



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# General Secretary

The United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

12 June 2026

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to provide detailed information about the General Assembly 2026 meeting, taking place from **Friday 3 July to Monday 6 July**. Please read this letter carefully, as it includes important links and instructions – including information on the introduction session for new attendees, transportation arrangements, and other key details.

## Agenda

An outline of the agenda for General Assembly 2026 is attached to this letter. Please review it to familiarise yourself with the schedule.

## Reports to General Assembly

All meeting papers have been uploaded to the URC website. You can access them here: [www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly-papers](http://www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly-papers). If you have requested a paper or a large print copy, it will be available for collection at the registration desk at the venue, unless you requested an early copy by post.

## New attendees' introduction

The Revd Sarah Moore, the General Assembly Clerk, invites new attendees and all interested delegates to a scheduled Zoom session on **Thursday, 25th June at 7pm**.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89778462151?pwd=s9TYytUCFmXquBH9tqdHCi7Bc8e4Ea.1>

Meeting ID: 897 7846 2151

Passcode: 184686

## Standing Orders

The rules for conducting business at General Assembly can be found in the 'Standing Orders'. Please review them to understand the procedural guidelines <https://bit.ly/3PUyOpB>. A Mock Motion will take place in the first session.

## En Bloc

At General Assembly, certain business items are handled in En Bloc, meaning decisions can be made without further discussion. Please read the En Bloc papers first and contact the author if you have any questions. Author names and email addresses are on the cover sheets of the reports.

If you believe an En Bloc item needs discussion, particularly if you disagree with a proposed

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resolution, you may request its removal by emailing the Clerk at [sarah.moore@urc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.moore@urc.org.uk) by **12 noon on Monday 29 June**.

If three or more people request removal, the item will be added to the agenda. It is essential that all members read the papers and relay information back to their Synods. The En Bloc method is not intended to bypass necessary discussions.

### **En Bloc Papers:**

- **Synod Moderator's Report**
- **Senior Leadership Team Report**
- **A1 – Business Committee Report**
- **AD1- Business/Resources - Church Life Fund Progress Update**
- **B1 – Faith in Action Committee Report**
- **B4 – Faith in Action - Future of Greenbelt**
- **B5 – Faith in Action – Net-Zero Task Group Report**
- **B6 – Faith in Action - Net-Zero Terms of Reference**
- **C4 – Ministries - Active Ministers Policy**
- **C5 – Ministries - Inactive Ministers Policy**
- **C6 – Ministries - Review of Ministers Retirement Age**
- **C7 – Ministries - Process for ill-health early retirement**
- **C8 – Ministries - Competencies and Expected Standards**
- **C9 – Ministries - Reasonable Adjustments**
- **C10 – Ministries - Sickness and Ill-health**
- **C11 – Ministries - Accreditations Sub-Committee Terms of Reference**
- **CD1 – Ministries/Resources - Ministry & Mission Review Task Group update**
- **CH1 – Ministries/ Pastoral References and Welfare - Creation of a Ministries Support & Wellbeing Sub-committee**
- **D1 – Resources Committee Report**
- **D2 - Resources - Investment Committee becoming a Sub-committee of Resources Committee**
- **G1 – Nominations Committee Report**
- **H1 – Pastoral References and Welfare Committee Report**
- **I1 – Safeguarding Committee Report**
- **I2 – Safeguarding – Synod Safeguarding Reviews**
- **J1 – Worship Faith and Order Committee Report**
- **J2 – Worship Faith and Order – Celebration of Creationtide**
- **J3 – Worship Faith and Order - “Nature Faith and Order” - third version**
- **J4 – Worship Faith and Order - Assisted Dying**

- **J5 – Worship Faith and Order – Permission to Co-opt members**
- **P1 – Wessex Synod - New Synod Name**
- **P4 – Thames North - Thames North Mission Projects**

### **Resource Centres for Learning – Questions and Answers Session for clarification**

Members of General Assembly are warmly invited to join an online question and answer session on **Monday 29 June from 6.00pm–7.30pm**.

The purpose of the session is to provide an opportunity for members of General Assembly to seek clarification on any aspect of Paper A3 – Resource Centres of Learning – Education for Ministry Phase 1 (EM1) Review ahead of the Assembly debate. The paper is both substantial and complex, and we recognise that members may welcome the opportunity to explore points of clarification in advance. Points or matters of debate will not be permitted during this session.

This session is intended to complement, rather than replace, the formal debate at General Assembly. Opportunities for points of clarification will still be available when the paper is considered by the Assembly itself. However, we hope that this additional space will assist members in their preparation and enable the Assembly's discussion to focus more fully on the issues before it.

The Zoom link is:

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83471701156?pwd=HELph2xtiMykHMiSiPU8X7Z6bTmCzK.1>**

Meeting ID: 834 7170 1156

Passcode: 390958

### **Amendments to papers and resolutions**

Before Assembly, please discuss any potential amendments with the author. If you wish to proceed with an amendment, notify the Clerk at **[sarah.moore@urc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.moore@urc.org.uk)** so it can be included in the General Assembly Order Paper.

### **First-time speaker cards**

Along with voting cards, each member will receive a First-Time Speaker card. This card may be used once to give priority to a first-time speaker during Assembly. These cards must be returned after use. They are non-transferable and must not be shared.

### **Transportation**

For those travelling by train, we will provide transportation between Alfreton station to the venue. Please complete the form below to indicate your arrival and departure times on the **3 and 6 July**. For other timings, or travel from Derby station, please arrange your own transport  
Transportation form: **[General Assembly 2026 Questionnaire on transport – Fill out form](#)**

We are currently short on volunteer drivers. If you are able to volunteer to assist with transporting delegates to and from the venue, please contact us at **[general.assembly@urc.org.uk](mailto:general.assembly@urc.org.uk)**.

### **Election of Moderator for 2027–2028**

A ballot with voting papers will be conducted immediately after the presentation/s by the candidate/s. Voting will close promptly for counting.

## **Minutes**

Minutes will be posted on the website each evening for review after business concludes and presented for approval the following day.

## **Order Paper**

Please notify the Clerk of any business matters, such as changes or proposed amendments, at [sarah.moore@urc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.moore@urc.org.uk) as soon as possible. The Order Paper for the following day will be published on the website after business concludes each evening.

## **Volunteers**

We require volunteers at General Assembly. If you are able to offer support, even on a part-time basis, your contribution would be very welcome. If you can help, please contact Sam Bircham at [general.assembly@urc.org.uk](mailto:general.assembly@urc.org.uk).

## **Mental Health First Aiders**

We are also seeking volunteers to serve as Mental Health First Aiders. Those offering this support should have completed mental health first aid training, and this role can be shared across the four days of Assembly. If you are interested, please contact Sam Bircham at [general.assembly@urc.org.uk](mailto:general.assembly@urc.org.uk) and include a recent photo in your message.

## **Breakout groups**

A list of Breakout Groups and their meeting locations are included. At times during Assembly, these groups may be used for discussions on specific topics. We need a **volunteer leader and a note-taker** for each group. Note-takers will be asked to take notes using an online form. If you are interested in leading or note-taking, please contact Izumi Nishizono at [general.assembly@urc.org.uk](mailto:general.assembly@urc.org.uk).

## **Parallel sessions**

On Saturday evening after dinner, there will be three parallel sessions where members can engage with committee and specialist committee work. The sessions are:

- A. Faith in Action and Nominations
- B. Ministries, Worship Faith and Order, and Safeguarding
- C. Resources and Church Life Fund

## **Hearing loop**

The hearing loop system at Derbyshire Hall is available for those with hearing aids. To use the system, your aid must be switched to the T (telecoil) setting, or by sitting close to the sides of the hall where the signal is strongest.

## **A message from the Chaplain – the Revd Jane Wade**

Worship is central to our gathering together as the URC General Assembly. Each morning will start with an act of worship including a reflection from our guest Bible Study leader, the Revd Dr Peter Green, who is the Dean of Chapel and Chaplain at Lincoln Bishop University. We will end each day in song, reflection, and prayer. If you would be willing to read or help with preparing for Holy Communion preparations on Friday, please let Jane know at: [jane@thewadetribe.co.uk](mailto:jane@thewadetribe.co.uk).

If you are interested in joining the General Assembly Choir, please email Samantha Sheehan at [rev.s.sheehan@gmail.com](mailto:rev.s.sheehan@gmail.com). The choir will help lead music during our Closing Worship on Monday morning.

More information will be available on the General Assembly webpage concerning the General Assembly worship services, Revd Dr Peter Green's bio, and a music playlist.

**Praying with GEAR**

The Group for Evangelism and Renewal (GEAR) will facilitate early morning prayers in The Chapel during Assembly.

**Live streaming**

Business sessions and Sunday morning worship at 10:30am will be live streamed on the URC website and YouTube channel: [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk) and [www.youtube.com/URCUK](http://www.youtube.com/URCUK). Recordings of each session will be available in the Live section on the URC's YouTube channel after the meeting.

**Social media**

Please refrain from posting on social media during business sessions. Reports about the business will be posted on the URC website and social media channels throughout each day.

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

Sincerely,

John Bradbury  
General Secretary