



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE - MODERATOR OF COUNCIL

THE BAPTIST UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

June 2025

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Introduction

As a Union of churches, associations and colleges our life together continues to be rich and varied.

In all aspects of Baptists Together, including Council, trustee boards, committees and teams, we look to bring together groups and teams of people who can serve in this way in order to make real our mission.

This short document outlines the role that the Moderator of Council plays in our shared life together, Please note that this role is carried out on a voluntary basis.

MODERATOR OF COUNCIL

The Moderator of Council acts to ensure the Council is able to fulfil its role as the key location of strategic leadership and oversight within the Union. As such, the Moderator of Council is a role model to all Council members, working in a collaborative and collegial style with Council members, leaders of Trustee Boards and the Core Leadership Team.

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

Could you offer to serve in Union life by putting yourself forward?

We hope that you will take time to consider prayerfully whether God may be calling you to serve in this role. If you choose to express your interest, please know that we will be praying for you throughout the process of discernment and appointment. We know from our past experiences that God is faithful in bringing the right people forward at the right time in our Union life.



Lynn Green
General Secretary
June 2025

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our vision, culture, values and current priorities

“TO GROW HEALTHY CHURCHES IN RELATIONSHIP
FOR GOD’S MISSION.”

CURRENT PRIORITIES FOR BAPTISTS TOGETHER

BUGB Council in March 2025 affirmed BUGB’s current ‘strategic anchors’ and the outcomes we are pursuing for each one are as follows:

Strategic anchor	Concrete outcomes
Nurturing Baptist identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wide ownership of our Baptist identity• Baptists speaking prophetically in the public square by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Empowering and resourcing local churches to speak○ Giving input to government legislation based on discernment
Strategic collaboration in mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investing in new fruitful mission• Evaluating and sharing best practice with a view to return on investment in terms of disciple making / kingdom impact
Developing ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing numbers of minister/leaders• Development of under-represented groups
Specialist support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive feedback for services• New income generated• Balanced budget and financial sustainability

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Role of Moderator of Council

BACKGROUND

The structure and style of Council has changed significantly over the years. Now a group of 80 Council members, representing the wide diversity of the Union, come together twice each year to consider matters of longer-term strategic value and to seek God together in the decision making process.

OVERVIEW

The Moderator of Council acts to ensure that Council is able to fulfil its role as the key location of strategic leadership and oversight within the Union. As such, the Moderator is a role model to all Council members, working in a collaborative and collegial style with Council members, leaders of Trustee Boards and the Core Leadership Team.

As well as holding the responsibility for developing the agenda for Council (working closely with the General Secretary and the Core Leadership Team), the Moderator ensures that all voices are heard, that the rich diversity of the Union is represented, and that the complex relationships of Union life are focused on our common vision and values.

Subject to the approval of Council, the new Moderator will take up the role from autumn 2025.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the Moderator is to make sure that we work strategically, working always to accomplish our Union's vision, and to embody our Union's culture in the way in which Council business is conducted and communicated. This focuses around the following responsibilities:

- To create space for God's will to be sought and prayerfully discerned through the time that Council members spend meeting, listening and praying together
- To ensure that all Council members have a voice at Council, and that the diversity of theology, practice and opinion with the bodies of our Union is considered and balanced through the Council's decision making processes.
- To uphold the values of our Union both inside and outside Council meetings
- To be involved in constructing the agenda and programme for Council meetings, and in giving Council members opportunity to impact on how the agenda is produced
- To make sure the Council complies with the legal responsibilities that fall within its remit
- To enable Council to hold other areas of Union life accountable, including access to (but not necessarily regular attendance at) Trustee Boards, the Core Leadership Team, and the General Secretary.

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SKILLS AND STYLE

Most importantly, the Moderator must be able to show a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and the courage to act on the Spirit's leading, even where this involves a change from existing plans and priorities.

The new Moderator will need to demonstrate their willingness to engage whole heartedly with the activities and longer term plans of our Union, and to work collaboratively with other leaders, including the General Secretary, the Core Leadership Team and the Trustee Boards. The quality of these key relationships will be felt throughout the life of our Union, so we expect the Moderator to invest time and thought in building and maintaining a collegial and supportive approach.

This role requires an open and even handed style, and the ability to win the respect of church, association and college leaders across the Baptist movement in the UK. Understanding the diverse views and backgrounds of Council members and the bodies they represent means that the ability to actively listen and to reflect back on what is heard is crucial, as is the ability to prevent louder voices dominating in difficult discussions.

TIME COMMITMENT AND TERM OF APPOINTMENT

In terms of time, Council meetings take place twice a year in the spring and autumn, with each meeting taking two days, and in addition we expect this role to require one day each month.

The Moderator is appointed by Council for an initial period of 3 years, and this can then be extended by a further 3 years. They must be an accredited Baptist Minister with BUGB. This is a voluntary unpaid role, although travel expenses will be reimbursed.

MORE INFORMATION

Copies of the terms of reference for Council and reports from the last three Council meetings are available on the BUGB website. We would encourage you to read these to understand the breadth and depth of the Council agendas.

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Next steps

EXPRESSING YOUR INTEREST

If you would like to express your interest in this role, please send a letter outlining your interest by email to Rachel Stone, the Union's HR and Safeguarding Team Leader, at the address below. Rachel will be coordinating the appointment process on behalf of the Key Roles Nominations Group. Electronic responses will make it easier for us to share information amongst those involved in the discernment process.

We would be particularly keen to understand:

- Your current situation and ministry role
- Your involvement to date in the wider life of the Union
- Why you feel that this role might be part of your future ministry and service

We would encourage you to discuss this role with Christian leaders you know and trust, and to ask for prayer as you consider whether or not to express your interest.

Further information can be requested and application made by contacting:

opportunities@baptist.org.uk

Rachel Stone on 01235 517730

DISCERNMENT AND DECISION

The closing date for expressions of interest is 31 July 2025.

Once expressions of interest have been received, we will be meeting with those who appear to meet our skills and knowledge requirements. There are three stages to our discernment process:

- In the first instance, the Moderator of the Key Roles Nominations Group will speak with you to understand more about your background, your sense of call to service in this way, and to pray with you. At this stage, if you wish to proceed they will approach your Regional Minister Team Leader to ask for confirmation that they would support your application.
- After that, you will be invited to meet with us at Baptist House for a discernment day. This is the chance to spend time with members of the Key Role Nominations Group and to talk in more detail about the role and the context in which it operates, and your own experience in working with complex issues.. We are planning to hold the discernment day for this role on Wednesday 10 September.
- The outcome of these meetings will be shared with the full Key Roles Nominations Group so that prayerful decisions can be made about who the Key Roles Nominations Group will put forward as a nomination to BUGB Council.

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INDUCTION

Recognising the complex nature of our Union and the need for good support, a full induction programme will be put in place for the eventual appointee to ensure they have good background information and understanding before starting in their role.



The Baptist Union of Great Britain
Baptist House, PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot, Oxon
OX11 8RT