

Newly defined functions provided by CTV should General Assembly decide to remove Area Councils from the structure of the United Reformed Church

This table is based on work undertaken by Yorkshire Synod and adapted in the light of recommendations being made by the Synod of Scotland Structures Group reporting to the March 2006 Synod meeting to test that the recommendations cover all responsibilities that CTV indicates for Synods

This should be read as a check-list to enable the community of the Synod to develop its care and mission

The functions below are the responsibility of the Synod Meeting as a whole

Newly defined Synod Functions	<i>Begins:</i>	Responsible Synod Committee	Working in conjunction with:
i. To take action which supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the spreading of the Gospel at home and abroad, • the life and witness of the United Reformed Church, • the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole • the well-being of the community in which the church is placed 	<i>Church Meetings & the whole Synod, Link gatherings or Synod committees</i>	PPS	All congregations, committees and the Scottish College
ii. To encourage church extension within the (province or) nation decide upon the establishment of new causes and the recognition of mission projects.	<i>May begin locally or through Mission & Ecumenical and Church Life Committees</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
iii. To decide upon all matters regarding the grouping, amalgamation or dissolution of local churches.	<i>Church meetings</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
iv. To take appropriate action on matters referred to the council by the General Assembly, and to initiate or transmit proposals for consideration by those bodies.	<i>Consulting with relevant committees, task groups and Church Meetings</i>	PPS	As appropriate

v. To provide a forum for concerns brought forward by local churches and to advise thereon	<i>May begin anywhere and be picked up at an appropriate level depending on the concern (e.g. C&S concern to C&S)</i>	PPS	As appropriate
vi. To make proposals to and raise concerns for consideration by the General Assembly	“	PPS	As appropriate
vii. To give (or, where deep pastoral concern for the church requires it, to withhold) concurrence in calls to ministers and, with the moderator of the synod or the moderator's deputy presiding to conduct, in fellowship with the local church, any ordinations and /or inductions of ministers within the synod.	“	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
viii. To appoint, in consultation with the local church and the moderator of the synod, an interim moderator during a pastoral vacancy, such interim moderator normally being a serving minister, a retired minister or an elder.	<i>Begins with local needs and the care of the Pastoral Link Groups</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
ix. To care for all the churches of the synod ensuring that visits are made at regular intervals for consultation concerning their life and work.	<i>All</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups & Field Officer
x. To appoint from time to time such number of representatives to General Assembly (ministerial and lay in equal numbers) as the General Assembly shall determine. This shall include, when possible, a representative under the age of 26. As far as possible all appointments shall be made in rotation from local churches.	<i>All should help in this process</i>	PPS	Nominations Group
xi. To consider the appointment to service on synod of: (I) United Reformed Church ministers/lay people serving as (a) full-time chaplains to universities, colleges, hospitals, factories, where their work is seen to be an extension of the ministry of the synod concerned, (b) secretaries and other full-time officials of ecumenical bodies with which the United Reformed Church is in relationship; (II) United Reformed Church ministers giving significant oversight	<i>Local and committees</i>	PPS	Nominations Group & Pastoral Committee

to local churches, under the general direction of the council concerned (III) Ministers of other churches appointed to serve on behalf of the United Reformed Church in charge of a United Reformed Church or in an Ecumenical group including United Reformed Church interests; (IV) Ministers not in pastoral charge who perform duties within the synod in respect of which the council has some direct responsibility.			
xii. To devise strategies which enable and support the exploration of mission opportunities in the region and to encourage in the local churches concern for service and a sense of responsibility for the wider work of the Church at home and abroad.	<i>all</i>	PPS	Church Life, Mission & Ecumenical and Church & Society
xiii. To exercise oversight of all ministers falling within any of the categories 2(3)(a), (b), (f) and (g) except moderators of synods who are responsible to the General Assembly.	<i>Ministers, candidates for ministry and lay preachers</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
xiv. To give oversight to candidates for the ministry and to candidates for any form of full time service in the Church at home and abroad, and, in the case of candidates for the ministry determine their eligibility for a call.	<i>Local congregations</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
xv. Where following initial enquiry either on its own initiative or on a reference or appeal brought by any other party the synod considers that a minister is not or may not be exercising his/her ministry in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union, to refer the case of that minister to be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and in every such case to suspend the minister concerned pending the resolution of the matter under this process.		?? In one sense Pastoral Committee – but compromises pastoral role. PPS?? The Section O groups will surely advise on this one	
xvi. To appoint, or to concur in the appointment of, non-stipendiary ministers to their particular service and to review this		Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups & Church

service at stated intervals.			Meetings
xvii. To accredit and provide support and training for lay preachers and worship leaders and, in consultation with the local churches concerned and the moderator of the synod, to give authority for appropriate lay persons to preside at the sacraments.	<i>Local congregations</i>	Synod Pastoral Committee	Scottish College Link Pastoral Groups (re sacraments)
xviii. To receive the resignation of ministers and, in consultation with the moderator of the synod, to decide upon appropriate action (see also paragraphs 2.4.viii and 2.5.xviii).		Synod Pastoral Committee	Link Pastoral Groups
xix. To seek to expand the range and deepen the nature of the Christian common life and witness in each local community, and in Scotland and Wales to undertake responsibility for national ecumenical relationships on behalf of the whole United Reformed Church, subject to the final authority of the General Assembly	<i>all</i>	Church Life, Church & Society and Mission & Ecumenical Committees	Synod Team
xx. To decide upon all matters regarding erection, major reconstruction or disposal of buildings.	<i>Local congregation/ mission project</i>	Finance & Property	Synod Pastoral Committee & PPS
xxi. To receive, hear and decide upon references and appeals duly submitted		PPS	As appropriate
xxii. To do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the church.	<i>all</i>	Everyone!	all

The committees and groups will be acting for Synod and accountable to Synod. It is important to know where responsibility lies, though it should be noted that that the number of times a committee is mentioned does not increase the importance of that committee, it seems to be more of a reflection of the institutions pre-occupations rather than of the mission imperative of discipleship. Normally they should only be acting in accordance with policies determined by Synod which will be the church council relating both to Church Meetings and General Assembly.