

Forty-six Christian congregations across Scotland, from the Peedie Kirk in Orkney to Annan URC in Dumfries and Galloway, meeting for worship, to grow together, and to help others in our local communities.

We relate to each other through four geographical 'Links' (North, South, East and West) and through meeting together as a Synod twice per year.

We have opportunities to learn together through the programme of the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College.

Thirteen of our churches are involved in formal partnerships with congregations from other denominations, and as a Synod we are a member of Interfaith Scotland.

As a National Synod of the United Reformed Church, we speak and act on behalf of the whole URC.

URC Synod of Scotland Aspirations

What we believe concerning our Synod life and witness is well summed up in our 'Synod Aspirations':

- We are an active Christian community which responds to the **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** of God through celebrating the Christian Story in ways that bring meaning and hope to life. We seek to support each other in faith and doubt through caring community.
- Our **INCLUSIVE** worship reflects a broad variety of sources and styles. Local churches offer weekly worship, regular celebration of Holy Communion and mark the stages of life in Baptisms and Blessings, Funerals and Weddings. Local churches can also decide to celebrate same gender marriages or mark civil partnerships with a service of blessing.
- We believe that God's **RADICAL** love is for everyone regardless of age, gender, sexuality, physical and mental ability, social status, ethnicity. Young people are represented with full voting rights in our councils.
- From its formation in 1972 the URC has been committed to **JOURNEY** in ecumenism and is a member of the World Council of Churches and other international ecumenical bodies. The Synod of Scotland is an active member of ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) and is in partnership with the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba and the Reformed Church in Hungary.



- The Synod is a participant in the Scottish Interfaith Council. Many local churches seek to build relationships with people of **OTHER FAITHS AND NONE** to nurture their local communities.
- Our commitment to **PEACE AND JUSTICE** is strong and through the Commitment for Life programme is particularly expressed through Christian Aid, Jubilee Scotland and the World Development Movement. We are a Fair Trade Synod and support the work of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office and Scottish Churches Housing Action.
- We believe we are called to live in balance with the whole of **CREATION**. Many local churches participate in the Eco Congregations scheme.
- The Scottish URC and Congregational College offers a dynamic programme for spiritual and faith **DEVELOPMENT** for anyone wishing to explore Christianity or particular callings in the life of the Church. URC Youth and Pilots are growing youth organisations within the URC offering opportunities for learning and friendship amongst youth and children.

Putting Our Beliefs into Practice

In addition to trying to provide welcoming worship, recent examples of aspiration-shaped ministry by URC Congregations in the Synod of Scotland include:

- Involvement in community garden schemes
- Supporting food banks
- Running community cafes and lunch clubs
- Promoting good mental health through a weekly drop-in
- Raising money for Christian Aid, including a massive annual book sale
- Putting solar panels on the church roof
- A ministry affirming and supporting LGBTQI+ Christians and seekers



The earliest expressions of Christianity came to Scotland through Ninian, Columba and others in the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries. Amidst the diverse expression of Christian faith in Scotland today, the URC is present as the National Synod of Scotland.

The National Synod of Scotland is one of thirteen URC Synods that together make up the United Reformed Church in Wales, England and Scotland. It is a Trinitarian Church in the worldwide family of Reformed Churches, with roots in the Presbyterian, Congregational and Churches of Christ traditions.

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