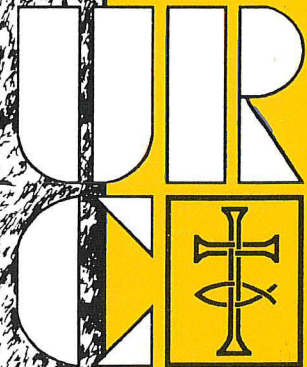
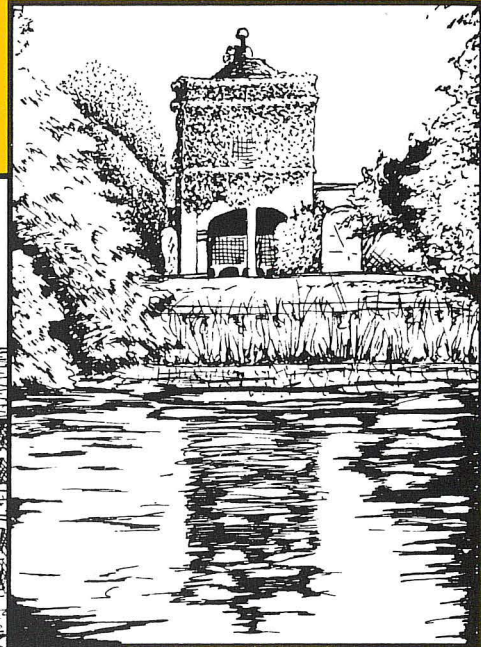


ASSEMBLY RECORD



The United Reformed Church
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1996

July 6th - 9th York

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration *
For Action X

Reports page	Record page		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
50	17	Ministerial Discipline			X
92	28	Copyright	*		
84	29	Commitment for Life	X		
87	29	Sanctuary	*		
89	29	General Election	X		
101	31	Statement of Faith			X
110	32	European Church Partnerships			X
114	33	Christian Unity	X	X	X
113	34	Representation at Assembly (CWM)			X
124	35	Ministry & Mission Fund	*		
133	35	Vocations: Ministers & CRCWs	*	*	*
-	47	Secretary for Nominations Committee		*	

**Record of the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
in the United Kingdom
1996**

Constitution of Assembly

The Moderator, the Revd John Reardon, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and time having been duly appointed, and the Chaplain, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, led the worship of the Assembly.

Induction of Moderator

On the motion of the Revd John Reardon, Dr David M Thompson, 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 John Reardon

Thanks to the Retiring Moderator

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to the Revd John Reardon and Mrs Molly Reardon.

The Moderator then addressed the Assembly.

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

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

Moderator:	Dr David M Thompson
Clerk:	Revd Principal Martin Cressey
Minute Secretary:	Mrs Christine Hardwick
General Secretary:	Revd Anthony G Burnham
Deputy General Secretary:	Revd John Waller

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 Elizabeth Welch
VII	Revd Wilfred K Gathercole
VIII	Revd Raymond Adams
IX	Revd Derek Wales
X	Revd Janet E Sowerbutts
XI	Revd David Helyar
XII	Revd John L Humphreys

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees:

Doctrine, Prayer and Worship:	Dr David Thompson
Discipleship and Witness:	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
Church and Society:	Professor Malcolm Johnson
Youth and Children's Work:	Revd Stephen Thornton
Ecumenical:	Revd Murdoch MacKenzie
Ministries:	Revd Keith Forecast
Training:	Revd John Sutcliffe
Finance:	Mr Graham Stacy
Communications and Editorial:	Mr Christopher Wright
Nominations:	Revd Jessie Clare
Pastoral:	Revd John Johansen-Berg
Assembly Arrangements:	Mrs Wilma Frew
Equal Opportunities:	Mrs Susan Rand

Conveners of Assembly Task Groups:

Advocacy and Stewardship:	Revd Julian Macro
Mission and Other Faiths:	Revd Bill Mahood
Health and Healing:	Revd Robin Hine

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	Mr Simon Rowntree
VII	Mr William McVey	VIII	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
IX	Revd George H Thomas	X	
XI	Mrs Christine Meekison	XII	Mr John Rhys

Additional Synod Representatives:

I	Mr Andrew Atkinson, Revd Terry Oakley
II	Revd R H Lewis, Revd Bob Day, Mr James Hethrington
III	Revd T Jamison, Mrs E Blair, Mr M Smith
IV	Mr F Crofts, Revd N Lowen, Mr S Wood.
V	Revd M Rigney, Revd G Maskery, Mr G Prentice
VI	Mr Ron Webb, Revd Pat Nimmo, Miss M Smith
VII	Mr Monty Helmn, Mrs B Gathercole, Mrs Elizabeth Whitten
VIII	Revd D Burnett, Mr Malcolm Summers, Mr G Curl
IX	Revd B Collins, Dr J Mellor, Mr C Hansford
X	Mr Bob Allen, Miss S Rudofsky, Revd Rachel Poolman
XI	Mrs G Ntiamoah, Mr B West, Mr N Fabb
XII	Mrs K Price, Mr M Evans, Mrs J Evans

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:	Dr Elaine Kaye, Ms J Wade
Northern College, Manchester:	Revd John Parry, Mr C Muir
Westminster College, Cambridge:	Revd Dr D Cornick, Mr M Shrubsole
Queens College; Birmingham:	

Youth Representatives:

Council for World Mission:	Mr James Horton, Mr John Bradbury
Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces stationed in Britain:	Rt Revd Michael Baroi
Missionaries on Furlough:	Revd J Petrie
	Revd Bill Sewell, Mrs Maureen Sewell

Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:

Mr B J Hartwell, Mrs Gwen Hall, 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, Revd 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, Revd J Reardon.

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

Province I

- A: Revd James Breslin, Revd Suzanne Hamnett, Revd Dr A Ritchie, Miss A Beecroft, Miss S Fairbairn, Mr M Taylor.
B: Ms K Reed, Ms A Hucker, Revd D Brown, Revd W Ellerby, Revd G Hoslett, Revd A Jackson, Revd N Percival, Dr J Nelson, Miss M Stephenson.
C: Revd G Carling, Revd J Durell, Mrs M Barnes, Mrs C Frame.
D: Revd T London, Revd G Thompson, Revd C P Nevard, Miss C Smyth, Mr D Haywood, Dr M Sutherland.
E: Revd F Cochrane, Mrs P Cochrane, Revd I Prentice, Mr R Kerr.
F: Revd M Barr, Mr P Smyth.

Province II

- A: Miss N Brown, Mr R Clarke, Revd M Cock, Mrs A Humphreys, Revd B Hutchinson, Revd A Tomlinson.
B: Revd A Greasley, Revd J Hopkins, Revd G Eatock, Mr R Bullock, Mrs H Hurst.
C: Revd A W Mailer, Revd S Thomas, Revd P Rand, Miss G Ormerod, Mr D G Estill, Mrs S Parkinson*.
D: Revd R Crofton, Revd A Hall, Revd D Megson, Mr A Hart, Mrs A Hart, Mr N Platt.
E: Revd M Jeffrey, Revd J Kissack, Revd A Morris, Revd D Whitehead, Mrs J Cockcroft, Mr S Hazelhurst, Mr P Jeffrey, Miss S A Woodward.
F: Revd Brenda Willis*, Revd A Harrison, Revd M Hodgson, Revd J Mitchell, Mr M Aspinall, Mr R Banwell, Mr P Bennett, Mr N Burnell, Mrs F Forecast.
G: Revd S Armitage, Mr J McCullagh, Mr J McKnight, Revd P Taylor.

Province III

- A: Revd M J Fisher, Revd J Forster, Revd S Helme, Revd A Holroyd, Mr J Bryne, Mrs A Lee, Mr A Helsby, Dr J C Stocks.
B: Revd E Sambrooks, Revd N Jarrett, Mr R Rigby, Mr M Howie, Mr L Woodside*, Revd W Wright*.
C: Revd H Gabbott, Revd G Thomas, Revd W H Elliot, Mr G Parley, Mr B Gibson.
D: Revd M Ryland - Jones, Revd M Poole, Revd M McInnes, Mrs G Wilkinson, Mr J Westlake Guy, Mr R Roberts.
E: Mr Garner, Mrs Garner, Revd A Williamson, Revd J Forster*.

Province IV

- A: Revd S Knapton, Revd T O Williams, Revd D Coote, Mrs H Mitchell, Miss Helen Clarke, Mr G A Lawrence.
B: Mr Rex Brearley, Mr D Hawksworth, Miss A Marshall, Revd S E Rogers, Revd D Wilson, Revd Richard West*.
C: Revd H Drummond, Revd J Belderson, Revd I McLeod, Mr W Hoyle, Mr M Hartley, Mr K Brooks.
D: Miss E C I Stewart, Mrs B Robinson, Mr W Paton, Revd S Swailes, Revd G Perrott, Revd H Wilkinson, Miss C Crosley*.
E: Revd J Jenkinson, Revd P Brewster*, Mr C Priestley, Mr J Gilbey.
F: Revd G Courtney, Revd N Thorogood, Revd Rosemary Tusting, Mr A Jones, Mr A Jowett, Mr N Platt.

Province V

- A: Revd K Burchell, Revd A Willett, Mr J Jordan, Miss E Quilter, Revd P Meek, Revd C Meynell, Mrs A Moore, Mr E Greville.
- B: Mrs D Beale, Mrs I Wren, Revd L McNeil, Revd B Russell, Mrs I Moore, Mrs M Brier.
- C: Revd M Howard, Revd A Walker, Mrs V Stonehouse*, Mr M Breeze, Mr D Coaker, Revd R W Rooke*.
- D: Revd V Broomfield Payne, Mrs M Broomfield Payne, Revd T Royds, Revd M Westerman, Mrs L Sanders, Mr R Floyer.
- E: Mrs J Booth, Revd Betty Chadwick, Prof George Hall, Mr M Hopkins, Revd R Moore, Revd E Nash.
- F: Revd D Robertson, Revd R Davis, Mrs T Davis, Mr N Eldridge.

Province VI

- A: Revd E Kemp, Revd J Cohen, Revd G Tate, Revd D Fraser, Revd Dr J Parry, Mrs J Shaffery, Mrs G Cohen, Mrs J Tate, Mr E Marks, Mrs B Marks.
- B: Revd T Bayliss, Revd C Foreman, Revd N Stancliff, Mrs K Stancliff, Mr D Griffiths, Mrs J Kirby.
- C: Revd G Twigg, Revd M Renton, Revd J Brown, Mrs R Allman, Mr M Allman, Miss D Cameron.
- D: Miss J Rowell, Mrs B Andrews, Mrs M Reynolds, Revd L Reynolds, Revd R Young, Revd D Goldie.
- E: Revd C Craven, Revd I Bound, Revd D Clarke, Revd J Campbell, Mrs R Page, Miss T Arthur, Mr B Harvey, Mr D Gray.
- F: Revd S Jackson, Revd G Long, Revd W Snade, Miss K Cruchley, Mrs M Marshall, Mrs B Rose*.

Province VII

- A: Mrs P Lithgow, Miss C Montague, Mr A Brown, Revd I Fosten, Revd C Sutcliffe, Revd A Chart.
- B: Revd J Grindrod-Helmn, Revd M Dunford, Revd K Martin, Revd J Pugh, Mr R Baker, Mr T Wilson, Dr R Jurd, Mrs R Scarff.
- C: Revd D Mather, Revd M Burrell, Revd M Powell, Mr P Crysell, Mrs S Paine, Mr A Went.
- D: Revd H Smith, Revd R Canham, Revd W Graham, Mr A Franklin, Mr K Woods.
- E: Revd M McKay, Revd P Pope, Revd G Smith, Revd J Stone, Miss A Cooper, Dr P Cressey, Mrs D McVey, Mrs P Preston.
- F: Mr John Bannister, Revd A Smith, Mrs S Simkin.

Province VIII

- A: Revd C Baker, Revd P Snell, Mrs P Clarke, Mr G Williams.
- B: Revd K Eynon, Revd D Barber, Mr D Parker, Mr S Glanville.
- C: Revd H Bignell, Revd S Brown, Revd S Scarr, Mrs V Bignell, Miss G Couch, Mr M Franks.
- D: Revd G W Jones, Mr G Faris, Mr D Puddy, Revd M E Laurie.
- E: Revd M Camroux, Revd K Williamson, Mrs S Kirkbride, Miss S Crabb.
- F: Revd B Grimsey, Revd B Rogers, Revd S Newell, Revd W Baskett, Mr A Watson, Mr D Souter, Miss V Glover.
- G: Mr David Walter.
- H: Revd T Dodds, Mrs C Moreton.
- J: Revd J Berryman, Mrs J Berryman.

Province IX

- A: Mr K Pitts, Mr N Grant, Mr M Gibbons, Mrs M Gibbons, Mr P Mann, Mrs S Mann, Mr R Weeden, Revd M Tilley, Revd D Lee, Revd J Weeden, Revd G Collins, Revd A Clarredge.
- B: Revd A Green, Revd S A Wilkins, Revd J Christie, Revd S Thomas, Mrs M Ingate, Mr I Monro, Mr M Waldron, Mr P Hall.
- C: Revd P McManus, Revd K J Summers, Revd D M Thomas, Mrs P Summers, Mr A Blunt.
- D: Revd A Pratt, Mrs D Spencer, Revd C Macaulay, Mrs S Brooks, Revd D Netherwood, Mr J Harris, Revd V Skinner, Mr K Morrison.
- E: Revd P Richardson, Revd B Gray King, Revd P Flint, Revd M Jackson, Revd R Wolff, Dr C Shephard*, Mrs D Cochrane, Miss J Southern, Mr T Ingram, Miss A Bunney.

Province X

- A: Revd M Hindley, Revd A Hutcheson, Revd P Loveitt, Revd T Spring, Revd P Stewart, Mr C Buckwell, Mrs R Douglas, Mr D Ramsay, Mr E Rowland, Mrs M Stacy, Mrs L Hamilton*.
B: Mr D Hogge, Mrs J Hogge, Miss S Groat, Revd A Wilson, Revd B Scopes*, Revd Betty Scopes*.
C: Revd B Maitland, Revd K Riglin, Revd R Bottoms, Mr D Rogers, Mr A Kirkcaldy, Mrs H Gleeson.
D: Mr D Illines, Mr S Freeman, Mr J Seabrook, Mrs L Seabrook, Mr A Jack, Mrs M Truscott, Revd Martin Truscott, Revd Dr D von Allmen, Revd S Lewis, Revd T Lewis, Revd M Ambrose*.
E: Revd M Hazell, Revd F Ackroyd, Revd J Macaulay, Mrs W Cooper, Ms R Watson, Mrs E Boateng.
F: Mr G Slamon, Mrs J Salmon, Mr P White, Mr R Vincent, Revd J Danso*, Revd J Black*.

Province XI

- A: Mrs S Black*, Revd A Mabbs, Revd R Lowes, Revd R Blows, Revd B Bowyer, Mrs M Bean, Dr D Cutler, Mr Dean Ayres.
B: Revd P Barnes, Revd L Charlton, Revd M O'Hara, Revd B Pavitt, Mr C Bruce-Jones, Miss S Greenslade, Mrs L Knowles, Miss L Burchell.
C: Revd I Bird, Revd M Collins, Revd R Parker, Revd B Thomas, Revd M Wilson, Mrs G Abdullie, Mr K Akumanyi, Mr G Davies, Mrs J Halden, Mr B Irving.
D: Revd P Welsh, Revd D Richmond, Revd P Southcombe, Revd J West*, Mr C Walker, Mrs M Richmond, Mrs R Anderson, Mr S Ring.
E: Revd C Lanham, Revd G Collins, Revd R MacDonald, Mrs M Sharpe, Mr E Munns, Mrs P MacDonald.
F: Revd D R Bedford, Mr N Preece, Revd J N E Rogers, Revd B S Stone, Mr K Wright, Mr K G Stratford.
G: Mr K Asby, Mr G Dearsley, Mrs N Welch, Revd P Newell, Revd P Jones, Revd R J Furley-Smith.

Province XII

- A: Revd D Coleman, Revd D Wilkinson, Revd K Jones, Mr R Jones, Mrs J Yeomans, Miss J Needham.
B: Mrs L Jackson, Revd N Douglas, Mrs B Douglas, Revd R Gordon, Mr D Pearce, Revd Dr G Harris*.
C: Revd S Pollard, Revd A Davis, Mrs C Jordan, Mr B Jordan, Mr A Haywood, Revd W Hughes-Edwards*, Revd G Jones*, Revd G Abraham-Williams*, Mrs C George*.
D: Revd K Watson, Mrs J Davies, Mrs B Willis, Dr R Pope, Revd H Gordon*.
E: Revd H Maclagan, Mrs J Maclagan, Revd D Morgan, Mrs E Morgan.
F: Revd J Wynne Davies, Revd P Gaskell, Revd S Roberts, Mr A Batley.

VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING OTHER CHURCHES

Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland:	Mr Ken Walker
Church of Scotland:	The Revd Sheilagh Kesting
Congregational Federation:	Mr Frank Wroe
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:	Revd Principal W Eifion Powell
Scottish Congregational Church:	Revd W S Drummond
United Free Church of Scotland:	Revd J G McPhee

Reception of Guests

The Revd Donald Hilton, Moderator, Yorkshire Province, introduced local visitors and those present were received by the Moderator:

The Most Revd David Hope, Archbishop of York
The Revd A A Peck, Yorkshire Baptist Association
The Revd Bill Snelson, County Ecumenical Officer
The Revd Brian Tibbetts, The Methodist Church, York and Hull District

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:
The Church of Scotland:

The Congregational Federation:
Scottish Congregational Church:
The International Ministerial Council of Great Britain:
The Methodist Church:
The Moravian Church:
The Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

The Presbyterian Church in Wales:

Union of Welsh Independents:
The United Free Church of Scotland:
Council of Churches for Britain & Ireland:
CYTUN:
The Roman Catholic Church in England & Wales:
The Church of England:

Mr Ken Walker*
The Revd Sheilagh Kesting*
The Rt Revd John McIndoe
Mrs Eve McIndoe
The Revd Suzanne Dunleavy
Mr Frank Wroe*
The Revd W S Drummond*
Mrs Priscilla Desir*
Mr Geoff Bowstead*
Mr Ashton McIntosh*
The Revd W J Waring*
The Very Revd Dr John Ross
Revd David T Moore
The Revd J E Wynne Davies*
Mrs Mary Davies
The Revd Principal W Eifion Powell*
The Revd J G McPhee*
The Revd Donald Elliott
The Revd Noel Davies
Mr Michael Siggins
The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt

International Church Representatives

Church of Lippe, Germany :
Waldensian Church, Italy:
Council for World Mission:

The Revd Hans-Juergen Meier
Pastor Gregorio Plescan
The Rt Revd Michael Baroi*

Missionaries on Furlough

The Revd Bill Sewell* and Mrs Maureen Sewell*

* Voting Members

The Most Revd David Hope, the Rt Revd John McIndoe and the Rt Revd Michael Baroi responded to the welcome on behalf of the guests.

Standing Orders

The Moderator welcomed members of Assembly and particularly those attending Assembly for the first time and encouraged them to participate fully. The Clerk moved amendments to the following Standing Orders which were carried:

Amendment to Standing Order 1

Delete 'Mission Council through its', since the Assembly Arrangements committee is now a full committee of the General Assembly.

Amendment to Standing Order 11b

Add words "or evening" after the word "afternoon".

The Standing Orders, with these amendments, were adopted as printed in the Book of Reports.

Assembly Business

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, Mrs Wilma Frew, gave notice of additional resolutions and reminded members they needed to give notice of any amendments to Resolution 27 by 9.30pm the following evening.

Closure of Churches

The General Secretary proposed the following resolution.

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

**Batley Carr
Norwood Green
Norton Fitzwarren
Othery
Fetter Lane, Leyton
Bethany, Aberaman**

This was carried. At a later session, it was agreed that **West Lulworth** be added to this list, as noted in the Wessex Synod report.

New Churches

The General Secretary moved the following resolution

- 6 **The Assembly receives notice of new local churches listed below:**

St George's, The Hoskers, Westhoughton. North West Manchester District. North Western Province

The New City Christian Centre, Newham. Thames North Province

This was agreed, thus admitting the churches as local churches of the United Reformed Church.

The Moderator welcomed representatives of the two churches.

Newly Ordained Ministers and Newly Commissioned Church Related Community Workers

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

Northern Province (Moderator: David Jenkins)

Suzanne M Hamnett
Steven John Orange
Peter Andrew Phillips

South East Northumberland Team
Sunderland and Boldon Group
Trinity URC, Bishop Auckland

North Western Province (Moderator: Keith Forecast)

Barry Hutchinson
David S Ireland
Alan Morris

Garstang and Forton
North East Manchester District
Bury North Pastorate

Mersey Province (Moderator: Graham Cook)

Simon Helm
Trevor Jamison
Martin Smith

St John's URC, Warrington
Westminster Road, and Chadwick Mount, Liverpool
Northwich, Moulton and Frodsham

Yorkshire Province (Moderator: Donald Hilton)

David Coote
Philip Hanson
Nancy Haslam
Hilma Wilkinson

Christ Church, South Ella with Trinity, Hessle
Bridge Church, Otley
Holmfirth
Riddlesden

East Midlands Province (Moderator: Malcolm Hanson)

Malcolm David Breeze
Vernon Broomfield-Payne Kettering Group
Colin John Meynell
Anne Jacqueline Sardeson
Ivor Smith
Pam Smith
Aileen Dorothy Walker

CRCW at Peterborough
Derbyshire District
Derbyshire District
South Leicestershire Group
East Leicester Fellowship
Scunthorpe Industrial Mission & St Andrews, Scunthorpe

West Midlands Province (Moderator: Elizabeth Welch)

Diane Benson
Ruth Maxey

CRCW, Bloomsbury Church Centre
Weoley Castle URC

Eastern Province (Moderator: Bill Gathercole)

Michael Burrell
Dawn Mather
Margaret Thomas
Duncan Tuck

Maldon and Heybridge Basin in the
Maldon Group
Burnham on Crouch and Southminster
Little Baddow
North Lowestoft and Gorleston

Wessex Province (Moderator: Derek Wales)

Alan John Clarredge
Jane Weedon

Dorset District
Lymington & East End

Thames North Province (Moderator: Janet Sowerbutts)

Barrie Cheetham
John Danso
Douglas Gay
Dr Ann Jeffers
Stephen P I Lewis
J Roger Orme
David J Simpson

Chingford and Highams Park
Leyton Grange Park and Leytonstone
United Free Churches
Clapton Park & Dalston URC
Central & North London District
Brookmans Park URC
Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church
and Central & North London District
Amersham Free Church and The Mount
Prison, Bovington

Southern Province (Moderator: David Helyar)

Pauline Barnes	Trinity and Christ Church URC's, Crawley, and Free Church Chaplain, St Bede's School, Redhill
Margaret Collins	Under 5's Ministry within Bromley District
Carol Lanham	Hardres Street Methodist/URC, Ramsgate
Janet Lees	Twickenham and Hampton Hill URC's
Alexander Mabbs	Commons Team Ministry
David Bryn Thomas	Bexley and Geddes Place, Bexleyheath
Jean West	St Paul's Church, Roundshaw, Wallington
Maureen Margaret Wilson	The Meeting Place, Bexley Village and Bexley URC

Wales Province (Moderator: John Humphreys)

David Cassidy	Builth Wells Area Ecumenical Pastorate
David Jm Coleman	Flint Borough Pastorate
Nigel Douglas	Newport URC and Community House
	Presbyterian Church of Wales
Charles Peter Gaskell	Penuel, Llanwrthwl, Caebach and Christchurch, Llandrindod Wells
Shelagh Pollard	Van Road, Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach and Maescwmmmer

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 and led the General Assembly in prayer.

Assembly Communion Service

A service of Holy Communion was led by the Revd Elizabeth Welch, Moderator's Chaplain for 1995/6. The Revd John Reardon preached the sermon.

Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries

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

Ministers who have served at home and as missionaries overseas and have died since Assembly 1995

Clifford Herbert Laccohee BAKER	Arthur David LEWIS
Leonard John BALLARD	Kenneth William MARVIN
David BENTLEY	Helen Janet MATHESON
Clifford John BUCKINGHAM	Charles McCURDY
Thomas Sydney BURGHART	Frank Austin MEAD
Francis Henry BROWN	Michael John MELVIN
Byron CLEMENT	Ivor Francis MORRIS
Raymond Derek Charles COLE	Isa NAPIER
Ann COLLINS	Edwin PALMER
Frank Dennis EDWARDS	Robert Lyal RICHARDS
John Edward ELLIS	William Vine RUSSELL
William Charles FRANKLIN	Eric Charles Leach SHAVE
Freda GERNER	Keith SIVITER
Norman Oswald Stanley GOODCHILD	John Edward Reid STEVENSON
Ernest GRAY	George Arthur Frederick STORY
James Trenchard HARDYMAN	Marjorie Gemmell SWIFT
Norman HEALEY	Frederick Arthur TARRY
Kenneth Ernest HUDSON	Iorwerth Lewis THOMAS
George Brown HUMPHRIES	Warren Francis Homan THORPE
Henry Burns JAMIESON	Thomas VAUSE
Ivy Pearl Rawkins JEFFERS	Hector MacDonald WATSON
John JENKINS	Ernest Reginald WIMPRESS
Wilfred Christian JONES	William McLintock WISHART
Joyce Audrey LANGDOWN	Gordon Rainey WORKMAN
James Philip LEE-WOOLF	

Missionaries who have died since Assembly 1995

Beth ARNOLD
Alan CROOK
Violet FARMER
Eleanor Margaret GRIFFITHS
Phyllis READ

Ruth SCOPES
Muriel THEOBOLD
Jean Monica WAREHAM
Amy WATKINS
Elizabeth WELFORD

Reception of Representatives of Other Faiths

At the invitation of the Moderator, the Revd Bill Mahood introduced the representatives of other faiths who were received by the Moderator. They were: Rabbi Douglas Charing, Jewish Community, Leeds, Mrs Nighat Mizra, Headmistress of Muslim Girls School, Leeds, former Head of Faversham School, Bradford and Mr Jilil Mizra. The Moderator reminded Assembly that Christians, Jews and Muslims were all children of Abraham.

The Revd Murdoch Mackenzie introduced Bishop Michael Scott-Joynt who was greeted by the Moderator. The Moderator congratulated Bishop Michael on his elevation to the See of Winchester.

Election of Assembly Moderator

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer before inviting members to cast their votes for the next Assembly Moderator. Following the collection of votes the Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

Ministerial Jubilees

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

1946

Geoffrey Edward BECK
Harry Daniel BEEBY
John Richard Alexander CROSSAN
Anthony GREEN
Thomas Glanville JONES
John Keyworth LLOYD-WILLIAMS
Raymond Herbert NORMAN
Reginald PARMLEY
Robert Francis PITT
Elijah Philip SCHOFIELD
Arthur Henry Walton STARKEY
Harold STENTIFORD
Raymond Lawrence WHITTLE
James Sydney WILKINSON
Stanley WILTON

1936

Norman BIRNIE
Frank Ross BROWN
Albert Samuel COOPER
Arthur Robert DOWN
William Henry Isaac HAIGH
James Campbell MacLAUCHLAN
John Johnston MARTIN
James Edward Lesslie NEWBIGIN
George Ernest SHEARER
Theodore PERCY STRACHAN

The Moderator asked the Assembly to pay tribute to these ministers, which it did with applause. He received the Revd Geoffrey Beck, the Revd Norman Birnie, the Revd Thomas Jones and the Rt Revd Lesslie Newbigin who were present.

Address by the Sheriff of York

The Sheriff of York, Councillor Ken Cooper and the Sheriff's Lady, Mrs Dolly Cooper were welcomed to the Assembly. The Sheriff addressed the Assembly.

Election of Moderator of Assembly 1997/8

The Convener of Tellers, the Revd Ruth Wollaston, reported that 485 votes, of which 2 were spoiled, had been cast. She was pleased to inform the Assembly that the Revd David Jenkins had been elected Moderator for 1997/8. The Moderator led Assembly in prayer. The Revd David Jenkins addressed the Assembly on Tuesday afternoon.

In the afternoon session the Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for Dr Claire Shepherd who had had an accident at lunch time and had been taken to hospital.

Developing Discipleship

A presentation was given on the 'Developing Discipleship' course and the Revd Terry Oakley explained its use to stimulate growing in the faith.

Synods

The Revd Graham Long proposed and the Revd Gilbert Tate seconded the following resolution:

- 1 General Assembly agrees to add at the end of paragraph 24 of the basis of Union the additional clause:
'except that all internship students for the ministry of the United Reformed Church may preside at the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the church or churches in which they are serving their internship should the Church Meeting(s) invite them to do so'.

An amendment adding 'or major placement' in two places was introduced. A point of order was raised on whether the amendment was in order. The Moderator ruled that it was in order if put to an Assembly vote. A vote was taken and Assembly agreed to the insertions. The Revd Graham Long asked that Assembly make a decision on this matter which had been unresolved in past Assemblies.

Mr John Gilbey proposed another amendment to replace 'at the Sacrament of Holy Communion' with 'at the Sacraments' and to add 'and the District Council give concurrence'.

This was seconded and accepted.

A vote was then taken on the whole resolution for which the Clerk pointed out that a majority of two thirds was required as it affected the Basis of Union. Tellers were called: there were 242 votes for the motion and 231 against. The motion therefore failed to gain the required majority for a constitutional amendment. The Chaplain then led the Assembly in prayer.

Resolution 2 was proposed by the the Revd Stephen Newell, seconded by the Revd Basil Rogers.

2. General Assembly agrees that all churches should have the opportunity of representation, ministerial and lay, to all its meetings and requests the Finance Committee to re-examine the financial implications of such a change.

After discussion the Revd Peter Poulter moved that the question be now put. This was seconded and agreed. Mr Newell replied to the discussion.

The resolution was not carried.

Resolution 3 was proposed by Mr C Walker and seconded by the Revd P Welsh.

3. Assembly requests the Mission Council to review the prioritising of the business of the General Assembly with a view to improving its relationship with Synods, Districts and local churches - particularly to improve the drafting and channelling of resolutions through more effective consultation, and giving greater time between publication of papers and General Assembly.

The resolution was not carried.

The Moderator expressed his concern that the issues raised were addressed.

Synod Reports

The Revd Noel Davies, General Secretary of CYTUN, was invited to interview representatives of Northern, Eastern, Southern and Wales Provinces on aspects of their reports.

The Moderator invited members to make comments on the remaining provincial reports.

The General Secretary drew attention to the boundary changes noted under the Mersey Province report in the Book of Reports, and that in the West Midlands Province as on the Order Paper for Monday.

Mersey

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. The Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under para 2(4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure that at the meeting of Synod on 9 March 1996, it was agreed that the districts north of the Mersey be reduced from three to two with effect from 1 September 1996. The membership of the new districts has been given to the General Secretary.

West Midlands

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. The Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under para 2(4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure that at its meeting on 15 June 1996, the Synod Council, acting on behalf of Synod agreed to transfer Broadway URC Walsall from the Birmingham District to the Staffordshire District.

Provincial Moderators' Report

The Revd Donald Hilton presented the Moderators' report on the theme of leadership, which aimed to ask questions rather than give all the answers. Discussion followed.

The Moderator greeted the new Provincial Moderators: the Revd Elizabeth Welch, of West Midlands Province, and the Revd Elizabeth Caswell, of Eastern Province, who would take up her appointment on the retirement of the Revd Bill Gathercole in February 1997.

The Moderator also greeted the Revd Bill Gathercole and Mrs Betty Gathercole.

Mission Council

The Mission Council report was introduced by the Revd John Reardon. The section on the future governance of Westminster College is included below in a completed form:

- 2.2. **Westminster College.** The Assembly in 1995 passed a resolution regarding the operation of the College (Resolution 11, Record P.21) in which Mission Council was instructed to take any necessary steps to give effect to the working out of the proposals that had been agreed. In response to this instruction Mission Council had much pleasure in appointing the Revd Dr David Cornick as Principal of Westminster College from 1st September 1996 to 31st August 2001. It was further agreed that appointments be made for five years from 1st September 1996 of a Director of Studies in Systematic Theology and a Director of Pastoral Studies.

The following statement on the College was agreed as a framework within which the Board of Governors will operate:

- 2.2.1 Westminster College seeks:
- (a) to offer training to the United Reformed Church that is of high academic quality, complemented by a constant and sharp awareness of the challenges facing the Church and its life and mission;
 - (b) to offer training for the ministry of word and sacraments, and for lay ministries - both preparatory training, and continuing education for those already in service;

- (c) to support this training with personal and pastoral care, as those who commit themselves to extending their service in the Church are liable to be stretched intellectually and spiritually, and may also experience family and financial strain;
- (d) to participate actively in the development of new training initiatives within the Church;
- (e) to work within a spirit and environment of committed ecumenism, from a Reformed base;
- (f) to sustain a broad and lively range of contacts with the world church, thereby enriching the setting of our training;
- (g) to act as a theological support and resource for the whole denomination: by the provision of an outstanding theological library; by the encouragement and support of study, research and scholarship; through the service of staff on councils and committees of the church; through personal support and counsel; and through the availability of staff to travel to teach groups.

2.2.2 Board of Governors

2.2.2.1 There shall be a Board of Governors for the College appointed by the General Assembly, consisting of fourteen members as follows:

- (a) a Convener, chosen for that purpose;
- (b) a clerk or secretary to the Board, chosen for the purpose;
- (c) eight other persons, of whom at least two shall have expertise in management, finance and the administration of buildings, two shall have expertise in education, and two shall have ministerial experience;
- (d) the Principal of the College *ex officio*;
- (e) a member of the teaching staff of the College, chosen by them;
- (f) a student member of the College, chosen by the students;
- (g) the Chair of the Cheshunt Governors *ex officio*.

2.2.2.2 Within the total membership there shall be a representative of the Cambridge Theological Federation, a representative of the University of Cambridge or the Faculty of Divinity of the University, a representative of Anglia Polytechnic University and the Secretary for Training.

2.2.2.3 The nomination of Governors in classes (a), (b) and (c) shall be made by the Nominations Committee of the General Assembly, and the period of service for such Governors shall be six years. At least nine Governors shall be members of the United Reformed Church. The Nominations Committee shall ensure a regular rotation of Governors.

2.2.2.4 The quorum for meetings of the Board of Governors shall be eight.

2.2.3 Responsibilities of the Board of Governors

2.2.3.1 The Board of Governors shall be responsible to the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church for:

- (a) the determination of the educational character and mission of the College and for the oversight of its activities;
- (b) the effective and efficient use of resources, the financial management of the college within policies set by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church acting through its committees and Mission Council, and for safeguarding the College's assets.

- 2.2.3.2 The Board of Governors shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Training Committee.
- 2.2.4 Committees of the Board of Governors
- 2.2.4.1 The Board of Governors shall establish a Board of Studies, consisting of the members of the teaching staff and other members nominated by the Board of Governors, to oversee the admission, teaching, learning, examination and assessment of candidates for the ministry studying at the College, and other educational activities of the College.
- 2.2.4.2 The Board of Governors shall establish an Appointments Committee, which shall include a member nominated by the Training Committee, representatives from the Cambridge Theological Federation and such specialist members outside their own number as they consider necessary, to make recommendations to them for appointments to the teaching staff of the College. These recommendations, if approved by the Board, shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.
- 2.2.4.3 The Board of Governors shall establish a committee or committees to determine or advise on such matters relating to finance, property management and employment policy as the Board of Governors may remit to them. The Board of Governors shall not, however, delegate the approval of annual estimates of income or expenditure, or their responsibility for the financial management of the College and for safeguarding its assets.
- 2.2.4.4 The Board of Governors shall maintain an Audit Committee to receive and approve independent assessment of the finance and management of the College.
- 2.2.5 The Principal

The Principal shall be appointed by the General Assembly and shall be responsible to the Board of Governors. The Principal's main responsibilities are:

- (a)
 - (i) to ensure that the policies established and the practices agreed through the Board of Governors and its committees are put into operation;
 - (ii) to hold the overall responsibility for the teaching, management, financial administration, and pastoral relationships with staff, students and residents of the College;
- (b) to play an active role in ensuring that the work and life of the College is integrated into that of the Cambridge Theological Federation;
- (c) to establish and maintain, as appropriate, relationships within the wider community in Cambridge (such as the Faculty of Divinity, the University of Cambridge, Anglia Polytechnic University, city public authorities and the voluntary sector) and with other colleges in the Cambridge Theological Federation;
- (d) to establish and maintain relationships with the Church, its District Councils, Provincial Synods, General Assembly, and with related Churches overseas; and with other Colleges and Courses for the training of students from the United Reformed Church;
- (e) to contribute to the teaching of the Cambridge Theological Federation and on occasion, as required, to teach more widely within the United Reformed Church (for example on lay/part-time, weekend or short courses);
- (f) to represent the College through the written and spoken word, and to be a focus for public relations and advocacy for the College in order to achieve the integrity of the College's life and witness;
- (g) to ensure, through the Bursar, that the College and its staff comply with health and safety at work provisions;
- (h) to be open to new styles of work and new responsibilities as required by the decisions of the Board of Governors or the General Assembly and its Mission Council.

2.2.6 Finance

2.2.6.1 The powers formerly vested in the College Committee of the Presbyterian Church of England and by the General Assembly of 1978 (Reports p.21, Record p.18) vested in the Ministerial Training Committee of the United Reformed Church and in the Board of Studies and the Westminster College Management Committee as its sub-committees are hereby vested in the Board of Governors for the College, henceforth to be exercised by it either directly or through such of its committees as the Board shall decide.

2.2.6.2 The annual budget for Westminster College (including the stipends of the teaching staff), based on estimates approved by the Board of Governors, shall be submitted to the Resource Planning Advisory Committee for inclusion in the church budget presented to the General Assembly. The finances shall be managed by the College officers within a framework approved by the Board; and arrangements for the maintenance of accounting records and the preparation of regular financial reports will be developed in consultation with the Honorary Treasurer and the Chief Accountant of the Church.

2.2.7 The Senatus

2.2.7.1 The members of the teaching staff of the College have corporate responsibility for implementing the policy of the Board of Governors and its Board of Studies concerning the admission, teaching, learning, examination and assessment of candidates for the ministry studying at the College and other educational activities of the College. They are also corporately responsible for pastoral care within the community, and for the development and delivery of other forms of education as may be decided, e.g. continuing ministerial education, courses for lay preachers etc.

2.2.7.2 The Principal shares in the corporate responsibilities of the Senatus set out in para 2.2.7.1. and is expected to represent the common mind of the Senatus on the Board of Governors and in the councils of the Church. The Principal holds the overall responsibility for the matters set out in para 2.2.5.

2.2.8 The Cambridge Theological Federation.

2.2.8.1 Westminster is a member of the Cambridge Theological Federation, which currently consists of six institutions based in Cambridge involved in theological education. The College is therefore committed to the ecumenical vision of theological education embodied in the Federation and to the sharing of human and material resources with the wider teaching and learning opportunities that derive from such co-operation.

2.2.8.2 The College is represented on the Federation Council by the Senatus, the Bursar and three elected students: the United Reformed Church is also invited to nominate two representatives. The Principal and the Senior Student represent the College on the Federation Executive. A member of the Senatus and two members nominated by the United Reformed Church represent the College on the Federation Joint Academic Committee.

2.2.8.3 Members of the College teaching staff are expected to contribute to the teaching of the Federation and to participate as required in examining for courses offered by or through the Federation.

Questions on the Mission Council Report

The Revd John Johansen-Berg questioned the abolition of the title of 'Right Reverend' (see para. 4.7). The Clerk stated that a decision had never been made to adopt this title and the inconsistency of its use has led to this decision.

The Revd John Johansen-Berg proposed and the Revd William Hughes-Edwards seconded the proposal that item 4.7 be referred back to the Mission Council.

The motion was lost.

The Revd Dick Wolff asked for information on the Information Technology Task Group.

The Revd John Reardon replied that the group had not yet met but preparatory work was being undertaken by the Convener, the Revd David Lawrence.

The Moderator greeted the following:

The Revd John Waller, Deputy General Secretary,
The Revd Dr David Cornick, the new Principal of Westminster College,
The Revd Martin Cressey, the retiring Principal of Westminster College.

The following resolution was proposed by the Revd John Waller.

- 7 Multi-racial ministry post**
Assembly instructs the Overseas Exchange Sub-Committee, in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Committee, to use one of its 5 special ministry posts for the appointment of a multi-racial and multi-cultural development worker within the United Reformed Church for an initial period of 3 years.

This was agreed.

The Revd John Waller introduced resolution 8.

- 8 Divorced and separated spouses of ministers**

Assembly renews its 1982 commitment that if a Provincial Moderator presents a case for the church to give assistance towards the housing costs of a minister's spouse at the time of divorce or separation, the Welfare Sub-Committee will consider making a contribution towards rent, mortgage payments or other housing costs for not more than 12 months, the amount being judged according to all the resources available.

The resolution was agreed and the Moderator invited Assembly to take note of the 'Guidelines' so that they can be included in a future edition of the Manual.

This was agreed.

The General Secretary introduced resolution 9.

- 9 Assembly agrees to the establishment of a Joint Health and Healing Development Group with the Methodist Church, to begin work on 1st September 1996 with a review after five years.**

This was agreed.

The General Secretary pointed out that the Nominations Committee had not yet completed work on nominations for this group and permission was given for names to be taken to Mission Council.

The General Secretary introduced resolution 10.

- 10 Assembly agrees to set up a Committee for Inter-Faith Relations, with a review of its work to be completed in time for the General Assembly of 2001.**

At the invitation of the Moderator, the Convener, the Revd Bill Mahood replied to questions.

The resolution was agreed.

The secretary of the Nominations Committee, the Revd Arnold Harrison, brought the following names to the Assembly for the Committee for Inter-Faith Relations. These were agreed.

Convener: Revd Bill Mahood
Secretary: Revd Brenda Willis
Mrs Linda Hopley
Miss Sarah King
Revd Jonathan Dean
Revd Molly Kenyon

This was agreed.

Resolution 11 was put.

11 The Assembly ratifies its decision made in July 1995 to amend paragraph 2(3)ix of the Basis and 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 Moderator invited members to confirm the Constitutional Change. This was agreed.

Resolution 12 was introduced and an amendment to distinguish between adoption and noting was proposed by Revd Tony Spring and seconded by Revd Hughes-Edwards which was agreed.

**12 1997 Budget and 5-year plan
Assembly adopts the budget for 1997 (as set out on pages 48 and 49 of the Book of Reports) and notes the Five Year Plan (as set out on pages 40 to 47) as a tool to help the United Reformed church to use its resources for mission more effectively.**

This resolution was carried.

Tribute was paid to Mr David Butler for his work as Secretary to the Resource Planning Advisory Committee for producing the Budget and 5 Year Plan.

The Moderator invited the Revd Keith Forecast to present the report of the Working Party on Ministerial Discipline. He was then invited to move Resolution 13, after agreement to the amendment on Para 5 line 1, to delete 'removed' and insert 'deleted'. The Clerk also advised the Assembly on an omission in 1c and it was moved by Revd James Breslin and agreed to add 'or have been appointed to a post by Councils of the Church'. A further amendment was moved by Mr Guy Hayward in Para 3 line 2 after 'to suspend a minister' to add 'on full pay'. On advice from the legal adviser, permission was given for the words 'without prejudice to their conditions under the Plan for Partnership' to be substituted; this was agreed and the amendment was carried. At a later session the Clerk pointed out the need, in the light of Resolution 15, to make a further amendment to 1c by adding the words "or are associate members of a District Council": this amendment was agreed and is incorporated below.

13 TO AMEND THE BASIS OF UNION to make various provisions concerning Ministry (Section A of the Manual - 4th Edition, 1995)

Assembly resolves to make the following amendments to the Basis of Union of the United Reformed Church:

- i. To add the following additional sentences at the end of Paragraph 25:
'The totality of ministers who fall within any of the categories defined in Schedule E, Paragraph 1 and are in good standing may be referred to as the Roll of Ministers. Ministers shall conduct their ministry according to the criteria set out in Schedule E'.**
- ii. To add the following Schedule E to the Basis of Union:**

SCHEDULE E

- 1 The following constitute the categories of ministers comprising the Roll of Ministers of The United Reformed Church:**
 - a. Ministers of the former Congregational Church of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England who became ministers of the United Reformed Church at its formation in 1972.**
 - b. Ministers of the former Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ who became ministers of the United Reformed Church in 1981.**
 - c. Ministers who have been ordained as ministers of the United Reformed Church and inducted to a local pastorate (or some other post approved by District Council and Synod) after having received a call with the concurrence of the District Council or have been appointed to a post by Councils of the Church or are associate members of a District Council.**
 - d. Ministers of other churches who have been granted a Certificate of Eligibility by the General Assembly, or the committee designated by the General Assembly with the responsibility to grant Certificates of Eligibility, and who subsequently transferred to the United Reformed Church upon Ordination and/or induction to a local pastorate following a call with the concurrence of the District Council.**
 - e. Ministers of other churches who, with the approval of a District Council and Synod, have been permitted by the General Assembly, or the committee delegated by the General Assembly to act on its behalf, to transfer to the United Reformed Church without receiving a call to a local pastorate or without being appointed to a post approved by District or Synod.**
- 2 Ministers must conduct themselves and exercise all aspects of their ministries in a manner which is compatible with the unity and peace of the United Reformed Church and the affirmation made by ministers at ordination and induction (Schedule C) and the Statement concerning the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church (Schedule D) in accordance with which ministers undertake to exercise their ministry.**
- 3 Acting in due exercise of their functions as contained in the Structure of the United Reformed Church, the councils of the Church have authority in certain circumstances (without prejudice to a minister's conditions under the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration), to suspend a minister which involves a temporary ban on the exercise of ministry by the minister concerned but not his/her removal from the Roll of Ministers.**
- 4 A minister under suspension, whether in pastoral charge or not, shall not present him/herself as a minister and shall not preside at Communion. The minister shall refrain from all activity which may lead others to believe that he/she is acting as a minister of religion. Suspension also means that the minister may not exercise the ministerial rights of membership of any council of the Church. Suspension does not remove any of the rights accorded by the process of determining the disciplinary matter which has led to the suspension.**
- 5 A person whose name has been deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church and who remains a member of the United Reformed Church has the privileges and responsibilities of that membership, but not those of a minister of Word and Sacraments, and should refrain from all activity which may lead others to believe that he/she is acting as a minister of religion. However, should that person be re-instated to the Roll of Ministers, he/she would, on being called to a pastorate, need to be inducted to that pastorate, but not ordained, since ordination is not repeatable.**

The amended resolution was carried.

Resolution 14 was moved by the Revd Keith Forecast after an amendment to the wording. Para 1, lines 3 and 4 delete "such process being set out in Annex of" and insert "the substantive provisions of such process being set out in Part 1 of the Annex to".

14 To introduce a NEW DISCIPLINARY PROCESS for MINISTERS of THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (To become Section O of the Manual)

Assembly, accepting that the existing provisions contained in the Structure of the United Reformed Church (Section B) and in the Rules of Procedure for the Conduct of the United Reformed Church (Section C) for dealing with disciplinary matters involving Ministers are no longer adequate, resolves as follows:

- 1 To introduce a new Disciplinary Process with effect from July 1997, to make certain provisions regarding the role of District Councils and to provide for an Assembly Commission to resolve matter of Ministerial Discipline in the name of Assembly, the substantive provisions of such process being set out in Part 1 of the Annex to this Report to Assembly.**
- 2 To constitute the Assembly Commission, the Commission Panel and the Appeals Commission referred to in the Annex, (with effect from July 1997) and to instruct the Nominations Committee to consider names of persons suitable for appointment to the Commission Panel and as Secretary to the Assembly Commission with a view to bringing nominations to Assembly in 1997 for appointment if that Assembly resolves to introduce the new Disciplinary Process.**

The resolution was carried by the necessary two thirds majority. In answer to a question the legal adviser said that URC ministers are legally regarded as self employed.

The Revd E Nash, seconded by the Revd Terry Oakley, moved the following resolution.

The Assembly requests Mission Council to consider other questions of discipline that are not intended to lead to deletion from the Roll and bring a report to Assembly in 1997. Revd John Johansen-Berg moved that the motion be not put. This was seconded and carried.

Resolution 15 was moved by the Revd Keith Forecast.

15 To amend the Functions and one of the Categories of Members of District Council as set out in the STRUCTURE of THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Section B of the Manual - 4th Edition, 1995)

- 1 Assembly resolves to make the following amendments to the functions of the District Council in Paragraph 2(3) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church:**
 - 1.1 After the heading 'Functions' the following sentence shall be inserted:
'(A) The District Council is responsible for exercising the following Functions (subject to the restriction referred to in Paragraph (B) below):'**
 - 1.2 The existing Function (i) shall be amended to read:
'(i) To exercise oversight of all ministers falling within any of the categories 2(3)(a), (b), (f) and (g), except moderators of provincial synods who are members of each district council in the province and are responsible to the General Assembly.'**
 - 1.3 The existing Function (xviii) shall be re-numbered as Function (xx).**
 - 1.4 There shall be inserted as Function (xviii) the following:
'(xviii) Where following initial enquiry the District Council considers that a Minister is not or may not be exercising his/her ministry in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union, to refer the case of that Minister to be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process**

contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and in every such case to suspend the Minister concerned pending the resolution of the matter under that Process.'

- 1.5 There shall be inserted the following Paragraphs as Paragraphs (B) and (C) in that Section:**
- '(B) Once the case of any Minister has been referred to the Assembly Commission, the District Council shall not exercise its Functions in respect of that Minister (save only in the provision of such pastoral care as may be appropriate) until the decision of the Assembly Commission (or on any appeal therefrom) has been made.**
- (C) No Appeal shall lie against a decision by the District Council to refer any case to the Assembly Commission under Function (xviii) above'**
- 1.6 The existing un-numbered final Paragraph in that Section shall be identified as Paragraph (D) and the opening of the Paragraph shall be amended to read: 'All the Functions set out in Paragraph (A) above.... '**
- 2 Assembly further resolves to amend Category (g) of Paragraph 2(3) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church to read:**
- 'All other ministers who do not fall into any of the categories (a), (b) and (f) above in that or any other district but who are resident in the district who shall be associate members of the council having the right to speak but not to vote at meetings of the council, except moderators of provincial synods, who are members of each district council in the province and responsible to the General Assembly.'**

This resolution was carried by the two thirds majority.

The Clerk then moved the Suspension of Standing Orders. This was agreed. He then moved under 1c to add 'or are associate members of a District Council'. This was carried.

Assembly agreed to re-instate Standing Orders.

Resolution 16 was proposed by the Revd Keith Forecast

- 16 To amend the Functions of Provincial Synod as set out in the STRUCTURE of THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Section B of the Manual - 4th Edition, 1995)**

Assembly resolves to make the following amendments to the Functions of the Provincial Synod in Paragraph 2(4) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church:

- 1 After the heading 'Functions' the following sentence shall be inserted:**
- '(A) The Provincial Synod is responsible for exercising the following Functions (subject to the restriction referred to in Paragraph (B) below):'**
- 2 The following words shall be added at the end of Function (viii):**
- '(but excluding consideration of any matter which is being dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process referred to in Function (xv) below)'**
- 3 The existing Function (xv) shall be re-numbered as Function (xvii).**
- 4 There shall be inserted as Function (xv) the following:**
- '(xv) In the absence of any reference to the Assembly Commission by the appropriate District Council and where following initial enquiry either on its own initiative or on a reference or appeal brought by any other party the Provincial Synod considers that a Minister is not or may not be exercising his/her ministry in**

accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union, to refer the case of that Minister to be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and in every such case to suspend the Minister concerned pending the resolution of the matter under that Process.'

5 There shall be inserted the following Paragraphs as Paragraphs (B) and (C) in that Section:

'(B) Once the case of any Minister has been referred to the Assembly Commission, the Provincial Synod shall not exercise its Functions in respect of that Minister (save only in the provision of such pastoral care as may be appropriate) until the decision of the Assembly Commission (or on any appeal therefrom) has been made.

(C) No Appeal shall lie against a decision by the Provincial Synod to refer any case to the Assembly Commission under Function (xv) above.'

This was passed by the necessary two thirds majority.

Resolution 17 was proposed by the Revd Keith Forecast

17 To amend the Functions of General Assembly as set out in the STRUCTURE of THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Section B of the Manual - 4th Edition, 1995)

Assembly resolves to make the following amendments to the Functions of the General Assembly in Paragraph 2(5) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church:

1 After the heading 'Functions' the following sentence shall be inserted:

'(A) General Assembly is responsible for exercising the following Functions (subject to the restriction referred to in Paragraph (B) below):'

2 The following words shall be added to Function (xi):

'...and Part I of the Statement of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process referred to in Function (xxiii) below:'

3 To amend Function (xii) by adding the words 'and commissions' after the word 'council' on the second and last line.

4 To amend Function (xviii) to read as follows:

'(xviii) To decide upon questions regarding the inclusion on the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church which have been previously considered and transmitted with recommendations by Provincial Synods (but excluding any matter which is being dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process referred to in Function (xxiii) below).'

5 The existing Function (xxi) shall be re-numbered as Function (xxiv).

6 There shall be inserted as Functions (xxi), (xxii) and (xxiii) the following:

'(xxi) To make and (if necessary) to terminate all appointments to the Commission Panel and to any administrative office under the Process for ministerial discipline contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and to exercise general oversight and supervision of the operation of that Process (save only that decisions in individual cases taken in accordance with that Process are made in the name of the General Assembly and are final and binding).

(xxii) To provide for the setting up of an Appeals Commission in accordance with Paragraph 12 of Section O, Part I of the Manual for any appeal brought under Paragraph 11 of Section O, Part I of the Manual.

(xxiii) In the absence of any reference to the Assembly Commission by the appropriate District Council or Provincial Synod (the case of any minister

who is a provincial moderator being necessarily dealt with under this provision) and where following initial enquiry either on its own initiative or on a reference or appeal brought by any other party the General Assembly (or the Mission Council acting on its behalf) considers that a minister is not or may not be exercising his/her ministry in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to of the Basis of Union) to refer the case of that Minister to be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and in every such case to suspend the Minister concerned pending the resolution of the matter under that Process.'

The following additional Paragraph shall be added at the end of that Section:

'(B) Once the case of any Minister has been referred to the Assembly Commission, the General Assembly shall not exercise its Functions in respect of that Minister (save only in the provision of such pastoral care as may be appropriate) until the decision of the Assembly Commission) (or on any appeal therefrom) has been made.'

This was passed by the necessary two thirds majority.

The Revd Keith Forecast proposed resolution 18.

18 To amend Paragraph 5 (Appeals) of the STRUCTURE of THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Section B of the Manual - 4th Edition, 1995)

Assembly resolves to amend Paragraph 5 (Appeals) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church as follows:

1 The following Paragraph shall be introduced as Paragraph 5(1):

'5(1) No right of Appeal shall lie against the decision of any council of the Church (acting with due authority in the matter) to refer any case to the Assembly Commission, and once such reference has been made that case shall be resolved in accordance with Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and not under Paragraph 5(2) below.

Any decision reached in accordance with the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church has the status of a decision of the General Assembly and is final and binding.'

2 The existing four Paragraphs under Paragraph 5 (Appeals) shall become 5(2) and shall be prefixed by the following sentence:

'The Procedure for dealing with references and appeals falling outside Paragraph 5 (1) is as follows:'

This resolution was carried by the needed two thirds majority.

Resolution 19 was proposed by the Revd Keith Forecast. The Revd John Johansen-Berg proposed an amendment to add after "shall not apply" the words "except at Assembly level". This was ruled out of order by the Moderator as being, in the light of Resolution 18, a negating of Resolution 19.

19 To exclude MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE from the GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE on Appeals (Section C of the Manual - 4th Edition, 1995)

Assembly resolves that there shall be added the following additional Paragraph 10 to the Section headed 'Rules of Procedure on Appeals' in the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the United Reformed Church:

'The provisions of this Section headed "Rules of Procedure on Appeals" shall not apply to cases which are being determined by the Assembly Commission under the Disciplinary Process set out in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church.'

The resolution unamended was carried by the needed two thirds majority.

Resolution 54 was proposed by the Revd Duncan Goldie and seconded by Revd Keri Eynon.

54 Assembly commends Mission Council for the work done on the disciplinary procedures for ordained ministers of word and sacrament and asks Mission Council to continue this work by reviewing:

- 1. all the procedures for disciplinary action for all members of the URC whether they be ordained or not,**
- 2. and also its procedures for when pastoral difficulties or break down occur.**

This resolution was carried.

Part I of the Annex to the Working Party report, referred to in Resolution 14 is as follows and is before Synods for consideration of ratification. (Note that Part II, printed in the Reports to Assembly, has not yet been voted upon).

ANNEX

Process for dealing with cases of Ministerial Discipline
To be introduced as Section O of the Manual

PART I

Substantive Provisions

**(governed by General Assembly Function 2(5)(xi)
of the Structure of the United Reformed Church)**

1. Under the provisions of this Section O an Assembly Commission (as defined in Paragraph 3) shall operate under the authority of the General Assembly for the purpose of deciding (in cases properly referred to it) the question as to whether the name of a Minister shall for reasons of discipline be deleted from the Roll of Ministers.
2. The Assembly Commission, the Commission Panel, the Appeals Commission and all aspects of the Process set out in this Section O shall at all times remain under the jurisdiction and control of the General Assembly which has the authority through the exercise of its functions as contained in Paragraph 2(5) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church to amend, enlarge or revoke the whole or any part of this Section O, save only that, so long as it remains in force, the decision reached in any particular case in accordance with these provisions shall be made in the name of the General Assembly and shall be final and binding.
3. For the purpose of this Section O, the following words and expressions carry the following meanings:
 - 3.1 'The Section O Process' shall mean the Process set out in this Section O (subject to such variations as shall from time to time be made).
 - 3.2 'The Rules of Procedure' shall mean the Rules of Procedure governing the system of ministerial discipline commencing with the exercise by the District Council, Provincial Synod or General Assembly of its function as set out in Paragraph 2(3)(xviii), Paragraph 2(4)(xv) or Paragraph 2(5)(xxiii) of the Structure as the case may be and continuing and concluding with the Section O Process such Rules being contained in Part II of Section O.
 - 3.3 'The Roll of Ministers' shall have the meaning given to it in Paragraph 25 of the Basis of Union (Section A of the Manual).

- 3.4 'Minister' shall mean a person whose name is on the Roll of Ministers at the time when the Section O Process is invoked in relation to that person.
- 3.5 'The Commission Panel' shall mean a Panel consisting of twentyfive (25) members of the United Reformed Church from whom shall be chosen the persons to form the Assembly Commission to hear each case being dealt with under the Section O Process.
- 3.6 'The Assembly Commission' shall mean a Commission consisting of five (5) persons selected from the Commission Panel for the purpose of hearing and deciding each such case.
- 3.7 'The Secretary to the Assembly Commission' shall mean the person appointed by the General Assembly on the advice of the Nominations Committee to be responsible for all secretarial matters relating to the conduct of the Section O Process, and the period and terms of office of that person shall be such as the General Assembly shall decide.
- 3.8 'The Appeals Commission' shall mean the Commission constituted for the hearing of each Appeal in accordance with Paragraph 12.
- 3.9 'Referral Notice' shall mean a Notice specified in the Rules of Procedure whereby a District Council, Provincial Synod or General Assembly (or Mission Council acting on its behalf) as the case may be refers a case concerning ministerial discipline to be dealt with according to the Section O Process and shall include any statement of reasons for such referral which may be appended to it.
- 3.10 'Notice of Appeal' shall mean a Notice specified in the Rules of Procedure whereby a Minister who has been the subject of any case under the Section O Process or the Council issuing the Referral Notice in any case indicates his/her/its intention to appeal against the decision of the Assembly Commission.
- 3.11 'To suspend' and 'Suspension' shall have the meanings assigned to them in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union.
- 3.12 'To delete' and 'Deletion' shall mean to remove/the removal of the name of a Minister from the Roll of Ministers other than at the request of the Minister concerned or by the acceptance of his/her resignation or by his/her death.
4. 4.1 Appointment to the Commission Panel shall be by Resolution of the General Assembly on the advice of the Nominations Committee, who shall in considering persons for appointment take into account the need for balance and for a variety of skills and specialisations, particularly in the following areas - experience in ministerial oversight, theology and doctrine, law, counselling, psychology, mental health, experience in conduct of meetings and tribunals.
- 4.2 Members of the Commission Panel shall be appointed for such term not exceeding five (5) years as the General Assembly shall in each case think fit with power for the General Assembly to determine any such appointment during its term or to renew any such appointment for successive terms of five (5) years each. Any temporary reduction of the number on the Commission Panel below twentyfive (25) shall not invalidate the operation of the Section O Process.
- 4.3 The General Assembly shall appoint from the Commission Panel one member to be the Convener of the Commission Panel and one member to be the Deputy Convener of the Commission Panel, each (subject to the provisions of Paragraph 4.2) to serve for such period as General Assembly shall decide.
5. 5.1 The Section O Process shall be initiated in every case by the service upon the Secretary of the Assembly Commission of a Referral Notice by the District Council, the Provincial Synod or the General Assembly (or by Mission Council acting on its behalf) in pursuance of their respective functions as contained in the Structure of the United Reformed Church.

- 5.2 Once the case of any Minister has been properly referred into the Section O Process, it shall be dealt with and concluded entirely in accordance with that Process and not through any other procedure of the Church.
6. 6.1 The Convener of the Commission Panel and the Deputy Convener of the Commission Panel (or the person or persons deputising for them or either of them as provided in Paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3) shall jointly appoint five (5) persons from the Commission Panel to constitute the Assembly Commission for the hearing of that case and in making such appointments shall have regard to the provisions of Paragraphs 6.4 and 7.1.
- 6.2 In the absence of either the Convener of the Commission Panel or the Deputy Convener of the Commission Panel, the General Secretary shall act jointly with the other one in the appointment of the Assembly Commission under Paragraph 6.1
- 6.3 In the absence of both the Convener of the Commission Panel and the Deputy Convener of the Commission Panel, the General Secretary and the Moderator of the General Assembly shall together appoint the Assembly Commission under Paragraph 6.1.
- 6.4 Those charged under this Paragraph 6 with the appointment of the Assembly Commission shall (so far as possible) have regard to the nature of the case and the skills and specialisations of the members of the Commission Panel.
7. 7.1 No person shall be appointed to sit as a member of the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission in the hearing of any case in which he/she has any involvement, whether as a member of any local church, District Council or Provincial Synod connected with the case or (in the event of a re-hearing under Paragraph 14.7) a member of the previous Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission, or whether on account of some personal or pastoral involvement as a result of which it is considered by those responsible for selecting the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission for that case or by the proposed appointee him/herself that it would not be appropriate for him/her to hear the case.
- 7.2 Under the Rules of Procedure, a Minister or the council lodging the Referral Notice may object on any of the grounds set out in Paragraph 7.1 to the proposed appointment of any person to either the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission for the hearing of his/her case and, in the event of any such objection, the decision of those charged under the Section O Process with making the appointment shall be final and binding.
- 8 All procedural matters from the date of receipt of the Referral Notice by the Secretary of the Assembly Commission to the conclusion of the Section O Process shall in every case be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
- 9 In considering the evidence and reaching its decision, the Assembly Commission or (in the case of an appeal) the Appeals Commission shall in every case have full regard to the Basis of Union and in particular Paragraph 2 of Schedule E thereto which states the responsibilities undertaken by those who become Ministers of the United Reformed Church and the criteria which they must apply in the exercise of their ministry.
10. 10.1 The decision of the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission shall be either to delete the name of the Minister from the Roll of Ministers or to allow his/her name to remain on the Roll of Ministers.
- 10.2 If the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission considers that there has been some conduct, statement, act or omission on the part of the Minister which, although not sufficiently serious to justify deletion, is nevertheless of sufficient concern to justify lesser disciplinary action against the Minister, it may, whilst allowing the name of the Minister to remain on the Roll, issue a written warning to him/her that any repetition thereof might be considered a cause for Deletion by a future Assembly Commission.

- 11 11.1 A Minister may appeal against the decision of the Assembly Commission to delete his/her name from the Roll of Ministers under Paragraph 10.1 or to issue a written warning under Paragraph 10.2, by lodging a Notice of Appeal in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, stating the ground/s of such appeal.
- 11.2 The council of the Church which lodged the Referral Notice in any case may appeal against the decision of the Assembly Commission not to delete the name of the Minister concerned from the Roll of Ministers by lodging a Notice of Appeal in accordance with the Rules of Procedure stating the ground/s of such appeal.
- 12 The Appeals Commission for the hearing of each such appeal shall consist of five (5) persons and shall include the Clerk to the General Assembly and the Moderator of the General Assembly (subject in both cases to the provisions of Paragraph 7.1). The remaining persons to be appointed to the Appeals Commission, who must all be members of the General Assembly at the date of receipt by the Secretary of the Assembly Commission of the Notice of Appeal, shall be selected by the officers of the General Assembly, taking into account the need for balance.
- 13 At the appeal, there shall be no further investigation or re-hearing of the evidence nor any further evidence introduced, except for the purpose of considering whether there are sufficient grounds for referring the case for re-hearing in accordance with Paragraph 14.7.
- 14 The Appeals Commission may reach any of the following decisions on the Appeal:
- 14.1 It may uphold the decision of the Assembly Commission to delete, or
- 14.2 It may uphold in its entirety the decision of the Assembly Commission not to delete (whether or not this also includes a decision to issue a written warning to the Minister under Paragraph 10.2), or
- 14.3 It may uphold the decision of the Assembly Commission not to delete, but in addition may issue a written warning to the Minister under Paragraph 10.2 if the Assembly Commission has not itself already done so, or
- 14.4 If the Assembly Commission has decided not to delete but has issued a written warning to the Minister under Paragraph 10.2, the Appeals Commission may uphold the decision not to delete but may direct that the written warning be withdrawn, or
- 14.5 It may reverse the decision of the Assembly Commission not to delete, or
- 14.6 It may reverse the decision of the Assembly Commission to delete, but may if it considers it appropriate issue a written warning to the Minister under Paragraph 10.2, or
- 14.7 It may refer the case for re-hearing by another duly constituted Assembly Commission (but only if it considers that there has been some procedural irregularity or serious misunderstanding by the Assembly Commission of the information before it or if material new information becomes available which could not reasonably have been produced before the Assembly Commission).
- 15 There shall be no appeal from the decision of the Appeals Commission.
- 16 16.1 In recording its decision, the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission as the case may be shall state whether the decision was unanimous or by a majority and shall append a written statement of its reasons for reaching that decision, but shall not be obliged (unless it wishes to do so) to comment in detail on all or any of the matters of evidence laid before it. It may, however, in its statement append any suggestions or recommendations which it considers to be helpful, and in particular it is requested to include appropriate guidance to assist District Councils, local churches and others within the Church concerning any restrictions which might be placed upon any church-related activities involving the Minister after his/her deletion.

- 16.2 If it issues a written warning to the Minister under Paragraph 10.2 that shall also be noted in the record of the decision.
- 17 17.1 In the event of the Assembly Commission deciding to delete and there being no appeal against that decision under Paragraph 11.1 within the period allowed under the Rules of Procedure, the suspension shall continue up to the first day after the expiration of such period, on which day the deletion shall automatically take effect.
- 17.2 In the event of the Assembly Commission deciding not to delete and there being no appeal against that decision under Paragraph 11.2 within the period allowed under the Rules of Procedure, the suspension shall automatically cease on the first day after the expiration of such period.
- 17.3 In the event of an appeal from the decision of the Assembly Commission, the suspension of the Minister shall continue up to the date upon which the Appeals Commission formally notifies its decision under the Rules of Procedure. If the Appeals Commission decides not to delete, the suspension shall automatically cease on such date. If the Appeals Commission decides to delete, the deletion shall have immediate effect on such date.
- 18 The legal advisers to The United Reformed Church shall be available for the purpose of advising the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission as the case may be on matters relating to procedure, evidence and interpretation at any point in the Section O Process, and shall, if requested to do so, appoint a representative to attend any hearing conducted under the Section O Process for such purpose.
- 19 Every decision reached under the Section O Process (whether or not on appeal under that Process) is made in the name of the General Assembly and is final and binding on the Minister concerned and on all the councils of the Church.
- 20 Deletion as a result of the Section O Process shall have the effect of terminating any contract, written or oral, between the Minister concerned and the United Reformed Church or any constituent part thereof in relation to his/her ministry.
- 21 Those so deleted from the Roll of Ministers wishing to apply for re-instatement shall in the first place consult the Provincial Moderator. All enquiries shall be referred to the Accreditation Sub-Committee (or such other Committee as may in the future perform the functions of the existing Accreditation Sub-Committee), which will call for at least two references and a report from the Provincial Moderator before determining whether or not it is appropriate for an application for re-instatement to be submitted. If it is considered to be appropriate, then formal application shall be made to the Province and the normal assessment procedure shall apply as for those applying for training (local church, district, national assessment, province) except that attendance before a National Re-assessment Panel shall take the place of the National Assessment Conference.
- 22 This Part I of the Section O Process is subject to Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church.

Synod Groups

The Moderator asked members if they would like to meet for Synod Groups at the beginning of the afternoon. Opinion being almost evenly divided, the Moderator ruled that Synod Groups should not meet.

Dates and place of 1998 Assembly

Resolution 20 was moved by the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, Mrs Wilma Frew. She responded to the request that full consideration be given to the needs of disabled people when selecting venues for Assembly.

It was agreed that

- 20 Assembly in 1998 meets residentially at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham, from 11-14th July.**

Assembly stood adjourned until 7.00 pm.

Communications and Editorial

The report was presented by the Convener, Mr Chris Wright. He congratulated the Revd David Lawrence on his work as Editor of "Reform" and also thanked the Revd Nigel Rogers for voluntary work during his sabbatical. He then proposed the following motion:

24 Assembly Resolves

- 1 to negotiate with Christian Copyright Licensing to take out a group copyright licence to cover the reproduction in service sheets, on display boards and through overhead projector slides and similar mechanical means, of the words of hymns, songs and other worship material, which fall within the scope of the licence, and the recording of acts of worship on audio and video tape, in all local churches of the United Reformed Church which agree to opt into the scheme and to meet their share of the costs of the annual licence fee.**
- 2 to instruct the Secretary for Communications to operate the scheme on behalf of the Church, under the oversight of the Communications and Editorial Committee, and furthermore it instructs the Secretary no longer to arrange copyright cover for individual local churches which do not opt to take part in the scheme, but merely to provide information about where such cover may be obtained.**
- 3 believing that churches bring no honour to God by continuing to defy the law, to urge all local churches to take advantage of this scheme and thus to ensure that they are covered, and it deplores the action of any local church which attempts to avoid its commitment to honest dealing in this regard.**
- 4 if such negotiations prove unsuccessful, Assembly recommends that all congregations ensure that the laws concerning copyright are upheld.**

The Resolution was agreed.

Bible Studies

On Sunday evening, Monday morning and Tuesday morning Assembly worship led by the Chaplain, included Bible Study led by Professor John O'Neill. During worship on Monday morning the Moderator inducted the Revd Philip Woods as Secretary for International Church Relations.

Church and Society

The Church and Society report was presented by the Convener, Professor Malcolm Johnson.

The Moderator invited the Revd Dr Jack McKelvey to speak on paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 concerning a meeting held with representatives of Sinn Fein. This meeting was immediately before the explosion in Manchester. He expressed his concern that there may have been a split in the IRA. The Revd Dr John Ross, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was also invited to speak on these paragraphs. He thanked Assembly for their concern and prayers for the situation in Ireland.

Questions on the report were responded to by the Convener and Secretary of the Committee who included in their response an update on the Baby Milk Campaign.

Resolution 21 was introduced by the Convener.

- 21 Assembly acknowledges the revised programme *COMMITMENT FOR LIFE*, as examined and endorsed by Mission Council, to be an authentic response of the whole United Reformed Church to God's call for justice for the poor of the world and therefore urges every local church to participate fully.**

The Convener recognised the work of Mrs Janet Davies in this area and introduced Mrs Anne Martin, the new part-time worker for this work.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Michael Taylor, Director of Christian Aid, who at the Moderator's invitation addressed the Assembly.

The resolution was agreed.

Resolution 22 was introduced by the Convener.

- 22 Assembly, noting the concern of the Churches Commission for Racial Justice and in support of their statement, gives its full support to those in local churches and communities who feel constrained by conscience to offer sanctuary to individuals and families facing deportation, providing they are satisfied that sanctuary is a last resort and that at least one of the following applies:**

- a) there is a well-founded fear of persecution;**
- b) there is a serious threat to family life;**
- c) there would be a basic denial of justice and compassion.**

This was agreed.

Resolution 23 was introduced by the Revd Peter Brain.

- 23 Assembly urges every local church to participate fully in the ecumenical programme of all-party constituency meetings at the next General Election.**

This was agreed.

Discipleship and Witness

A presentation was given marking the 10th anniversary of the Windermere Centre. Following this the Convener, the Revd Elizabeth Caswell, introduced the report and responded to questions. She then introduced and moved resolution 25 which was carried.

- 25 Assembly resolves to replace the Windermere Programme and Policy and Planning Committees with a Windermere Advisory Group.**

Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee

The Revd Malcolm Hanson took the chair for this session.

The report of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee was presented by the Convener, Dr David Thompson. He paid tribute to the work of the Revd Dale Rominger who had resigned from the post of secretary.

Resolution 26 was moved by the Convener and carried.

- 26 Church Hymnary Trust**

Assembly

- a) gives thanks for the past collaboration with partner churches in the Church Hymnary Trust;**
- b) endorses Mission Council's decision to accept the proposal of the Trustees that the United Reformed Church should withdraw from the Trust and receive 7% of the Trust Fund at the point of withdrawal;**

- c) **agrees that the monies so realised should be added to the general funds of the Church with the intention that they might be used from time to time to fund the publication by the Church of material for use in worship.**

Resolution 27 was brought before the Assembly.

The Moderator suggested a method for dealing with this motion, which was agreed.

Standing orders were suspended. During a long and careful debate amendments proposed to the Alternative Statement of Faith were considered in order and straw votes were taken on each. In no case was there a majority in favour of change.

Assembly noted the following corrections to the text as printed (pp 103-4)

1. All numbers should be in brackets: they are included simply for ease of reference in the Commentary.
2. Section 2: insert comma after 'God'.
3. Section 3: 'who lives eternally,' should be a separate line.
4. Section 6: insert comma after 'that,'

Please note also the following omissions from the Commentary (pp 101-2)

1. After 'Introductory', insert 'Note'.
2. Para 16. Amend full stop after 'metaphorical' to colon and insert: 'that is to say, we use pictures from our human experience to describe a reality which is beyond human experience. Thus we speak of God as 'king' or 'shepherd' or 'rock'. Even if....'
3. Para 17, line 3: after 'more', insert 'intimate'.
4. Para 18, line 3: after 'term', insert 'Father'.
5. Para 21, line 1: delete full stop after 'first'.
6. Para 27, line 2: 'John 121' should be 'John 11 and 'Collossians 3.20' should be 'Colossians 1.20'

Tabled Amendments

Section 2

- | | | |
|--------|------------|---|
| line 3 | substitute | 'Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Haslett/Snell) |
| | substitute | 'whom, through Jesus, we know as Father' (Newbiggin/Morgan) |
| line 4 | add | 'in Christ' (Bird/Bedford) |

Section 3

- | | | |
|------------|--------|--|
| line 2 | add | 'the Son' (Haslett/Snell) |
| line 5 | insert | 'us' before 'sinners' (Bird/Bedford) |
| line 7 | delete | 'Son of God' (Haslett/Snell) |
| lines 7-10 | | Replace sentence from 'who lives eternally....'
by 'who is ever present with us as Lord and Saviour and
who will come in glory as merciful judge of the living and
the dead' (Newbiggin/Morgan) |

Section 4

- | | | |
|--------|---------|---|
| line 3 | replace | 'brings this Gospel to fruition' |
| | by | 'us to faith in Christ' (Bird/Bedford) |
| line 5 | after | 'to' insert 'be Christ's witnesses and to' (Bird/Bedford) |
| line 6 | replace | 'of Jesus' by 'in Christ' and omit line 7 (Thomas/Irving) |

Section 6

- | | | |
|--------|---------|----------------------------------|
| line 4 | replace | 'through' by 'in' (Bird/Bedford) |
|--------|---------|----------------------------------|

Section 7

- | | | |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| line 3 | replace | 'shares' by 'shared' (Bird/Bedford) |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|

(NB: If there is significant anxiety about lines 6 & 7 of Section 4, the Convener would prefer to omit them, insert after line 4 'gives us newness of life as children of God' and add 'in the world' at the end of line 5).

The Assembly then resumed the debate under the standing orders. The Convener briefly replied and put resolution 27. This was carried by the necessary two-thirds majority. The General Secretary proposed that Synods should inform him of any objections to this resolution by 31st January 1997. This was agreed.

27 Statement of Faith in inclusive language

Acting under paragraph 18 of the Basis of Union, Assembly exercises its right to make a new statement of its faith, and agrees to insert at the end of paragraph 18 the following words: 'At the General Assembly of 1997 the United Reformed, Church adopted the following alternative version of the statement in paragraph 17 to be available alongside the 1972 statement:

- (1) We believe
in the one and only God,
Eternal Trinity,
from whom, through whom and for whom
all created things exist.
God alone we worship;
in God we put our trust.**

- (2) We worship God,
source and sustainer of creation,
whom Jesus called Father,
whose sons and daughters we are.**

- (3) We worship God
revealed in Jesus Christ,
the eternal Word of God made flesh;
who lived our human life,
died for sinners on the cross;
who was raised from the dead,
and proclaimed by the apostles, Son of God;
who lives eternally,
as saviour and sovereign,
coming in judgement and mercy,
to bring us to eternal life.**

- (4) We worship God,
ever present in the Holy Spirit;
who brings this Gospel to fruition,
assures us of forgiveness,
strengthens us to do God's will,
and makes us sisters and brothers of Jesus,
sons and daughters of God.**

- (5) We believe
in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
united in heaven and on earth:
on earth, the Body of Christ,
empowered by the Spirit
to glorify God and to serve humanity;
in heaven, eternally one with the power,
the wisdom and the love of God in Trinity.**

- (6) We believe
that, in the fullness of time,
God will renew and gather in one
all things in heaven and on earth through Christ,
and be perfectly honoured and adored.**

- (7) **We rejoice in God
who has given us being,
who shares our humanity
to bring us to glory,
our source of prayer and power of praise;
to whom be glory, praise and adoration,
now and evermore.**

The following members of the General Assembly were granted leave by the Moderator under Standing Order 8c to have recorded in the minutes their dissent from Resolution 27 (on a Statement of Faith in inclusive language), exercising their rights of personal conviction under para. 10 of the Basis of Union.

Revd Mark Ambrose
Ms Rosemary Anderson
Revd David Bedford
Revd Harold Bignell
Revd A Seth Brown
Revd Bill Ellerby
Revd Graham Hoslett
Revd Peter Meek
Revd Martyn Poole
Mrs Paula Preston
Mr Stephen Ring
Revd Paul Snell
Ms Jane Wade
Mr C Walker
Revd Peter Welsh
Revd Andrew Willett

The Moderator asked the General Secretary to put an amendment concerning the date by which objections to Resolution 27 can be put. This date was revised to 24 March 1997.

Ecumenical Committee

The report was introduced by the Convener, the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie. Members of Assembly were reminded that persons are available for five Special Ministry posts from overseas. He paid tribute to the service of Mr Aubrey Curry. The Moderator greeted the Revd Tony Coates as he finished seven years service with the ecumenical committees of the Church. The Revd Sheila Maxey responded to a question on the work of the URC/Methodist Liaison Committee. The Revd Tony Coates responded to a question on the Short-term Volunteers Abroad and the Mission Enabler for the European Region of CWM.

Mr William McVey introduced resolution 28 with the following preamble:

- 28 The General Assembly accepts the Report of the Europe Task Group, as a policy statement on the URC's involvement with Europe built around the following principles:

The following amendments were proposed by Mr Donald Walter and seconded by Mr David Coaker, to the above preamble: after 'Task Group' delete comma and add 'and' , after 'Europe' delete 'built around' and insert 'adopts'.

The Committee agreed to accept the amendment and it was agreed by Assembly.

The resolution was then passed as follows:

- 28 **The General Assembly accepts the Report of the Europe Task Group and as a policy statement on the URC's involvement with Europe adopts the following principles:**
- (i) **provinces should be the primary vehicle for developing and maintaining bilateral and local church partnerships within Europe on behalf of the United Reformed Church**

- (ii) **the Conference of European Churches, the Leuenberg Fellowship and the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society should be the focus and primary means of assistance for our engagement with European ecumenical questions and programmes and the institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe; and**
- (iii) **calls upon the appropriate committees of the Church, nationally and in the provinces, to consider and to act on its recommendations (section3), in particular concerning European visitors to Assembly, the provision of adequate funding for the URC to develop meaningful European church partnerships at every level, and the provision of support for Provincial European Link Co-ordinators.**

The Moderator asked members of Assembly if they would be willing to extend the session to enable Mr Edmond Tang to speak on resolution 30 which would be discussed later in the Assembly. This was agreed. He outlined the situation of Hong Kong in relation to its return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

The Revd Barry Scopes introduced the retired missionaries who were greeted by the Moderator. They were: Revd Derek & Mrs Joan Jones, United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, Revd Geoffrey & Mrs Ann Marsden, Church of South India and Mr Ivor & Mrs Joan Shepherd, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. The Moderator gave thanks in prayer for their service.

The Moderator received two gifts from other churches. The Revd David Jenkins presented to the United Reformed Church a chalice from the Uniting Church of Christ in the USA: the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie then presented a cross to the Moderator from the Christian Church (Disciples) USA.

The Moderator welcomed these signs of the relationship with these churches.

The Revd Murdoch Mackenzie presented the report 'The URC and Visible Christian Unity'. He invited Mr Geoff Bowstead, Methodist Church, The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt, Bishop of Winchester, the Revd Donald Hilton, the Revd Clive Sutcliffe and the Revd Elizabeth Nash to speak to the report.

The Revd Murdoch Mackenzie presented resolution 31. After general discussion the Revd James Breslin, seconded by Mrs Sheila Fairbairn, moved as an amendment the addition of "(e) active participation in initiatives leading towards organic union". This was agreed and the resolution was then adopted in its amended form.

31 The General Assembly

1. **reaffirms the commitment of the URC to 'take, wherever possible and with all speed, further steps towards the unity of all God's people' (*Basis of Union*, para. 8).**
2. **commits the United Reformed Church to continue to express that commitment to the goal of visible Christian unity through:**
 - a) **resource sharing of theological insights, people, buildings and money,**
 - b) **identifying and offering the rich insights of our tradition to others and being open to receive theirs,**
 - c) **active involvement in ecumenical bodies locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, and**
 - d) **the development of and support for Local Ecumenical Partnerships and United Areas**
 - e) **active participation in initiatives leading towards organic union.**
3. **urges local churches in England to use the book *Called to be One* (or the popular study guide) in discussion with Christians of other traditions so that an informed grass-roots United Reformed Church view on the direction and goal of the ecumenical movement in England may emerge in preparation for the Churches Together in England Forum in July 1997.**

Resolution 29 was presented by the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie and passed by the necessary two-thirds majority. The General Secretary proposed that Synods should inform him of any objections to this resolution by 31 January 1997. This was agreed.

29 The General Assembly gives first approval to an addition to the composition of the membership of Assembly in Section 2 of the Structure of the United Reformed Church as follows:

2(5)(j) A representative of the Council for World Mission.

Resolution 52 was moved by the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie. The Clerk commented on the resolution which referred to 'guidelines' and was only for LEP's.

52 General Assembly approves the Baptist/United Reformed Church Agreed Guidelines for Baptismal Policy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (see Appendix VIII in the Book of Reports) as an appropriate interpretation under function 2 (5) (X) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church.

The resolution was carried.

Ecumenical and Church & Society Committees - joint resolution

Resolution 30 was moved by the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie. The Revd Peter Brain replied to questions and the motion was carried.

30 The General Assembly, in the spirit of resolutions adopted in 1989, which were reaffirmed in 1992 by Assembly Executive Committee, regarding the welfare of the peoples of Hong Kong in the period leading up to June 30, 1997, resolves:

- 1. to remind the British Government of its political and moral responsibility for the people of Hong Kong, with a request that the United Nations monitor the implementation of the 1984 Agreement;**
- 2. to express its solidarity with the churches of Hong Kong, and especially the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (our partner in CWM) in praying for a peaceful transfer of power which respects the dignity of all peoples;**
- 3. to press for full British citizenship for those groups denied by the 1981 and 1985 Acts of Parliament; and to extend a welcome to those Hong Kong residents who move to these islands;**
- 4. to welcome the production of the pack of material on Hong Kong from CWM and the educational materials produced by the China Forum of the CCBI Churches Commission on Mission.**

Equal Opportunities

The report was introduced by Mrs Susan Rand who invited Mrs Daphne Beale to tell members about the guidelines for local churches which will lead to greater justice. The Revd John McCauley told Assembly that he had had a response from 6 Provinces so far to the request for 6 names from each province to form a network. Leaflets will be distributed shortly. The Revd Elizabeth Nash raised a question of the balance of the committee which was answered by the Chairman of the Nominations Committee who emphasised the difficulties encountered.

Finance Committee

The Moderator greeted the new Honorary Treasurer Mr Graham Stacy. Mrs Ruth Clarke then took the chair for a time.

The Treasurer, Mr Graham Stacy, introduced the Finance Committee report. He explained the background to item 5, Ministers' Pension Fund and responded to other matters raised.

The Treasurer then introduced resolution 32.

32 Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31st December 1995.

The Treasurer replied to comments on the accounts. The accounts were adopted.

The Treasurer then introduced resolution 33.

33 Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 1995 to the Ministry & Mission Fund.

This was agreed.

Ministries

The Revd Keith Forecast presented the Ministries Report and advised Assembly that resolutions about evangelists and lay preaching will be brought to the next Assembly and the Committee would welcome comments on these topics.

The Convener thanked the Revd Michael Diffey for his contribution to Ministries in the last ten years and he was presented to the Moderator.

The Revd Sally Thomas, North Western Province, requested the reason for the listed resignations. The General Secretary responded that this is normally a confidential matter.

Mrs Ruth Clarke requested permission be granted for the Revd Moira Kerr, who was not a member of Assembly, to speak on one of the cases. The Moderator stated that from his knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the case he did not feel this would be helpful.

The Revd Keith Forecast proposed the following:

34 Assembly, recognising the need for more vocations to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments and Church-Related Community Work, urges church members, local Churches, District Councils and Synods to take every opportunity of presenting its claims to those who are perceived to have the gifts required.

The Revd Philip Morgan gave notice of an amendment, to be seconded by Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow. The Moderator ruled that this be taken as an additional resolution and, after consulting the opinion of Assembly members, also ruled that it be circulated in print before its consideration at a later session. Resolution 34 was then put and was carried.

Mr Raymond Clarke proposed the following:

36 Assembly approves the Criteria for Assessment as set out in the paragraphs below.

After a question about what paragraphs were intended he proposed the following amendment to this resolution which was carried following discussion:

36 Assembly approves the Criteria and the Proposed Assessment Process as set out in the paragraphs below (pages 135 to 141 of the Report).

Thames North Synod representatives presented the following motion:

4. General Assembly is requested to recognise Interim Ministry as a valid and authorised form of ministry for the URC, as full time or part time appointments within the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration.

Proposed: Mr Gale Salmon
Seconded: Revd Ray Vincent

Following discussion on the experience of Roding District the Revd Keith Forecast responded on behalf of Ministries Committee that while readily acknowledging the value of Interim Ministry it would not want to recognise it as a separate form of ministry. He suggested a possible amendment but this was not voted upon.

Mr Bentley Webster proposed, and Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow seconded "that the resolution be not put". This was carried.

It was proposed that:

- 47 **Assembly agrees to issue a certificate of eligibility to Dr Gerald Munro and instructs the District Council where he is called to serve to arrange for his ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments upon his confession of faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Proposer: Revd Keith Forecast
Seconder: Revd John Waller**

This was agreed.

The Revd Keith Forecast presented the following resolution:

- 35 Assembly agrees that:

- a) no one shall commence training for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments before the date of their 21st birthday;
- b) formal application for training for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments must be received by the Province before the date of the applicant's 50th birthday;
- c) this shall apply to any applications received by the Province after this Assembly;

He then, as Convener, asked permission to substitute the resolution on the Order Paper for that in the Book of Reports. This was agreed. He emphasised that applicants can be assessed before the age of 21 although training would not commence before that date.

- 35 Assembly agrees that:

- (a) no one shall commence training for the ministry of Word and Sacraments before the date of their 21st birthday;
- (b) formal application for training for the ministry of Word and Sacraments must be received by the Province before the date of the applicant's 50th birthday;
- (c) this shall apply to any applications received by the Province after this Assembly;
- (d) applications to transfer from non-stipendiary ministry to stipendiary ministry must be received by the Province before the date of the applicant's 53rd birthday;
- (e) this shall apply to any applications received by the Province after October 1, 1996;
- (f) any variation to these requirements will need the agreement of the Accreditation Sub-Committee.

Proposer: Revd Keith Forecast
Seconder: Revd John Waller

After some discussion, it was proposed by the Revd James Breslin that the question be now put. The Moderator deferred putting this closure motion until a proposed amendment from Mr Malcolm Breeze and the Revd Brian Russell had been dealt with; this proposed that in paragraph (b) '50th' be replaced by '55th'. The Clerk advised that in view of the general debate and the fact that the arguments for the

amendment implied rejection of the motion, the assembly should judge whether the original motion be now put. The closure motion was put and carried by the necessary two-thirds majority. The Convener replied. The whole motion was then rejected.

On a question from the Clerk it was ruled that the existing position consequently remains, with some age limits. The Revd Graham Cook raised a point of order, arguing that the Assembly decision removed all age limits. The Moderator ruled that they remain but that the Ministries Committee must carefully review this outcome.

The following resolution was proposed by the Revd Dr Philip Morgan and seconded by Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow.

- 53 The Assembly invites the Ministries Committee, with assistance from other committees of Assembly as required
1. to give the number of full-time ministers of Word and Sacraments who have been required to retire under the '65 year rule' since it became effective;
 2. to state the financial saving gained and to be gained from the projected retirements under this rule to the year 2000;
 3. to present a case to Assembly next year for the retention of this rule, as against the reinstatement of the earlier rule, or something similar to it, which allowed full-time ministers of Word and Sacraments to continue in service until the age of 67 and thereafter their continuation of service was reviewed annually, the minister, the church or the District Council being able to recommend the severing of the pastoral tie.

The Revd Dr Philip Morgan asked for permission to withdraw parts 1. and 2. as he had been advised that these figures would be difficult to obtain.

This was agreed.

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow asked that the Review should be carried out stringently and pointed out that the resolution now needed the addition of 'The 65 year rule'. The Revd Keith Forecast indicated that the Ministries Committee would be willing to look into this. The amended resolution was carried.

- 53 The Assembly invites the Ministries Committee, with assistance from other committees of Assembly as required, to present a case to Assembly next year for the retention of the "65 year" rule, as against the reinstatement of the earlier rule, or something similar to it, which allowed full-time ministers of Word and Sacraments to continue in service until the age of 67 and thereafter their continuation of service was reviewed annually, the minister, the church or the District Council being able to recommend the severing of the pastoral tie.**

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to correct a statement made yesterday which suggested that any minister continuing part-time after the age of 65 years would lose entitlement to Retired Ministers Housing. He confirmed that this was not the case.

The Moderator invited the Revd David Helyar, seconded by the Revd Graham Cook, to introduce Resolution 55.

- 55 Assembly agrees that all present references to a lower or upper age limit for the commencement of training for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments shall be withdrawn. The only relevant consideration shall be, not a candidate's age, but the fulfilment of good assessment procedures and practice.

After some discussion Dr Claire Shepherd proposed that the motion be not put. This was seconded and carried.

Training Report

The Moderator explained that the Convener, the Revd Dr John Sutcliffe, in view of many ecumenical changes, wished to withdraw Resolutions 43 and 44. The paragraphs concerning them would then be discussed as part of the report.

43 Assembly adopts the maintenance grant structure for ordinands as outlined in the Training Review Report.

44 Assembly adopts the proposals outlined in the Training Review Report.

Assembly gave leave for these resolutions to be withdrawn. After a comprehensive discussion the Convener thanked members for their useful contributions and then introduced Resolution 41. He explained that the Ecumenical Strategy Group would not have executive powers. The Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee responded to questions.

41 **Assembly agrees that:**

- a) **the URC should become a member of the proposed Ecumenical Strategy Group, and**
- b) **the URC should be represented on the Group by the Secretary of Training and a member of the Training Committee.**

This was agreed.

Assembly then turned to consider:

42 Assembly agrees that:
the post of National Youth and Children's Work Training Officer should be extended until 31st December 1998.

The Clerk then explained that the discussion in Mission Council relating to Resolution 42 was directly related to a person in post, though in general post and post holder should be kept separate. Assembly has already agreed that any post becoming vacant should be reviewed before any decisions on the filling of the post. Since the post was now becoming vacant, the Moderator then ruled the resolution out of order but assured Assembly that the review procedures would be put into place immediately. The Clerk stated that the Staffing Advisory Group would be consulting all relevant parties including the training team and representatives of FURY and the Moderator undertook to ensure that their views would be gathered and heard.

Nominations Committee

The report was introduced by the Convener, the Revd Jessie Clare. She drew attention to the additions and corrections to the Nominations Report in the Book of Reports (p.143 to 149) and on the supplementary sheet.

The corrected report now reads as follows:

Nominations Report

Convener: The Revd Jessie Clare
Secretary: The Revd Arnold Harrison

This committee nominates to Assembly the names of people to serve as conveners and secretaries of all Assembly committees, and as members of those committees. It also suggests names of URC representatives on other bodies. It recommends the people to make up appointment groups for provincial moderators and Assembly appointed staff.

The following appointment and review groups have been convened:-

- 1 Appointment Group for the Moderator of the West Midlands Province
Convened by Revd Philip Morgan
- 2 Appointment Group for the Moderator of the Eastern Province
Convened by Mrs Wilma Frew
- 3 Review Group for the Moderator of the Wales Province
Convened by Revd Dr Jack McKelvey
- 4 Appointment Group for the Moderator of the Yorkshire Province
Convened by Revd Dr Jack McKelvey
- 5 Appointment Group for the Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge
Convened by Mr Raymond Clarke
- 6 Appointment Group for Westminster College Staff, Director of Pastoral
Studies and Director of Systematic Theology.
Convened by Mr Raymond Clarke
- 7 On the Instructions of Mission Council a Task Group to consider the Role of the
Provincial Moderators has been set up under the Convenership of Revd John Slow.
- 8 Appointment Group for the Secretary to Ministries
Convened by Revd David Jenkins
- 9 Appointment Group for the Secretary for International Church Relations
Convened by Revd Mia Hillborne
- 10 Review Group for the Chaplain to Yardley Hastings
Convened by Mr Simon Rowntree
- 11 Assembly is invited to Appoint
A Board of Governors for Westminster College Cambridge, Dr David Thompson (Convener),
Revd Margaret McKay (Clerk), Mr Don Taylor, Revd Leslie Husselbee, Mrs Valerie Burnham,
Revd Sandra Lloydlangston, Mr Doug Thacker, Revd Tim Key.
plus
The Principal, A Member of the Teaching Staff, A Student Member of the College, The Chair of
the Cheshunt Foundation Governors, A Representative of the Cambridge Theological Federation
and the Anglia Polytechnic University.
- 12 National Assessment Board - the Board has requested that we present names a year in advance in
order that those nominated may have a time of training and preparation before they are required to
serve as Board members. Names of those nominated to be active Board members from General
Assembly 1997 will be included in the Nominations Supplementary Report.

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

- 1 The Moderator, the Moderator-elect, the immediate past Moderator and the General Secretary
are members ex officio of every Standing Committee.
- 2 Officers and members appointed since Assembly 1995 are indicated by one asterick, two astericks
denoted those whom Assembly 1996 is invited to appoint for the first time.
- 3 The date in brackets following the names indicates the date of retirement, assuming a full term.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Convener: Prof Malcolm Johnson [1998]

Deputy Convener: Mrs Val Morrison [1998]

Secretary: Revd Peter Brain

Vacancy remains [2000]**

Revd Michael Powell [1999]

Revd Hazel Barkham [1999]

Ms Janine Lawley [1998]

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

Mrs Pat Stannard [2000]**

Revd David Coleman [2000]**

Mr James Rand [2000]**

Revd Miles Parkinson [1999]

Revd Graham Spicer [1997]

Mrs Sue Brooks [1997]

Mr Doug Fletcher [1997]

DISCIPLESHIP AND WITNESS

Convener: Revd Elizabeth Caswell [1999]

Secretary: Revd Roger Whitehead [1998]

Revd Bob Day [2000]** Revd David Tatem [1999]

Revd Jean Forster [1998]

Mr Jim Wilkinson [1998] Dr John Stocks [1997]

Revd Eileen Sanderson representing the Youth & Children's Committee

WINDEREMERE - Policy and Planning

Convener: Revd David Jenkins [1999]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere 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 Terry Hinks [2000]**

Revd Jean Black [2000]** 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 Derek Gardiner representing the Youth & Children's Committee

ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd Murdoch Mackenzie [1997]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs

Mrs Grace Ntiamoah [2000]** Vacancy remains [2000]**

Revd Peter Arthur [1999]

Revd Norman Healey [1999] Revd Elizabeth Welch [extended to 1998]

Revd David Fox [1998] Mr Desmond Curry [1997]

ECUMENICAL - Sub-Committee - OVERSEAS EXCHANGE

Convener: Revd Barrie Scopes [1999]

Secretary: Secretary for International Church Relations

Revd Ken Graham [1999] Revd David Helyar [1998]

Revd Mia Hillborne [1998]

Mrs Muriel Sleigh [1998] Revd Bernie Collins [1997]

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Mrs Susan Rand [1999]

Secretary: Revd Simon Walkling [1999]

Mrs Lucille King [2000]** Vacancy remains [2000]**

Revd John McCauley [1998]

Mrs Daphne Beale [1998] Mr Doug Thacker [1997]

Revd Elaine Dunn [1997]

FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: Mr Clem Frank

Mr Bill Grieve [2000]** Mrs Elizabeth Reeve [1999]

Revd Richard Wiggins [1999]

Mrs Edwina Rockey [1999] Revd Paul Bedford [1997]

Convener of the URC Trust

MINISTRIES

Convener: Revd Keith Forecast [1997]

Secretary: Chris Baker [1998]

Revd Tony Ruffell [2000]** Revd Graham Sweeney [2000]**

Mr John Ellis [1999]

Ms Geraldine Swaine [1999] Revd Sandra Lloydlangston [1999]

Mrs Doreen Courtney [1997]

Convener of National Assessment Board

MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - ACCREDITATION

Convener: Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith [1997]

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 in 2001**:
Revd Derek Wales, Revd Reginald Rooke

Retiring 2000**:
Mrs J Barraclough, Revd Ivor Rees, Mrs Darryl Sinclair, Mrs Flo Humes-Dixon,
Revd Howard Starr

Retiring 1999:
Mrs Shirley Moss, Revd Elizabeth Scopes, Revd Graham Cook

Retiring 1998:
Mrs Pat Peirce, Mrs Marva Ward, Revd Cecil White, Revd Barbara Plenderleith,
Mr Brian Evans, Revd Leonard Bhagwandin

Retiring 1997:
Revd John Humphreys, Revd Christine Craven

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 - 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 - MAINTENANCE OF MINISTRY

Convener: Mr Michael Harrison [1999]

Secretary: Revd Peter Grimshaw [1999]

Revd Tony Wilkinson [2000]	Mrs Barbara Martin [1999]	Miss Margaret Atkinson [1999]
The Treasurer		

MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING

Convener: Revd David Hannon [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

Convener: Revd David Hannon

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 Flank
Mr Graham Stacy		

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 [1997]

Provincial Representatives

I	Revd David Jenkins	VII	Revd David Tatem
II	Revd Geoff Tolley	VIII	Revd Ray Adams
III	Revd Angus Duncan	IX	Revd George Thomas
IV	Mr Brian Evans	X	Mrs Mary Stacy
V	Revd Chris White	XI	Mrs Christine Meekison
VI	Mr Ron Webb	XII	Mr John Trollope

together with the immediate past Moderator.

ASSEMBLY PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd John Johansen-Berg [1999]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Revd Jean Forster [2000] **

Mrs Joan Staples [2000]**

Revd John Humphreys [1999]

Miss Ruth Archer [1997]

Convener of Welfare Sub-Committee

The Treasurer

WELFARE -Sub-Committee

Convener: Mrs Shirley Paton [1999]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings

TRAINING

Convener: Revd John Sutcliffe [1999]

Secretary: Revd Dr Catherine Middleton [1998]

Revd Sandra Dears [2000]**

Dr Ian Frew [2000]**

Dr Jean Butler [1999]

Revd Chris Warner [1999]

Revd John Proctor [1997]

Revd Elizabeth Nash [1997]

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Convener: Revd Stephen Thornton [1998]

Secretary: Mrs Jean Antcliffe [1999]

Mr Simon Loveitt [2000]

Revd Philip Nevard [2000]**

Miss Kathryn Swift [1999]

Revd Ron Forster [1999]

Revd Brenda Plenderleith [1999]

Mrs Elizabeth Crocker [1998]

Ms Catherine Rook [1997]

Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn [1997]

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 for 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 the moderators are:

Northern

Revd Peter Poulter, Miss Sheila Fairbairn, Revd Ann Jackson

North Western

Mrs Delyth Rees, Mrs Ann Sutcliffe, Revd David Yule

Mersey

Revd Jean Forster, Mr Wesley Woodside, Revd Peter Roche

Yorkshire

Mr Brian Evans, Revd Duncan Wilson, Mrs Angela Hughes

East Midlands

Mr Geoff Prentice, Revd Graham Maskery, Revd Margaret Taylor

West Midlands

Mr Simon Rowntree, Mrs Jennifer Shaffery, Revd Patricia Nimmo

Eastern

Mr William McVey, Mrs Elizabeth Whitten, Revd Margaret McKay

South Western

Revd Sandra Lloydlangston, Mr Ivan Andrews, Mr Geoff Lunt

Wessex

Revd Bernie Collins, Mr David Butler, Mrs Christine Robertson

Thames North

Revd Geoffrey Bending, Miss Marian Crack, Revd John Edwards

Southern

Mrs Christine Meekison, Mrs Grace Ntiamoah, Revd Lesley Charlton

Wales

Revd Nanette Head, Mr Denis Earp, Mr Peter Devaney

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

Chairman: Revd Dr Arthur Chadwick

Secretary: Mr Geoff Lunt

Members of the URC:

A vacancy remains

Mr Desmond Davies

Mr Tom Swan

Mr Geoffrey Lunt

Members of the Fund:

Revd Pam Ward

Revd Tony Spring

Revd John Martin *

Revd Dr Arthur Chadwick

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST

Convener: Mr Desmond Davies

Secretary: Mr Clem Frank

Mr Clive Willis

Revd Dennis Clague

Revd Tony Burnham

Mr Clem Frank

Mr Robert Hardie

Mr Graham Stacy

Mr Harold Kempton

Mr Ron Masser

Mr William McVey

Revd Richard Wiggins

TASK GROUPS

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

Convener: Revd Julian Macro

Secretary: Revd Bill Wright

Two vacancies remain

Mr Keith Webster

Revd Stephen Thornton

Revd David Netherwood

Miss Janet Turner

Mr Geoff Wood

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ON OTHER BODIES

1 OTHER ASSEMBLIES

Presbyterian Church in Ireland 1996:

General Synod of Church of England:

Methodist Conference:

Baptist Union of Scotland:

Church of Scotland:

Scottish Congregational Church:

Presbyterian Church of Wales:

Union of Welsh Independents:

Congregational Federation:

World Alliance of Reformed

Churches General Council 1997:

WCC Assembly 1998:

Second European Ecumenical

Assembly 1997:

Eleventh Assembly of the Conference

of European Churches:

Revd John Reardon, Revd Jim Brown

Revd Christine Craven

Revd Sheila Maxey

Dr Peter Arthur

Revd John Reardon, Revd Elizabeth Welch

Revd Tony Burnham

Revd John Reardon

Mr John Rhys

Revd John Waller

Revd Elizabeth Nash, Revd John Humphreys

Revd Pat Nimmo, Ms Tina Arthur,

Mr Dylan Morgan

Revd Tony Burnham, Mrs Wilma Frew

Revd Michael Hubbard, Revd John Waller,

Mrs Sheila Brain

Revd Michael Hubbard, Revd John Waller,

FURY representative

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

The General Secretary, Convener Ecumenical Committee, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations,

A Provincial Moderator plus

Mr John Bradbury

Revd Rudolph Dixon

Miss Betty Vickerton

Revd Mark Fisher

Mr Graham Ghaleb

Revd Donald Norwood

Miss Charlotte Atkinson

Revd Elizabeth Caswell

Churches Together in England - Enabling Group

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland - Assembly 1996

General Secretary, Convener of the Ecumenical Committee, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations plus

Revd Peter Brain

Mrs Eileen McIlveen

Mrs Ruth Clarke

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow

Revd Elizabeth Welch

Mr John Bradbury

Ms Melanie Smith

Revd David Taylor

Revd Donald Norwood

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*, Revd John Joseph*, Revd David Wilkinson*	
Council	The Provincial Moderator (Wales), Mr John Rhys (Synod Clerk), Ms Jackie Yeomans	
Steering Committee	Provincial Ecumenical Officer	

Council for Wales Consultation on Forming a United Free Church in Wales		
Revd John Humphreys*	Revd David Fox*	Mr John Rhys*
Revd James Breslin*	Revd Mary Davies*	

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
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Chaplaincy Board	Revd Peter Beaman, Revd Brian Holroyd, Revd Daphne Williams
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Education Committee	Mr Graham Handscombe*, A Vacancy remains Co-options - Dr Stephen Orchard and Revd John Sutcliffe
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Women's Council	Mrs Janet Lees
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METHODIST/URC LIASON COMMITTEE

Revd Susan Henderson	Revd Michael Hubbard	Revd Joe Clemson
Miss Betty Vickerton	Secretary for Ecumenical Relations	

SCOTTISH UNION TALKS

Revd Peter Arthur*	Revd James Breslin*	Revd Sheila Maxey*
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OTHER COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund:	Mr Ken Meekison (Hon.Treasurer), Revd Geoffrey Satchell, Mr Laurence Macro
Cambridge Theological Federation	
Joint Academic Committee:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee
Christian Education Movement Council:	National Youth & Children's Work Training Officer
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 Eric Allen*
	Revd Fleur Houston*, Revd Nigel Uden*
Joint Liturgical Group:	Revd Fleur Houston*
Methodist Faith & Order Committee:	Revd Keith Forecast, Mrs Rosemary Johnston
National Christian Education Council:	Revd Peter Brain
National Council of Voluntary Organisations:	
National Ecumenical Agency for	
Further Education:	Secretary for Ministries, Revd Kevin Swain
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:	Secretary for Ministries, Revd Dennis Friend, Revd John Paull, Revd Hamish MacLagen*, Revd Tony Burnham
United Reformed Church History Society:	Mrs Mary Davies, Revd Dr Peter Jupp, Mrs Carol Rogers, Revd Eric Wollaston, (Dr David Thompson also serves)

Wharton Trust:	Mrs Betty Taylor
Widows Fund of the Three Denominations:	Mr Ken Meekison, Revd Geoffrey Satchell, Mr Laurence Macro
Women's World day of Prayer:	Mrs Josie Pinner*

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 Westminster College Governors, Secretary Training Committee
Caterham School, Board of Governors:	Revd David Helyar*
Cheshunt Foundation:	Mr Desmond Davies, Revd Michael Dunford
Eltham College/Walthamstow Hall:	Mrs Jean Garwood
Homerton College Trustees:	Mr John Chaplin*, Revd Margaret McKay*, Mrs Elisabeth Jupp*, Dr David Thompson*
Mansfield College Ministerial Training Committee:	Revd Julian Macro, Revd Noel Shepherd, Revd Colin Thompson
Milton Mount Foundation, Governors:	Miss Margaret Canning*, Mrs Gwen Hall, Revd Peter Grimshaw, Revd George Thomas* Revd Erica Beglin*, A vacancy remains
Northern College:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd John Marsh, Mrs Helen Brown, A vacancy remains
Queen's College, Birmingham:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee
St. Andrew's Hall Selly Oak:	Revd Gwen Collins*, Mrs Haro Horsfield*, Revd Dr Leslie Husselbee*, Revd Tony Coates
Silcoates School, Governor:	Dr Clyde Binfield
Taunton School:	Revd Ray Adams
Tettenhall College Governors:	Dr William Blakeley, Mr Roddy McKenzie, Mrs Melanie Hawley, Mrs Doris Margetts
Wentworth Milton Mount, Governor:	A vacancy remains
Westhill College Foundation Governor:	Dr Richard Jurd
Westhill College Foundation Trustees:	Mr J E Payne, Prof Robert Steel, Revd Eric Lord

5. COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

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

6. CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revd Dr Peter Jupp*	Mrs Christine Meekison	Revd Maurice Husselbee
Mrs Mary Stacy*	Mr Robert Hardie	Revd Geoffrey Satchell
Mr Graham Stacy*	Mr Arthur Smith	Revd David Hannen
Mr Hartley Oldham	Revd Peter Grimshaw	Revd John Taylor

7. NEW COLLEGE LONDON FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Mr John Smethers	Revd Robert Latham	Revd John Pugh
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REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COMMITTEES

Other Committees and National Organisations	
Churches' Commission on Overseas Students:	Revd Kevin Swain
Churches' Consortium on Industrial Mission:	Revd Michael Diffey
Churches' Council for Health and Healing:	Revd Robin Hine, Revd Jim Hollyman*, Mrs Connie Bunker
Churches' Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting:	Mrs Carol Rogers
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith Relations:	Revd Brenda Willis, Revd Dr John Parry
Churches' Group on Funeral Services at Cemeteries and Crematoria:	Revd Dr Peter Jupp, Revd Sally Thomas
Council of URC Boy's Brigade Companies:	Revd Michael Rees
Mr Paul Franklin Guides' Religious Advisory Panel:	Mrs Susan Walker
International Bible Reading Association:	A vacancy remains

Media Awareness Project:
Scout & Guide Fellowship (URC):
Scouts' Religious Advisory Group:

Mrs Carol Rogers
Mr Paul Franklin
Mr D Marshall-Jones

The following resolutions were proposed:

- 37 The Assembly appoints Mr Graham Stacy as Honorary Treasurer of the United Reformed Church, for a period of four years, to Assembly 2000.**

This was agreed.

- 38 The Assembly appoints Mrs Margaret Carrick-Smith as Clerk to the Assembly for a period of five years from the close of Assembly 1997 until the close of Assembly 2002.**

This was agreed.

- 39. Eastern Province Moderator. Assembly appoints the Revd Elizabeth June Caswell as Moderator of the Eastern Province from 1 February 1997 to 31 January 2004.**

This was agreed.

- 40. The Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 143 - 150 of the Book of Reports subject to the additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly.**

This was agreed.

- 46 The Assembly appoints the Revd Philip James Woods BA as Secretary for International Church Relations for five years until 31 August 2001.**

This was agreed. It was noted that Mr Woods would begin by working alongside the Revd Tony Coates, take full responsibility during Mr Coates sabbatical and assume office on 17 September 1996. The Treasurer had agreed the financial implications.

- 48. The Assembly appoints the Revd Christine Craven as Secretary for Ministries for five years until 31 August 2001.**

This was agreed.

- 49. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd Martin Nicholls to the post of Chaplain of the National Youth Resource Centre, Yardley Hastings, from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 2001, with no renewal of the postholder beyond this period.**

This was agreed.

- 50. Following the retirement of the Revd Martin Cressey, General Assembly appoints Revd Dr Peter McEnhill to the post of Director of Studies in Systematic Theology at Westminster College, Cambridge, from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 2001.**

This was agreed.

- 51. Following the induction of the Revd William Mahood to St. Ives Free Church, Huntingdonshire, General Assembly appoints the Revd Lance Stone to the post of Director of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College, Cambridge, from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 2001.**

This was agreed.

Assembly was informed that the Revd Arnold Harrison wishes to retire one year earlier than originally planned from the secretaryship of the Nominations Committee. Members are asked to consider any nominations for this post.

The Revd Arnold Harrison proposed Resolution 56 which was seconded and carried.

56 The Assembly reappoints the Revd John Lloyd Humphreys as Moderator of the Province of Wales from 1 September 1996 until 31 August 2001.

Pastoral Committee

The report was introduced by the Convener, the Revd John Johansen-Berg who emphasised the caring role it exercises. The Moderator spoke of Assembly's indebtedness to this committee.

Youth and Children's Work Committee

The report was introduced by the Convener, the Revd Stephen Thornton. He expressed thanks to the Revd Derek Gardiner, Master Pilot, for 4 years service. He was greeted by the Moderator. The Convener replied to questions and comments on the report.

This was followed by a presentation by Pilots and an interview with the Master Pilot. Resolution 45 was then proposed by the Convener and carried.

45 Assembly rejoices in 60 years of Pilots and urges churches to use the development of Pilots as one of the means of growth for their work with children and young people.

This was followed by a FURY presentation of the "Search for Youth - 1997" survey. The Children's Advocate, Mrs Rosemary Johnson, then showed pictures of children and their comments about their local church.

Advocacy and Stewardship Task Group

The report was introduced by the Convener, the Revd Julian Macro.

This was followed by a presentation by the Revd Bill Wright on Vision Workshops which focused on the need to change by encouraging the church to dream dreams and have visions. After this the church will draw up short, medium and long term plans. Leaflets are available to encourage churches to participate. The Moderator expressed the thanks of Assembly to Professor John O'Neill for his Bible Studies.

The Moderator then greeted:

The Revd Dr Peter McEnhill BD PhD, the new Director of Studies in Systematic Theology at Westminster College, Cambridge.

The Revd Lance Stone BD M.Th, the new Director of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College, Cambridge.

Mr John Brown, Youth & Children's Work Training & Development Officer, Mersey Province.

Mr Henry Playle, Youth & Children's Work Trainer, Eastern Province.

Mr Leo Roberts, Youth & Children's Work Trainer, North Western Province.

Ms Janet Turner, Youth & Children's Work Trainer, Northern Province.

Revd Christine Craven, new Secretary for Ministries, starting on 1.10.96.

He then received and thanked the Revd Eileen Sanderson, National Youth & Children's Work Training Officer who is shortly leaving her post. FURY also expressed their thanks to Eileen and presented her with a gift.

The Clerk who had earlier presented the Minutes of Saturday and Sunday sessions introduced the Minutes of Monday 8th July. He moved that the minutes of Monday 8th July and Tuesday 9th July be included in the Record of Assembly after review by the officers of Assembly and the making of any necessary corrections.

The Moderator invited the Revd David Jenkins to address Assembly in accepting the office of Moderator of the General Assembly for 1997. This he did.

Church & Society

The Revd Peter Brain, Secretary for Church & Society, asked permission for the Revd Justine Wyatt and Mr Barry Gower to address the Assembly with a presentation on AIDS Ministry. This was agreed and the presentation was made.

Address to the Throne

The Moderator invited the Revd John Reardon to present the Address to the Throne. This was agreed and would be signed by the Moderator and General Secretary.

At the Moderators invitation, the Revd George Thomas expressed thanks to all those involved in this Assembly.

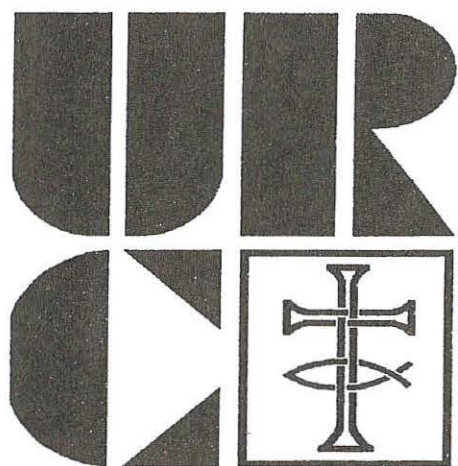
The General Secretary formally moved the adjournment of the Assembly to meet at the Guildhall, Portsmouth, on 7 July 1997.

The Assembly closed with worship, including a liturgical dance by Miss Sara Houston, the Chaplain's daughter.

INDEX

	<i>Report</i>	<i>Record</i>
Accounts	183	35
Address to the Throne		48
AIDS		48
Assembly 1998	78	28
Assessment, criteria and process	135	35
Baptismal Policy in LEP's	203	34
Budget 1997 & 5 year Plan	40	17
Church Hymnary Trust	99	29
Church Related Community Workers' Training	179	
Closure of Churches	19	7
Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries		9
Commitment for Life	84	29
Copyright	92	28
Council for World Mission Report	172	
Developing Discipleship		11
Discipline, ministerial	50	17
District Boundaries - Mersey		12
- West Midlands		12
Eligibility - Dr Gerald Munro		36
Europe, Church Partnerships	110 & 202	32
General Election	89	29
Health & Healing Development Group	38	16
Hong Kong	113	34
Inter-Faith Relations Committee	39	16
- membership		17
Mansfield College	173	
Ministers' Spouses, divorced and separated	37	16
Ministerial Jubilees		10
Ministry & Mission Fund	123	35
Ministry - age for training	134	36
- interim	18	36
- Non-stipendiary training	178	
- retirement at 65		37
Minutes of Assembly		47
Multi-Racial Ministry Post	36	16
Moderator Assembly - 1997/98 Election and Acceptance Speech		10 & 48
- Induction		1
- Title		15
National Youth & Children's Work Training Work Officer	156	38
New Churches	20	7
Newly Ordained Ministers		7
Newly Commissioned Church Related Community Workers		7

Nominations		38
- Chaplain, Yardley Hastings		46
- Clerk to Assembly	150	46
- Director Pastoral Studies, Westminster		46
- Director Systematic Theology, Westminster		46
- Moderator, Eastern	150	46
- Moderator, Wales		47
- Secretary for International Church Relations		46
- Secretary for Ministries		46
- Secretary for Nominations Committee		47
- Senior Posts and Church Affiliation	151	
- Treasurer	150	46
Northern College	175	
Pensions Trust URC Ministers'	205	
Pilots		47
Provincial Moderator's Reports	21	
Queens College, The	177	
Representation		
- at GA under age of 26	39	17
- at Assembly	16	11
- at Assembly (CWM)	113	34
Representatives		
- of Other Churches at Assembly		5
- from Other Faiths		10
Roll of Assembly		1
Sacraments, presidency	15	11
Sanctuary	87	29
St Andrew's Hall Missionary College	173	
Standing Orders	217	
- amendments		7
Statement of Faith	101	30
Students in Training	181	
Students' internship	15	11
Synod Reports	2	
Training		
- Ecumenical Strategy Group	155	38
- Maintenance grants	156	38
- Review	157	38
Trust, URC	205	
Trust, URC Ministers' Pensions	205	
Unity	114	33
Vocations	133	345
Westminster College	175	12
Windermere Advisory Group	97	29



**The
United
Reformed
Church**

in the United Kingdom

ACCOUNTS
1996

The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom
86 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RT

Assembly Officers

Moderator of the General Assembly (1996/7) - Dr David Thompson
General Secretary - Revd Anthony Burnham
Clerk of the General Assembly - Revd Martin Cressey
Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee - Mrs Wilma Frew
Deputy General Secretary - Revd John Waller

Other Officers

Moderator Elect - Revd David Jenkins
Immediate Past Moderator - Revd John Reardon
Honorary Treasurer - Mr Graham Stacy FCA

Trustee

United Reformed Church Trust
(Chairman of Board of Directors - Mr 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

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

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	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Analysis of income	6
Analysis of expenditure.....	7
Movement on funds	8
Disposition of funds.....	9
Cashflow Statement	10
Notes to the accounts	11
Note 1 - Accounting policies.....	11
(i) Scope	11
(ii) Classification of funds.....	11
(iii) Income	11
(iv) Pensions.....	11
(v) Tangible fixed assets	11
(vi) Investments.....	11
(vii) Stock.....	11
(viii) Westminster College	11
Note 2 - Tangible fixed assets.....	12
Note 3 - Loans and advances.....	12
Note 4 - Debtors.....	12
Note 5 - Investments.....	13
Note 6 - Current liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)	13
Note 7 - Remuneration.....	13
Note 8 - Assets held in trust for others	13
Note 9 - The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund.....	14
Note 10 - Commitments.....	14
Note 11 - Interests in trusts	14
Note 12 - The URC Insurance Company Limited	14
Note 13 - United Reformed Church Trust Investment Pool.....	14
United Reformed Church Trust Investment Pool	15
Statement of responsibilities in relation to the accounts.....	16
Approval of accounts	16
Report of the auditors to the United Reformed Church	17
Draft budget for 1998.....	18
The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund	20

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.

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

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FORMAT OF THE ACCOUNTS

Last year we introduced radical changes to the format of the annual accounts. This year we have followed the new format with a few minor changes. As many people may be studying the annual accounts for the first time we think it may be helpful to explain again the main features of the accounts in the hope that it will make them of greater interest to a greater number of people.

Perhaps the most important thing to recognise is that the accounts are designed to show the overall financial position of the URC - by which we mean those parts of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom that are administered nationally under the overall authority of the General Assembly. The accounts do not attempt to show detailed information about every individual fund included in the overall figures.

A further important feature is the way that funds are divided into categories according to the manner in which we are allowed to spend them. **Unrestricted income funds** are funds we can use freely for any URC activity. It is the funds for which a budget is prepared and presented to the General Assembly each year. **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** - permanent endowments the capital of which cannot be spent but the income from which may be added to restricted or unrestricted income funds according to the original terms.

For those who are not familiar with financial statements, there are explanatory notes at the foot of most pages to help focus on what the page is about. The most important overall information is contained in the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 4 and 5. The following four pages give analyses of the main headings of income and expenditure and the breakdown of the overall figures over the major funds or groups of funds.

RESULTS FOR 1996

The results for 1996 are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 5. In summary the situation before taking account of changes in the value of investments was as follows:-

1995		1996			
Total funds £'000		Total funds £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Capital funds £'000
19,358	Total income	20,306	18,294	1,753	259
18,000	Total expenditure	21,058	19,992	1,066	0
1,358	Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(752)	(1,698)	687	259

As indicated earlier, the distinction between unrestricted and restricted funds is very important so in reviewing the 1996 results it is best to consider each category separately.

Unrestricted funds

These are the funds we can use freely for any purpose and it is these funds which are covered by the budget approved by the General Assembly each year. On pages 18 and 19 there is a comparison of 1996 actual results with the 1995 actual and 1996 budget which you may find it helpful to refer to.

The final result for the year was a deficit of about £1.7 million but this was after taking account of an exceptional additional contribution to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund of £2.5 million in October 1996. Thus the result before taking this contribution into account would have been a surplus of about £800,000. This is an improvement on the result for 1995 and very substantially better than the out-turn indicated by the 1996 budget adopted by the General Assembly in 1995. The main reason for this is that the average number of ministers paid in 1996 was much lower than anticipated at the time the 1996 budget was prepared.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Restricted funds

The net surplus for the year in the restricted funds was £687,000. Of this amount, £585,000 arose in the Retired Ministers' Housing Society and Retired Ministers' Housing Fund. During 1996 15 retiring ministers or dependants were housed involving an increase of £800,000 in our investment in property.

FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER 1996

Our financial position at the end of 1996 is set out in overall terms in the Balance Sheet on page 4. It shows total net assets of over £35 million. Where this large sum is invested and for which fund can be found on page 9. This page is a good example of the way that the new format of accounts highlights where our resources are and helps to focus on areas where we might make our resources work better for the Church.

The second column on page 9, headed property, shows where £16.8 million is invested in properties: the most significant amounts are in retired ministers' housing, totalling some £11.6 million. It is interesting to note that the investment in properties by the Church Buildings Fund, which totals about £1.3 million, is more than double the amount shown in last year's accounts; this is because we have been using these funds to purchase manses for Assembly appointed ministers rather than use "unrestricted" funds, thus freeing up the unrestricted funds for use elsewhere.

The fourth column on page 9, headed investments, shows how investments with a total value of about £17.4 million are owned by many funds. Some of these funds have specific objectives which are clearly meeting the needs of the Church, for example the Retired Ministers' Fund pays ex-gratia pensions over and above the pensions payable by the Pension Fund, particularly to retired ministers and widows of ministers with service to the former Congregational Church, where the fund pension is very small. The "other funds" shown at the foot of page 9 have investments of over £3 million and comprise a large number of funds, some dating back many years with restricted objectives that are not easy to match with current needs. We are examining these funds with a view to identifying ways of using them more effectively, or seeking Charity Commission approval for the terms under which they are held to be varied.

One aspect of our financial affairs which continues to be extremely important but which is not apparent from the Balance Sheet is our obligation to pay pensions to retired ministers. At the time of preparing the 1996 accounts we are awaiting the report on the actuarial valuation of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund as at 1st January 1997. The last valuation, three years ago, disclosed a deficiency of some £11 million which is being paid off by increasing annual contributions continuing up to the year 2006. In 1996 an exceptional additional contribution of £2.5 million was made to the Fund which will substantially reduce that part of the actuarial shortfall relating to pensions already being paid. Despite this contribution there is little doubt that the latest valuation will disclose a substantial deficiency to be paid off over future years. The reduction of this burden will continue to be a matter of concern to the Finance Committee in consultation with the Resource Planning Advisory Group and the Pension Fund Trustee.

We hope that this report and the accompanying accounts will provide greater understanding of the URC's financial position. The Treasurer and the Financial Secretary will be pleased to respond to requests for further information or explanations.

Signed on behalf of the Finance Committee.

Graham Stacy
Convener

26th March 1997

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996

1995 £'000		Notes (pages 12 & 13)	1996 £'000
	FIXED ASSETS		
	Tangible assets	2	
10,811	Houses for retired ministers		11,619
2,854	Houses for serving ministers		3,480
1,770	Other properties		1,729
15,435	Total properties		16,828
239	Cars and equipment		307
15,674			17,135
18,180	Long term investments	5	17,362
805	Loans and advances	3	662
34,659			35,159
	NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	Current assets		
52	Stock		71
3,120	Short term investment	5	3,038
986	Debtors	4	993
1,732	Bank balances and money market deposits		1,539
5,890			5,641
5,044	Less: Current liabilities	6	4,935
846	Net current assets		706
35,505	TOTAL NET ASSETS		35,865
	Representing:		
10,677	Unrestricted income funds		9,131
20,876	Restricted income funds		22,312
3,952	Capital funds		4,422
35,505	TOTAL FUNDS (see pages 8 & 9)		35,865

This page shows the combined total of assets and liabilities of all the funds administered for the benefit of the URC nationally. It includes, in particular, the assets and liabilities of the United Reformed Church Retired Ministers' Housing Society Limited

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

1995 Total funds £'000		1996 Total funds £'000	--- Income Unrestricted £'000	funds --- Restricted £'000	Capital funds £'000
INCOME					
16,149	Ministry and Mission Fund contributions	16,462	16,462		
1,392	Investment income	1,409	612	797	
840	Grants received	880	810	70	
306	Legacies	579	74	364	141
306	Sundry income	589	251	220	118
365	Profit on sale of properties	387	85	302	
19,358	Total income (see page 6)	20,306	18,294	1,753	259
EXPENDITURE					
14,195	Ministry	17,026	16,092	934	
1,366	Training	1,370	1,347	23	
474	Assembly appointed staff	546	546		
1,028	Mission	1,069	997	72	
152	Assembly related costs	151	149	2	
161	Communication and editorial	177	166	11	
624	Administration	719	695	24	
18,000	Total expenditure (see page 7)	21,058	19,992	1,066	0
1,358	Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(752)	(1,698)	687	259
Gains and losses on investments					
426	Realised gains	1,183	1,007	176	
2,036	Unrealised (losses)/gains	(71)	(855)	573	211
2,462	Total (losses)/gains on investments	1,112	152	749	211
3,820	Net increase/(decrease) in funds in the year	360	(1,546)	1,436	470
31,685	Balances brought forward at 1st January	35,505	10,677	20,876	3,952
35,505	Balances carried forward at 31st December	35,865	9,131	22,312	4,422

This page shows the total of the income and expenditure accounts of all funds administered on behalf of the URC nationally. The total for 1996 is then divided between "Unrestricted income funds" which may be used for any purpose, "Restricted income funds" which may be spent for specific purposes only, and "Capital funds" which have to be invested to provide future income. The column headed "Unrestricted" shows the income and expenditure covered by the budget shown on pages 18 and 19

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

1995 Total funds £'000		1996 Total funds £'000	— Income Unrestricted £'000	funds — Restricted £'000	Capital funds £'000
MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND					
CONTRIBUTIONS					
Provinces					
1,043	Northern	1,075	1,075		
1,540	North Western	1,538	1,538		
1,090	Mersey	1,100	1,100		
1,050	Yorkshire	1,100	1,100		
1,032	East Midlands	1,060	1,060		
1,200	West Midlands	1,220	1,220		
1,437	Eastern	1,462	1,462		
1,040	South Western	1,105	1,105		
1,831	Wessex	1,831	1,831		
1,905	Thames North	1,940	1,940		
2,400	Southern	2,445	2,445		
580	Wales	586	586		
16,148		16,462	16,462	0	0
1	Non-provincial contributions	0			
16,149		16,462	16,462	0	0
INVESTMENT INCOME					
1,012	Dividends	1,034	304	730	
380	Interest	375	308	67	
1,392		1,409	612	797	0
GRANTS RECEIVED					
518	Memorial Hall Trust	518	448	70	
220	New College London Trust	225	225		
62	URC Insurance Company Ltd.	78	78		
40	Department for Education & Employment	59	59		
840		880	810	70	0
LEGACIES					
For					
63	Ministry and Mission Fund	74	74		
21	Westminster College	0			
204	Housing Retired Ministers	270		270	
18	Other	235		94	141
306		579	74	364	141
SUNDRY INCOME					
103	Provincial contributions to YLTO/YCWT programme	152	152		
136	Donations	158	42	113	3
67	Other	279	57	107	115
306		589	251	220	118
365	PROFIT ON SALE OF PROPERTIES	387	85	302	
19,358	TOTAL INCOME	20,306	18,294	1,753	259

This page shows the breakdown of the main headings of income shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 5.

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

1995 Total funds £'000		1996			
		Total funds £'000	--- Income Unrestricted £'000	funds --- Restricted £'000	Capital funds £'000
MINISTRY					
11,766	Stipends - local and special ministries	11,615	11,615		
121	Stipends - CRCWs	133	133		
579	Pension grants	873		873	
377	Resettlement and other grants	415	354	61	
354	Provincial moderators - stipends & expenses	390	390		
998	Pension Fund additional contributions - normal	1,100	1,100		
0	- exceptional	2,500	2,500		
14,195		17,026	16,092	934	0
TRAINING					
716	College training for stipendiary ministry	660	637	23	
75	Other training for stipendiary ministry	72	72		
72	Training for non-stipendiary ministry	81	81		
297	YLTO/YCWT programme	360	360		
53	Support for Westminster College	29	29		
42	Support for Windermere Centre	27	27		
28	Support for Yardley Hastings	51	51		
7	TLS course costs	12	12		
76	St. Andrew's Hall grant	78	78		
1,366		1,370	1,347	23	0
ASSEMBLY APPOINTED STAFF					
220	Salaries/stipends - executive staff	237	237		
170	Salaries/stipends - support staff	181	181		
84	Housing and expenses	128	128		
474		546	546	0	0
MISSION					
535	Council for World Mission	614	614		
139	Missionaries	75	75		
252	Grants for national and local mission	258	186	72	
102	Ecumenical councils	122	122		
1,028		1,069	997	72	0
ASSEMBLY RELATED COSTS					
67	General Assembly	71	71		
58	Assembly committees/conferences	58	56	2	
27	Mission Council committees/conferences	22	22		
152		151	149	2	0
COMMUNICATION AND EDITORIAL					
131	Salaries	143	139	4	
30	Other costs	34	27	7	
161		177	166	11	0
ADMINISTRATION					
222	Personnel and finance - salaries	245	245		
26	- other costs	9	9		
143	Premises costs	168	171	(3)	
72	Professional fees	83	79	4	
161	Miscellaneous expenses	214	191	23	
624		719	695	24	0
18,000	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21,058	19,992	1,066	0

This page shows the breakdown of the main headings of expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 5.

MOVEMENT ON FUNDS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

Fund	Classification (see note 1(ii))	Balance 1st Jan 1996 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Investment value change £'000	Balance 31st Dec 1996 £'000
Ministry and Mission Fund	Capital Unrestricted	310 7,651	17,916	(19,125)		94	310 6,536
Maintenance of the Ministry Fund	Capital *Unrestricted	503	49	(49)		40	543 0
Ministerial Training Fund	Capital *Unrestricted	117 1,025	315	(818)		9 58	126 580
Memorial Hall Trust Grant Fund	Capital *Unrestricted		14				0 2,015
Westminster College Funds	Capital Restricted	865 917	9 125	(23)		43 49	917 1,068
Church Buildings Funds	Capital Restricted	184 2,820	181	(12)		125	184 3,114
Retired Ministers' Housing Funds	Capital Restricted	355 1,258	79				355 1,337
Retired Ministers' Housing Society	Capital Restricted		524	(18)			0 7,249
Welfare Fund	Capital Restricted	101 256	26	(14)		8 19	109 287
Retired Ministers' Aid Fund	Capital Restricted	136 619	55	(48)		11 48	147 674
Retired Ministers' Fund	Capital Restricted		275	(353)	413	289	0 4,118
World Church and Mission Funds	Capital Restricted	201 1,072	92	(59)		13 81	214 1,186
Windermere Centre Fund	Capital Restricted		344				0 344
Yardley Hastings Fund	Capital Restricted		550				0 550
Other Funds	Capital Restricted	1,180 2,803	250 396	(539)	(413)	87 138	1,517 2,385
Totals (see page 5)		35,505	20,306	(21,058)	0	1,112	35,865
Comprising:	Capital	3,952	259	0	0	211	4,422
	Restricted	20,876	1,753	(1,066)	0	749	22,312
	Unrestricted	10,677	18,294	(19,992)	0	152	9,131

* 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.

This page and the following page 9 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 5 by major fund or group of funds

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996**

Balance 31st Dec 1996 £'000	Property £'000	Cars and equipment £'000	Investments £'000	Loans £'000	Net Current assets £'000	Inter- -fund balances £'000	Fund
310	310					0	Ministry and Mission Fund
6,536	2,152	188	3,283	160	1,408	(655)	
543			543				Maintenance of the Ministry Fund
0							
126			126				Ministerial Training Fund
580			790	54		(264)	
0							Memorial Hall Trust Grant Fund
2,015						2,015	
917	657		260				Westminster College Funds
1,068		8	1,097	(54)		17	
184			184				Church Buildings Funds
3,114	1,253		1,325	498		38	
355	355						Retired Ministers' Housing Funds
1,337	1,218					119	
0							Retired Ministers' Housing Society
7,249	10,046			(80)	(702)	(2,015)	
109			109				Welfare Fund
287			267	10		10	
147			147				Retired Ministers' Aid Fund
674			653			21	
0							Retired Ministers' Fund
4,118			4,135			(17)	
214			214				World Church and Mission Funds
1,186			1,077			109	
0							Windermere Centre Fund
344	304	31				9	
0							Yardley Hastings Fund
550	482	69				(1)	
1,517			1,517				Other Funds
2,385	51	11	1,635	74		614	
35,865	16,828	307	17,362	662	706	0	Totals (see page 4)
4,422	1,322	0	3,100	0	0	0	Capital
22,312	13,354	119	10,189	448	(702)	(1,096)	Restricted
9,131	2,152	188	4,073	214	1,408	1,096	Unrestricted

This page shows the breakdown of the assets and liabilities in the Balance Sheet on page 4 by major fund or group of funds.

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996**

1995 £'000		1996 £'000
	RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES SHOWN IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES TO THE ACTUAL CASH (OUTFLOW)/INFLOW FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES	
1,358	Net (outgoing)/incoming resources (see page 5)	(752)
2	(Increase)/decrease in stock	(19)
(256)	Increase in debtors	(7)
(206)	Decrease in creditors	(43)
(272)	Decrease in sums held for provinces and congregations	(66)
(365)	Profits on property sales	(387)
85	Depreciation	91
76	Amortisation of gilts	76
(41)	Interest added to loans	(28)
381	Net cash (outflow)/inflow from general activities	(1,135)

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE SOURCES AND
APPLICATIONS OF CASH RESOURCES IN THE YEAR**

381	Net cash (outflow)/inflow from general activities (above)	(1,135)
	Net amount of cash received from/(applied in) investing activities	
772	Fixed assets sales	941
(2,096)	purchases	(2,106)
1,337	Long term investments sales	3,706
(1,193)	purchases	(1,770)
(1,180)		771
	Cash received from a net decrease in loans and advances to congregations and ministers	
(175)	Loans made	(193)
414	Loans repaid	364
239		171
(560)	Decrease in cash balances	(193)
2,292	Cash balances at beginning of year	1,732
1,732	Cash balances at end of year	1,539

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 £193,000.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice - "Accounting by Charities". The particular accounting policies adopted are described 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.

The main funds included in these accounts, and their classification, are listed on page 8.

(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) Pensions

The church operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are managed independently of the Church. Pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of an independent qualified actuary. Contributions for the regular ongoing cost of pensions are such that the regular pension cost is a substantially level percentage of the current and expected future pensionable payroll.

(v) 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.

(vi) 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.

(vii) Stock

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

(viii) 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 - 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 1996	10,811	2,854	1,974	631	16,270
Additions during year	1,291	639	11	165	2,106
Disposals during year	(483)	(13)	(50)	(42)	(588)
As at 31st December 1996	11,619	3,480	1,935	754	17,788
Depreciation					
As at 1st January 1996			204	392	596
Charged during year			2	89	91
Written back on disposal				(34)	(34)
As at 31st December 1996			206	447	653
Net book value					
At 31st December 1996	11,619	3,480	1,729	307	17,135
At 31st December 1995	10,811	2,854	1,770	239	15,674

Rents for retired ministers' housing are set at levels estimated to cover maintenance costs only. Total rents received in 1996 were £184,000 (1995 - £172,000) and maintenance costs were £170,000 (1995 - £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 1996 311 (1995 - 302) houses were owned for housing retired ministers and 30 (1995 - 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.

NOTE 3 - LOANS AND ADVANCES

	1996 £'000	1995 £'000
Loans and advances comprise:		
To churches	520	675
To ministers	142	130
	<u>662</u>	<u>805</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 4 - DEBTORS

	1996 £'000	1995 £'000
Debtors comprise:		
Tax recoverable	85	90
Prepayments and accrued income	457	415
Other debtors	451	481
	<u>993</u>	<u>986</u>

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 5 - INVESTMENTS

	1996 £'000	1995 £'000
Long term investments		
Investments held for the longer term comprise the following:		
Units in the URCT Investment Pool at market value	14,730	15,488
Other listed securities at market value	2,308	2,368
The URC Insurance Company Limited shares at cost (see note 12)	73	73
Other unlisted securities at cost	24	24
Investment properties at cost	227	227
	<u>17,362</u>	<u>18,180</u>

All investments are in UK companies or properties.

	1996 £'000	1995 £'000
Short term investment		
The short term investment is £3 million 8.75% Treasury Stock 1997		
At cost less amortisation (see note 1(vi))	3,018	3,047
Gain in market value	20	73
Market value at 31st December 1996	<u>3,038</u>	<u>3,120</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 4.

NOTE 6 - CURRENT LIABILITIES (Amounts falling due within one year)

	1996 £'000	1995 £'000
Current liabilities comprise:		
Sums held for provinces and congregations	2,855	2,921
Advance contributions to the Ministry and Mission Fund	525	537
Other creditors	1,555	1,586
	<u>4,935</u>	<u>5,044</u>

NOTE 7 - REMUNERATION

During the year the following remuneration was paid:

	1996 £'000
To 740 ministers	10,264
To 85 lay staff	1,021

The numbers shown represent the average for the year, and part-time staff are included at the appropriate proportion.

NOTE 7A - AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

Amounts charged for the audit of the accounts of the Church, the United Reformed Church Retired Ministers' Housing Society Limited, and the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund were as follows:

	1996 £'000	1995 £'000
Auditor's remuneration	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>

NOTE 8 - ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR OTHERS

At 31st December 1996 United Reformed Church Trust held investments with an original cost of approximately £14 million (1995 - £15 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)).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED

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 an independent Trustee. 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 completed 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 an expected shortfall on the long term valuation basis in the region of £11.3 million. The Actuary advised that, based upon the current actuarial assumptions, it was necessary to make a series of annual additional contributions, increasing by 10% per annum compound, until the year 2006. The amount of the additional contribution in 1996 was £1,100,000 (1995 - £998,000). During 1996 an exceptional additional contribution of £2,500,000 was made which will substantially reduce that part of the actuarial shortfall relating to pensions already being paid.

A further triennial valuation of the Pension Fund is being carried out as at 1st January 1997 but the actuary's report was not available at the time of preparation of the 1996 accounts. The Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee of the URC intends that future additional contributions to the Pension Fund will be equal to or exceed any amounts which may be recommended by the actuary at the completion of the current triennial valuation.

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 1996 The URC Retired Ministers' Housing Society Limited had contractual liabilities for the purchase of properties amounting to £118,000 (1995 - £126,000) and commitments for the purchase of other properties amounting to £312,000 (1995 - £150,000). In addition, at 31st December 1996, the Church had contractual liabilities for the purchase of properties amounting to £63,000 (1995 - NIL).

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 building, now standing on the site of the former Memorial Hall, on behalf of the URC and non-uniting Congregational churches. In 1996 the URC received income of £518,000 (1995 - £518,000) from this trust. In addition, 24 (1995 - 29) properties owned by the trust are occupied by retired 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 1996 the URC received income of £225,000 (1995 - £220,000) 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 entered into a deed of covenant to pay to the URC 95% of its pre-tax profits; in 1996, this amounted to £78,000 (1995 - £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.

NOTE 13 - 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 15. Of the total investment valued at £32.6 million (1995 - £32.1 million) in the Pool, only £14.7 million (1995 - £15.5 million) is held for URC central funds and is dealt with in these accounts (see note 4).

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST INVESTMENT POOL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996**

CAPITAL	1996		1995	
	1000 Units	£'000	1000 Units	£'000
Units in issue at January 1st 1996	641,095	32,107	611,523	26,695
Units issued in the year	39,905	2,058	57,629	2,751
Units cancelled in the year	(78,355)	(4,113)	(28,057)	(1,392)
Management fees		(70)		(64)
Increase in value of investments during the year		2,587		4,117
Units in issue to Central Funds	272,559	14,730	309,273	15,488
Units in issue to other funds	330,086	17,839	331,822	16,619
	<u>602,645</u>	<u>32,569</u>	<u>641,095</u>	<u>32,107</u>

REPRESENTED BY

	Cost £'000	Market value £'000	Cost £'000	Market value £'000
Investments				
British Government				
Gilt-edged securities	9,611	9,556	9,299	9,544
Other British fixed interest stock	906	976	1,813	1,946
British equities	15,606	20,480	15,727	20,121
	<u>26,123</u>	<u>31,012</u>	<u>26,839</u>	<u>31,611</u>
Cash and short term deposits		1,291		630
Sundry debtor/(creditor)				
The United Reformed Church		266		(134)
		<u>32,569</u>		<u>32,107</u>

Based on the underlying market value of investments and uninvested cash, the value of each unit was

5.40 pence

5.01 pence

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

3 months ended	Rate per unit	£'000	Rate per unit	£'000
	pence		pence	
31st March	0.0383	246	0.0410	251
30th June	0.1511	984	0.0640	397
30th September	0.0840	548	0.0744	472
31st December	0.0648	390	0.1423	915
	<u>0.3382</u>	<u>2,168</u>	<u>0.3217</u>	<u>2,035</u>

Change in policy for accounting for income

During 1996 the policy for accounting for income was changed by the trustee to the following:

- Income receivable from fixed-interest securities is credited to income on a daily basis.
 - Credit for dividends receivable from listed equity investments is taken when the security is first quoted ex-dividend.
- In previous years interest and dividends were included in income on the basis of actual amounts received at the date of receipt. If these changes in policy had not been made the income of the Pool in 1996 would have been approximately £250,000 lower and the unit value at the year-end would have been 0.0024p higher.

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 4 to 15.

A G Burnham
General Secretary

Graham Stacy
Treasurer

C M Frank
Chief Accountant and
Financial Secretary

26th March 1997

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 4 to 15 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 11. 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 16, 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 1996, and of its financial activities for the year then ended.

186 City Road
London EC1V 2NU

ROBSON RHODES
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditor

26th March 1997

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.

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1998

	Actual 1995 £'000	Actual 1996 £'000	Budget 1996 £'000	Estimate 1997 £'000	Budget 1998 £'000
EXPENDITURE					
MINISTRY					
Stipends - local and special ministries	11,766	11,615	12,578	11,842	12,081
Stipends - CRCWs	121	133	153	153	163
Resettlement and other grants	364	354	355	297	310
Provincial moderators - stipends & expenses	354	390	353	378	390
Pension Fund additional contributions - normal	998	1,100	1,100	1,130	1,158
- exceptional	0	2,500			
	13,603	16,092	14,539	13,800	14,102
TRAINING					
College training for stipendiary ministry	676	637	760	710	730
Other training for stipendiary ministry	71	72	64	77	82
Training for non-stipendiary ministry	72	81	113	76	90
YLTO/YCWT programme	297	360	323	434	446
Support for Westminster College	53	29	55	84	100
Support for Windermere Centre	42	27	37	33	35
Support for Yardley Hastings	28	51	32	45	46
TLS course costs	7	12	11	27	32
St Andrew's Hall grant	76	78	78	80	83
	1,322	1,347	1,473	1,566	1,644
ASSEMBLY APPOINTED STAFF					
Salaries/stipends - executive staff	220	237	239	268	283
Salaries/stipends - support staff	170	181	190	199	207
Housing and expenses	84	128	111	117	121
	474	546	540	584	611
MISSION					
Council for World Mission and support of missionaries	674	689	685	662	676
Grants for national and local mission	191	186	205	206	211
Ecumenical councils	102	122	109	135	141
	967	997	999	1,003	1,028
ASSEMBLY RELATED COSTS					
General Assembly	67	71	63	97	144
Assembly committees/conferences	56	56	44	63	68
Mission Council committees/conferences	27	22	26	23	23
	150	149	133	183	235
COMMUNICATION AND EDITORIAL					
Salaries	131	139	116	157	164
Other costs	30	27	29	31	32
	161	166	145	188	196
ADMINISTRATION (support for the church nationally and locally)					
Personnel and finance - salaries	219	245	226	272	283
- other costs	18	9	10	25	25
Premises costs	146	171	142	163	166
Professional fees	65	79	50	71	73
Miscellaneous expenses	148	191	178	178	171
	596	695	606	709	718
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,273	19,992	18,435	18,033	18,534

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1998

	Actual 1995 £'000	Actual 1996 £'000	Budget 1996 £'000	Estimate 1997 £'000	Budget 1998 £'000
INCOME					
INVESTMENT INCOME					
Dividends	370	304	324	158	144
Income from World Church & Mission Fund				50	50
Interest	206	308	171	260	250
	576	612	495	468	444
GRANTS					
Memorial Hall Trust	448	448	440	448	448
New College London Trust	220	225	216	225	225
URC Insurance Company Limited	62	78	37	75	78
Department for Education & Employment	40	59	58	61	63
CWM towards cost of multi racial development worker				6	8
	770	810	751	815	822
MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	16,149	16,462	16,464	16,807	16,973
LEGACIES AND MAJOR DONATIONS	63	74		50	50
OTHER INCOME					
Sundry income	18	99	63	24	25
Provincial contributions to YLTO/YCWT programme	103	152	88	194	202
	121	251	151	218	227
PROFIT ON SALE OF PROPERTIES	128	85			
TOTAL INCOME	17,807	18,294	17,861	18,358	18,516
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) IN YEAR	534	(1,698)	(574)	325	(18)

The budget presented to the General Assembly covers expenditure and income of the following funds: Ministry and Mission, Maintenance of the Ministry, Ministerial Training, and Memorial Hall Trust Grants. In the Statement of Financial Activities on page 5 of the annual accounts all of these funds are added together and shown in the column headed Unrestricted Income Funds.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS PENSION FUND

	1996		1995	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
INCOME				
Contributions from ministers and central funds	1,345		1,384	
Transfer values received	44		1	
		1,389		1,385
Investment income	1,689		1,468	
Underwriting commission	3		3	
		1,692		1,471
Allocation toward Actuarial Deficit	3,610		1,009	
Donations	1		53	
		3,611		1,062
		6,692		3,918
EXPENDITURE				
Benefits paid	2,935		2,907	
Transfer values paid	3			
	2,938		2,907	
Management expenses	134		108	
		3,072		3,015
NET NEW MONEY AVAILABLE FOR INVESTMENT		3,620		903
Realised profit on sale of investments		3,088		1,856
Increase in unrealised surplus on investment revaluation		1,535		3,594
TOTAL INCREASE IN RESOURCES IN THE YEAR		8,243		6,353
Balance of resources at 1st January		41,271		34,918
Balance of resources at 31st December		49,514		41,271
Represented by:				
Investments		48,195		40,924
Net current assets		1,319		347
		49,514		41,271

This account should be read in conjunction with note 9 on page 14

This account is a summarised account of the full accounts of the Fund.

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

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



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