

# Nominations

## Assembly committees and other appointments

Notes:

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 is invited to appoint for the first time; † denotes those who have been invited to extend their periods of service; †† denotes those returning 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. In sections one to five of the report, 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.
9. Nominations to Assembly committees and their subcommittees, 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 of 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.

11. **The latest list approved by General Assembly is available at: <http://bit.ly/URCNom>.**

**Officers of General Assembly**

Clerk to General Assembly

Assistant Clerk to Assembly

Clerk-elect to General Assembly

Honorary Treasurer

Assembly Moderator

The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins [2024]

The Revd Sarah Moore [2024]

The Revd Sarah Moore [2030]

Mr Alan Yates [2029]

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

Vacancy (9)  
Mr Colin McCracken (11)

Mr Christopher Buckwell (10)

#### **1.4 Resource sharing task group**



Members (not time-limited):

The Revd Nigel Adkinson	The Revd Bill Bowman
The Revd Andy Braunston	Ms Mary Coole
Mr Ian Corless	Ms Janine Cowie
Mrs Barbara Ellis	The Revd Peter Flint
Mr Alastair Forsyth	Mr Remi Ferguson
Mrs Cathy Glazier	The Revd Dominic Grant
Ms Barbara Groom	The Revd John Grundy
The Revd Marcus Hargis	Prof Graham Handscomb
Dr David Jones	Mrs Mary Kelly
The Revd Sue McCoan	The Revd Alan McGougan
The Revd Martha McInnes	Ms Morag McLintock
The Revd Sarah Moore	Dr James Mawdesley
The Revd Wilbert Sayimani	The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe
Mr Dean Taylor	Mrs Janet Virr
Mr Gordon Wanless	Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid

## 2.5 Disciplinary Investigation Panel

Senior Member: The Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2028]

Deputy Senior Member: The Revd Martin Spain [2029]

Members (not time-limited):

The Revd Dr James Coleman	Mr John Collings
Mr Stuart Dew	The Revd Martin Ferris
The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King	Mrs Chris Harris
Mr Keir Hounsome	Mr Andrew Howes
Prof Jean McClellan	Ms Alison Jiggins
The Revd Craig Muir	The Revd Lesley Moseley
The Revd Zadie Orr	Mr Andy Russell
Mr Mark Rigby	Mrs Margaret Smith
Ms Cathy Simpson	The Revd Martin Spain
Mrs Liz Swanwick	The Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Dr Gordon Woods	The Revd Geoff Wright

## 2.6 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	Mr Dodie Khurshid
Ms Sandra Wood	

## 2.7 Pastoral reference and welfare committee

Convenor: The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch [2027]\*\*

Deputy Convenor: Vacancy

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

General Secretary	Deputy Treasurer
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Synod Moderator: The Revd Bridget Banks

Nominated Members:

The Revd Dr Irene John [2024]	One Vacancy
Mrs Hilary Miles [2026]**	

### **3. Mission department**

#### **3.1 Mission committee**

Convenor: Sarah Lane Cawte [2028]

Deputy Convenor-elect: The Revd Wilbert Sayimani [2024 -2028]\*\*

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Mission)

The Revd Katrina Hackett (1) [2027]\*\*

Mr Aftab Mughal (2) [2025]

The Revd Stuart Nixon (3) [2026]

The Revd Barry Welch (4) [2027]\*\*

The Revd Jane Wade (5) [2027]\*\*

The Revd Debbie Brown (6) [2027]\*\*

The Revd Alex Clare-Young (7) [2027]\*\*

The Revd Henriette Wentink (8) [2027]†

The Revd Ray Stanyon (9) [2025]

The Revd Eddie Boon (10)\*\* [2027]\*\*

The Revd Martin Knight (11) [2026]\*\*

The Revd Branwen Rees (12) [2026]†

The Revd John Bremner (13) [2027]\*\*

#### **3.1.1 Commitment for Life (CfL) reference group**

Convenor: Mr Richard Lewney [2028]†

At least two CfL advocates

Representative of mission team

Representative of mission committee

Representative from Christian Aid

Representative of Global Justice Now

Programme Officer for Global Justice and Partnerships

#### **3.1.2 Interfaith enabling group**

The convenor is nominated by the Mission Committee.

Convenor: The Revd Tracey Lewis [2028]†

Secretary:

Programme Officer - URC Global Justice & Partnerships

Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Scotland

Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer for the National Synod of Wales

Nominated members:

Ms Victoria4(m)13(m)-(†)Tj /R8 122(m)13(m)-7( )-2(&)70( )JTJ 13(0)-4&

## **4. Discipleship department**

### **4.1 Ministries committee**

Convenor: The Revd Mary Thomas [2026]\*\*

**Retiring 2027**



### 4.3 Children's and youth work committee

Convenor: The Revd Paul Robinson [2024]

Convenor Elect: The Revd Samantha Sheehan [Convenor from General Assembly 2024]

Secretary: Head of Children's and Youth Work

URC Youth Moderator

URC Youth Moderator-elect

Pilots representative

Nominated members:

Mr Matthew Barkley [2027]<sup>†</sup>

Mr Reuben Watt [2027]<sup>†</sup>

The Revd Janine Atkinson [2024]

The Revd Julian Sanders [2025]

Ms Caroline Akinyele [2025]

### 4.4 Safeguarding Committee

Convenor: The Revd Roger Jones [2026]

Secretary: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

Secretary for Ministries

Training and Development Coordinator

Policy Development Coordinator

Nominated Members:

Mr Alex Walker [2026]\*\*

Mrs Kate Yates [2026]\*\*

Synod Safeguarding Practice Group representative:

Ms Julie Rafferty [2026]\*\*

Synod Moderator: The Revd George Watt

National Synod of Scotland representative: Ms Ruth Goold [2026]\*\*

URC Advocated Survivors Group representatives (up to 2): group not yet operative

Independent members:

Mr Tim Carter (Methodist Church) [2026]\*\*

Ms Fi Cisneros [2026]\*\*

In attendance:

Head of Children's and Youth Work

Secretary for Education and Learning

## 5. Administration and resources department

### 5.1 Business Committee

Convenor: The Revd Mark Robinson [2025]

Secretary: General Secretary

Moderator of General Assembly

Moderator-elect and Immediate-past Moderator of General Assembly

Clerk of General Assembly

Assistant Clerk of General Assembly

URC Treasurer

Nominated members:

Ms Darnette Whitby-Reid [2025]

Mr Reuben Watt [2026]\*\*

**Note:** General Assembly Resolution 53 mandates a revised composition of the Business Committee

### 5.2 Communications

Convenor: The Revd Lucy Brierley [2027]

Convenor-Elect: Vacancy

Secretary: Head of Communications

The Revd Tim Lo ( )18(T)-9(h)-4(e)-4( )-2(R)22(e0 )-2(R)22( 3.68 TL-4(m)-7(m)-7(i0( 3.-4(t)-2(h)-4( )h

### **5.3 Equalities committee**

Convenor: The Revd Naison Hove [2026]

Secretary: The Revd David Salsbury [2027]<sup>†</sup>

URC Youth Equalities and Diversity Representative: Ms Megan Westgarth [2027]\*\*

Nominated members:

The Revd Jayne Taylor [2027]<sup>†</sup>

Mrs Rosie Martin [2024]

Dr Ruth Shepherd [2024]

Ms Kirsty Mabbott [2027]\*\*

The Revd Jo Clare-Young [2024]

Ms Judy Rogers [2024]

Mrs Janet Raven [2026]\*\*

The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo [2027]\*\*

#### **5.3.1 Affirmative Action task group**

Convenor: Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries

Secretary: Equalities Committee Secretary

Representative Members:

Mission Committee: Ms Lindsey Brown

URC Youth: Ms Philippa Osei

Members:

Ms Muskaan Jonathan

The Revd Andrew Mudharara

Mrs Pat Poinen

The Revd John Macaulay

The Revd George Mwaura

### **5.4 Finance committee**

Convenor: URC Treasurer

Deputy Treasurer: Mr Vaughan Griffiths [2025]

Chief Finance Officer

Chair of the URC Trust

Nominated members:

Mrs Jane Humphreys [2027]<sup>†</sup>

Ms Denise Harman [2024]

Mr Gordon Wanless [2025]

Ms Joana Marfoh [2027]<sup>†</sup>

The Revd Simon Copley [2025]

Mr Billss [



## 5.7 Investment committee

Convenor: Mr Richard Nunn [2026]

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Members:

Dame Katharine Barker [2027]<sup>†</sup>

Mr Lyndon Thomas [2024]

Mr Mark Kirkbride [2027]\*\*

Mr Timothy Lancaster [2027]\*\*

URC Treasurer

convenor, pensions committee

chair of United Reformed Church Trust or another director

chair of United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust or another director

Treasurer, Westminster College

In attendance: Chief Finance Officer

## 6. Representatives to meetings of sister churches

6.1	General Synod of the Church of England	Mission Committee Nomination
6.2	Methodist Conference	The Revd Geoffrey Clarke
6.3	Congregational Federation	Mission Committee Nomination
6.4	Church of Scotland	Assembly Moderator and Synod representative
6.5	United Free Church of Scotland	Synod nomination
6.6	Scottish Assembly of the Congregational Federation	Synod nomination
6.7	Scottish Episcopal Church	Synod nomination
6.8	Methodist Church in Scotland	Synod nomination
6.9	Baptist Union of Scotland	Synod nomination
6.10	Presbyterian Church of Wales	Assembly Moderator
6.11	Union of Welsh Independents	Synod nomination
6.12	Covenanted Baptists	Synod nomination
6.13	Church in Wales Governing Board	Synod nomination
6.14	Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church	Mission Committee Nomination

## 7. Representatives on ecumenical church bodies

The following have been nominated as United Reformed Church representatives at the

## **7.6 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)**

### **7.6.1 CTBI Church leaders' meeting**

General Secretary

### **7.6.2 CTBI environmental issues network**

The Revd Mike Shrubsole

### **7.6.3 CTBI consultative group on ministry amongst children (CGMC)**

Head of Children's and Youth Work and one other

### **7.6.4 CTBI interreligious network**

Programme Officer (Global, Justice and Partnerships)

### **7.6.5 CTBI China forum**

The Revd John Scott

### **7.6.6 CTBI Churches' refugee network**

The Revd Fleur Houston

## **7.6.7 Churches Together in England (CTE)**

### **7.7 CTE enabling group**

Mission Support Officer

### **7.7.1 CTE group for evangelisation**

Deputy General Secretary (Mission)

## **7.8 Action of Churches Together in Scotland (Acts) members meeting**

Appointed by the National Synod of Scotland

## **7.9 National Sponsoring Body for Scotland**

Appointed by the National Synod of Scotland

## **7.10 Churches Together in Wales (CYTUN)**

Appointed by the National Synod of Wales

## **7.11 Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales**

Appointed by the National Synod of Wales

**7.16 Churches' network for nonviolence**

Head of Children's and Youth Work

**7.17 Churches Visitor and Tourism Association**

Mrs Valerie Jenkins

**7.18 Joint liturgical group**

The Revd Dr Ana Gobledale

**8. Representatives on formal bilateral and multilateral committees**

**8.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church liaison group**

Honorary treasurer (Westminster College): Mr Andrew Grimwade [2023]<sup>†</sup>

Acting Principal: The Revd Dr Robert Pope

Mr John Ellis [2029]<sup>†</sup>

Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid [2025]

The Revd Stuart Scott [2024]<sup>†</sup>

The Revd David Miller [2028]

The Revd Ryan Sirmons [2028]\*\*

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: The Secretary for Education and Learning and the URC Treasurer are normally in attendance.

### **9.2.1 The Cheshunt Foundation**

The Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo [2026]

### **9.2.2 Cambridge Theological Federation**

Convenor, Westminster College governors

## **10. Governors of colleges and schools with which the United Reformed Church is associated**

### **10.1 Caterham School**

Southern Synod Moderator

### **10.2 Eltham College**

Mr Martin Fosten

### **10.3 Walthamstow Hall**

Vacancy

### **10.4 Milton Mount Foundation**

Mrs Daphne Bembridge [2023]

Mr Ray Dunnnett [2024]

The Revd Kevin Swaine [2024]

The Revd Derek Lindfield [2026]<sup>†</sup>

Mrs Ann Bulley [2028]\*\*

5 URC governors serve 4-year terms, which may be renewed.

### **10.5 Silcoates School**

The Revd Jason McCullagh [2024]

Vacancy

Governors serve 3-year terms.

### **10.6 Taunton School**

Baptist governor at present

### **10.7 Bishops Stortford College**

Mr Richard Harrison

Mrs Mary Steele [2027]<sup>†</sup>  
Mr Mike Hart [2024]  
The Revd Howard Sharp [2027]\*\*  
One Vacancy

#### **11.4 Congregational Memorial Hall Trust**

Mr John Ellis [2027]<sup>†</sup>  
Mr Philip Bonnier [2025]  
The Revd Julian Macro [2026]\*\*  
Representatives serve 4-year terms which may be renewed.

Mrs Margaret Thompson [2024]  
The Revd Derek Wales [2025]  
1 Vacancy

#### **11.5 Historic England Places of Worship Forum**

Convenor of the listed buildings advisory group

#### **11.6 Lord Wharton's Charity**

1 Vacancy

#### **11.7 Retired ministers' and widows' fund**

The Revd Julian Macro  
Ms Liz Sharples

1 Vacancy

#### **11.8 Roots for Churches Ltd**

The Revd Jenny Mills\*\*  
Nominated by the Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

#### **11.9 Samuel Robinson's Charities**

Mr Tony Alderman

#### **11.10 Scout Association – URC General Assembly Chaplain**

The Revd Keith Morrison  
This appointment is made by the Children's and Youth Work Committee.

#### **11.11 United Reformed Church History Society**

The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar [2024]  
Dr Simone Maghenzani [2028]\*\*  
Council Members serve five-year terms which may be renewed.

Mrs Jean Wyber [2027]<sup>†</sup>

#### **11.12 World Day of Prayer**

England, Wales and Ireland:  
Scotland: Synod appointment.

The Revd Jane Weedon [2027]\*\*

#### **11.13 Westhill Endowment Trust**

The Revd Clare Callanan [2027]\*\*  
The Revd Dr Kathryn Price [2027]\*\*

Details of these appointments were updated by the Nominations Committee Secretary following the General Assembly July 2023.