Paper G1

Report to Assembly Executive 2026

Nominations Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Victoria Blunt **victoria.blunt@urc.org.uk**
Action required	**Decision**.
Draft resolution(s)	**Resolution 10** **Assembly Executive appoints members of committees and representatives of the Church, as set out below.** **Resolution 11** **General Assembly appoints Catriona Wheeler to serve as a director of the United Reformed Church Trust until 31 August 2030.**

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	To appoint members of various committees and groups and external appointments following nominations and safer recruitment.
Main points	As above.
Previous relevant documents	N/A.
Consultation has taken place with...	Convenors of Committees and groups, as appropriate.

Summary of impact

Financial	None.
External (eg ecumenical)	Recruitment of members to ecumenical bodies.

Report to Assembly Executive November 2026

1. Safer Recruitment Process

1.1 The safer recruitment framework for Core and Specialist committees continues to operate effectively. To maintain transparency, diversity, and proper oversight, all appointments to Assembly-level committees must follow the process:

- Openly advertising all vacancies publicly via URC communication channels with clear person specifications and job descriptions, also notifying the Nominations Convenor of the vacancy.

- Candidates complete application/expression of interest forms.
- The committee conducts safer recruitment conversations to assess suitability and commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and belonging.
- References are sought (one should be from the Synod Moderator for ministers or the Minister or Church Secretary for lay members) and appropriate safeguarding checks (such as DBS where applicable) should be taken prior to recommendation to the Nominations Committee.
- Nominations Committee review the names and check that the process has been followed.
- Nominations Committee present recommended names to General Assembly or Assembly Executive for appointment.

1.2 It would be helpful if committees could keep the Nominations Committee informed of upcoming vacancies, ongoing recruitment timelines, and prospective candidates as early as possible.

1.3 Candidates should not assume roles or attend meetings until they have been appointed by General Assembly or Assembly Executive.

1.4 All application materials, interview records, and references must be stored securely within each individual committee's dedicated SharePoint site.

1.5 The Nominations Committee will periodically conduct spot checks of SharePoint records to ensure consistency and compliance across all committees.

2. Ongoing work

2.1 The Nominations Committee is collaborating with the URC Safeguarding Officer and the GDPR Officer and will bring draft guidance on retention of recruitment documents and DBS requirements for Assembly-level committee members to the February meeting of Assembly Executive.

3. Those to be appointed or re-appointed

3.1 Following Nominations Procedures, Nominations Committee and other Committees have undertaken safer recruitment processes and have nominated the named individuals below for appointment.

Committee/group	Name	Role	Years	
Children's and Youth Programme Enabling Group	Mr Dave Dennis	Member	2026-2028	
Ministers Pensions Trust	Mr Lyndon Thomas	Member	2026-2027	Extended to General Assembly 2027 due to buy in buy out
Faith in Action Committee	Ms Christine Ntim	Member	2026-2030	
Faith in Action Committee	The Revd Dr Kate Gray	Member	2026-2030	
Congregational Memorial Hall Trust	Mr Geoff Milnes	Member	2026-2030	

Congregational Memorial Hall Trust	Mr Philip Bonnier	Member	2026-2030	
Ministries Committee	Ms Elizabeth Hall	Convenor	2026-2030	
Net-Zero Task Group	Mr Ian Moore	Convenor	2026-2030	
Net-Zero Task Group	Mr Niall Cooper	Deputy Convenor	2026-2030	Although the role advert and terms of reference specified only a Convenor, the interviewing panel recommends appointing a Deputy Convenor, as both applicants were highly suitable and agreed to work together effectively.
Children's and Youth Programme Enabling Group	Ms Faye Al-Hindawi	Convenor	2026-2030	
Assembly Appointments Panel	Mr Isaac Irvine	Member	2026-2031	
Church Life Fund Committee	Ms Charlotte Samson	Member	2026-2029	

4. Term of Director on URC Trust

4.1 General Assembly 2026 appointed Ms Catriona Wheeler to serve as a Director on the United Reformed Church Trust (URCT).

4.2 Under established General Assembly policy, all trustee and director appointments are intended to run from 1st September to 31 August to ensure administrative continuity and alignment with the Trust's meeting cycles.

4.3 The appointment General Assembly resolution inadvertently departed from this standard practice and specified a standard four-year term calculated from the date of appointment (7 July 2026 to 6 July 2030). To rectify this anomaly and ensure alignment with governance policies, the Assembly Executive is asked to approve an amended term for Ms Catriona Wheeler to run until 31 August 2030.