

Youth Assembly 2026 report

(From Michael Smith,
Scotland representative)

Youth Assembly is an annual conference event, organized by and inviting young people from URC churches all over the UK. In these gatherings, participants are given the chance to voice their opinions and ideas about current youth activities, and how they should progress further to benefit their local churches and the wider URC youth. The following items are notable developments that were decided during the most recent conference; which took place in late February.

Use of language in the bible

During business and discussion, a motion was put forward addressing gender and how it is mentioned in the bible. It was proposed that in future when young people are given readings from the bible, more inclusive language should be used when gender is implied or mentioned. Utilizing “they/ them” pro-nouns may reach out to and inform a wider demographic of teachings of the bible, and may help those in Christian society who feel isolated or excluded by the bible’s limited use just “man” and “woman”. After some discussion, the motion was accepted in the voting stage.

Election

Youth Assembly is primarily organized by the URC Youth Executive; a council of young people each representing different areas of the UK. And this year saw a change in leadership, as Maya Withall decided to step down as moderator of the executive, after years of service. Her successor is Kacie Hodgson who was voted in by attendees at YA 26, and has already served the executive for some years.