

right to vote. In the Church Meeting which shall meet at least once a quarter and at which the minister or one of the ministers shall normally preside, the members have opportunity through discussion, responsible decision and care for one another, to strengthen each other's faith and to foster the life, work and mission of the Church.

Concerning the outgoing of the Church:

- (i) to further the Church's mission in the locality;
- (ii) to develop local ecumenical relationships;
- (iii) to further the Church's compassionate ministry in the locality and throughout the world;
- (iv) to consider and support the wider work of the Church at home and abroad;
- (v) to consider public questions in relation to the Christian faith;
- (vi) to bring concerns for consideration by the elders' meeting and wider councils of the church.

Concerning the nurture of the fellowship:

- (vii) to call a minister or church related community worker (CRCW) with the concurrence of the synod(s) (see paragraph 2 (4) (A)(vii)); (Where two or more Local Churches have formed a group or joint ~~pastorate~~ **pastorale** in accordance with paragraph 1(1)(b) or (c) above on the decision of synod under its function 2(4)(A)(iii), the

And generally:

- (xvii) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church.

Elders' meeting

- 2.(2) The elders' meeting of the Local Church shall consist of the minister(s) and the elders elected by the Church Meeting of such Local Church and shall exercise oversight of the spiritual life of the Local Church. The elders' meeting shall serve the Local Church and by its relation to the wider councils of the United Reformed Church represent the whole Church to the Local Church. The minister, or one of the ministers, or during a pastoral vacancy the Interim Moderator appointed as hereinafter provided, shall normally preside over the elders' meeting.
 - (i) to foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad, Christian education, ecumenical action, local inter-church relations and the wider responsibilities of the whole Church;
 - (ii) to see that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, and generally to promote the welfare of the congregation;
 - (iii) to ensure pastoral care of the congregation, in which the minister is joined by elders having particular responsibility for groups of members;
 - (iv) to nominate from among its members a Church secretary (or secretaries), to be elected by the Church Meeting, to serve both the Church Meeting and the elders' meeting;
 - (v) to arrange for pulpit supply in a vacancy;
 - (vi) to keep the roll of members (see paragraph 2 (1)) and (as an aid to the discharge of the congregation's pastoral and evangelistic

- (xiii) to adopt and promote implementation of safeguarding policy in line with General Assembly recommendations;
- (xiv) to receive regular safeguarding reports from the church Safeguarding Co-ordinator;
- (xv) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church.

District Council

2.(3) The District Council shall consist of:

- (a) The Moderator of the synod for the time being;
- (b) A president appointed by the synod, who shall perform the functions defined as applicable to the chairman in the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000;
- (c) A secretary appointed by the synod;
- (d) Such number of representatives of Local Churches within the District as the synod shall direct;
- (e) Up to six co-opted ministers or members of Local Churches, normally elders, as the synod shall direct.

The District Council shall meet at least once a year, unless the secretary notifies the

sentence of paragraph 1.(1), comprises two or more congregations worshipping in separate locations, the synod may, on the advice of the District Council, authorise that Local Church to appoint representatives to the synod from each constituent congregation to such numbers as would be permitted

- (xxiv) to consider the resignation of ministers or church related community workers not currently the subject of any case within the Disciplinary Process and in consultation with the Moderator of the synod to decide upon appropriate action;
- (xxv) a) to seek to expand the range and deepen the nature of the Christian common life and witness in each local community, and
b) in Scotland and Wales to speak and act on behalf of the whole United Reformed Church in public affairs or the conduct of ecumenical relationships specific to the nation concerned, in the General Assembly's name but without prejudice to the Assembly's right to speak and act in the same field on behalf of the church either in England or throughout Great Britain;
- (xxvi) to decide upon all matters regarding erection, major reconstruction or disposal of buildings;
- (xxvii) to receive, hear and decide upon references and appeals duly submitted;
- (xxviii) to decide upon the recommendation of Local Churches applications for recognition as candidates for the Ministries of Word and Sacraments and church related community work;
- (xxix) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the church.

Ecumenical

or commissionings and/or inductions of church related communitychurch

- (B) Such functions as relate solely to the work of the United Reformed Church may be discharged by the United Reformed Church committee of each area meeting.



- (xxi) to make, alter or rescind rules of procedure for the submission and conduct of references and appeals to and by the councils of the United Reformed Church;
- (xxii) to receive and decide upon applications for admission into the United Reformed Church from ministers, probationers and congregations, transmitted by synods through their moderators;
- (xxiii) to decide upon questions regarding the inclusion on the Roll of Ministers and the **Roll** of church related community workers of the United Reformed Church which have been previously considered and transmitted with recommendations by synods;

- 5.4 Appeals, references and constitutional review under this paragraph shall be subject to conditions and processes laid down by the Assembly in Rules of Procedure. A wider council determining an appeal or reference may either substitute its own decision for that of the more local council, or remit the issue to the more local council for reconsideration. No procedure governed by this paragraph shall be used to review or appeal against decisions reached under the Disciplinary.
- 5.5 The decision of the General Assembly on any matter which has come before it on appeal, reference or constitutional review shall be final and binding.

*Clerk of the General Assembly
July 2023*