

# Paper J2

Nominations committee  
Review of synod moderators

Church 2014  
**United**  
Church **Reformed**  
**Church** Church 2014

# Paper J2



## Nominations committee: Review of synod moderators

### Basic Information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Carol Rogers <a href="mailto:carannrog@aol.com">carannrog@aol.com</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Decision to accept the process outlined.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>Mission Council directs the Assembly appointments panel to operate the process outlined, for the tenure review of synod moderators.</b>
<b>Alternative options to consider, if any</b>	

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Revised process for the reappointment of a synod moderator.
<b>Main points</b>	The main changes to the existing pattern are in paras 5.2, 8 and 9.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Previous version dated April 2014.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	The convener and members of the nominations committee.

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	None

# Process for the re-appointment review of a serving synod moderator

1.1 Before a General Assembly review group is appointed the general secretary will ascertain from the synod moderator concerned whether she/he wishes to be considered for a further term of service. (This period would normally be for five years but in exceptional circumstances, such as imminent retirement, it may be adjusted either to shorten the term or to lengthen it slightly with the consent of the Assembly review group, the moderator and the synod panel.) This consultation should take place in time for a General Assembly review group to be formed, consider the matter and reach a conclusion no later than twelve months, and preferably eighteen, before the end of the current appointment.

1.2 The general secretary will talk through the process with the moderator and the synod clerk so that expectations are clear.

2. The General Assembly review group, appointed by nominations committee, will consist of five people from outside the synod concerned. They will be selected from a panel of people appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose of Assembly appointments and reviews. The general secretary, or a deputy general secretary, will provide services to the group.

3. The synod will appoint its own internal synod review panel, which is representative of the geography as well as the programme life of the synod. Normally, it will meet under the convenership of the synod clerk. This panel is charged to consult as widely as possible across the synod and with ecumenical partners. They should also meet with the synod moderator to discover the moderator's view of the way his/her work has developed and his/her vision for a possible further period of service. Reference may be made to the outcomes of any previous internal review of the moderator's work which may have been undertaken. The synod panel will come to a view, in the light of responses received whether it believes an invitation should be issued for a further time of service.

4. The synod clerk will inform the general secretary and the convenor of the General Assembly review group of the timetable and plans for (a) appointing the members of the synod panel, (b) consulting across the synod (ministers, churches, ecumenical partners); and (c) meetings of the panel, including the meeting with the synod moderator. He/she will also agree the date and venue for the review meeting.

5.1 The General Assembly review group will need to elicit information regarding the work of the moderator for the wider church as well as to receive the written submissions from the moderator and the synod panel. The synod panel submission should demonstrate clearly that a wide consultation has been undertaken and that its view clearly reflects the views of the synod itself.

5.2 The Assembly review group convenor should satisfy him/herself on behalf of the Assembly review group that the synod has fulfilled its role in the process satisfactorily. For the sake of the moderator whose role is at stake, the convenor, in consultation with the general secretary, should suspend the process if there is any serious doubt that the information received is a responsible reflection of the views of the synod.

6. On an agreed date and place, the Assembly review group will meet separately with both the synod panel, or its representatives, and the moderator. The interviews will be based upon the submissions received. The Assembly review Group will come to a view as to whether the moderator be invited to offer a further term of service. The convenor will then make a recommendation to the nominations committee who will bring a resolution to the Mission Council or General Assembly no later than six months before the conclusion of the appointment.
7. The general secretary will communicate the recommendation both to the moderator and also to the synod. The information to the synod, giving the reasons for the Assembly review group's recommendation, should be in a form which might be published for the wider members of the synod to receive.
8. Should it be recommended that the moderator is not to be re-appointed the general secretary and the convenor of the Assembly review group should take all necessary steps to set up pastoral care for all concerned.
9. If either the synod, or those appointed to act on its behalf (e.g. an executive committee), or the moderator concerned wishes to challenge the recommendation of the review group they must ask for the recommendation to be reviewed within one month of its being made, and before it is considered by Mission Council or Assembly. The Mission Council shall then appoint a group of five people to hear the appeal and a member of its staff will provide services. The conclusion of that group will be taken forward, without further right of appeal, by the nominations committee, as a resolution to Mission Council or Assembly.
10. The review group's costs will be borne by Assembly funds; those of the synod panel by synod funds. It is helpful if a light lunch can be provided on the day of the review meeting.