

Nominations for the President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

We are now inviting nominations for the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2026-27.

Our current President is the Revd Dr Steve Finamore. Please do look at Steve's article on his Presidential theme, 'I want to encourage us all', in the Summer 2024 edition of *Baptists Together* magazine. You can also find out more about our previous Presidents and their themes at: www.baptist.org.uk/previouspresidents

No nominations were received for the 2025-26 President, and following a proposal from CLT and Trustees, Council agreed that there would be a fallow year with no President in 2025-26.

We are now inviting nominations for the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2026-27.

The Presidency is open to anyone who is a member of one of our churches, and will be chosen because of gifts and experience which will help to communicate our Baptists Together vision and mission priorities.

The President should bring their own unique insights and experience into their leadership, and may feel led to bring a particular emphasis within the overall strategy. They will be expected to work closely with the Core Leadership Team (CLT) and General Secretary in informing and communicating the agreed vision, culture and priorities of Baptists Together.

The person elected will serve as Vice-President during 2025-26, and will become a member of the CLT Accompanying Group in order to begin to familiarise themselves with our Baptists Together vision, culture and priorities before taking up the lead role during their presidential year.

The Role of the President

The President's main role is as a **communicator/facilitator** of our Baptists Together vision and mission. As an elected position, it carries a certain independence that at times allows for a prophetic voice to be heard both within and beyond Baptists Together, although the President will mainly focus on internal representation and the facilitation of our Baptists Together vision and mission within our Union. They will need to undertake to travel around our Union, engaging with local churches, regional Associations and Colleges as appropriate.

The President is a member of the **Core Leadership Team**, which draws together those offering leadership within our Baptist movement in order to perceive what God is doing, to encourage flourishing across Baptists Together and to model together what it means to be a Kingdom Movement. The President's role as part of this group will be in bringing insights from their presidential travels as well as their own particular experience and expertise. The President also leads the **CLT Accompanying Group**, which provides prayer support and shares in spiritual and missional reflection with CLT. The Accompanying Group acts as 'critical friends' bringing perspectives from beyond the CLT. The group will not meet separately from the CLT, but will share with them in sustained times of prayer and reflection on their work, and will covenant routinely to hold them in prayer before God. As leader of the group, the President will be expected to coordinate the other members of the Accompanying Group, and their contact with CLT.

There will also be occasions when the President will provide a symbol or **focus for unity** of Baptists Together, and as such will represent our Union at various civic and ecumenical events. There may be some involvement in the annual Assembly, and the President may be invited by BMS World Mission to visit some of their work overseas.

The President is considered one of the Officers of our Union, and is a member of **Council**. Expenses for attending meetings and events will be covered, as will travel expenses to preaching engagements unless covered by the hosting church or a preaching fee.

Nominations

Nominations for the Presidency must be sent to the General Secretary and can be made by:

- An Association in membership of our Union
- Twenty-five members of Assembly acting jointly (Find more information about who is a member of the Assembly at: www.baptist.org.uk/membershipofassembly)

The consent of the nominee must be sought before nomination. Please note that nominations cannot be withdrawn once made, except in exceptional circumstances.

Nominating a person for the Presidency implies a commitment to walk with and support that person through the election discernment process.

Nominations must be received by 31 December 2024.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Presidency, please complete and submit the online form at www.baptist.org.uk/elections.

Election Discernment Process

Our President is discerned via an election discernment process held in the first months of each year. All names nominated correctly are offered as part of the discernment process. The Baptist Union Constitution outlines how nominations should be submitted, and who is eligible to take part in the election discernment process. See below for extracts from the BU Constitution.

Nominated candidates will be asked to supply a short written profile which will be used to inform those taking part in the discernment process. The profile will usually include some biographical information, a picture of the candidate, and some indication of what the candidate would hope to offer the Union as President. In recent years, candidates have also had the opportunity to supply their profile in video form in addition to the written document. The profile(s) will be required in early January in order for the election discernment process to begin in mid January. After the election discernment process has been opened, there may be further opportunities for interviews/webinars/podcasts which candidates will be encouraged to take up.

The process of appointment of the President and other officers is a process of discernment of the will of God, unlike an election which might take place in other contexts.

We use an electoral process to discern who God is calling to be the President of our Union in the coming season. Overt canvassing at elections within the Baptist family makes it more difficult for those eligible to vote to discern the will of God in a way consistent with Baptist ecclesiology. However, nominating a person for the Presidency does imply a commitment to walk with and support that person through the election discernment process. We hope that all eligible to take part will engage with this important decision, and prayerfully consider all the candidates offering themselves.

Privacy statement

Before making a nomination please note that the names of those making a nomination will be published on our website. In the case of an Association nomination, the name of the Association will be published. In the case of a nomination by 25 members of the Assembly, the names of those individuals acting jointly to put forward a nomination will be published, together with their category of Assembly membership (see below for who is a member of Assembly). Please make sure you have the permission of those on whose behalf you are making a nomination, as well as the permission of the person you are nominating. Please see our Privacy policy (www.baptist.org.uk/privacy) for more information.

Membership of the Assembly

Extracts from the BUGB CIO Constitution

12. The Assembly

12.1. Composition of the Assembly

The Assembly shall comprise of:

12.1.1. Organisational Members of the Union

12.1.1.1. An organisation in membership of the Union under clause 11.2.1 may, in accordance with its usual decision-making process, authorise a person or persons to act as its delegate or delegates at any Meeting of the Assembly.

12.1.1.2. Delegates shall be appointed by Organisational Members for each Meeting of the Assembly. At a Meeting of the Assembly the delegate (or delegates as the case may be) is entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the Organisational Member as the Organisational Member could exercise as an individual Member of the Union. Each delegate shall exercise a separate vote on any matter to be decided.

12.1.1.3. Each Church in membership with the Union and having a membership not exceeding 100 members may appoint one delegate; those with 101-199 members two delegates; and those with 200 or more members three delegates to attend the Assembly on behalf of the Church in question.

12.1.1.4. Each College in membership with the Union may appoint two delegates to attend a Meeting of the Assembly on behalf of the College in question.

12.1.1.5. Each Association in membership with the Union may appoint two delegates to attend a Meeting of the Assembly on behalf of the Association in question.

12.1.2. Personal Members of the Union

A person in membership of the Union under clause 11.2.2.

12.1.3. Ministerial Members of the Assembly

The Ministerial Members of the Assembly are:

12.1.3.1. Accredited Ministers save for those who are retired;
and

12.1.3.2. ministers and assistant ministers and ministers in training of Baptist Churches in membership with the Union.

12.1.4. Ex-officio Members of the Assembly

The Council of the Union as defined in clause 18; and

12.1.5. Associate Members of the Assembly

Retired Accredited Ministers whose last church was in membership with the Union, retired deaconesses and retired missionaries of the Baptist Missionary Society.

20. Presidency of the Union

20.1. The Union may have a President who shall be the Vice-President of the previous year and shall take office at the annual Assembly. The Vice-President shall take office at the annual Assembly.

20.2. The Vice-President shall be elected annually by the Personal Members of the Union and the Representative Members.

20.3. Nominations (which must receive the consent of the nominees before being submitted) may be received from the Council (voting by ballot) from any Association in membership with the Union or from any twenty-five Representative Members of the Assembly acting jointly.

20.4. All nominations must be forwarded in writing addressed to the General Secretary not later than 31st December in each year. If no nomination is received for the office of Vice-President then the Vice-President will be nominated by the Council.

20.5. A nomination may not be withdrawn, save under exceptional circumstances with the consent of the Trustee Board.

20.6. The election shall be according to the principle of a simple majority unless there are more than two nominations for the office of Vice-President. If there are more than two nominations, the election shall be according to the principle of the Alternative Vote.

20.7. In the election for the Vice-President, Representative Members of the Assembly (other than persons appointed as delegates to attend Meetings of the Assembly on behalf of Organisational Members of the Union) shall each be entitled to one vote and each Organisational Member of the Union shall have the same number of votes as the number of delegates it is entitled to appoint to the Assembly under clause 12.1.

20.8. Should the President or the Vice-President die, resign, or become incapacitated, the vacancy so caused may be filled by the Council.

20.9. For the purposes of this constitution, service as Vice-President, President and Ex-President of the Unincorporated Baptist Union of Great Britain will be counted as if it was service in each role in the Union and as at the date of the registration of the Union as a charitable incorporated organisation the Vice-President, President and Ex-President of the Unincorporated Baptist Union of Great Britain will automatically become the Vice-President, President and Ex-President of the Union respectively.