

Paper H3

Ministries general report

Ministries Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Mary Thomas dso-s@urcwessex.org.uk Nicola Furley-Smith nicola.furley-smith@urc.org.uk
Action required	For information.
Draft resolution(s)	None.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To update on the work of two sub-committees: Accreditations sub-committee and the Assessment Board.
Main points	To update General Assembly on the ministry statistics of both sub-committees.
Previous relevant documents	Ministries report to General Assembly 2024.
Consultation has taken place with...	Ongoing consultation across the denomination.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (eg ecumenical)	None.

The committee is responsible for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work, Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching, Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneering and Eldership. Through its main committee and sub-committees, it is concerned with facilitating the ministry of the whole people of God in the United Reformed Church, through working to promote the policies of the church; advocating ministry in its widest sense; supporting ministry in its varied forms; facilitating the formation, training and learning for accredited ministries of the church.

Membership:

Convenor: Mary Thomas

Secretary: Nicola Furley-Smith

Nominated members:

Gill Bates, Terry Jinn and Lesley Moseley

Convenor of the Accreditations sub-committee: Paul Dean

Convenor of the Assessment Board: Bill Gould
Convenor of the MOM sub-committee: David Coote
Convenor of RMHS sub-committee: Paul Whittle
Leadership in Worship Advocate: Maggie Kirkbride
Synod Moderator: Jamie Kissack

Ministries Committee wishes to update the denomination with the following sub-committee reports which indicate the health of the breadth of ministries across the denomination.

Accreditations sub-committee

Maintaining the roll of ministers, this sub-committee accredits those applying for inclusion after training, and those coming from other denominations. It is concerned with numbers and recruitment. It also deals with applications for special category ministries and CRCW projects.

Convenor: Paul Dean

Secretaries: Nicola Furley-Smith and Steve Summers

Members: Bill Gould (convenor of the Assessment Board), Carole Marsden, Alison Micklem, Joanne Patterson (CRCW post holder), Jamie Kissack (Synod Moderator), Mary Thomas (convenor of Ministries Committee), SCM post holder (vacant).

1. This report of the Accreditations sub-committee since its formation marks a change of emphasis in our work in the light of policy decisions linked to the Church Life Review. The plan is for Special Category Ministries to continue for the time being, until existing postholders complete their terms. The Joint Secretaries and the committee are working towards facilitating 13 new Pioneering ministries in each Synod.
2. **Certificates of Limited Service**
 - 2.1 Certificates of Limited Service allow a minister of another denomination to serve in, and be paid by, the URC, in a specified post only and for a limited period of time. They provide a flexible way of responding to particular local ministry needs and opportunities.
 - 2.2 Two new certificates have been issued in the last year (Mark Cowling and Mark Hubbard), and one has been renewed (Duhyun Joshua Han), and no certificates have been closed because of retirement.
 - 2.3 In 2021, it was agreed that, for a period of three years, part-time certificates of limited service of 50% or less would not be counted against a Synod's deployment target. This was renewed in April 2024, and the Ministries Committee agreed to continue this for a further period of three years until 2027.

3. Certificates of Eligibility

Ministers who have come from other denominations to serve in the United Reformed Church make a vital contribution to the URC as a whole. Ministries Committee is responsible to General Assembly for oversight of the projected number of ministers for future years. On the basis of these projections and other relevant factors, decisions are made concerning the number of certificates of eligibility that can be issued to ministers of other denominations for both stipendiary and non-stipendiary service, enabling them to receive a call to service in a pastorate or post.

Since last General Assembly, there have been 41 applications. Five Certificates of Eligibility have been issued in the past 12 months, to ministers from the Disciples of Christ (1), Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (1), Presbyterian Church in Philippines (1), United Church in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe Presbytery) (2).

4. Admission to the roll of ministers of Word and Sacraments (from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025)

- 4.1 By ordination and induction: Joseph Amoah, Siobhan Louise Antoniou, Stephanie Grace Atkins, Carol Clack, Simon Cross, Julie Caroline Jefferies, Maria Jung Youn Lee, Kate Elaine Wolsey
- 4.2 By transfer from other churches: Julia Bartholomew (Church of Scotland), Stanslous Chatikobo (Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa), Alecia Patricia Johnstone (Assemblies of God)
- 4.3 By changes within the Roll of Ministers: There have been no changes within the roll of ministers.
- 4.4 Deletions from the Roll of Ministers:
By resignation: Paula Parish, Darryl Brenda Root
By transfer to another denomination: Helen Margaret Garton
By deletion under the disciplinary process: None to report.
- 4.5 Re-admission to the Roll: None to report
- 4.6 Jubilee Ministers:

Celebrating 60 years of ordained ministry in 2025:

Kenneth Graham, Malcolm Gerald Hanson, David Leslie Helyar, Donald Horsfield, Stuart Jackson, Derek John Kingston, Alwyn John Knight, Nanette Lewis-Head, Geoffrey Edward Hodgess Roper, Jacqueline Mary Smith, Keith John Spence, Raymond Brian Woodcock, Brian A Wren.

Celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry in 2025:

Bryan Michael Alderson, David Wilton Atkinson, Stuart James Brock, Martin Frederick Camroux, Graham Carling, Barry Edward Carter, Gwynfor Berwyn Evans, David Grosch-Miller, Moira Helen Kerr, Kenneth Orr Lynch, Marian Horman McKean, Robert Parker, Jaroslav Raich, Bryan Reginald Shirley, Robert Wylie White.

4.7 Ministers who have retired from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025:

Robert Andrew Barthram, Andrew Norris Birch, Ernest Geoffrey Bosse, Sarah Brewerton, Kenneth McArthur Forbes, Alan Gibbon, Richard Goldring, Joan Elizabeth Grindrod-Helmn, John Ashley Hardaker, Vivien Henderson, Terence James Hinks, John Graeme Kingsley, Peter James Little, John Mackerness, Rickey Lynn Mearkle, Shirley Margaret Miller, Helen Elizabeth Bain Pattie, Heather Joyce Pollard, Rosemary Pamela Shirley, Hans Stein, Graham Joseph Sweeney, Alison Anne Termie, Heather Whyte, Philip James Woods.

4.8 Ministers who have died from 12 July 2024 to 3 July 2025: Listed elsewhere.

5. Admissions to the roll of Church Related Community Workers (from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025):

- 5.1 By commissioning: Helen Snashall
- 5.2 Deletions from the roll by resignation and/or transfer to another denomination or by the disciplinary process: There have been no deletions to the roll.
- 5.3 CRCWs who have retired from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025:
Alison Wendy Dalton

6. Roll of Assembly-Accredited Lay Preachers

- 6.1 The following have received Assembly accreditation between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 as a result of having completed a URC course of study or having prior accreditation from another denomination:
01 Northern: Dorothy Thomson
02 North Western: Edward Hoddinott-Leighton, Tim Hopley
04 Yorkshire: Margaret Gwendoline Preece, Roland Graham Clark
05 East Midlands: Andrew William Bodsworth
06 West Midlands: Nathanael Michael Asher Paul
09 Wessex: John Douglas Sinclair
10 Thames North: Penny Stuart
13 Scotland: Laurence Wareing.

The following have received Assembly re-accreditation between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025: None to report.

- 6.2 Deletions from the Roll of Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers by resignation, removal and/or transfer to other Churches or death from 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:
Gillian Lesley Bustard, Jack M Farraday, Peter Gerard Murphy, Alan John Myers, Wendy Elizabeth Smith, Hugh Meirion Williams.
- 6.3 Lay Preachers Retired from 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:
Elizabeth Joy Brueck, Terence John Cooke-Davies, Pauline Angela Jones, Brenda Avril McCarron, Edwin Charles Rolles.

7. Roll of Assembly-Accredited Lay Pioneers

- 7.1 The following have received Assembly accreditation between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 as a result of having completed a URC course of study:
05 East Midlands: Wendy Hall.

Assessment board

Convenor: Bill Gould

Secretary: Nicola Furley-Smith

Members: Liz Mullen (2), Keith Reading (3), Jamie Kissak (4), Liz Sharples (5), Samuel Silungwe (5), Mark Tubby (7), Sohail Ejaz (7) Gerald England (8), Sue McCoan (10), Martyn Neads (10), Simon Loveitt (11) Mercy Nimako (11), Jan Adamson (13).

Because of the spread of candidates across the Synods we have also needed to call upon the services of previous assessors: T Ewen Harley (13).

Flow of candidates

Since the 2024 report, one Assessment Conference has been held (March 2025). Overall, 13 candidates were considered by the Board, of whom 11 were accepted. Most of these candidates begin their EM1 training programme in the September after their acceptance, but, because of the portfolio nature of their training format, the NSM4 candidates are able to formally enter the training programme at other times of the year.

Flow of candidates chart

Date of conference		Number of candidates	Number accepted
March 2025	Non-Stipendiary CRCW	1	1
	Stipendiary Ministry	5	4
	Non-Stipendiary Ministry	5	4
	Non-Stipendiary Ministry 4	2	2
TOTAL		13	11

Students in Training, by Synod as of 31 March 2025:

02 North Western

CRCW

Joanne West

Non-Stipendiary Ministry 4

Aftab Mughal

Margaret Elizabeth Dexter-Brown

Stipendiary Ministry

Tom Miller

03 Mersey

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

Rita Griffiths

06 West Midlands

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

Rachel Coward

Stipendiary Ministry

Clare Nutbrown-Hughes

Edward Lyne

07 Eastern

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

Charlotte Lesley Remblance

Robert Dart

Stipendiary Ministry

Alex Instone-Brewer

Jo Moreira

Machrina Suzi Ejaz

Tina Louise Wilson

08 South Western

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

Rachel Leach

Stipendiary Ministry

Alex Mabbott

09 Wessex

Non-Stipendiary Ministry 4

Sue Marie Nichols

Stipendiary Ministry

Abigail Ann Perrow

Simon Peters

10 Thames North

CRCW

Rachel Joanne Harvey

Stipendiary Ministry

Azeem Qadir Bakhsh

11 Southern

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

Joyce Edeki

Non-Stipendiary Ministry 4

Lynne Le Masonry

Susan Ann Knight

Stipendiary Ministry

Maurice Philips Omorojie

Yukyung Kim

13 Scotland

Non-Stipendiary Ministry 4

Eilidh Young

Margaret Winifred Higton

Stipendiary Ministry

Yvonne Carol Hamilton

Students in Training statistics as of 31 March 2025 chart:

	Students in training	Anticipated entry into URC service				
	March 2025	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
STIPENDIARY						
Northern College (RCL) CRCW	2		1	1		
Northern College (RCL) MWS	6	2	2	1	1	
Scottish College (RCL)	1					1
Westminster College (RCL)	7	1	2	3	1	
Subtotal	16	3	5	5	2	1
NON-STIPENDIARY						
Northern College (RCL)	3			2	1	
Scottish College (RCL)						
Westminster College (RCL)	3		1	2		
Subtotal	6	0	1	4	1	
NON-STIPENDIARY 4						
Northern College (RCL)	2	1	1			
Scottish College (RCL)	3	1	1	1		
Westminster College (RCL)	2	1		1		
Subtotal	7	3	2	2	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	29	6	8	11	3	1

Admittance to the URC Roll of Ministers:

		Type of ministry	Date of ordination	Date into URC	MS History for Yrbook
Joseph	Amoah	Stipendiary Minister	27/07/2024		Harrogate St Paul's 2024-
Siobhan	Antoniou	Stipendiary Minister	07/09/2024		Reigate Park 2024-; Banstead 2024-; Dorking 2024-; Redhill 2024-
Stephanie	Atkins	Stipendiary Minister	28/09/2024		Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership 2024-
Julia	Bartholomew	Stipendiary Minister		24/08/2024	Church of Scotland - 2012; Old Colwyn 2012-20; Rhos-on-Sea 2012-24.
Stanslous	Chatikobo	Stipendiary Minister	16/05/1999	07/05/2024	Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa 1999-2024; Trinity Church, Ashwell & Walkern & Sandon United Church 2024-
Simon	Cross	Stipendiary Minister	03/08/2024		Hull Area: Hull St Ninians & St Andrews, Cottingham Zion & Newland, Swanland Christ Church, Peters House 2024-
Julie	Jefferies	Non-Stipendiary Minister	21/09/2024		Prestbury URC 2024-
Alecia	Johnstone	Stipendiary Minister	01/07/2018	07/08/2024	Assemblies of God 2018-24; North Western Synod, Chaplain at HMP/YOI Preston 2024-
Maria	Lee	Stipendiary Minister	20/07/2024		Chelmsford CRCW Project 2018-22; Westminster College 2022-24; Bolton & Salford Missional Partnership 2024-
Kate	Wolsey	Stipendiary Minister	01/09/2024		Pembrokeshire Transitional Minister 2024-