

## Introduction to Council

### A. Role of Council

The Baptist Union Council has a key role within Baptists Together.

Council is responsible for setting the broad strategic direction, supported by input from the Core Leadership Team and the BUGB Trustees.

Council usually meets twice a year to set the broad strategic direction of the Union and to seek God together in the decision making process.

Council oversees the work of the Ministerial Recognition Committee which administers the accreditation of Baptist ministers and church workers and the national recognition of preachers, pastors and pioneers.

Council elects the Treasurer, Moderator of Trustees and other BUGB Trustees.

### Council membership:

Around 90 members consisting of:

- **The President, Ex-President and President-Elect of the Baptist Union (3)**

- **Three members nominated by each Regional Association (39)**

-  three representatives of each Association, usually comprising the regional minister team leader (RMTL), the Chair of Trustees and one other from an underrepresented group in the light of the Council's current attainment against its agreed diversity goals. For continuity, it would be helpful if the nominated people served a period of 3 years.

-  If there are Co-RMTLs, then the association should nominate one Co-RMTL for a period of 3 years.

-  If a RMTL or a nominated Co-RMTL has another role on CLT or Council, then they must attend in their capacity as a RMTL or Co-RMTL.

- **One member nominated by each Baptist College (5)**

-  one representative of each college, usually the Principal.

-  The college could nominate a faculty member if the Principal cannot attend.

-  If there are Co-Principals, then the college should nominate one Co-Principal for a period of 3 years.

- **The General Secretary (1)**

- **The Treasurer (1)**

- **The Trustees of the Baptist Union (8)**

-  Trustees who are not included in any of the previous five categories; typically, 8.

-  Trustees who are included in the first five categories must attend in those respective capacities.

- **The Moderator of Council (1)**
- **The members of the Core Leadership Team (14)**
  - ✚ Specialist Team Leaders (4). If there are Co-SLTs, then the Specialist Team should nominate one Co-SLT for a period of 3 years.
  - ✚ Current Priority Areas representatives (5). If a CPA representative is included in the first five categories, then they must attend in those respective capacities.
  - ✚ CLT Co-Options (5). If a CLT Co-optee is included in the first five categories, then they must attend in those respective capacities.
- **Two representatives each of BMS World Mission, Baptist Union of Scotland, Baptist Union of Wales and a representative of Irish Baptist Networks (7)**
- **Two ecumenical representatives (2)**
- **Up to 12 co-opted members. Co-opted members are included specifically with the purpose of improving diversity, recognising the need for diversity of ethnicity, gender, social class, age, rural/urban location, theological tradition and role in the life of the churches.**

*A full list of current Council members and a report from each BU Council meeting are available at [www.baptist.org.uk/council](http://www.baptist.org.uk/council)*

Twenty-five members of the Council are required for a quorum.

***The BUGB Constitution contains detail of the specific role and make-up of Council***  
[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/366062/BUGB\\_CIO\\_Constitution.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/366062/BUGB_CIO_Constitution.aspx)

Council Members come together to express our covenanted life under the Declaration of Principle

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220595/Declaration\\_of\\_Principle.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220595/Declaration_of_Principle.aspx)

The governance document for the Trustee board can be found here

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/620037/BUGB\\_Trustee\\_Board.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/620037/BUGB_Trustee_Board.aspx)

## **B. Role of Council in relation to Baptists Together**

Council and its groups will always exist as Christ-centred, relational communities that share a common vision and embody our shared values and culture.

### **i. Core Leadership Team (CLT)**

The Core Leadership Team is a key expression of movement nationally and is tasked with helping Council in its discernment by perceiving what God is doing and refining Council's sense of God's leading for us as a movement. Perceiving, in that All Team Leaders (ATLs) across Baptist Together, together with Current Priority Area leaders (CPALs) and others will be able to share, pray and reflect together and offer to Council their insight into key themes and issues. Refining, in that the CLT will be able to take what Council discerns for further reflection and development.

**ii. BUGB Trustee Board**

The Board is set apart to ensure that BUGB remain true to its charitable objects, churches and governance responsibilities.

Operating together, Council, CLT & Trustees affirm the **Vision and Values of Baptists Together of 'Growing healthy Churches in relationship for God's mission'**

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/226987/Vision\\_and\\_Values.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/226987/Vision_and_Values.aspx)

SEEK TO BE A MOVEMENT OF SPIRIT LED COMMUNITIES  
FEEL LIKE ONE TEAM  
EMBRACE ADVENTURE  
INSPIRE OTHERS:  
SHARE A HUNGER FOR GOD'S COMING KINGDOM:

Setting the current priority areas illustrates the work of Council in its relations to Baptists Together.

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/330645/Our\\_priorities.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/330645/Our_priorities.aspx)

**iii. Relationship between Council members and the churches**

Prior to each Council meeting, the agenda and topics for discussion are shared through Baptists Together communications. Churches are asked to pray for Council members for the items on the agenda. The list of Council members facilitate an on-going conversation churches.

*Council members are encouraged to ensure the wider voices of Baptists Together are considered in the discussion and decision making process.*

**iv. Assembly**

The annual Assembly allow Baptists Together review the life of the Union. Under the Constitution, Members of Assembly consist of delegates of member 10 churches, associations and colleges alongside ministers, officers of the Union and members of Baptist Union Council. During the Assembly the President is inducted for the forthcoming year, and some formal business is carried out – the Treasurer and Moderator of BUGB Trustees who have been elected by Baptist Union Council are affirmed, new General Secretaries are appointed, and any constitutional changes are voted upon. The Assembly provides opportunities to deepen our relationships, to listen to what the Spirit of God is saying to the churches and to inspire churches in mission. The Assembly includes celebration, inspiration, reflection and deliberation. It is the place where the members of the Union are directly represented through their delegates, alongside ministers and members of Council.

**C. Moderator of Council**

The role of the Council Moderator is to embody Baptists Together culture in the way in which Council business is conducted and communicated.

Responsibility of the Moderator of Council is to provide leadership and oversight to ensure that the Council can fulfil its responsibility for setting the broad strategic direction and oversight of Baptists Together. The Moderator ensures full participation of Council members and follows Baptists Together Vision and Values, mindful of the current priorities areas.

Guests of Council are invited by the Moderator of Council, in collaboration with the General Secretary.

The appointment of Council Moderator is for a three year term.