

The Constitution and Organisation of The United Reformed Church in Yorkshire

Functions of Synod	The functions of the Synod are set out in section B of the Manual. None of these relate specifically to the control of the assets of the Synod.		
Organisation of Synod	<p>The Manual provides that ‘the synod shall elect from among its members a Clerk, a Treasurer and such other officers as it shall from time to time think desirable and shall determine their periods of service. It may also appoint such committees and for such purposes as it from time to time may think desirable and may appoint to any such committee any members of the United Reformed Church notwithstanding that they are not members of the synod.’</p> <p>In accordance with this provision Synod has appointed the following committees – Synod Council, Ministries, Pastoral, Property, Listed Buildings Advisory, Financial Resources.</p> <p>The assets of the Synod are held in a trust company, The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Limited. A second trust company, The Yorkshire Congregational Union, holds title to property assets on behalf of local churches.</p>		
	Synod Council	The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited	The Yorkshire Congregational Union Inc.
Nature of Organisation	A committee of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church	Company Limited by Guarantee	
Membership	Moderator, Synod Clerk, Synod Treasurer, Convenors of Ministries, Pastoral, Property, LBA committees, others appointed by Synod	Members of the company are those who currently serve on Synod Council	Members of the company are those who currently serve on Synod Council and Committee of Management
Functions	To act on behalf of Synod between meetings on matters remitted to it by Synod and also for Synod, when quick decisions or actions are required (Synod Handbook)	<p>To manage the assets and income of the Synod in furtherance of the Object, and in compliance with company and charity law. In practice this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment of Synod funds • Management of Synod owned properties • Setting and implementing the budget for the Synod based on strategic direction set by Synod • Preparation of Directors’ report and accounts • Employment of Synod office staff 	<p>To hold title to local church properties where the YCU is property trustee and manage investments on behalf of local church assets when requested to do so; all in accordance with relevant legislation.</p> <p>In practice this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale and purchase of churches, manses and investment properties • Arranging leases • Liaising with solicitors and property agents • Liaising with investment brokers • Accounting to churches for investment income and sales receipts • Managing delegation of local hire arrangements
Additional functions of Financial Resources Committee not conducted through Trust companies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has responsibility for the calculation and collection of churches’ contributions to the M&M Fund, oversees the scheme and encourages the advocacy of financial giving. • Acts on behalf of Synod in making decisions on financial aspects of church projects. • Offers assistance to churches on financial planning and accounting. 	
Method of working	Through regular meetings, sharing in the visions of the Synod Committees and enabling work		

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	<p>to be carried out, holding in tension the priorities identified by national, ecumenical, synod and local church groups.</p> <p>By careful planning of agendas ensuring time for theological reflection and spiritual development related to ideas and actions.</p> <p>Supporting the work of mission locally by having confidence in the work of others, not taking responsibility inappropriately, giving practical support and letting go.</p>		
Registered Company	No	Yes	Yes
Registered Charity	No	Yes	Yes
Governing Document	The Manual and Synod standing procedures	Memorandum and Articles of Association	
Management	Not applicable – self governing	Members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee of the Synod form the Executive Council	Members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee plus between one and three nominated by the Synod Nominations Group form the Committee of Management
Legal status of management	Not applicable	Company Directors and Charity Trustees	
Obligations	As decided by Synod, and set out in Method of Working	As specified in company and charity law. Guidance can be found at https://www.gov.uk/running-a-limited-company and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3	
Penalties for failure to perform obligations	Reputational damage	Reputational damage Disqualification as director and trustee Imprisonment or fines if criminally liable or negligent	Reputational damage Disqualification as director and trustee Imprisonment or fines if criminally liable or negligent
Potential liability	Contribution of £1 on insolvent liquidation of trust companies	Liability to make financial restitution	Liability to make financial restitution