

**THE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
1974**

**6th — 10th MAY
THE ALBERT HALL
Derby Road, Nottingham**

**REPORTS
TO ASSEMBLY**

The United Reformed Church in England & Wales
86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT

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The United Reformed Church

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

and other papers submitted to the

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Nottingham, 6th – 10th May, 1974

Minutes of the Executive Committee

At LONDON and within 86 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RT on Thursday, 7th June 1973, the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted, the Moderator, The Rt. Revd Dr. K. Slack, presiding.

Prayer The Moderator recalled the distinguished service of Dr. Aubrey Vine, an ex-President of the Congregational Church in England & Wales and General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council, who had died on 6th June, and the Executive Committee stood as the Moderator gave thanks for his life and commended his loved ones to God. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

¹⁰ The Revd D. Rhys drew the attention of the Committee to the serious illness of the Revd Dr. R. D. Whitehorn, news of which was received with concern.

Attendance There were also 51 members present.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 11 members.

¹⁵ **Minutes** Minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 1973 being in the hands of members, were approved.

Minutes of Assembly The Clerk laid a copy of the Minutes of the General Assembly on the table and attention was drawn to an omission either of recording or of fact in the minute concerning the recognition of Local Pastors where, in the case of Mr. W. G. Webster, it had been intended to include the condition "provided he completes the Pastoralia course". It was agreed that this be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

²⁰

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Ministerial Rolls It was reported that owing to pressure on time and the
²⁵ change in the Chairmanship of the Applications Committee, consideration of

the position of those on List B in the last CCEW Year Book, and of the missionaries of the URC, was not yet complete, and the matter was therefore deferred for later report.

Functions of Committee The fuller definition of the functions of the Applications Committee was also deferred pending further consultation.

Recognition of Colleges It was noted that the General Assembly had referred for further consideration the proposal that recognition be given to the College at Bala-Bangor as a training centre for ministers of the URC. The Committee concerned had in further discussion become aware of wider issues involved in the process of the recognition of Colleges, especially as indicated by their right to appoint a member of the Assembly, and would report in due course.

Departments

Church and Society The Chairman of the Church & Society Department reported that in accordance with the decision of the Assembly, a letter had been sent to the French Ambassador regarding the proposed nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Finance & Administration The Treasurer, Mr. L. Palmer, reported on plans for consultation with the financial authorities of the Synods and on the whole question of communication with the Church.

World Church & Mission On behalf of the WC&M Department it was reported that the resolution inviting other Churches to discuss steps towards wider union had already been accepted by the Roman Catholic Church, the Baptist Union, and the Churches of Christ. Sympathetic responses had been received from authorities within the Church of England and the Methodist Churches, but decisions awaited meetings of the appropriate governing bodies.

Apportionment of Resources On behalf of the group appointed to act for the Assembly in the matter of apportionment of resources, Dr. J. Huxtable reported that further consideration had been given to the questions raised at the last Executive Committee. Letters had gone to all Synod Offices indicating the implications of the formula for Synod funds, overall figures were now submitted to the Executive Committee, and the group sought authority to proceed in its discussion with the Charity Commissioners and the other parties involved on the basis that the appropriate resources should be apportioned in accordance with the mean of the percentages of churches and their members, uniting or non-uniting.

A prolonged and thorough discussion followed, and the position of the churches which had not covenanted to become part of the CCEW in 1966 was especially questioned; it was agreed that there was need for examination of their number and membership as at 1972 since no printed figures were available later than those in the Year Book for 1966. The Revd J. White, seconded by the Revd R. J. Hall, moved that no decision be taken as to the

basis of negotiation until County Unions had had opportunity to comment, and that the County Unions be asked to send their comments to the group not later than September 10th 1973. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost, and in accordance with the proposal of the group it was agreed that negotiations should proceed on the basis of the mean of the percentage of churches and their members uniting or non-uniting. County Unions and others locally concerned were asked to give careful consideration to the figures supplied for the various areas, and to forward their comments.

On the advice of the group it was agreed that without prejudice to the ultimate settlement the sum of £5,000 should be paid over to the Congregational Federation and £2,000 to the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches, and that the Charity Commissioners be informed of these payments.

“Interim Moderator” The resolution of the Synod of Wales concerning the appropriateness of the title “Interim Moderator”, referred to the Executive Committee by the Assembly, was further referred to the Special Committee to be appointed to consider Membership of Assembly and related matters for consideration and report. Suggestions were noted, and it was agreed that some consideration would have to be given to the role of the interim moderator in order to reach a satisfactory title.

Nominations Committee The Chairman of the Nominations Committee submitted a report, and on his motion the following appointments were made :

Special Committee on Assembly Membership & Related Matters: Sir Harold Banwell (Chairman), Dr. C. Binfield, Miss R. Brett, Revd R. A. Bocking, Revd C. Charlton, Revd G. J. Cook, Revd R. J. Hall, Revd H. G. Hayes, Revd E. Harries-Rees, Revd A. L. Macarthur (Secretary), Revd D. Holt Roberts, Mrs. J. Selwyn Roberts, Mr. B. Stonehouse.

Commission on the Ministry: (a) Add: Mr. L. R. Palmer; Mr. M. Williams.
(b) The Revd R. O. Latham (Secretary) : (c) Power to co-opt.

Committee on Multi-lateral Conversations: Add: Mr. M. L. Franks.

Sundry Vacancies: (a) Aged & Infirm Ministers’ Fund: Add: Mrs. E. Salisbury and Mr. P. A. Simpson.

(b) CCWM Board: Add: The Revd E. M. Jeremiah.

Representatives to Free Church Federal Council Committees (after September 1973): (a) Chaplaincy Board: Revds H. A. Jacquet and V. N. J. Lewis;
(b) Committee on Ecumenical Experiments: The General Secretary; 1 member to be recommended by the MEW At Home Committee; (c) Education Committee: Revds Aubrey Lewis and J. Sutcliffe.

CCEW Inc. In accordance with the powers of appointment under the URC Act 1972 and their delegation to the Executive Committee, the following were appointed as Directors of the CUEW Inc.: Mr. K. W. Thorndyke (Chairman), Revd Dr. J. Huxtable (Secretary), Mr. L. Palmer (Treasurer), together with the Revds R. J. Hall, V. N. J. Lewis, A. L. Macarthur, E. W. Todd, and Mrs. Gwen Hall.

Membership of Executive Committee On the suggestion of the Revd A. J. G. Walker, it was agreed that the Secretary of the Business and Nominations Committees should be invited to attend the Executive Committee, and should receive papers, and that consideration be given to her appointment as a member ex-officio.

Dates of Future Meetings It was agreed that future meetings should be held at 1.30 p.m. on October 11th 1973 and January 16th and March 13th 1974. The General Secretaries agreed to consult with the staff at a forthcoming residential meeting with a view to devising an overall time-table for committees.

Closure There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Kenneth Slack, *Moderator*

A. L. Macarthur, *Clerk*

²⁰ *At LONDON and within Regent Square Church Hall the 11th day of October 1973 the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted with prayer; the Moderator, The Rt. Revd Dr. K. Slack, presiding.*

Sederunt There were also 48 members present.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 11 members.

²⁵ **Minutes** Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 1973 being in the hands of members were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising *Loyal Address:* An acknowledgement of the Assembly's Loyal Address to the Throne, received from the Home Secretary on behalf of the Queen, was read to the Committee.

³⁰ **Recognition of Colleges** It was agreed that the question of the recognition of the Bala-Bangor College was a matter for the Assembly itself and assurance was given that the Committee on Ministerial Training was now ready to make an appropriate recommendation.

³⁵ **Applications Committee** The Revd H. M. Springbett, Chairman of the Applications Committee, reported that the matter of the functions of the Applications Committee was still under consideration.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

No matters were brought forward by the Church Life or Church and Society Departments.

Finance & Administration: On behalf of the Treasurership Committee the
⁵ Revd E. W. Todd, seconded by Sir Sydney Caffyn, moved: "That the Executive Committee hereby appoints the Treasurership Committee as the body under whose direction the surplus funds from the sale of *4 Alfred Street, Oxford*, shall be applied", and this was agreed.

Accounts The Hon. Treasurer reported that while half yearly accounts had
¹⁰ been prepared these were not complete. It was clear however that the forecast of a deficit of £25,000 in respect of 1973 as a whole was likely to be proved accurate. Consultation with the Moderators and Provincial Treasurers had encouraged the hope that increased givings of the order of 25% might be achieved in 1974 but that a similar increase in 1975 could not be expected.
¹⁵ If this proves true, activity costs would need to be substantially reduced, and early consideration of the right policy to be adopted in these circumstances is required.

World Church & Mission: The Revd B. M. Pratt, Chairman of the World
Church & Mission Department, brought forward a resolution concerning
²⁰ alterations in the schedules of representation at the forthcoming Assembly of the WCC. This raised considerable discussion and some amendments were accepted. The resolution was then adopted in the following form:

"The Executive Committee believes that the Central Committee of the
World Council of Churches has exceeded its constitutional powers in
²⁵ revising the way in which Member Churches may appoint members to the forthcoming Assembly. The Committee bases this conviction on Sections V and VIII of the World Council of Churches Constitution (Uppsala Report), especially the words in section V: 'The Assembly shall be composed of official representatives of the churches or groups of churches adhering to it and directly appointed by them', and believes that, while the Central Committee may propose an amendment to the Constitution, such amendment
³⁰ surely cannot become operative until after Assembly has given approval. For this reason the Executive registers a strong protest against this action of the Central Committee and instructs the Clerks to write accordingly to the
³⁵ General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and to inform the other Member Churches of the World Council of Churches within the British Isles, of this action."

St. Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak The Chairman further moved that the United Reformed Church, through its Department of World Church & Mission,
⁴⁰ should offer to extend its support for the work of St. Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, for the further year 1974-75 pending clarification of future policy for the use of the Hall. This was agreed, but the officers of the Department were encouraged to consult with the officers of the CCWM to see if the Council could undertake a greater proportion of the financial responsibility.

SYNOD MATTERS:

The Executive Committee in terms of the powers vested in it by the Assembly made the following appointments:

To the Board of the Lancashire Congregational Union (Inc.): Mr. Dennis Berry of 113A Windsor Road, Oldham.

As Directors of the London Congregational Union Incorporated: Mr. O. J. Cadoux, Mrs. C. M. Dickerson, Mr. H. F. Fisher, Revd L. C. K. French, Mr. K. W. Hotten, Mr. L. Macro, Mr. R. S. Martin, Mr. W. G. Nutley, Dr. K. Slack, Revd R. J. Hall.

¹⁰ Woodburn The Executive Committee, on request from the Northern Synod, agreed to transfer the church at Woodburn from the Newcastle District (B) to the care of the Northumberland District Council (A), there to be associated with Otterburn Church.

Apportionment of Resources It was reported that those appointed to negotiate the arrangements for the apportionment of funds had received from the Charity Commissioners encouragement to proceed along the lines so far agreed and were shortly to meet to examine the range of funds to be apportioned, and to examine the implications for certain local and area Trusts.

Assembly Membership and Related Matters Sir Harold Banwell submitted a written report on behalf of the Special Committee on Assembly Membership and Related Matters, and after careful discussion the following decisions were taken:

(1) That no change be sought in the size and balance of the General Assembly as set out in the Scheme of Union.

²⁵ (2) That at the General Assembly of May 1974 and following years, Districts be represented on the basis of one representative per 8 churches or part thereof plus one per 800 church members or part thereof, with an adjustment to add one in the case of each District if necessary to secure an even number of representatives. Mr. Palmer, at the request of the Treasurership Committee, proposed that consideration of this arrangement should be deferred for one year, but, on a vote, his proposal was lost.

(3) That under clause (b) of the rules of membership of Assembly (p. 36 Scheme of Union) Synod Treasurers be appointed members of the Assembly.

³⁵ (4) That under clause (e) of the rules 12 missionaries be included in the membership of the Assembly in each year.

(5) That Districts and Synods should be invited to consider provisions that would facilitate the inclusion of young people or others with special interests in the Councils of the Church and, subject to comments received, the Committee was encouraged to submit to the Assembly of 1974 and for ⁴⁰ ratification in 1975 the following amendments to the Scheme of Union:—

Clause (e) p. 32 Scheme of Union to read: "Such persons, normally elders of local churches not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the District Council."

Clause (f) p. 34 Scheme of Union to read: "Such persons, normally elders of local churches not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the Synod."

⁵ (6) That no steps be taken to define the rights of Councils to grant associate membership already afforded to Ministers Emeriti, but that attention be drawn to the provisions of Standing Order No. 23.

(7) That proposals made by the Special Committee regarding a category of "designated chaplaincies" carrying membership of Councils be referred back to the Committee for further definition.

¹⁰ (8) That the position of local pastors in relation to Districts and Synods set out in the resolutions of Assembly be further clarified by providing that para. 3 (a) Scheme of Union p. 32 shall read: "All ministers, deaconesses, registered local pastors engaged directly in the service of the U.R.C. within that District," and so that para. 4 (a) Scheme of Union p. 32 shall read:

¹⁵ "All ministers, deaconesses, registered local pastors being members of District Councils within the Province," and so that para. 4 (e) Scheme of Union p. 34 be deleted as unnecessary, and that these proposals be referred to Districts and Synods for consideration prior to the Assembly of 1974 and subject to their comments these proposals be submitted for adoption by that ²⁰ Assembly and implemented at the Assembly of 1975.

Committees Timetable A timetable setting out the arrangements so far made for meetings of Committees was circulated to the Executive.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

²⁵ On the motion of the Revd A. J. G. Walker, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, the following appointments were made:

(i) *Corresponding Members and Delegates to other Churches 1974:*

Church of Scotland: The Revds A. L. Macarthur (Moderator-Elect), Kathleen Hendry and J. Howard Williams; Sir Harold Banwell.

Congregational Union of Scotland: The Moderator-Elect.

³⁰ *Presbyterian Church in Ireland:* The Moderator-Elect, Moderator's Chaplain, Revd M. F. Hubbard, Mr. R. Clarke, Miss S. Fairbairn (subject to her consent).

Union of Welsh Independents: The Revd Glyn Evans.

³⁵ *Presbyterian Church of Wales:* The Revds Dr. J. Huxtable (as ex-Moderator), W. G. Hughes-Edwards; Mr. J. W. Paterson.

Synod of The Waldensian Church: The Moderator-Elect or the Revd Dr. J. Huxtable.

⁴⁰ (ii) *Special Committee—East Midland Moderatorship:* The Moderator, the General Secretary, the Treasurer; the Revds H. S. Ross, R. Russell, H. Coltman, W. G. Hughes-Edwards, D. Rhys, J. E. Young, E. Harries-Rees, Windsor Hicks; Mrs. E. Steel, Miss J. W. Dollar, Mr. L. G. Whiteman; together with 14 members from the Province.

(iii) *Chairmanship of Supplementary Ministries Committee:* The Revd J. W. P. Williamson.

Additional Members, Supplementary Ministries Committee: The Revds R. Royston Bishop and B. Kirk.

(iv) *F.C.F.C. Committee on Ecumenical Experiments:* The Revd J. White.

5 (v) *Queen's College, Birmingham:* The Revd Dr. N. Goodall (Governor), the Revd R. O. Latham (Member of the Council).

(vi) *Church & Society Central Committee:* The Revd H. Gordon, representing Province III.

(vii) *General Secretaryship 1975:* Sir Harold Banwell, Mr. F. H. Bennett, Mr. R. J. M. Caffyn and the Revd Dr. Norman Goodall.

¹⁰ **Membership of Executive** A question about whether the Secretary of the Business and Nominations Committees be a full member of the Executive Committee was referred to the Special Committee for consideration.

Church & Society Department The Special Committee was also asked to consider the representation of the Church & Society Department at future
¹⁵ Assemblies.

COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY:

Churches of Christ On the motion of the Clerk it was agreed that the Churches of Christ should be invited to appoint either one or two observers on the Commission on the Ministry.

²⁰ **Assistant Secretaries** The Executive Committee agreed that the Assistant Secretaries should be invited to attend its meetings without voting rights.

Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the Executive Committee will meet again on 16th January 1974 at 1.30 p.m.

Closure There being no further business the meeting was closed.

²⁵

Kenneth Slack, *Moderator*
A. L. Macarthur, *Clerk*

At LONDON and within 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT on 16th day of January 1974 the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted with prayer; the Moderator, The Rt. Revd Dr. Kenneth Slack, presiding.

³⁰ **Sederunt** There were also 44 members present.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 18 members.

Minutes The Clerk submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 1973 which had been circulated, and moved that three amendments be made to them.

These were agreed, and subject to these alterations the minutes were approved, and the Moderator was authorised to sign them on the completion of the amendments.

Applications Committee The Revd H. M. Springbett, the Chairman of the Applications Committee, reported that the Committee was discovering its functions as it proceeded and it was agreed that the Executive Committee should pass from the matter.

World Council of Churches Assembly 1975 Dr. Huxtable reported that after last meeting he had written as agreed to the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and had sent copies to other Churches in Britain. The General Secretary of WCC had replied setting out in detail the steps which had been taken at and subsequent to the last Assembly of the Council which had led to the adoption of the new regulations for securing representation at the Assembly of 1975. While the Committee retained questions as to whether the Constitution was being correctly interpreted, it was agreed that no further action be taken.

SYNOD MATTERS:

Shropshire C.U. Inc. At the request of the Synod of the West Midlands Synod the Executive appointed Messrs. R. Bellamy and J. A. C. Evason (Secretary) as directors of the Shropshire Congregational Union, Inc.

Roby and Singleton At the request of the Synod of the North West, Roby United Reformed Church was transferred from District F to District G of the Province, and Singleton church transferred from District E to District D.

Saxmundham & Leiston The Executive agreed, at the request of the Eastern Province, to the transfer of Saxmundham and Leiston churches from District A to District B.

Berks, South Oxon & South Bucks C.U. Inc. The Executive Committee resolved to appoint Ald. John Cumber (Chairman), Revd A. F. Griffiths (Secretary), Mr. H. W. Ledger (Treasurer), the Revds G. C. Clamp, John Wilding, Dr. A. H. Tomlinson and Mr. F. B. Shepherd as Directors of the Berks, South Oxon and South Bucks Congregational Union, Inc. It was noted that the area covered by the Union now involved churches in more than one Province, and recognised that the Thames North Province might desire to make further suggestions.

Yorkshire enquiry An enquiry from the Yorkshire Province as to whether District representatives to the Assembly were always to be members of the District Council was considered. The Clerk proposed that advice be offered to the effect that they should normally be members of the District Council. Several difficulties were foreseen in following that advice, and the proposal was by leave withdrawn. The Clerks were encouraged to give the advice that they had given in answer to previous enquiries, namely, that those chosen should be able to represent the District which appointed them.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

World Church & Mission The Revd B. M. Pratt, Chairman of the World Church & Mission Department, moved:

5 'The Executive Committee of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church resolves that application be made for direct membership of the Conference of European Churches, and instructs the Clerks forthwith to take all required steps to that end.

The Executive Committee further resolves that the initial contribution to be offered as a member church shall be £150 per annum, payable from
10 Central Funds.'

This was agreed.

He then moved:

15 'The Executive Committee instructs the Nominations Committee to bring to the Executive meeting in March 1974 a recommendation of a representative of the United Reformed Church to attend the forthcoming Assembly of the Conference in September 1974.'

and this was also agreed.

Church & Society On behalf of the Church & Society Department the Revd John Reardon moved that 'The Executive requests the Moderator and
20 the General Secretaries to send a message of greeting and support on behalf of the URC to the Christian Institute in South Africa and its officers during this time of uncertainty and trial', and this was agreed.

Church Life The Secretary of the Church Life Department, the Revd R. O. Latham, reported that the Doctrine & Worship Committee had begun its
25 discussions of the understanding of ordination and its relation to presidency at the sacraments, but were unlikely to bring a definitive report to this Assembly,

Finance & Administration The Treasurer, Mr. L. Palmer, reported that the proposal that Assembly members should receive increased expenses sufficient to cover lunches during the week, had been considered but the
30 Committee was unable to recommend a change at this time. The Executive adopted this recommendation but asked that the reasons for it should be briefly outlined in the Report to the Assembly.

The Treasurer further reported that careful consideration had been given to the Budget for 1975 and it was hoped that it might provide for expenditure
35 at the 1974 level. The actual results to be shown in the accounts for 1973 must be considered before the Budget could be completed and inflationary pressures might make any Budget irrelevant.

The Revd J. White, as Chairman of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, reported that it was proposed that the minimum stipend should
40 be increased as from 1st July by £120 per annum, which was the maximum allowed under Phase III. Some questions were asked about the applicability of Phase III to ministers as self-employed persons, but in any case it was

acknowledged that the proposed increase was likely to be the greatest that could be achieved within the Church's resources. An increase from £90 to £110 would also be given to those ministers working in group charges in respect of car expenses.

⁵ The Chairman also reported that steps were being taken to prepare a scheme of ministerial payment centrally administered. The groups at work on Pensions, Retirement Houses and Manses were all making useful progress, and Mr. White indicated the lines being pursued in what it was hoped would become reports to the Assembly.

¹⁰ **Churches of Christ** The Clerk moved on behalf of the Negotiating Committee with the Churches of Christ:

'The Executive Committee welcoming the progress made in the conversations with the Churches of Christ, authorises the appointment of observers from the Churches of Christ to Committees of the URC under the advice of the Joint Committee for Negotiations between the two Churches'.

¹⁵ This was agreed, and it was noted that it was presently suggested that an observer be appointed to (i) the World Church & Mission Central Committee (ii) the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (iii) the Ministerial Training Committee (iv) the Applications Committee. Observers have already been appointed to the Commission on the Ministry (See Page 8).

²⁰ The Revd M. J. Davies pointed out that other Committees including the Youth Committee had observers already serving. Secretaries of Departments were asked to inform the General Secretaries of such appointments so that the arrangements may be properly co-ordinated.

²⁵ **Apportionment of Resources** The Revd A. L. Macarthur, on behalf of the group conducting the negotiations with the Charity Commissioners regarding the apportionment of CCEW resources, reported that the central resources to be apportioned had now been carefully listed and assessed by the Revd E. W. Todd, and the representatives of the Congregational Federation and Evangelical Fellowship had been invited to attend a meeting to discuss them. Provided agreement was reached, matters could then proceed with the Commissioners. Mr. P. A. Simpson was preparing material for the appropriate negotiations with the Commissioners with regard to resources held by Incorporated County Unions.

³⁰ **Assembly Membership and Related Matters** Sir Harold Banwell submitted a paper outlining proposals for the definition of the idea of designated chaplaincies which had been referred for further consideration. These were generally accepted but detailed points were raised which Sir Harold agreed to include in the final draft. Owing to difficulties on the railways, a meeting had had to be cancelled and a further report on other matters would be submitted to the next Executive Committee.

NOMINATIONS

⁴⁰ The Revd A. J. G. Walker submitted the report of the Nominations Committee and on his motion the following appointments were made:

Delegation to General Assembly of World Council of Churches, July—Aug. 1975 in Djakarta: Mrs. Gwen Hall and the Revds Prof. M. H. Cressey and B. Anderson.

Welfare & Emergencies Committee: Mr. Gordon Taylor.

⁵ *Joint Board of Studies Westminster/Cheshunt Colleges:* Dr. Graham Stanton and the Revd H. M. Springbett.

FCFC Hospital Chaplaincy Committee: The Revd Leslie Stringer.

Joint Committee on New English Bible: Alternate to Revd Prof. J. O'Neill: the Revd Roger Scopes.

¹⁰ *Queen's College, Birmingham:* The Revd R. O. Latham, Governor and Member of Council.

Silcoates School: Professor J. H. Wilkie, as Governor.

Mr. Walker reported that the Nominations Committee had given further consideration to the work of the Special Committee on the General Secretaryship and the difficulties that would arise if its report were delayed until Assembly 1975. He therefore moved, and it was agreed: 'That the Special Committee on the General Secretaryship be established forthwith and instructed to meet as soon as possible after 31st January 1974. The Special Committee may wish to bring recommendations as to procedure to the March Executive Committee and should bring a recommendation as to the General Secretaryship to the General Assembly in May 1974'.

In order to make an early meeting possible, Synod officers were urged to use executive powers to make their appointments to the Committee, should this be necessary. The Revd Dr. Norman Goodall was appointed Chairman, and the Revd A. J. G. Walker, Secretary of the Special Committee.

Caleb Bailey Trust The Caleb Bailey Trust, a small trust for the benefit of ministers in need, was desirous of new administration because of the creation of the URC and because the present Trustees wished to retire. The Clerk outlined the proposals for its future administration, and on his motion, seconded by the Revd C. A. Haig, the following resolution was passed:

'The Executive Committee notes the proposals for the future operation of the Caleb Bailey Trust. It encourages the present Trustees to make application to the Charity Commissioners for a Scheme embodying these proposals and naming the United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union as jointly responsible in future for the appointment of the Trustees. It undertakes to make appropriate appointments at the instance and on the nomination of the South Western Provincial Synod'.

Next Meeting The date of the next meeting was confirmed for 13th March at 1.30 p.m.

⁴⁰ **Closure** There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Kenneth Slack, *Moderator*
A. L. Macarthur, *Clerk*

APPENDIX 1

Apportionment of resources between uniting and non-uniting churches

The group appointed by the Assembly to conduct the negotiations with the Charity Commissioners concerning the apportionment of resources between uniting and non-uniting churches has proceeded with its work in consultation with Synods, County Unions, the representatives of the non-uniting churches and the Commissioners. The general formula of a division in proportion to the mean between the percentages of churches and their members has been accepted by all concerned. The figures as so far calculated represent a division of central funds in the proportion of 82.25% to U.R.C. and 17.75% to the non-uniting churches. The figure of 17.75% will eventually be allocated between the Congregational Federation, the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches and other non-uniting churches not associated with either body. While the general formula will apply to funds and resources held by County Unions, the percentage will vary in accordance with the actual figures for churches within the areas covered under each particular County Union trust. Payments have been made to the Federation and the Fellowship to cover interest received on their proportion, and these will be adjusted when the final settlement is agreed.

A major task has been the examination of the various trusts governing the funds and properties in order to ascertain which fell to be apportioned. This very considerable task has been carried out by the Revd E. W. Todd in consultation with Mr. P. A. Simpson and the resulting calculations have been considered by the appointed group together with the representatives of the non-uniting churches. In addition Mr. Simpson has begun the submission of cases in respect of various County Unions.

The group hopes to conclude its preliminary work in the next months and to proceed to final negotiations with the Commissioners at an early date.

A. L. Macarthur, *Chairman*
John Huxtable, *Secretary*

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee has met on 30th October, 1973 and 19th February, 1974.

The following ordinations since May 1973 were noted :

- a) Received by General Assembly, May 1973, but not previously reported to the Applications Committee :

<i>Name</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Date and place of ordination</i>
Geoffrey Arthur Harmer	RoM	10. 2.73 Walton-on-the-Hill
Peter Loveitt	RoM	13. 1.73 Brockworth
Charles Stephen Martin	Manchester	22. 7.72 Purley
¹⁰ Kenneth Frank Scriven	RoM	6. 1.73 Totton
Pamela Ward	Manchester	5. 8.72 South Ella, Hull

- b) Ordinations since May, 1973

William Raymond P. Adams	Westminster/ Cheshunt	14. 7.73 Putney
¹⁵ Colin Benjamin Baxter	RoM	21.10.73 Guildford
Leonard W. Brown	RoM	31. 7.73 Victoria Road, Cambridge
Albert Philip Burley	RoM	8.12.73 Boreham Wood and Radlett
²⁰ John Croft Campbell	Westminster/ Cheshunt	10. 7.73 St. Columba's Finchfield, Wolverhampton
Elizabeth Caswell	New	23. 6.73 Junction Road, Holloway
²⁵ David John Cave	Manchester	15. 8.73 Holme, Bradford
Kenneth Chippindale	New	15. 9.73 Wanstead
Malcolm Bernard Clarke	Mansfield	4. 8.73 Moordown
David William Dutton	Westminster/ Cheshunt	14. 7.73 Felton
³⁰ Kenneth Fear	Westminster/ Cheshunt	12. 7.73 West Ealing, St. Aidans
Margaret R. Forrester	New College, Edinburgh	23. 1.74 Telscombe Cliffs, Ov. Newhaven
Peter Hammond	RoM	8. 9.73 Chelmsford Group
³⁵ John Huntington	RoM	2. 3.74 Ilkeston and Long Eaton
John Jenkinson	Manchester	1. 9.73 Altrincham

<i>Name</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Date and place of ordination</i>
Richard J. Landon	Mansfield	6.10.73 Doddridge & Commercial St., Northampton
⁵ Hamish Baxter Maclagan	Westminster/ Cheshunt	19. 7.73 Thames Ditton
Andrew Keith McNicol	Westminster/ Cheshunt	18. 9.73 Bethnal Green
Florence Mowat	RoM	27.10.73 Winson Green
¹⁰ Gerald Roy Muttram	RoM	14. 9.73 Little Waltham
James Cairns Neary	Westminster/ Cheshunt	21. 7.73 Somerset Road, Bolton
Kenneth John Edward Pryor	RoM	8. 9.73 Christ Church, Chelmsford
¹⁵ David Holt Roberts	Westminster/ Cheshunt	16. 6.73 Peterborough, Westgate
Geoffrey Rodham	Manchester	8. 9.73 Leeds
Reginald W. Rooke	RoM	5.10.73 Fetter Lane, Leyton
Barrie W. Saunders	RoM	2. 2.74 Gleadless, Sheffield
²⁰ George A. Stinchcombe	Mansfield	28. 7.73 Seaford
Alan William Summers	New	14. 7.73 Tow Law
Edward Joseph Ward	RoM	16. 2.74 High Wycombe

c) Joseph Houston — by decision of C.C.E.W. Status Committee 1966 — Ordained 26.9.73 Stockport Road, Levenshulme.

²⁵ Owing to a misunderstanding the name of the Rev. W. C. Dowling was omitted from the list of ministers to be in the Year Book 1973—74. His name will appear in forthcoming Year Books.

Applications for entry into the Ministry of the U.R.C. were received :

³⁰ The Revd E. N. Bangay — formerly a minister of C.C.E.W., to be reinstated. This was agreed.

The Revd John Sayers — formerly a minister of C.C.E.W., who is working in Australia. This was agreed.

³⁵ The Revd Martyn Carr — has resigned from C.W.M. on becoming a government servant on the staff of the Sogeri High School, Papua, where he serves as Chaplain and Student Adviser. It was agreed that his name be included on the Roll of Ministers as a minister serving overseas.

The Revd D. P. Collins — until recently serving with C.W.M.

The Committee noted also that the following ministers were eligible to be included in the Roll of Ministers of the U.R.C.

⁴⁰ *The Revd Richard Ascott* — formerly a Methodist Minister.

The Revd Arthur Baker — formerly a Baptist Minister.

The Revd James Dey — now of B.B.C. in London, formerly of the Congregational Union of Scotland.

The Revd A. R. Forsyth — formerly a minister of the Churches of Christ.

The Revd Dr. Ian Fraser — formerly of the Church of Scotland.

⁵ *The Revd G. Morgan* — formerly serving in South Africa and Rhodesia.

The Revd Gareth Rees — formerly of the Australian Congregational Union.

The Revd Bruce Stuart — formerly a licentiate of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., within which he was ordained.

The Revd A. E. J. Swinford — formerly of the Union of Welsh Independents.

¹⁰ *The Revd Dean E. Tapley* — formerly of the United Church of Christ, U.S.A.

Resignations from the Ministry

The Revd T. G. G. Newbery Mr. Newbery had resigned from the Ministry of the United Reformed Church and requested that his name be removed from the Roll of Ministers. This decision was accepted.

¹⁵ *The Revd C. W. Beales* Has relinquished his position as a minister of the United Reformed Church, and remained a minister of the Congregational Federation. This decision was accepted.

The Revd Andrew Crozier Has requested his name to be deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church. This resignation was
²⁰ accepted. Mr. Crozier is now a minister of the Congregational Federation.

The Revd T. J. Cornford Has requested that his name be deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the U.R.C., on his resignation from the Ministry.

The Committee noted that the following ministers are no longer in full-time pastoral charge.

²⁵ *The Revd Gordon H. Ainsworth* His resignation from the pastorate, on taking up a course of study in the Probation and After Care Service was accepted.

The Revd P. Helen Ashton Her resignation from the pastorate, on taking up work as a lecturer or teacher, was accepted.

³⁰ *The Revd J. I. Brooks* Has resigned his pastorate on obtaining an appointment in industry and this was accepted. It is his intention in due time to return to the pastoral ministry.

The Revd J. R. A. Crossan His resignation from the pastorate, on grounds of health, was accepted.

³⁵ *The Revd T. G. Dyer* His resignation from the pastorate now that he is otherwise occupied in business, was accepted.

The Revd Rosemary R. Hartley Has resigned from the pastorate in order to give more time to her home and young child. Hopes to return to take up the active ministry later on. Her resignation from the pastorate was
⁴⁰ accepted.

The Revd W. Hartwell His resignation from the pastorate, on taking up a teaching appointment, was accepted.

The Revd E. N. Kingsley-Smith His resignation from the pastorate, on entering the teaching profession, was accepted.

The Revd K. W. Marvin His resignation from the pastorate now that he is otherwise occupied in business, was accepted.

⁵ *The Revd Peter Travis* Has resigned from the pastorate on taking a one year course in teacher training and intends thereafter to go into teaching full-time. His resignation from the pastorate was accepted.

The Committee noted that the Revd J. C. Brock would be moving into a ministry in U.S.A. and that the Revd Peter Threapleton had moved to a
¹⁰ pastorate in South Australia. The Revd S. J. Stokes, now living in Ireland requested transfer to the Congregational Union of Ireland.

Local Pastors The Committee endorsed the entry of the following names on the Register of Local Pastors:

¹⁵ Mr. Bertrand Chalmers Mr. T. Robinson
Miss Cecilia Downward Mr G. E. Sutton
Mr. C. H. Goodall Mr. W. E. Sutton
Mr. H. W. Jones

Applications from Churches The following former Congregational
²⁰ Churches have made application for admission to the United Reformed Church and their applications have been approved by the relevant Provinces:

Province II
Milton, Rochdale
Stainton Independent

²⁵ *Province III*
Orrell

Province V
Abbots Road, Leicester
Thurnby
³⁰ Frederick Street, Loughborough
Caistor, Lincs.

Province VI
Swindon, Staffs

³⁵ *Province VIII*
Totnes United Free

Province XII
Castle Street, Abergavenny

The Ecumenical Church at Oxclose has applied for membership of the United Reformed Church, as also of the Anglican and Methodist Churches.
⁴⁰ This application has been approved by the Northern Synod and is now forwarded to the General Assembly. (Resolution 1).

The Ecumenical Church at Skelmersdale has applied for membership of the United Reformed Church, as also of the Anglican, Baptist and Methodist Churches. This application has been approved by the Mersey Synod and is now forwarded to the General Assembly. (Resolution 2).

- 5 The Church at Long Compton in the West Midland Province, has expressed a desire to secede from the U.R.C. with its property. The matter was given careful consideration by the appropriate District Council and Synod, and the Synod resolved to transmit with regret the application of this Church to secede from the U.R.C. for consideration of the General Assembly. (Resolution 10 3).

The Ministerial Training Committee has taken steps to secure the pastoral oversight of students for the ministry while in College; and a small group within that Committee has been appointed to decide what exemptions may properly be given to those who apply for non-Collegiate Ministerial 15 Training.

The Status of Ministers Not in Pastoral Charge Since the last General Assembly the Committee has given a good deal of consideration to the procedure to be adopted in determining the status of ministers not in pastoral charge. The procedures previously followed in the P.C.E. and 20 C.C.E.W. were examined and a general agreement reached as to a possible procedure for the U.R.C. The Committee therefore recommend to the General Assembly to adopt the following procedure :

There shall be one Roll of Ministers, the names upon it being indicated as belonging to one of four categories :

- 25 1) Those Ministers engaged in a ministry which brings them directly under the oversight of the United Reformed Church.
- 2) Retired Ministers, that is those who have been appointed Ministers Emeriti by the Church.
- 30 3) Those Ministers, discharging a ministry other than in a normal pastoral charge, who have been appointed by Synod to membership of District Council in accordance with the recommendations of the Assembly Membership and Related Matters Committee. Such a Minister will normally be :

A Chaplain to students

35 to a factory or factories

to a hospital or hospitals

A member of the staff of one of the ecumenical bodies in which the U.R.C. is directly involved.

- 40 4) Those Ministers other than in 1), 2) and 3), who have expressed a desire for their names to be retained on the Roll of Ministers and whose request has been agreed by the District Council concerned. They will not be members of the Council unless appointed thereto by Synod.

NB Function (vii) of the District Council reads :

“To consider resignations of Ministers, and, in consultation with the Moderator of Synod, to decide upon appropriate action.”

The Applications Committee recommends the Assembly to adopt the following declaration: “A Minister, whose resignation has been accepted and whose request to remain on the Roll of Ministers has been granted by the District Council, shall continue to be under the oversight of that Council, who shall review his situation and status annually.” (Resolution 4).

Revd H. M. Springbett, *Chairman*

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PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

1. that the ecumenical church at Oxclose be admitted as a member church of the United Reformed Church.
2. that the ecumenical church at Skelmersdale be admitted as a member church of the United Reformed Church.
- 15 3. that the church at Long Compton be allowed to secede from the United Reformed Church with its property.
4. that the procedure to determine the status of ministers not in pastoral charge be approved.

20

Report of the Special Committee on THE GENERAL SECRETARYSHIP

At the formation of the United Reformed Church, executive staff of the two uniting denominations were reappointed by the First General Assembly, the periods of office proposed by the Interim Nominations Committee being such as would broadly speaking complete those begun in either the Congregational
25 or the Presbyterian Church. The Plan of Departments and Committees provided for the appointment of two General Secretaries for the initial years, and the Revd Dr. John Huxtable and the Revd A. L. Macarthur were appointed as Joint General Secretaries and Clerks of the General Assembly until May, 1975.

30 The Executive Committee in January, 1974, established a Special Committee, composed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, charged with the responsibility of bringing a recommendation as to the General Secretaryship to the General Assembly of 1974. The Committee met on 22nd February, and as a result of its discussion recommends that the principle of the appoint-
35 ment of a single General Secretary, with adequate assistance, should be endorsed as the eventual pattern for the United Reformed Church. However, the Committee recognized the invaluable service given to the Church by the two present General Secretaries, and was quite clear that in this case they should both be asked to continue to serve, each until he had passed his 65th
40 birthday, so that the Church might continue to benefit from the gifts and

experience which they possess. The Committee also recommends that the period of office of a General Secretary should terminate on 31st August in any year.

In order to minimise the ambiguities arising from dual occupancy of the post, the Special Committee also resolved to ask the Executive Committee to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a small group to consult with the General Secretaries as soon as possible with a view to clarifying their respective areas of responsibility. This recommendation was put to the Executive Committee at its meeting on 13th March.

10

Norman Goodall, *Chairman*
Alasdair J. G. Walker, *Secretary*

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

1. The Assembly endorses the principle that normally the United Reformed Church should be served by a single Clerk of Assembly and General Secretary, with adequate assistance.
- 15 2. The Assembly resolves that the period of office of a General Secretary shall normally terminate on 31st August in any year.
3. The Assembly reappoints the Revd Dr. John Huxtable and the Revd A. L. Macarthur as Joint General Secretaries and Clerks of the Assembly until 31st August, 1977, and resolves that thereafter the Revd A. L. Macarthur shall serve as sole General Secretary
- 20 until 31st August, 1979.

Report of the

COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL CONVERSATIONS

The Committee appointed by Resolution of the General Assembly of May, 1973, has held three meetings with representatives of the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and other Churches in England. The Revd Dr. John Huxtable was appointed to be Chairman and the Revd John Arnold (Church of England, Board of Mission and Unity) to be Secretary.

At the first meeting it was made clear that the Roman Catholic Church was very sympathetic but could not envisage a local union in one country preceding world level union. The Anglican, Methodist, U.R.C., Churches of Christ and Moravian Church were clearly in favour of organic union but the Baptists and one or two small denominations were in favour of unity but not of organic union. A group was asked to produce some scheme which might be judged to provide an alternative model for unity other than organic union but its report had not produced anything very definite.

Shortly after the second meeting the Anglican/Roman Catholic statement on the Ministry, was published—a statement welcomed by Free Church leaders in a letter to the Times. This further evidence of the growing accord on important matters between long separated Churches gave encouragement to the meeting in February.

It was felt by some that one starting point for a new bridge to unity might be found by studying those experiments where a measure of local unity had already been achieved. The outcome of the discussion was the second resolution (which appears below) which widens the area of study from the local to the international field.

It was seen that what needed to be done could not be carried out without the appointment of a small Commission, headed by one or two full time officers. In order that it might not be tempted to carry on indefinitely, it was envisaged that its tenure of office should be quite short. It was hoped that
5 out of its studies and discussions a new scheme for organic union might appear.

While it seemed that several Churches might be ready quite soon to embark upon conversations to lead to organic union, it was strongly felt that those who could not yet do so should continue to be represented in any
10 ongoing discussion. It was these circumstances, as much as any other, that led to the drafting of the following resolutions in the form in which they now appear :

'TALKS ABOUT TALKS

Report to the English Churches, for Decision by their Authorities

- 15 1. Believing that God wills the visible unity of all Christian people, we call upon the Churches in this land to commit themselves to this end. Such unity will bring into proper relationship and proportion their diverse experiences of God in his Church.
- 20 2. We are convinced that there are immediate tasks which the Churches must undertake. Chief among them are :
 - (a) forwarding commitment to unity locally, and assessing the implications of present experience of ecumenical co-operation—local, regional, national and international ; and
 - 25 (b) studying the problems of areas in this country where such co-operation is difficult or does not exist.
- 30 3. We urge the Churches to appoint a Commission to initiate and carry out these tasks in order to continue and deepen the multilateral discussions already begun so that closer relations between all the Churches, in faith, order and mission, may be further facilitated. It is expected that from these discussions there will emerge a plan for union between those Churches able so to commit themselves, but these discussions should also explore the possibility of other forms of visible unity. Churches negotiating for union on the basis of such a plan should retain the continuing partnership of those Churches which cannot at that time do so.
- 35 4. We would expect the Commission to report annually to the sponsoring Churches.
5. We further urge the Churches to make available resources of manpower and money to staff a small secretariat to expedite the Commission's work.'

Charles A. Haig, *Chairman of U.R.C. Group*

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PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

1. That the General Assembly approves the resolution set out above and commits itself to the objectives there set out.
2. That the General Assembly authorises the Treasurer to make reasonable financial contribution towards the expenses of the Commission therein mentioned (Resolution 5 above) provided that the other Churches involved are prepared to share the expenses.

THE MODERATORS' REPORT 1974

In this, our second, report to the General Assembly, we pay tribute to the way in which Elders and Church Meetings, District Councils and Provincial Synods, are in the main rising to the challenge of their new roles. Already there are signs that originality and imagination in working out the provisions of the Scheme of Union are, under God, producing a Church which is sensitive and open to change. Difficulties are being met with patience and resourcefulness; different experiences are being shared; and there is an unmistakable sense of belonging to a new, if not always shapely, whole.

10 To say this is not to under-estimate the problem. There are differences of insight and interpretation, as we all expected, for on some issues there have been differences of belief and of practice. But we believe that in this Church God has given us a new and exciting opportunity of serving his world.

Nevertheless, we wish to draw attention to certain areas of concern.

15 **The Ministry**

The Ministry cannot be understood apart from the Church. The Gospel in its essence has not changed; God's purpose for the world has not changed; but the world has changed, deeply and irrevocably. It is not surprising, therefore, that many of our ministers have a different understanding of their role in society from that which was common a generation ago.

Professionalism has always been encouraged in the Ministry in the sense of a pride in the work, careful preparation, and a right relationship with people. There are some aspects of professionalism which are not so welcome. A minister is considered to be available to serve the Church wherever the Spirit leads but sometimes there seem to be other conditions to be satisfied which must make it difficult for the Spirit; child's education, wife's work, place of residence of aged parents. We do not know which, if any, of these factors limit the number of ministers available to serve in the northern half of the country: we do know that there are many places where ministers are desperately needed but where they are reluctant to go.

There is rightly a concern about remuneration. Where a church calls a minister it undertakes to maintain him adequately. Part of the fulfilment of this responsibility should be ensuring that the minister is not heavily overworked nor his family too much denied his presence. On the other hand, a minister must be available when his people need him. There is little value in trying to establish "a contract of service" which would be a two-edged sword. It could deny freedom to discipline oneself in the service of the Church so that the minister's usefulness was limited.

It used to be widely assumed that a minister's wife was available for certain church duties. This unfair assumption can no longer be made. We do not question the right of wives to follow their own careers; but we note that when two careers clash problems can arise. The well-being of the Church may require that a minister should move from his present charge to another. If he refuses to

consider moving because his wife holds a good job in their present locality, he may harm the Church instead of helping it.

We are familiar with the statistics of decline. Ten years ago there were 217 students training for the Ministry in Congregational and Presbyterian colleges⁵ in this country. To-day there are fewer than 100 preparing for the URC Ministry. Of these, only eleven will complete their courses this year, plus a further four RoM candidates—and there are nearly 150 vacant pastorates actively seeking ministers. In addition, there is a great number of small churches whose only hope of effective pastoral care lies in some kind of local leadership—Registered Local Pastors, Elders, accredited lay preachers and¹⁰ authorised lay persons presiding at the Sacraments.

Shared Ministries

We would urge the need, in some places, to plan our use of the Ministry ecumenically. Is it right to place a URC minister in a small town which is¹⁵ already well served by a Methodist or a Baptist in addition to the local vicar? To share the services of a minister of another Church may be more important than to share buildings. To this end churches should cultivate good relationships with their neighbours. It is in places where the other congregation has already shared with us in worship and work, that people can readily accept²⁰ the minister of the other church as “our minister”. The way sharing breeds confidence is shown by the number of places where a local arrangement with the Methodists began with a minister of each church side by side, and moved on to the point where all were satisfied in having either a Methodist or a URC minister in pastoral charge.

²⁵ A similar growing together in faith and love is the only successful basis for Sharing Agreements. The legal provision can do little more than supply a framework for the effectual working out of a relationship which has already begun.

Group Pastorates

³⁰ We draw attention again to the need to accept group pastorates as a necessary feature of our life together. The strategy would be sound even without the irresistible pressure of economic necessity. Because of this practice our ministers are both better paid and more widely used. We do not believe that a church should be free to call a full-time minister simply because it can afford³⁵ to pay him a full-time stipend. Another, and more important, condition must be met. Can it provide him with a proper sphere of labour? In judging this the District Council must have its priorities right.

Joy in the Lord

We have occasionally felt that District Councils and Provincial Synods have⁴⁰ been in danger of losing the joy of the Christian adventure. Perhaps because so much has needed our careful attention and so many important issues, long neglected, have been before us, we have sometimes been a little over-solemn. It is the Lord’s work we are about, and there is a place for gaiety even among the saints!

⁴⁵ Our final word is again gratitude for the courtesy, friendship and trust shown to us so freely by so many. We look forward to another year of service.

CHURCH LIFE DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Mrs Gwen Hall

Secretary: The Revd Robert O. Latham

The second report of the Church Life Department to the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

INTRODUCTION

The year that has passed has been the first full working year of the Department and we give thanks to Almighty God for the privilege of serving part of His Church through the working fellowship of His people which the Department and the committees have provided. It has been an experience of growing integration of the two traditions, of mutual stimulation and trust as the new United Reformed Church has begun to find its identity and its voice among the many concerns which it gave to this department.

Three general observations should be made on the work of the Department as a whole, before we report on the work of the particular committees. The first is that the work of the separate committees has proved to be anything but separate. There is considerable interpenetration and overlap of responsibility. For example, the place and care of children in the worship of the Church, including the Lord's Supper, is the concern of the Children's Committee and equally of the Doctrine and Worship Committee. The Supplementary Ministries Committee, which cares for Lay Preachers among others, has been exercised about the lively question of authorization in situations of 'pastoral necessity' of Presidency at the Lord's Table. This too has been on the agenda of the Doctrine and Worship Committee. Again Christian Education involves the Youth of the Church, and is concerned with the Mission of the Church both at home and abroad, and so are other committees. We have sought to arrange opportunities for some of the committees to meet in the same place at the same time, and to spend some of their time together, and this has proved of value.

The second observation is a development of the first. There is urgent need for closer inter-departmental planning. The most obvious instance of this relates to the Mission Programmes, both home and overseas and the integrating of these into the educational programmes of the Church. But it does not stop there. There is growing awareness of the need for an educational programme for the whole Church. It has been raised by the Youth Committee. It is implicit in the total approach of Partners in Learning. It raises the question of ecumenical co-operation, both nationally and regionally, with the various CALLS TO MISSION. It also is the current practice of the Churches of Christ with whom we are co-operating while the Church union discussions proceed. All these point in the same direction. It requires the full co-operation of the Church Life Department with both the World Church and Mission and the

Church and Society Departments from the very first consideration of such an integrated programme. And if, as we hope a new and fresh awareness of significance of Stewardship is to be included, then the active participation of the Finance and Administration Department is also vital.

- ⁵ The third observation looks for co-operation and consultation with the Districts and Provincial Synods. The Church Life Department has been requested to produce a variety of forms and leaflets which are the responsibility of no particular committee, e.g. Visitation Forms for use by District Councils as they seek to fulfil their responsibilities under the Scheme of Union 'To care for all the churches of the District Council, and to visit them by deputies at regular intervals for consultation concerning their life and work'; (Para. 9, (3) (iv)). These forms have been provided and are now available from the Department. What are the other needs which the Department should meet? Leaflets on Church Membership, Baptism, the United Reformed Church what it is, how it works, what it stands for? Pamphlets for the Sick; Guidelines for Elders, etc. All these have been requested during this past year. The Department is willing to try and meet all proper demands, and would appreciate the help and guidance of Provincial Synods and District Councils in discerning which are the proper demands, and which could be as well met at District or ²⁰ Provincial level. The Department called one national consultation of Synod Church Life Secretaries to commence this process and proposes to call another in this coming year. The officers of the Department are also willing to meet with the Church Life Committees of the Provinces, if it is thought that such meetings will help the Provinces to relate more effectively to the variety of concerns and demands which are made on the central Department and ²⁵ discover their own place in this ministry of serving the Church.

DOCTRINE AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd Dr. Erik Routley

Secretary: The Revd Donald McIlhagga

- ³⁰ The Committee has met three times during the past year, including one residential meeting lasting two full days. The quantity of work it has had to handle has been formidable. No doubt this was the natural consequence of our still being a new organisation, but it must be pointed out that its twelve members are doing work which in our two churches before Union was handled ³⁵ by 60 people. During the next few years we do not foresee that the work-load will be much reduced, and therefore we ask that the membership of our Committee be increased by three, and that these be nominated with a view to increasing the theological weighting of the committee; it is envisaged that the committee could then do some of its work in two sections, one concerned ⁴⁰ primarily with doctrine, the other with worship, but with a few members belonging to both sections so as to ensure full communication between the two disciplines. Furthermore, we ask that the Churches of Christ be invited to send a permanent consultant-observer to our committee's meetings.

The Assembly agrees that:

- ⁴⁵ 1. the membership of the Doctrine and Worship Committee be increased by three.
2. the Churches of Christ be invited to send a consultant-observer to its meetings.

The Leuenberg Agreement The Committee has studied and discussed this document, and offers the following resolution :

The Assembly agrees that:

- 5 the United Reformed Church in England and Wales assents to the version of the Agreement between the Reformation Churches of Europe (the Leuenberg Agreement) adopted on 16th March, 1973.

MATTERS REMITTED BY ASSEMBLY

U.R.C. Service Book The order for the Lord's Supper is to be available by Assembly 1974. This and the draft order for the Ordination of Elders represents
10 the liturgical work so far completed by the Committee. We have approved preliminary plans for the contents of a full Service Book, and an order for the Holy Communion suitable for responsive congregational use is to be printed in the Hymn Book (see below) in a form which we have also approved. Beyond these, plans are still only at an outline stage, and the Committee will
15 be glad to hear from any correspondents who wish to make suggestions concerning types of service which they would like to see included in the Table of Contents. Comments on the existing service for the Ordination of Elders are still invited.

Baptism, Confirmation, and associated matters Assembly asked the
20 Committee to consider alternatives to a service of Baptism, and this raised the whole question of Christian Initiation. To help clear our minds on this subject, two joint sessions were held at Cambridge with the Children's Committee and the Education Committee, in which many of the matters mentioned were doctrinal and liturgical. After this we felt convinced that we
25 can discuss these matters, and bring them to a proper conclusion, only by asking for a working-party to be set up by the three committees jointly, consisting of not more than fifteen persons. The matters it would handle include the whole theory and practice of Christian Initiation (baptism and confirmation or reception into membership, etc.), the question of the presence
30 of children at the Lord's Supper, the relation between the educational and liturgical functions of the local church, and the remedying of what we believe to be certain defects in the church's care of, respect for, and communication with children. Our discussion of these matters has, incidentally contributed to an ongoing debate in the British Lessons Council which will issue in a new
35 syllabus. The Department has approved the setting up of this working party.

Ordination and Presidency at the Lord's Supper This exceedingly complex question has engaged a great deal of the Committee's time. We find that the thinking of at least three Committees of Assembly is involved, and needs to be brought together, and therefore, again, we are not ready to bring
40 any proposals in general about ordination to this year's Assembly. But while we are pursuing the theme of ordination, the specific matter of the Presidency at the Lord's Supper is especially urgent, and the Committee makes the following statement which was discussed at a special meeting with representatives of the Provincial Synods. We must emphasise that this statement does
45 not constitute a set of rules. It is provisional and is an interpretation of the present Scheme of Union. It is made without prejudice to any future consideration of patterns of ministry by the United Reformed Church.

PRESIDENCY AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. The Scheme of Union (clause 7 (25)) requires the United Reformed Church to take steps to ensure that so far as possible ordained ministers of the Word and Sacraments are readily available to every local church, so that the worship of the local church can be clearly seen to be an expression of the worship of the whole people of God.
2. Whoever else is to preside at the Lord's Supper should be a person authorised by the District Council.
3. The Scheme of Union provides (clause 7 (25 c)), that besides ministers of the Word and Sacraments other members of the Church, normally deaconesses, elders or accredited lay preachers, may be authorised by a District Council to preside at the Lord's Supper, where pastoral necessity so requires.
4. Our interpretation of this is that each District Council should keep a list of churches which for reasons of pastoral necessity it authorises, either for a limited period or indefinitely, to invite persons other than ministers of the Word and Sacraments to preside at baptismal and communion services. In full consultation with each such church the District Council should decide which such persons (not necessarily resident within the District) may be invited for those purposes by the local church. We recommend that persons so appointed should preferably be in some pastoral relationship to the church concerned, and that all such arrangements be reviewed at least annually.
5. We do not interpret the Scheme as requiring that permission shall be obtained in respect of each individual occasion ; nor on the other hand do we interpret it as permitting the District Council to give a general authorisation to all deaconesses, elders and lay preachers, or to theological students, within its bounds.
6. The Scheme of Union does not refer to theological students in this connection. Our view is that if a church needs to invite a student in training for the Ministry of the United Reformed Church to preside at the Lord's Supper, it should seek authorisation for this from its own District Council.
7. We do not feel called upon to legislate for cases of extreme emergency, but in such circumstances rely on the churches to act in accordance with the spirit of the Scheme of Union.
8. We do not regard these interpretations as more than interim measures, but anticipate that developing circumstances, particularly in connection with our rethinking of the patterns of ministry, will lead to some easing of difficulties at present experienced.

Notes (a) It is in accordance with para 1 above that the Scheme of Union (clause 9 (3,iii)) requires an interim moderator, normally a minister of the Word and Sacrament, to be appointed to every vacant church.

(b) Baptismal services are mentioned in para. 4 because they are mentioned in the provision of the Scheme which that paragraph interprets. It does not follow that every authorisation to preside at the Lord's Supper should necessarily include an authorisation to administer baptism, since in the outlook of our

Church immediate administration of baptism is not so important as regular participation in the Lord's Supper.

- (c) If authorisation is given to a person resident within another District, it would be courteous to inform the District Council concerned.

5 Hymn Book The Hymn Book Supplement Committee has completed the selection of material for the book, which it is proposed to call NEW CHURCH PRAISE, and this is being prepared for the printer. The Supplement will contain about 135 items (and will appear in full score and melody editions). The majority of both words and tunes have been written within the last ten years and at least 25% have not previously been published. The book will also include a few worthy hymns from previous centuries. With the exception of four items from *Church Hymnary, Third edition*, and some familiar tunes set to new words, the supplement breaks completely fresh ground in terms of the hymn books currently used by our Church. It will also contain: some canticles; the Order of Public Worship prepared by the Doctrine & Worship Committee; musical settings of the liturgical material (*Gloria in Excelsis etc.*) in that order; and comprehensive indexes. It is confidently hoped that, provided there are no unforeseen delays, NEW CHURCH PRAISE will be published in time for the General Assembly of 1975.

20 The Use of 'Schedule D' at the Ordination of Elders We are preparing a form for use at the ordination of elders which we believe to be more suitable for use at a service of worship, and which is in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme of Union.

Lent Leaflet A leaflet, 'LENT 75', broadly similar to those published for the last three years, will be published. The writer will be the Revd Dr. Ralph T. Morton.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd J. Ieuan Evans

Secretary: The Revd R. O. Latham

At the previous Assembly this committee requested that a Commission on the Ministry be appointed. This Commission which is making an interim report to this Assembly has covered part of the area of responsibility of the Committee on which no further report need be made at this time.

Westminster College Management Sub-Committee, for the better ordering and control of the financial affairs of Westminster College, which is a direct responsibility of the Ministerial Training Committee, under Assembly, it has been decided to form a Management sub-committee on which the following have agreed to serve:

The Revd Ieuan Evans (Chairman)

Mr. John Colville

Mr. Fred Crozier

The Revd Principal Alan MacLeod

The Revd Ernest Todd

The Revd Arthur Macarthur

The Revd R. O. Latham (Secretary)

Recognition of Bala Bangor College Since the last Assembly representatives of the Province of Wales and the committee have met, and in the light of the further information received it is recommended that:

The Assembly

- 5 (i) Recognises Bala Bangor College course for ministers training for the U.R.C. Ministry, and
(ii) Requests both Bala Bangor and Swansea Memorial Colleges receive two official representatives of the U.R.C. on their Governing bodies.

10 **Note** Bala Bangor is taking this request to the next meeting of its Board if the Assembly passes the resolution.
Swansea Memorial has already submitted the names of 12 members of its Board who are members of the U.R.C.

Roll of Ministers Examination The following candidates completed the course during the year :

15	Mr. C. Baxter	—	Wessex Province
	Mr. J. I. W. Cope	—	Thames North Province
	Mrs. A. M. Evans	—	Wales & Mon. Province
	Mr. J. R. W. Paull	—	East Midland Province
	Mr. B. Saunders	—	Yorkshire Province
20	Mr. G. E. Smart	—	Thames North Province
	Mrs. O. Symes	—	Southern Province

Over 55's course

	Mrs. F. Mowatt	—	West Midland Province
	Mr. E. J. Ward	—	Thames North Province

25 There are at present 11 candidates taking the course :

Part I : 5 ; Part II (i) : 1 ; Part II (ii) 4 ;

Over 55's : 1.

Part II (ii) is being taken for the first time in 1974 and examiners were appointed in the following subjects :

30	New Testament ;	Biblical Theology ;
	Christian Life ;	Reformation Church History ;
	Christian Mission Today ;	Sermon.

Assessment Conferences Three Assessment Conferences have been held during the year—two of which were residential in New College. Altogether
35 30 candidates were interviewed, and of these 22 were commended.

New Assessment Forms have been devised which are proving to be very satisfactory.

Recruitment for the Ministry A factual leaflet has been produced describing the candidating process and giving a summary of the details
40 concerning each of the recognized Colleges. There is a continual demand for this. Two conferences are being arranged for Enquirers. One based on New College, London, the other on Manchester College, both under the aegis of the Department in collaboration with the Colleges.

Ministerial Refresher Courses The Committee reviewed the courses existing in the two traditions and decided for the time being to attempt to make both the Westminster/Cheshunt course and the others available to all ministers of the United Reformed Church.

⁵ The Post Ordination Reading scheme was also examined and it was hoped that all newly ordained ministers would be encouraged to avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme, and that the Colleges be asked to supervise the reading, or arrange for the supervision. The Moderators are asked to arrange for a senior minister to exercise some pastoral care.

¹⁰ *The Assembly agrees that:*

1. each ordained minister be required to undertake a post-ordination course, arranged and supervised by the Colleges in consultation with the Moderator of the Province.
2. the Moderators be requested to appoint a senior minister to act as father-in-God to each newly ordained minister.

¹⁵ **Report from the Senatus of Westminster College for 1973** The joint Committee of the Authorities of Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges met in December 1973. The Revd Dr. John Huxtable and the Revd President J. E. Newport were respectively elected Chairman and Secretary for the year 1973/4.

²⁰ **College Charges** The Committee agreed that charges for the year beginning October 1974 should be as follows:—

Establishment £150. Tuition £150. Board and Lodging £345, subject to surcharge if the economic situation should so demand.

Reports The Committee received reports from the Joint Board of Studies, ²⁵ the Joint Senatus and the House Committee of Westminster College. The President reported that the Governors of Cheshunt College had modified the pattern of their expenditure, to simplify the financial arrangements between the two colleges, and to curtail expenditure by the Governors on some items in order that increased resources might be available for grants to students. The ³⁰ Committee expressed their agreement with this proposal. The Committee await the interim report of the United Reformed Church's Commission on the Ministry, which they hope to discuss at the earliest opportunity.

Senatus Report The two Colleges have continued their closely integrated life. The Principal and the President have carried out their administrative ³⁵ duties with obvious efficiency. The Senatus pays tribute to the Principal upon his successful work in the completion of the re-roofing of the College and upon his notable tenure of the Chairmanship of the University Faculty of Divinity Board.

⁴⁰ During the year the Revd Professor F. G. Healey completed his tenure of the Barbour Chair of Systematic Theology; he had rendered great service to the Church in many spheres and was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England in 1965. He received parting gifts from the Senatus, Students and Friends of Westminster College, He has been succeeded in the Barbour Chair by the Revd Martin H. Cressey, M.A., of Selly

Oak Colleges, Birmingham. Professor Cressey was inducted by the Cambridge District Council of the United Reformed Church. The Senatus appointed Professor Knox to succeed Professor Healey as Secretary of Senatus.

At the beginning of 1973 there were 19 students in training. Of these 5 18 were ordinands of the URC and 8 have now completed their courses and have been ordained and inducted to pastoral charges. The non-URC student was an ordinand of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa; he completed his course and also secured the B.A. degree in Theology of the University of Cambridge.

10 For the Session 1973/4, there are 11 regular students, all ordinands of the URC; there is only one new entrant among this number. At the beginning of 1973 there were also seven students from overseas in the College, and there are also seven students from overseas in residence in this Michaelmas Term. They and several visiting scholars have taken a full share in the life of the 15 College. Facilities have been provided by the Cheshunt Foundation for four ministers to be in College each for a term and to attend courses in the College and in the University. 5 Roll of Ministers Examination candidates have spent a term in College. Two Lewis and Gibson scholars are also in the College community.

20 The Certificate Course in Pastoral Theology continued under the direction of Dr. Mayor and three candidates from the College completed the course.

The Ministers' Refresher Course was held in June 1973. Professor Knox had organised the past four Courses and the Senatus appointed Professor Cressey to organise the Course for 1974.

25 Relations between the Senatus and the students have been very good and there has been a healthy community spirit in the College. The Senatus hopes that the URC will produce more students for the Ministry; this is essential for the life of the Church and also for the maintaining of an effective and viable economic College Community. The Senatus has submitted a 30 memorandum to the General Assembly's Commission on the Ministry.

COLLEGE STATISTICS

College	Total No. in Training for U.R.C. Ministry Oct. 1973	New Candidates for U.R.C. Ministry Oct. 1973	Estimated No. to enter Ministry of U.R.C.			Actual No. entered U.R.C. in '73	Total No. of Ministerial Students (incl. Post Grads.)	Total No. of places available for Theol. Students
			'74	'75	'76			
35 Westminster/ Cheshunt	11	1	3	7	1	8	35	38
New	14	1	5	5	3	3	15	78
40 Manchester	20	5	3	6	5	3	26	78
Mansfield	4	3	0	1	3	3	16	35
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	40
Roll of Ministers	11	5	5	1	5	9	—	—
45 Totals	60	15	12	20	17	26	106	269

SUPPLEMENTARY MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd John Williamson

Secretary: The Revd Roger Tomes

During the year the Committee has continued to exercise a responsibility⁵ for the three classes of supplementary ministry: deaconesses, local pastors and lay preachers. These remain three distinct categories, each requiring a different kind of attention. There is no local situation in which the work of a deaconess is significantly related to the work of a local pastor or to that of a group of lay preachers; nor do local pastors and lay preachers find that their¹⁰ interests often coincide. As a result there is almost nothing the committee can do which will benefit all three categories at the same time. This suggests that our early attempts to arrive at an overall concept of 'supplementary ministry' were premature. The full time ordained Ministry is supplemented in our Church in various ways, which have grown up haphazardly for the most¹⁵ part. The only common denominator is that these ministries have been recognised by the Church and that those who exercise them have in some way been 'set apart' for them. The three categories for which we are responsible do not exhaust the Supplementary ministries. The most important other category for which a policy is needed is that of the ordained minister in another²⁰ occupation, and we hope that the Commission on the Ministry will have recommendations to make about the discipline they should accept and the pastoral care they should receive. But it would be a useless exercise to try to enumerate all that could be conceivably described as 'supplementary ministries'. The list would include elders and junior church leaders (these also²⁵ have been recognised and 'set apart') and would soon grow to include the whole membership of the Church. This would not only mean elimination by proliferation of the idea of particular ministries recognised by the Church; it would also be a misleading way of thinking of the Church's ministry. This does not consist of the work of the full time ordained ministry supplemented³⁰ by that of everyone else: the primary ministry is that of 'the whole people of God' and the work of the full-time ordained minister, as well as that of the deaconess, the local pastor and the lay preacher, is only a particular ministry within this total ministry. The Committee, therefore, having looked critically at its terms of reference sees the wisdom of them.

³⁵ The Committee has lost the services of two members through resignation including those of our original chairman, the Revd Norman Birnie. We miss his experienced leadership, but have been fortunate that the Revd John Williamson has been able to succeed him. Since the placing of deaconesses and the recognition of local pastors are as much concerns of the Moderators⁴⁰ as they are of the committee, it is helpful to have a chairman with a foot in both camps. It is also pleasant to record the interest which the staff members of the department take in the committee's work. Their wisdom and skill have frequently been placed at the committee's disposal.

DEACONESSES

⁴⁵ The Deaconesses are few in number but they are a more direct responsibility of the Assembly than those in other supplementary ministries and indeed

than most ordained ministers. The Assembly is responsible for their recruitment, training, appointment, salaries and refresher courses. The Assembly should therefore know that Audrey Langdown (Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne) has had to take indefinite leave of absence because of the age and infirmity of her parents, and that Lilian Blythin (St. Aidan's, Thornaby) has had a prolonged spell of illness. Joan Johansen-Berg had a baby during the year and therefore had a short period of leave. (The Rock, Liverpool).

We wish to recommend, as we did last year, that deaconesses should receive the same increase in basic pay as ministers, hence the following resolution:—

The Assembly approves:

that from July 1, 1974, the salary scale for deaconesses shall be:

	During the first five years of service	£1040
	" " second " " " "	£1090
15	" " third " " " "	£1140
	" " fourth " " " "	£1190
	After twenty years service	£1240

Deaconesses not on full pay shall receive a proportionate increase. The increase shall be met for the first six months from the reserve funds at the disposal of the Supplementary Ministries Committee and thereafter from the Unified Appeal. The salary scale shall be subject to the approval of the Pay Board.

It is the hope of the Committee that the Assembly will allow some of its responsibility for deaconesses to be transferred. The Moderators already play a large part in the placing of deaconesses, and we now feel that the payment of deaconesses should be the responsibility of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, in order that there should be a unified policy on salaries and stipends.

The Assembly agrees that:

from July 1, 1974, the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee shall take over such responsibilities of the Supplementary Ministries Committee as relate to the salaries and pensions of deaconesses.

LOCAL PASTORS

The Committee wish to dispel any impression that in asking the Assembly last year to approve rules for admission to the Register of Local Pastors it intended to make admission as difficult as possible. Our interest is in ensuring that District Councils take appropriate steps to help local pastors to maintain and improve their ministry. We still hope that as many as possible will take the full course of training—and it is gratifying to record that this year a larger number than usual have completed the Pastoralia course after obtaining the Lay Preachers' Certificate and *before* undertaking pastoral responsibilities. We realise that this is not appropriate in all cases. But we hope that District Councils will make arrangements for all local pastors to be put in touch with a nearby minister with a view both to study and to consultation on pastoral questions.

LAY PREACHERS

By now most Provinces have appointed a Lay Preaching Commissioner or the equivalent, and in June last year the Committee held a consultation with these provincial commissioners or their deputies. The decision was taken to decentralise much of what the Church does for lay preachers, and in particular not to attempt in future to hold national weekend conferences which have been poorly attended and expensive for the participants, but to ask provinces to organise their own conferences for lay preachers with help from the committee.

It is hoped that the Shergold Lecture, which used to be given at meetings of the Federation of Congregational Lay Preachers' Associations in London, will in future be given in the Provinces in turn. This year's lecture will be given at the Autumn Meeting of the Northern Provincial Synod at Newcastle on October 26, by the Revd C. E. B. Cranfield of the University of Durham.

It was also decided not to form an equivalent to the former Federation of Congregational Lay Preachers' Associations, on the ground that lay preachers (like ministers) should be related to the Church through their own districts and province, rather than through a national organisation. Much will depend for the success of this policy on the extent to which lay preachers are represented on District and Provincial committees. It is understandable that lay preachers should have formed an interim national association while this policy is taking shape. In this way news of the progress being made in some areas can be disseminated quickly, and the views of lay preachers can be represented while such subjects as ordination and presidency at the Sacraments are being discussed.

Good progress has been made with the preparation of a new lay preachers' training course jointly with the Methodist Local Preachers' Department and the Baptist Union Department of Ministry. This will be a two year course, consisting of six week studies of the major themes of Christian faith and life. Each theme will be treated biblically, historically, theologically and in relation to the contemporary world, and the exercises will include an essay or project, a sermon and tests by which the student can assess his own progress. The committee hopes that Districts will find this new course (which will be ready in the autumn of 1975) acceptable as the basic course of training before accreditation.

Some of those who apply to take the present Lay Preachers' Certificate Course have already covered some of the ground because they hold an 'A' level pass in Religious Knowledge or a degree in theology or some qualification in between. Or they may be highly qualified in another subject and find the level of the course rather elementary. In such cases it is inappropriate for the whole course to be worked through slavishly. Either exemptions from parts of the course may be worked out or a special course of reading can be devised. District Councils should not hesitate to approach the Committee on behalf of such students.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

During the year the committee has found that it has not enough members to cover the three groups of supplementary ministries entrusted to its care. The Departmental committee has agreed that a request be made to increase the membership by two.

The Assembly Authorizes

the membership of the Supplementary Ministries Committee to be increased by two.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

5

Chairman: Revd Kenneth Cranston

Secretary: Revd Michael J. Davies

The work of the Youth Committee in the past year has been primarily concerned with the following :

Structures of Youth Work A great deal of progress has been made during
10 the year in the establishment of District Youth Forums and Committees with
programmes of activities for young people. Unfortunately this has proved
difficult (and, in some cases, impossible) where Youth work has been linked
with the wider concerns of a Church Life Committee in which young people
have not been fully involved. It seems vital for the agreed programme for each
15 District (and Province) to have a separate Youth Committee or Panel on which
young people elected by the Youth Forum can play an equal part with the
members appointed by the District Council.

The Assembly agrees that:

20 each District and Province be asked to set up a separate Youth Committee (or
Panel) in which young people elected by District Youth Forums can share equally
with members appointed by the District Council or Provincial Synod.

The first Assembly of Youth met at Westhill College, Birmingham at Easter
1973 and 48 Districts were represented. The second was held at Swanwick
in February 1974 and 48 districts were again represented.

25 For the help and guidance of local Churches a set of "URC Youth Leaflets"
is being published and the first of these "The Youth Council in the Local
Church" is specifically intended to help them to integrate their youth work into
the total family life of the congregation. The Youth Committee has been
particularly concerned at the sense of isolation felt by many of those involved
30 in the Uniformed Organisations and, in the local situation, sees the formation
of an effective Youth Council as one way in which this can be overcome.

The Assembly agrees that:

35 local churches set up Youth Councils wherever practicable and urges that every
effort be made to help the Uniformed Organisations to feel that they are fully a part
of the total family of the Church.

Youth Leadership Training One of the many resolutions passed by the
Assembly of Youth in February was "that the training of Youth workers is an
essential part of the life of the Church". It became clear to the Committee at a
very early stage that a simple, basic training course should be provided, as a
40 matter of high priority, for those involved in Youth leadership in the URC.
Pilot projects have been run in Yorkshire and Lancashire and course materials

have been prepared for further trial and then for general use. When Youth Leaders have completed this preliminary course they will be encouraged to take part in courses operated by Local Education Authorities and joint training agencies. However, it is necessary to recruit in each Province a team of tutors ⁵ who can supervise those undergoing training (most of which will be undertaken at home or in the local church situation) and a Provincial Training Officer to set up and direct courses, brief the tutors and help Youth Leaders to make the best use of training facilities available. In most cases this will be a voluntary or part-time appointment though some Provinces may be able to obtain ¹⁰ grants for a full-time appointment.

The Assembly agrees that:

all Provinces be requested to appoint a Provincial Youth Leadership Training Officer to implement the training programme of the Church.

It is proposed that part of the Department of Education and Science Headquarters grant for Youth work will be used to finance the appointment of a ¹⁵ Youth Leadership Training Officer who will implement this programme and help to train Provincial training officers and tutors to play their part in training courses. The Nominations Committee has therefore been asked to take steps to ensure the appointment of this officer on the expiry of the appointment ²⁰ of the present training officer, Mr. Brian Harris, based in the North East (although initially it may be necessary to ask for a limited extension of Mr. Harris' appointment for up to one year during which time he will play a full part in the implementation of the new training programme).

Vocation and Service During the year the Youth Committee has given ²⁵ considerable thought to "vocation" amongst young people and this was the theme of the Assembly of Youth in February. It is hoped that the Church Life Department may be able to organise a series of conferences on this theme. The Baptist Youth Movement has invited URC Youth to take part in the "Time for God" scheme in which young people can give periods of 2—12 ³⁰ months voluntary service in a suitable Church or Community setting, This is essentially a training project but does provide volunteers for a variety of Church based projects. The "receiving church" pays full board, travelling expenses, insurance and pocket money of £2.50 a week to the volunteer. The "sending church" is also asked to help financially and to maintain regular ³⁵ contact with the young person concerned, who will also be involved in training and briefing conferences during the period :

The Assembly agrees

to accept the invitation of the Baptist Youth Movement to participate in the 'Time for God' scheme, commends it to the young people of the Church and encourages ⁴⁰ local Churches to play their full part in sending and receiving young people under the scheme.

Participation The committee was glad to learn of the steps taken by the Assembly and by Districts and Provinces to enable young people to play a greater part in the decision-making structures of the Church and hopes that ⁴⁵ this process will continue. The attention of the Assembly is drawn to a

resolution passed by the Assembly of Youth which "calls on the young people of the URC to take an active interest in the life and work of the Church at all levels and, in particular, to attend meetings of District Council and Provincial Synods as observers". The Committee still believes that the best way for young people to be represented at the General Assembly is as part of the normal District representation :

The Assembly agrees

to urge District Councils to include one young person nominated by the District Youth Forum in the representation of the District at the General Assembly each year if possible.

National Youth Activities In addition to the wide variety of activities arranged for young people locally and regionally, the Youth Committee has continued to sponsor (in some cases in collaboration with the Churches of Christ Education Committee) a number of National events—Conferences, Work Camps and Adventure Training activities and these have been most successful. It has, with regret, agreed to the termination of the biannual American Exchange programme organised formerly by the four British Isles Presbyterian Churches but has embarked upon a new series of exchange visits and conferences with European young people, initially from the Rhineland. "Project '73", the national study/fund raising project, has been undertaken by a number of District Youth Forums and local Church groups although the financial results are disappointing, probably because of communication problems in the early days of the URC. Plans for future projects and activities are being considered by the Committee.

25

PILOTS

Chairman: Revd Sydney Smith

Secretary: Mr M. D. Woolnough

The Pilot Committee has been encouraged by the appointment of Provincial Pilot Officers in all but two of the Provinces. Regional Secretaries have also been appointed to co-ordinate the work of two or more Provinces, and these secretaries carrying responsibility for organizing Regional Pilot Camps.

The term of office of the Master Pilot, Mr. Sidney Stolton after seven years of invaluable service, came to an end during the year. The gratitude of Pilots and their leaders, throughout the country was warmly expressed. Mr. Stolton had visited all the companies on more than one occasion and was well known to all who attended Pilot Camps. Mr. Stolton's successor is Miss Dorothy Biggs, who was closely associated with the inauguration of Pilots in 1936.

The loss by death of the Revd Fred Spriggs to the Pilot movement has been great. Mr. Spriggs served as Secretary of the National Committee from 1967—72, during which time he organized the national Pilot Camp. Prior to 1967, for many years, he has served Pilots both locally and nationally, and was greatly loved. We give thanks to God for his servant Fred Spriggs.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Revd C. Cyril Franks

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Chairman: Revd Donald H. Hilton

Secretary to both committees: Revd John M. Sutcliffe

5

The committees have met three times during the year. On each occasion the major part of the time has been spent in a joint meeting. The January residential meeting also provided the opportunity to share two sessions with the Doctrine and Worship Committee. The need for joint committee meetings shows the extent to which some agenda items cannot be dealt with adequately within the narrow context of one committee. The concern for adult education and the preparation of material and projects for the churches raises the wider question of inter-departmental co-operation and the relation of the Christian Education Committee to the other departments and their responsibility for educational programmes.

15

This issue became acute as the Christian Education Committee began the preparation for a study-action project on Mission and Commitment. Some members were uneasy about presenting to this year's Assembly so comprehensive and challenging a project which the churches may not be able to treat with the seriousness it deserves. All departments of the Church ought to be involved, so that Mission at home and overseas, Stewardship of all the resources of the Church, are included. Consideration needs to be given to the various ecumenical commitments of the churches in certain areas. It was decided therefore to prepare a short study action project designed for the elders of the Church, focussing on the first requirement of the elders in the Scheme of Union, namely 'to foster in the congregation concern for the witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad . . .' The emphasis is to be on the four words 'foster', 'witness', 'service', 'evangelism'. It is hoped to prepare brief guides on each word which could be used in elders meetings.

20

25

In the meantime the committee proposes to prepare material which the elders could use, in a second phase, with groups in the congregation. For this second phase the Committee requests the support of the whole Church both in preparation and in the application.

30

The Assembly agrees

35

to commend the Study-action programme in two phases.

Phase 1: for the Elders of the U.R.C. on the first 'function' of Elders as described in the Scheme of Union.

Phase 2: for the whole Church to be prepared with the full consultation of the other committees and departments of the Church.

Note: Phase 1 should be available at the 1974 Assembly and Phase 2 at the 1975 Assembly.

40

Teacher Training We believe that the ministry of the Teacher Training Officer is vital in church life and urge Districts to seek his help in the establishing of regular initial and in-service training courses for leaders of children's groups. We recommend the "Equipped to Teach" course as the basis of
5 District training programmes. Ministers and elders are requested to encourage the leaders and helpers in their children's groups to enrol for this course. During this year 100 people will be completing the "Equipped to Teach" course.

District Children's Secretaries Work at District level is very dependent
10 on the person appointed as District Children's Work Secretary or Christian Education Secretary. The Secretary plans, therefore, to meet all these officers and committee chairmen during the Spring. A District secretaries resource folder has been prepared, to which additions will be made from time to time. It is hoped this will help District secretaries to do their work by providing
15 them with basic information, a number of basic publications and case studies and papers which might provoke experiment locally.

Seeing Family Church A filmstrip and tape, "Seeing Family Church" prepared almost ten years ago, has recently been reviewed by the Children's Committee. The filmstrip and tape do not have the feeling of being ten years
20 old, although this might be a sad reflection on the Church in 1974 rather than a point of commendation for the strip. Many of the issues that are current today are raised. An amended version of the tape, omitting dated references, and a sheet of suggestions for using the strip and tape are being prepared. We commend "Seeing Family Church" for use in the churches. Copies will be
25 available on hire at 50p.

ECUMENICAL LINKS

British Lessons Council The British Lessons Council Curriculum Project was instituted in 1971 at the request of the churches. It was asked, "In
30 cooperation with the Joint Liturgical Group, to take immediate steps to prepare a new syllabus upon which a programme of Christian education for all ages within the life of the Church may be based." In the summer of 1973 the Project produced in draft the first part of its report, an essay dealing with the principles on which a curriculum may be developed. An inter-departmental group was called to comment on this document and a paper containing the comment of
35 the URC was contributed to the subsequent meeting of the Project Group. The Children's and Christian Education Committees were grateful for the opportunity to discuss some of the issues raised by this essay with the Doctrine and Worship Committee. It is apparent, however, that the liturgical implications of involving children in the community of the church and the
40 educational implications of their involvement for adults have not yet been adequately faced, nor has the place of the lectionary in an educational programme been resolved.

The Methodist Church Close collaboration with the Secretaries of the Methodist Church during the past eighteen months in particular has revealed
45 the extent to which the officers of the Methodist Church share with our Children's Committee a common understanding of the Church's ministry

among children. Without wishing to reduce our commitment to the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children, or to limit our attempts to co-operate with other Churches, the Committee resolves to meet with the Children's working group of the Methodist Church and the staff, to explore
5 the possibilities of closer co-operation.

British Council of Churches The Children's Committee welcomes the appointing by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children and the Church of England Board of Education of a group to undertake a major study of the Church's nurture of children.

10 **Partners in Learning** Both committees have studied the proposals of the 'Partners in Learning' Editorial Board for a new series of volumes providing an educational programme and suggestions for worship for the whole church. The importance of seeing the church whole and of the inter-relation of all the
15 age groups will be stressed. The Committee note that in addition to volumes for each age group, a common volume will be published which should be of especial help to ministers and leaders. The Committee is grateful for the opportunity given to members of the URC to collaborate in the production of this new series, and notes that almost half of those contributing to it are members of our Church.

20 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORK

Resource Folders Following a suggestion made at a meeting of the Women's Committee of the Yorkshire Province, a resource folder has been prepared for every Provincial women's committee or correspondent. The folder contains information and recently published programme material; it
25 was compiled in consultation with the Secretaries of the Church and Society and World Church and Mission Departments.

Team Ministry In collaboration with the Supplementary Ministries Committee, the Committees have tried to explore the notion of developing a team ministry composed of lay preachers, ministers, leaders of children's
30 groups and others in the local church. It was hoped to discover some of the advantages and disadvantages of combined planning and preparation. This far a report has been received from one of the three groups of churches involved in the pilot project:

35 "the initial meeting raised all the issues of opportunities and difficulty but insufficient attention was paid to the planning session and to publicity. The teachers have very much valued the opportunity of comparing notes on their method of approach and the content of lessons. Bible study on the background lesson material has emerged as a stimulating and important feature of the training session."

40 **Christian Education and State Schools** Changing Free Church attitudes to the dual * system in education provoked discussion in the Christian Education Committee. The basic questions to which the Committee addressed itself were the Free Church attitude to the dual system, what is a Christian School and what is Christian Education in a day-school setting? The
45 unease which many Christian parents are feeling arises as much from the new

minority position of Christians in a pluralist society as from their confusion about the aims of state education and the developments in Religious Education suited to a multi-racial and cultural society. It is inappropriate for our Committee to discuss this further without the collaboration of the Church and Society Department.

* i.e. the existence of Church and State Schools.

PUBLICATIONS

Christian Education Series "Family Church Staff and Adult Worship" was included in the summer, and "Educational Techniques for Adults" in the autumn, Information Services (1973). A "Sunday Session Checklist" is in preparation and will be included in the 1974 summer Information Service.

Leaflet on Baptism A brief leaflet on Baptism, based on "Three Promises and a Prayer" and intended for the parents of young children, is in preparation. In view of other discussions with the Churches of Christ and the working party on initiation, this leaflet is likely to be available for not more than two or three years.

Leaflets on Church Membership Two leaflets are in course of preparation. One is intended to introduce the 'Belonging to the Church' course; the other will deal with church membership at a deeper level and will be designed for those who have expressed a willingness to consider committing themselves to church membership.

MINISTRY OF HEALING GROUP

Secretary: The Revd Charles K. Meachin

A group was set up following the last Assembly and has produced a statement on the Ministry of Healing, compiled a list of Guilds, Healing Centres and organisations, and produced a list of books and papers on the Healing Ministry. The group hopes to produce some forms of Worship for Healing, in consultation with the Doctrine and Worship Committee. The Department received the report of the group and has requested that the consultation with the Doctrine and Worship Committee on forms of worship and the statement on the Ministry of Healing take place during the coming year with a view to reporting at the next Assembly.

CHAPLAINS AND STUDENTS WORKING PARTY

Secretary: The Revd M. J. Davies

During the past year the attention of the Committee has been drawn to the hard evidence that is emerging about the environment in which Chaplains work. We have seen, for example, that fewer than one in six of students would claim active membership compared to two in five ten years ago, that member-

ship of religious societies in the same period has moved from one in six to less than one in ten. Barely half of the students would claim any sort of religious belief of any kind.

This kind of change raises serious questions about the mode and styles⁵ of chaplaincy work. Probably the needs of Christian students are being met in particular ways by local churches but we discern two significant things happening. The pressures under which Christian students are living is creating a 'ghetto mentality' with all that this involves in terms of separation, exclusiveness and insecurity. Second, the vast majority of students are having no¹⁰ serious contact with Christians nor being faced with the challenge of mature Christian commitment. We would wish Chaplains to test out the validity of these assessments in their own situations and to share their thinking about appropriate responses to them.

Meanwhile, the Department has continued to deal with some of the practical¹⁵ aspects of the Church's ministry to students. A register of Chaplains has been compiled, with the aid of Provincial Offices, and interesting reports have been received from a number of Chaplains. After consultation with the Finance and Administration Department it is recommended that the financing of the work of Chaplains (e.g. out-of-pocket expenses, remuneration of whole²⁰ or part-time Chaplains and contributions to the ecumenical Chaplaincies) should normally be the responsibility of the Province concerned, though some assistance may be available from the funds of the Department for training and special projects.

The number of commendations from local churches of students commencing²⁵ studies in the autumn was disappointing and it must be stressed how vital it is for Chaplains to receive details of new arrivals as soon as possible. The co-operation of every minister and church secretary is earnestly sought.

An ecumenical Chaplains' Conference is planned for September 3rd—6th at Swanwick and a URC Training Consultation will take place for 24 hours³⁰ preceding it. This will give our Chaplains opportunity to meet and discuss developments in Chaplaincy work before going on to the interdenominational Conference. Provinces are asked to encourage their Chaplains to attend and to assist them financially.

The Working Party has considered a number of other matters during the³⁵ past year—for example, the place of the denominational students' societies, the status of Chaplains, a paper on Chaplaincy buildings (now published by the British Council of Churches)—and keeps in touch with all registered URC Chaplains and Student Societies.

The Assembly agrees that:

- ⁴⁰ 1. Ministers or Church Secretaries be urged to ensure that the names and college addresses of all students, nurses, etc., commencing studies at a Higher Education Establishment, to be forwarded to the Church Life Department by September 15th each year.
- ⁴⁵ 2. Each Provincial Synod should make arrangements for the financing of URC participation in the work of Chaplains within Higher Education Establishments in the Province.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

The Department has shared in the work of the Churches Consultative Group of the British and Foreign Bible Society and has appreciated the considerable assistance which has been given to the various 'Calls to Mission' in different parts of the country. Special editions of Gospels and Epistles have been produced. Some guide lines for Bible study have been prepared and the time and experience of the staff have been freely available. The department also commends the publication of the weekly worship leaflets which contain the Lessons for the Sunday as proposed by the Joint Liturgical Group. These are designed as take-home-leaflets. They are attractively produced and are valuable aids for worship.

The Department wishes to thank all who have contributed to its work and witness during the year, chairmen, committee members and staff members, and with them and through them, it gives thanks to God for the privilege of being allowed to share in this ministry.

The Assembly agrees that:

this report be received.

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The detailed work of the Department is recorded in the Reports from The Departmental Committees. The Central Committee has continued its task of
5 co-ordinating the information which it receives from those sources and from the Committees which have, on its initiative, been appointed by Assembly to further various discussions on the unity of the Church in this country.

The Central Committee has also dealt with a number of other matters. On some of these – the method of appointing representatives to the 5th Assembly
10 of the World Council of Churches, and the support of St. Andrew's College, Selly Oak – it has already reported to the Executive Committee of Assembly. On other matters the Committee has taken action: it has supported the setting up of conversations aimed at the gathering of support for a campaign on behalf of Formosan self-determination and it has been in touch with the
15 Committee on Doctrine and Worship in the matter of the Leuenberg Agreement and of the working paper of the World Alliance entitled '*Theological Basis of Human Rights and a Theology of Liberation.*'

The Committee has received reports from those who represented the Church at various conferences held since last Assembly: the Annual Conference of
20 the Conference of British Missionary Societies at Swanwick, the Committee of the European Area of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches at Amsterdam and the World Council of Churches Consultation on Patterns of Unity at Salamanca, and the Executive Committee of the W.A.R.C. in New York. The Committee was gratified to learn that Mr. J. E. M. Gilbey had been
25 appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the European Area of the W.A.R.C.

The Central Committee has recommended to the Finance and Administration Department that the sum of £284,000 be accepted as the U.R.C.'s contribution to C.W.M. work in 1974 and 1975.

30 Brian M. Pratt, *Chairman*
John Huxtable, *Secretary*

MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK AT HOME

The overall theme of this year's work in the Committee was set by its July conference, held with ecumenical appropriateness at Overdale, the Churches
35 of Christ College in Selly Oak, under the title 'Ecumenical Partnership for Mission'. The theme was discussed in terms of roles for the local church (in the city, in new towns, in a rural county), of roles for District Councils and Synods, and of inter-church relations. Many important questions arose from this general survey and approaches have been made to some of the Synods in
40 the hope that they might take up certain of these questions for study and experiment. The Committee's own work can best be described in relation to the concentric circles within which ecumenical partnership is expressed, beginning from the local area.

Local Ecumenical Experiment In submitting to last year's Assembly guide lines on local ecumenical experiment the Committee was well aware of the need for further ecumenical discussion. Such discussion is now focussed in the committee set up by those churches in England which are making use of the Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969; this is known as the Consultative Committee for Local Ecumenical Projects in England (C.C.L.E.P.E.) and the Chairman of M.E.W. at Home and Dr. Huxtable are the U.R.C. members of it. Within the orbit of that committee there have been specific discussions between officers of the Department and their Methodist colleagues to secure some consistency in the advice given to the quite large number of U.R.C. local churches and Methodist societies which are entering into various forms of sharing agreements and ecumenical co-operation. One of the meetings of C.C.L.E.P.E. during the year took the form of a consultation with representatives of areas of ecumenical experiment; from this there emerged many concerns which illustrated the relation between local progress and improvements in inter-church relations at the national level as discussed in the 'Talks about Talks'.

On one matter arising from experience with the Sharing of Church Buildings Act it has seemed right to submit a resolution to the Assembly, so that advice can be given with Assembly approval (See Appendix 1—Resolution 1). Concerning provision for financial adjustments or the disposal of church property in the event of the termination of an agreement to share buildings, it has been noted that, though the Act itself makes such provision in cases where the shared buildings are owned by one only of the sharing churches or were so owned before the agreement (Section 9, sub-para. (2) and (8)), it only lays down options for such provisions ('may make provision', 'may provide'), in cases of partial termination or unilateral withdrawal or termination of a joint ownership where there had never been sole ownership (Section 9, sub-para. (1) and (4)). The Committee believes that in all cases such provision should be made, not from any lack of trust in our partner churches but in recognition of the fact that sharing agreements are by their very nature made between churches still distinct and having distinct financial and property-management responsibilities.

The Future of Free Church Federal Councils The Committee has had before it the report of a national F.C.F.C. Working Party, *'The Relevance of the Free Churches'*, and a pamphlet by Dr. Ernest Payne, written in response, under the title *'The Free Churches: Today's Challenges'*. These two papers reflect diverse emphases familiar in the conversation of Free Churchmen. One of these stresses the distinct tradition of the Free Churches, the other the changes brought about negatively by secularisation and positively by the ecumenical movement.

There is a common mind in the Committee that the report pointed in a direction of ecumenical advance and then failed in boldness of recommendation.

The lack of dynamism in local Free Church Federal Councils, noted with disappointment by the Working Party in its final report, is a symptom of the situation in which the churches are asked to provide keen and effective

representatives for too many conciliar bodies. If Free Church bodies continue in separation, largely out of inertia, they will only unnecessarily sap the strength of an ecumenical movement already conscious of strain.

Though the Committee recognises that there may be places where a
5 separate local Free Church Federal Council is still necessary or is the only practicable ecumenical organisation, it is concerned that the future of Free Church Federal Councils, local and national, should be discussed in the framework of the ecumenical movement as a whole and in particular that such discussion should be integrated with any developments arising from the
10 present talks within and between the British Council of Churches and the Conference of British Missionary Societies concerning the fashioning of a new single instrument of ecumenical co-operation and mission. It is the Committee's hope that there may eventually be found an agreed policy acceptable to the U.R.C. as a whole and to our sister churches in the F.C.F.C.
15 It should be emphasised that what is in mind is not the dissolution of the national F.C.F.C., but some form of much closer integration of its work with that of the B.C.C., an integration so designed as to be in the best interest of all the member churches of the F.C.F.C., most of which are already members of the B.C.C.

20 **Sister Reformed Churches in the British Isles** Our sister Reformed churches in the British Isles are, like ourselves, involved both in bilateral and multilateral conversations. Churches of Christ, with whom the U.R.C. is in union conversations, are participating also with the Church of Scotland, the
25 Methodist Synod and the United Free Church in multilateral conversations. In Wales meetings of the same group of churchmanships have centred on the idea of covenanting for union, i.e. of the Churches taking definite steps to go beyond general ecumenical goodwill and bind themselves to work and pray for union. Decisions on covenanting are to be taken by Churches in
30 Wales, including our own Welsh Province, during 1974. In this context a meeting of representatives of the U.R.C. Province and the Presbyterian Church of Wales was held in September, 1973, at Trevecca College and helpfully reviewed the various ways in which our two Churches can co-operate. Correspondence is proceeding with our sister Churches in Ireland, Scotland
35 and Wales concerning details of the mutual eligibility of ministers within our Reformed family of Churches.

Even amidst the difficulties and tensions of the political and social problems of Ireland the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has continued to seek better relations with other Churches both through direct conversations and through
40 the Irish Council of Churches. Christians in Ireland also need to keep in close touch with churches elsewhere in the British Isles and in Europe. Local U.R.C. churches have assisted such contacts by various holiday schemes and visits. Such schemes require a considerable amount of work and in the complexities of the Irish situation sometimes encounter frustrating delays and
45 confusions; nevertheless, the outcome in human terms is well worth the effort made and some similar projects are being organised for this year. The Revd Roger Whitehead of Hereford has undertaken a large task of correspondence and liaison visits in this connection and the Committee is grateful to him and to those churches which have undertaken projects.

The British Council of Churches Mention has already been made of the exploratory talks between the B.C.C. and the C.B.M.S. These are part of a large-scale restructuring which has already produced a new constitution for the B.C.C., to be implemented in the course of this year. The four new B.C.C.

⁵ Divisions of Ecumenical Affairs, Community Affairs, International Affairs and Christian Aid will seek to give more effective service to the member Churches and in their turn will require of the representatives appointed to them a considerable commitment of time and effort. For a church the size of the U.R.C. this time and effort, and the money we contribute to the B.C.C. ¹⁰ budget, is well spent in that without the B.C.C. we would not be able to touch many areas of Christian concern, social policy and national life in which it is vital that a Christian presence and witness be maintained.

Evangelism The complaint was justifiably made at the 1973 Assembly that the Committee had neither taken nor given account of 'Call to the North' ¹⁵ and similar projects of mission undertaken by the Churches of a region together. The Committee is aware that it is all too easy to talk about 'Ecumenical Partnership' and leave out the phrase 'for Mission'. It has therefore decided that the main theme of its work and discussions during the next twelve months shall be evangelism, as a task laid upon the churches ²⁰ together. This is to embark on a difficult enterprise and at this time the Committee can only assure the Assembly that it will seek to bring forward some practical counsel and encouragement, for this essential task of the churches. In its comparatively short working life since the formation of the U.R.C. the Committee has already had many glimpses amid ecumenical frustrations and ²⁵ national crises of 'God's Lively People'.

Martin H. Cressey, *Chairman*
Boris Anderson, *Secretary*

MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK ABROAD

Mission "The fundamental crisis of mission is not **what** needs to be done, ³⁰ but whether **anything** needs to be done at all. If the local church is not engaged in mission itself, support for world mission will be unreal or non-existent".

This sentence from a report made to the Spring Conference for Provincial representatives arranged by the Department gives the keynote to the work of ³⁵ the Abroad committee. Everything is seen to be interdependent, and to come back to the faith and mission of every part of the Church.

Commitments and Contacts Within this context, the committee has spent a busy year. It was glad to see that the churches contributed just over £271,000 towards the work of CWM in 1973, though it was disappointing ⁴⁰ that the target of £279,889 was just missed. In addition, grants amounting to £4,250 were made from Legacy Reserve Funds to non-recurring items of CWM expenditure. £84,057 was contributed to the 1972/3 1% Appeal for World Development, a tangible expression of concern, making it possible to carry out commitments entered into.

Small grants have been made to the Church of the Czech Brethren, and to the Greek Evangelical Church for the support of a congregation in Istanbul, £2,000 was granted to the Nairobi Training Centre for Broadcasting. Scholarships were made available to ministers from Lesotho, Singapore and Malaysia and Korea for study courses at St. Andrew's College, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

On two occasions the Committee was addressed by speakers with personal experience of conditions in overseas countries – the Rt. Revd James Blair, Bishop of Dacca, spoke of conditions and work in Bangladesh, and the Revd Victor Hayward, Research Secretary of the China Study Project at Selly Oak, gave an up-to-date picture of developments in China.

Concern was felt for Presbyterian ministers in Korea and Mozambique who were arrested in the course of the year, as for the situation in Formosa, with which the U.R.C. has such close connections.

In conjunction with the Thames North and Southern Provinces, a growing relationship has been established with the Chaplaincy for Ghanaian students. The present Chaplain, the Revd Albert Wurapa, is shortly to become General Secretary of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana. His place will be taken by the Revd B. K. Tetey.

The same Provinces are also concerned with the proposal to establish a chaplaincy for Chinese students and residents in London. A minister of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore and Malaysia has been recommended to serve as chaplain.

Council for World Mission A welcome reversal of the trend of recent years has been seen in the increased number of offers for missionary service. The Committee has prepared a draft order of service for the Commissioning of a Missionary of the United Reformed Church for use in the District from which a Missionary is sent. (see Appendix 2 and Resolution 2). The Committee hopes to establish and maintain personal contacts with serving Missionaries. A correspondence scheme, linking the Provinces of the U.R.C. with serving Missionaries has been set up, and will, it is hoped, make more direct relationships possible.

Changing furlough patterns will make it increasingly difficult to arrange for Missionaries always to be available at times of "missionary deputation". In order to meet this situation, panels of speakers who may be called upon are being prepared for all Provinces. The abundance of material available, the Prayer Fellowship Handbook and a certain amount of initiative should make it possible for Districts to meet the need for adequate advocacy. Provinces are being invited to offer hospitality to students from overseas at the Selly Oak Colleges. Such hospitality is desirable and necessary in itself, but advocacy may be helped thereby as well.

The Committee has been fortunate in having the help of the Revd Charles K. Meachin, Secretary for Mission in the Church Life Department: it was glad of the opportunity of a visit to North and South India which C.W.M. had arranged for Mr. Meachin in January and February, 1974.

The Committee was represented at a Conference on "Development and Salvation" arranged by Christian Aid in February 1974.

The work of C.W.M. is a major concern and preoccupation of the Committee, but a good deal of attention has been paid to the developing relationships
5 with Churches in Europe.

Europe The Committee heard the Revd John Reardon speak of the work of the Brussels Ecumenical Centre, established to support Christians working within the EEC Administration, and supported by the U.R.C. It was decided by the Executive Committee of the Church that membership of the Conference
10 of European Churches should henceforth be direct, rather than through the British Council of Churches.

Four U.R.C. representatives attended the Conference of the European Section of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches at Amsterdam in September, 1973. This Conference, notable for the brief proportion of
15 time spent in administrative chores, took as its theme "Who do you say that I am?" studying the Christian faith and person of Christ against the differing backgrounds of Europe. Free places are being offered at British gatherings such as the Forum and the Youth Conference to members of continental Churches. Efforts are being made to see that Europeans in this
20 country, especially the chaplains of colonies of residents from various countries have closer and more useful links with the U.R.C. Similar efforts are being made to see that Britons abroad have opportunities of linking up with the local churches, or, if language makes this impracticable, that they will be able to find an English speaking church, thanks to the Directory being
25 prepared by the British Council of Churches and the Conference of British Missionary Societies.

The unofficial but long-standing friendly contacts between the Protestant Church of the Palatinate and Churches of the U.R.C., likewise those between a group of U.R.C. ministers and a number of pastors of the Reformed Church
30 of France, have been noted and recognised. It is intended that the visits made officially to Assemblies of a number of European Churches shall be continued on a regular basis – in 1973 visits were made to the Reformed Church of Belgium and the Reformed Church of the Netherlands.

The Reformed Churches have noted with satisfaction the prospects of
35 greatly improved relationships with the Lutheran Church which the Leuenberg Agreement has opened up.

From even further afield, a message of greeting was received from the All Union Council of Evangelical Baptists in Russia. This was cordially acknowledged.

40 **The Americas** Contacts with the Americas are still minimal. Time did not permit more than a brief glance at the problems facing the churches of South America. Arrangements for exchanges between ministers in North America and those of this country are however being made.

Thus developing relationships and existing commitments occupied the Committee. C.W.M. is to examine its policy at the end of 1974, and every church member might well consider afresh in these changing days that seemingly simple theme of the Amsterdam Conference "Who do you say that I am?" This Committee is concerned with the "how", but also very much with the "why" of its work.

John E. M. Gilbey, *Chairman*
Boris Anderson, *Secretary*

MISSION AND OTHER FAITHS

¹⁰ The major concern of the Mission and Other Faiths Committee during the year has been to produce a document giving guidance to the Church in the matter of the Christian approach to the non-Christian citizens in our midst. In particular, close study has been given to the B.C.C. booklet on the use of church properties by those of other faiths, and to the question of what ¹⁵ practical steps can be taken to foster the development of friendship with immigrant communities of different faith and culture. Recommendations are made accordingly (resolutions 3 – 6).

The '*Manual of Advice*' which is now presented to the Assembly (resolution 7), is designed to help Church members to face their obligations in the new ²⁰ multi-faith situation which faces us in Britain. It discusses the Christian approach to those of other faiths and gives practical suggestions about what might be done by a local congregation.

In our deliberations, we were constantly aware of a pressing question behind most of the discussions, namely, the need for a Christian theology of ²⁵ other religions. Christian scholars are increasingly addressing themselves to this question, but the Committee believes that at least one important first step can even now be taken by many Christians not claiming special scholarly gifts. Living as we do in a multi-faith society, we are called to try to understand the faiths of other peoples, sympathetically and without pre-judgment, in order that we may the better speak to our neighbours of the things of Christ. ³⁰

In thinking of the Christian approach to the Jewish people, the committee was conscious of the need for special sympathy and understanding for the Jews in their time of anxiety about the future of the state of Israel. We need to be aware of the great variety, both of faith and of degree of integration to the ³⁵ British ways of life, which there is among Jews in this country. There is still need for age-old Jewish Christian misunderstandings to be cleared up, and for the establishing of friendships on a personal and congregational level to enable Jews and Christians together to share their religious insights.

Alan G. MacLeod, *Chairman*
Boris Anderson, *Secretary*

Appendix 1

Extract from the Sharing of Church Buildings Act

'Termination of Sharing'. Para. 9

1. A sharing agreement shall contain provisions for terminating the sharing
5 of the church building or buildings, and such provisions may—
- (a) if the agreement relates to two or more buildings, provide for terminating the sharing of any building before the others; and
 - (b) if there are two or more sharing Churches, provide for the withdrawal of
10 any church from the sharing of any church building, not being a Church which is the sole owner or previous owner of the building; and the sharing agreement may make provision for financial adjustments as between the Churches, on such termination of withdrawal, by payments out of moneys held for the purposes of the sharing agreement or of any shared building or by other payments by one Church to another.
- 15 2. On the termination of the sharing of a church building owned by one only of the sharing Churches, the building shall be held on the trusts or for the purposes on or for which it was held before the sharing agreement or would be held but for the sharing agreement.
3. On the termination of the sharing of a church building jointly owned by
20 all or some of the sharing Churches, being a building which before the sharing agreement was owned by one only of those Churches, the buildings shall, without any conveyance or other assurance, vest as follows:—
- (a) if the building was previously a consecrated church of the Church of
25 England or a building (other than a consecrated church) vested in the incumbent of a Church of England parish, it shall vest in the incumbent of the parish in which the building is then situated, for the same purposes as before, as nearly as may be;
 - (b) in any other case, it shall vest in such of the trustees in whom the
30 building is vested as represent the Church who previously owned the building or, if the building is vested in a custodian trustee, it shall remain so vested but be managed by such of the managing trustees as represent that Church, and it shall be held and managed on the trusts or for the same purposes as before, as nearly as may be.
- 35 4. Where the sharing of a church building jointly owned as aforesaid but not previously owned by one only of the sharing Churches is terminated, the sharing agreement and the trust instrument may provide for the disposal of the building (including disposal to one of the sharing Churches) and for the application of the proceeds to charitable purposes of the sharing Churches.

Appendix 2

The Commissioning of a Missionary of the United Reformed Church

A commissioning service for U.R.C. Missionaries shall be conducted by the relevant District Council, where possible in the Church from which the Missionary comes. The service shall include the sections outlined below. In the case of ministerial candidates the relevant parts of the order for the Ordination of a Minister shall be used within the context of this service.

A. General Statement – The Chairman (or Moderator of Synod)

- 10 1. The U.R.C. confesses its faith that the fulness of Christ's gospel is to be proclaimed to all men.
2. The U.R.C. acknowledges its responsibility to share in Christ's mission to the whole world through the fellowship of churches in other lands, giving and receiving help within this fellowship as opportunity offers.
- 15 3. The U.R.C. rejoices that there are those from its own membership who respond to Christ's call to them to serve Him overseas.
4. The U.R.C. accepts special responsibility for those who, going out from its own life to serve with the CWM, are recognized and commissioned as its own missionaries and accorded a place in its own Councils.

20 B. Description of the Call with a brief account of the Church to which the missionary is going and the particular work within that Church which the missionary is to undertake. (The relevant CWM Overseas Secretary or other suitable person.)

C. Commissioning of Missionary

25 Chairman to Missionary:

Do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father Son and Holy Spirit?
I do.

Do you believe that He has called you to the work of the Church overseas?
I do.

30 Moderator to District Members:

Do you, as representing the churches within this District and in the name of the U.R.C., undertake to support.....with interest and prayer?

We do.

35 D. Commissioning Prayer

E. Chairman to Missionary:

....., the U.R.C. recognizes you as a missionary of this Church called of God and appointed by CWM at the invitation of the Church in.....to work with that Church.

In the name of the Lord of the Church we now commission you and send you forth ; and we undertake to continue to share in this world mission with you by our prayers, our money, and our witness.

5 May God bless you and keep you and make you a channel for His Grace to the people to whom you are sent.

Missionary: Amen.

- F. Missionary (and his wife) are commended to the District by the Chairman and invited to say a word of greeting.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

- 10 1. The Assembly resolves that in sharing agreements under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969, in all cases covered by sub-paras. (1) (a) and (b) and (4) of Section 9 of that Act the options shall be exercised under which provision may be made for financial adjustments as between the Churches on termination or withdrawal under sub-paras. (1) (a) and (b) or for the disposal of the building and for the application of the proceeds under sub-para. (4).
15 The Assembly draws the attention of Synods, District Councils and local churches to this Resolution.
2. The Assembly approves the Schedule for the Commissioning of Missionaries of the U.R.C. by District councils and authorises its use.
- 20 3. Assembly encourages local churches to view sympathetically requests by people of other faiths for the use of church halls for religious or social purposes.
4. Assembly recommends that church sanctuaries, being seldom appropriate for acts of worship of those of other faiths, should not normally be offered for such purposes ; but that redundant churches, no longer required for Christian worship should be available for purchase by those of other faiths.
25
5. Assembly emphasises that, in every case of request for use or purchase, the question of what is legally permissible under any relevant Trust Deed must be investigated. Where local legal restrictions make it impossible for church properties to be used for multi-racial community activities, it is suggested that efforts be made to remove the restrictions.
30
6. Assembly commends to District Councils and Church Meetings the study of the British Council of Churches Report entitled 'The use of church properties for community activities in multi-racial areas', where a full discussion of the issues involved in Christian relationship with people of other faiths can be found.
- 35 7. Assembly receives the document entitled 'A Manual of Advice' and authorises its circulation to Councils and local churches.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY DEPARTMENT

Chairman: The Revd John Johansen-Berg, M.A., B.D.

Secretary: The Revd John P. Reardon, B.A.

Ecumenical Co-operation Much of the Department's work is done in
5 co-operation with the British Council of Churches. Representatives attend
regular meetings of the Social Responsibility, Education and International
Affairs Departments, and also committees, consultative and standing groups
which relate to these Departments. In this way the work of our Department
is made easier because of the breadth of experience and expertise which is at
10 its disposal from these wider contacts. Increasingly the work done by one
denomination is made available to all, and unnecessary duplication is
avoided. From time to time work initiated within the U.R.C. is able to be used
by other Churches. In this Report we concentrate on those matters which
merit special attention.

Population Last year we reported briefly that we had a remit to undertake
some study on the theme of population trends and control and we drew
attention to a Report by the National Council of Social Service on this
subject. Since that time our Department has set up a small group to consider
15 whether anything further was needed and whether we as a denomination
could make any useful contribution. As a result of that group's work, it was
20 decided that there were sufficient books and pamphlets already available for
general reading or detailed study concerning population matters. It was also
felt that a detailed policy statement would not be helpful at this stage. On the
other hand this is an area of major concern in the world today and congrega-
25 tions ought to be engaging in study about it. The Department has therefore
commissioned the preparation of an aid to study on this theme; it will be
available in the autumn. The Department commends it to the churches and
hopes that groups will make use of it in studying one of the vital issues of
our day.

30 As a Department we are pleased to note that Her Majesty's Government has
appointed a Minister responsible for Population Affairs and established a
comprehensive Family Planning service as part of the National Health
Service. We draw to the attention of the Church the proposed United Nations
conference on World Population to be held in August of this year, which is
35 World Population Year. Our resolutions invite the Assembly to commend
Governmental action to date and to urge the Government to take a full and
constructive part in the proposed conference. The Church has demonstrated
its concern for World Development, as the next paragraphs show; it must
equally be concerned about rising world population, since the two subjects
40 are inter-related. This concern for what is happening in other countries
cannot be isolated from trends in our own country. Population issues and
environmental problems will be increasingly a matter of deep concern for
the Church in the coming decade.

World Development

1% Appeal Following the resolutions at last year's Assembly many churches have presented the 1% Appeal to their members and Christian Aid has been receiving the results of the Appeal throughout the Winter and Spring. The list of projects in the "Hands to the Plough" leaflet was added to in anticipation of a generous response from contributors, and by the time of the Assembly we hope to be able to report the final total. In addition to the money for the projects overseas, related to the work of Christian Aid and the Council for World Mission, many churches and individuals arranged to send one-tenth of their contributions to the World Development Movement to support its educational and political work on which the Department relies for up-to-date information and suggestions for action. The result has been considerable U.R.C. support for the World Development Movement, and we hope that other churches will find ways of offering comparable support.

Consultations with Christian Aid and the Council for World Mission, have taken place and the Appeal projects for this year have been agreed and printing of leaflets, posters, envelopes and orders of service is already in hand. We hope to be able to send literature and order forms to the churches in the June Information Service. We hope that in presenting the Appeal to their members the churches will again consider allocating one-tenth of the money to the World Development Movement.

Political Action Many churches participated in the Europe '73 Programme in the Autumn of last year, presenting the petition to their members and taking part in the subsequent meetings with Members of Parliament. Some churches also corresponded with their M.P. about the Government's overseas aid targets urging for a British acceptance of the U.N. target for official government aid of 0.7%. Where churches have not so far been in correspondence with their M.P. on this matter we urge them to do so.

B.C.C. Development Group A Development Advisory Group has been appointed to assist the Divisions of the B.C.C. with matters relating to world development. At the April meeting of the B.C.C. the Group presented a paper setting out a series of political objectives which it is hoped the churches would be willing to press upon the Government. Churches wanting copies of the document can obtain them from the Department office. The Department will send further information about these objectives to the churches with suggestions for action, during the Autumn.

Broadcasting The Department has continued to sponsor participants in the familiarisation courses arranged by the Churches Radio and Television Centre at Bushey, and is grateful to the Coward and Kings Weigh House Trusts for their generous financial support. Conscious of the potential of local radio as a medium for the dissemination of news and ideas, the Department, through its Advisory Group on Broadcasting, sponsored a two-day training course at the London Churches Radio Workshop with the help of the Director, the Revd Eric Blennerhassett. It is hoped to be able to arrange a similar course in the North of England.

Industrial Mission The Department relies on the expert help of many individuals and specialist groups. From time to time the Department will bring to the Assembly a considered statement about a particular matter of interest and importance prepared against the background of experienced involvement and reflection.

In October, 1973 the Department arranged a Consultation for industrial chaplains, both full and part-time. A statement on industrial mission was prepared following the consultation and is submitted to the Assembly for the information of the churches:

STATEMENT ON THE NATURE AND OBJECTIVES OF INDUSTRIAL MISSION

History Although Industrial Mission may be said to have its antecedents in the work of the Anglican Industrial Christian Fellowship, the work as it is now conceived and structured began during the last war, when one or two clergy visited some Royal Ordnance Factories.

Since then, and particularly in the 1960's the work rapidly developed. Now there are Industrial Missions in most of the industrial cities and areas in the country and in many lands overseas. The work, though mainly initiated by the Church of England, is now ecumenical in its operations.

Sociological Context Modern Urban society is a fragmented community, its institutions and organisations having largely developed autonomously. There is, however, a growing recognition of the interdependence of the various areas of life in the modern world. The Church and church life is also part of the fragmentation, its ministry mainly exercised in the residential community. The Church needs to exercise ministry and prophecy within and to the other communities, organisations and corporations of society, and especially Industry which is so pervasive and influential, and which largely shapes our whole society and the lives of people within it.

Industrial Mission therefore is part of the Church's response in ministry and mission in the rapidly changing world of today, and may be said to be fulfilling a research and development role within the Church, as well as an operational presence within the industrial world.

Some Theological principles underlying the work of Industrial Mission

- (a) The activity of God in creation and redemption is as it has always been, but it has to be discerned and revealed today in the secular context, as well as in religious and ecclesiastical structures.
- (b) This means that God's creation, man's response and fall, God's redemption—death (Crucifixion) and resurrection—are to be discerned within the institutions and activities of people in secular society, if we are sensitive enough to perceive it; and particularly within the world of work which is a primary response of man to God.
- (c) This means that modern secular society and the realities of corporate and organisational power have to be understood, if we are to discover and respond to what God is doing with and within His world.

- (d) The Church has to present a vision of the Kingdom of God, and attempt to reveal and create models of response to God in terms of coherent human community in an increasingly depersonalised and incoherent world.
- 5 (e) Industrial Mission works within this whole understanding and context, but is particularly concerned perceptively to penetrate the industrial and working environment in all its aspects.

Industrial Mission Objectives

- 10 (a) – To establish a continuing relationship between the Church and industrial companies and supporting organisations (trade unions, employers organisations, professional and management bodies etc) with mutual accountability and dialogue.
- 15 (b) – Feedback to the Church to help it to understand the human and social issues and problems of people at work; and to help the Church to structure its roles to serve them more effectively.
- (c) – To help industry to appreciate the significance of the Christian values, ethics and morality within the industrial context.
- 20 (d) – To support and counsel people who are involved in industrial problems, especially when they are under pressure and caught up in morally ambiguous situations.
- (e) – To cross the barriers and demarcations which divide people, and groups of people, in industry, to encourage understanding between them.
- 25 (f) – To help people in industry to interpret their own experience, to evaluate their work and responsibility, and to assess all their activity in terms of the wider needs of the community and in its long-term and global implications.
- (g) – Servicing Christians in industry to help them both to articulate and to make effective witness to their faith.

30 U.R.C. Involvement

- (a) About 200 Chaplains, full or part-time, are engaged in this work in the U.K. Most of them are Anglicans, but there is a fair proportion of other denominations.
- 35 (b) About 30 U.R.C. Ministers are involved, including four full-time, two of whom are Industrial Mission Team Leaders.
- 40 (c) The U.R.C. has thus a small but significant involvement. Moreover, the U.R.C. may be expected to make a particular contribution to this work arising from the understanding and practice of Churchmanship in the uniting denominations. This would include the active role of the laity and the servicing role of the minister, the encouragement for Christians to respond and act effectively in local situations, and the strong social awareness and commitment inherent in the Free Church tradition.

National Health Service On 1st April, 1974 there was a major reorganisation of the National Health Service. The Department prepared a background

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paper to help churches to understand the new structures which are based upon Regional and Area Authorities. In the new system the interests of the general public are represented in the Community Health Councils and in December the Department wrote to all U.R.C. District Council Secretaries⁵ telling them of the need for prompt action on the part of the churches if they wanted to play their part in the reorganised N.H.S. The Department intends to call a consultation of U.R.C. participants in the Community Health Councils after they have been functioning for about a year, to see how the new system is working and how Christians can be constructively involved in it. To this¹⁰ end the Department would like to receive the names of any U.R.C. people known to be members of the Community Health Councils.

Politics Following reports from the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Institute for International Relations, the Sussex Laymen's Forum has assisted the Department by studying the problems raised by the Church's involvement¹⁵ in politics. These problems are particularly acute in the local churches where controversial matters can so easily divide a congregation into factions which relate to political sympathies rather than to a Christian appraisal of the issues involved. For this and a variety of other reasons many local churches are reluctant to discuss political questions at all. The Department intends to²⁰ continue its study of this matter and would be pleased to involve local churches, District Councils and Province committees in its discussions. Study material can be made available to those who are prepared to co-operate in this vital question for our Department.

Energy Crisis In December, 1973, the officers of the British Council of²⁵ Churches issued a statement on the energy crisis. In discussing this at a Department meeting we were aware that this was not the best way to comment on a complex and controversial subject but at the same time we recognised with appreciation that the officers were concerned that the Church should speak out on an issue of such national importance. When we were³⁰ meeting the situation was even more grave but we felt that anything we might say as a Department would be very quickly outdated. The B.C.C. statement went to the root of the matter in saying, "The only genuine way of reconciliation is to negotiate a fresh 'social contract' among the principal groups in our society." But it is difficult to envisage how this could be³⁵ accomplished. In order to move in that direction we need a fundamental change in society affecting all its members. Our acquisitiveness has led us in the wrong direction and has made us concentrate too exclusively on the economic questions. The concept of economic growth as the all important desirable end in our society is now being questioned. Such questioning takes⁴⁰ into account other issues raised by ecologists who remind us that many of the earth's material resources are limited and largely non-renewable.

Whilst as a Department we did not think it would be helpful to make a public statement in the midst of the crisis, we did not think it right that we should disregard it simply on the grounds of complexity. If we are to work for a⁴⁵ better society we need to learn from such crises. With this in mind we have asked a group of ministers and laymen to look at some of the underlying assumptions of our acquisitive society and to question them in the light of the

energy crisis. We are not looking to this group for a lengthy report but for some short generally agreed statements of principle which might challenge our membership to look at the basis of our society in the light of the gospel. We cannot be honest in our discipleship as followers of Jesus if we are not
5 prepared to speak and act for a more just society.

Investments Following our Report last year on the subject of investment in Southern Africa, our Department has had consultations with representatives of the Finance Department and the World Church and Mission Department, and informal contacts with the Council for World Mission. We express our
10 thanks to all the representatives who took part and particularly to the Finance Department representatives who were most helpful in providing background information to assist us in our discussions. We looked at some of the written material already available on this subject. The Church of Scotland has presented a detailed report on the ethics of investment, contrasting the
15 Church's traditional attitude towards gambling with an evaluation of stock exchange activity which, it concludes, is a reasonable way to earn one's living, although it can be abused by those who try for a quick killing and in effect use the Stock Exchange as a gamble. The report must be seen as part of a continuing debate about capitalism. We recognise that much reappraisal is
20 necessary and we welcome the B.C.C.'s initiative in setting up an Economic Study Group to help the churches to engage in this wider debate more effectively.

A British Council of Churches' pamphlet and another by the Board for Social Responsibility of the Church of England, on Investment in Southern
25 Africa, are investigating in detail one aspect of investment by asking what is a responsible Christian attitude to investment in a situation where there is clearly economic injustice. In the B.C.C. pamphlet the summary and conclusions include:

- 30 "3. Pressure on firms, through the expression of public opinion, and by discussion between shareholders and management, can produce some valuable results, in improvements in conditions of work.
4. However much energy may be expended in seeking to improve the policies of firms in Southern Africa, and we do not underestimate its importance, the ideology and practice of Apartheid, racial discrimination
35 and exploitation of black labour, will not be eradicated by this means.
5. If Christians in Britain are to be deeply involved in various forms of action for improvement in human conditions in Southern Africa an instrument needs to be created by the churches, adequately staffed
40 and ecumenical in nature.
6. We feel that there is a strong case for attempting first to get companies to seek for improvements in Southern Africa. If these efforts are ultimately unsuccessful, then we believe that withdrawal should be sought. We feel that there is a strong case for immediate withdrawal,
45 without waiting for a process of pressure for reform, but incline to believe that a genuine effort to exercise pressure is one of the tasks for the Churches here"

The Board for Social Responsibility, in its pamphlet, says that there are three clear options: the first is to sell out; the second is to increase investment in order to raise the standard of living in the country as a whole; the third is to exploit the opening given by investment to try to force changes in the practice of companies operating in South Africa. It questions the wisdom of the W.C.C. approach of withdrawal on the grounds that others less enlightened may take over the investments. It recognises that those who argue for greater investment in order to raise standards can be contradicted on the grounds that the economic history of the last twenty years does not bear out the case. It is also aware that the third approach is hindered by the lack of knowledge amongst company directors of some of the more obnoxious features of South African industrial life but adds that much more information has been made available recently and this is leading to the asking of many questions even at a purely business level. The Report then says:

“9. The Revd Gonville French-Beytagh, former Dean of Johannesburg, has recently undertaken studies into the question under the auspices of the Board for Social Responsibility’s Committee on International Affairs, together with the Institute for Social Research. He has concluded that the lot of the African can be substantially improved, and the danger of violence reduced, if action is taken now, not only by British investors but also by British trade unions.”

The Report proceeds to give his recommendations.

It is less easy for the United Reformed Church to take a decisive stand with regard to investments because our investments in this sphere are small by comparison with other denominations and insignificant compared with many institutional investors. In ex-Congregational funds, there is £1,830,000 and in ex-Presbyterian funds £1,630,000. Of these, something less than half is held in equities. No investments are held in respect of companies operating solely on the African continent. In one firm there is a 40% interest in South Africa; in some of the large organisations there is a 10% interest. Taking the equity portfolio as a whole the amount invested directly in South Africa is probably well under 5%.

Nevertheless, we recognise that there is a point of principle at stake here. We appreciate the strength of the argument that investments should be used in order to improve the situation in South Africa. Whilst recognising the symbolic value of withdrawal, we share the view that this leaves the field open to less scrupulous investors. We echo the pamphlets we have quoted, therefore, in calling for more study by the churches of the issues concerned so that we can go to the fullest extent possible in the use of existing investments for the improvement of industrial and economic conditions for black people in South Africa. We hope that the B.C.C. suggestions of an ecumenical instrument which can act on behalf of the churches will come to fruition and that we shall play our full part in it, recognising that this will include a financial contribution.

Looking at the question of investment in South Africa led us into a more general discussion about the ethics of investment. We realise that our investors feel a responsibility to realise as high as possible a financial return in order to keep faith with those who have given money and to keep faith with

the church which needs funds if it is to carry on the work it has to do. This general aim has been subject to certain negative factors, such as avoiding investments in drink, gambling or tobacco. Looking to the future, we should like to see much more stress on positive factors in investment. This would
5 involve investment in socially worthwhile projects even though these may not yield as high a return as other investments. We hope that there will be an examination of the possibility of investing in worthwhile housing projects in this country or in a development fund to help third world countries. The latter possibility is being investigated by a number of organisations and we shall be
10 interested to hear their conclusions.

Capital must be recognised as a power which can be used for good or evil. Negative factors combat the latter; positive factors should stress the former. Much more thought needs to be given to the ways in which this power for good—the right use of capital—can be used by the Church. In saying this we
15 recognise that far more capital in the United Reformed Church is controlled regionally or locally than nationally. It is therefore important that synods, church meetings and individual members should be concerned with this issue. Nationally we can do some of the thinking and help to find the right way forward in our national investment policy but we hope that the Church at
20 every level will share in this process.

In investment policy as in other matters the Church should never become an inward-looking body concerned only with its own well-being. To use capital not only to meet our own real needs but also creatively to support worthwhile projects is to keep faith with the person who gives capital to
25 the Church and also to keep faith with God by whose grace we have the funds of which we are stewards. We should be wrong to disregard the responsibility which our investors have, in assisting the Church to meet its commitments in a world of rapidly rising costs; we should be wrong also not to seek ways in which we can invest in socially worthwhile projects in order that we might
30 play our part in bringing about a more just society. Jesus Christ's role in society was positive; His followers cannot sacrifice principle to expediency. The incisiveness of Christ's teaching applies as much to our investment policy as to other matters. Some Christians in business, particularly in the sphere of investment, are more aware of all this than we give them credit for. Many
35 are ready to take a fresh look at the ethics of investment. We should give them all the encouragement and support that we can.

(Publications: *Church of Scotland* Report of the Committee on Moral Welfare to the General Assembly, 1973. "Gambling and Money Ethics".

40 *Board for Social Responsibility* "Investment in South Africa: Challenge for the Church" 11p.

British Council of Churches. Dept. of International Affairs, and Conference of British Missionary Societies. "Investment in Southern Africa" 12p.)

45 **South Africa** Our main concern this year has been with the question of Investments but we have also drawn to the attention of Her Majesty's

Government, previous resolutions of the Church on the question of arms sales to South Africa. We were interested to see the B.C.C. pamphlet on "Emigration to South Africa". We recognise that any campaign to discourage emigration there may have the unfortunate result of dissuading liberal elements whilst
5 having no effect on more reactionary elements. The pamphlet recognises that danger but argues strongly that white workers should think twice about emigrating to South Africa because they are depriving black workers of jobs and economic advancement. Congregations will find the pamphlet very helpful in any study of the subject.

10 We are conscious that the Christian Institute has been facing a testing time in South Africa. The organisation is internationally known and respected because of its work for reconciliation amongst the races. The officers have refused to testify to the Schlebusch Commission since they deemed that any enquiry should be an open one. The Commission meets in secret, does not
15 disclose the identity of witnesses, does not disclose the nature of their evidence, gives no right of refutation, allows no right of defence. Because of their stand the officers have been faced with imprisonment, fines and banning. The spectacle of a government allowing the imposition of such penalties to people who have simply refused to testify to a Commission which meets in
20 secret is the most eloquent defence of the courageous people who have taken that stand. Our Executive Committee agreed to send greetings to the Christian Institute. No doubt the Assembly would wish to echo those greetings and to assure the officers and members of the Christian Institute of our prayers and support.

25 **Taiwan** During the year we have met with representatives of the World Church and Mission Department, the Church of Scotland and other persons to express our continuing concern for Taiwan and to seek ways in which we could encourage those who are working to establish the right of the people of Taiwan to choose the form of government for their island. One result of a
30 meeting we held with Taiwanese nationals and representatives of the German churches, has been a European Consultation on "Salvation Today for the People in Formosa (Taiwan)" held in Wuppertal at the beginning of March. A number of U.R.C. ministers were amongst the speakers. As a Department we were happy to act as sponsors of the Conference and to make a financial
35 contribution to assist British participation. We continue to hope that our own government will play its part in making possible an internationally supervised referendum in Taiwan to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants there, in order that the status of Taiwan may be determined in accordance with those wishes.

40 **Chile** On September 11th, 1973, in a military coup, the democratically elected government in Chile was overthrown. President Allende, refusing to surrender, lost his life when the Presidential palace was bombed. Since that time many people have lost their lives as a result of the coup; some estimates put the death toll as high as twenty thousand.

45 It is a matter of deep concern to Christian people that a constitutional and democratically elected government should be overthrown in this way. It is regrettable that so much could happen and yet so little be said by the

Church in this country. This is partly explained by the fact that amongst the churches of the British Council of Churches there is little expertise in that area of the world compared with other areas. It is all the more important that those with knowledge of the situation should speak out. We therefore
5 welcome the publication by the Catholic Institute for International Relations of a leaflet on Chile in their 'Comment' series. In it, a brief resume of the history of Chile is given, leading up to the struggle for power between the right and the left in the election of 1970 when Salvador Allende, leading a coalition of the left was elected President. Comment says concerning the coup:

10 "The violent overthrow of the government in Chile is of particular concern to Christians involved in the problems of development. A political experiment of great significance has been aborted. In Popular Unity, groups of Christians took part with socialists and communists in a government which genuinely
15 sought by constitutional and parliamentary means to achieve social justice for all its citizens. It courageously confronted the root causes of underdevelopment—the dependency of Chile on foreign business corporations, the privilege of the oligarchy and the gross inequalities in Chilean society—and engaged the participation of the mass of the people in this process of change. Allende's overthrow was not a popular rising—it was a
20 seizure of power by those whose economic interests were diametrically opposed to this search for social justice."

Our own Government surely acted prematurely in giving recognition to the military Government in Chile so soon after the overthrow of the democratically
25 elected government. It was also regrettable that some Chilean nationals were not allowed to stay in this country at a time of great danger and uncertainty in their own country. Hospitality to political refugees is something for which we have been well known in this country. It is a reputation we should be sorry to lose.

30 We hope that our church members will take the trouble to find out more about the situation in Chile and other parts of Latin America. Such books as "The Twenty Latin Americas" by Marcel Niedergang (Pelican, 2 vols.) contains much useful information and the C.I.I.R. leaflet will be helpful to any groups studying the subject.

Renewal These, then, are the subjects to which we have given particular
35 attention during the year, but we have also begun to ask fundamental questions about our Department, the Church and the way in which we act. We firmly believe that our Church which has experienced union must also be experiencing renewal. We need to look at our structure and ask whether it is right for the task to which God is calling us; we need to assess our work asking
40 whether our priorities are right. These deep questions will concern us very much in the coming year as we consider ways in which our own Department can take its part in the renewal of the Church. Reports and resolutions in themselves are not very important. A Department's worth must be judged by the way in which it helps the people of God to be better disciples of Jesus
45 Christ in their service and proclamation to a needy world. To achieve that aim we need the co-operation and help of the membership of the Church at every level and, above all, each of us needs the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Population

1. The Assembly welcomes the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of a Minister responsible for Population Affairs, and the establishment of a comprehensive Family Planning Service as part of the National Health Service.
2. The Assembly welcomes the initiative taken by the United Nations Organisation in designating 1974 as World Population Year, and urges Her Majesty's Government to play a full and constructive role, with the highest possible level of participation, in the U.N. World Population Conference in Bucharest in August, this year.
3. The Assembly encourages churches and individuals to study population issues and welcomes the proposed Study Kit on Population being prepared by the Church and Society Department.

Industrial Mission

- The Assembly commends the Statement on the Nature and Objectives of Industrial Mission to Synods, District Councils and the churches, for information and study, and urges them to find appropriate ways of recognising and supporting ministers who are engaged in industrial mission, and to find ways in which the insights learnt from engagement in industrial mission can be shared with other members of the churches.

Investments

1. The Assembly, whilst recognising that there are several responsible attitudes towards investment in South Africa, recommends the Finance Department to consider ways in which, in co-operation with other Churches and ecumenical organisations, we can press for improvements in labour conditions for black workers in South African firms in which we have investments.
2. With regard to future investment policy, the Assembly agrees that the general aim of financial advantage should be modified by positive and creative factors, enabling our investors to consider the investment of some funds in socially worthwhile projects which may not yield the highest financial return.
3. Recognising that more funds in the United Reformed Church are controlled regionally and locally than nationally, the Assembly urges synods and church meetings to consider carefully and prayerfully how the funds at their disposal should be invested in the light of Christian social responsibility.

South Africa

- The Assembly sends its greetings to the Christian Institute in South Africa and assures the officers and members of our prayers and support at this testing time.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Mr. L. R. Palmer

Secretary: The Revd E. W. Todd

The accounts for 1973 together with a commentary are being printed separately, but we hope these will be circulated with these reports.

Last year, Assembly approved a central budget for 1974 which involved an increase in giving of 25%. Provincial and District Treasurers have been involved in a great deal of work in sharing out the burden among individual churches and it would be idle to pretend that there have been no problems. How successful our first attempt at a Unified Appeal will be is something about which we can only speculate at this stage. What is certain is that the viability of the United Reformed Church depends on the support from local churches.

Regular discussions between Provincial Treasurers and the Department continue. One element of these discussions has been to consider the framework for the 1975 Budget and we have decided that we must endeavour to hold expenditure at the 1974 level, despite the inevitability of higher costs due to inflation. Details of the budget are not included in the printed Report to Assembly but will be circulated separately. Of course, it is most unlikely we could hold expenditure down for a further year (in 1976) unless there were a virtual end to inflation.

An important matter for discussion at Assembly this year will be the outlines of a unified scheme for ministerial remuneration. If this is approved in principle, details will be worked out in time for final approval in 1975. There are other important aspects of the work of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for consideration, not least being the extension of the arrangements for housing ministers in retirement and the widows of ministers.

Members of Assembly will also be invited to authorise the Department to work out a detailed scheme for making professional advice available for development projects and for the setting up of a Development Fund. Participation in these arrangements would, of course, be optional but it does seem important to ensure that we can re-deploy the property resources which we have inherited to best advantage.

The work of the Department in 1973 has been handicapped by staff difficulties and we are grateful to the permanent staff for their heroic efforts in keeping the business under control and to the voluntary workers who have lent a hand. More and more, Provinces, Districts and Churches are seeking help and advice and the Department is glad to give it, so far as its resources permit. It was not until October 1973 that the new Chief Accountant, Mr. Peter Thorne, F.C.I.S., took up duties and the integration of processes has not proceeded as fast as we had hoped. We have simplified the banking arrangements and computerised the payroll service, but much else remains to be done.

Reports from the various Committees of the Department are set out below.

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd John White

Secretary: The Revd E. W. Todd

The continuing inflationary situation with which we have to contend demands a revision of the basic minimum stipend if this is not to fall further behind the general level. Having regard to the terms of Phase III of the Government Pay Policy, the Committee recommends that as from 1st July 1974, the basic stipend should be increased by £120 per annum at each grade, so that as from that date the basic scale will be:—

0—10 years of service	£1,320
14—20 " " "	£1,370
Over 20 years of service	£1,420

For the time being, other provisions in the former Congregational scheme (Children's Allowances and Car Schemes in Group pastorates) will remain as at present, with the exception that in the case of a minister-owned car in a Group pastorate, we propose an increase in the £90 allowance (for tax, insurance, etc.) to £120, as from 1st July, 1974. We have also endeavoured to see that the allowances for out-of-pocket expenses for those ministers where help is needed from the Maintenance of the Ministry funds are more realistic.

Under the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund, an increase in the assessment will be necessary from 1st January 1975 of 02p per pound of Congregational income.

Work is proceeding on a Unified scheme of Ministerial Remuneration and it is hoped to produce for the Assembly the first draft of such a scheme.

Pension Arrangements A Working Party has been busy on the subject of pension arrangements and a report is being presented to the Assembly. Both the Presbyterian Ministers and Widows and Orphans Pension Fund and the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund are being actuarially valued as at 31st December last.

A valuation of the Pastors' Superannuation and Pastors' Widows Funds has been completed and application is being made to the Charity Commissioners for an increase in the benefits under these two funds.

Housing in Retirement This matter has been receiving urgent attention and a report is before the Assembly and authority is sought for the immediate launching of a scheme to tackle this very pressing and human problem. (See Appendix I).

Other Matters As we have worked together in the United Church, certain anomalies have come to light; one such is the grants or loans available for car purchase and grants for their running expenses, for the ministers of certain listed ex-Presbyterian Churches in rural areas. The interests of those already in receipt of such grants or loans have been preserved but notification has been given that no further commitments in this way can be entered into. The need must be met more generally within the terms of a new Unified Scheme of Ministerial Remuneration.

Further, while the former Congregational Church had laid down certain criteria for determining what constituted the full-time scoping of a pastorate, in the former Presbyterian Church, the granting of leave to call a minister was in the hands of the Presbytery, but subject always to the approval of the Adjustment Committee appointed by the Assembly. With the coming of the United Church, this procedure has naturally changed; the initiative now must lie in the first instance with the District Council and thereafter with the Provincial Synod; the arrangements should then be reported to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for approval.

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TREASURERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. K. W. Thorndyke

Secretary: The Revd E. W. Todd

The Treasurership Committee has continued to fulfil its responsibilities in regard to the oversight of the various funds and property and of the accounting procedure, and special reference is made to three points.

15

Expenses of Assembly Members During the year, by the action of the Executive Committee, the number of members of the Assembly has been increased by over 100, thereby adding to the cost of travelling to and from the Assembly a possible additional £1,500. We were asked to consider also a variation in the scale of expenses, to take account of meals. In this connection, each additional £1 paid to a member would involve a possible increase in the total Assembly expenses of £750. At a time when we have little experience to draw on and we are faced by the need for economy, the Committee decided to recommend no alteration in the present basis. This does not of course preclude further consideration of this matter in the future.

20

25

Investments Whilst the policy of amalgamating the two portfolios of investments into a single entity is a long range intention, the regular review of each Fund by the Committee is operating well. Prior to each meeting the advisers acting on behalf of the two stockbrokers consult together and recommendations are submitted for consideration.

30

Urgent matters are bound to arise in between meetings and a Sub-Committee has authority to deal with these; policy changes, if necessary, can be made with the agreement of the Treasurer.

Care of Property This is an important aspect of the Committee's work and arrangements have been made for Moderators' and staff houses to be inspected annually and a system initiated to approve the expenditure on necessary repairs.

35

UNIFIED APPEAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. G. Vaughan Davis

Secretary: Mr. J. W. Paterson

40

The budget for 1975 has been prepared by the Officers of the Department and after consultation with other Departments and interested people is presented

to the Assembly. To raise the necessary amount adequate presentation in the local churches will be essential; the Committee has given careful attention to the method of presentation and a poster (with explanatory notes) for each local church and leaflets for individual members are now in the course of preparation and it is hoped that these will be available before the Assembly meets.

DEVELOPMENT IN NEW AREAS AND CARE OF EXISTING CHURCH BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd R. G. Walker

10 *Secretary:* Mr. W. G. Nutley

The report to the last Assembly referred to the emerging pattern of the Committee's work. After a full year's working, this is being examined and appraised. During the year the Committee has dealt with numerous applications for financial help with schemes of church building and reconstruction. 15 The resources of the Committee are very small in comparison with the applications received; the latter can be dealt with only when the help available from all other sources is known. In particular, very little help is possible in regard to manses.

Where loans have been granted, these have been at a low rate of interest or 20 indeed in some cases at no interest; in view of present trends, this is a matter which must receive attention and wise stewardship may involve a drastic revision of this policy.

One matter calls for special report. The inflationary trend which continues has raised the value of the Church's sites and property; this makes possible 25 the re-developing of sites and the putting up of buildings better adapted to modern needs and, at the same time, releasing resources for work in other areas within the province. Two things are essential if this is to be done adequately.

1. There must be available expert advice in the varied local situations. 30 The Committee explored the possibility of appointing a full-time development officer but abandoned this idea on the grounds that we were unlikely to secure anyone with sufficient skill and experience. We propose, therefore, to seek the services of a consultant already working in this field and with the facilities of a firm at his disposal. His advice would be available to the Committee, 35 Synods, District Councils and local churches. The Committee would be responsible for commending the use of this advice and would generally supervise its operation. It would make the appointment and the consultant would be responsible to the Committee in the first instance.

2. There would also be necessary a flexible fund to enable the development to take place and to harvest for the Church the fruits of such a policy. The 40 Committee has had to take note of the Trust Deeds under which we operate, which restrict the use of funds obtained from the disposal of property to the general work of the Church within that Province. There is no reason, however, why the Province should not invest its funds in a Development Fund, provided

that this is done wisely. The Fund would be operated centrally and would be open to investments by appropriate central funds, Provinces and Districts, County Unions, Local Churches and other charitable trusts connected with the United Reformed Church. It would be available at the outset to provide⁵ finance for replacing the church premises within schemes that also include commercial and non-Church elements.

The Committee seeks authority in regard to both these proposals to proceed along the lines briefly set out above, after further consultation with the Legal Advisers and other experts.

10 **WELFARE AND EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Mr. R. J. S. Green

Secretary: The Revd A. L. Macarthur

During the year the Welfare and Emergencies Committee has continued to operate the Funds from both the uniting Churches that are under its¹⁵ care, and is taking steps towards their closer alignment. It has been possible to ease some personal needs of ministers and widows, to give some assistance with the education of manse children, and on a very limited scale to help people outside these categories. It has also been able to give some small support to Ministers' Summer Schools. The Welfare Appeal which was²⁰ addressed primarily to ex-Congregational churches had a good response and, together with money from the ex-Presbyterian Unified Appeal, enabled the Committee to distribute well over £10,000. The warmth of letters received in acknowledgement made clear the importance of continuing this service. The Committee will therefore be vigilant to see that this object is properly²⁵ stressed in the presentation of the new Unified Appeal in 1974.

LEGAL AND TRUST COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. K. M. Kirby

Secretary: The Revd A. L. Macarthur

The Committee met in December 1973 and considered a number of matters of³⁰ legal concern to the United Reformed Church. The Committee received a report on the negotiations for the apportionment of central Congregational funds with the non-uniting Churches, under which a general formula had been accepted. It was also reported that the Assembly had appointed new Directors of C.U.E.W. Inc. and a new method of working had been established.

³⁵ Arrangements were made for the preparation of Model Rules as a guide for consideration by local churches.

The position of the two central trust corporations, C.U.E.W. Inc. and the P.C.E. Trust was reviewed. It was agreed to recommend that their management functions should be entrusted to the same set of persons and that other⁴⁰ amendments might be desirable. The idea of establishing now a new trust corporation was rejected on the ground of the considerable expense that

would be involved in the transfer to it of existing properties. The position for the future was to be worked out in more detail by the Legal Advisers and then considered further.

Incorporated County Unions may have certain difficulties because of the new provincial structure and steps were agreed with a view to ascertaining and helping to resolve any such difficulties.

The legal implications which would arise if the conversations with the Churches of Christ were successful were considered and it was generally agreed that further legislation would be necessary.

The Committee appreciated the difficulties which faced the Legal Advisers when asked to complete schemes for local unions of U.R.C. and other Churches and for which the Sharing of Church Buildings Act was not fully appropriate. The Legal Advisers agreed to give further thought to the nature of the further legislation which was desirable. The Committee is presently of the opinion that theological and ecclesiastical agreements must first be reached as to what these united churches are held to be before legislation can be prepared for presentation to Parliament.

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd R. T. Brooks

Secretary: Mr. P. W. Bush

The health of the U.R.C. demands both a ready flow of information among its members and open lines of communications between the Church and the society in which it lives. To promote and service this traffic is the business of the Committee. In this it is well served by its three Sub-Committees and the Publicity Group. Printing and paper supply difficulties and the need to use changed formats have added to the work of the office, but a variety of responsibilities and interests have been drawn together with new responsibilities accepted.

Reform (Management) Sub-Committee

Reform is well established among the more progressive religious journals. Certified monthly sales figures for 1973 were nearly 33,000. Advertising revenue has been good. The accounts indicate a margin on a normal twelve months period after allowing for all direct costs, including wages, salaries and office overheads.

It was necessary to change printers during 1973. This resulted in a better looking production from the November 1973 issue, but increased the distribution difficulties. Monthly subscriptions for 1974 stand at 31,000, a drop of about 6% which, while allowed for in our budgeting, is cause for concern. Whatever promotion is done centrally we are heavily dependent on the work of our local distributors, and on readers commending the magazine to others. The Committee records its appreciation of the work done by the Editorial Board and the Editor in maintaining a well-balanced publication.

Tavistock Bookshop Sub-Committee

Mrs. O. Russell retired at the end of June, after 22 years distinguished service as Manager of the Bookshop. Mr. A. E. Hockley added the management of the Bookshop to his accounting duties, and Mr. D. Berry was promoted to Assistant Manager. Shortage of staff has placed an extra burden on the existing staff in their efforts to give a high standard of service.

Some alterations of the Bookshop premises have been introduced which improve facilities for customers and staff. An encouraging feature during the year has been the way in which Provincial Synods, conferences and others have taken advantage of the Bookshop facilities to provide bookstalls.

The accounts for the 15 months to 31st December 1973, show a surplus from which £2,100 has been transferred to the United Reformed Church. Churches and members are encouraged to make use of the Church's Bookshop, and are asked to bear in mind that all profits from this business enterprise go to the United Reformed Church.

General Publications and Services Sub-Committee

The Church's regular publications, including the Year Book, Diary, Reports to Assembly, various leaflets and booklets have been issued, not without serious difficulties and delays in some instances. Several new items have been published at the request of Departments of the Church or local churches. These include, Book of Order for Worship, The Manual, Transfer Notices, various certificates and leaflets. Wherever possible items are costed to ensure some financial return. The Information Service is regarded as an important means of communication, and the Committee would welcome comment from the churches. Maintenance of Church records and internal printing are ongoing responsibilities.

The Publicity Group . . .

has met every few weeks to sift through information from local churches, from Provinces and from the centre. A good deal of news has been channelled to Reform and some to the public media. A wider network of contacts in the Provinces would lead to wider coverage of the work and witness of the U.R.C.

RESOLUTIONS

Maintenance of the Ministry

1. *The Assembly resolves:*

5 that with effect from 1st July 1974 the minimum rate of stipend payable to a minister in full charge shall be:

- £1,320 per annum for the first ten years of service;
- £1,370 per annum for the next ten years;
- £1,420 per annum after twenty years.

2. *The Assembly resolves:*

- 10 i) that Rule 2 (1) of the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund be amended accordingly; and
- ii) that with effect from 1st January 1975, Rule 9 (i) of the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund be amended to read as follows:—

15 In order to provide the necessary funds for payment of the minimum stipend and children's allowances, the minimum required contribution to the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund from each congregation or joint pastorate shall be annually calculated on figures for the penultimate year, at the rate of £2.70 a member and £0.44 in the £ of the congregational income, from which income shall be excluded for purposes of such calculation amounts received as legacies, gifts in lieu of legacies, amounts spent on repairs and redecoration of church, church hall and manse and contributions to the

20 Fund in excess of the highest basic stipend.

3. *The Assembly resolves:*

25 that with effect from 1st July 1974 the minimum rates of stipend payable to a minister in a Scope (W) pastorate shall be:—

- £1,220 per annum during the first 10 years of ministerial service;
- £1,270 per annum during the next ten years of ministerial service;
- £1,320 per annum after 20 years of ministerial service.

and the Scope OV maximum shall be £1,000 per annum from 1st July 1974.

30 4. *The Assembly resolves:*

that grants from the fund of the former Congregational Church to retired list B Evangelists shall be paid at the same rates which apply to grants from the Pastors' Superannuation Fund, and gifts from the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund of the former Congregational Church to widows of list B Evangelists shall be paid at the

35 same rates which apply to grants from the Pastors' Widows Fund.

5. *The Assembly resolves:*

that for the year 1st July 1974—30th June 1975 the scale of Children's Allowances and the regulations of the Congregational Maintenance of Ministry Scheme as regards 'Other Earnings Deductible', definitions of 'scope' and 'pastoral expenses' and 'Car Schemes in Group Pastorates' shall remain as for the year 1st July 1973—

40 30th June 1974, except that in the case of a minister owned car the £90 allowance shall be increased to £120.

6. *The Assembly resolves:*

45 that in the year 1st July 1974 to 30th June 1975 the allocation from the Congregational Maintenance of the Ministry to the Support of the Ministry in Other Situations be £8,000.

7. *The Assembly resolves:*

that in each specialised ministry assisted by the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund of the former Congregational Church, the maximum initial charge on the Fund shall not normally exceed one half of the basic minimum stipend for up to ten years of service.

8. *The Assembly resolves:*

that for the purposes of the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund the basic minimum stipend for the year 1974/1975 shall be £1,320.

Maintenance of the Ministry—Housing in Retirement

10 1. *The Assembly Resolves:*

that a United Reformed Church Retired Ministers Housing Scheme be set up and that negotiations be entered into with the Retired Presbyterian Ministers Housing Society Ltd. and other bodies within the Church, with a view to co-ordinating the provision, allocation and administration of houses in retirement.

15 2. *The Assembly Resolves:*

that an appeal be launched forthwith for gifts or legacies (either of houses or money) for the housing of retired ministers, and that each Province be asked to further this appeal within its own bounds.

3. *The Assembly Resolves:*

20 that each Province be instructed to ascertain what, if any, Church land within its bounds would be suitable for housing development and to report to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee as soon as possible.

4. *The Assembly Resolves:*

25 that each Province be asked to consider the possibility of setting aside a proportion of monies coming in from the sale of property as a basis of a fund from which loans could be made to ministers at low rates of interest, to supplement such resources as the ministers had for the purchase of houses.

5. *The Assembly Resolves:*

30 that an approach be made to the Associations of Local Authorities with a view to facilitating the placing of ministers' names on the housing lists of Local Authorities before their retirement.

Treasurership

1. *The Assembly resolves:*

35 that the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1973 be received and adopted.

Development in New Areas and Care of Existing Church Buildings

1. *The Assembly welcomes:*

40 the report on the appointment of a Development Officer and the establishment of a Development Fund, and authorises the Finance and Administration Central Committee and the Development in New Areas and Care of Existing Church Buildings Committee to proceed along the lines set out in the report subject to the assurance that further consultation will take place with the Legal Advisers and other experts before the Fund is established. The Assembly asks that the terms and arrangements be reported to the next Assembly.

APPENDIX

REPORT ON HOUSING FOR RETIRED MINISTERS AND THE PROBLEM AND THE RESOURCES AT PRESENT AVAILABLE

Ministers' Widows

⁵ Enquiry has been made through the Provinces as to probable retirements and the resources available. It is expected that between 1973 and 1977 a total of 210 ministers will retire and that a minimum of 20 dwellings will be required during each of these years. To meet this need, the resources at present available are as follows:—

- ¹⁰ 1. **Fen Place**—with accommodation for 30 persons in the house itself and with 4 bungalows built in the grounds, suitable for a minister and his wife. Planning permission has been obtained for other such bungalows, but action was deferred partly because of the union of the two Churches, and partly because of the need for overall planning, and a consideration
¹⁵ of the need in all its aspects.

Fen Place has, in the past, admitted both Presbyterian and Congregational ministers and ministers' widows. It has been agreed also that non-uniting ministers, or the widows of such, shall be eligible on the same terms as others.

- ²⁰ 2. **Housing, bungalows and flats left to the Church for this purpose**
Intimation has been received of about 61 properties left either to CUEW Incorporated or to the Incorporated County Unions: 12 are already available; a further 19 properties were left to the former Presbyterian Church and are owned by the "Retired Presbyterian Ministers Housing
²⁵ Society Ltd." Other properties have been willed for this purpose.

In the case of those properties owned by the Church, each is let to a retired minister or the widow of a minister at a modest rent, the tenant being responsible for interior decoration.

- ³⁰ 3. **Several legacies** have been received for the purchase of property and notification has been received of the intention to leave money for this purpose.

Means of Approaching the Problem

- a) **Savings Schemes** With the stipends being as low as they are and with the rapid expansion of inflation, it is doubtful whether ministers would be
³⁵ able to put aside sufficient out of such stipend to be able to buy a house on retirement.

- b) **Loan Funds** At least two provinces have created loan funds whereby ministers might borrow a sum towards or in respect of the purchase of a house, but here again inflation will defeat these objects and even if loans
⁴⁰ could be made available the interest charges or repayments would probably be more than a retired minister on a pension would be able to meet.

- c) **Joint Ownership of Houses** The house for the retired minister and his wife to be owned jointly by them and the Church, the house to belong to

the Church on the death of the survivor of the retired minister and his wife.

This will depend on the amount of money that a minister has available and obviously by agreement with the Church. Some ministers have expressed interest in this idea.

5 Provision of Accommodation to be Rented

1. Local Authorities Ministers might be willing to occupy flats provided by local authorities and have their names put on the housing list before retirement. A further suggestion was that agreement might be reached whereby a minister who had worked in one place, but for various reasons wished to retire to another, might have his name transferred from one local authority to another. It seemed that the Association of Local Authorities might be willing to consider such a suggestion. It has been suggested, however, that not every minister might feel happy about going into a Council flat.

2. Help the Aged Help the Aged, which provides purpose-built schemes for elderly people, are anxious to obtain sites, and have approached the United Reformed Church with a view to using sites belonging to churches for housing projects. Freehold would remain with the churches: ground rent, agreed by the District Valuer and periodically reviewed, would be paid for the period of the lease. The Association would offer nomination rights in respect of an agreed proportion of the houses built to the Church. These nomination rights would be pooled nationally, so that rights claimable in one locality might be exercised in another.

This scheme would require only the contribution of land—no capital sum would be required. Retired ministers would pay the appropriate rental, if necessary applying to the local authority for assistance under the terms of the current Rent Act.

3. The British Church's Housing Trust This Trust advises charitable housing associations on the way in which they can provide more low cost homes throughout the country and one particular aspect of their work is to encourage Churches to sell surplus sites to these associations and by making such land available to encourage such associations to provide homes for those working for or retiring from the Church; and where an association purchases a Church site a restrictive covenant can be included in the Conveyance that a number of flats or units should be reserved in perpetuity for retired ministers.

Meeting the Need

Accommodation should be available in most parts of the country in order to meet the needs of the various Provinces and also where facilities (shopping, transport etc.) are good and where the fellowship of a local church may be enjoyed. Further the maximum use should be made of retired ministers to serve the churches in various capacities. It seems clear that when properties are available they should be let on a fair rent basis, the occupant applying for assistance if his circumstances warrant it.

To this end, the Assembly is asked to authorise an appeal to the Church for gifts and legacies, either financial or of property, for this purpose, each Province being asked to further this appeal within its bounds. In addition,

each Province would be asked :—

- i) to consider the possibility of setting aside a proportion of the money resulting from the sale of property as the basis of a loan fund—to supplement the resources of a minister or the widow of a minister.
- ii) to ascertain what, if any, Church land within its bounds was suitable for housing development and to send a report to the Committee as soon as possible.

In addition, the Committee will undertake to approach local Authorities through the appropriate Association with a view to securing favourable consideration for ministers in regard to Local Authority housing lists.

- 10 The Committee is sure that an appeal to the members of the Church will receive an immediate and sympathetic hearing.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

- 15 During 1973 the Research Secretaries have dealt with a large number of enquiries. There has been a certain number of visitors to the Library, but the Librarian's chief task has been the checking of the catalogue and shelf arrangement of books following the removal of the Library to its present location. Two issues of the Journal have been produced, the second containing
20 among other items the Annual Lecture given on May 7th by the Society's President, the Revd Geoffrey F. Nuttall, M.A., D.D., on "Chandler, Doddridge and the Archbishop: A Study in Eighteenth Century Ecumenism".

The Council met three times during the year, the main subjects for discussion being on how to make the Society better known, and how to increase its
25 membership and the use of its Library and other resources, for example, the Marquis Fund for 19th century research on the Free Churches. The help of all members of the Society in these matters will be greatly appreciated.

Consideration has been and is still being given to the effects of the higher costs of printing and postages on the Society's financial position and it may
30 be considered necessary to place recommendations before the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in May.

The following is an analysis of the Society's membership at December, 1973 :

	<u>U.K.</u>	<u>Overseas</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ordinary members	272	17	289
Life members	67	8	75
Total	339	25	364
Local churches	174	2	176
Libraries, etc.	28	8	36
Total members	541	35	576
40 Libraries which receive or purchase Journals	14	41	55

The Council wishes to express sincere thanks to all who have helped in the work of the Society during the year, especially the Editors, Research Secretaries, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Auditor.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

(Proposed Amendments will be submitted to the Assembly on
6th May, 1974)

Questions

- 5 1. (i) A member may :
- (a) if two clear days' notice in writing has been given to the General Secretary ask the Moderator or the Chairman of any Committee any question on any matter relating to the business of the Assembly to which no reference is made in any report before the Assembly ; and
- 10 (b) with the permission of the Moderator put to him or to the Chairman of any Committee any questions relating to urgent business of which such notice has not been given, but a copy of any such question shall, if possible, be handed to the General Secretary at the beginning of the morning session of the Assembly at which the question is to be asked.
- 15 (ii) Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

Notices of Motion

2. (i) A Provincial Synod may deliver to the General Secretary not less than six clear weeks before the commencement of the annual meeting of the Assembly notice in writing of a motion for consideration at the Assembly.
- 20 (ii) No such notice shall be accepted if the question raised is the subject of any report to the same Assembly, or is capable of being raised as an amendment to any report before the Assembly, or has been the subject of any decision given by the Assembly within the preceding two years.
- 25 (iii) Any accepted notice shall first be considered by the appropriate Committee which shall report to the Assembly thereon. The report of the Committee shall appear on the Agenda of the Assembly with the notice of motion.
- (iv) If the report of a Committee cannot be brought before the Assembly immediately following the receipt of the notice, then the notice and report shall be placed on the agenda for the next following Assembly unless the subject matter is otherwise to be considered by the Assembly but if the Provincial Synod giving the notice considers that the notice raises a question which merits urgent consideration then the notice shall stand referred to the Business Committee.
- 30 (v) If a church or a District Council wishes to put forward a motion for consideration by the General Assembly then they shall submit the motion to the Provincial Synod for consideration and if thought fit for transmission to the General Assembly at such time as will enable the Synod to comply with paragraph 2 (i) of Standing Orders. In the case of a church the motion must be submitted through the District Council.
- 35

Speeches

- 40 3. Speeches made in presentation of the report and motions of any Department and its committees shall not in aggregate exceed 30 minutes, save by the prior agreement of the Assembly on the recommendation of the Business Committee. The proposers of any other motion shall be allotted 10 minutes or such longer period as may be recommended by the Business Committee or determined by the Moderator. Each subsequent speaker shall be allowed five minutes unless the Moderator shall otherwise determine.

4. When a speech is made on behalf of a committee, it shall be so stated. Otherwise a speaker shall begin by stating his name and his accreditation to the Assembly.
5. In each debate, whether on a motion or on an amendment, no one shall address the Assembly more than once, except that at the close of each debate the proposer of the motion shall have the right of reply, but must strictly confine himself to answering previous speakers and not introduce new matter. Such reply shall close the debate on the motion or that amendment as the case may be.
6. The foregoing Standing Order shall not prevent the asking or answering of a question which directly arises from the matter before the Assembly or from a speech made in the debate upon it.

Seconding

7. No motion or amendment shall be debated or put to the Assembly unless it has been seconded. The seconder may, if he then declares his intention of doing so, reserve his speech until a later period in the debate.

Amendments

8. An amendment shall be either to omit words or to insert words or to do both, but no amendment shall be in order which has the effect of introducing an irrelevant proposal or of negating the motion.
9. No amendment shall be moved unless a written notice of its terms has been (a) submitted to the General Secretary before the Assembly opens, or (b) handed to the General Secretary during the Assembly, unless the Moderator otherwise decides.
10. If the Moderator considers that an amendment is of such a character that it cannot adequately be debated without previous distribution of copies, he may so decide and discussion of the amendment shall be adjourned until copies are available.
11. No motion or amendment which necessitates expenditure additional to that which has been provided for in the estimates for the current or ensuing year shall be put to the meeting unless and until the cost involved and the possibility of providing the additional amount has been considered by the Central Committee of the Finance Department, or in case of emergency by the Assembly Business Committee.
12. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved. If an amendment is rejected a further amendment not to the like effect may be moved.
13. An amendment which has been moved and seconded shall be disposed of before any further amendment may be moved. Notice may be given of intention to move a further amendment should the one before the Assembly be rejected.

Alterations of motion or amendment

14. A member may, with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Assembly, alter a motion or amendment he has proposed.

Withdrawal of motion or amendment

15. A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Assembly. Any such consent shall be signified without discussion. It shall not be competent for any member to speak upon it after the proposer has asked permission for its withdrawal unless such permission shall have been refused.

Closure of debate

16. In the course of the business any member may move that the question under consideration be not put. This resolution takes precedence of every motion before the Assembly, and as soon as the member has explained his reasons for proposing it, and it has been

seconded, the vote upon it shall be taken, unless it appears to the Moderator that such motion is an unfair use of the rules of the Assembly. Should the motion be carried the business shall immediately end.

- 5 17. In the course of any discussion, it is competent for any member to move that the question be now put. Unless it appears to the Moderator that this motion is an abuse of the rules of the Assembly, the vote shall be taken upon it immediately. When an amendment is under discussion, the motion shall apply only to that amendment. To carry this motion, two-thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. The mover of the original motion retains his right of reply before the question is put.

10 **Voting**

18. Every question shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting as indicated by a show of hands unless the Assembly rules that there shall be a ballot.

Points of Order

- 15 19. A member may rise to a point of order or in personal explanation, but a personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by him at the same meeting which may have been misunderstood. A member so rising shall be entitled to be heard forthwith.
- 20 20. The ruling of the Moderator on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion.
21. A member may raise a point of order, offer a personal explanation or ask a question by standing in his place, in which event his words shall be repeated from the platform. Otherwise, no one shall address the Assembly except from a place indicated by the Moderator.

25 **Suspension of Standing Orders**

22. Any one or more of the Standing Orders, in any case of urgency or upon motion made on a notice duly given, may be suspended at any meeting so far as regards any business at such a meeting, provided that three-fourths of the members of the Assembly present and voting shall so decide.

30 **Admission of public and press**

23. Members of the public and representatives of the press shall be admitted to the Assembly unless the Assembly otherwise decides and they shall occupy such places as are assigned to them.

Minutes

- 35 24. The minutes of each day's proceedings shall be circulated on the following morning and, after any necessary correction, sustained at the opening of the afternoon session. The minutes of the closing day of the Assembly shall be submitted at the close of the business and, after any necessary correction, sustained.

40 The substance of the minutes shall thereafter be published, at the expense of the Church, in the first available issue of the official magazine and a copy of the minutes shall be sent to each Synod, District Council and local church.

Record of attendance

25. A record of attendance at the meetings of the Assembly shall be kept in such manner as the Executive Committee may determine.

Notes

