

## Pastoral Committee Report

As normal, much of our work is done through the work of the SPAs as we seek ways to try and support local church churches. Thank you to each of them.

Much of our agenda, because it is about specifics of local churches, is not reported due to confidentiality. But main points from our agenda recently have included:

### AMR

Having adapted the LMMR (as amended at General Assembly 2024), we are piloting a South Western Synod version. This has been used by some churches already and we have had useful and positive feedback.

We strongly urge each church to use this to keep on top of their mission values – and we hope that it will be used yearly. This will be needed should any church wish to apply for funding.

### SPA roles for Devon, and Devon and Cornwall

Having thought we were up to date with specific wording that was needed for job adverts and role descriptions, it soon became evident that were weren't! But we are now. There has been a delay in advertising for the two vacancies, and the final wording has been slower in producing than we hoped, but it is now finalised. We gave approval for Jim (in his Devon role) and Janet to continue in role until Easter. (Jim's Somerset role remains unchanged)

### GDPR

There will be a Synod training evening. This will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be on Zoom.

### Spring School

We run a very good Spring School for ministers which will be happening again the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. It should be noted that the URC encourages ministers to not only attend such events (especially a spart of their EM2 and EM3 development) but also not to lead worship on the Sunday after such events. Thank you to the planning group for organising this event.

### Somerset

We noted the change of ministry for Rev Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley. Following the mutually agreed ending of ministry at Dawlish, the Kingsteington ministry will continue alongside a 75% Synod directed role serving with seven churches of the Somerset Group until summer 2026.

### Resolution

Pastoral Committee proposes that as from Synod (March 2025) we cease to use the generic name 'Transition Minister' and to use the title 'Companion Minister'.