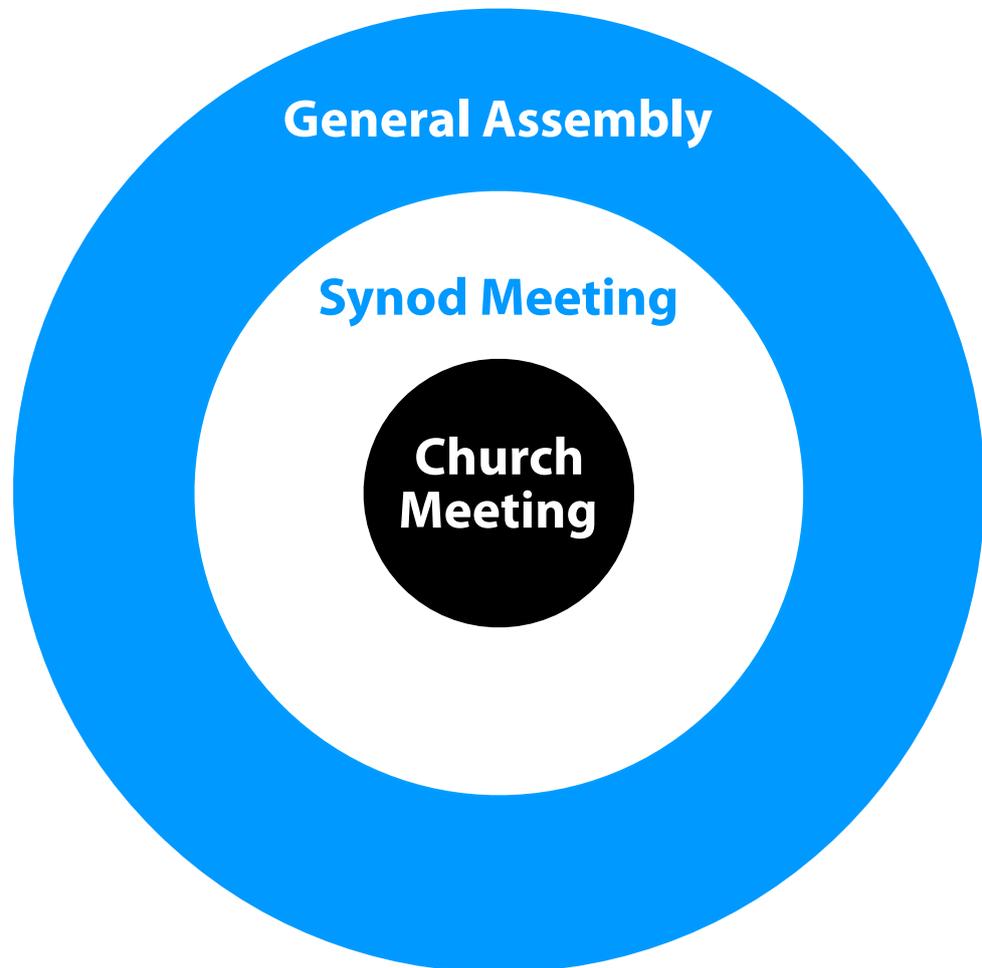


Appendix

The United Reformed Church:

a church structured for discernment



The best way to understand the vision and structure of the United Reformed Church is to see the diagram above as the ripples caused by a stone being thrown into the water. The United Reformed Church is made up of its members, who are joined together by the covenant promise they make at membership to journey together. The three “ripples” are the three different points at which the church/ members gather together to discern God’s leading through the Holy Spirit. Each is therefore a decision-making council of the church, in ever-widening circles:



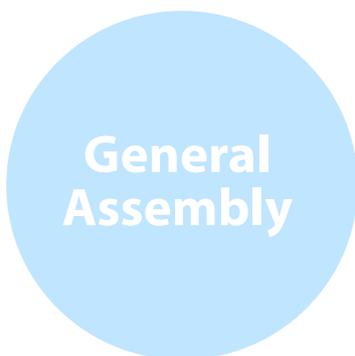
▶ **The first gathering point is the local Church Meeting**

Members meet regularly in council in the Church Meeting to make decisions about the life and direction of their local church.



▶ **A number of local churches are grouped together geographically in Synods**

There are 13 Synods making up the United Reformed Church. Local churches each send representatives to the two annual Synod meetings (March and October) to make decisions affecting their group of churches.



▶ **The widest gathering of the United Reformed Church is the meeting of the General Assembly**

Delegates from each of the 13 Synods, lay and ordained, meet annually to make decisions that affect the whole of the United Reformed Church.