



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church  
General  
Assembly**

**United Reformed Church  
General Assembly 2026**

# **Order Paper**

**Friday 3rd July 2026**

**Please retain each Order Paper as the material may be relevant on any day of the Assembly**

## **En-bloc business**

Papers D1, D2, I2, J2, J3 and J3-1 reached the threshold specified in Standing Orders to be removed from en-bloc business. These will be dealt with in the main agenda of the meeting.

## **Facilitation Group**

Many thanks to those who have agreed to serve as members of Facilitation Groups in accordance with Standing Order 7.7.

## **Resolution 100**

### ***General Assembly appoints***

***Karen Bell, Tim Crossley, Murray George, Michael Hopkins, Anne Lewitt, Richard Lewney, Zaidie Orr, Lindsey Sanderson, Anne Sardeson, John McNeil Scott, Reuben Watt, and Maya Withall to serve as members of the Facilitation Group for its meeting between 3-6 July 2026 in accordance with Standing Order 7.7.***

Proposed by the Business Committee

## **Election of Moderator of General Assembly 2027-2028**

The biography of the candidate is available. Ballot papers will be distributed at the start of the session. This session is not life-streamed.

## **Resolution 101**

***General Assembly appoints the Revds Wayne Hawkins and Sally Thomas to serve as tellers for the 2027-2028 election of the Moderator of the General Assembly.***

Proposed by the Business Committee

## **Convenor of Tellers**

### **Resolution 102**

***General Assembly appoints Morag McLintock to serve as Convenor of Tellers for its meeting 3-6 July 2026.***

Proposed by the Business Committee

### **Minutes of the meeting**

Minutes of each session will be available on the website soon after each session has concluded. Please in the first instance give any corrections to the minutes to the minute takers before the published deadline. Minutes will then be checked by the Clerks and presented for adoption at the next convenient opportunity within the business sessions.

Minutes for the sessions taking place on Monday morning will be available on the website, please send any corrections to the minute takers by email [andy.braunston@urc.org.uk](mailto:andy.braunston@urc.org.uk) by 5pm on Wednesday 8th July 2026. It is our usual custom and practice that the minutes of the sessions taking place on the last day of the meeting are adopted by the Officers.

The Officers of the General Assembly are: the General Secretary, Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Convenor of the Business Committee.

### **Resolution 103**

***General Assembly authorises the Officers of the Assembly to formally agree all unadopted minutes following the close of this meeting.***

## **Appointment of Moderator of Southern Synod**

### **Resolution 104**

***General Assembly appoints the Revd Paul Robinson to serve as Moderator of the Southern Synod from 1st October 2026 until 30th September 2033.***

### **Mock Resolution**

This is a training exercise conducted during the first business session with the aim of enabling members of General Assembly to familiarise themselves with the practicalities of how business is conducted. In a change to previous years this item is scripted with members of General Assembly invited to play themselves where votes are taken. Thanks to representatives from Eastern Synod for assisting with this item.

### **Parallel Sessions**

Parallel sessions will take place as follows during session 7 on Saturday evening. Parallel sessions enable those committees not otherwise presenting business and who have done work that is not otherwise reflected in resolutions to report on their work. Decisions are not taken in parallel sessions.

Parallel session A	Faith in Action and Nominations	Chapel	David Miller	Grosch
Parallel session B	Ministries, Worship, Faith and Order, and Safeguarding	Derbyshire Hall	Kirsty Thorpe	
Parallel session C	Resources and Church Life Fund	Derbyshire 3	Nigel Uden	

### **Paper B3 Interfaith Report**

The compilers of this report wish to draw the attention of members of General Assembly to the Interfaith Toolkit referred to in the paper. This can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-do/inter-faith/>

### **Paper B6 Net Zero Task Group Terms of Reference**

(Page 146) First bullet point should read ‘one member of the Resources Committee’, not ‘one member of the Finance Committee’

(Page 147) First bullet point should read ‘one member of the Finance Committee (functions now subsumed into Resources Committee)’

### **Paper B7 Legacies of Slavery - Affirming the Will & Finding the Way(s)**

#### **Resolution 15**

The Faith in Action wish to make the following addition to this resolution.

***General Assembly delegates the authority to determine specific funding allocations for each project to the Faith in Action and Business Committees, to be advised by the Legacies of Slavery Task Group, bringing updates to General Assembly via the usual reporting processes.***

### **Paper C1 Ministries Committee report correction**

On page 171 of the Book of Reports Claire Nutt’s name should not be under Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers as she was re-accredited in 2022.

### **Paper D1 Resources Committee**

#### **Resolution 27**

Resources Committee wish to withdraw this resolution as it is out of order. Many years ago, the Assembly agreed to receive all reports unless it actively voted not to. Also Standing Order 4.6.6 prohibits resolutions simply affirming existing work.

### **Paper K1**

Please amend references to 'Faith and Order Committee' to 'Worship, Faith and Order Committee'.

### **Paper P2 Keeping Trans People Safe**

The resolutions were always intended to be one resolution. Please delete resolutions 54 and 55, and substitute an amended Resolution 53:

#### **Resolution 53**

***General Assembly notes that, as affirmed in the statement agreed at General Assembly 2023, transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people in the UK find that they are living in an increasingly hostile environment, which means that it is even more important that the church welcomes them, and has appropriate safeguarding measures in place. General Assembly further notes that St Columba's URC Oxford has therefore agreed that it is important to affirm its commitment to the 2023 resolution, and to publicise this on their church website. General Assembly invites other local churches to make similar affirmations, and to indicate their support to the Offices of the General Assembly as part of the Annual Return for publication on the URC website within the "Find a church" tool.***

### **Paper P3 The URC's treatment of ministers arrested for theologically motivated peaceful civil disobedience**

This paper was not ready in time to be included in the Book of Reports. Please check the General Assembly website for this paper. A small number of paper copies have been provided for those needing these.

### **Paper P4 Recognition of Mission Projects in Thames North Synod**

Thames North Synod request that this paper and its accompanying resolutions (56, 57, 58, 59) be withdrawn to enable the Faith in Action and Ministries committees to do more work about all aspects of Mission Projects.

### **Late Paper - Paper Q1 Response to the impact of single-sex court rulings on transgender people and their communities**

This is available on the website. A small number of paper copies have been provided for those needing these.

## **Photography Notice – United Reformed Church General Assembly**

We have designated Assembly photographers and videographers who will be taking photographs throughout this General Assembly for use in church communications—including articles, news items, social media, and YouTube clips—solely for non-commercial, and church-related purposes. These photos may be used in the coming years.

If you prefer not to be included in any photographs used for these purposes, please fill out an opt-out form available at the Comms table or speak to a member of the communications team.

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Thank you for your cooperation.