

Record of Assembly 2026



The
**United
Reformed
Church**





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Roll of Assembly 2026

Moderator

1. Ms Catriona Wheeler

Clerk

2. The Revd Sarah Moore

Assistant Clerk

3. The Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young

General Secretary

4. The Revd Dr John Bradbury

Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

5. The Revd Jenny Mills

Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

6. The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith

Chief Operating Officer

7. Mrs Victoria James

Treasurer

8. Mr Alan Yates

Deputy Treasurer

9. Mr Vaughan Griffiths

Convenors of General Assembly Standing Committees, except the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee

10. Business Committee – Mrs Irish Sirmons
11. Faith in Action – Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte
12. Ministries – The Revd Mary Thomas
13. Resources – The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins
14. Worship, Faith and Order – The Revd Dr Robert Pope
15. Nominations – Ms Victoria Blunt
16. Safeguarding – The Revd Roger Jones

Convenor of the United Reformed Church Trust

17. vacant

Immediate Past Moderator

The Revd Timothy Meadows

Former Moderators (4 places)

18. The Revd David Grosch-Miller
19. The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe
20. The Revd Nigel Uden
21. The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch

Resource Centres for Learning

22. Luther King Theological College Staff – The Revd Dr Adam Scott
23. Luther King Theological College Student – Mr Alex Mabbott
24. Scottish College Staff – The Revd Dr John McNeil Scott
25. Scottish College Student – Dr Ann Sinclair
26. Westminster College Staff – The Revd Dr Robert Pope
27. Westminster College Student – Mrs Machrina Ejaz

United Reformed Church Youth (3 places)

28. Youth Assembly Moderator – Miss Kacie Hodgson
29. Youth Assembly Moderator-Elect – Mr Alex Clements
30. Youth Assembly GA/AE rep – Miss Jay Tynan

United Reformed Church Chaplain to HM Forces (1 place)

31. vacant

Northern Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

32. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Kim Money
33. The Synod Clerk – Mrs Lucy Cooke
34. The Synod Clerk – Ms Lisa McAvoy
35. The Revd Sally Bateman
36. The Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn
37. The Revd Peter Rand
38. The Revd Louise Sanders
39. Mr Andrew Cooke
40. Mr David Dick
41. Ms Pamani Christy Gondeli*
42. Mr Mathew Hall
43. Mr Alvin Ponnudurai*

North Western Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

44. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Michael Thomason
45. The Synod Clerk – Mr Tim Hopley
46. The Revd Maria Lee
47. The Revd Noma Marambi
48. The Revd Dong Il Barnabas Shin

- 49. Mrs Barbara Aspinall
- 50. Mr Chris Burton
- 51. Mr Jed Garside
- 52. Ms Gina Gibson
- 53. Mrs Hilary Grierson
- 54. Ms Blessed Mutimwii*
- 55. Miss Beth Tynan*

Mersey Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 56. The Revd Geoff Felton
- 57. The Synod Clerk – Mrs Lorna Griffiths
- 58. The Revd Juan Cruz
- 59. The Revd Dr Susan Durbur+
- 60. The Revd Russell Furley-Smith+
- 61. The Revd Murray George
- 62. Mrs Patricia Cansfield
- 63. Mr Noah Dockar*
- 64. Miss Monica Mason
- 65. Ms Felicity Peers
- 66. Ms Charlotte Samson*
- 67. Ms Wendy Steven

Yorkshire Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 68. The Synod Clerk - Mr Tim Crossley
- 69. The Revd David Coote
- 70. The Revd Dr Simon Cross
- 71. The Revd Jason McCullagh
- 72. The Revd Johnny O’Hanlon
- 73. Mr John Eveleigh
- 74. Mrs Kath Lonsdale
- 75. Mrs Claire Nutt
- 76. Mr Jason Raddings*
- 77. Mrs Terasa Raddings
- 78. Mrs Claire Westgarth
- 79. Vacancy

East Midlands Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 80. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Geoffrey Clarke
- 81. The Synod Clerk – Dr Graham Jennings

82. The Synod Treasurer – Mr David Greateorex
83. The Revd Elizabeth Adams
84. The Revd Solomon Aryee-Brown
85. The Revd Clare Davison
86. The Revd Alison Termie
87. Mrs Naomi Baldwin
88. Mr Billy Logan*
89. Mr Geoff Milnes
90. Ms Liz Sharples
91. Mr Michael Watkinson*

West Midlands Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

92. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Steve Faber
93. The Synod Clerk – Mrs Rachel Wakeman
94. The Synod Treasurer – Mr Steve Powell
95. The Revd Anji Barker
96. The Revd Dr Ashley Barker
97. The Revd Debbie Brown
98. The Revd Elaine Hutchinson
99. The Revd Melanie Smith
100. Mr Andrew Evans
101. Mr Isaac Irvine*
102. Mrs Liz Swanwick
103. Mr Reuben Watt*

Eastern Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

104. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Lythan Nevard
105. The Synod Clerk – The Revd David Coaker
106. The Revd Andrew Mudharara
107. The Revd Phil Nevard
108. Revd Anne Sardeson
109. Revd Tina Wilson
110. Mrs Ann Barton
111. Ms Alison Jiggins
112. Mr Richard Lewney
113. Mr Casper Martin*
114. Mr Bola Oshisanwo
115. vacancy

South Western Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 116. The Synod Clerk – Mrs Rachel Leach
- 117. The Revd Ashcroft-Townsley
- 118. The Revd Sue Cossey
- 119. The Revd Tracey Darling
- 120. The Revd Dick Gray
- 121. The Revd Richard Pope
- 122. Miss Jessica Gough*
- 123. Mrs Christine Hyland
- 124. Mr Clive Illman
- 125. Mrs Maggie Skyrme
- 126. Mrs Suzanne Weston
- 127. vacancy

Wessex Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 128. The Synod Clerk – Miss Karen Bell
- 129. The Revd Helen Everard
- 130. The Revd Wayne Hawkins
- 131. The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem
- 132. The Revd Christopher Parker
- 133. The Revd Ray Stanyon
- 134. Ms Chrissie Chevasutt
- 135. Miss Laura Everard*
- 136. Mr Jamie Laird*
- 137. Mr Mark Phillips
- 138. Mrs Karen Smith
- 139. Mrs Anne Wood

Thames North Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 140. The Synod Moderator - The Revd George Watt
- 141. The Synod Clerk – Ms Nneoma Chima
- 142. The Revd Stanslous Chatikobo
- 143. The Revd Aled Jones
- 144. The Revd Sujeeth Kumar
- 145. The Revd Sally Thomas
- 146. Mr Chris Akinyeye
- 147. Mr Stephen Burton
- 148. Mr Stan Jr Chatikobo*

- 149. Miss Isabel Cortes*
- 150. Mr Peter Knowles
- 151. Mrs Rhona Lawrenson

Southern Synod

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 152. The Synod Clerk – The Revd Dr Elaine Colechin
- 153. The Synod Treasurer –Mr John Denison
- 154. The Revd Ruth Armstrong
- 155. The Revd Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal
- 156. The Revd Martin Knight
- 157. The Revd Anne Lewitt
- 158. The Revd Maurice Omorojie
- 159. Mr Frank Liddell
- 160. Mrs Nicola Martin
- 161. Mr Tawonga Mtika*
- 162. Pamela Tolhurst
- 163. vacancy

National Synod of Wales

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 164. The Synod Moderator – The Revd David Salsbury
- 165. The Synod Clerk – Ms Megan Price
- 166. The Revd Martha McInnes
- 167. The Revd Zaidie Orr
- 168. The Revd Simon Walkling
- 169. Ms Claire Boot
- 170. Mrs Julie Davies
- 171. Mrs Donna Jones
- 172. Ms Maggie Kirkbride
- 173. Mrs Bethan Trott
- 174. vacancy
- 175. vacancy

National Synod of Scotland

(12 places – at least 4 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 4 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 12 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 176. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Lindsey Sanderson
- 177. The Revd John Bremner
- 178. The Revd Susan Henderson
- 179. The Revd Liz Johnson Blythe
- 180. Miss Tofunmi Adewale*

- 181. Mr Johnnie Burgoyne
- 182. Ms Rose Kumbanga
- 183. Mr Douglas Maxwell
- 184. Miss Emma McDonald*
- 185. Mr Steven Smillie
- 186. Miss Maya Withall*
- 187. vacancy

British and Irish Ecumenical representatives (5 places)

- 188. The Revd Gordon Kennedy (Church of Scotland)
- 189. The Revd Tom Osborne (Methodist Church of Great Britain)
- 190. Fr Marc Homsey (Catholic Church in England and Wales)
- 191. The Revd David Warboys (Baptist Union of Great Britain)
- 192. The Revd Charlie Bączyk-Bell (Church of England)

International Ecumenical representatives (5 places)

- 193. The Right Revd Dr Collin Cowan (The United Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands)
- 194. The Revd Dr Najla Kassab (Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon)
- 195. Pfarrer Martin Henninger (Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz, Germany)
- 196. Dr Joanna Simpson (University of West Indies, Jamaica)
- 197. vacancy

Council for World Mission (1 place)

- 198. The Revd Janet McConnell

*indicates those Synod representatives aged 25 or under at the time of their appointment.

+indicates those appointed to a vacant place from another Synod under Rule 1.5.

Business of General Assembly

The full set of papers contained within the Book of Reports and those presented as separate papers, along with their resolutions, are available to read on the General Assembly website: <https://bit.ly/46NmAnq>

Resolution 1

General Assembly welcomes the report of the Ministerial Disciplinary Working Group and affirms the direction of travel towards a 'Fitness to Practice' process.

Carried

Resolution 2

The General Assembly:

- A. determines that the Luther King Theological College become the primary Resource Centre for Learning for the United Reformed Church, and provider of Education for Ministry Phase One (EM1).**
- B. determines that the Scottish College becomes the complementary Resource Centre for Learning for the United Reformed Church, and provider of Education for Ministry Phase One.**
- C. invites Luther King Theological College and the Scottish College to seek the closest possible collaboration in the delivery of Education for Ministry phase one and in other areas of work.**
- D. determines to cease using Westminster College, Cambridge, for Education for Ministry One.**
- E. instructs the Business Committee, in collaboration with the Ministries Committee, Resources Committee and Faith in Action Committee, to agree with Luther King Theological College and the Scottish College new Memoranda of Understanding and Service Level Agreements to effect the outcomes sought in A-D, and to ensure the appropriate financial agreements are in place to enable their successful delivery.**
- F. instructs the Resources Committee to work with the three existing RCLs to provide appropriate financial support through a transitional period through to the full implementation of A-D.**
- G. instructs the Business Committee and Resources Committee to work with Westminster College Governors as they discern the future for the College and to enable the General Assembly to support this through appropriate governance and transitional financial arrangements when appropriately developed proposals have been made.**
- H. The General Assembly, mindful of the need for our RCLs to have a strong complement of URC staff, encourages the Resources Committee and the RCLs to work together to ensure a flourishing URC presence in staff teams and thus a continuing URC contribution to theological education.**

Carried

Resolution 3

General Assembly receives the observations of the Working Group and instructs the Ministries Committee to review these recommendations and return to the General Assembly or Assembly Executive with any appropriate proposals.

Carried

Resolution 4

General Assembly welcomes the proposed consultative meeting between District Chairs and Synod Moderators, and in the light of that directs the Business Committee in consultation with the Liaison Group to report to the 2027 General Assembly with proposals concerning the vision and shape of future possible collaboration.

Carried

Resolution 5

Assembly approves and adopts the Terms of Reference of the Church Life Fund Committee, as set out in Appendix Five, and directs Business Committee to review and appoint co-opted members to the Church Life Fund Committee where appropriate.

Resolution 6

General Assembly commends this paper and encourages next steps to be taken in developing this work within the Faith in Action Team and beyond, as appropriate.

Carried unanimously

Resolution 7

General Assembly warmly commends the journey towards a joint Christian-Muslim declaration, encouraging the Faith in Action Committee through the Inter Faith Enabling Group to deepen these ongoing inter faith efforts, tasking them to report back to General Assembly in 2027 on progress and action.

Carried

Resolution 8

General Assembly commends the prayerful study of the Kairos II document across the URC and tasks the Faith in Action Committee to keep under review ways in which deep solidarity might be expressed to our partners in the region.

Carried unanimously

Resolution 9

General Assembly instructs the Business Committee to establish a task group to address issues surrounding antisemitism within the life of the United Reformed Church, in consultation with the Inter Faith Enabling Group, the Worship, Faith and Order Committee, The Faith in Action Committee, and the Ministries Committee, and to bring terms of reference, membership, and budget to Assembly Executive in February 2027 for approval.

Carried unanimously

Resolution 10

General Assembly:

- a. Welcomes a continuing presence at, and partnership with, Greenbelt Festival for three more years, recognising the positive impact of the URC presence at Greenbelt on festival goers and URC volunteers.
- b. Instructs the Faith in Action and Resources Committees to facilitate this engagement through an appropriate allocation of funds and staff time in keeping with 2026 costs, adjusted for inflation.
- c. Instructs the Faith in Action Committee to measure and report on the impact of this engagement annually, using qualitative and quantitative data.

Resolution 11

General Assembly adopts the terms of reference for the Net Zero Task Group as set out in paper B6.

Resolution 12

General Assembly adopts the specific three-strand Repairing Justice proposals offered by the Legacies of Slavery Task Group

Carried

Resolution 13

General Assembly adopts the allocation of monies from the Legacies of Slavery Fund in the following proportions:

- A. Up to 30% to be apportioned to the regional strand
- B. A minimum of 60% to be apportioned to the Global strand – including, but not limited to, the development of New Free Villages in Jamaica.

Carried

Resolution 14

General Assembly instructs the Legacies of Slavery Task Group to continue its work establishing partnerships both in the UK and globally to be resourced by the URC Legacies of Slavery Fund.

Carried

Resolution 15

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.

Carried

Resolution 16

General Assembly instructs the Legacies of Slavery Task Group to work with the Senior Leadership Team, the Legal Advisor, The United Reformed Church Trust and other relevant bodies as necessary to ensure that appropriate governance and safeguarding structures are in place to honour the URC's fiduciary responsibilities.

Carried

Resolution 17

General Assembly adopts the revised URC Sickness and Ill Health Policy for Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers.

Resolution 18

General Assembly adopts the revised Terms of Reference for the Accreditations sub-committee of the Ministries Committee.

Resolution 19

Assembly instructs the Ministries Committee to conduct a review of learning and formation across all accredited ministries in the United Reformed Church in accordance with the outline in paper C3.

Carried

Resolution 20

General Assembly adopts the revised Active Ministers Policy – Fitness to Practise and directs its implementation.

Resolution 21

General Assembly adopts the Inactive Ministers Policy and directs its implementation.

Resolution 22

General Assembly affirms that:

- A. the normal retirement age of 68 for Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers remains an appropriate and proportionate policy within the present life of the United Reformed Church;
- B. the existing Procedure for Extension to Stipendiary Ministerial Service beyond the normal retirement age remains the proper and sufficient mechanism for discerning continued stipendiary ministry beyond 68;
- C. requests Ministries Committee:
- D. to keep under review the pastoral and practical support offered to ministers approaching retirement, including matters relating to wellbeing, deployment and transition into later forms of ministry;

E. to further consider the relationship between the normal retirement age and fixed-term appointments with a report to Assembly Executive 2027.

Resolution 23

General Assembly adopts the process for the Ill-Health Early Retirement of Office Holders (from the buy-out of the Ministers' Pension Fund – expected in summer 2026)

Resolution 24

General Assembly adopts the framework of Competencies and Expected Standards of Conduct and Behaviour for Ministers of the Word and Sacraments as set out in this paper.

Resolution 25

General Assembly adopts the URC Reasonable Adjustments Policy for Ministers of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers, and those in training.

Resolution 26

General Assembly creates a single Ministries Support and Wellbeing Committee, bringing together the work of the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee (PRWC) and the Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee (MoM), and adopts its Terms of Reference.

Resolution 27

General Assembly notes the work of the Resources Committee.

withdrawn

There being no questions, Dr Hopkins moved Resolution 28.

Resolution 28

General Assembly notes the Annual Report and audited accounts for 2025.

Carried unanimously

Resolution 29

General Assembly determines that following the buyout of the Ministers' Pension Scheme, a different style of committee is required and that the URC Investment Committee (URCIC) will cease to exist.

Carried

Resolution 30

General Assembly determines that a new Investment Committee will be created as a sub-committee of Resources Committee, reporting to the URC Trust.

Carried

Resolution 31

General Assembly approves the Terms of Reference for this new subcommittee.

Carried

Resolution 32

General Assembly adopts the recommendations for ‘good practice’ for Synods in selecting representatives to attend General Assembly, as set out in section 2.4 of the report, and commends these to Synods.

Resolution 33

General Assembly instructs the Nominations Committee to work with the Business Committee and those responsible for communications in the Offices of General Assembly to produce and distribute the relevant resources to support these recommendations, including promotional media and application templates, in preparation for General Assembly 2027.

Resolution 34

General Assembly resolves that there be two co-opted ordinary members of the Church Life Fund Committee in order to ensure that there is diversity on the committee.

Resolution 35

General Assembly gives thanks for all who have served on General Assembly committees and as representatives of the Church. Where terms of service have ended, or resignations have been received, General Assembly discharges these volunteers with thanks for their service.

Resolution 36

General Assembly appoints members of committees and representatives of the Church as set out in paragraph 7 of this Report, subject to the adoptions and corrections contained in supplementary Reports to Assembly.

Resolution 37

General Assembly thanks the Revd Dr John Bradbury for his service thus far and appoints him to serve as General Secretary for a further term of 5 years from General Assembly 2027 to General Assembly 2032.

Resolution 38

General Assembly reappoints the Revd Jamie Kissack to serve as Moderator of the Yorkshire Synod until 30th September 2032.

Resolution 39

General Assembly instructs the denominational Safeguarding Team and Synods to implement a programme of regular reviews of Synods’ safeguarding practice.

Carried

Resolution 40

Assembly adopts an addition to the Rules of Procedure which will read under Synod responsibilities: 10.3.4 — To participate in a triennial safeguarding review conducted by the General Assembly Safeguarding Team.

Carried

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

Resolution 43

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

withdrawn

Resolution 44

General Assembly commends to the churches A Theological Resource on Assisted Dying for prayerful thought and discussion.

Resolution 45

General Assembly grants the Worship, Faith, and Order Committee permission to coopt members who currently represent the United Reformed Church in ecumenical or international bodies, or who can bring specialisms for particular piece of work.

Resolution 46

General Assembly instructs the Faith and Order Committee to review the use of gendered language in the Basis of Union and its schedules, in consultation with other committees and sub-committees, including Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB), as well as Youth Executive.

Carried

Resolution 47

General Assembly instructs business committee to establish a task group to explore the identity, purpose and future development of URC Youth.

Carried

Resolution 48

General Assembly instructs the task group to report to Youth Assembly on the progress of its work in 2027, and bring final recommendations to Youth Assembly 2028, which if adopted would form the basis of recommendations to be brought to General Assembly 2028.

Carried

Resolution 49

General Assembly accepts the remit, membership and timescale of the task group.

Carried

Resolution 50

General Assembly encourages local churches to work with the Welcome Directory, to help prison leavers with joining faith communities, in line with guidance in the URC's safeguarding Good Practice document, and after agreement from with the Synod Safeguarding Officer and Synod Pastoral Committee or equivalent.

Carried

Resolution 51

General Assembly strongly encourages local churches who feel able to join the Welcome Directory and for local churches, Synods and General Assembly to look into how churches can be supported in their involvement.

Carried

Resolution 52

General Assembly changes the name of the Wessex Synod to the Wessex and Islands Synod, with effect from 1 January 2027.

Carried

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.

Carried

Resolution 56

Seedbeds (395 High Street North, Manor Park, London E12 6PG)

Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports. The papers are available to read from the General Assembly website: <https://bit.ly/46NmAnq>

Resolution 57

The Lumen Centre (88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS)

Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports. The papers are available to read from the General Assembly website: <https://bit.ly/46NmAnq>

Resolution 58

The Hyde (Varley Parade, Colindale London, NW9 6RR)

Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports. The papers are available to read from the General Assembly website: <https://bit.ly/46NmAnq>

Resolution 59

Island House (Roserton St, Isle of Dogs, London E14 3PG)

Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports. The papers are available to read from the General Assembly website: <https://bit.ly/46NmAnq>

Resolution 60

In light of increasingly complex pastorates and the decrease in the number of available Ministers of Word and Sacraments, General Assembly instructs the Ministries and the Worship, Faith and Order Committees to review the question of what it means for there to be ‘pastoral necessity’ for Lay Presidency at the Sacraments and provide guidance accordingly.

Carried

Resolution 61

General Assembly:

- a: Affirms that evangelism is integral to the life and mission of the United Reformed Church, arising from confidence in the living God revealed in Jesus Christ and present through the Holy Spirit.**
- b: Encourages GA and its committees, Synods, local churches, ministers, elders and lay leaders to prioritise evangelism understood as both invitation to encounter God within worshipping communities and to discover God in everyday life.**
- c: Recognises the central role of worship in evangelism and calls the Church to sustained attention to the quality, depth, and expectancy of worship.**
- d: Commends the outcomes of the Church Life Review (CLR) as providing structural and resource support that enables evangelistic renewal, while acknowledging that renewal itself depends upon spiritual attentiveness and faithfulness.**

Carried unanimously

Resolution 62

General Assembly expresses its concern about the disciplinary action which would potentially be taken against ministers in the URC should they be arrested for following their conscience and joining many others in protests against legislation which some see as unfair and authoritarian.

General Assembly recognises that such action by ministers is in line with both the dissenting tradition of the URC and our Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC:

“We rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit’s gifts, and uphold the rights of personal conviction” and “We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In the things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to state but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, as only Ruler and Head”.

Recognising that some ministers may feel called to peaceful protest given the current political climate worldwide, General Assembly asks the Complaints and Discipline Advisory Group and the Ministries Committee to urgently review its disciplinary procedures in cases of ‘theologically motivated peaceful civil disobedience’

Ruled out of order

Resolution 63

The URC recognises the profound challenges and agonising decisions faced by organisations such as Girlguiding and the National Federation of Women’s Institutes (NFWI) as they have responded to recent rulings and definitions regarding biological sex.

Carried

Resolution 64

The URC expresses deep pastoral concern for those affected by the decisions regarding trans rights made by Girlguiding and similar organisations in response to the Supreme Court ruling regarding gender identity.

Carried

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.

Proposed by the Business Committee

Carried unanimously

Resolution 106

General Assembly appoints the Revd Darren Holland as a member of the Faith in Action Committee.

Carried

Resolution 107

General Assembly appoints Catriona Wheeler to serve as a director of the United Reformed Church Trust from 7th July 2026 to 6th July 2030.

Deceased ministers and Church Related Community Workers

Peter Digby Ball
Robert John Blows
Colin George Bones
Elizabeth Jean Brown
Janet Calderley
John Mackenzie Chisholm
Malcolm Bernard Clarke
John Cranley Cohen
Kenneth Mervyn Coles
Meryl Court
Peter Charles Cruchley
Graham Herbert Dadd
Robert Francis Damer
Lillian Evangeline Dean
Myra D Dillistone
John Colbeck Durell
Richard Eastman
Alan Frederick Theodore Evans
Mary Elaine Elizabeth Frost
James Ronald Garfitt
Richard Hambly
Kenneth Harris
Keith Leonard Havers
Geoffrey Herickx
Malcolm Hill

Alwyn John Knight
Michael John Lay
Lesley Anne McNeil
Elizabeth Denise Megson
David John Netherwood
Robert Freeland Philip
Barbara Plenderleith
Derek Charles Redfern
Michael James Rigney
Anthony Tony Ritchie
Geoffrey Smith
Michael John Bemrose Spencer
John Alan Stanyon
Brian Sadler Stone
Harold Robert Tonks
Valerie Ann Towler
John Wadhams
James Norman Walker
Robert John Way
Stephen Alexander Wilkins
Alan Frederick Edward Wise
Ambrose David Wright

New ministers

The Moderator welcomed new ministers, newly commissioned Church Related Community Workers and ministers new to their URC roles:

Clare Nutbrown-Hughes
South Wales Valleys, Stipendiary Minister

Tina Louise Wilson
Norwich Area, Stipendiary Minister

Susan Ann Knight
Reigate Park, Non-Stipendiary

Maurice Philips Omorojie
Synod Directed, Stipendiary Minister

Margaret Elizabeth Dexter-Brown
East Cheshire & Derbyshire Borders Missional Partnership, Non-Stipendiary

Packiaraj Asirvatham
Ponders End, Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill, Stipendiary Minister

Juan Cruz
Wilmslow, Macclesfield & Bollington and Lymm URC, Stipendiary Minister

Nomaqhawe Marambi
Lancashire East Missional Partnership, Stipendiary Minister

Jubilee ministers

Assembly gave thanks for jubilee ministers:

Ordained for 70 years

Robert William Courtney
Charles Knowlson Meachin
David Stollery Morris

Ordained for 60 years

Clabon James Allen
Robert Andrews
David Batchelor
Michael John Cruchley
DavidMurray Cuckson
Lesley Gordon Giller
Rosemary Ruth Hartley
Glyn Jenkins
KennethWilliam Marsh
Hugh Nixon McKee
Donald William Norwood
Leonard Rees Phelps
David Alistair Pratt
Rodney Alan Ward
Leonard John Wigg
David Wiseman

Ordained for 50 years

Derek Corner
Jack William Dyce
Rosalind Lyle
Brian O'Neill
David Raymond Peel
David Trafford
Elizabeth Anne Welch

Address to the throne

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.

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).

General Assembly

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.

Signed on behalf of The United Reformed Church General Assembly by

Catriona Wheeler
Moderator of The United Reformed Church
General Assembly

Revd Sarah Moore
Clerk of The United Reformed Church
General Assembly

Jubilee ministers, 2026

Years of service	Name
50	Derek Corner
50	Jack William Dyce
50	Rosalind Lyle
50	Brian O'Neill
50	David Raymond Peel
50	David Trafford
50	Elizabeth Anne Welch
60	Clabon James Allen
60	Robert Andrews
60	David Batchelor
60	Michael John Cruchley
60	DavidMurray Cuckson
60	Lesley Gordon Giller
60	Rosemary Ruth Hartley
60	Glyn Jenkins
60	KennethWilliam Marsh
60	Hugh Nixon McKee
60	Donald William Norwood
60	Leonard Rees Phelps
60	David Alistair Pratt
60	Rodney Alan Ward
60	Leonard John Wigg
60	David Wiseman
70	Robert William Courtney
70	Charles Knowlson Meachin
70	David Stollery Morris

Church closures

Synod 1 – Northern Synod

St Cuthbert's Heaton LEP

For well over a century, the life of this church has been woven deeply into the story of Heaton and into the faithful witness of the wider Church. Established in 1896 as Heaton Presbyterian Church, the congregation began with vision, courage and generosity, building a church and halls that stood not only as a place of worship but as a sign of hope within the community. Remarkably, it became the first church in Heaton to be illuminated by electric light. By 1912, it had grown into one of the largest Presbyterian congregations in England, with 862 members.

Through two World Wars, the church remained steadfast, supporting soldiers, families and the wider community with compassion and practical care. Across the decades, organisations such as the Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, dramatic societies, women's groups, Sunday School and fellowship gatherings nurtured generations in friendship and faith. In 1960, the church welcomed Prince Philip, who presented Duke of Edinburgh Award medals to members of the Boys' Brigade Company — a moment remembered with pride by many.

Following the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972, the congregation continued its ministry with resilience and openness, welcoming members from neighbouring churches as others closed. After the devastating fire of 1991, the church rebuilt and reshaped its worshipping life, later entering into a Local Ecumenical Partnership in 2006 which deepened its service to the wider community.

Above all, this church will be remembered for the faithfulness, generosity and fellowship through which generations encountered the love of Christ.

Synod 2 – North Western Synod

Edgeley Community Church

St Peter's Church LEP

Synod 4 – Yorkshire Synod

Lowedges, Michael Church

The Michael Church, in the Lowedges area of south Sheffield, began life as Greenhill, Bradway Congregational Church. It was established in the early 1950s by the Sheffield Congregational Association as part of the post-war expansion of nonconformist churches into the growing housing estates surrounding Britain's industrial cities.

The Yorkshire Congregational Union formally recognised the church in 1956. Its Yearbook entry recorded a membership of 18, together with 150 scholars, eight teachers and one lay preacher. By 1958 the church building had been completed, aided by funds from the sale of Congregational churches in the Brightside and Ecclesfield areas of Sheffield.

The church's first ministers were the Revds Alan Patient and Barry Richard Parker. In 1965, The Michael Church, Lowedges, became one of the ecumenical partnerships that anticipated the formation of the United Reformed Church, bringing together Congregational and Presbyterian

traditions. At its dedication on 18 September 1965, it was acknowledged that financial support had been received from the recently closed Leyburn Congregational Church in Wensleydale, helping to establish and strengthen the church's ministry in Lowedges.

Membership reached its peak in the late 1980s, with almost fifty members recorded. Like many congregations, The Michael experienced steady decline in the decades that followed. Yet it remained committed to serving its community, most recently by hosting the local foodbank. With the support of the Sheffield Team of United Reformed Churches, the congregation sustained its faithful witness until the difficult decision was taken to close on 28 February 2026 giving thanks to God for the faithful witness over many years, and for lives touched by its ministry in Lowedges.

Riddlesden United Reformed Church

After 87 years of serving the village of Riddlesden, on the north-eastern edge of Keighley, West Yorkshire, Riddlesden United Reformed Church closed on 31 January 2026, following a final service of celebration on 18 January.

The church began in 1938 as a Sunday school mission of Devonshire Street Congregational Church, Keighley. Land was acquired beside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal to serve a growing residential community on the southern slopes of Ilkley Moor. The mission flourished, quickly outgrowing its original wooden hut. With financial support from the closure of Ryan Street and Essex Street Congregational Churches in Bradford, a new church building was erected and opened on 11 February 1956.

At the heart of village life, the congregation grew and became an independent Congregational Church in 1964, joining the United Reformed Church in 1972. Over the years it hosted a wide range of community activities, including the 2nd Riddlesden Scout Group. Situated alongside the canal, the Scouts became well known for their boating activities, with the church cellars providing storage for canoes and kayaks for many years.

In recent years, declining membership and an ageing eldership led the congregation to conclude that the life of the church had reached its natural end, and the difficult decision was taken to close.

As we mark the end of this chapter, we give thanks to God for the faithful worship, service and witness offered through Riddlesden United Reformed Church. We remember with gratitude the ministers, elders, members and friends who sustained its life and mission over many decades, and whose legacy continues in the community they served.

Synod 5 – East Midlands Synod

Trinity United Reformed Church

The story of St Andrew's with Newland, later Trinity United Reformed Church, began in 1948 when Revd W. S. Robertson came to Lincoln as a Church Extension Agent. Through his work, and with the support of Revd George Walker, a Presbyterian congregation began to grow amongst Scottish families living and working in the city.

Under the ministry of Revd H. Stanley Mayes and the faithful support of his wife Winnie, the congregation flourished in faith, fellowship and service. Meeting first at the Friends' Meeting House, members raised funds with remarkable generosity until St Andrew's Presbyterian Church was dedicated in July 1963 by the Moderator of General Assembly, Revd Peter McCall.

— the first church built in Lincoln for a century. Furnished through the kindness of many churches, it became a beacon of Christian witness within the city.

In 1974, after much prayer and heart-searching, Newland Congregational Church joined with St Andrew's, weaving together two traditions into one united congregation. Ministers including Revd John Slow, Revd Wilfred Gathercole, Revd Alasdair Walker, Revd Graham Robson, Revd Hamish Temple, Revd Sally Martin and most recently Revd Cecil White each shaped the church's life with compassion, wisdom and faithful leadership. The congregation also nurtured future ministry, including Barbara Flood-Page, and sustained ecumenical and international partnerships, including links with the Pauluskirche in Neustadt.

Across the decades Trinity became known as an outgoing, thoughtful and caring church. Yet, with declining numbers and changing circumstances, the Church Meeting made the difficult but prayerful decision that the church should close on 31 January 2026.

Harrold & Carlton LEP

The story of Harrold Chapel reaches back to the eighteenth century, when a faithful Dissenting presence first emerged within the village. By 1808 the first chapel building had been established, and as the congregation grew so too did its witness and ministry. From its earliest days, Harrold Chapel held a deep commitment to children and young people, founding first a Girls' Sunday School and soon afterwards a Boys' Sunday School, nurturing generations in faith and fellowship.

Across the years, the church was served by many gifted ministers. Revd Raymond Jubb, the last full-time minister, is remembered for the flourishing years when even the balcony was needed to accommodate large congregations. As numbers declined, Revd Stephen Harris faithfully served as part-time minister, during which time the Churches Together initiative was born. Revd Basil Bridge, an accomplished hymn writer and composer, brought further richness to the church's worship, including composing the tune 'Harrold', sung at the final service.

Under the ministry of Revd Roger Whitehead, the chapel was thoughtfully renovated and made more accessible for future generations. Before his retirement, Roger also helped establish the Local Ecumenical Partnership, later nurtured by Revd Jane Fox. In subsequent years the church became part of the Chellington Team Ministry.

Like many congregations, Harrold Chapel faced the challenges of declining membership, further deepened by the Covid pandemic. With great sadness, the Annual General Meeting on 4 May 2025 agreed that the church should close, with the final service taking place on 10 January 2026.

That final gathering was marked by gratitude, love and deep emotion — a celebration of a chapel whose witness and legacy will continue far beyond its closing walls.

Oadby United Reformed Church

The story of this church began with vision, courage and faithfulness. In the early 1960s, the Carmichael family imagined a Church of Christ presence within the growing Brocks Hill community, and land was set aside for that purpose. In December 1963, Mr William Arthur, Chair of the Church Extension Committee, unveiled the foundation plaque bearing the words, "Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness", setting the tone for the congregation's life of worship and service.

Supported in its early years by Revd A. S. Robinson, May Segan and a dedicated female worker visiting homes across the new estate, the church quickly became a place where community flourished. By June 1964 local people were shaping the future together, and soon youth fellowships, Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Children's Church and Sunday School filled the church with life and hope.

Under the ministry of Revd Geoff Herrickx, the congregation grew in faith and fellowship, nurturing more than 200 young people alongside a committed adult membership. Mo Herrickx encouraged the fundraising which enabled the baptistry to be completed, leading to the first baptism in 1997. The church was further enriched by stained-glass windows rescued from Overdale College and by groups such as the Young Wives and Toddlers Group, whose care and fellowship sustained many families.

Following union with the United Reformed Church, the congregation continued faithfully within the South Leicestershire Group alongside ministers including Revd Stan Crane, Revd Alvin Satchwell and Revd Leslie McNeil.

Sadly, at a Special Church Meeting on 28 December 2025, the decision was taken to close the building. Yet the faith, love and witness nurtured here will continue to live on in countless lives shaped by this community.

London Road United Reformed Church

The story of London Road Congregational Church began in 1892, when a group of members from Toller Chapel chose to establish a new congregation in Kettering. Meeting first in the Temperance Hall on Gold Street, they carried a vision for a church that would serve both the growing town and the wider community. Through remarkable commitment and generosity, around £6,300 was raised — equivalent to almost £1 million today — and in 1898 the foundation stone was laid. The church opened in May 1899.

Built in striking Victorian style, with seating for around 500 people including surrounding balconies, the church became a significant centre of worship and community life. Over time further halls and meeting rooms were added, creating a space filled throughout the week with activity and fellowship. Uniformed organisations, women's groups, Bible study, theatre productions, mother and toddler groups, youth clubs, dances and countless community gatherings shaped generations of local life. Many in Kettering still remember weddings, baptisms and friendships formed within its walls.

During the 1980s and early 1990s the congregation remained vibrant, with large numbers of adults, children and young people attending each week. Yet the increasing financial burden of maintaining such a substantial building gradually became more difficult, and by 2005 part of the site had been redeveloped to support the church's future.

In later years, growing links with United Reformed Church congregation Toller URC reflected a shared commitment to faithful witness. On 28 September 2025 the congregation made the difficult decision to close, with the building finally closing on 31 March 2026. Though the building now falls silent, its legacy of worship, fellowship and community service endures.

From information at East Midlands Synod Office

Synod 6 – West Midlands Synod

Baxter United Reformed Church

Baxter United Reformed Church, Kidderminster, traced its origins to the followers of Richard Baxter, the beloved pastor whose ministry helped shape English Nonconformity. After his removal from the parish church in 1660, his supporters continued to gather for worship, first in private homes and later in purpose-built chapels. The present building, opened in 1885, was the fourth on the site and the first to bear Baxter's name.

Built to seat over 1,000 worshippers and attached to extensive school and Sunday school facilities, Baxter Church became a significant centre of Congregational witness in the town. In 1920 a war memorial bearing the names of 34 members who died in the First World War was installed, together with four memorial windows. The congregation became part of the United Reformed Church in 1972.

As the town changed and populations moved away from the centre, the congregation faced the challenges familiar to many churches. The upkeep of a Grade II listed building became increasingly difficult, yet Baxter URC continued to serve its community through hosting Kidderminster Choral Society, supporting those on low incomes through Loaves and Fishes lunches, and establishing a foodbank in 2012.

Following the collapse of part of the narthex ceiling in 2021, the congregation determined further major investment in the building was not sustainable and moved to worship at Trinity Methodist Church. After a period of reflection and discernment, members voted to dissolve the congregation, with a farewell service held on 31 August 2025 giving thanks to God for more than three centuries of faithful Christian witness through the Baxter congregation, and for all whose lives were shaped by its ministry.

Synod 7 – Eastern Synod

Southchurch Park United Reformed Church

The mission which became Southchurch Park United Reformed Church began in 1893, rooted in a simple but determined desire to bring Christian worship and witness to a growing community. The earliest services were held on the beach, later moving to an open-ended boathouse before eventually finding a more permanent home in a tin mission hut.

Through generosity, perseverance and prayer, the work continued to grow. Mr Dowsett gifted the land on which the church would eventually stand, and after many meetings, challenges and faithful fundraising, Southchurch Park Congregational Church was opened on 30 January 1908 at a cost of £1,300.

From its earliest years the church became a lively centre of worship, fellowship and community life. A Girls' Life Brigade, later the Girls' Brigade, was formed in the same year and continued almost to the very end of the church's life. A choir, established in 1909, enriched worship for many decades. As the congregation grew, an extension was added in 1923 to support children's work, alongside organisations such as the Young Men's Fellowship, Young Ladies Fellowship and, later, a Scout Group founded in 1943 which continues to flourish today. A further extension was added in the early 1970s.

In 2005, while other URC congregations in Southend chose to merge, Southchurch Park discerned that it was called to continue its own ministry and witness. Although there was renewed growth for a time, membership gradually declined in later years.

The decision to close was deeply painful, yet we give thanks for more than a century of faithful worship, service and Christian witness within the Southchurch Park community.

Synod 8 – South Western Synod

Martock United Reformed Church

Martock United Reformed Church traces its origins to a gathering of believers who met in a barn in Pound Lane, Martock, in 1688 following the Great Ejectment. Rooted in the Nonconformist tradition, the congregation was shaped by a deep commitment to faithful worship, preaching and Christian fellowship.

In 1772, part of the congregation became drawn to the ministry of Revd Christopher Hull, gathering together in barns and cottages across the area. Revd Hull continued to lead and nurture the fellowship, without payment, until his death, offering a ministry marked by dedication and conviction.

A significant step came in 1791 when land was gifted for the building of a permanent chapel in Bower Hinton. That chapel became the spiritual home of generations of worshippers and remained at the heart of the community for more than two centuries. Over time, further additions were made, including the schoolroom, manse, porch and vestry, reflecting the growing life and ministry of the congregation.

During the mid-twentieth century the church flourished with a strong Junior Church and an active Girls' Brigade Company, nurturing children and young people in faith and fellowship. The chapel also maintained a deep pastoral connection with the local community through its graveyard, which has stood behind the building since the chapel first opened. The graveyard remained in continual use until the church's closure and continues to hold deep significance for many families who regularly visit to remember loved ones and lay flowers. Throughout its long history, the church bore faithful witness through worship, service and quiet devotion within the Martock community.

Curry Rivel United Reformed Church

The story of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church began in 1827, when a group of Christians separated from the Parish Church congregation and formed a new worshipping community. Little is known about those earliest years, yet their courage and conviction laid the foundations for nearly two centuries of faithful witness within the village.

The first surviving chapel records date from 1866, when the congregation was formally recognised as a Congregational Chapel. Across the years that followed, the life of the church reflected the changing rhythms of the wider Church and community. Membership rose and fell, Sunday School and Junior Church flourished at different times, and a variety of mission projects sought to serve the village and surrounding area. Nineteen ministers guided the congregation through these generations, and in 1936 the church became part of the Mid Somerset Group of churches.

In more recent years, the congregation reflected deeply on its identity and calling, adopting a mission statement which expressed both its convictions and its hopes for the future. The church

sought to be a small, inclusive and outward-looking community, welcoming people wherever they were on their spiritual journey, regardless of age, background, sexuality, ability or race. Rooted in relationships with God, one another and the wider world, the congregation valued both the traditions it had inherited and the future to which God continued to call it.

Sadly, the congregation has now reached the point where it can no longer continue together in the same way. Yet the faith, welcome and compassion nurtured within this fellowship do not end here, but are carried forward into new places, communities and lives.

Synod 9 – Wessex Synod

Hope United Reformed Church, Weymouth

Wonersh United Reformed Church

The story of Wonersh United Reformed Church began through the vision and generosity of William Colebrook, a Guildford butcher and committed Nonconformist who cared deeply for the spiritual and practical welfare of his employees. In 1860 he began inviting workers into his home each week to read the Scriptures together, soon adding Sunday evening worship. As the fellowship grew, meetings moved first to a barn at the farm, but by 1880 even the “Old Barn” could no longer accommodate the congregation.

Through the gift of land from William Seth, and with plans drawn by his son Howard, a new church building was commissioned. The foundation stone was laid on 21 April 1880, and within just five months the striking Bargate stone church was completed and opened on 22 September 1880 at a cost of £1,950. Proudly described by local people as the “Nonconformist Village Cathedral”, the building quickly became central to village life.

For more than 160 years the church served the community with faithfulness and warmth. Its long association with Wonersh First Scouts, alongside nursery groups, book sales, Messy Church, film nights, Thursday Tea@3, Songs of Praise on the Lawn, Carols on the Green with the Godalming Band, Bible study groups, Taizé services and weekly worship, created a rich pattern of fellowship, outreach and service.

The closure of the church leaves a significant hole within village life. Yet we give thanks for all that was nurtured here: lives shaped in faith, friendships sustained across generations, and a witness which quietly and faithfully bore the love of Christ at the heart of the community. Praise the Lord for the life that has been!

Synod 11 – Southern Synod

Pagham United Reformed Church

It is with sadness that we mark the closure of Pagham United Reformed Church, whose final service took place on Saturday 29 November 2025. Friends from neighbouring churches, former ministers, preachers and past members gathered to give thanks for a long and faithful history of worship, fellowship and service.

Pagham URC was formed in 2010 through the coming together of two congregations with deep roots in their communities: St Ninian’s Presbyterian Church, founded in 1964, and Bognor Regis Congregational Church, established in 1812. Both churches had served their local areas faithfully for generations, offering worship, pastoral care and Christian witness in many different

ways. As congregations became smaller and older, the decision was taken to unite within the St Ninian's building and begin a new chapter together as Pagham URC.

In its early years the united congregation flourished. A choir was formed, study groups were shared with neighbouring churches, and "dinner services" became a valued expression of fellowship and worship. The church also worked ecumenically with Christ Church, Chichester, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the URC. Coffee mornings became an important part of community outreach, including a monthly dementia-friendly gathering which offered welcome, companionship and support to people living with dementia and their carers.

Like many congregations, the church was deeply affected by the Covid pandemic. Extended closure, combined with the vulnerability of many members, led to a significant decline from which the congregation was unable to recover.

Though the building now closes, we give thanks for more than two centuries of faithful witness, friendship and Christian hope carried by these congregations into the life of the wider community.

Synod 12 – National Synod of Wales

Tabernacle United Reformed Church

Tabernacle United Reformed Church, Holywell, traced its origins to "The Independent Cause", founded in 1770. The first members gathered in private homes before receiving permission to meet in a room behind the Coach and Horses Inn. In 1778 a Congregational church was built, holding services in both Welsh and English. Following the separation of the two congregations during the nineteenth century, the English congregation settled in Coleshill Street in 1860 as Holywell English Congregational Church.

For many years the church enjoyed a thriving congregational life, with a strong Sunday School, Pilots and a wide range of social activities that served both the church and the wider community.

In 2016, faced with the challenges of maintaining a Grade II listed building and an increasingly ageing congregation, members entered into a sharing agreement with nearby St Peter's Church. For the next nine years the congregation worshipped there, enjoying not only shared premises but also fellowship and friendship with the Church in Wales community.

In 2025, after careful reflection, the congregation concluded that although financially viable, its declining and ageing membership meant the time had come to bring its life as a church to a close. A final service, including Holy Communion and a fellowship lunch, was held on 10 August 2025.

We give thanks to God for more than 250 years of faithful worship, witness and service through Tabernacle Church. Although the congregation has closed, the friendships and fellowship nurtured over generations continue, bearing witness to the enduring bonds of Christian community.

Tabernacle United Reformed Church

The story of Tabernacle United Reformed Church reaches back to the very roots of Nonconformity in Wales. As Revd Shem Morgan wrote, "Many churches are said to be historical, but no church in Wales can lay claim to this description with more justification than

Tabernacle.” Its origins lie in the courage and conviction of those who sought to worship faithfully according to conscience, even at great personal cost.

In 1639, Revd William Wroth, Rector of Llanvaches, founded a conventicle within his parish, sowing what became one of the earliest seeds of Welsh Nonconformity. In those first years there was no dedicated building; worshippers gathered in houses, barns and any place available, known not as the “Church at Llanvaches” but as the “Church of Llanvaches” — a community bound together by faith rather than bricks and mortar.

Following the Toleration Act, a meeting house was built at Carrow Hill in 1689, and in the 1790s land was granted for the present Tabernacle chapel and burial ground. Built in 1802, the church flourished for generations. The Wroth Memorial Hall, opened in 1924, became a centre for community life and service, reflecting the church’s long commitment to the wider community.

Across nearly four centuries, thirty-one ministers served the congregation between 1639 and 2021. Even in its final year, the life of the church was marked by joy and thanksgiving: a Cymanfa in June 2025, a celebration of the church’s witness in October, and a final service of Carols and Lessons in December.

Tabernacle closed on 31 December 2025, giving thanks for a remarkable and faithful witness across the centuries.

Synod 13 – Scotland Synod

Hamilton United Reformed Church

Hamilton United Reformed Church traced its roots back more than two centuries to the founding of Ebenezer Congregational Church in 1806 under the guidance of Revd Greville Ewing. Over time the congregation settled in Auchingramont Road and became known as St James’ Congregational Church. Following a theological dispute, a smaller group formed a separate fellowship in South Park Road within the Evangelical Union tradition. In 1896 both congregations joined the Congregational Union of Scotland, and in 1966 they were united as Hamilton Congregational Church.

The congregation held a significant place within both the spiritual and civic history of the town. The family of David Livingstone worshipped at St James’, walking each Sunday from Blantyre to Hamilton. His father, Neil Livingstone, later became one of the founding deacons of the South Park Road congregation. Keir Hardie was also connected with the Park Road Evangelical Union Church, reflecting the congregation’s longstanding concern for faith, justice and public life.

In more recent years the church continued its international outlook through mission partnerships in Africa, including the service of Revd Ken Forbes and Douglas Hay through the Council for World Mission. Locally, the congregation played an active part in chaplaincy, Christian Aid, World Day of Prayer, churches’ projects and the wider witness of the town, supported faithfully for many years by the Women’s Union.

From 2017 the church shared a joint pastorate with East Kilbride URC. The congregation was dissolved at a closing service held on Sunday 28 September 2025, giving thanks for generations of faithful worship and witness.

Greenock West United Reformed Church

Nominations

Assembly committees and other appointments:

1. The General Assembly Moderator, the Assembly Moderator-elect, the Immediate-past Assembly Moderator and the General Secretary are members ex officio of every standing committee. Deputy General Secretaries are members ex officio of every standing committee within their department. Any ex officio member may arrange for an appropriate deputy, such as any Deputy General Secretary or an officer of Assembly, to attend on their behalf. Any committee may invite other Assembly officers (or their deputies) or staff members to attend in a non-voting capacity where the business so requires.
2. Symbols have been used as follows: ** denotes those whom General Assembly has invited to appoint for the first time; † denotes those who have been invited to extend their periods of service; †† denotes those who have returned after a break.
3. Numbers in round brackets following names indicate the member's Synod: (1) Northern, (2) North Western, (3) Mersey, (4) Yorkshire, (5) East Midlands, (6) West Midlands, (7) Eastern, (8) South Western, (9) Wessex, (10) Thames North, (11) Southern, (12) Wales, (13) Scotland. This numbering is not shown where it is not relevant.
4. When a member of a committee is there as a representative of another body or a particular category this is indicated in round brackets following the name.
5. Committee membership is normally for a period of four years, though this may sometimes exceptionally be renewable. Committee Convenors serve an additional preliminary year as Convenor-elect. Appointments with a different term are noted.
6. Dates in square brackets following names indicate the date of retirement, assuming a full term.
7. In accordance with the decision of General Assembly 2000, some nominations are made directly by the National Synods of Wales and Scotland.
8. New committee members normally take up their roles at the conclusion of General Assembly or relevant Assembly Executive.
9. Nominations to Assembly committees and their sub-committees, and to advisory and task groups serving Assembly and Assembly Executive, should be of members of the United Reformed Church, or youth representatives who meet the criteria for membership Assembly. A term of service may normally be completed if someone ceases to be a member of the URC during their term. 10. Nominations of URC representatives to external bodies should either be URC members, or youth representatives who meet the criteria for membership of Assembly, or URC staff who have relevant expertise. The nomination of a staff member would automatically lapse if the person concerned ceased to hold a URC post.

Officers of General Assembly

General Secretary:	The Revd Dr John Bradbury
Moderator:	The Revd Neil Thorogood [2026-2027]
Immediate-Past Moderator:	Ms Catriona Wheeler [2025-2026]
Clerk:	The Revd Sarah Moore [2030]
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Alan Yates [2029]
Business Committee Convenor:	Mrs Irish Sirmons [2029]

Others serving the General Assembly

Moderator-Elect:	The Revd Dr Susan Durber [2027-2028]
Assistant Clerk:	The Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young [2030]
Honorary Assistant Treasurer:	Mr Vaughan Griffiths [2027]†

List of committees/groups

Core Committees:

1. Business Committee

Convenor: Mrs Irish Sirmons [2029]**
Secretary: General Secretary
Moderator of General Assembly
Moderator-Elect
Immediate-past Moderator of General Assembly
Clerk of General Assembly
Assistant Clerk of General Assembly
URC Treasurer
Convenors of Resources, Faith in Action and Ministries Committees
Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)
Chief Operating Officer
Nominated members:
Ms Hilda Darkwah [2029] **
Ms Maya Withall [2030]**

1.1 Law and Polity Reference Group

Convenor: Ms Morag M McLintock [2028]†
Secretary: Paralegal
General Secretary
Clerk to General Assembly
Assistant Clerk to General Assembly
Mrs Muna Levan-Harris [2029]**
Mr Tim Hopley [2027] (Synod Clerk representative)
Vacancy (Property, legal and trust officers' representative)
Nominated members: Mr Dean Taylor [2030]
Ms Denise Fitzpatrick [2028]†
In attendance:
Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)
Chief Operating Officer
Head of Legal Services

Head of Compliance & Services
 Head of Governance [when appointed]

1.2 Church Life Strategic Reference Group

Convenor: Mr Chris Atherton
 Secretary: Director of Strategy and Programmes
 Ms Elizabeth Hall
 Mrs Faith Paulding
 The Revd Jan Adamson
 The Revd Lythan Nevard
 The Revd Mel Campbell
 Mrs Muna Levan-Harris
 The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem
 The Revd Steve Faber
 Mr Tim Hopley
 Miss Victoria Turner
 In attendance:
 Chief Operating Officer

1.3 Place for Hope/URC Steering Committee

URC representatives:
 Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
 The Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Synod Moderator)
 Dr Emma Howarth (TDO+ Network)
 PA to Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

2. Faith in Action Committee

Convenor: Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (Mission focus) [2027]†
 Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
 Ms Karen Adams (Children and Youth Work focus) [2029]**
 The Revd Jacob Bali (Mission focus) [2029] **
 The Revd Stuart Radcliffe (Mission focus) [2029]**
 Mr Mal Breeze (Mission focus) [2029]**
 The Revd Darren Holland (Mission focus) [2030]**
 The Revd Dr Kate Gray (Education and Learning focus) [2030] subject to AE appointment
 Ms Christine Ntim (Children and Youth Work focus) [2030] subject to AE appointment
 1 vacancy
 In attendance:
 The Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

2.1 Children's and Youth Work Programme Enabling Group -

Recruitment in progress
 Convenor:
 CYDO+ Team members (all synods) – to send regional representatives: two from the five northerly synods (1, 2, 3, 4, 13), two from the central belt of synods (5, 6, 7, 12), and two from the southerly synods (8, 9, 10, 11)
 2 URC Children task group reps / children or children's advocates
 2 URC Youth Exec/task groups reps

2.2 Commitment for Life reference group

Convenor: Richard Lewney [2028]†

Head of World Justice and Interfaith

Commitment for Life Administrator

Nominated members:

The Revd Martin Knight [2028]

Ms Wendy Cooper [2028]†

The Revd Samuel Cyuma [2028]

Mrs Christine McMillan [2027]†

In attendance:

Ms Grace Kariuki (Christian Aid)

Ms Charlotte Scott (Christian Aid)

Ms Ruby Puckering (Global Justice Now)

2.3 Interfaith Enabling Group

Convenor: The Revd Tracey Lewis [2028]†

Secretary: Head of World Justice and Interfaith

Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales

Nominated members:

Ms Victoria Turner [2029]

Mr Andy Lie [2027]†

The Revd Dr Graham Adams [2028]†

The Revd Dr Mark Godin [2028]†

Co-opted member:

The Revd Dr John Parry

2.4 Joint Public Issues Team strategy and policy

URC representatives:

Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

The Revd Lindsey Sanderson (Synod Moderator)

2.5 Legacies of Slavery Task Group

Convenor: Professor David Reynolds

Head of Global and Intercultural Church

The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo

The Revd Zaidie Orr

The Revd John Campbell

Ms Lorraine Downer (CYDO)

Mr Tom Hackett (CYDO)

Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

Administrator for Global and Intercultural Church

2.6 Net Zero Task Group

Convenor: Recruitment in progress

Representative members:

Mr Alan Yates (Resources Committee)

The Revd David Salisbury (Synod Moderator)

Mr Clifford Patten (URC Trust)

Mrs Helen Laird (CYDO)

Vacancy (Synod Property Officer)

Mrs Anna Barrett (Synod Green Apostle)

The Revd David Coleman (Synod Green Apostle)
 Mr Ian Moore (Synod Green Apostle)
 In attendance:
 Mr Hamish Leese (Net Zero Implementation Manager, The Methodist Church)
 Head of Public Issues

2.7 Equalities, Inclusion, Diversity and Belonging Sub-Committee

Convenor: The Revd Jo Clare-Young [2028]†
 Secretary: The Revd David Salisbury [2027]†
 URC Youth Equalities and Diversity Representative
 Nominated members:
 Mx Kirsty Mabbott [2027]
 Ms Megan Westgarth [2028]**
 Two vacancies
 Ex-officio:
 Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
 Head of Global and Intercultural Church

3. Ministries Committee

Convenor: Ms Elizabeth Hall [2030]** Current member moving to Convenor role, subject to AE appointment
 The Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)
 Nominated members:
 Mr Dean Taylor [2029]
 The Revd Jan Adamson [2030]**
 Mrs Gill Bates [2030]†
 1 vacancy
 The Revd Alison Micklem (Convenor of the Accreditations sub-committee) [2029]
 The Revd. Martyn Neads (Convener of the Assessment Board) [2030]
 The Revd Dr Adam Scott (Principal of an RCL) [2029]
 Head of Ministries Learning and Development
 Minister for Digital Worship
 The Revd Jamie Kissack (Synod Moderator) [2029]
 In attendance where necessary
 Convener of the Ministries Support and Wellbeing sub-committee (when appointed)
 The Revd Paul Whittle (Convener of RMHS sub-committee) [2027]
 Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

3.1 Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Sub-Committee

Convenor: The Revd Alison Micklem [2029]
 Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)
 Convenor of the Ministries Committee
 Convenor of the Assessment Board
 Representatives:
 The Revd Jamie Kissack (Synod Moderator) [2029]
 Ms Jo Patterson [2030] †(SCMs/Pioneering: Vacancy)
 Ms Marie Trubic (CRCWs) [2030]**
 Nominated members:
 The Revd Carole Marsden [2030]†
 Ms Jo Patterson [2029]

The Revd. Alison Termie [2030]**

In attendance:

Head of Ministries Learning and Development

Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

3.2 Ministers Support and Wellbeing Sub-Committee

Recruitment in progress

Convenor:

Secretary

Members:

3.3 Retired Ministers' Housing Society Sub-Committee

Convenor: The Revd Paul Whittle [2027]

The Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

The Revd Geoff Felton (Synod Moderator) [2027]

Nominated members:

The Revd Don Nichols [2030]†

The Revd David Lawrence [2027]

Representative members:

The Revd Dr Martin Camroux (Tenants) [2027]

The Revd David Coote (Co-opted member)

3.4 Assessment Board

Convenor: The Revd Martyn Neads [2030]

Mrs Kate Yates [2027]

Mr Simon Loveitt [2027]

The Revd Tim Lowe [2027]

The Revd Jacob Bali [2027]

Dr Keith Reading [2028]

The Revd Sohail Ejaz [2029]

The Revd Dr Kate Gray [2029]

Ms Mercy Nimako [2029]

The Revd Samuel Silungwe [2029]

The Revd David Salisbury [2030]**

The Revd Jan Adamson [2030]†

Prof Bill Gould [2030]†

The Revd Sue McCoan [2030]†

The Revd Lis Mullen [2030]†

3.5 Ministries and Learning Forum (also accountable to Faith in Action)

Convenor: Head of Ministries Learning and Development

The Revd Dr Adam Scott (Luther King Theological College Principal)

The Revd Dr John McNeil Scott (Scottish College Principal)

The Revd Dr Peter McEnhill (Westminster College Principal)

Mrs Lucy Cooke (TDO+ representative)

Mr John Stephenson (CYDO representative)

The Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

The Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

4. Resources Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins [2028]

Secretary: Chief Operating Officer

Nominated Members:

Mr Tim Llewelyn [2028] (Communications representative)

The Revd Nick Mark [2028] (Property representative)

Ms Joanna Morfoh [2028] (Finance representative)

Mr Steve Tringham [2028] (IT & Compliance representative)

Ms Lisa McAvoy [2028] (HR representative)

Mr Steve Powell [2030]** (Finance representative)

Ex-officio members:

Chief Finance Officer

Treasurer

Deputy Treasurer

4.1 Pensions Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2030]†

Secretary: Pensions Manager

Nominated members:

Ms Joana Marfoh [2028]†

Mr Willie Duncan [2029]**

Co-opted members:

Mr Michael Rickard

Mr David Martin

The Revd John Piper

Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Convenor of the Investment Committee

Convenor of the Ministers Support and Wellbeing Committee when appointed

Chief Operating Officer

In attendance:

Chief Finance Officer

Deputy General Secretary (Ministries) (for Ministers' Pension Fund matters)

4.2 Remuneration Committee

Convenor: Mr William McVey

Secretary: Chief Operating Officer

Treasurer

Ms Sushila Jetha (Methodist Church HR)

In attendance:

Chief Finance Officer

Head of People and Benefits

4.3 Listed Buildings Advisory Group

Convenor: The Revd Dr James Mather [2028]† (nominated by the group)

Secretary: Mr Geoff Milnes [2028]† (nominated by the group)

General Secretary

Synod Representatives from England:

Vacancy (1)

Mr Mike Aspinall(2)

Mr Mike Rushton (3)

Ms Jane Bunyan Murray (4)
Mr Mark Goodwill-Hodgson (5)
Mr Matthew McDade (6)
Mr Graham Smith (7)
Ms Dianne Phillips (8)
Mr Graham Bamber (9)
The Revd David Skipp (10)
Mr Colin McCracken (12)
The Revd David Tatum (Buildings Forum)

4.4 Resource sharing task group

Convenor: The Revd Steve Faber (Synod Moderator) [2028] †
Secretary: Mr Chris Atherton (synod representative)
Mr Gordon Wanless (synod representative)
Mr Richard Gray (synod representative)
Treasurer
Deputy Treasurer
General Secretary
Chief Finance Officer

Specialist Committees:

5. Safeguarding Committee

Convenor: The Revd Roger Jones [2026- to continue until post is filled] Recruitment in progress
Secretary: Designated Safeguarding Lead
Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)
Nominated members:
Mrs Kate Yates [2030]
Mrs Margaret Thompson [2028]**
Vacancy (Synod Safeguarding Practice Group representative)
The Revd Lindsey Sanderson [2027] (Synod Moderator)
The Revd Lindsey Sanderson [2027] (National Synod of Scotland representative)
National Synod of Wales Safeguarding Officer (National Synod of Wales representative)
The Revd Alecia Johnstone [2029] (member with lived experience)
1 vacancy (member with lived experience)

6. Church Life Fund Committee

Convenor: The Revd Philip Brooks [2029]**
Secretary: Director of Strategy and Programmes
Mr Alan Yates (URC Trust)
Mr James Breslin (URC Trust)
Synod representatives:
The Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn (1)
The Revd Jacky Embrey (2)
Mrs Helen McCormack (3)
The Revd Alison Micklem (4)
Mr Marcelle Plaatjies (5)
Mr Reuben Watt (6)
The Revd David Coaker (7)
The Revd Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley (8)

Dr Gordon Woods (9)
 Mr Keith Berry (10)
 Mr John Denison (11)
 The Revd Simon Walkling (12)
 Mr Steven Smillie (13)
 1 Youth Representative Recruitment in progress
 2 Global Majority Heritage co-opted members: Recruitment in progress
 In attendance where required:
 Members of the Senior Leadership Team
 Members of the Offices of General Assembly Staff
 Other URC Trust trustees
 Any others as requested by the Committee

7. Worship, Faith and Order Committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Robert Pope [2030]†
 Secretary: The Minister for Digital Worship
 Nominated members:
 The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson [2027]
 The Revd Dr Andrew Prasad [2029]
 The Revd Zaidie Orr [2030]** subject to AE appointment
 The Revd Scott McCarthy [2030]** subject to AE appointment
 In attendance:
 Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism
 Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

8. Nominations Committee

Convenor: Mrs Victoria Blunt [2028]**
 Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
 Mrs Deborah Brooks [2028] (EDIB representative)
 Vacancy (Youth Representative) Recruitment in progress
 The Revd Andrew Mudharara [2028] (Racial justice representative)
 Ms Lisa McAvoy [2028] (HR representative)
 In attendance:
 Head of People and Benefits

8.1 Panel for General Assembly appointments

Mrs Muna Levan-Harris [2031]**
 The Revd Alex Jacob [2031]**
 Mr Tony Brett [2031]**
 The Revd Gilbert Esambe [2031]**
 The Revd Janet Tollington [2031]**
 Dr Ewen Harley [2031]**
 The Revd Carole Marsden [2031]**
 One vacancy (URC Youth)

9. Complaints and Discipline Advisory Group (formerly MIND)

Convenor: John Bradbury [temporary convenor]
 Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)
 General Secretary
 Mrs Fiona Smith [2030]† (Consultant to Ministers in Section O)

Training Officer: The Revd Andy Braunston
Synod Moderator: Steve Faber
Dr David Jones [2028] (Convenor for Assembly Commission for Discipline)
The Revd Martin Spain [2029] (Senior Member Investigation Team)
Vacant (Secretary Assembly Commission for Discipline)
Paralegal (Secretary Disciplinary Appeal Commission)
The Revd Andy Braunston (Secretary Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline)
The Revd Sarah Moore (Clerk of General Assembly)
The Revd Alex Clare-Young (Assistant Clerk of General Assembly)
Mrs Sharon Barr (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Head of Legal Services

9.1 Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline

Minister members:

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson
The Revd Nick Mark
The Revd Raymond Singh

Elder members:

Mr Tim Crossley
Ms Sandra Wood
Mr Dodie Khurshid
Ms Alison Jiggins [2031]**
Ms Liz Swanwick [2031]**

9.2 Disciplinary Investigation Panel

Senior Member: The Revd Martin Spain [2029]
Deputy Senior Member: vacant
Case Presenters (not time-limited):
Mrs Chris Harris
The Revd Craig Muir
Mr Mark Rigby
Mr Giles Robinson
Mrs Margaret Smith
The Revd Martin Spain
Dr Gordon Woods
The Revd William Bowman, Temp for Case O
The Revd Dr Elaine Colechin, Temp for Case I

9.3 Assembly Commission for Discipline Panel

Convenor: Dr David Jones [2028]
Deputy Convenor: The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe [2030]
Members (not time-limited):
1. Ms Nneoma Chima
2. Ms Mary Coole
3. Mr Ian Corless
4. Ms Janine Cowie
5. Mr Remi Ferguson
6. The Revd Peter Flint
7. Mrs Cathy Glazier
8. Ms Barbara Goom

9. The Revd Dominic Grant
10. The Revd John Grundy
11. Prof Graham Handscomb
12. The Revd Marcus Hargis
13. The Revd Jonathan Hill
14. The Revd Terry Jin
15. Dr David Jones
16. Mrs Mary Kelly
17. The Revd Maria Lee
18. The Revd Sue McCoan
19. The Revd Alan McGougan
20. The Revd Martha McInnes
21. Ms Morag McLintock
22. Dr James Mawdesley
23. The Revd Sarah Moore
24. The Revd Wilbert Sayimani
25. Mr Dean Taylor
26. The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe
27. Ms Marie Trubic
28. Mrs Janet Virr
29. Mr Gordon Wanless
30. Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid

9.4 Disciplinary Appeals Commission

Appointed by the Officers of General Assembly

Secretary: Paralegal

The Revd Fiona Bennett

The Revd Clare Downing

Mr Alastair Forsyth

Miss Elizabeth Lawson KC

Mrs Val Morrison

The Revd Nigel Uden

The Revd Bill Bowman

Mr John Ellis

The Revd Walt Johnson JP

Mrs Muna Levan-Harris

Mr Richard Pooler

10. United Reformed Church Trust

Chair: The Revd Nick Mark [2028]**

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Director:

Ms Catriona Wheeler [2030]††

Ex-Officio Directors:

General Secretary

The Revd Sarah Moore (Clerk of General Assembly)

Mr Alan Yates (Treasurer) [2029]**

Synod representatives

The Revd Nick Mark [2028]**

Mr Clifford Patten [2028]†

Mr David Greatorex [2028]†
Dame Katherine Baker [2030]**
Four vacancies
Co-opted:
The Revd Julian Macro [2027]†
Three vacancies
Youth Representative:
Ms Alana Human [2030]**
In attendance:
Convenor of the URC Investment Committee
Minute Secretary
Chief Finance Officer
Chief Operating Officer

10.1 Investment Committee

Convenor: Mr Richard Nunn [2027]
Secretary: Chief Finance Officer
Nominated Members:
Dame Katharine Barker [2027]
Mr Lyndon Thomas [31.12.2026]†
Mr Mark Kirkbride [2027]**
Mr Timothy Lancaster [2027]**
URC Treasurer
Convenor of the Pensions Committee
Chair of United Reformed Church Trust or another director
Chair of United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust or another director
Treasurer of the Westminster College
In attendance:
Mr Stephen Forber (Westminster College Bursar)

11. The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Fund Ltd

Chair: Mrs Bridget Micklem [December 2027]†
Deputy chair: Mr Lyndon Thomas [December 2026]†
Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Church Nominated Trustees/Directors:
Mr Ian Miller [December 2028]**
Mrs Faith Paulding [December 2029]†

Ex officio:
The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2027]† Convenor of the Pensions Committee
Mr Vaughan Griffiths [2027]† (Deputy Treasurer)
Mr Richard Nunn (Convenor of the Investment Committee) [2027]†
One vacancy
Member Nominated Trustees/Directors:
The Revd Caroline Vodden [2027]†
The Revd Daniel Cheyne [December 2026]†
Revd Dr Elaine Colechin [2028]**
Revd Helen Warmington [2028]**

Representing the URC:

12. Representatives to meetings of sister churches (nominated by the Faith in Action Committee)

12.1 General Synod of the Church of England

Faith in Action Committee nomination

12.2 Methodist Conference

The Revd Geoffrey Clarke

12.3 Congregational Federation

Faith in Action Committee nomination

12.4 Church of Scotland Assembly

General Assembly Moderator and Synod representative

12.5 United Free Church of Scotland

Synod nomination

12.6 Scottish Assembly of the Congregational Federation

Synod nomination

12.7 Scottish Episcopal Church

Synod nomination

12.8 Methodist Church in Scotland

Synod nomination

12.9 Baptist Union of Scotland

Synod nomination

12.10 Presbyterian Church of Wales Assembly

General Assembly Moderator

12.11 Union of Welsh Independents

Synod nomination

12.12 Covenanted Baptists

Synod nomination

12.13 Church in Wales Governing Board

Synod nomination

12.14 Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church

Faith in Action Committee nomination

13. Representatives on ecumenical church bodies (nominated by the Faith in Action Committee)

The following have been nominated as United Reformed Church representatives at the major gatherings of the ecumenical bodies listed.

13.1 World Council of Churches Assembly – Faith in Action Committee nominations

13.2 Council for World Mission Assembly - Faith in Action Committee nominations

13.3 World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) General Council Faith in Action Committee nominations

13.4 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

13.4.1 CTBI Church leaders' meeting General Secretary

13.4.2 CTBI consultative group on ministry amongst children (CGMC) Head of Children's and Youth Work and Intergenerational Discipleship and one other

13.4.3 CTBI Inter-religious network Head of World Justice and Interfaith

13.5 Churches Together in England (CTE)

13.5.1 CTE enabling group Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

13.5.2 CTE group for evangelisation Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

13.6 Free Church education committee Ms Sarah Lane Cawte One vacancy

13.7 European Churches' environmental network The Revd David Coleman

13.8 Churches' committee on funerals and crematoria The Revd Sally Thomas

13.9 Churches' forum for safeguarding Designated Safeguarding Lead

13.10 Churches' network for nonviolence Head of Children's and Youth Work and Intergenerational Discipleship

13.11 Joint liturgical group Vacancy

14. Representatives on formal bilateral and multilateral committees (nominated by the Faith in Action Committee)

14.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church Liaison Group

Co-convenor: The Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Synod Moderator) (five-year term) [2029]†

Co-secretary: Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

Synod Moderator for the National Synod of Scotland

Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales

Nominated Members

The Revd Memona Shahbaz [2027]**

Mr Tim Hopley [2028]**

14.1.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church strategic oversight group

The Senior Leadership Team

14.2 EMU Partnership (Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in Scotland and the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland)

Appointed by the National Synod of Scotland

14.3 Roman Catholic/United Reformed Church Dialogue Group

Co-chair: The Revd Dr John Bradbury [2031]††

Co-secretary: Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

Nominated members:

The Revd Jason McCullagh [2031]†

The Revd Lythan Nevard [2031]**

The Revd George Mwaura [2031]**

Ms Victoria Turner [2031]**

14.4 Church of England / United Reformed Church Link Group

Co-chair: The Revd Steve Faber (Synod Moderator) [2031]**

Co-secretary: Head of Evangelism and Ecumenism

Nominated members:

The Revd Dr Susan Durber [2031]**

The Revd Tim Meadows [2031]**

The Revd John Grundy [2031]**

Ms Philippa Osei [2031]**

15. Representatives on governing bodies of the theological colleges etc

15.1 Luther King Theological College

URC representatives:

Mrs Lesley Coote

The Revd John Grundy

Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

15.2 Westminster College: board of governors

Governors serve six-year terms, which may be renewed.

Convenor: The Revd Jennifer Mills-Knutsen [2029]

Clerk to the governors: The Revd Naomi Young-Rodas [2028]**

Honorary Treasurer (Westminster College): Vacant

Principal: The Revd Dr Peter McEnhill
The Revd Derek Graham [2032]**
The Revd Ryan Sirmons [2029]**
Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid [2031]†
The Revd Catherine Lewis-Smith [2032]**

In attendance:

The Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

Note: A further six governors are appointed by the Cambridge Theological Federation, the University of Cambridge, Anglia Ruskin University, the college's teaching staff, its students and the Cheshunt Foundation.

15.2.1 The Cheshunt Foundation

The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo [2028]

15.2.2 Cambridge Theological Federation

Convenor, Westminster College governors

16. Governors of colleges and schools with which the United Reformed Church is associated

16.1 Caterham School

Southern Synod Moderator

16.2 Eltham College

Mr Martin Fosten

16.3 Walthamstow Hall

Vacancy

16.4 Milton Mount Foundation

Mrs Daphne Bembridge [2027]†

Mr Ray Dunnnett [2028]†

The Revd Kevin Swaine [2028]†

Mrs Ann Bulley [2028]

Revd Geoff Felton [2029]**

Revd Carole Marsden [2029]**

Five URC governors serve four-year terms, which may be renewed.

16.5 Silcoates School

The Revd Jason McCullagh [2027]†

The Revd Dr Rosalind Selby [2027]**

Governors serve three-year terms.

16.6 Taunton School

Baptist governor at present

16.7 Bishops Stortford College

Mr Richard Harrison

17. Miscellaneous

The United Reformed Church is represented on a variety of other national organisations and committees as follows:

17.1 Arthur Rank Centre

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell

17.2 Churches Legislation Advisory Service

Mrs Muna Levan Harris [2027] †

17.3 Congregational Fund Board

The Revd Janine Atkinson [2027]†

Mrs Mary Steele [2027]†

The Revd Howard Sharp [2027]**

The Revd Dr Bachelard Kaze Yemtsa [2028]**

Sue Shoveller [2029]**

17.4 Congregational Memorial Hall Trust

Mr John Ellis [2027]†

Mrs Margaret Thompson [2028]†

3 Vacancies Recruitment in progress

17.5 Historic England Places of Worship Forum

Convenor of the listed buildings advisory group

18.6 Lord Wharton's Charity

Mr Neil McKenzie [2027]**

18.7 Retired ministers' and widows' fund

The Revd Julian Macro

Ms Liz Sharples

One vacancy Recruitment in progress

17.8 Roots for Churches Ltd

Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

17.9 Samuel Robinson's Charities

Mr Tony Alderman

17.10 Scout Association – URC General Assembly Chaplain

The Revd Keith Morrison

17.11 United Reformed Church History Society

The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar [2029]†

Mrs Jean Wyber [2027]

Dr Simone Maghenzani [2028]

17.12 World Day of Prayer

England, Wales and Ireland: The Revd Jane Weedon [2027]

Scotland: Synod appointment

17.13 Westhill Endowment Trust
The Revd Dr Kathryn Price [2027]
One vacancy

Resolutions index

Resolution	Purpose	Report page	Record page
1	Welcomes the Ministerial Disciplinary Working Group report and affirms the direction of travel towards a Fitness to Practice process.	33	12
2	Reorganises Education for Ministry Phase One and the Resource Centres for Learning (RCL): Luther King Theological College becomes the primary RCL, the Scottish College the complementary RCL.	38	12
3	Instructs the Ministries Committee to review the Working Group's recommendations and return with any appropriate proposals.	39	13
4	Supports consultation between Methodist District Chairs and URC Synod Moderators and asks for proposals in 2027 on the vision and shape of future Methodist–URC collaboration.	74	13
5	Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Church Life Fund Committee and directs the Business Committee to review and appoint co-opted members where appropriate.	77	13
6	Commends the paper on the Five Marks and encourages the next stages of developing this work within the Faith in Action Team and more widely.	119	13
7	Supports the journey towards a joint Christian-Muslim declaration, encourages deeper interfaith work and asks for a progress report in 2027.	126	13
8	Commends prayerful study of the Kairos II document and asks Faith in Action to keep under review ways of expressing deep solidarity with partners in the region.	126	13
9	Establishes a task group to address antisemitism within the life of the URC, with terms of reference, membership and budget to go to Assembly Executive in February 2027.	126	13
10	Continues the URC's presence and partnership at Greenbelt Festival for three years, provides resources for it and requires annual measurement and reporting of its impact.	131	14
11	Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Net Zero Task Group.	145	14

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Resolution	Purpose	Report page	Record page
12	Adopts the three-strand Repairing Justice proposals from the Legacies of Slavery Task Group.	149	14
13	Sets the proportions for allocation of the Legacies of Slavery Fund, including up to 30% for the regional strand and at least 60% for the global strand.	149	14
14	Instructs the Legacies of Slavery Task Group to continue establishing UK and global partnerships supported by the fund.	149	14
15	Delegates decisions on specific project funding from the Legacies of Slavery Fund to the Faith in Action Committee, advised by the Task Group.	149	14
16	Requires appropriate governance and safeguarding structures for the Legacies of Slavery work to ensure the URC meets its fiduciary responsibilities.	149	15
17	Adopts the revised URC Sickness and Ill Health Policy for Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers.	245	15
18	Adopts revised Terms of Reference for the Accreditations sub-committee of the Ministries Committee.	253	15
19	Instructs the Ministries Committee to review learning and formation across all accredited ministries in accordance with the framework in the paper.	188	15
20	Adopts and directs implementation of the revised Active Ministers Policy – Fitness to Practise.	193	15
21	Adopts and directs implementation of the Inactive Ministers Policy.	200	15
22	Retains the normal ministerial retirement age of 68 and the existing extension procedure, while requesting further review of retirement support and fixed-term appointments.	206	15
23	Adopts a process for Ill-Health Early Retirement of Office Holders following the expected buy-out of the Ministers' Pension Fund.	216	16
24	Adopts the framework of Competencies and Expected Standards of Conduct and Behaviour for Ministers of the Word and Sacraments.	224	16

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Resolution	Purpose	Report page	Record page
25	Adopts the URC Reasonable Adjustments Policy for Ministers, CRCWs and those in training.	236	16
26	Creates a single Ministries Support and Wellbeing Committee, combining the PRWC and Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee, and adopts its Terms of Reference.	263	16
27	Notes the work of the Resources Committee.	272	16
28	Notes the Annual Report and audited accounts for 2025.	272	16
29	Determines that the existing URC Investment Committee will cease following the Ministers' Pension Scheme buy-out.	286	16
30	Creates a new Investment Committee as a sub-committee of the Resources Committee, reporting to the URC Trust.	286	16
31	Approves the Terms of Reference for the new Investment Committee.	286	16
32	Adopts and commends good-practice recommendations for Synods selecting representatives to General Assembly.	290	17
33	Requires supporting communications material, promotional resources and application templates to be produced for Synod representation ahead of General Assembly 2027.	290	17
34	Provides for two co-opted ordinary members of the Church Life Fund Committee to help ensure diversity.	290	17
35	Thanks and formally discharges committee members and Church representatives whose terms have ended or who have resigned.	290	17
36	Appoints members of committees and representatives of the Church in accordance with the Nominations report and supplementary reports.	290	17
37	Reappoints John Bradbury as General Secretary for a further five-year term, from General Assembly 2027 to General Assembly 2032.	290	17
38	Reappoints the Revd Jamie Kissack as Moderator of the Yorkshire Synod until 30 September 2032.	291	17
39	Instructs the denominational Safeguarding Team and Synods to implement regular reviews of Synods' safeguarding practice.	307	17

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Resolution	Purpose	Report page	Record page
40	Adds a requirement to the Rules of Procedure for Synods to participate in a triennial safeguarding review conducted by the General Assembly Safeguarding Team.	307	17
41	Encourages URC churches to observe the Feast of Creation in Christ on the first Sunday in September from 2026.	319	18
42	Instructs Worship, Faith and Order to provide and curate worship resources for the Feast of Creation.	319	18
43	Adopts Version III of the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith, and Order of the URC.	321	18
44	Commends A Theological Resource on Assisted Dying to the churches for prayerful thought and discussion.	326	18
45	Gives Worship, Faith and Order permission to co-opt members representing the URC in ecumenical/international bodies or bringing particular specialist expertise.	334	18
46	Instructs Faith and Order to review gendered language in the Basis of Union and its schedules, consulting relevant committees and Youth Executive.	336	18
47	Establishes a task group to explore the identity, purpose and future development of URC Youth.	338	18
48	Sets the reporting timetable for the URC Youth task group: progress to Youth Assembly 2027 and final recommendations to Youth Assembly 2028, potentially leading to proposals for General Assembly 2028.	338	18
49	Accepts the remit, membership and timescale of the URC Youth task group.	338	19
50	Encourages local churches to work with the Welcome Directory to help prison leavers join faith communities, in line with URC safeguarding guidance.	343	19
51	Encourages churches able to do so to join the Welcome Directory and asks local churches, Synods and General Assembly to consider how such involvement can be supported.	343	19
52	Changes the name of Wessex Synod to Wessex and Islands Synod, effective 1 January 2027.	348	19

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Resolution	Purpose	Report page	Record page
53	Notes the report's concerns about the situation faced by transgender, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people and emphasises the importance of appropriate church welcome and safeguarding and invites other local churches to make similar affirmations and indicate their support through the Annual Return for publication in the URC's "Find a church" tool.	351	19
56	Recognises Seedbeds, Manor Park as a Mission Project in Thames North Synod.	354	
57	Recognises The Lumen Centre as a Mission Project in Thames North Synod.	354	
58	Recognises The Hyde, Colindale as a Mission Project in Thames North Synod.	354	
59	Recognises Island House, Isle of Dogs as a Mission Project in Thames North Synod.	354	
60	Instructs Ministries and Worship, Faith and Order to review what constitutes "pastoral necessity" for Lay Presidency at the Sacraments and to provide guidance.	357	20
61	Affirms evangelism as integral to the URC's life and mission, encourages its prioritisation across the Church, stresses the role of worship, and links the Church Life Review outcomes with support for evangelistic renewal.	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	20
62	Ministerial discipline and protest - Ruled out of order	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	20
63	The URC recognises the challenges and agonising decisions faced by organisations as they have responded to recent rulings and definitions regarding biological sex.	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	21
64	The URC expresses deep pastoral concern for those affected by the decisions regarding trans rights in response to the Supreme Court ruling regarding gender identity.	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	21
104	General Assembly appoints the Revd Paul Robinson to serve as Moderator of the Southern Synod until 30th September 2033.	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	21

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Resolution	Purpose	Report page	Record page
106	General Assembly appoints the Revd Darren Holland as a member of the Faith in Action Committee.	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	21
107	General Assembly appoints Catriona Wheeler to serve as a director of the United Reformed Church Trust to 6th July 2030.	<i>Not included in the 2026 Book of Reports</i>	21

*Not all papers discussed were included in the Book of Reports.
Synod and other papers are available to read on the General Assembly website:
<https://bit.ly/46NmAnq>*

