The United Reformed Church General Assembly

United Reformed Church General Assembly 2021

Order Paper

Friday 9 July 2021

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

Additional resolution

This is proposed by the Business Committee, and will be taken at the start of session three:

General Assembly appoints the Revd Adrian Bulley and the Revd Michael Hopkins as tellers for the election of the Moderator of General Assembly at this meeting.

This year we are using an electronic voting system, which will collect, count, and collate the votes, so the tellers only job is to receive this information. As Adrian and Michael have been organising this process with the electronic voting company, it is proposed that they be appointed tellers on this occasion.

En bloc business

Paper H3 – house for duty – has been withdrawn from *en bloc* because of some technical points which required clarifying. The proposers have agreed a revised form with those who raised technical points, and this is now on the website.

Paper G2

Paper G2 which was omitted from the Book of Reports. Those who requested a hard copy of the Book of Reports have been sent a copy of this paper by post, and it is available to download from the URC website. However, the version on the website was not up-to-date. With apologies for the extreme delay, the URC Trust 2020 Trustees' Report and Financial Statements referred to in paper G2 are now available under the finance section of the General Assembly papers. In view of their lateness paper G2 will not be considered on Friday. Instead the Moderators hope to be able to slot it into the agenda later in the meeting.

https://urc.org.uk/general-assembly-archive

Pensions discussion video
Ian Hardie and John Piper, URC Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer note that the Book of Reports for General Assembly 2021 contains two papers, G3 and G4, about pensions. The subject of pensions is unavoidably complex. However, paper G4 contains some really important resolutions that members of Assembly will have to vote on. It is, therefore, important for members of Assembly to engage with the issues so that they can take good decisions that are not over-reliant on the recommendations from the Finance and Pensions Committees. To help and encourage members of Assembly to do this, Ian Hardie and John Piper (Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the URC) have prepared a short 'talking heads' video which is deliberately non-technical and light on figures: https://bit.ly/GApensions.
This video will be shown via Zoom at the end of the lunch break on Friday.

Vote for the Moderator of the General Assembly
A written statement from each of the candidates for Moderator of the General Assembly has been circulated, and they will also be available on the Assembly web page.

The election is being handled by a third-party company who will be emailing you on Friday at 5pm. Please look out for, or allow, emails from elections@mi-voice.com

The candidates will be speaking to their statement on Friday afternoon as well as answering a question.

Minor amendments and additions
The following corrections have been made to papers on the website:
In Paper H1 a line was missed in point 4.4 – this has now been added.
The repeated text in Paper D-H1 has been removed, and point 5 in Appendix One added.
Papers J3 and J4 have been added – please visit the website to read, download or print them off.
The last line of the table in appendix 2 of paper T1 was omitted, and has now been added online.
www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly-archive

Typographical error correction to Paper H4
Add a new number 4, and re-number the current 4 and 5 as 5 and 6.
The new number 4 to read:
4. The description of the former Congregational Church *of* England and Wales needs to be corrected to the former Congregational Church *in* England and Wales.
Consequently, the same change should be made to Appendix One, number 1 (a).

Additional resolution – paper H2
If the resolution is passed, the Convener will move an additional resolution:
"General Assembly requests the Ministries Committee, in consultation with the Clerk, to consider whether this policy, if adopted, requires any updating to section 4 of the Rules of Procedure "Suspension and removal of volunteers serving at denominational level", and, if so, bring a relevant proposal to the November 2021 meeting of Assembly Executive".

Paper T3
The Moderator and Clerk of the National Synod of Scotland wish to propose an amendment to the membership of the proposed safeguarding committee as set out in the paper, namely the addition of:
A representative of the National Synod of Scotland, in view of that Synod's different safeguarding context.
This amendment is accepted by the Convener, but will still be subject to a vote of the Assembly.

Information and training video
If you would like to be reminded about any of the technical aspects of the General Assembly, (e.g. Zoom, voting, addressing the Assembly) you can watch the information and training video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdQ8nk2FP2s

Livestreaming
The business sessions will be livestreamed on the URC website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. The links to those pages are now on the General Assembly web page www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly and will be live from Friday.

New to Assembly – Friday, 9am
If you've never been to General Assembly before, you are warmly welcome to the New to Assembly meeting at 9am on Friday. Please join using the same Zoom link for the other sessions of general Assembly.

Order of Service
The Order of Service for the act of worship on Sunday morning at 11am, to which all are warmly invited, can be downloaded and shared from www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly.

Order papers
These will be added to the General Assembly papers web page each day – please read them before the start of the next day's business.

Social space on the Wonder.me website
The social space for people to meet during drinks and meal breaks can be found at bit.ly/GA21-wonder. The password is **assembly** and you will need to turn your camera and microphone off on Zoom to take part. Please visit that website before the meeting so that you can get a feel for using it.

Technical help
As well the technical team, we have our wonderful co-hosts who will be helping the meeting behind the scenes – Elizabeth Gray-King, Tasneem Choudhury and AJ Mills. If you have a technical query while the meeting is in session, please use the Zoom Chat function to contact **Tech – AJ Mills**.