.assembly@urc.org.uk**.

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

Yours in Christ,

John Bradbury