

Monday 6 July

Session Twelve

The Moderator invited the Chaplain, the Revd Jane Wade to lead Assembly in prayer and Bible Study

42 Thanks

Ms Irish Simons, Convenor of the Business Committee, thanked all those who had helped with the administration and smooth running of Assembly.

Dr Bradbury thanked the Moderator for her service over the last year.

43 Minutes of Sunday 5th July 2026

The Clerk moved the minutes for Sunday 5th July 2026, as amended, which were warmly accepted by Assembly

44 Items removed from en bloc (continued)

a Paper J2 –Celebration of Creationtide

The Moderator invited Dr Robert Pope, Convenor and the Revd Andy Braunston, co Secretary, of Worship, Faith and Order Committee, to present paper J2 and the resolutions contained therein.

Resolution 41

General Assembly encourages United Reformed Churches to observe the Feast of Creation in Christ on the first Sunday in September from 2026.

/carried

Resolution 42

General Assembly instructs the Worship, Faith and Order Committee to provide and curate worship resources to help the churches to celebrate the Feast of Creation, including resources produced as a result of the global ecumenical process.

/carried

45 J3 Providing a 3rd Version of the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith, and Order of the URC

The Moderator invited Dr Robert Pope, Convenor and the Revd Andy Braunston, co Secretary, of the Worship, Faith, and Order Committee, to present paper J3 and the resolution contained therein. Having heard the lively discussion from members of

Assembly, the Committee requested that the paper be withdrawn. Assembly acceded to this request.

Resolution 43

General Assembly agrees to adopt Version III of the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith, and Order of the URC.

/withdrawn

46 Moderator's Reflections

The Moderator provided a reflection of her year as Moderator of General Assembly

47 Address to the Throne

Having provided background information, the Moderator moved the Address to the Throne as follows

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty,

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, meeting in Derbyshire, sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Creator and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Witnessing Your Majesty's visit to the Vatican in October 2025 to pray publicly with Pope Leo XIV was an encouraging sign of improving relations within the Christian Church. The URC has ecumenism rooted at the very heart of its existence. As discord and enmity continue to blight our world, we welcome Your Majesty's commitment to build bridges between faiths and cultures.

At a time when division can seem loud, we have celebrated the everyday acts of kindness, care and connection found in places of worship and community hubs across the UK. While we have seen Christian symbols misused at protests to try to legitimise superiority over people of other cultures, the 'Million Acts of Hope' campaign in May reminded us that strong, healthy, caring communities are the backbone of British society.

Your Majesty's words in April to the United States Congress, that our nations exist 'not just for the benefit of **our** peoples, but of **all** peoples', remind us to work actively for peace beyond our own shores. Alongside prayer, emergency appeals and statements of concern, we realise that more costly advocacy is necessary when seeking to tend to the needs of others and transform unjust structures, including working for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land their home.

We have begun to demonstrate our determination to address the legacies of historic transatlantic slavery, with plans forming for a programme of support for the mentoring of young black men in the UK. This is alongside a commitment to partner with the United Church in Jamaica, as they seek to address the issue of landlessness and generational poverty, and work to support recovery efforts in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Melissa in October 2025.

Sharing Your Majesty's passion for nature, we rejoice that almost half of our congregations have registered as Eco Churches, well above the national average. This treasuring of God's

creation has increased our awareness of our impact upon the planet in all its beautiful diversity, prompting us to take stronger action to reduce our carbon footprint as good global neighbours.

Young people are not only our future, but a vital part of today's society and of our Church. At this General Assembly, they have prompted us to encourage local congregations to help prison leavers safely join faith communities. Our young people have led us to declare together our deep pastoral concern for those affected by the erosion of trans rights in the UK. We have also invited our congregations to show clearly if they offer a safe space for trans people.

As we teach faith, hope and love together, in and through established and new communities of discipleship and worship, our renewed hope is to tell the good news of Jesus to a rapidly changing world through our words and actions. We are living in increasingly uncertain times. Our resilience and compassion as a nation and as people of God is being tested. There has never been a more important time to 'be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us, and to do it with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3:15).

We give thanks to God for Your Majesty's continuing witness to the nation and the nations. We pray that abundant wisdom, health and strength would enable Your Majesty's faithful service before God to us and the world each day."

This was accepted by Assembly

48: Moderator of General Assembly 2027/8

The Revd Dr Susan Durber, Moderator of General Assembly 2027/8, gave her acceptance speech which was warmly received.

The Chaplain led closing worship during which the Moderator, Ms Catriona Wheeler, inducted the Moderator, the Reverend Neil Thorogood.

The Moderator adjourned Assembly.