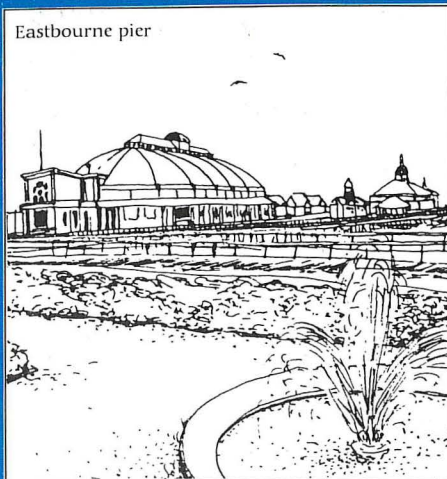
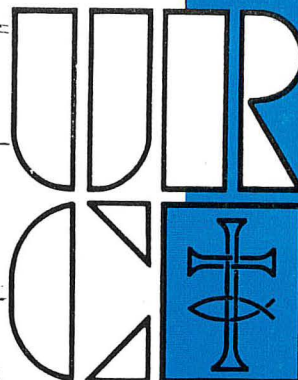


ASSEMBLY RECORD

Eastbourne pier



The seven sisters



The United Reformed Church
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1995

July 3rd - 7th Eastbourne

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration *
For Action X

Reports page	Record page		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
	9	LMS/CWM	*	*	*
16	10	Organ Donations	*	*	
19	11	Representatives under 26		X	
47	16	Israel	*		
48	17	Poverty in Britain	X	X	
50	18	National Lottery	X	X	X
35	21	Human Sexuality	X	X	X
68	41	World Mission Posts in UK	X	X	
69	41	Intermediate level ecumenism		X	X
57	42	Evangelism	*		
114	46	Deployment	X	X	X
	47	Young People	X		

Record of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** in the United Kingdom 1995

Assembly Service including Holy Communion

On Monday 3 July 1995 at 3.00pm members of Assembly met at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne where Holy Communion was celebrated. This was led by the Moderator, the Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey, assisted by his Chaplain, the Revd Stephen Brown and the Revd Anthony Burnham.

Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries

The act of worship included the commemoration of the following ministers and missionaries of the United Reformed Church and the Honorary Treasurer who had died since the last Assembly

Ministers who have died since Assembly 1994

William George BAKER
Gordon BELLAMY
Robert Frederick BOULTER
Leonard William BROWN
Doreen CADDICK
Owen Frederick COXON
Clifford Spencer DAVIES
Wilfred DIGGENS
John Roland ENGLEFIELD
John Ieuan EVANS
Jonathan Pearce EVANS
John Eric FENN
Leonard James GARLAND
David Gordon GLEN
John Edward GREGORY
John HANNAH
David HARRIES
Frederick Herbert HAWKINS
John HUSSEY
David Emlyn JAMES
Albert JACQUES
Kenneth JONES
Richard Walter JONES
Christine KEY

Albert Gordon KNIGHT
John MALLAS
Thomas MARSH
Ernest MARSHALL
John MCINTYRE
Campbell MCKEE
Essie Gertrude OYSTON
Dudley Grant PATERSON
Douglas Eber PHIPPS-JONES
Ivor Glyn Moelwyn RICHARDS
Douglas Malcolm ROGERS
Harold John ROWSE
Harold Leah SWINDELLS
William James TAYLOR
Phyllis TEE
David THOMAS-JONES
Bernard TIDBALL
Ian Harvey WALLACE
Edward Joseph WARD
Bruce Alan WARREN
Harry WESTALL
Alan WHILLIS
John WHITE

Missionaries who have died since Assembly 1994

Graham BENCE
Ernest BOX
Evelyn Annie BURNS (nee Haile)
John Marshall EVANS
Mildred Kate FRANCIS (nee Sadler)
Thomas HAWTHORN
Christina HOLMES
Sarah Dorothy KENINGALE
John Kenneth MAIN

Archibald MCLELLAN
Maurice NIXON
Eileen ORCHARD
Helen ROLLES
Montague ROLLES
Monica SIRKETT
Geoffrey THRUSSELL
Kathleen WADDELL

Honorary Treasurer who died in May 1995

Alistair Kellas BLACK

At the conclusion of the service, the session was suspended, and the Assembly resumed at 6.00 p.m.

Constitution of Assembly

The Moderator, the Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and time having been duly appointed, and the chaplain, the Revd Stephen Brown led the worship of the Assembly.

Induction of Moderator

On the motion of the Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey, the Revd John Reardon, Moderator-elect, was called to the Chair and inducted as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church. The Moderator signed the Assembly Bible and was presented with an inscribed copy of the Bible by the Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey.

Thanks to the Retiring Moderator

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to the Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey and Mrs Myrtle McKelvey.

The Moderator then addressed the Assembly.

The **ROLL OF ASSEMBLY** was placed on the table.

Moderator:	Revd John Reardon
Clerk:	Revd Principal Martin Cressey
Minute Secretary:	Mrs Sheila Tull
General Secretary:	Revd Anthony G Burnham
Deputy General Secretary:	Revd Terry Oakley

Provincial Moderators:

I	Revd David Jenkins
II	Revd C Keith Forecast
III	Revd Graham Cook
IV	Revd Donald Hilton
V	Revd Malcolm G Hanson
VI	Revd John D Waller
VII	Revd Wilfred K Gathercole
VIII	Revd Raymond Adams

IX	Revd Nelson W Bainbridge
X	Revd Janet E Sowerbutts
XI	Revd David Helyar
XII	Revd John L Humphreys

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees:

Doctrine Prayer & Worship:	Dr David Thompson
Discipleship & Witness:	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
Church & Society:	Professor Malcolm Johnson
Youth & Childrens Work:	Revd Stephen Thornton
Ecumenical:	Revd Murdoch MacKenzie
Ministries:	Revd Keith Forecast
Training:	Revd John Sutcliffe
Finance:	
Communications & Supplies:	Mr Christopher Wright
Nominations:	Revd Jessie Clare
Pastoral:	Revd Alasdair Walker
Assembly Arrangements:	Mrs Wilma Frew
Equal Opportunities:	Mrs Susan Rand

Conveners of Mission Council Task Groups:

Advocacy & Stewardship:	Revd Julian Macro
Mission & Other Faiths:	Revd Bill Mahood
Health & Healing:	Revd Robin Hind

Synod Clerks:

I	Revd Peter Poulter	II	Revd Ruth Wollaston
III	Revd Angus W Duncan	IV	Mr Brian Evans
V	Revd A Christopher White	VI	Mrs Wilma Frew
VII	Mr William McVey	VIII	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
IX	Revd George H Thomas	X	Revd John Maitland
XI	Mrs Christine Meekison	XII	Mr John Rhys

Additional Synod Representatives:

I	Revd Dale Rominger, Revd W Nicol, Revd J A Breslin
II	Mr Alan Barnes, Mrs D Rees, Mrs K McIntosh
III	Revd Brian Acty, Revd L Guthrie, Mr P Lewis
IV	Mr Alan Goldfinch, Mrs A Hughes, Revd R Royston-Bishop
V	Revd M Taylor, Revd G Maskery, Mr G Prentice
VI	Mr Ron Webb, Revd Graham Sweeney, Miss M Smith
VII	Revd M McKay, Revd Derek Wales, Mrs Elizabeth Whitten
VIII	Revd Dr C A Middleton, Mr I Andrews, Mr M Summers
IX	Revd B Collins, Mr D Butler, Mr C Hansford
X	Mr Bob Allen, Mr Chris Langham, Revd Bert Baker
XI	Revd Simon Thomas, Mr David Buckland, Mrs Pat Blackburn
XII	Revd Henry Gordon, Revd N Head, Mr Denis Earp

Synod Treasurers:

I	Mr M Holloway	II	Mr G R Stelfox	III	Mr P Rafells
IV	Mr Geoff Wood	V	Mr H K Johnson	VI	Mr D T Hibbard
VII	Mr W B Grieve	VIII	Mr G Lunt	IX	Mr G Gage
X	Mr M Dyson	XI	Mr B M Edwards	XII	Mr R Lacey

Theological College Representatives:

Mansfield College; Oxford:	Revd C Brock, Ms P Barnes
Northern College, Manchester:	Revd Dr W Houston, Mrs P Parkin
Westminster College, Cambridge:	Revd Bill Mahood, Ms J Calderley
Queens College; Birmingham:	Mrs Monica Mills

Youth Representatives: Mr John Dryburgh, Mrs Morna Maines

Council for World Mission: Dr Preman Niles

Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces stationed in Britain: Revd J Petrie

Missionaries on Furlough: Mr & Mrs Vickerman

Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:

Mr B J Hartwell, Revd C J Buckingham, Mrs Gwen Hall, Revd H Burns Jamieson, Revd A S Cooper, Revd N Birnie, Revd A L Macarthur, Revd J E Young, Revd Dr Lesslie Newbiggin, Revd Dr R O Latham, Revd J Johansen-Berg, Revd Principal M Cressey, Mrs R Goodfellow, Revd E Gray, Revd D Black, Revd W Georgeson, Revd J E Francis, Revd W F Aiton, Revd J Gray, Revd K C Burdett, Revd R Murray, Revd W Clark, Rev G B Waterton, Revd A B Webster, Revd Dr P D Arthur, Revd G Sharpe, Dr D M Thompson, Revd A V Smith, Revd A J G Walker, Revd Dr P Morgan, Revd D H Dale, Mr R A Heritage, Revd C C Franks, Revd E Banyard, Revd C K Forecast, Revd G J Cook, Revd M G Hanson, Mrs R Clarke, Revd D Hilton, Revd Dr R J McKelvey.

District Representatives: (Names appearing with an asterisk were appointed to fill District vacancies (cf. Resolution 10, p21, Assembly Record 1978)

Province I

- A: Revd Colin Biggs, Revd C Ford, Revd Robert Jones, Mr W Luke, Mr D Todd, Miss S Fairbairn.
B: Revd A Jackson, Revd T Holborn, Revd D Hannan, Revd J Paul, Revd J Young, Mrs L Nicholson, Mr E McMillan, Mr P Hartley, Mrs J Chisholm, Miss K Savage.
C: Revd R Jones, Revd D E G Whiting, Mrs M Adlington, Mr J Sewell.
D: Revd G Thompson, Revd Val Towler, Mr Bill Hyslop, Mr C Cross, Mrs S Johnston, Revd N Johnston.
E: Revd F Cochrane, Mrs P Cochrane, Revd I Prentice, Mrs W Prentice.
F: Revd David Taylor, Mrs C Smyth.

Province II

- A: Mr J Bradbury, Mr Raymond Clarke, Revd M Cock, Mrs A Humphreys, Revd J Robinson, Revd B Willis, Mr James Hetherington.
B: Revd N P Uden, Revd D M Spence, Mrs M Stelfox, Mrs H Hurst, Miss E Salisbury, Revd A J Mackereth.
C: Revd G Rogers, Revd R H Lewis, Revd D Turner, Mr A Chisholm, Mrs J Rothwell, Mr D G Estill
D: Revd G Robson* Revd A Hall, Revd R Crofton, Revd D Megson, Miss S Thomas*.
E: Revd J Ashworth, Revd D B Brown, Revd B Plenderleith, Revd M Tait, Mr G Ollerenshaw, Mrs J Ollerenshaw, Mrs O Bradley, Mr M Walsh, Mrs B Robinson.
F: Mrs G Oldham, Revd B O'Neill, Revd S Bidmead, Revd A Harper-Massey, Miss B Exley, Mr R Banwell, Revd A Harrison, Miss H Melia, Mr G Lewis.
G: Revd R Tomes, Ms Stella Salmon, Mr J McKnight, Miss S Morrison.

Province III

- A: Revd N Stanyon, Revd R Reid, Revd S Mountcastle, Mrs E Blair*, Miss J Acty*.
B: Revd E Boon*, Revd B Holdroyd*, Mr W Woodside, Mr D Howie, Mrs J Lunt.
C: Revd W Morris, Revd Ian Ring, Revd W H Elliot, Mrs B Gibson, Mrs B Shapland, Mrs P Maines
D: Revd O Kimberley, Revd G Evans, Revd P Foster, Mrs M Slark, Mrs C Deeks, Miss A Mcleod.
E: Mr E Hall, Mrs M Traverce, Revd D Shakesby, Revd J Seddon,

Province IV

- A: Revd M J Wear, Revd D Greenwood, Revd M Mewis, Mrs P Mewis,
Mr D Barnett, Mr G Lawrence.
- B: Revd F A Beattie, Revd F Houston, Mr M Rook, Mr G Wedgwood,
Revd R West, Mrs G Smithies.
- C: Revd C Wood, Revd E Brown, Revd N Lowen, Mrs E Waddington,
Miss L Montague, Mrs M Thompson.
- D: Revd Bob Jones, Mrs M Jones, Revd A F T Evans.
- E: Revd C Hannen, Revd V Newman, Mr John Gilbey, Mr E Harrison.
- F: Revd C Bembridge, Revd G Courtney, Revd WJ Taylor,
Miss M Atkinson, Mr G Toepritz, Mr J Horton.

Province V

- A: Revd Sally Willett, Revd M Dunn, Mrs J Allen, Mr Norman Greville,
Revd D Holley, Revd P Quilter, Mr G Orton, Miss L Jackson.
- B: Revd E Nash*, Revd N Whitaker, Revd B Russell, Mrs D Russell,
Mrs Mary Briar, Mr P Wilson, Mrs I Wren, Mr J Quilter*.
- C: Revd Dr Stephen Orchard*, Revd A Bradshaw, Revd P Floe,
Revd E McDonald, Mrs F Caldwell, Mr D Coaker, Mr A P Hughes.
- D: Revd G Hooper, Mr M Seamark, Mr R Chambers, Mrs Ann Ball.
- E: Revd M Buxton, Revd J Hall, Revd S Martin, Mrs D Bateman,
Mrs A Fox, Miss R Inglis.
- F: Mr M Eldridge, Revd R Davis, Mrs E Laurie, Revd David Robertson.

Province VI

- A: Revd D Williams, Revd E Kemp, Revd A Gemmer-Snell,
Revd Dr J E Parry, Mr F Jenkins, Mrs M Harris, Mrs G Cohen, Revd J Cohen
- B: Revd G Tate*, Revd P Frampton, Revd K Johnson, Miss A Williams,
Mr J H Knight, Mr D Griffiths
- C: Revd A Dunstone, Revd D W Thomas, Revd M Buchanan,
Mrs M Thomas, Mrs R Allman.
- D: Revd G Jenkins, Revd H Day, Mr C Roberts, Revd R Francis,
Miss J Rowell, Mr A E McCulloch.
- E: Revd P Breeze, Revd M Chippindale, Revd H Martin, Revd P Whittle,
Miss Tina Beasant, Mr B Harvey, Mr D MacDonald, Mr Archie MacDougall.
- F: Revd L Giller, Revd W Snade, Revd B J Stops, Mr S Powell, Miss G Margaret.

Province VII

- A: Revd G Muttram, Mrs M Muttram, Revd A M Chart, Miss C Montague,
Revd K Smith*, Mrs M T Smith*.
- B: Dr R Jurd, Mrs M Furze, Revd A Dones, Revd C Croll, Revd K Pryor,
Mrs R Pryor, Revd P Baker, Mrs F Baker.
- C: Revd R Church, Revd K Ellis, Revd F Glendinning, Revd G Roper,
Mrs D Dean, Mrs S Hardy, Mr C Thorby, Mr John Tyler.
- D: Revd C Hunt, Revd C Hunter-Crump, Revd B Imbush, Mrs D Bearman,
Mr A Franklin, Mr Ken Woods.
- E: Revd P D Ball, Revd M Bush, Revd O S North, Revd E D Springbett,
Mrs J Armour, Mrs H Campbell, Mrs C Mc Dermott, Mrs E Reeve.
- F: Mr John Bannister.

Province VIII

- A: Revd C Baker, Revd P Snell, Mrs M Steer, Mrs J Brooks.
- B: Revd P F Parish, Revd A Willcocks, Mrs M Walden, Mrs M Williams.
- C: Revd R J Ellis, Revd C J Searle, Revd R A C West, Mr Cole, Mr Cordell,
Miss E Grandfield.
- D: Revd J Armitstead, Revd H Barkham, Miss Ida Reeves, Mr A Senior.
- E: Revd C Bowman, Revd G Gibson, Mrs K Randle, Miss S Chandler
- F: Revd R Blick, Revd B Grimsey, Revd Hazel Martell, Revd K Thom, Revd D Burnett,
Mrs S Grimsey, Mr J Trainer.

- G: Revd N George, Mr David Walter.
 H: Revd Ronald Williams, Miss K MacDonald.
 J: Revd Roy Fowler, Mr Harry Wishart.

Province IX

- A: Revd C Bones, Revd J Bolton, Revd Stella Sivyour, Revd D Wiseman, Revd J Evans, Revd G Edwards, Mrs J Edwards, Mr P Gillham, Mrs G Chalmers, Miss D R Hillier, Miss J Collins, Miss A Wilkins.
 B: Revd A Green, Revd S A Wilkins, Revd A Thomasson, Revd M Westerman, Mrs M Ingate, Mr I Monro, Mrs J Hillier, Mr Peter Hall.
 C: Mrs F Plumbley, Mrs T Jones, Mrs P Summers, Revd S Williams, Revd D Jones, Revd K J Summers.
 D: Revd N Edsall, Revd B Kirby, Revd A McLuskey, Revd A Pratt, Mr J Harris, Mr S McDonald, Mr K Morrison, Mrs D Spencer.
 E: Revd S Collinson, Revd Gill Jackson, Revd T Jones, Revd S M Piper, Revd J Wilkinson, Mr P Butler, Mr C Ferguson, Mrs C S E Robertson, Miss A Bunney, Mr M Healy.

Province X

- A: Revd R Barthram, Revd Dr D Hilborn, Revd Greta Morgan, Revd R Poolman, Revd R White, Mrs A Aguilar, Mr M Howe, Mr R Nunn, Mr C Mortimore, Mrs M Stacy.
 B: Miss S Groat, Revd B Scopes, Revd Betty Scopes, Revd N Shephard, Mr W Burrell, Mr J Douglas.
 C: Revd M Parkinson, Revd K Riglin, Revd B Frame, Mrs Gleeson, Mrs J Young, Mr M Hydon.
 D: Mr D Illines, Mrs M Sporle, Mrs A Norris, Mr A Jack, Revd M Truscott, Revd P Dean, Revd L Dixon, Revd T Ruffell, Revd Dr D Von Allmen.
 E: Revd M Hazell, Revd F Ackroyd, Revd R Barrett, Mrs W Cooper, Ms R Watson, Mrs E Boateng.
 F: Revd R Alford, Revd C Ball, Revd K Swaine, Miss K Gould.

Province XI

- A: Revd B Eyles, Revd E Dunn, Revd R J Blows, Revd B Bowyer, Mrs M Bean, Dr D Cutler, Miss E Stone, Miss S Lane.
 B: Revd D Goldie, Revd M O'Hara, Revd D Skitt, Revd I Stewart, Mr C Bruce-Jones, Dr P Finlayson, Mrs E Pelling, Miss C Waterson.
 C: Revd B Carter, Revd S Werner, Revd J Key, Revd Ron Parker, Revd Richard Wells, Mrs M Bayley, Mr F Blackburn, Mrs B Clinton, Mr B Thomas, Miss C Underwood.
 D: Revd C Martin, Revd J Titlow, Revd Dr Rick Mearkle, Revd P Southcombe, Mrs R Anderson, Mr J Ellis, Mr D James, Mr J Brown.
 E: Revd D Sturt, Revd D Newton, Revd M Munford, Mr D Fernyhough, Mr P Burt, Miss J Corby.
 F: Revd D R Bedford, Revd M M Bethel, Revd R W G Talmay, Mrs V Hill, Miss M Morgan, Mr N Preece.
 G: Revd G Allan, Revd M Kennard, Miss K Pugh, Revd R Parkinton, Mrs N Welch, Mr Lang Popley.

Province XII

- A: Mrs E Chalton, Mrs M Jones, Mrs J Yeomans, Revd K Jones, Revd S Jones, Revd A Seager.
 B: Revd S Copley, Mrs S Copley, Revd H Hughs, Revd J Webber.
 C: Mrs L Davies, Revd K Graham, Revd A Davies, Revd P Scotland, Revd P Noble, Revd K Louch, Dr A Jones, Mrs J Jones, Mrs S Pollard, Mr M Hammer.
 D: Revd M Page, Revd G Knights, Miss A Vaughan, Miss T Arnold Jones,
 E: Revd D J Joseph, Revd H Maclagan, Mrs J Maclagan, Mr M Evans.
 F: Revd S Huges, Revd G Rhys, Revd S Roberts, Mrs J Gavin, Mr P Gaskell

VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING OTHER CHURCHES

Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland:	The Revd E Andrew Funnell
Church of Scotland:	The Revd John Stevenson
Congregational Federation:	The Revd Brian Pavis
Scottish Congregational Church:	The Revd Robert Waters
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain:	Mrs Priscilla Desir
Methodist Church:	Mr Geoff Bowstead
Moravian Church in England and Wales:	Mr Ashton McIntosh
Presbyterian Church in Ireland:	The Revd W J Waring
Presbyterian Church of Wales:	The Revd J E Wynne Davies
Union of Welsh Independents:	The Revd E Denzil James

Reception of Guests

The Revd David Helyar, Moderator, Southern Province, introduced local visitors and those present were received by the Moderator:

The Revd Terry Stratford, Anglican Ecumenical Officer

The Revd Emmanuel Sullivan SA, Roman Catholic Episcopal Vicar for Ecumenical Affairs

Miss M E Hitchings, President of Sussex Baptist Association

The Revd Martin Broadbent, BD, Chairman, London South-West District, The Methodist Church

Grace Blaker, Clerk, Sussex and Surrey General Meeting, Society of Friends

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie, Convener, Ecumenical Committee, introduced representatives from churches in the United Kingdom and overseas. Those present were received by the Moderator:

UK Church Representatives

Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland:	The Revd E Andrew Funnell*
The Church of England:	The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt, Bishop of Stafford
The Church of Scotland:	The Revd John Stevenson*, The Rt Revd James Harkness, Moderator of the General Assembly, Mrs Ann Harkness, Mrs Helen McLeod
The Congregational Federation:	The Revd Brian Pavis*
The Scottish Congregational Church:	The Revd Robert Waters MA*, Mrs Magdalene Waters, The Revd John Wylie
The International Ministerial Council of Great Britain:	Mrs Priscilla Desir*
The Methodist Church:	Mr Geoff Bowstead*
The Moravian Church:	Mr Ashton McIntosh*
The Presbyterian Church in Ireland:	The Revd W J Waring*, The Very Revd Dr David J McGaughey, Mrs Anne McGaughey, The Revd William T Bingham, Mrs Janet Bingham

The Presbyterian Church of Wales:	The Revd J E Wynne Davies*, Mrs Mary Davies
The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales:	The Very Revd Canon Bernard Thom
The Union of Welsh Independents:	The Revd E Denzil James*, Mrs Valerie James
Churches Together in England:	The Revd Canon Martin Reardon
The Free Church Federal Council:	The Revd David Staple

** Voting Member of Assembly*

International Church Representatives

World Alliance of Reformed Churches:	Revd Dr Milan Opocensky, General Secretary, Revd Dr Jana Opocenska
The Kiribati Protestant Church:	The Revd Dr Pepine Iosua
Evangelical Church of the Palatinate:	Herr Dekan Klaus Boehm, Frau Sigrid Boehm
The Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa:	The Rt Revd R J Botsis, Mrs A Botsis
The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand:	The Revd Michael Thawley, Mrs D Thawley
The United Church of Christ (USA):	The Revd Mary Brueggemann
The Uniting Church in Australia:	Mrs Jill Tabart, Mr Ken Tabart
Council for World Mission:	Dr Preman Niles*, Mrs Sherina Niles
United Church of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands:	The Revd Andrew Midian, Mr Raymond Arua, Mrs Arua
The Church of South India:	Mr P Johnson Samuel Jesudoss
The Presbyterian Church of Ghana:	The Revd Emmanuel K Frimpong

Missionaries on Furlough

Mr Martin Vickerman, Mrs Taara Vickerman

Revd Emmanuel Sullivan, Revd Dr Pepine Iosua, and Revd Dr Milan Opocensky responded to the welcome on behalf of the guests.

Worship throughout the Assembly was conducted by the Moderator's Chaplain, the Revd Elizabeth Welch with a choir. The organist was Mr Graham Albon. It was focussed by CWM material and the presence of readers from sister churches.

Bible study was led by the Revd Roberta Rominger.

On Thursday morning worship was conducted by the Moderator and the Chaplain, in the course of which the Revd David Lawrence, Editor of REFORM and Mrs Rosemary Johnson, Children's Advocate, were inducted by the Moderator.

Reception of Guests

Also on Thursday morning the Revd Murdoch MacKenzie explained that the Rt Revd James Harkness, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, had had to leave early that morning, but conveyed his warm greetings; the Moderator received from the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Revd J E Wynn Davies and from the Church of England, the Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt, who would be the C of E representative to the Assembly for the next three years.

Address by the Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Leslie Mason, brought good wishes and greetings as a Christian as well as a representative of Eastbourne.

The Moderator thanked Councillor Mason for his words of welcome to the Assembly and asked him to convey the greetings of the Assembly to the Mayor, who was unable to be present.

LMS/CWM Resolution

The Revd Dr Robert McKelvey introduced the following resolution from the Mission Council on the Council for World Mission/London Missionary Society.

9 The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, in this 200th year of the founding of the London Missionary Society,

gives thanks to God for its founding and for the mission agencies now incorporated in the Council for World Mission, and gratefully acknowledges the service of missionaries, administrators and supporters over the years;

rejoices in the change of missionary understanding expressed in the present Council for World Mission, in which the United Reformed Church joins with other churches in a world-wide fellowship of equal partners in mission; and

re-affirms its commitment to share in the proclamation of the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God throughout the world through the mutual sharing of the resources of people and money, supported by the prayers, informed interest, time energy and giving of its members.

The resolution was seconded by the Revd Murdoch MacKenzie, Convener of the Ecumenical Committee. Dr Preman Niles, the General Secretary of the Council for World Mission was invited by the Moderator to speak to the resolution. He gave an overview of the Council's present concerns.

The Revd Roger Tomes suggested that it would be good for the church to undertake some initiative which would demand a venture of faith to mark such centenaries. This would be noted by the Mission Council.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Election of Moderator of the General Assembly 1996/7

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer before members proceeded to the election of the Moderator of the General Assembly for 1996/97.

Election of Moderator of Assembly 1996/7

The Convener of Tellers, the Revd Sandra Lloydlangston, reported that 486 votes, of which 6 were spoiled, had been cast. She was pleased to inform the Assembly that Dr David Thompson was the Moderator-elect. The Moderator said that Dr Thompson would address the Assembly on Friday morning.

Organ Donations and Post Mortems

On behalf of the East Midlands Province, the Revd Mark Dunn presented the following resolution, seconded by Ms Rachel Inglis.

- 1 Assembly, recognising the importance of the issues relating to organ donations and autopsies,
 - affirms its support for the Government's initiative to institute a national computer register of donors;
 - encourages district councils, local churches and families to engage in frank discussion of the issues;
 - encourages church members to take the necessary steps to become registered card-carrying organ donors;
 - encourages church members to consent to an autopsy when a hospital seeks permission to carry out this procedure; and to this end
 - requests the Church and Society Committee to make available appropriate information and discussion material.

The Revd Brian Holroyd spoke, from the point of view of a number of our hospital chaplains, on the need for further consultation. It would be better if the statistics from this were to be included. He asked for the motion to be deferred until Assembly 1996 for further consultation to take place.

The Clerk informed the Assembly that if the motion for deferral were passed, the General Secretary may be instructed to refer the matter for wider consideration

The Revd Mark Dunn replied to the debate and resisted the deferral of the resolution.

The motion to defer the resolution took precedence over other business. A two-thirds majority was required.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost, and the debate continued.

The Revd Rose Barrett, seconded by the Revd Craig Bowman, moved an amendment, to substitute the words "post mortem" for "autopsy". This was put, with the agreement of those presenting the motion, and was agreed.

The Revd Margaret McKay moved an amendment, seconded by Ms Janet Calderley to read: "to consider taking" in the third clause and "to consider consenting".

The amendment was carried

The Revd David Turner, Hospital Chaplain, suggested carrying a card saying "I do not wish to give or to receive an organ transplant"

The substantive resolution as amended was put and carried as follows:

- 1 **Assembly, recognising the importance of the issues relating to organ donations and post mortems,**
 - **affirms its support for the Government's initiative to institute a national computer register of donors;**
 - **encourages district councils, local churches and families to engage in frank discussion of the issues;**
 - **encourages church members to consider taking the necessary steps to become registered card-carrying organ donors;**
 - **encourages church members to consider consenting to a post mortem when a hospital seeks permission to carry out this procedure; and to this end**
 - **requests the Church and Society Committee to make available appropriate information and discussion material.**

Common Boundaries

The Revd Gilbert Tate, on behalf of the West Midlands Province, presented the following resolution:

- 2 The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church calls upon all Churches involved in Churches Together in England (CTE) to consider, as a matter of urgency, revising their boundaries so that they may have common boundaries with each other and with the Intermediate Bodies of CTE, making sure that any such changes now under consideration move in that direction.**

The resolution was seconded by the Revd Brian Stops.

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie, Convener of the Ecumenical Committee, spoke in favour of the resolution. He suggested that the Revd Canon Martin Reardon of Churches Together in England be invited to speak. Canon Reardon was in favour of this motion but it was not just a question of changing lines on maps. It would be helpful if the URC were to invite the other churches to take up the matter.

The resolution was carried by a large majority

Representatives under the age of 26

On behalf of West Midlands Province, Ms Melanie Smith proposed the following resolution. Mr Bruce Harvey formally seconded the resolution, reserving his right to speak later.

- 3 The Assembly, recognising that a minority of districts have not taken seriously the resolution urging district councils to include one young person in the representation of the district to General Assembly,**
 - a) resolves that a place on the representation from each district to General Assembly shall normally include one place specifically reserved for a person under the age of 26; and**
 - b) amends paragraph 2 (3) ix of the Structure of the United Reformed Church to read:
'to appoint from time to time such number of representatives to the General Assembly (ministerial and lay in equal numbers) as the General Assembly shall determine. This shall include, when possible, a representative under the age of 26. As far as possible all appointments shall be made in rotation from local churches within its district'.**

The Revd Alasdair Pratt as a former Youth Secretary of the Presbyterian Church spoke in favour of the resolution.

Mr John Dryburgh, FURY Chair, proposed an amendment in the last paragraph to make the wording "at least one representative under the age of 26". Ms Samantha Chandler formally seconded. The Clerk advised the Assembly that Standing Order 2e implied that a resolution calling for constitutional change could not be amended on the floor of the Assembly. This view was also applied to another suggested amendment giving District Councils with only two representatives to Assembly leave to have a third representative under 26.

The Assembly agreed to the resolution as proposed, noting the interpretation that it did not restrict a District Council to having only one representative under the age of 26.

The General Secretary proposed that the Assembly set 31 January 1996 as the date by which Synods may inform the General Secretary of objections to this amendment to the Basis and Structure of the United Reformed Church. This was agreed.

Synod Reports

The Revd Michael Thawley, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand on the invitation of Assembly interviewed representatives from four of the Provinces. They were: The Revd Peter Southcombe, Wessex, the Revd Graham Cook, North Western, Mrs Angela Hughes, Yorkshire & the Revd Peter Poulter, Northern.

The Revd Michael Thawley presented to the Moderator, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, a Maori fishhook badge.

The Moderator expressed his thanks for the gift and thanked Mr Thawley and the group he had interviewed for the enlightening discussion.

The Moderator invited comments on the Reports of the Provincial Synods.

The Moderator thanked all those who had prepared the reports of the Synods.

Closure of Churches

The General Secretary proposed the following resolution.

- 4. The Assembly receives notice of the closure of the local churches listed and gives thanks to God for their worship, witness and service throughout their history.**

Claremont, Blackpool (North Western)
Zion, Levenshulme (North Western)
Bell Green, Coventry (West Midlands)
West Down (South Western)
Longworth (Wessex)
Alton (Wessex)
Stoke Newington, Albion Road (Thames North)
Shortlands (Southern)
Plumpton Green (Southern)
Berea, Southsea, Wrexham (Wales)
Bethany, Goodwick (Wales)
Bethel, Upper Cwmbran (Wales)
Carew Newton (Wales)
Rhyddings, Brynmill, Swansea (Wales)

The Revd David Bedford asked that in the light of such closures the Mission Council give serious consideration to Church planting.

New Churches

The Moderator invited formal proposals regarding new Churches.

The Revd Ann Jackson proposed and the Revd. James Breslin seconded, that:

- 5 Assembly receives the Church of the Holy Family, Killingworth as a local church of the United Reformed Church**

This was unanimously agreed.

The Revd C Keith Forecast proposed and the Revd Ruth A Wollaston seconded, that:

6 Assembly receives The Ragged School Blackburn, as a local church of the United Reformed Church

This was unanimously agreed.

The Revd Ann Ball proposed and the Revd Christopher White seconded, that:

7 Assembly receives The Wootton Trinity Christian Centre as a local church of the United Reformed Church

This was unanimously agreed.

The Revd Irene Wren spoke to the following resolution, which was seconded by the Revd Christopher White.

8 Assembly receives The Community of Grace, Leicester as a Mission Project of the United Reformed Church

This was unanimously agreed.

The Chaplain led the General Assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving for past service in the closed churches and for the work of the new member churches and the Mission Project.

Newly Ordained Ministers and Newly Commissioned Church

Related Community Workers

The newly ordained ministers and Church Related Community Workers were introduced by the Provincial Moderators and for Northern Province by the Synod Clerk. Those present were greeted in the name of the Assembly by the Moderator.

NORTHERN PROVINCE
Moderator: David Jenkins

Robert Jones
James McAulay
John Young
Graham Hoslett
Nicholas Percival
Ian Prentice
Neville A Husband
Norma Johnson

NORTH WESTERN
Moderator: Keith Forecast

Michael Storr
Joyce Ashworth
Shirley Farrier
David Allen (ordained May 1994)

MERSEY
Moderator: Graham Cook

Jean Seddon
Ronald Reid

YORKSHIRE
Moderator: Donald Hilton

Timothy John Key
Paul Brewerton
Peter Jordan
Rosemary Anne Tusting
Richard Barry West

EAST MIDLANDS
Moderator: Malcolm Hanson

Andrew Russell William Sellwood
Sally Elizabeth Martin
Brian William Russell

Maureen Ivy Buxton
Leslie Grayson Gill
Geoffrey Townsend

WEST MIDLANDS
Moderator: John Waller

Mary Buchanan
Deirdre Lee
Meriel Chippindale
David Gray
(Also Angela Gemmer-Snell,
ordained in Germany for an earlier
arranged induction to a URC pastorate)

EASTERN
Moderator: Bill Gathercole

Peter Ball
Colin J Hunt

SOUTH WESTERN
Moderator: Ray Adams

Geoffrey Glead
John Evans
Maureen Frances Roberts

WESSEX
Moderator: Nelson Bainbridge

Peter Robert Norris
Brian Christopher Harley
Philip John Osborn
Gill M Jackson

THAMES NORTH
Moderator: Janet Sowerbuts

Maggie Hindley
Richard Alford
Jonathan Hyde
Elizabeth Davies
Peter Colwell
Mark Ambrose

SOUTHERN
Moderator: David Helyar

David Sturt
Susan Marsh

WALES
Moderator: John Humphreys

Alison Davis
Kathryn Louch
David Twine

The Moderator spoke to the newly ordained ministers and newly commissioned Church Related Community Workers. This was always a high point in the Assembly. There would be many changes in their period of service. He expressed his hopes for their ministry. The Chaplain led the General Assembly in prayer for them.

Ministerial Jubilees

The General Secretary read the names of those celebrating jubilees this year:

1945

Boris ANDERSON
Derrick Aubrey BARBER
Albert Ernest John BRITTAIN
Howard BYERS
James Albert CUMMING
Bryan DAWSON
Dewi Daniel JENKINS
Harold Eaton JOHNSON
David Brinley RICHARDS
John RUTHERFORD

1935

John Norman BEARD
Thomas Ernest Reginald LANGRIDGE
Ian Ralph Matheson LATTO
William Charles Edward SIMPSON

1925

John Seldon WHALE

The Moderator asked the assembly to pay tribute to these ministers, which it did with applause.

The Revd Keith Forecast took the Chair

Church and Society

Professor Malcolm Johnson presented the report of the Church and Society Committee.

The Moderator invited general comments on the report. The Revd Peter Brain, Secretary of Church and Society and the Convener replied.

The Church and Society Committee offered to the Assembly a short presentation by Susan Flynn, its Fieldworker/Animateur, and a group from six districts. Representatives of South East Manchester, Liverpool, Derbyshire, Cheshire, North West Manchester and Shropshire gave results of a survey of churches who had listed their priorities for social concern. It should be possible to make corporate decisions to enable changes to take place in our society.

The Revd Keith Forecast thanked Susan Flynn and the group members for the presentation.

The Revd John Reardon resumed the Chair.

The Convener presented the following resolution:

18 Assembly

- a) offers encouragement to all who are working for a just and lasting peace between the peoples and nations of the Middle East and especially Israeli and Palestinian leaders;
- b) welcomes and supports the ecumenical statement from church leaders in Jerusalem calling for "*a special judicial and political statute for Jerusalem which reflects the universal importance and significance of the city ... a symbol and a promise of the presence of God, of fraternity and peace for humankind, in particular the children of Abraham, Jews, Christians and Muslims*";
- c) urges visitors from Britain to take advantage of the possibilities of meeting people of all faiths, including Palestinian Christians, during their time in the 'Holy Land'.

The Revd Canon Naim Ateek was invited to address the Assembly. He brought greetings from Jerusalem and brothers and sisters in the faith. He mentioned a conference in Jerusalem in 1996 which he hoped some members of Assembly would be able to attend.

He gave details of the basis of the conflict in Palestine which is gradually focussing on Jerusalem. A solution must be found by both Jews and Palestinians or there would be no peace for Israel. However there is now disenchantment for the people in the street. Everything depends on one's theology of land. If God is the God of justice then Israel is like any other nation with regard to land. Israel will try to keep as much land as possible, but if justice is done it will have to give up the West Bank. Israel has claimed East Jerusalem by making settlements and now there are more Jews than Palestinians there.

East Jerusalem is now cut off from the West Bank and there are check points. The most practical solution is the sharing of the land and of the city. Jerusalem should be an open city which is shared between Palestinians and Jews to restore dignity, humanity and justice.

The Revd Ron Lewis expressed concern that Church and Society by inviting his friend Canon Ateek had presented one side of a complicated situation. Both sides had faults. Revd Hugh Martin sympathised with the Palestinians. Justice cannot be obtained without some pain on both sides. It was important to emphasise to the Jewish Tourist organisations that on pilgrimages Christians wish to meet Palestinian Christians.

The Revd John Waller spoke of his pilgrimage not only to Bethlehem but to a refugee camp of dispossessed people. He urged pilgrims to make contacts not only with the past but with the present.

Mr John Gilbey proposed an amendment to (c), to substitute "especially" for "including"

The Revd Margaret McKay asked for clarification of the meaning of (b).

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell would like to add the words "and Messianic Jews" after "Palestinian Christians" in (c).

The Moderator asked the Assembly to vote on Resolutions 8(a) and 8(b).

The Assembly agreed to 8(a) and 8(b).

The Moderator put to the Assembly Resolution 8 (c).

The amendment, proposed by Mr John Gilbey, seconded by the Revd Alan Dunstone, to substitute "especially" for "including" was carried.

The amendment to add after "Palestinian Christians" the words "and Messianic Jews" was proposed by the Revd Elizabeth Caswell and seconded by the Revd Ron Lewis.

This amendment was carried.

The substantive resolution was carried in the following words:

18 Assembly

- a) offers encouragement to all who are working for a just and lasting peace between the peoples and nations of the Middle East and especially Israeli and Palestinian leaders;**
- b) welcomes and supports the ecumenical statement from church leaders in Jerusalem calling for "*a special judicial and political statute for Jerusalem which reflects the universal importance and significance of the city ... a symbol and a promise of the presence of God, of fraternity and peace for humankind, in particular the children of Abraham, Jews, Christians and Muslims*";**
- c) urges visitors from Britain to take advantage of the possibilities of meeting people of all faiths, especially Palestinian Christians and Messianic Jews, during their time in the 'Holy Land'.**

The Revd Hazel Barkham spoke to Resolution 19 which she moved on behalf of the Committee.

19 Assembly,

- **is concerned and dismayed at the persistence of poverty and growing inequality in Britain as evidenced by the findings of the 'Inquiry into Income and Wealth' supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and by the testimonies being gathered during 'poverty hearings' arranged by Church Action on Poverty through its programme "Local People, National Voice";**
- **is aware of increasing personal insecurity affecting a wide range of people in work, in education and in retirement;**
- **welcomes the more integrated approach to a range of policy areas being taken by church bodies, individual commentators and, for example, the Commission for Social Justice chaired by Sir Gordon Borrie;**
- **calls on all political parties to press for a major review of the tax and benefits systems, of employment legislation and social policy with the defined aim of reducing poverty and polarisation in our country;**
- **invites local churches and/or District Councils as appropriate to participate in, or if necessary to instigate, local 'poverty hearings' in co-operation with Church Action on Poverty and to report to their MPs and to the Church and Society committee.**

The Revd Simon Copley proposed that there should be a critique of market economics. He gave some suggestions on how such a critique might be made.

Discussion followed during which Mrs Ruth Clarke spoke on the study process "Unemployment and the Future of Work", on the working group of which she is the representative of the URC. She asked for the Assembly's support for this working group.

The Revd Elizabeth Nash spoke as one of the two people elected from the URC to the programme "Local People, National Voice". There will be a national poverty hearing in London. The Moderator said that he had signalled that he would be at the Hearing.

The Secretary of the committee replied.

This resolution was carried nem con.

The Revd Simon Copley proposed and Bentley Webster seconded the following resolution.

Assembly calls on Church and Society to produce a critique on market economics.

Walter Houston proposed and John Ellis seconded an amendment to add the word "Christian".

The amendment was carried.

The Revd David Robertson suggested a further amendment to add "and publish it nationally". This was seconded by Revd B Russell.

The Convener said that Church & Society would be willing to accept this resolution. The amendment was agreed.

It was then agreed that:

- 19 (i) Assembly calls on Church and Society to produce a Christian critique on market economics and publish it nationally.**

The Revd Peter Brain proposed the following resolution:

National Lottery

- 20 Assembly urges the members and councils of the church to disassociate themselves from the Lottery by refusing to buy tickets and by declining to apply for Lottery-generated funds for church purposes.**

The Revd Wallace Snade asked Assembly to speak with integrity when criticising the lottery.

The Revd Brian O'Neill said that he would be applying for a grant from the national lottery because he believed that the charity allocation could be put to good use. He asked the Assembly not to pass the resolution.

The Moderator ruled that because several more members wanted to speak and there was no more time available, the business would be remaindered, probably to Thursday evening.

On Thursday evening the Moderator drew attention to earlier debate on resolution 20 which was now resumed with a time limit of fifteen minutes. To enable clear debate he ruled that the resolution would be taken in two parts.

- 20 Assembly urges the members and councils of the church to disassociate themselves from the Lottery (i) by refusing to buy tickets and (ii) by declining to apply for Lottery-generated funds for church purposes.**

Discussion followed and after fifteen minutes the Moderator asked the Revd Peter Brain to reply to the debate.

The Moderator put:

Assembly urges the members and councils of the church to disassociate themselves from the Lottery by (i) refusing to buy tickets

This was carried. He also put:

and (ii) by declining to apply for Lottery-generated funds for church purposes.

This was agreed. On a request to move an additional resolution asking the Government to impose a ceiling on prizes, the Moderator ruled that it could not be taken up at this point of the time-table, being a quite new topic.

Resource Sharing Task Group

A resolution in the names of the Revds Christopher White and Margaret Taylor was presented.

Assembly

- ♦ notes the report of the Resource Sharing Task Group of the Mission Council;
- ♦ thanks the Group for its work so far;

- ♦ **but declines, at this stage, to endorse the conclusion that "the sharing of resources within and between Provinces cannot, and should not, be imposed by other councils of the church".**
- ♦ **and instructs the Mission Council to suggest ways in which the financial resources of the church may be shared for the total work of the church.**

The General Secretary spoke on behalf of the Resource Sharing Task Group. The Group had been working by consultation and not imposition. The Group were fully committed to the final paragraph of the resolution. On behalf of Mission council he did not oppose the resolution.

Resolution 55 was put and agreed.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Revd Tony Burnham, speaking personally, presented the resolution.

Assembly

- ♦ **in the light of its call made in 1994 for moves towards the banning of nuclear tests as part of its endorsement of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;**
- ♦ **strongly deplores the resumption of nuclear testing in the Pacific region by France and calls upon the French government to reverse this decision;**
- ♦ **supports the recent appeals made on this matter by the Pacific Council of Churches, by our CWM partner churches and others in the region and by the World Council of Churches;**
- ♦ **calls on the British government to pledge that it will not resume any nuclear testing and will use its good offices to persuade the French government to reverse this decision.**

Mr Burnham had brought back a request for such a resolution from his visit to CWM sister churches in the Pacific.

The Revd Dale Rominger formally seconded the resolution. Comments were received and the Revd Michael Thawley hoped to be able to take back this resolution to his church in New Zealand. The Revd Kenneth Summers asked that a copy of this resolution be sent to the French Reformed Church.

The resolution was put to the Assembly and accepted with no votes against.

Support for divorced and separated spouses of URC ministers

The Revd Margaret McKay presented resolution 54.

- 54 Assembly requests that its appropriate committee should consider the question of the provision of assistance and support for divorced and separated spouses of United Reformed Church ministers and to report to next Assembly.**

The Revd Peter Ball formally seconded the resolution.

The General Secretary expressed support for this process of consideration and stated his view that it should be remitted to the Mission Council in the first instance.

The resolution was put to the vote and was carried.

Mission Council

The Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey presented the report of the Mission Council.

He paid tribute to the late Alistair Black, the Honorary Treasurer, whose sudden death had been a great loss to the Church.

The Mission Council is now working to give full emphasis to mission, worship and the study of the bible. He referred to the coming appointment of a Deputy General Secretary who would have special responsibility for the Mission Council.

The Moderator invited comments on the sections of the report which were not the basis of resolutions.

The Revd Christopher White asked, following the amendment of Standing Order 3, about the status of non-resolution matters in reports.

The Clerk replied that there was no intention to change the status of reports: the point would be discussed at the Mission Council.

Mr Michael Harrison, Convener of MOM Sub-Committee raised a question under 5.2 Committee Structure referring to the Pensions Working Group. He sought reassurance that whatever title is given to this body it shall be a permanent body. The General Secretary advised the Assembly that this was so, referring to the addendum to page 73, and distinguishing between the terms "Task Group" and "Working Group". The Pensions Working Group remains also a Sub-Committee of the Board of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Limited.

The Revd Rose Barrett asked a question about the Address to the Throne and whether the singing of the National Anthem or a vote would signify its adoption. The General Secretary explained how the address would be prepared and voted on this year.

The General Secretary presented the following resolution. No objections having been received by the required date, he proposed:

10 The Assembly ratifies its decision made in July 1994 to amend the Basis and Structure of the United Reformed Church as follows:

Paragraph 2(4) in the note on Moderators of Synods, delete the second sentence. The first sentence shall read: 'There shall be a moderator for each provincial synod being a minister appointed from time to time by the General Assembly according to its rules of procedure and responsible to the General Assembly'.

The resolution was carried.

The Moderator vacated the Chair and the Revd Graham Cook assumed the Chair.

The Clerk stated that because of his involvement with Westminster College he would ask the General Secretary to act as the Clerk during this item of business.

Dr David Thompson presented the resolution, giving details of the process by which the Mission Council had now brought forward the resolution.

The Assembly

- a) **commends Westminster College for its past and current work in preparing ordinands and others for their ministry and recommends that the United Reformed Church continue to use the college for various training purposes at least until 31 August 2000;**
- b) **requests that the future training aims and purposes of the college be considered together with those of the other recognised theological colleges in the review of training needs for the United Reformed Church presently being undertaken by the Training Committee;**
- c) **endorses the five year plan for the college suggested in the Westminster College Strategic Plan 1995-2000, subject to the college modifying its strategy in the light of any decisions resulting from the training review;**
- d) **agrees to decide on the future use and purposes of Westminster College in the light of the training review and the College's response to it;**
- e) **agrees to appoint a Board of Governors accountable to the General Assembly for the college with (i) oversight of all the activities in the college, (ii) accountability for the management and finances of the college, with the object of demonstrating financial viability by 31 December 1999; and**
- f) **in the light of the above recommendations, agrees to appoint a new Principal for the college from 1 September 1996 for five years in the first instance; and**
- g) **instructs Mission Council to take any other necessary steps to give effect to the working out of the proposals in resolution 11.**

This resolution was carried.

The Revd John Reardon resumed the Chair and the Clerk returned to the table.

Task Group on Human Sexuality

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow, Convener, presented the following resolution:

Mrs Goodfellow set out the background to the setting up of the Task Group on Human Sexuality. It was clear that the Assembly of 1995 was to set up a process and not take a decision on the policy of the church. It was important that there should be time for informed discussion throughout the Church. There was no one Christian view on homosexuality but diverse sincere views.

It was important that literature should be circulated to all the churches in the autumn. In the pack would be the report of the Task Group to the Assembly with resource information. There would be worship material and material for leaders who were required to lead discussion in congregations.

Mrs Goodfellow moved:

17 Assembly:

- a) **invites the Mission Council Task Group on Human Sexuality to circulate material to enable the Church in all its councils to discuss the matter of human sexuality and its implications for ministry within the Church;**

- b) requests that this discussion takes place in Provincial Synods, District Councils and local churches, leading to a further discussion in Synods in the autumn of 1996;**
- c) requests Provincial Synods, District Councils and local churches to send their responses to the General Secretary by December 1, 1996, in order to allow Mission Council to bring any further resolutions to General Assembly in 1997.**

Mrs Ruth Clarke spoke in support of the resolution, while asking the Task Group to take into its remit the problem of sexual abuse of women, particularly when committed by ministers. She gave details of a particular problem of a woman minister of the URC.

Mrs Clarke told the story to help this minister and asked the Mission Council to set up as a matter of urgency a code of practice regarding sexual abuse.

The Revd Paul Quilter spoke in support of Mrs Clarke's statement. He asked what happens when part of a minister dies, for example as a result of sexual abuse when confidence is destroyed. He hoped that in due course the Church would make a response which would help such ministers.

Mr Geoff Bowstead of the Methodist Church spoke of the debate which took place at their 1993 Conference. It was necessary to be quite clear about the subject under debate. It was also necessary to consider biblical authority, tradition and present experience. A distinction in the Church of England debate has been made between ministers and others. It was necessary for the URC to be clear on this point.

In the continuing wide-ranging discussion, the Revd Janet Webber offered help to local debate from the Lesbian & Gay Christian Caucus.

The Revd Dr John Parry spoke of his concern for the woman minister described in the Assembly and the need for the greatest sensitivity when discussing personal cases.

The Working Party undertook to listen to all the comments which were sent to the General Secretary by December 1, 1996.

The resolution was carried with one or two people voting against.

The Moderator took up consideration of the additional Resolution 17 (i), to add to Resolution 17 a further sub-paragraph:

- d) Assembly resolves that until the Assembly has established a policy regarding the ordination of practising homosexuals to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments there shall be a moratorium on further ordinations of such persons and on further acceptance of such persons as candidates for the ministry.**

The Revd James Breslin, on a point of order, suggested that 17 (i) was out of order.

The Moderator ruled that it would be right for the Assembly to hear the proposal.

The Revd Dr David Hilborn spoke to the resolution, asserting that it laid the ground for an open discussion of principle rather than on individual cases. The Revd John Hall formally seconded the resolution.

The Revd Dr Walter Houston contended that the proposed resolution would negative the resolution which had already been passed. He requested to move that this resolution be not put. The motion was seconded. The Moderator referred members to Standing Order 5a. We would not be taking a vote for or against the resolution. We would simply pass from it. Dr David Hilborn replied.

The resolution that the question be not put was carried.

On a point of order the Revd John Johansen-Berg asked for a ruling from the Moderator.

The Clerk was asked to comment. There were two legitimate points of view. One regards the URC as having implicitly accepted tradition, widely held in the Christian Churches, against ordination of those practising homosexuality; the other noted that the URC had stated no policy on this matter. These two points of view were part of the debate.

The Moderator called for the presentation of resolution 17(ii) which was made by the Revd Charles S Martin, formally seconded by Mrs Rosemary Anderson, both from the Medway District Council. It sought to add to Resolution 17 a further sub-paragraph

- e) Assembly requests that during the consultation process, local Churches, District Councils, Provincial Synods and Theological Colleges continue to maintain those standards which have been traditionally regarded as governing holy living.

The Revd Dale Rominger spoke about the problem of ascertaining the sexuality of a candidate.

The Revd Peter Poulter proposed that the resolution be not put; this was seconded.

The Revd Charles Martin responded to the motion.

The motion that the resolution be not put was carried.

The General Secretary proposed the following resolution:

- 12 Assembly resolves that the resolution of the United Assembly of 1972 approving the Scheme of Union in full shall be interpreted as approving for the purposes of Section 19 of The United Reformed Church Act 1972 all those Trust Corporations which from the date of coming into force of the Act held land for purposes relating to The United Reformed Church and further resolves to ratify all actions taken by such bodies since that date in acquiring land whether by purchase, transfer or Trusteeship or otherwise.**

This was agreed. He further moved resolution 13, explaining that its passing would correct a procedural error of Mission Council:

- 13 Assembly confirms the decision of Mission Council to reappoint Paul Franklin as National Youth Secretary until at least 31 December 1997.**

Mr John Dryburgh, FURY Chair, endorsed this proposal with gratitude for Paul Franklin's service so far. The resolution was agreed unanimously.

The General Secretary then moved Resolution 14, conveying some corrections to the text of the relevant Reports:

14 Assembly agrees to accept the revised remits of the following committees:-

- a) **Discipleship and Witness**
- b) **Doctrine, Prayer and Worship**
- c) **Ecumenical**
- d) **Ministries and the Accreditation's sub-committee**

The General Secretary finally moved resolution 15:

15 The Assembly resolves to meet in 1996 at the University of York from Saturday 6 to Tuesday 9 July and in 1997 at Portsmouth from Monday 7 to Friday 11 July.

Questions were asked about the proposed locations and about invitations to sister churches to be represented. The General Secretary replied, indicating difficulties faced by Synods in finding suitable meeting places to enable the General Assembly to move in sequence round the twelve provinces. Sister churches were invited on a planned rotation.

The Resolution was agreed.

Provincial Moderators' Report

The Revd John Humphreys presented the report of the Provincial Moderators under the title "Ever New Obedience". He introduced the report with a poem and an account of his work in the Reformed Church in Hungary and related these to current opportunities in local churches. He offered the report for discussion here and in other Councils and meeting places of the Church.

The Moderator expressed the gratitude of the Assembly for this report.

The Moderator greeting the Revd Nelson Bainbridge on his retirement as Moderator of the Wessex Province.

The Revd Derek Wales, who would be commissioned in September as Moderator of the Wessex Province, was greeted by the Moderator.

On behalf of the relevant Nominating Group, the Revd George Thomas presented resolution 53.

53 Nomination: Deputy General Secretary

Assembly resolves that John Donald WALLER

- a) **end his service as provincial moderator of the West Midlands Provincial Synod on 30 November 1995; and**
- b) **be appointed to serve as Deputy General Secretary from 1 December 1995 until 31 August 2002.**

The Nominating Group were unanimous in their decision to bring this nomination.

This was carried.

The Moderator greeted the Revd John Waller.

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer and the Assembly responded in song.

Nominations Committee

The Revd Jessie Clare, Convener, presented the report of the Nominations Committee as contained in the Book of Reports and the Supplementary Paper.

Comments were received on the report and the Secretary, the Revd Arnold Harrison, replied. The Convener proposed Resolution 38.

38 The Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 87-94 of the Book of Reports subject to the additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly.

The Resolution was carried.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Convener: Prof. Malcolm Johnson [1998]

Deputy Convener: Mr Aubrey Curry [1996]

Secretary: Revd Peter Brain

Revd Michael Powell [1999]

Revd Hazel Barkham [1999]

Ms Janine Lawley [1998]

Mrs Val Morrison [1998]

Revd Ermal Kirby [1997]

Mr David Wrighton [1997]

Mr Paul Franklin representing the Youth & Children's Committee

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDITORIAL

Convener: Mr Chris Wright [1999]

Secretary: Mrs Carol Rogers

Revd Miles Parkinson [1999]

Mr Andrew Jackson [1998]

Revd Graham Spicer [1997]

Mrs Sue Brooks [1997]

Mr Doug Fletcher [1997]

Mr John Rawnsley [1996]

Revd Brian Baker [1996]

DISCIPLESHIP AND WITNESS

Convener: Revd Elizabeth Caswell [1999]

Secretary: Revd Roger Whitehead [1998]

Revd David Tatem [1999]

Revd Jean Forster [1998]

Mr Jim Wilkinson [1998]

Dr John Stocks [1997]

Revd Dr Tom Arthur [1996]

Revd Eileen Sanderson representing the Youth & Children's Committee

WINDERMERE - Policy and Planning

Convener: Revd. David A.L. Jenkins [1999]

Secretary: The Director of the Windermere Centre

Representatives of Finance, Revd Wynn Young, Revd Bill Mahood, Revd Dr Stephen Orchard, with the Administrator, the Convener of Programmes Committee, the Convener and Treasurer of the Management Committee, the Convener and Secretary of Discipleship and Witness, and a representative of Carver URC, Windermere.

DOCTRINE, PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Convener: Dr David Thompson [1997]

Secretary: Revd Dale Rominger [1999]

Revd Fleur Houston [1999]

Revd Stephen Brown [1999]

Revd Donald Norwood [1999]

Mr Tony Cheer [1998]

Miss Fiona Gow [1998]

Revd Wendy Baskett [1998]

Revd Alan Sell [1997]

Prof Graham Stanton [1997]

Revd Alan Gaunt [1996]

Revd Derek Gardiner representing the Youth & Children's Committee

ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd Murdoch Mackenzie [1997]

Secretary: Revd Sheila Maxey

Revd Peter Arthur [1999]

Revd Norman Healey [1999]

Mrs Claudette Binns [1998]

Revd David Fox [1998]

Revd Philip Woods [1998]

Mr Desmond Curry [1997]

Revd Elizabeth Welch [1996]

ECUMENICAL - Sub-Committee - OVERSEAS EXCHANGE

Convener: Revd Barrie Scopes [1999]

Secretary: Sec. for International Church Relations

Revd David Helyar [1998]

Revd Mia Kyte [1998]

Mrs Muriel Sleight [1998]

Revd Bernie Collins [1997]

Revd Ken Graham [1999]

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Mrs Susan Rand [1999]

Secretary: Revd Simon Walkling [1999]

Revd Elaine Dunn

Mr Alan Hart

Revd John McCauley

Revd Justine Wyatt

Mr Doug Thacker

Mrs Daphne Beale

[the retirement dates have yet to be agreed]

FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: Mr Clem Frank

Mrs Elizabeth Reeve [1999]

Revd Richard Wiggins [1999]

Mrs Edwina Rockey [1999]

Mr Graham Stacy [1998]

Revd Paul Bedford [1997]

Mr Ron Turner [1996]

Convener of the URC Trust

RESOURCES PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Revd John Waller [1999]

Secretary: Mr David Butler [1999]

Revd Duncan Wilson [1998]

Revd Peter Poulter [1997]

Mrs Christine Meekison [1996]

Mr Aubrey Curry [1995]

In Attendance: Treasurer, General Secretary, Secretary for Advocacy, Chief Accountant, Representative of Ministries

MINISTRIES

Convener: Revd Keith Forecast [1997]

Secretary: Revd Chris Baker [1998]

Mr John Ellis [1999]

Ms Geraldine Swaine [1999]

Revd Sandra Lloydlangston [1999]

Revd Vaughan Jones [1998]

Mrs Doreen Courtney [1997]

Revd David Cornick [1996]

Convener of National Assessment Board

MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - ACCREDITATION

Convener: Mrs Margaret Carrick-Smith [1999]

Secretary: Revd Hazel Martell [1998]

Mr Bert Worrall [1999]

Revd John Humphreys [1999]

Revd Dean Tapley [1997]

Mrs Ruth Clarke [1997]

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT BOARD

Convener: Mr Raymond Clarke [1997]

Retiring 1999

Retiring 1998

Retiring 1997

Retiring 1996

Mrs Shirley Moss**

Mrs Pat Peirce

Revd John Humphreys

Revd Graham Long

Revd Graham Cook**

Mrs Marva Ward

Dr Fiona Liddell

Mrs Edith Tolley

Revd Elizabeth Scopes**

Revd Cecil White

Revd Dr Catherine Middleton

Mr Peter Richards

Revd Barbara Plenderleith

Revd Christine Craven

Mr Brian Evans

Revd Leonard Bhagwandin

PANEL FOR ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES - CRCW - Sub-Section

Mrs Daphne Beale

Revd Peter Loveitt

Revd Kate McIlhagga

Revd Vaughan Jones

Mrs Ann Sutcliffe

MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY

Convener: Mr Michael Harrison [1999]

Secretary: Revd Peter Grimshaw [1999]

Mrs Barbara Martin [1999] Miss Margaret Atkinson [1999] Revd Bill Gathercole [1997]
The Treasurer

MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - CRCW Management

Convener: Revd Robert Vaughan Jones

Secretary: Mr John Boddy

Ms Marlene Brown, Mrs Doreen Finneron, Revd Janet Loveitt, Mr Simon Loveitt

MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING

Convener: Revd David Hannen [1998]

Secretary: Mr Clive Willis [1999]

Mr Martin Ballard [1998] Revd Janet Sowerbutts [1998] Mrs Pauline Mewis [1997]
Mrs Barbara Williams [1997] The Treasurer

RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING SOCIETY LTD - Management Committee

Chairman: Revd David Hannen

Secretary: Mr Clive Willis

Ass. Secretary: Mr Ken Meekison

Mr John Gilbey	Mr George Anderson	Revd Janet Sowerbutts
Revd George Hooper	Mr Martin Ballard	Mrs Barbara Williams
Mr Brian Vaughan	Mr Brian Gould	Mr Norman Fabb
Mrs Pauline Mewis	Mr Bob Carruthers	Mr Clem Frank

The Treasurer

(Note: This Committee is not an Assembly appointment but is included for information)

ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS

Convener: Mrs Wilma Frew [1998]

Secretary: Office & Personnel Manager

Provincial Representative for forthcoming Assembly

Provincial Representative for previous Assembly who is then replaced after 'review' meeting by

Provincial Representative for Assembly two years hence.

Moderator, Moderator-elect, General Secretary, Clerk to Assembly

NOMINATIONS

Convener: Revd Jessie Clare [1998]

Secretary: Revd Arnold Harrison [1998]

Provincial Representatives

I	Revd David Jenkins	VII	Revd David Tatem
II	Revd Geoff Tolley	VIII	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
III	Mr John Yates	IX	Revd George Thomas
IV	Revd Donald Hilton	X	Mrs Mary Stacy
V	Revd Chris White	XI	Mrs Christine Meekison
VI	Revd John Waller	XII	Mrs Eileen McIlveen

together with the immediate past Moderator.

PASTORAL

Convener: Revd John Johansen-Berg [1999]

Secretary: General Secretary

Revd John Humphreys [1999]**	Miss Ruth Archer [1997]	Mrs Sheila Pratt [1996]
Revd Daphne Hull [1996]	Convener of Welfare Sub-Comm.	The Treasurer

Revd Nelson Bainbridge [1996]

WELFARE - Sub-Committee

Convener: Mrs Shirley Paton [1999]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings

TRAINING

Convener: Revd John Sutcliffe [1999]

Secretary: Revd Dr Catherine Middleton [1998]

Mrs Carol Dixon [1999]

Revd Chris Warner [1999]

Revd John Proctor [1997]

Revd Elizabeth Nash [1997]

Dr Jean Butler [1996]

Revd Peter Noble [1996]

BOARD OF STUDIES

Convener: Revd John Sutcliffe

Secretary: Revd David Jenkins

Revd Rhona Jones, Revd Susan Roberts, Mr Bryan Elkington, Dorothy Steward.

In Attendance: Secretary for Training, Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee; Mr Barry Wakefield,

Mr Andrew Armour

MINISTERIAL TRAINING FUND

Convener: Revd Julian Macro

Secretary: Revd John Sutcliffe

Revd Elizabeth Nash, Mr David Butler

In Attendance: Secretary for Training, Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee; Treasurer, Chief Accountant

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Convener: Revd Stephen Thornton [1998]

Secretary: Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn [1997]

Miss Kathryn Swift [1999]

Revd Ron Forster [1999]

Revd Barbara Plenderleith [1999]

Mrs Jean Antcliffe [1999]

Mrs Elizabeth Crocker [1998]

Ms Catherine Rook [1997]

Mr Nick Raggett [1996]

Revd Duncan Wilson [1996]

FURY Chair

FURY Council member

MISSION COUNCIL

Moderator, Moderator-elect, immediate past Moderator, General Secretary, Clerk, Legal Adviser, Deputy General Secretary, conveners of standing committees (except the Pastoral Committee), conveners of the following task groups: Advocacy and Stewardship, Mission and Other Faiths, and Health and Healing, two representatives of FURY, and four representatives of each synod including the provincial moderator.

The provincial representatives, other than moderators, are:

Northern	Revd Peter Poulter, Miss Janet Turner, Miss Sheila Fairbairn
North Western	Mrs Delyth Rees, Mr Andrew Goodier, Revd Brian O'Neill
Mersey	Revd Angus Duncan, Revd Jean Forster, Mr Wesley Woodside
Yorkshire	Mr Brian Evans, Revd Duncan Wilson, Mrs Angela Hughes
East Midlands	Mr Geoff Prentice, Mrs Maureen Buxton, Revd Margaret Taylor
West Midlands	Mr Ron Webb, Mrs Jennifer Shaffery, Revd Patricia Nimmo
Eastern	Mr William McVey, Mrs Elizabeth Whitten, Revd Margaret McKay
South Western	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston, Mrs Joan Trippier, Mr Ivan Andrews
Wessex	Revd Bernie Collins, Mr David Butler, Mrs Christine Hardwick
Thames North	Revd Geoffrey Bending, Miss Marian Crack, Mrs Marlene Hunter
Southern	Mrs Christine Meekison, Revd Raymond Singh, Revd Simon Thomas
Wales	Revd Henry Gordon, Revd Nanette Head, Mr Denis Earp

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS' PENSION TRUST LTD - BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman: Revd Dr Arthur Chadwick

Secretary: Mr Geoff Lunt

Members of the URC:

Mrs Gwen Hall

Mr Desmond Davies

Mr Tom Swan

Mr Geoffrey Lunt

Members of the Fund:

Revd Pam Ward

Revd Tony Spring

Revd Raymond Royston-Bishop

Revd Dr Arthur Chadwick

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST

Convener: Mr Desmond Davies

Secretary: Mr Clem Frank

Mr Bob Carruthers

Mr Robert Hardie

Mr William McVey

Revd Dennis Clague

Mr Harold Kempton

Revd Richard Wiggins

Revd Tony Burnham

Mr Ron Masser

The Treasurer

TASK GROUPS

HEALTH AND HEALING (To report no later than General Assembly 1996)

Convener: Revd Robin Hine

Secretary: Revd Jim Hollyman

Dr Eileen Gorrod

Revd John Jenkinson

Revd Kate McIlhagga

Mrs Connie Bunker

ADVOCACY AND STEWARDSHIP - (To continue until 1st April 1999)

Convener: Revd Julian Macro

Secretary: Revd Bill Wright

Revd Stephen Thornton

Mr Stanley Griffiths

Dr Clare Shepard

Miss Janet Turner

Revd David Netherwood

Mr Marshall Wood

Mr Keith Webster

Revd Bob Maitland

MISSION AND OTHER FAITHS - (To report no later than General Assembly 1996)

Convener: Revd Bill Mahood

Secretary: Revd Brenda Willis

Revd David Bowen

Mrs Joyce Killick

Mrs Linda Hopley

Consultant: Revd Ron Lewis

Co-options: Revds John Parry, Christopher Lamb and Martin Foreward

TRAINING FOR LEARNING AND SERVING (To report no later than General Assembly 1997)

Convener: Revd David Jenkins

Mr Jim Wilkinson, Miss Janet Turner, Revd Tom Arthur, Revd Alexander Mailer

In Attendance: Convener of Training, Revd John Sutcliffe; Secretary for Training,

Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee; NYCTO Revd Eileen Sanderson

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ON OTHER BODIES

1 OTHER ASSEMBLIES

Presbyterian Church in Ireland	1995	Revd Jack McKelvey
	1996	Revd John Reardon, Revd Jim Brown
General Synod of Church of England		Revd Christine Craven
Methodist Conference		Revd Sheila Maxey
Baptist Union of Scotland		Dr Peter Arthur
Church of Scotland		Revd Jack McKelvey and Revd Stephen Brown
Scottish Congregational Church		Revd David Jenkins
Presbyterian Church of Wales		Revd Jack McKelvey
Union of Welsh Independents		Revd Glanville Jones
Congregational Federation		Revd Geoffrey Roper
Uniting Church of Australia		Revd Dr Bernard Thorogood
Waldensian Synod		Revd Jack McKelvey
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan		Revd Brian Sturtridge
United Church of Christ (USA)		Revd David Jenkins
United Congregational Church of Southern Africa		Revd Jack McKelvey
Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa		Revd Jack McKelvey
Evangelical Church of the Palatinate		Revd John Reardon

6th International Consultation of United
and Uniting Churches
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa N.Z.

World Alliance of Reformed Churches
European Area Council 1995

Revd James Breslin
Revd Maurice and
Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee
Ms Wendy Clark, Revds Rudolph Dixon,
Elizabeth Nash, Donald Norwood,
Jane Stranz and Revd Prof Colin Gunton

2 CHURCH BODIES

The Report of Nominations includes those who are United Reformed Church Representatives on ecumenical Assemblies, Forums, Councils and Executives and are nominated directly through the Nominations Committee. A list of all other representatives to ecumenical bodies, commissions and committees, many of which are made directly by the Ecumenical Committee, are available, on request, from the Secretary for Ecumenical Relations.

Churches Together In England - Forum

Revd John Johansen-Berg	Revd Richard Mortimer	Revd Elizabeth Welch
Revd Barbara Gates	Mr David Butler	Mr John Bradbury**
Revd Rudolph Dixon**	Miss Betty Vickerton**	Ms Rachel Inglis
Revd Mark Fisher**	Revd Geoffrey Roper**	Revd Sheila Maxey
Revd Gillian Bobbett**		

Churches Together In England - Enabling Group
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Council Of Churches For Britain And Ireland - Assembly

General Secretary	Convener of the Ecumenical Committee	Secretary for Ecumenical Relations
plus		
Revd Greta Morgan	Mrs Eileen McIlveen	
Mrs Ruth Clarke	Mr David Butler	
Revd Elizabeth Welch	Dr Mary Ede	
Ms Melanie Smith	Revd Peter Arthur	
Revd Susan Durber		

Council Of Churches For Britain And Ireland - Church Representatives Meeting

General Secretary Mrs Ruth Clarke

Action Of Churches Together In Scotland - Central Council

Revd David Taylor Mrs Kathleen Ziffo**

CYTUN

Assembly	The Provincial Moderator (Wales)	Provincial Ecumenical Officer
	Revd Simon Copley	Miss Alys Thomas
		Revd David Wilkinson

Council	The Provincial Moderator (Wales)	Mr John Rhys (Synod Clerk)
	Ms Jackie Yeomans	

Steering Committee Provincial Ecumenical Officer

FREE CHURCH FEDERAL COUNCIL

Council	General Secretary	Secretary for Ecumenical relations
	Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow	Revd Peter Beaman
	Revd Eric Woolaston	Mr Desmond Curry**

Executive General Secretary

Chaplaincy Board
Education Committee

Revd Peter Beaman, Revd Brian Holroyd, Revd Daphne Williams
Mrs Mary Ede, Mr Graham Handscombe
Co-options - Dr Stephen Orchard and Revd John Sutcliffe
Janet Lees**

Women's Council

Methodist/URC Liason Committee
 Revd Susan Henderson Revd Michael Hubbard
 Revd Joe Clemson Miss Betty Vickerton
 Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

3 OTHER COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund:	Mr Ken Meekison* Revd Geoffrey Satchell and Mr Laurence Macro (Honorary Treasurer)
Cambridge Theological Federation Certificate Committee of Management:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee
Christian Education Movement Council:	National Youth and Children's Work Training Office
Churches Commission for Racial Justice:	Mrs Sandra Ackroyd
Churches Community Work Alliance:	Revd Tony Addy (Trustee) Revd Vaughan Jones (Management Committee)
Churches Main Committee:	Mr Clem Frank, Mr Hartley Oldham Mr Tegid Peregrine
Congregational Fund Board:	Revd Cyril Grant, Revd Dorothy Havergal-Shaw Revd Aubrey Lewis, Revd John Taylor and Revd Geoffrey Satchell
Joint Liturgical Group:	Revd Susan Durber, Dr Colin Tompson
Methodist Faith and Order Committee:	Revd Kim Fabricius
National Christian Education Council:	Revd Keith Forecast, Mrs Rosemary Johnston**
National Council of Voluntary Organisations:	Revd Peter Brain
National Ecumenical Agency for Further Education:	Revd Michael Diffey, Revd Kevin Swaine
Scottish World Day of Prayer:	Mrs Molly Glen
Society for the Ministry of Women in the Church:	Revd Florence Frost-Mee
United Navy, Army and Airforce Board:	Revd Michael Diffey, Revd Dennis Friend, Revd John Paull, vacancy Revd Tony Burnham
United Reformed Church History Society:	Mrs Mary Davies, Revd Peter Jupp, Mrs Carol Rogers, Revd Eric Wollaston, (Dr David Thompson also serves) Mrs Betty Taylor
Wharton Trust:	Mr Ken Meekison, Revd Geoffrey Satchell and Mr Laurence Macro
Widows Fund of the Three Denominations:	Mrs Ruth Bowyer

4 COLLEGE AND SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND COUNCILS

Aberystwyth (Memorial College):	Revd Dr Glyndwr Harris, Mr Leslie Jones
Bishops Stortford College:	Revd Margaret McKay
Cambridge Theological Federation	Convener and Secretary, Training Committee
Caterham School, Board of Governors:	Revd David Helyar and Revd David Flynn
Cheshunt Foundation:	Mr Desmond Davies, Revd Michael Dunford
Eltham College/Walthamstow Hall:	Mrs Jean Garwood
Homerton College Trustees:	Mr John Chaplin, Revd Bill Gathercole, Revd Margaret McKay, Mrs Elisabeth Jupp, Mrs Mary Cornick, Dr David Thompson
Mansfield College, Ministerial Training Committee:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd Julian Macro, Revd Noel Shepherd, Revd Colin Thompson
Milton Mount Foundation, Governors:	Miss Margaret Canning, Mrs Ruth Clarke, Mrs Gwen Hall, Revd Peter Grimshaw, Revd Erica Beglin and Revd Dr Catherine Middleton*
Northern College:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd David Jenkins, Revd Brian O'Neill and Revd John Marsh*

Queen's College, Birmingham:
St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak:

Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee
Revd Gwen Collins, Mrs Haro Horsfield
Revd Michael Diffey, Revd Tony Coates and
Mrs Marieke Arthur
Dr Clyde Binfield
Revd Ray Adams
Dr William Blakeley, Mr Roddy McKenzie,
Mr R J Whild and Mrs Doris Margetts
Revd Eric Lord
Dr Richard Jurd
Mr J E Payne, Professor Robert Steel and
Revd Eric Lord

Silcoates School, Governor:
Taunton School:
Tettenhall College, Governors:

Wentworth Milton Mount, Governor:
Westhill College Foundation Governor:
Westhill College Foundation Trustees:

5 COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

Revd Tony Burnham Ms Bethan Galliers
Revd Mia Hilborn Mr Wallie Warmington

6 CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revd Dr Philip Morgan Mr Hartley Oldham Mrs Christine Meekison
Revd Maurice Husselbee Mrs Mary Stacy Mr Robert Hardie
Revd Geoffrey Satchell Revd David Hannen Mr Arthur Smith
Revd John Taylor Revd Peter Grimshaw The Treasurer

7 NEW COLLEGE LONDON FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Mr John Smethers Revd Dr Robert Latham Revd John Pugh

REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COMMITTEES

OTHER COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

BBC Central Religious Advisory Committee: Revd Tony Burnham
Church Hymnary Trust: Mr G R Barr
 Mrs Fiona Smith
Churches' Commission on Overseas Students: Revd Kevin Swaine
Churches' Consortium on Industrial Mission: Revd Michael Diffey
Churches' Council for Health & Healing: Revd Robin Hine
 Mrs Connie Bunker
 vacancy
Churches' Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting: Mrs Carol Rogers
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith Relations: Revd Brenda Willis
Council of URC Boys' Brigade Companies: Revd Michael Rees
 Mr Paul Franklin
Funerals, Cremations & Crematoria: Revd Peter Jupp**
Guides' Religious Advisory Panel: Revd Gillian Bobbett
International Bible Reading Association: Vacant
Media Awareness Project: Mrs Carol Rogers
Scout & Guide Fellowship (URC): Mr Paul Franklin
Scouts' Religious Advisory Group: Mr D Marshall-Jones

The Revd Jessie Clare proposed Resolution 57

57 Assembly

- i appoints the Revd Dr Philip Morgan to be Convener of the West Midlands Provincial Moderator's Nominating Group;**
- ii instructs the Nominations Committee to appoint the Assembly members of the West Midlands Provincial Moderator's Nominating Group; and**
- iii authorises the Mission Council to appoint the Moderator of the West Midlands Province.**

This was agreed.

The resolution 58 was proposed. The General Secretary replied to a question on the term of service of Dr Janet Tollington which was related to the review of Westminster College. An amendment was proposed to extend Dr Tollington's appointment to 31.8.2000. The amendment was seconded by the Revd Dr Walter Houston. The Clerk, as Principal of Westminster College, explained the considerations relating to the term of service.

The General Secretary spoke in favour of upholding the date proposed in the resolution. The amendment was put and rejected.

The resolution was carried as follows:

58 Assembly appoints Dr Janet Tollington (Westminster College) to a further term of service as Director of Old Testament Studies, from 31.12.97 to 31.8.99.

The General Secretary moved:

59 Assembly appoints Revd John Humphreys, Revd David Fox, Mr John Rhys and Revd James Breslin as representatives to the Council of Wales Consultation on Forming a United Free Church in Wales.

In answer to a question, an explanation was given of the absence of a woman from this delegation, an absence due to the already agreed dates of meetings being impossible for the Revd Sheila Maxey.

This Resolution was agreed.

He also asked the Assembly to note a correction to the Nominations Committee Supplementary report and drew attention to an omission as follows:-

Windermere Centre - Policy & Planning Committee

New Convener - Revd David Jenkins (Thames North Province)

This appointment was agreed.

Communications and Editorial

In the absence of the Convener who was unwell, Mrs Carol Rogers presented the report of the Communications and Editorial Committee.

She paid tribute to the service given by Mr Norman Hart as Editor of "REFORM" since 1977 and asked the Moderator to greet him in the name of the Assembly.

Mr Hart received the acclamation of the Assembly and was invited to speak. He thanked his colleagues, including his wife, and all those who had accepted his invitation to write for "REFORM". He also thanked those who had sent unsolicited items. He was glad that his successor as Editor was to be the Revd David Lawrence.

The Moderator invited comments on the report. The Revd David Bedford appealed to all churches to take out copyright licences and asked whether the Committee would find it possible to take out a national copyright licence. Mrs Felicity Plumbley spoke about Christian Copying Licencing International. Mrs Rogers replied with guidance and pointed out the high cost of a national licence.

Mansfield College

Miss Elaine Kaye, the Chair of Ministerial Training Committee, the Revd Charles Brock and Mr Denis Trevelyan, Principal were welcomed to inform the Assembly that on 31st May 1995 Mansfield College received a Royal Charter. Miss Kaye gave some historical background on the college. The Revd Charles Brock, Chaplain and Director of Ministerial Education, spoke of the social and theological background. Mansfield College had much to offer the URC and asked for Assembly's prayers and support.

The Moderator congratulated Mr Trevelyan and the team for this achievement.

The Moderator vacated the Chair.

The Revd Donald Hilton took the Chair

Ministries

The Convener, the Revd Keith Forecast, introduced the report of the Ministries Committee. The Moderator invited comments.

The Revd Paul Snell raised a question on the ministry of evangelists and asked the committee to consider this matter again.

Mrs Felicity Plumbley asked a question about Lay Preaching under the new structure. A similar question was raised by the Revd David Bedford.

At the request of the Convener, Mr John Ellis replied to these questions, assuring questioners that the matters would be taken up.

The Revd Kevin Swaine, the Co-ordinating Secretary for Higher and Further Education, was greeted by the Moderator on relinquishing this responsibility. The Revd Dr Walter Houston pressed the urgency of replacing Mr Swaine.

The Moderator received the Revd Jackie Petrie (RAF) as a representative Chaplain (URC) to H.M. Forces stationed in Britain.

Church-Related Community Work

A short presentation was made by those responsible for and those involved in Church Related Community Work in the URC.

The CRCW programme and its extension relies on the support of the Assembly and Mission Council.

The Moderator thanked those responsible for their presentation and said the church had reason to be grateful to them.

The Revd John Reardon resumed the Chair.

The Convener asked the Assembly to consider next the resolutions relating to the Pensions Working Group and asked Mr Victor Hughff, Convener of the Pensions Working Group, to speak to the Assembly.

He presented resolution 34 & 35 which were moved by the Revd Keith Forecast.

- 34 Assembly amends the Rules of the United Reformed Ministers' Pension Fund (both the rules applying before Assembly 1993, for those who elect to be dealt with under these rules, and the rules adopted by Assembly 1993) as follows:-**

Rule 22.3 to read "Where a member leaves one or more children below the age of 24 years, an annual pension in respect of each child until the child attains the age of 24 years, or until the child ceases to be dependent, whichever is the earlier. Initially this pension is £256 and this level of pension will be reviewed annually."

The resolution was carried.

- 35 Assembly approves the deletion of the words "every year on 1 November commencing 1 November 1994" in Rule 25.1, and the deletion of the words "September immediately preceding 1 November" in Rule 25.2 of the rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund, and their substitution by the words "every year on 1 January commencing 1 January 1996" in Rule 25.1, and the words "November immediately preceding 1 January" in Rule 25.2.**

This was agreed.

Mr Hughff presented resolutions 36 and 37 which were proposed by the Revd Keith Forecast.

- 36 Assembly amends Rule 20 of the Rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund to commence "In the event that a member retires before normal pension age on account of incapacity to undertake the duties of a stipendiary minister due to ill-health duly certified to the satisfaction of the Pension Trustee, he/she shall be entitled to an immediate pension"**

This was agreed.

- 37 Assembly amends Rule 20.4 of the Rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund by the additional of Rule 20.4.1 as follows "If any member who has been granted an ill-health pension recovers sufficiently and undertakes remunerated employment, that member must advise the Trustee accordingly". Rule 20.4 is renumbered as 20.4.2.**

This was agreed.

Moratorium

The Convener presented Resolution 29 which he proposed.

- 29 Assembly agrees to lift the moratorium imposed at Assembly 1994 concerning the application of ministers from other denominations to enter the stipendiary ministry of the United Reformed Church.**

This was carried.

Number of Ministers Working Party

The Convener informed the Assembly of the reasons for proposing the following:-

- 27 Assembly, accepting the need to share the ministers paid from the Maintenance of the Ministry account, instructs the Mission Council through the Resource Planning Advisory Committee to consult with representatives of the provincial synods about the present deployment and to decide on and recommend an appropriate policy to the 1996 Assembly.**

The Revd Geoffrey Roper asked who are the people who serve on the Resource Planning Advisory Committee and how long the target will take to be achieved.

The Revd John Waller informed the Assembly of the membership of the group.

This resolution was carried.

In presenting resolution 28 the Convener drew attention to the deployment proposals on page 78.

The Revd John Stevenson spoke of difficulties experienced by the Church of Scotland over ordained ministers who entered secular employment and later wished to re-enter stipendiary ministry.

- 28 Assembly accepts the procedure for controlling the number of ministers to be paid from the Maintenance of the Ministry Account set out in paragraph 15.6.ii-viii above.**

The Convener replied to questions and comments. In particular, he said that minimum age rules for entry into ministry were under discussion.

Resolution 28 was carried

Accreditations Sub-Committee

Corrections were made to the lists in the report for the Roll of Ministers:

16.6 (i)(c) Mary Cock (Congregational Federation) and delete Jean Fletcher, who is a Methodist serving the URC but not a transfer.

16.6 (i)(d) Reinstatement - add: Dr Fred Kaan

16.7 Add: Robert Canham and Lesley Anne McNeil

The Revd Michael Diffey replied to a question about Enquirers' Conferences on accessibility for people with disabilities, saying that the matter was under careful consideration.

The Revd Donald McIlhagga

The Convener explained the circumstances which had led to the bringing of the following resolution:

- 30 Assembly affirms the action taken by the Ministries Committee as reported in para 16.6.ii.c to delete the name of the Revd Donald McIlhagga from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church.**

The Convener would be prepared to defer the proposal so that another resolution could be made from the floor to accept the recently tendered voluntary resignation of Mr McIlhagga.

The Clerk advised the Assembly of the present pastoral measure and of Function (xviii) of the General Assembly and suggested that the question before the Assembly was to decide (a) whether the name of the minister should be removed & (b) whether this should be by voluntary resignation or by deletion.

In discussion there were speakers who indicated willingness to consider an amendment to accept resignation and others who stressed the need to send the right message to those in the local church who had suffered in this matter.

The Moderator summed up the discussion so far and asked if anyone wished to propose an amendment to the effect that the resignation be accepted. No amendment was put.

The Resolution was put to the Assembly and it was carried by a large majority; there were some declared abstentions.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to observe a period of silence, remembering those who had been affected by this concern over the past year and their families, as well as all those who have been involved in the difficult work for councils and committees.

National Assessment Board

Mr Raymond Clarke replied to a question. By next year's Assembly certain criteria would be established which would be clearly understood by all concerned.

Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee

Mr Michael Harrison, Convener, presented the report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee.

The Convener of the Ministries Committee formally moved the following resolutions.

31 Assembly amends para 5.5 of the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration to read "Lay workers to be included".

Assembly amends the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration by addition of a new para 5.5.2 "Lay missionaries serving in posts recognised and designated by the Ecumenical Committee".

This was carried.

32 Assembly adds the following para 8.4.5 to the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration "Where the minister has attained the age of 60 and, with the approval of the pastorate and the District Council, moves into the property designated as the retirement home, retirement resettlement and removal grants, as set out in this para, shall be paid. Retirement removal and resettlement grants shall only be paid once during the ministry of any minister, or ministerial married couple".

This was carried.

33 Assembly amends para 6.1.3.2 of the Plan for Partnership to read "All ministers and CRCW's who are unable to work for more than 3 days should advise the Finance Office, as soon as possible during their illness, in order that the necessary records can be maintained".

This was carried.

Mr Harrison spoke in tribute to the late Alistair Black.

Budget

The Convener, the Revd John Waller presented the budget for 1996. He outlined plans for preparing a five-year plan incorporating a budget for 1997.

Mr Steve Powell asked a question about the payment of expenses of members of Assembly which was the subject of Resolution 35 of the 1994 Assembly. The Convener replied that the resolution would be taken up in the presentation of the five-year plan; he could not yet predict the response.

Mr Bruce Harvey dreamed of a church where there would be a surplus each year for new resources, financed from the giving of the members.

The Convener moved:

16 Assembly approves the budget for 1996 (Appendix 1).

This was agreed.

Finance Committee

The General Secretary presented the report of the Finance Committee.

He paid formal tribute to the life and lifelong service of Alistair Black so that the Assembly could express its grief at the loss of the former Honorary Treasurer. We thank God for Alistair Black and express our sympathy to Rita and his daughters.

The General Secretary noted that the Financial Secretary and members of the Finance staff would be available in the lunch break for consultation and to provide information on any financial matters.

He explained some details on the Accounts.

He answered two questions relating to the URC Trust (Appendix XII). In Appendix XII, p.190, para. 3 the reference to Provincial Trusts did mean the Provincial Trusts created since the formation of the URC but the Act gave churches the right to choose their own trustees.

There would be costs in transferring trusteeships but these would have to be weighed against charges which the URC Trust would have to make in future. Help would be considered for local churches placed in difficulty by the transfer costs.

The Revd Elizabeth Nash raised a question about the ethical investment of our funds. The companies in which we invest need to be informed of our views as a Church. She encouraged the Finance Committee to become members of the Ecumenical Committee for Corporate Responsibility.

Mr Ron Webb asked a question about the transfer of funds from URC Trust to Provincial Trusts and the extra burden which would be placed on the Financial Secretary.

The General Secretary responded to questions. There is a standing working party of representatives of the Finance Committee and of Church & Society and Ms Nash's comments would be referred to them.

He expressed gratitude for the work which has been undertaken by Mr Neilson and Mr Lodde on the URC Trust, now passed to Mr Frank.

He informed the Assembly that Mr Clem Frank had just completed 20 years service of the URC.

The question was raised of the responsibilities carried by the Financial Secretary. Serious consideration was at present being given to this matter.

The General Secretary put forward the following resolutions

25 Assembly adopts the accounts for 1994

26 Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 1994 to the Ministry and Mission Fund

which were carried.

Doctrine, Prayer & Worship

The Convener, Dr David Thompson, presented the report of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee.

The Moderator invited comments on the Report.

A celebratory service of confirmation of membership in the church was asked for.

Dr David Thompson was given permission to present Resolution 21 in a considerably revised form

21 The Assembly encourages the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee to present a revised Confession of Faith in inclusive language to the 1996 Assembly for use in addition to, but not in place of, the Confession of Faith in paragraph 17 of the Basis of Union.

He asked Assembly to note typographical changes to the draft new declaration of Faith as printed on P.61 of the Book of Reports.

He referred to the paragraph concerning "A Confession of Faith in Inclusive Language" and explained the reasons for the present text. There was a significant difficulty which now suggested that the Committee should give further consideration.

The Clerk said that he had received a notice of amendment and the Moderator asked the Revd Ron Williams to propose the amendment which he did as follows:

To add at some suitable point the words from Basis para. 18 "under the authority of Holy Scripture and in corporate responsibility to Jesus Christ as its ever living head".

The Clerk advised that all the work on this statement is done under Basis para. 18, which he read to the Assembly.

The mover responded to the debate.

The Moderator put the amendment. The amendment was lost.

The Revd Eddy Boon commented on the length of the alternative statement and wanted more consultation before such a statement.

The Revd Dr David Hilborn asked for a new theological statement rather than that now before the Assembly, which would in his view clearly change the sense of the statement in the Basis para. 17.

Revd Gethin Rhys moved that the question now be put. This was seconded. The motion was carried by the required two-thirds majority.

The Convener replied to the debate. He stated that there would be opportunity for comments to be given to the Committee. There would be a session at lunchtime and he looked forward to meeting those wishing to take part.

The motion was put and carried with one or two votes against.

The Moderator put on record the thanks of the Assembly to the Revd Terry Oakley for his nine years service, and wished him well in his new task.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly to the Doctrine, Prayer & Worship Committee.

Ecumenical Committee

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie, Convener, presented the report of the Ecumenical Committee. He introduced members of staff of the Committee and the Revd Philip Woods. He pointed out some amendments to the report.

During the following discussion the Revd James Waring for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland expressed gratitude for the prayers of the URC and visits from representatives to Northern Ireland. His Church welcomed the cessation of violence and thanked God for these peaceful times; but prayers are still needed as the peace process slowly makes progress. With God's help we will be able to build a new community of peace. Please continue to pray for us.

The Moderator assured Mr Waring of our continuing prayers.

The Revd Peter Arthur gave further information about the ecumenical situation in Scotland.

Ms Louise Montague expressed the view that black-led, Pentecostal and charismatic Churches should be officially represented at our Assembly.

The Moderator and Mr MacKenzie replied to this question.

The Revd John Joseph spoke about the situation in Wales. There is a great problem about finance which is a stumbling block to further progress.

The Revd Sheila Maxey replied to the question about finance in Wales. She was asking for examples of "Good Practice".

The Revd Barry Scopes was invited to present resolution 22. He referred to the World Mission posts in 22(b) naming them and expressing appreciation of this missionary work in the URC. He asked that District Councils and local churches should give long-term consideration to the possibility of using such people. The URC still needs to learn the blessing of receiving from our fellow members of the Council for World Mission.

Ms Janet Brokes spoke with appreciation of the work of the Revd Andrew Midian in Christchurch, Estover.

The Moderator put resolution 22

- 22 a) **The Assembly affirms the URC's need for the insights, skills and vision of Christians from our partner churches and strongly re-affirms the policy inaugurated at the 1988 General Assembly of budgeting five special category posts for such World Mission work in the UK.**
- b) **The Assembly invites district councils in consultation with local churches to continue to identify appropriate innovative ministries for the five World Mission posts as they become vacant.**

This resolution was carried.

Revd Sheila Maxey was invited to present resolution 23. She moved

- 23 a) **The Assembly adopts the policy statement on intermediate level ecumenism.**
- b) **The Assembly calls on provincial synods and district councils to work together in the appointment of the URC representatives on intermediate bodies and in determining responsibility for the URC share of the cost of County Ecumenical Officer posts.**

The resolution was carried.

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie proposed:

- 24 **The General Assembly welcomes the resolution passed by the Wales Synod of the United Reformed Church on 11 March 1995 that**

In order to further the mission and ministry of the Gospel it [the Wales Synod] should support conversations to establish a United Church, affirmative of the linguistic and cultural identities of Wales, and to include Enfys and non-Enfys churches who wish to be included in the conversations.

and instructs the Ecumenical Committee, in full consultation with the Wales Synod, to take responsibility for the URC's share in these conversations.

The word "Enfys" is a Welsh word meaning "Rainbow" and represents an acronym for the churches which have adopted the Welsh Covenant.

Resolution 24 was put and was agreed.

The Moderator thanked the Convener for the report.

Fair Trade

Members of FURY gave a dramatic presentation on its campaign for fair trade in its sponsorship of Café Direct.

During the following lunch break members of Assembly were invited to taste Café Direct and to listen to a representative on baby milk action.

Discipleship & Witness

The Convener, The Revd Elizabeth Caswell, asked the Revd Michael Cruchley, Rural Consultant to introduce a presentation on Rural Ministry.

The presentation was made from a group of churches working in rural areas, creating opportunities of witness in various circumstances and reporting on success in small congregations.

Much more attention needs to be given to the 30% of the population of the UK who live in rural areas. The Committee were grateful for support to rural ministry from the New Enterprises in Mission Fund.

The Convener presented the report of the Discipleship & Witness Committee.

The Committee was at the service of the church. Mrs Caswell introduced members of the committee and also thanked the Revd Terry Oakley and Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow for their service.

Mr Colin Ferguson reported that a group of those who had regularly attended the Forum had decided to undertake responsibility for it when Assembly voted to suspend it. He was glad to report a successful conference in 1994 and that Holiday Forum was fully booked for 1995.

The Revd Bernie Collins proposed the following resolution:

Assembly draws the attention of local churches to the outline of an evangelism strategy given in points A,B,C,D on page 57 of the Reports to Assembly, and, especially in the midst of mission bicentenary celebrations, encourages local churches to further develop their efforts in evangelism locally, under the guidance of God.

The Revd Colin Bones seconded the resolution which was carried.

The Convener replied to questions and comments.

The Moderator thanked the Committee and those who took part in the rural churches presentation.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs Susan Rand, Convener, presented the report of the Equal Opportunities report. The Committee would work towards positive change rather than a holding position. The Committee would set down guidelines.

The Revd Francis Ackroyd expressed the hope that a special multi-racial ministry be allocated. He proposed that a national network of some 20 people be set up to look at equal opportunities issues.

He wished to propose a resolution. However the Moderator ruled that the business would need to be remaindered.

Revd Angus Duncan asked a question about posts which at present are only open to ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Mrs Rand replied to the debate.

The Moderator thanked the Committee for the report and the promise of what is to come.

The Revd Ray Adams led the Assembly in singing "Asithi Amen".

On Friday morning the Revd Francis Ackroyd presented the following resolution which had been deferred from the earlier business of the Equal Opportunities Committee report.

Assembly encourages Mission Council to give sympathetic consideration to the resolution from Thames North province for Mission Council now being considered by the Equal Opportunities Committee to the effect that a National Network of some 20 people of different cultural backgrounds be formed as soon as possible.

Mrs Margaret Bean formally seconded the resolution.

The Revd Tony Burnham clarified the decision which had been made by the Assembly 1994; and the present situation regarding the Equal Opportunities Committee.

Mrs Bean exercised her right to speak in favour of the resolution.

Revd James Breslin suggested that the Assembly should trust the Mission Council and the Equal Opportunities Committee to deal with business submitted to them by the Thames North Province.

The Revd Francis Ackroyd replied to the debate.

On the resolution being put to the vote it was necessary to call for tellers.

The Moderator declared that the resolution was carried 166 - 154.

Patterns of Ministry

The Convener of the working party on Patterns of Ministry, the Revd Malcolm Hanson, introduced the report "Patterns of Ministry" which had been circulated to churches, revised after many comments had been received and included in the Book of Reports.

It was agreed that the Assembly should have the opportunity to consider the report first of all "in committee", that any amendments or additional resolutions should be given in writing to the Clerk by noon on Wednesday; these would be listed on the order paper for Thursday morning so as to be available when further debate and the consideration of resolutions came before the Assembly on Thursday afternoon.

Mr Hanson summarised the findings of the report.

Dr David Thompson commented on the theology of ministry, referring to appendices which had been written by the Revd Dr David Cornick and himself. He also referred to the priesthood of all believers, the importance of ordination to the ministry and the need to honour the convictions of all.

The Revd Terry Oakley offered the Assembly the metaphor of a spectrum of ministry. There are a multiplicity of ministries which must all be used together to serve God's mission. Within each ministry on the spectrum there are variations.

Mr John Ellis spoke about the strategic planning in District Council. He questioned the Revd Michael Playdon, Chairman of Sussex East, on the commission which had been set up in 1994. Mr Playdon stressed the need for full consultation with ministers and elders; if the District Council accepted the findings of the commission, there would be collaborative teams which would mean there would be no ministerial vacancies. If the Assembly accepts the "Patterns of Ministry" it would help the District to carry out its plans.

The Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee and the Revd Graham Robson looked at how ministry might develop if "Patterns of Ministry" were to be accepted in a hypothetical situation.

In order to use the time most usefully, the Revd Malcolm Hanson moved the suspension of Standing Orders.

This was agreed by the Assembly by the required three-fourths majority.

There followed a discussion based on six topics suggested by the Working Party and used by the Moderator in guiding the process of debate; some speeches indicated the possibility of amendments or additional resolutions for Thursday's debate.

During the discussion the Rt Revd Roger Botsis, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa said his church would listen with interest to the debate in relation to its own needs and would seek to learn from our decisions.

The Clerk pointed out that all the resolutions about "Patterns of Ministry" must be taken in the light of the Basis of Union. In due course detailed regulations might require constitutional amendment of the Basis.

The Revd Martin Truscott asked a question under Standing Order 7b about the current minimum age of thirty for entry to training for non-stipendiary ministry: would this minimum age rule be rescinded in the new pattern envisaged? (This question was answered under the report of the Ministries Committee).

The Moderator thanked the Patterns of Ministry Working Party not only for the presentation today but also for the enormous amount of work they had undertaken. The Assembly responded with applause.

Working Group Resolutions (Reports pages 132 and 133).

The resolutions of the Working Group were presented and considered in a long debate. After the rejection of Resolutions 41 and 42 the Moderator permitted the moving of a resolution to suspend Standing Order 5c and to defer the remaining motions to the next General Assembly but with the possibility of revision of the deferred motions before re-presentation: this was clearly defeated.

The outcome of the debate on the resolutions and the various amendments proposed was as follows; voting figures where given were ascertained by the tellers.

Resolution 41 was defeated by a large majority, after the withdrawal of proposed amendment.

41 Assembly agrees in principle to the development of Moderating Elders as set out in paras 4.4.4 - 4.4.8 of the report, and asks Mission Council to prepare detailed proposals for the introduction of Moderating Elders, particularly with regard to the recognition, length of service and title, and to report to Assembly in 1996.

An amendment to Resolution 42 to substitute 'local pastor' for 'local minister' was defeated.

42 Assembly agrees in principle to the development of Local Ministers as set out in paras 4.5.4 - 4.5.6 of the report, and asks Mission Council to prepare detailed proposals for the introduction of Local Ministers, particularly with regard to recruitment, training, deployment and terms of service, and to report to Assembly in 1996.

Resolution 42 was defeated 225 votes against, 178 for.

A Resolution in substitution for 41 and 42 was then moved by the Revd Peter Southcombe, seconded by the Revd Ray Adams, as follows:

In view of the desire of many churches to have their own identifiable congregational leader and the much larger number of congregations than ministers, Assembly requests Mission Council to explore possible new forms of congregational leadership accredited by District Council and accountable to District Council, and to bring proposals to a future Assembly.

This was agreed.

Resolution 43. Part (c) was, by leave of Assembly, withdrawn in view of the failure of 41 and 42. (a) and (b) were passed as proposed, after the defeat of an amendment on nomenclature.

An amendment to (c) seeking that stipendiary ministry be also subject to periodic view, usually five yearly, became an additional resolution. After debate the Assembly agreed a motion that this be not put.

43 Assembly resolves that from the date of Assembly 1996

- a) **Non-Stipendiary Ministers models 2 and 3 be combined**
[para 4.5.7]
- b) **Non-Stipendiary Ministers model 4 be renamed Ministers in Secular Employment and that this title be used of other ministers where appropriate;**
[paras 4.5.10 - 4.5.11]

44 Assembly agrees

- a) **that for all but internal administrative purposes the terms 'ministers' and 'Ministers of Word and Sacraments' shall be used for all ministers;**
[para 4.5.2]
- b) **that the term 'serving minister' is appropriate in relation to ordained ministers serving within the United Reformed Church, and accepts the guidelines set out in para 4.5.3 of the report.**

Resolution 44 was agreed.

Resolution 45 was amended by agreement so that it ended "with the addition in 5.1.5 (c) of the report after the words 'lay presidency' of the words 'normally from within the congregation concerned'." In this form it was agreed.

45 Assembly receives the statement on Presidency at the Sacraments, set out in para 5.1 of the report, as expressing the mind of the church at this present time, with the addition in 5.1.5 (c) of the report after the words 'lay presidency' of the words 'normally from within the congregation concerned'.

An additional resolution in connection with Resolution 45 was moved by the Revd Dr John Parry and the Revd Graham Cook as follows:

Assembly requests Mission Council to consider the desirability of a constitutional amendment to ensure that in an emergency the assembled congregation may appoint a person to preside at the celebration of the sacrament.

This was agreed, 214 for, 147 against.

After an adjournment of one hour the debate was resumed.

Resolution 46 was moved:

46 Assembly agrees that the term 'Local Preacher' shall now be used in place of the term 'Lay Preacher'. [para 4.6.3]

It was defeated 161 for, 171 against.

Resolution 47 was agreed, after the defeat of a proposed amendment seeking to focus the exploration in the first place in each local church.

47 Assembly encourages district councils in consultation with synods and local churches

- a) **to explore the deployment of all ministry, especially Stipendiary Ministers, and the development of a variety of styles of ministry in ways which will stimulate the life of the church, be ecumenically responsible and enable more effective missionary engagement;**
[paras 3 and 4.8.2]
- b) **to review their relationships with ministers not serving in local pastorates to see whether they might be regarded as serving ministers.**
[para 5.2.2]

Resolution 48 was agreed.

48 Assembly

- a) **asks Ministries Committee to reconsider the question of expenses and benefits for Non-Stipendiary Ministers in the light of current needs and practicalities, and report to Assembly;** [para 4.5.9]
- b) **refers the 'Interim Minister' concept to Ministries Committee for further consideration and report to Assembly;** [para 4.8.4]
- c) **asks Ministries Committee to encourage appropriate networking among those working in similar situations;** [para 5.2.2]
- d) **asks Ministries Committee to prepare detailed guidelines in relation to ministers wishing to transfer from one form of ministry to another;**
[para 5.3]
- e) **instructs Ministries Committee to maintain relevant records on database.**
[para 9.1]

An additional resolution was proposed by Revd Margaret Taylor and seconded by Revd Graham Cook:

Assembly instructs the Ministries Committee (a) to initiate an exploration of what changes, if any, may be necessary in the rules of the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund, the URC Pensions Fund and the Retired Ministers Housing Fund to facilitate the flexibility in deployment of ministers envisaged by the Patterns of Ministry Report without compromising the care which the church is committed to give to those paid by the church to engage in ministry; and (b) to bring appropriate recommendations to Assembly no later than 1997.

The General Secretary pointed out the difficulty of this exploration after the defeat of 41 and 42. The additional resolution was defeated.

Assembly took up Resolution 49:

49 Assembly refers the training issues raised in the report to the Training committee and asks for a report to Assembly in due course [para 6]

Resolution 49 was by leave withdrawn and the movers of an amendment were advised to present an additional resolution under the Training Committee report.

Resolution 50 was moved:

- 50 Assembly asks Mission Council to carry out a review of our present understanding and practice of oversight, and in particular to consider the work and responsibilities of moderators of provincial synods, keeping the ecumenical context in mind.**
[para 5.4]

Resolution 50 was agreed.

Resolution 51 (b) was by leave of Assembly withdrawn. 51 (a) and (c) were agreed.

- 51 Assembly requests the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee**
- a) **to produce a further statement on the Theology of Ministry based on Appendix A of the report;**
[para 2.1]
 - c) **to undertake further study of the concept of diaconal ministry.**
[para 5.2.2]

Youth and Children's Work Committee

The Convener, the Revd Stephen Thornton, presented the report of the Youth and Children's work.

He presented the staff of the committee, Mr Paul Franklin, Youth Secretary, The Revd Martin Nicholls, Chaplain to Yardley Hastings, Mrs Rosemary Johnson, Children's Advocate, the Revd Derek Gardiner, Master Pilot.

He spoke with enthusiasm of the opportunities available in working with children and young people. The child is the symbol of the kingdom.

The Moderator asked for comments on the report.

The Revd Stephen Thornton responded to the debate and promised to seek to serve the URC in the year ahead.

Resolution 52, in an amended form by leave of Assembly, was presented by Mr John Dryburgh, FURY Chair.

- 52 General Assembly recognises the need for greater information about young people in local churches and believes that young people should be made as fully aware as possible of activities within the wider church. It therefore strongly encourages all churches to:-**
- i **Ensure that they receive at least one copy of the FURY Information Service.**
 - ii **Make this information easily accessible to their young people and youth leaders.**
 - iii **Continue their support for FURY Council's work with District and Provincial Youth Committees, especially in identifying young people and youth leaders.**

Ms Morna Maines seconded the resolution. She suggested other synods might follow Mersey's initiative in "Search for FURY".

The Moderator put resolution 52 which was agreed.

The Moderator thanked the Committee and the staff.

Advocacy and Stewardship Task Group

The Revd Julian Macro, Convener of the Advocacy and Stewardship Task Group, presented the report. He recommended material on stewardship and commented on the work of the Revd Bill Wright.

The Moderator invited comments on the report of the task group

The Revd Bill Wright was invited to respond to the comments.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly for this report.

Mission and Other Faiths

The Revd Bill Mahood, Convener, presented the report of the Task Group on Mission and Other Faiths.

The Moderator asked for comments on the Task Group's report.

Mrs Goodfellow expressed concern that Mission & Other Faiths was at present a Task Group rather than a Committee.

The General Secretary stated that this Task Group would continue as a Task Group and would report to the Assembly no later than 1996 on its future status.

The Revd Bill Mahood replied to the debate.

The Moderator asked the Assembly to agree to an extension until 9.00pm.

Health & Healing

The Revd Robin Hine presented the report of the Task Group on Health and Healing. He gave information on literature on euthanasia.

Comments were invited on the report and the Revd Robin Hine replied to questions raised.

The Moderator thanked the task group and Mr Hine for their report.

The Moderator-Elect's Acceptance Speech

On Friday morning the Moderator invited Dr David Thompson to address the Assembly.

Dr Thompson expressed gratitude for the good wishes he had received.

As a lay person with a secular employer his would be a different role than if he were a Minister of Word and Sacraments. He had special responsibilities in the University of Cambridge as well as to his young family.

He was already deeply involved in ecumenical affairs and not only in this country. He had welcomed Dr Preman Niles' emphasis on a World Christianity. Yet reconciliation, like mission, begins on our doorstep.

He knew that he would be sustained by the prayers of all. He thanked Assembly for its trust and promised to live up to it.

Statement by the Revd Peter Brain

The Moderator called on the Revd Peter Brain, who made a brief statement on a meeting which took place the previous day, as follows:

Church and Society would wish to share with General Assembly the fact that a meeting took place on July 6 1995 between Jack McKelvey, Malcolm Johnson, Raymond Clarke and Peter Brain with Councillor Cathal Crumley (Sinn Fein) and Carol Biggs.

We had responded to their request for a meeting and listened to them in the belief that the church should be willing to make whatever contribution it can to the pursuit of peace for all the people of Northern Ireland.

We offer no endorsement of Sinn Fein, nor to its past. But we were impressed by the genuineness of their expressed wish to find a lasting peace and their recognition of the claims of others in the Northern Ireland community. We hope that Assembly will wish to welcome this small contribution to the peace dialogue.

After the meeting the two visitors spent a few minutes listening to Assembly's general discussion and, as it happened, heard with appreciation the statement about the peace process which was made on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Training

The Revd John Sutcliffe presented the report of the Training committee as set out on P.98 of the Book of Reports.

He was glad that Youth & Children's Work trainers were being appointed in several provinces in addition to those mentioned in 5.4.

He also noted a correction in Appendix VIII "Training Statistics". The total number of students in training should be 137 not 136.

He described the process adopted for the Review of Training which Mission Council had entrusted to the Training Committee.

Several speakers expressed anxiety about the adoption of the 'Training for Learning and Serving' Programme to replace 'Exploring the Faith'.

The Convener replied to questions and comments, including one in plainsong. He pointed out that the TLS programme was as much subject to the Review as all other training.

The Moderator invited Mr Sutcliffe to present resolutions:

- 39 Assembly requests the Training Committee to validate programmes for ordination training for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and to report its decisions about the validation of Courses and Colleges to the Assembly and to Provincial Ministerial Committees.**

Comments were invited on this resolution and the Convener replied to a question regarding non-stipendiary ministerial training in Wales, expressing readiness in the Committee for flexibility.

The Moderator put resolution 39, which was carried.

The Convener presented resolution 40.

The Revd Nigel Uden proposed an amendment, which was duly seconded as follows:

- (x) expose participants to issues surrounding ministry amongst children and young people, and nurture skills that facilitate effective work with children and young people;

The amendment was carried. Discussion continued and the Convener replied.

Resolution 40 in its amended form was agreed.

40 Assembly adopts the following criteria by which the Training Committee will be guided in recognising Courses and Colleges for Ministerial Training:

Ministerial Training should:

- (i) place in an ecumenical context wherever possible and also include working in partnership with secular bodies;
- (ii) be open to both lay people and ordinands who will experience learning together;
- (iii) take seriously the experience of participants and integrate experience and learning, theoretical and practical work, academic disciplines and life in the world and in the church;
- (iv) include supervised and assessed placement experience either over the full length of the course or for an internship year;
- (v) be international by helping participants to learn from the world church and from other cultures and faiths;
- (vi) be flexible in relation to the needs of different people whilst maintaining academic excellence relative to the abilities of individual participants;
- (vii) use methods of teaching and assessment appropriate to current adult education;
- (viii) be collaborative in style;
- (ix) take seriously issues of race, class, gender and disability and actively promote anti-oppressive practices;
- (x) expose participants to issues surrounding ministry amongst children and young people, and nurture skills that facilitate effective work with children and young people;
- (xi) include at least two modules per year which will be taught by at least one active member of the URC;
- (xii) ensure that there will be opportunity for participants, as part of an ecumenical diet of worship, to worship following patterns and ethos commonly experienced in the URC.

The Training Committee will recognise a Course or a course within a College only if :

- a) **It is satisfied re (i) - (xii) above;**
- b) **two experienced ministerial and theological educators, appointed by the Training Committee, assess a Course, and recommend its recognition by the Committee as a whole.**

The Revd Rose Barrett proposed an additional resolution:-

Assembly urges the Training Committee to take seriously the validity of training courses in other Christian Colleges and Agencies, in order to develop a variety of complementary ministries such as: evangelists, prophets, teachers, church planters.

The proposal was formally seconded by the Revd Charles Martin.

The Revd Duncan Goldie spoke of ministries of evangelism already existing. After discussion, particularly of the call to evangelism, it was moved that the motion be now put. This was agreed.

The Moderator put the motion to the Assembly. The motion was lost.

The Moderator thanked the Revd John Sutcliffe for their report.

Pastoral Committee

The Convener of the Pastoral Committee, the Revd Nelson Bainbridge, presented its report. Although the work of the Pastoral Committee is confidential, he should inform the Assembly that the pressure on the convener, the Revd Alasdair Walker, had made it necessary for him to resign on health grounds. Mr Bainbridge expressed his deep regret that so many cases called for the Committee's help. He also paid tribute to Mr Walker's convenership.

Mrs Ruth Clarke asked three questions concerning the Committee. Where is its remit stated? Is the Committee satisfied with its remit? How can the Assembly take responsibility for the business of this committee?

After further comment from the Revd Bert Baker on crisis in ministry, Mr Bainbridge drew attention to the remit set out in section K of the new edition of the Manual. He said that it was being reviewed along with the Pastoral Measure of 1988. Accountability would be an issue for that review, though it is clearly stated in the remit.

Assembly Business

Mrs Frew informed the Assembly that because of outstanding business the Synod Groups were cancelled.

Address to the Throne

The Revd Dr Jack McKelvey presented the Address to the Throne.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church now meeting in Eastbourne sends greetings to your Majesty.

As a church which has close links with South Africa we followed with great interest your visit to that country and the very evident joy which this gave to you and to all its peoples.

Along with many others we appreciate the visits made by members of the Royal Family to both parts of Ireland. We continue to pray for the success of the peace process in Northern Ireland and for the efforts of all who are working to establish new structures of consent and participation.

As we shared in the VE Day Anniversary and gave thanks for the sacrifices made by so many to overcome a terrible evil we could not but reflect on the challenges and dangers facing Europe today. We are conscious of the need for the sustained commitment to working out our common destiny in the European Union and our responsibility to apply ourselves to the urgent task of building a just and peaceful Europe.

The presence of your Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey to mark fifty years of service by Christian Aid on behalf of the world's poor gave encouragement not only to Christian Aid fund-raisers in our churches but to all who believe they have a responsibility to strengthen the poorer peoples of the world.

We welcome your Majesty's continued support of the United Nations as it faces unprecedented challenges in the closing years of this millennium. As a church we remain firm in support of the U.N. as a sign and agent of peace and justice. The international arms trade disturbs us deeply. We look to your Majesty's Government to give support to companies for the conversion and transfer of weapons technology and skill for life-enhancing purposes. In particular Assembly has expressed to your Majesty's government its deep concern over any possible resumption of nuclear testing.

This Assembly is distressed at the persistence of poverty and growing inequality in our own country. It asks all our political parties to press for a major review of the tax and benefit systems, of employment legislation and social policy for the purpose of reducing poverty and polarisation. It is clear to us that it is not only economic uncertainty that has produced a perceived decline in human well-being but the widespread sense of frustration that in much that affects their everyday lives the views, values and aspirations of people in general appear to be ignored or, worse, dismissed. We believe it is also due to an impoverishment of spirit resulting from a preoccupation with materialistic and hedonistic pursuits to the neglect of spiritual needs. As a church we are committed to setting out afresh the religious and moral values that we believe are necessary for society to flourish.

We pray that your Majesty will be given health and strength to lead us all into the new millennium.

We are

Your faithful and loyal subjects

MODERATOR

GENERAL SECRETARY

The Moderator asked the Assembly if it were willing to send this Address to the Throne.

On being put to the vote the resolution was carried with a few contrary votes.

Minutes

The Clerk, having at intervals obtained acceptance of sections of the minutes, moved that the remaining minutes be inserted in the full minutes of the Assembly after review and any necessary correction by the officers of the Assembly. This was agreed.

Thanks

Mr Alan Goldfinch moved a general vote of thanks, mentioning the Moderator and the Clerk, the Assembly Arrangements Committee, those staff in the backroom and the local province for their work and their hospitality. He moved the resolution which was agreed with applause. As a representative from Yorkshire he urged members to come to York for the Assembly in 1996.

The Moderator offered a personal word of thanks to Mrs Sheila Tull for her service as Minute Secretary. The Moderator also thanked the members of Assembly and paid tribute to the Chaplain. He had earlier thanked the Revd Roberta Rominger for her leading of Bible Study.

The General Secretary formally moved the adjournment of the Assembly to meet at the University of York on 6th July 1996.

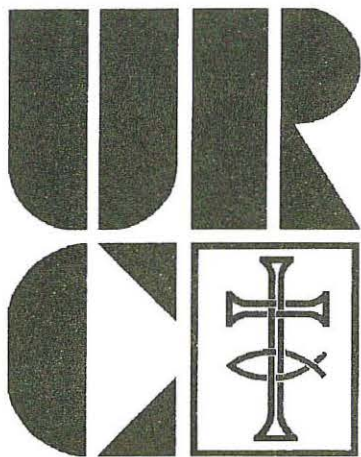
The Chaplain expressed her thanks to the choir and to the Revd Ray Adams and then led closing worship.

INDEX

	<i>Report</i>	<i>Record</i>
Accounts	160	
Accreditation Sub-Committee	79	36
Address to the Throne		51
Advocacy and Stewardship Task Group	108	48
Assembly 1996 and 1997		24
Assembly Moderator Induction		2
Assembly Moderator 1996/97 Election		9
Basis and Structure Amendment - Moderators of Synods		20
Declaration of Faith	61	39
Black, The late Mr Alistair Kelas		2
Board of Studies for the Non-Stipendiary Ministry	155	
Budget 1996	146	38
Church and Society Committee	42	15
Churches - Changes	20	12
Church-Related Community Work	75 & 155	34
College Reports	150	
Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries		1
Commemoration of Honorary Treasurer		2
Common Boundaries		11
Communications and Editorial Committee	51	33
Constitution of Assembly		2
Council for World Mission	148	9
Decade for Evangelism Working Group	57	42
Deputy General Secretary Appointment		24
Discipleship and Witness Committee	54	24 & 42
Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee	58	24 & 39
Ecumenical Committee	62	24 & 40
Ecumenism		41
Equal Opportunities Committee	71	42
Fair Trade		41
Finance Committee	72	38
Franklin, Mr Paul		23
FURY		47
Hart, Mr Norman	53	33
Health and Healing	110	48
History Society	196	
Human Sexuality		21
Israel and the Occupied Territories		16
London Missionary Society/Council for World Mission Resolution		9
Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee	80	37
Mansfield College	151	34
McIlhagga, Revd Donald		36
Ministerial Jubilees		14

Ministerial Training Courses and Colleges - Criteria for Recognition		50
Ministries Committee	73	34
Ministries and the Accreditations Sub-Committee		24
Minutes		53
Mission Council Reports & Resolutions	29	20
Mission and Other Faiths	112	48
Moderator 1996/97 Election and Acceptance Speech		9 & 48
Moratorium on Ministers from Other Denominations entering the URC		
Stipendiary Ministry		35
Musicians Guild	197	
National Assessment Board	80	37
National Lottery		18
National Youth Secretary Appointment		23
Newly Commissioned Church Related Community Workers		13
Newly Ordained Ministers		13
Nominations Committee	88	25
Northern Ireland		49
Nuclear Testing		19
Number of Ministers Working Party	76	36
Oakley, Revd Terry		40
Organ Donations and Post Mortems		9
Our Common Life in Britain		17
Pastoral Committee	96	51
Patterns of Ministry	113	43
Pensions Working Group	81	
Plan for Partnership		37
Provincial Moderators' Report	25	24
Representatives of Other Churches at Assembly		7
Representatives under the age of 26		11
Resource Sharing Task Group		18
Retired Ministers Housing Sub-Committee	82	
Roll of Assembly		2
Rules of Ministers' Pension Fund		35
Scheme of Union - Land held by Trust Corporations		23
Schools linked with the URC	192	
Silence and Retreats Group	198	
Special Category Ministries	159	
SPIN	199	
St Andrew's Hall Missionary College	149	
Standing Orders	201	
Students in Training 1994-1995	156	
Support for divorced and separated spouses of URC Ministers		19
Synod Reports and Resolutions	1-19	12
Thanks		53
Tollington, Dr Janet		33
Training Committee	97	49
Training Statistics	158	
URC Ministers' Pension Fund Trust Ltd.	189	35
URC Trust	190	
Validation of Ministerial Training Programmes		49

Wales - Consultation on Forming a United Free Church in Wales		33
Wales Synod Resolution		41
Waller, Revd John		24
West Midlands Provincial Moderator's Nominating Group		33
Westminster College - The Future		21
- Director of Old Testament Studies Appointment		33
Women's World Day of Prayer	200	
World Mission Work in the UK		41
Youth and Children's Work Committee	103	47



**The
United
Reformed
Church**

in the United Kingdom

**ACCOUNTS
1995**

The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom

86 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RT

Principal Officers

Moderator of the General Assembly (1995/6) - The Revd John Reardon
General Secretary - The Revd Anthony Burnham
Treasurer - Graham Stacy FCA

Trustee

United Reformed Church Trust
(Chairman of Board of Directors - Desmond Davies)

Bankers

Midland Bank Plc
10 Newgate Street
London EC1A 7AS

Legal Advisers

Dawson & Co
2 New Square, Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A 3RZ

Towns, Needham & Co
6/8 Albert Road, Levenshulme
Manchester M19 3PJ

Auditors

Robson Rhodes
186 City Road
London EC1V 2NU

Investment Manager

HSBC Asset Management Europe Limited
6 Bevis Marks
London EC3A 7QP

Actuaries

Alexander Clay
Carnegie House, Peterborough Road
Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AJ

Note: These accounts do not include the "Review of activities" which normally forms part of a charity's annual report and accounts. The information which would be included in such a review is incorporated in the book of Annual Reports to General Assembly.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1995

These accounts show the combined income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of those trusts, companies and other funds administered for the benefit of the United Reformed Church nationally under the overall authority of the General Assembly. They do not include funds administered by or on behalf of provinces, districts or local churches.

CONTENTS

	Page
Report from the Finance Committee	2
Balance Sheet	5
Statement of Financial Activities (income and expenditure)	6
Cashflow Statement	7
Analysis of income	8
Analysis of expenditure	9
Movement on funds	10
Disposition of funds	11
Notes to the accounts	
1. Accounting policies	12
2. Changes in accounting policies	13
3. Fixed assets	13
4. Investments	14
5. Loans and advances	14
6. Bank balances and money market deposits	14
7. Current liabilities	14
8. Assets held in trust for others	15
9. The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund	15
10. Commitments	15
11. Interests in trusts	15
12. The URC Insurance Company Limited	15
13. United Reformed Church Trust Investment Pool	15
United Reformed Church Trust Investment Pool	16
Statement of responsibilities in relation to the accounts	17
Auditors' report	18
The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund	19

For readers unfamiliar with financial statements there is an explanatory note at the foot of each page describing the content in simple terms.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

NEW LOOK ACCOUNTS FOR 1995

This year's accounts look very different from those of last year. Why is this? One answer could be that there are new accounting requirements for charities which come into force next year and we are anticipating those requirements. But in fact we do more than just comply with regulations; we have taken the opportunity to take a fundamental look at the way the URC's finances are presented with a view to making them more easily understood. If we can achieve this then we may be able to contribute to a greater feeling of shared responsibility for the whole of the URC's activities.

Our hope is that more people will take the time to read the accounts. To help those who are not familiar with financial statements there are explanatory notes at the foot of most pages to help you focus on what the page is about.

So what's different?

To start with the accounts are shorter - only eight pages with figures compared to seventeen last year. In fact, the most important information is contained on two pages - the Balance Sheet on page 5 and the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6. (The Statement of Financial Activities is a new statement in charity accounts very similar to the more familiar income and expenditure account.) The remaining pages give additional information in notes, or analyse the main figures into their constituent parts.

The accounts are shorter because they focus on the overall financial position of the URC and do not therefore show detailed accounts for individual funds. There is summary information about these funds on pages 10 and 11 but anyone who wants more information should write to the Finance Office at Church House.

For the first time, the accounts of the Retired Ministers Housing Society (RMHS) are included within the URC's accounts. The General Assembly has made a commitment to provide housing for retired ministers and the RMHS is the principal way by which this is achieved; so it is appropriate to include the accounts of the RMHS in order to see the overall picture of the URC's finances.

Another change is that investments (stocks and shares) are shown in the accounts at their current market value rather than at their original purchase cost which may date back many years and bear no relationship to present day values. This gives a far more realistic view of our financial position. As changes in the value of investments are somewhat different from regular income and expenditure they are shown separately at the end of the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6. This change of treatment for investments is one which all charities will soon be expected to introduce into their accounts.

Finally, to enable comparisons to be made, the analysis of income and expenditure has been changed to come into line with the headings in the revised budget format presented to the 1995 General Assembly, and the 1994 comparative figures shown in this year's accounts have been revised to reflect all the changes described above.

Unrestricted and restricted income funds?

A very important feature of the new look accounts is the way that our total funds are divided into categories according to the freedom or otherwise we have to spend them. Unrestricted income funds are funds we can use freely for any URC activity. Restricted income funds can only be used for specific purposes according to the terms on which they were first received, for example legacies for retired ministers housing or donations for Yardley Hastings. Additionally, there are capital funds which are permanent endowments the capital of which cannot be spent; however, the income from these may be added to restricted or unrestricted income funds for use according to the terms of the original endowment.

The Balance Sheet on page 5 shows that we had total funds at 31st December 1995 totalling some £35 million. It is important to recognise that unrestricted income funds represent less than one third of this amount.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE continued**HOW DID WE FARE IN 1995?**

The Statement of Financial Activities, on page 6, shows how we fared in 1995. In summary the situation was as follows:

1994		1995			
Total funds		Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Capital funds
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
18,973	Total income	19,358	17,807	1,541	10
17,913	Total expenditure	18,000	17,273	727	
1,060	Net surplus	1,358	534	814	10

The net surplus is described in the Statement of Financial Activities as "net incoming resources" because it excludes gains and losses on investments. This is a technical distinction which we are required to make.

A net surplus of £1,358,000 appears enormous and will come as a surprise to many. However, this is where the distinction between unrestricted and restricted funds becomes important. The surplus on unrestricted funds was £534,000; the remainder was in funds whose use is restricted in various ways.

The annual budget which is approved by the General Assembly deals only with unrestricted funds. It is easier to start by considering these funds separately. The revised budget for 1995 included in the Annual Reports to General Assembly 1995 showed a deficit of £291,000. So the actual out-turn of a £534,000 surplus for 1995 was £825,000 better than budget. The greatest part of this difference is in the cost of ministry which was some £371,000 down on budget largely due to the fact that the number of ministers being paid was around 2% lower than the number assumed when drawing up the budget. Other differences include a saving against budget of £90,000 in training, an increase in interest and dividends of £112,000, the profit of £128,000 on disposal of three houses and legacies of £63,000.

Our budgets have to be prepared in the Spring of the preceding year in order that they can be presented to the General Assembly in July. It is inevitable that, working so far ahead, the number of ministers and the actual amounts of income and expenditure may turn out to be different from budget. The Finance Committee noted that although the variance from budget in 1995 is larger than we have experienced in recent years, it was still less than 5% of total budgeted expenditure. The aim of the Resource Planning Advisory Committee will of course be to keep these differences to a minimum.

£16,149,000, 91% of the total income in unrestricted funds, came from Ministry and Mission Fund contributions. This was 3½% up on the previous year and is a significant achievement by members of congregations, especially after meeting the challenge of recent substantial stipend increases.

The surplus of income over expenditure in restricted funds as shown above was £814,000. Of this, £567,000, arose in the Retired Ministers Housing Society and Retired Ministers Housing Fund. During 1995 we spent over £1 million buying houses so all of this surplus has been invested in the financing of these purchases. The need to buy more retirement houses will continue for the foreseeable future so, unless we borrow to finance these purchases, we will need to maintain the flow of legacies and donations for retired ministers' housing to meet this demand.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows, in a separate section, realised and unrealised gains on investments totalling £2,462,000. This is slightly less than the loss in value experienced in 1994 but over the years our investments have appreciated in value and the dividends we receive have increased accordingly.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE continued

HOW DID WE STAND AT THE END OF 1995?

Our Balance Sheet, on page 5 opposite, shows total net assets of over £35 million. A brief review of where these assets are may help to put this large figure into context.

For more detail, turn to page 11 where the assets shown in the Balance Sheet are analysed over the main URC funds. The column headed property shows that out of total properties of £15,435,000, nearly £11 million is invested in houses by the Retired Ministers Housing Society and Fund. The other major asset is investments which, as page 11 shows, are owned for many funds; these investments produce dividends which are a valuable source of income to help meet expenditure in these various funds.

As with income and expenditure, it is important to recognise that over two thirds of our assets are in funds whose use is restricted. Furthermore, the so-called unrestricted funds are to a large extent invested in assets that we require for the maintenance of our activities and so are not, in fact, freely available. Nevertheless, we are fortunate in having a relatively healthy Balance Sheet thanks largely to our predecessors who have passed on to us the benefits of their generosity and prudence. We must aim to maintain this inheritance.

There is one very important aspect of our financial situation which is not apparent from our Balance Sheet. This is our obligation to pay pensions to retired ministers. This is described in note 9 on page 15 of the accounts. The last actuarial valuation of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund was carried out at the beginning of 1994 and showed a deficit of some £11 million. This deficit is currently being reduced over a period of twelve years by annual payments which increase each year by 10%; the payment in 1995 was £998,000. The 10% increase in the amount of this payment represents a very significant increase in costs each year which has to be recovered through Ministry and Mission Fund contributions. Consideration is being given to possible ways of reducing this burden, including the possibility of making a lump sum payment to the Pension Fund out of our accumulated unrestricted funds. This is a complex matter which is the subject of continuing discussion between the Finance Committee, the Resource Planning Advisory Committee and the Pension Fund trustees.

We hope that this report and the new look accounts which follow will help to achieve our aim of making the annual accounts easier to understand.

Signed on behalf of the Finance Committee.

Graham Stacy
Convener

4th April 1996

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1995

1994 £'000		Note	1995 £'000
	FIXED ASSETS		
	Tangible assets	3	
9,321	Houses for retired ministers		10,811
2,824	Houses for serving ministers		2,854
1,725	Other properties		1,770
13,870	Total properties		15,435
200	Cars and equipment		239
14,070			15,674
16,141	Long term investments	4	18,180
1,003	Loans and advances	5	805
31,214			34,659
	NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	Current assets		
54	Stock		52
2,917	Short term investment	4	3,120
730	Debtors		986
2,292	Bank balances and money market deposits	6	1,732
5,993			5,890
5,522	Less: Current liabilities	7	5,044
471	Net current assets		846
31,685	TOTAL NET ASSETS		35,505
	Representing:		
9,155	Unrestricted income funds		10,677
18,925	Restricted income funds		20,876
3,605	Capital funds		3,952
31,685	TOTAL FUNDS (see pages 10 & 11)		35,505

This page shows the combined total of assets and liabilities of all the funds administered for the benefit of the URC nationally. It includes, for the first time this year, the assets and liabilities of the Retired Ministers Housing Society.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Income and expenditure for the year ended 31st December 1995

1994		1995			
Total funds £'000		Total funds £'000	--- Income Unrestricted £'000	funds --- Restricted £'000	Capital funds £'000
INCOME					
15,598	Ministry and Mission Fund contributions	16,149	16,149		
1,266	Investment income	1,392	576	816	
827	Grants received	840	770	70	
656	Legacies	306	63	243	
458	Sundry income	306	121	175	10
168	Profit on sale of properties	365	128	237	
18,973	Total income (see page 8)	19,358	17,807	1,541	10
EXPENDITURE					
14,074	Ministry	14,195	13,603	592	
1,451	Training	1,366	1,322	44	
437	Assembly appointed staff	474	474		
1,112	Mission	1,180	1,117	63	
161	Communication and editorial	161	161		
678	Administration	624	596	28	
17,913	Total expenditure (see page 9)	18,000	17,273	727	0
1,060	Net incoming resources	1,358	534	814	10
Gains and losses on investments					
288	Realised gains	426	334	92	
(2,864)	Unrealised (losses)/gains	2,036	654	1,045	337
(2,576)	Total (losses)/gains on investments	2,462	988	1,137	337
(1,516)	Net (decrease)/increase in funds in the year	3,820	1,522	1,951	347
33,201	Balances brought forward at 1st January	31,685	9,155	18,925	3,605
31,685	Balances carried forward at 31st December	35,505	10,677	20,876	3,952

This page shows the total of the income and expenditure accounts of all funds administered on behalf of the URC nationally. The total for 1995 is then divided between "Unrestricted income funds" which can be used for any purpose, "Restricted income funds" which can be spent for specific purposes only, and "Capital funds" which have to be invested to provide future income.

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31st December 1995

1994 £'000		1995 £'000
	Reconciliation of net incoming resources shown in the Statement of Financial Activities to the actual cash inflow from general activities	
1,060	Net incoming resources (see page 6)	1,358
1	Decrease in stock	2
47	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(256)
462	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(206)
(744)	Decrease in sums held for provinces and congregations	(272)
(168)	Profits on property sales	(365)
96	Depreciation	85
47	Amortisation of gilts	76
(44)	Interest added to loans	(41)
757	Net cash inflow from general activities	381
	Statement showing the sources and applications of cash resources in the year	
757	Net cash inflow from general activities (above)	381
	Net amount of cash applied in investing activities	
845	Fixed assets sales	772
(1,777)	purchases	(2,096)
2,403	Long term investments sales	1,337
(2,408)	purchases	(1,193)
(3,091)	Short term investments purchases	(1,180)
(4,028)		
	Cash (applied)/received in a net (increase)/decrease in loans and advances to congregations and ministers	
(471)	Loans made	(175)
366	Loans repaid	414
(105)		239
(3,376)	Decrease in cash balances	(560)
5,668	Cash balances at beginning of year	2,292
2,292	Cash balances at end of year	1,732

This is a somewhat "technical" statement which some may prefer to pass over quickly. Not all income or expenditure results in an immediate cash receipt or payment. This page shows the difference between net incoming resources (some cash and some not cash) and actual cashflow. It then shows how cash has been spent or invested during the year so as to reduce our cash balances by £560,000.

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

1994		1995			
Total funds		Total funds	Income Unrestricted	funds Restricted	Capital funds
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS					
Provinces					
1,005	Northern	1,043	1,043		
1,480	North Western	1,540	1,540		
1,060	Mersey	1,090	1,090		
1,004	Yorkshire	1,050	1,050		
987	East Midlands	1,032	1,032		
1,140	West Midlands	1,200	1,200		
1,437	Eastern	1,437	1,437		
955	South Western	1,040	1,040		
1,778	Wessex	1,831	1,831		
1,850	Thames North	1,905	1,905		
2,337	Southern	2,400	2,400		
560	Wales	580	580		
15,593		16,148	16,148	0	0
5	Non-provincial contributions	1	1		
15,598		16,149	16,149	0	0
INVESTMENT INCOME					
914	Dividends	1,012	370	642	
352	Interest	380	206	174	
1,266		1,392	576	816	0
GRANTS RECEIVED					
490	Memorial Hall Trust	518	448	70	
239	New College London Trust	220	220		
42	URC Insurance Company Ltd	62	62		
56	Department for Education	40	40		
827		840	770	70	0
LEGACIES					
For					
60	Ministry and Mission Fund	63	63		
	Westminster College	21		21	
516	Housing Retired Ministers	204		204	
46	Retired Ministers Funds	2		2	
34	Other	16		16	
656		306	63	243	0
SUNDRY INCOME					
79	Provincial contributions to YLTO/YCWT programme	103	103		
107	Donations	136	18	108	10
272	Other	67		67	
458		306	121	175	10
168	PROFIT ON SALE OF PROPERTIES	365	128	237	
18,973	TOTAL INCOME	19,358	17,807	1,541	10

This page shows the breakdown of the main headings of income shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

1994 Total funds £'000		1995 Total funds £'000	Income Unrestricted £'000	funds Restricted £'000	Capital funds £'000
MINISTRY					
11,779	Stipends - local and special ministries	11,766	11,766		
110	Stipends - CRCWs	121	121		
554	Pension grants	579		579	
370	Resettlement and other grants	377	364	13	
340	Provincial moderators - stipends & expenses	354	354		
921	Pension Fund additional contribution	998	998		
14,074		14,195	13,603	592	0
TRAINING					
802	College training for stipendiary ministry	716	676	40	
62	Other training for stipendiary ministry	75	71	4	
67	Training for non-stipendiary ministry	72	72		
300	YLTO/YCWT programme	297	297		
66	Support for Westminster College	53	53		
51	Support for Windermere Centre	42	42		
27	Support for Yardley Hastings	28	28		
7	Lay training	7	7		
69	St Andrew's Hall grant	76	76		
1,451		1,366	1,322	44	0
ASSEMBLY APPOINTED STAFF					
199	Salaries/stipends - executive staff	220	220		
158	Salaries/stipends - support staff	170	170		
80	Housing and expenses	84	84		
437		474	474	0	0
MISSION					
598	Council for World Mission	535	535		
84	Missionaries	139	139		
194	Grants for national and local mission	252	191	61	
99	Ecumenical councils	102	102		
65	General Assembly	67	67		
58	Assembly committees/conferences	58	56	2	
14	Mission Council committees/conferences	27	27		
1,112		1,180	1,117	63	0
COMMUNICATION AND EDITORIAL					
123	Salaries	131	131		
38	Other costs	30	30		
161		161	161	0	0
ADMINISTRATION					
258	Personnel and finance - salaries	222	219	3	
50	- other costs	26	18	8	
131	Premises costs	143	146	(3)	
58	Professional fees	72	65	7	
181	Miscellaneous expenses	161	148	13	
678		624	596	28	0
17,913	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	18,000	17,273	727	0

This page shows the breakdown of the main headings of expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6.

MOVEMENT ON FUNDS
Year ended 31st December 1995

Fund	Classification (see note 1(ii))	Balance 1st	Income	Expenditure	Investment	Balance 31st
		Jan 1995			value change	Dec 1995
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Ministry and Mission Fund	Capital Unrestricted	310 6,126				310 7,651
Maintenance of the Ministry Fund	Capital *Unrestricted	435 0	2 116			503 0
Ministerial Training Fund	Capital *Unrestricted	101 1,036				117 1,025
Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Capital *Unrestricted	0 1,993				0 2,001
Westminster College Funds	Capital Restricted	796 802				865 916
Church Buildings Funds	Capital Restricted	184 2,570				184 2,820
Retired Ministers Housing Funds	Capital Restricted	355 1,156				355 1,258
Retired Ministers Housing Society	Capital Restricted	0 6,278				0 6,743
Welfare Fund	Capital Restricted	88 221				101 256
Retired Ministers Aid Fund	Capital Restricted	118 541				136 619
Retired Ministers Fund	Capital Restricted	0 3,208				0 3,494
World Church and Mission Funds	Capital Restricted	178 912				201 1,073
Windermere Centre Fund	Capital Restricted	0 332				0 344
Yardley Hastings Fund	Capital Restricted	0 544				0 550
Other Funds	Capital Restricted	1,040 2,361	8 313			1,180 2,803
Totals (see page 6)		31,685	19,358	(18,000)	2,462	35,505
Comprising:	Capital	3,605	10	0	337	3,952
	Restricted	18,925	1,541	(727)	1,137	20,876
	Unrestricted	9,155	17,807	(17,273)	988	10,677

* Certain restricted funds are shown here as unrestricted - see note 1(ii) on page 12

This page and the following page 11 are intended to be used as reference sources rather than to be read through at one go. This page shows the breakdown of the main totals in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6 by major fund or group of funds.

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS
as at 31st December 1995

Balance 31st Dec 1995	Property	Cars and equipment	Investments	Loans	Net Current assets	Inter-fund balances	Fund
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
310	310						Ministry and Mission Fund
7,651	2,165	91	5,102	120	1,357	(1,184)	
503			503				Maintenance of the Ministry Fund
0							
117			117				Ministerial Training Fund
1,025			731			294	
0							Memorial Hall Trust Fund
2,001						2,001	
865	698		167				Westminster College Funds
916		5	952			(41)	
184			184				Church Buildings Funds
2,820	613		1,500	649		58	
355	355						Retired Ministers Housing Funds
1,258	1,198					60	
0							Retired Ministers Housing Society
6,743	9,258				(511)	(2,004)	
101			101				Welfare Fund
256			247			9	
136			136				Retired Ministers Aid Fund
619			605			14	
0							Retired Ministers Fund
3,494			3,431			63	
201			201				World Church and Mission Funds
1,073			997			76	
0							Windermere Centre Fund
344	304	20				20	
0							Yardley Hastings Fund
550	483	65				2	
1,180			1,180				Other Funds
2,803	51	58	2,026	36		632	
35,505	15,435	239	18,180	805	846	0	Totals (see page 5)
3,952	1,363	0	2,589	0	0	0	Capital
20,876	11,907	148	9,758	685	(511)	(1,111)	Restricted
10,677	2,165	91	5,833	120	1,357	1,111	Unrestricted

This page shows the breakdown of the assets and liabilities in the Balance Sheet on page 5 by major fund or group of funds.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - "Accounting by Charities". The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. ~~The format of the accounts and certain accounting policies have been changed this year, these changes are explained in note 2 below.~~

(i) Scope

The accounts show the combined income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of those trusts, companies and other funds which are administered for the benefit of the United Reformed Church nationally under the overall authority of the General Assembly. They do not include funds administered by or on behalf of provinces, districts or local churches.

(ii) Classification of funds

Capital funds are permanent endowments which are required to be retained but the income from these funds can be spent for the benefit of the URC subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

Restricted income funds are funds whose use is restricted to specific purposes according to the terms on which the funds were received.

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the religious and charitable work of the URC. The main fund falling into this category is the Ministry and Mission Fund.

In order to present a meaningful report and to facilitate comparison with our budgets, ~~the Maintenance of the Ministry fund, the Ministerial Training fund and the Memorial Hall Trust Grant fund, although technically~~ restricted funds are treated as unrestricted funds in these accounts. *in the case of the Hall Trust Grant fund, the maintenance of the Ministry fund and the Ministerial Training fund are treated as unrestricted funds in these accounts. This is done to facilitate comparison with our budgets. The total of the three funds is £1,000,000. The Hall Trust Grant fund is £500,000. The Maintenance of the Ministry fund is £250,000. The Ministerial Training fund is £250,000.*

The main funds included in these accounts, and their classification, are listed on page 10.

(iii) Income

Income is brought into account as soon as it becomes receivable except for legacies which are not credited until received.

When a province remits more than its agreed contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund in any year the excess is carried forward to the following year as a payment in advance.

(iv) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at original cost less depreciation calculated at the following percentages on cost:

Properties deemed to have a useful life of less than 40 years	2½%
Cars	30%
Computers	25%
Photocopiers	20%
Other furniture and equipment	10%

In addition, major repair works to Westminster College have been capitalised and are being depreciated over ten years.

(v) Investments

Listed securities and units in the URC Investment Pool are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Unlisted securities and investment properties are stated at cost or, in the case of gifts, market value at the date of receipt. For gilt-edged securities purchased within ten years of maturity at a cost in excess of redemption amount, the excess is amortised over the period to maturity and deducted from interest receivable.

(vi) Stock

Stock, which consists of books in the URC bookshop, is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(vii) Westminster College

With the exception of certain improvements and additions since 1983, the buildings of Westminster College are not included in the Balance Sheet since the College was originally a gift to the Church, the value of which cannot readily be ascertained.

This page contains fairly "technical" information about the way the accounts have been prepared.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued**NOTE 2 - CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Two changes in accounting policies have been made in this year's accounts:

(i) The accounts of The United Reformed Church Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited (RMHS) have been included within the URC accounts as the provision of housing for retired ministers is something to which the General Assembly has given a commitment, and RMHS is the principal means of fulfilling this commitment. The net income of RMHS included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the first time is £465,000 (1994 - £573,000).

(ii) Investments in listed securities and units in the URC Investment Pool are included at market value instead of at their original cost as this is considered to give a more realistic view of their worth to the URC.

The comparative figures for 1994 have been restated to reflect these two changes. The change to the amount of total funds shown in the 1994 accounts is as follows:

	£'000
Total funds at 31st December 1994 as shown in the 1994 accounts	21,376
RMHS net assets at 31st December 1994	6,278
Increase in investment values to market value	4,031
Restated amount of total funds at 31st December 1994	<u>31,685</u>

NOTE 3 - TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Houses for retired ministers £'000	Houses for serving ministers £'000	Other properties £'000	Cars and equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
As at 1st January 1995	9,321	2,824	1,909	635	14,689
Additions during year	1,701	214	65	116	2,096
Disposals during year	(211)	(184)		(120)	(515)
As at 31st December 1995	10,811	2,854	1,974	631	16,270
Depreciation					
As at 1st January 1995			184	435	619
Charged during year			20	65	85
Written back on disposal				(108)	(108)
As at 31st December 1995	0	0	204	392	596
Net book value					
At 31st December 1995	<u>10,811</u>	<u>2,854</u>	<u>1,770</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>15,674</u>
At 31st December 1994	<u>9,321</u>	<u>2,824</u>	<u>1,725</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>14,070</u>

Rents for retired ministers' housing are set at levels estimated to cover maintenance costs only. Total rents received in 1995 were £172,000 and maintenance costs were £146,000. All properties are considered to have a remaining useful life exceeding 40 years. Consequently, no depreciation has been provided other than on the major repairs at Westminster College.

At 31st December 1995 302 houses were owned for housing retired ministers and 25 houses for serving ministers.

Other properties include United Reformed Church House, the Yardley Hastings and Windermere centres, and building costs capitalised at Westminster College since 1983.

This page and the following two pages set out additional information about various aspects of the URC's finances.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS

	1995 £'000	1994 £'000
Long term investments		
Long term investments comprise the following:		
Units in the URC Investment Pool at market value	15,488	13,570
Other listed securities at market value	2,368	2,197
The URC Insurance Company Ltd shares at cost (see note 12)	73	73
Other unlisted securities at cost	24	74
Investment properties at cost	227	227
	<u>18,180</u>	<u>16,141</u>

All investments are in UK companies or properties.

	1995 £'000	1994 £'000
Short term investment		
The short term investment is £3 million 8.75% Treasury Stock 1997		
At cost less amortisation (see note 1(v))	3,047	3,076
Gain/(loss) in market value	73	(159)
Market value at 31st December 1995	<u>3,120</u>	<u>2,917</u>

The above holding represents the investment of surplus cash in order to maximise the income of the church. As the investment can be realised at any time to meet cash requirements it is treated as a current asset in the Balance Sheet on page 5.

NOTE 5 - LOANS AND ADVANCES

	1995 £'000	1994 £'000
Loans and advances comprise the following:		
To churches	675	883
To ministers	130	120
	<u>805</u>	<u>1,003</u>

Loans to ministers are generally interest free. Loans to churches bear interest at rates between 4¼% and 7%, except for certain loans which are interest free for an initial period of two years.

NOTE 6 - BANK BALANCES AND MONEY MARKET DEPOSITS

	1995 £'000	1994 £'000
Cash on call and short term deposit	1,570	2,052
Cash at bank and in hand	162	240
	<u>1,732</u>	<u>2,292</u>

NOTE 7 - CURRENT LIABILITIES *(due within an year)*

	1995 £'000	1994 £'000
Sums held for provinces and congregations	2,921	3,193
Advance contributions to the Ministry and Mission Fund	537	485
Other creditors	1,586	1,844
	<u>5,044</u>	<u>5,522</u>

*Note 4. Debts -
Income Tax
Account
Other.*

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued**NOTE 8 - ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR OTHERS**

At 31st December 1995 United Reformed Church Trust held investments with an original cost of approximately £15 million (1994 - £14 million) on behalf of provinces, churches and trusts. The Trust also held property and other assets. All of these assets are held to the order of the provinces, churches and trusts concerned and are not shown in these URC accounts (see note 1(i)).

NOTE 9 - THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS PENSION FUND

Pensions for most URC ministers are provided by The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund. The Fund is a defined benefit pension scheme and the assets are invested and managed by independent trustees.

The URC currently contributes 10.65% of basic stipend in respect of members and makes further payments towards the actuarial deficit, as recommended by the Consultant Actuary.

The last triennial valuation of the Pension Fund was undertaken by the Actuary as at 1st January 1994. The valuation used the attained age method and assumed that the rate of return achieved by the Fund will exceed the rate of stipend increase by 3%. The report of the Actuary showed that the expected shortfall on the long term valuation basis will be in the region of £11.3 million. The Actuary ~~has~~ advised that, based upon the ~~current~~ actuarial assumptions, it ~~will~~ be necessary for the series of annual additional contributions, increasing by 10% per annum compound, to be continued until the year 2006. The amount of the additional contribution in 1995 was ~~£998,000~~. ^{with} The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee of the URC intends that these contributions shall be made. *a further spend contribution of £2.5m was also made*

The URC also operates a number of other defined benefit schemes for a relatively small number of office and other staff. All of these schemes show actuarial surpluses.

NOTE 10 - COMMITMENTS

At 31st December 1995 The URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Ltd had contractual liabilities for the purchase of properties amounting to £126,000 (1994 - £166,000) and commitments for the purchase of other properties amounting to £150,000 (1994 - £812,000).

NOTE 11 - INTERESTS IN TRUSTS

The URC receives income from a number of trusts. The most significant are described below.

Memorial Hall Trust - This trust owns a part interest in the former Memorial Hall building on behalf of the URC and non-uniting Congregational churches. In 1995 the URC received income of ~~£518,000~~ (1994 - £490,000) from this trust. In addition, ~~29~~ properties owned by the trust are occupied by URC ministers or their dependants.

New College London Trust - This trust holds assets relating to the former New College London on behalf of the URC and non-uniting Congregational churches. The URC's interest amounts to approximately 82%. In 1995 the URC received income of £220,000 (1994 - ~~£239,000~~) from this trust.

The Cheshunt Foundation supports Westminster College by paying the stipend and expenses of one of the lecturers, by contributing to the college budget, and by providing financial support for ministers taking post-ordination training, and lay training.

NOTE 12 - THE URC INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

The URC owns the whole of the share capital of The URC Insurance Company Limited ("URCIC"). The cost of this investment is £72,500 and is included in long term investments. 100% of the insurance placed with URCIC is re-insured by The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group who also provide management services. URCIC has entered into a deed of covenant to pay to the URC 95% of its pre-tax profits; in 1995, this amounted to ~~£62,000~~. The accounts of URCIC are not included in the accounts of the URC on the grounds that its activities are not considered comparable with the main activities of the URC and are not material in the context of the URC accounts. *New covenant?*

NOTE 13 - THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST INVESTMENT POOL

The United Reformed Church operates an Investment Pool under the authority of a Charity Commission order. The financial statement of the Pool is shown on page 16. Of the total investment valued at ~~£32~~ million in the Pool, only ~~£15.5~~ million is held for URC central funds and is dealt with in these accounts (see note 4).

THE INVESTMENT POOL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December 1995

CAPITAL	1995		1994	
	1000 Units	£'000	1000 *Units	£'000
Units in issue at 1st January 1995	611,523	26,695	571,569	28,685
Units issued in the year	57,629	2,751	48,237	2,136
Units cancelled in the year	(28,057)	(1,392)	(8,283)	(370)
Management fees		(64)		(57)
Increase/(decrease) in value of investments during the year		4,117		(3,699)
Units in issue at 31st December 1995:				
to URC central funds	309,273	15,488	310,870	13,570
to other funds	331,822	16,619	300,653	13,125
	641,095	32,107	611,523	26,695

REPRESENTED BY

	Market value £'000	Market value £'000
Investments		
British Government Gilt-edged securities	9,544	5,999
Other British fixed interest stock	1,946	1,752
British equities	20,121	17,230
	31,611	24,981
Cash and short term deposits	630	1,203
Balance owing (to)/from the United Reformed Church	(134)	511
	<u>32,107</u>	<u>26,695</u>

Based on the underlying market value of investments and uninvested cash the value of each unit was: 5.01 pence 4.37 pence

During the year distributions were made in respect of all income received as follows:

3 months ended:	Rate per unit		Rate per unit	
	pence	£'000	pence	£'000
• 31st March	0.0410	251	0.0379	219
• 30th June	0.0640	397	0.0800	461
• 30th September	0.0744	472	0.0747	441
• 31st December	0.1423	915	0.0968	582
	<u>0.3217</u>	<u>2,035</u>	<u>0.2894</u>	<u>1,703</u>

*Note: The trustee decided that on January 1st 1995 all units should be divided into 100 new units. The comparative figures have been re-stated to take account of this change

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring that accounts are prepared for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of those trusts, companies and other funds which are administered for the benefit of the United Reformed Church nationally under the overall authority of the General Assembly ('the Church') as at the end of the year and of their income and expenditure for the year. In preparing those accounts, the Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring that:

- suitable accounting policies are selected and applied consistently;
- judgements and estimates made are reasonable and prudent;
- applicable accounting standards are followed;
- the accounts are prepared on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Church will continue its activities.

The Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are maintained which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with generally accepted accounting practice. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

We confirm, on behalf of the Finance Committee, our approval of the accounts as set out on pages 5 to 16.

A G Burnham
General Secretary

Graham Stacy
Treasurer

C M Frank
Chief Accountant and
Financial Secretary

4th April 1996

The above statements are formal statements which are included in the accounts of all companies and major charities.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

We have audited the accounts on pages 5 to 16 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 12. These accounts deal with those trusts, companies and other funds which are administered for the benefit of the United Reformed Church nationally under the overall authority of the General Assembly ('the Church').

Respective responsibilities of the Finance Committee and the auditors

As described on page 17, the Finance Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Finance Committee in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the Church, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Church as at 31st December 1995, and of its financial activities for the year then ended.

186 City Road
London EC1V 2NU

ROBSON RHODES
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditor

4th April 1996

The audit report by Robson Rhodes set out above is in the standard form used by auditors when there is nothing exceptional which they wish to draw to the attention of readers.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS' PENSION FUND

	1995		1994	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
INCOME				
Contributions from ministers and central funds	1,384		1,357	
Transfer values received	1	1,385	30	1,387
Investment income	1,468		1,286	
Underwriting commission	3	1,471	5	1,291
Allocation toward Actuarial Deficit	1,009		928	
Donations	53	1,062	3	931
		3,918		3,609
EXPENDITURE				
Benefits paid	2,907		2,695	
Transfer values paid			70	
	2,907		2,765	
Management expenses	108	3,015	113	2,878
NET NEW MONEY AVAILABLE FOR INVESTMENT				
		903		731
Realised profit on sale of investments		1,856		1,912
Increase/(decrease) in unrealised surplus on investment revaluation		3,594		(5,678)
TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN RESOURCES IN THE YEAR				
		6,353		(3,035)
Balance of resources at 1st January		34,918		37,953
Balance of resources at 31st December		41,271		34,918
Represented by:				
Investments		40,924		33,533
Net Current assets		347		1,385
		41,271		34,918

This account which is a summarised account of the full accounts of the Pension Fund, should be read in conjunction with note 9 on page 15 of the audited accounts of the Church.

The full accounts of the Pension Fund have been audited by Robson Rhodes, who have given an unqualified audit opinion.

The audited accounts of the Pension Fund are available from the Central Office of the Church.



**The United Reformed Church
86 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RT**