

ELECTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Nominations are sought for the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (“GA”). There are **four** vacancies for election. Further vacancies will be filled by co-option after the election.

Candidates must be Full, Honorary or Associate Members of the GA or a member of a constituent congregation for whom a quota has been paid by their congregation. They should not be a student in training for the Unitarian ministry, a close family member of anyone employed by the GA, or connected professionally with Popularis Ltd.

Requirements for the position are set out below.

Members wishing to obtain nomination information should contact Anne Hock, Popularis Ltd, Nutsey Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3RL. Tel: 02380 867 335. Email: annehock@popularis.org from **Monday 09 December 2024** or the information can be downloaded from the GA website at www.unitarian.org.uk

Nomination sheets must be countersigned by an official of a Unitarian congregation(s) or organisation supporting the nomination. The congregation(s) must comprise ten or more quota members. Forms should be returned to Popularis by the close of nominations at **5.00pm on 31 January 2025** by post or email.

We are aware that there is always a possibility of postal strikes. Postal strikes will not be accepted as a reason for late receipt of documents. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that all the necessary documents are returned to Popularis in good time before the deadline. It is suggested that Candidates may wish to submit the documents electronically before the deadline and then post the originals having obtained proof of posting. Candidates may wish to contact Anne Hock to ensure their documents have been received.

Further information is available on the General Assembly website at www.unitarian.org.uk or from Elizabeth Slade, Chief Officer at Essex Hall. Details of the election process will also be sent to Secretaries of all congregations and districts.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Candidates should:

- Demonstrate 3 years’ active commitment to the Unitarian community
- Be in sympathy with the Objects of the General Assembly
- Be eligible to stand in accordance with legal requirements

Essential Requirements

(1) Experience in one or more of the following:

- An officer or member of a congregational/district governing body
- An officer or member of a committee of an affiliated body
- An officer or member of a charity trustee body or similar e.g. voluntary organisations such as a sports club or parent teacher association
- As a Minister, Lay Pastor or Lay Person in Charge of a Unitarian congregation

(2) Good understanding of the Unitarian community

(3) Confidentiality

Desirable attributes include any or all of the following:

- Leadership
- Strategy development
- Communication skills
- Decision making
- Representation
- Financial awareness
- Team working

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be undertaken for those elected. This should be considered a requirement to be a candidate.

ELECTION SUPERVISION

Popularis Ltd, Independent Election Supervisor, Nutsey Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3RL, Tel: 02380 867 335, Email: annehock@popularis.org) have again been chosen to run the election.

TIMETABLE

08 December 2024	Nominations open (6 weeks for nominations)
31 January 2025	Nominations close at 5pm
14 February 2025	Candidate Information Booklet and ballot papers sent out
21 February 2025	Election starts (5 week voting period)
28 March 2025	Election closes
29 March 2025	Full Result to be announced by Popularis
14 April 2025	New EC takes up office at the GA Annual Meetings

ELECTION

If there are four or fewer members nominated they will be deemed to be elected unopposed. The full result, including details of votes cast, will be announced.

The names, backgrounds, personal statements and a recent photograph of those nominated will be published in the Candidate Information Booklet to be sent to all voters and in Uni-news, on the GA website and in the Unitarian press. It is likely that links to these will be sent on social media.

The Candidate Information Booklet and ballot papers will be sent out to Full and Honorary Members and to secretaries of all congregations on 14 February 2025. Associate Members will receive a letter inviting them to request an individual voting paper from Popularis if they are not voting as a member of a congregation.

The voting system will be that agreed for 2014. The maximum number of votes to be cast by each voting member will equal the number of vacancies – four (4).

Results will be published in Uni-news, on the GA website and in the Unitarian press as soon as possible after the election closes.

The Electoral Panel

November 2024