

# Paper J2

## List of nominations

### Nominations committee

#### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	The Revd Ray Adams <a href="mailto:ray.adams12@btinternet.com">ray.adams12@btinternet.com</a> Mr George Faris <a href="mailto:nominations.secretary@urc.org.uk">nominations.secretary@urc.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <b>Mission Council notes the changes set out in section one of the report to the list of Nominations agreed at the November 2019 meeting of Mission Council.</b></li><li>2) <b>Mission Council notes and approves the changes set out in section two of the report to the list of Nominations agreed at the November 2019 meeting of Mission Council.</b></li><li>3) <b>Mission Council notes sections three to five of the report.</b></li></ol>

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) To clarify various details of the nominations list.</li><li>2) To appoint and reappoint members of various committees and representatives of the Church.</li></ol>
<b>Main points</b>	
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Nominations list as at November 2019: <a href="http://www.urc.org.uk/images/Yearbook/Nominations-List.pdf">www.urc.org.uk/images/Yearbook/Nominations-List.pdf</a>
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	All synods are represented on the Committee.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	Some roles involve ecumenical contact and collaboration.

## 1. Amendments to published list of nominations to be noted

Mission Council is asked to note the following amendments to the Nominations list that was agreed at the November 2019 meeting of Mission Council.

### 4.1.4 Retired Ministers' Housing Subcommittee

This subcommittee is under active review so the end dates for the convenor and members should be removed. A further report will be made later this year.

## 4.2 Education and Learning Committee

Mrs Sandra Ackroyd has resigned.

## 2. New appointments and re-appointments

**Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council makes the following appointments:**

Ref	Committee/Group	Name	Role	From	To
4.1.2	Ministries - CRCW Programme Subcommittee	The Revd David Herbert	Synod Moderator	Mar20	GA20
4.5	Worship Reference Group	The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King	Secretary	Mar20	GA24
4.5	Worship Reference Group	The Revd Dr Ana Gobledale	Member	Mar20	GA24
4.5	Worship Reference Group	The Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	Member	Mar20	GA24
10.4	Milton Mount Foundation	Mr Ray Dunnnett	Governor <sup>†</sup>	Mar20	GA24
10.4	Milton Mount Foundation	The Revd Kevin Swaine	Governor <sup>†</sup>	Mar20	GA24

Key:

† = extension of term of service, the default is a new appointment.

GA20 = General Assembly 2020

GA24 = General Assembly 2024

## Mission Committee Nominations

**Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council makes the following appointments:**

Ref	Committee/Group	Name	Role	From	To
3.1.2	Commitment for Life Reference Group	Mr Richard Lewney	Convenor-Elect**	Mar20	GA20
3.1.2	Commitment for Life Reference Group	Mr Richard Lewney	Convenor**	GA20	GA24
6.1	General Synod of the Church of England	The Revd Tim Meadows	Representative**	N/A	N/A
	World Council of Churches 2021 General Assembly	The Revd Sarah Moore	Delegate**	N/A	N/A
7.1	Council for World Mission 2020 Assembly	Ms Lindsey Brown	Representative**	N/A	N/A
7.1	Council for World Mission 2020 Assembly	Mr John Ellis	Representative**	N/A	N/A
7.1	Council for World Mission 2020 Assembly	Ms Alison Greaves	Representative**	N/A	N/A
7.1	Council for World Mission 2020 Assembly	Ms Maria Lee	Representative**	N/A	N/A

Key: \*\* = new appointment.

## 3. Appointments to be made at General Assembly

The Nominations Committee advises that those listed below have accepted invitations to serve from the end of this year's General Assembly, which will be asked to appoint them. This is a provisional list - there will be further nominations for consideration at General Assembly.

Ref	Committee/Group	Name	Role	From	Years
1.2	Human Resources Advisory Group	Mrs Barbara Ellis	Member	GA20	4
1.3	Law & Polity Advisory Group	Mr Neil Mackenzie	Secretary	GA20	2 <sup>†</sup>
1.8	Business Committee	Ms Ella Lemon	Member	GA20	2
2.1	Faith and Order Committee	The Revd Sue McCoan	Member	GA20	6
2.1	Faith and Order Committee	Ms Diana Paulding	Member	GA20	6
2.1	Faith and Order Committee	The Revd Kristin Ofstad	Member	GA20	6
2.2	Nominations Committee	Mrs Helen Lidgett	Convenor-Elect	GA20	1

Ref	Committee/Group	Name	Role	From	Years
2.2	Nominations Committee	Mrs Helen Lidgett	Convenor	GA21	4
2.3	MIND (Ministerial Incapacity and Discipline) Advisory Group	The Revd Andy Braunston	Training Coordinator	GA20	4
2.4	Disciplinary Process Commission Panel	The Revd Martha McInnes (12)	Member	GA20	5 <sup>†</sup>
2.4	Disciplinary Process Commission Panel	The Revd Rachel Poolman (1)	Member	GA20	5 <sup>†</sup>
2.4	Disciplinary Process Commission Panel	The Revd Dr Peter Stevenson (5)	Member	GA20	5 <sup>†</sup>
2.4	Disciplinary Process Commission Panel	The Revd Wilbert Sayimani (9)	Member	GA20	5
2.6	Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee	The Revd Dr Irene John	Member	GA20	4
3.1.3	Interfaith Enabling Group	The Revd Dr Mark Godin	Member	GA20	4
3.1.3	Interfaith Enabling Group	The Revd Dr Graham Adams	Member	GA20	4
4.1	Ministries Committee	Mrs Gill Bates	Member	GA20	4
4.1.1	Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Subcommittee	Mr Simon Loveitt	Co-Convenor	GA20	1 <sup>†</sup>
4.1.1	Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Subcommittee	The Revd Dr Paul Dean	Convenor-Elect	GA20	1
4.1.1	Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Subcommittee	The Revd Dr Paul Dean	Convenor	GA21	4
4.1.1	Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Subcommittee	The Revd Tim Clarke	SCM Postholder	GA20	4
4.1.1	Accreditations (CRCW and SCM) Subcommittee	The Revd David Herbert	Synod Moderator	GA20	4
4.2	Education and Learning Committee	Mrs Margaret Marshall	Member	GA20	4
4.2	Education and Learning Committee	The Revd Tim Meachin	Member	GA20	4
4.3	Children's and Youth Work Committee	The Revd Janine Atkinson	Member	GA20	4
5.2	Communications Committee	Ms Joy Aldred	Member	GA20	4
5.3	Equalities Committee	The Revd Jo Clare-Young	Member	GA20	4
5.3	Equalities Committee	Mrs Rosie Martin	Member	GA20	4 <sup>†</sup>
5.3	Equalities Committee	The Revd Mhari McLintock	Member	GA20	4
5.3	Equalities Committee	Ms Judy Rogers	Member	GA20	4
5.3	Equalities Committee	Dr Ruth Shepherd	Member	GA20	4

† = extension of term of service, the default is a new appointment.

GA20 = from the end of General Assembly 2020

GA21 = from the end of General Assembly 2021

Years = term of service

## 4. Nominating, Review and Appointment Groups

### 4.1 Principal of Westminster College

Following the resignation of the Revd Neil Thorogood as Principal of Westminster College with effect from summer 2020, an Appointment Group, chaired by former Assembly Moderator John Ellis, was established last year. After a protracted search process, the Revd Samantha White has been appointed for a seven year term from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2027. Sam is an experienced URC minister and currently serves the College as Director of Pastoral Studies and as Director of the Cheshunt Foundation.

John Ellis comments, 'The Appointment Group was well aware of the significance of the Principalship of Westminster College. We are pleased that the evolving and rich range of activities which make this URC Resource Centre of Learning so valuable will be carried forward under the leadership of someone with Sam's experience, energy and enthusiasm.'

4.2 The Revd Andrew Prasad will retire as Moderator of Thames North Synod on 28 February 2021. A Nominating Group has started work under the convenorship of the Revd George Mwaura (East Midlands).

4.3 The Revd Clare Downing has asked for a further review of her tenure in Wessex Synod, which currently runs to the end of 2022, and a Review Group is to be convened by the Revd Peter Henderson (South Western).

## 5. The post of Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

From Derek Estill and John Bradbury: [derek.estill@urc.org.uk](mailto:derek.estill@urc.org.uk) and [jpb44@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jpb44@cam.ac.uk)

- 5.1 Following the review of the General Secretariat carried out ahead of the retirement of John Proctor and Richard Church, the post of Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) was advertised. The process for the appointment of a DGS Discipleship has now gone through two rounds. In the first round two candidates were interviewed, and no appointment was made. In the second round no candidates were shortlisted.
- 5.2 The appointment group has recommended that the appointment be paused to allow a period of time for review. To advertise immediately for a third time with the same person specification seems unwise. There are various possible factors in our inability to appoint:
- A rapidly reducing pool of ministers from within the URC itself, meaning that those with the necessary gifts and graces for a role as particular as this one are few, and of those, many may not be in a position within the cycle of their ministry to currently move.
  - The sheer number of senior appointments that we have been seeking to make might simply mean that the available pool of people, ordained or lay, was not large enough at that one moment in time.
  - The job description may be putting good candidates off. It is a disparate role, with a department that, viewed from the outside, does not seem to have great coherence. Whereas the Mission department relates to one Assembly committee, and its staff team works with one DGS Mission, the Discipleship department relates to a range of different Assembly committees and advisory groups. The safeguarding element of the role, which must be integral to the whole of church life, also entails a technical and procedural element that may deter some people who have a wider interest in discipleship.
  - The restriction of the post to churches within broadly 'Reformed' international church umbrellas might not have realistically extended the potential pool of candidates from within the London based context.
- 5.3 This leaves us with two key issues to resolve: firstly, how we put in place temporary arrangements to cover what might be a significant period of time whilst we, secondly, determine the way forward in the longer term. The General Secretary elect, John Bradbury, is working with the continuing Deputy General Secretaries to ensure a smooth continuation of the work of the Discipleship department. This is not a totally new situation because when John Proctor began his term as General Secretary, he held the responsibilities of DGS Discipleship for a period of almost a year before Richard Church was appointed. John Bradbury is therefore meeting with all members of the Discipleship team to gauge priorities and the possible ways and means of holding the necessary responsibilities for an interim period. John, Jane Baird and Francis Brienen, as the General Secretariat for the next period, will then develop a strategy to ensure that all staff are appropriately supported and that key pieces of work within the life of the United Reformed Church continue uninterrupted.
- 5.4 Once John Bradbury is in post as General Secretary and able to more effectively view the situation from that perspective, the General Secretariat and the Human Resources Advisory Group will work together to develop a longer term strategy which will involve a fresh look at the role and the scope of its responsibility.