

Paper A2

Revision of the Composition of the Business Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	The Revd Dr John P Bradbury, General Secretary john.bradbury@urc.org.uk
Action required	Decision
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 2 Assembly Executive adopts the revised membership of the Business Committee: a) An Independent Convenor (who shall be an officer of the General Assembly) b) The General Secretary who shall serve as Executive Secretary c) The Moderator of the General Assembly d) The immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly e) The incoming Moderator of the General Assembly f) The Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the General Assembly g) The Treasurer to the General Assembly h) The Convenors of the Faith in Action, Ministries and Resources Committees i) The other members of the Senior Leadership Team j) Two members appointed by the General Assembly to reflect the breadth and diversity of the United Reformed Church, one of whom will normally be under the age of 26 k) The Business Committee may invite others to be in attendance when it will assist the making of Assembly Arrangements or the strategic oversight of the business of the Church, including, where appropriate, the convenors of other General Assembly Committees.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To add the three core General Assembly committee convenors to Business Committee, to better ensure that the main work of the General Assembly remains co-ordinated.
Main points	

Previous relevant documents	Paper N2A of General Assembly 2023, Resolutions 53 and 54.
Consultation has taken place with...	The convenors of the Faith in Action, Ministries and Resources Committees.

Summary of impact

Financial	Slight additional costs of three additional members.
External (eg ecumenical)	

The revision of the Business Committee in 2023 sought to bring together, in one committee, the Officers of the General Assembly and the members of the Senior Leadership Team (then the General Secretariat) who head the work of the three departments of the Offices of the General Assembly.

At the time the Business Committee was formed, the Committee Structure of the General Assembly was considerable, with many different committees and groups exercising oversight over different areas of the life of the Church.

To make the size of the Business Committee manageable, it was necessary to rely on the members of the Senior Leadership Team representing the work of the various committees related to their departments. The recent revisions to the Committee Structure have given us a far smaller, more coherent, committee structure, which maps now directly onto the departmental structure of the Offices of the General Assembly.

Given this, it becomes possible to take a further step towards the integration of the work of the Assembly by bringing the three convenors of the three core committees (Faith in Action, Ministries and Admin & Resources) into full membership of the Business Committee. This will strengthen the way the three core committees are able to inform one another's work and ensure that where work needs to be joined up, it is.

It reduces reliance on the members of the Senior Leadership Team alone to carry that responsibility of ensuring the co-ordination of the Assembly's work and rightly brings the Assembly's Committees themselves into the heart of the strategic overview of the work of the Assembly.

The resolution also updates the composition to reflect the change in name of the General Secretariat to Senior Leadership Team and also explicitly names the reality that the convenors of the specialist General Assembly Committees can be invited to be present when necessary to the good running of the business.