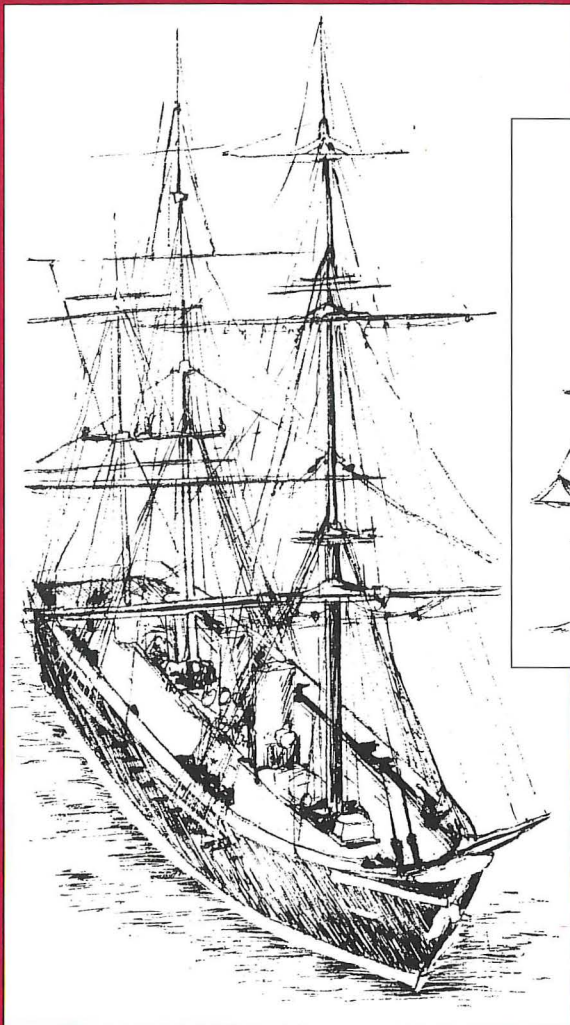
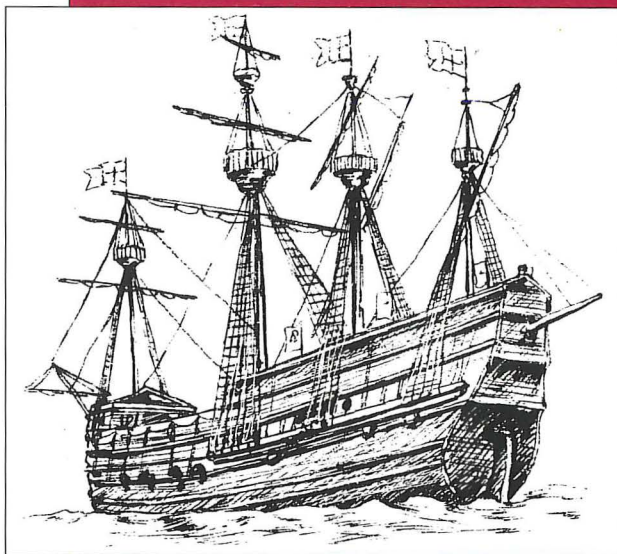


# *Assembly Record*



*HMS Warrior*



*Mary Rose*



**The United Reformed Church**  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1997**

**July 7th - 11th Portsmouth**

## MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration      \*  
For Action                      X

Reports page	Record page		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
37	11	Jubilee 2000	X		
36	12	Millennium	X	X	X
39	19	Rules of Procedure Names of Assembly Representatives		X	
76	24	Discovering the URC	*		
138	30	Rededication Sunday	X		
39	33	Constitutional Amendment Presidency at Sacraments			*
19	38	Local records	X	X	X
20	39	Good Practice		X	X
84	43	Revised Common Lectionary	X		

*Minutes of the*  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
in the United Kingdom  
**1997**

**Monday 7 July 1997**

**First Session**

**Assembly Service including Holy Communion**

At 2.30pm members of Assembly met at the Guildhall, Portsmouth where Holy Communion was celebrated. This was led by the Moderator, Dr David M Thompson, assisted by his Chaplain, the Revd Fleur Houston, and the Revd Anthony Burnham.

**Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries**

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

**Ministers who have served at home and as missionaries overseas  
and have died since Assembly 1996**

Winifred Elizabeth Helen ARNOLD  
John Norman BEARD  
Ralph Forman Godley CALDER  
Francis Colin CARPENTER  
John Dennis CLAGUE  
William Thomas Pennar DAVIES  
Mary EVANS  
Geoffrey FARRAND  
Herbert Fergusson FRANCIS  
John HALL  
Alastair George HALLIDAY  
Arthur Walter HATFIELD  
Andrew HODGSON  
John Newton HOLDER  
Jean Margaret JAMIESON (21.4.96)  
Angus Thomas JONES  
William KARLE  
John KEMP  
William Airth KENNY  
John Brown KIDD  
Walter Cecil LAZENBY  
Maurice Sutcliffe LEAH

Philip LEE-BAPTY  
John Keyworth LLOYD-WILLIAMS  
David NEVARD  
Jack Desmond OWEN  
Leonard PARKIN  
William John Leslie PAXTON  
George PERROTT  
John Trevor PHILLIPS  
David Andrew PITKEATHLY  
George Angus RUDD  
James Daniel SCHMIDT  
Kenneth Frank SCRIVEN  
Vincent John SEXTON  
John Richard SHAD  
George Ernest SHEARER  
Norman SINGLETON  
Harold Maben SPRINGBETT  
Charles Vernon SPROXTON  
Jean Brown TINTO  
John Robert WALLACE  
Lawrence Mark WHEELER



## **Missionaries who have died since Assembly 1996**

Muriel BOX  
Ethel Hope HEWISON  
Evelyn LEFEVER

Mary Gertrude LEGG  
Geoffrey MILLEDGE  
Elizabeth TAYLOR

At the conclusion of the service, the session was suspended, and the Assembly resumed at 5.30pm.

## **Constitution of Assembly**

The Moderator, Dr David M Thompson, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and time having been duly appointed, and the Chaplain, the Revd Fleur Houston, led the worship of the Assembly.

## **Induction of Moderator**

The Revd David Jenkins, Moderator-elect, was 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 Dr David M Thompson.

## **Thanks to the Retiring Moderator**

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to Dr David M Thompson and Mrs Margaret Thompson.

The Moderator then addressed the Assembly.

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

Moderator:	Revd David Jenkins
Clerk:	Revd Martin Cressey
Minute Secretary:	Mrs Christine Hardwick
General Secretary:	Revd Anthony G Burnham
Deputy General Secretary:	Revd John Waller

<b>Provincial Moderators:</b>	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 Elizabeth Caswell
	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 and Task Groups:**

Doctrine Prayer & Worship:	Dr David Thompson
Discipleship & Witness:	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
Church & Society:	Professor Malcolm Johnson
Youth & Children's Work:	Revd Stephen Thornton
Ecumenical:	Revd Murdoch MacKenzie
Ministries:	Revd Keith Forecast
Training:	Revd Dr John Sutcliffe
Finance:	Mr Graham Stacy



Communications & Editorial:  
Nominations:  
Pastoral:  
Assembly Arrangements:  
Equal Opportunities:  
Advocacy & Stewardship:  
Inter-Faith Relations:  
Health & Healing:

Mr Christopher Wright  
Revd Jessie Clare  
Revd John Johansen-Berg  
Mrs Wilma Frew  
Mrs Susan Rand  
Revd Julian Macro  
Revd Bill Mahood  
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 Ken Woods	VIII	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
IX	Revd George H Thomas	X	Revd Adrian Bulley
XI	Mrs Christine Meekison	XII	Mr John Rhys

**Additional Synod Representatives:**

I	Revd J Breslin, Mrs M Prentice, Mrs D Clarke
II	Revd R H Lewis, Revd R Wilson, Revd G Robson
III	Revd S Dears, Revd G Mercer, Mr R Latham
IV	Mrs P Evans, Revd E Brown, Mr J Wilkinson
V	Revd G Maskery, Mr J Quilter, Mr D Coaker
VI	Mrs M Frew, Mrs E Young, Miss R Greening
VII	Mrs Elizabeth Whitten, Revd D Tatem, Mr P Wade
VIII	Revd R Lowes, Revd J Davies, Revd I Fowler
IX	Revd B Collins, Dr J Mellor, Revd R Macaulay
X	Mr Bob Allen, Revd Rachel Poolman, Mrs J Wyber
XI	Mr I Findlay, Mr K Meekison, Dr D Cutler
XII	Revd M Davies, Dr J Silvan-Evans, Revd P Noble

**Synod Treasurers:**

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

**Theological College Representatives:**

Mansfield College, Oxford:

Revd C Brock,  
Mr P Burroughs

Northern College, Manchester:

Revd Dr W Houston  
Mr E Cox

Westminster College, Cambridge:

Revd L Stone,  
Ms K Stratton

Queens College, Birmingham:

Mrs M Burgess

**Youth Representatives:**

Ms J Hale, Mr J Bradbury

**Council for World Mission:**

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

**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 M Cressey, Mrs R Goodfellow, 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 J Calderley, Revd D Galloway, Revd D Herbert, Miss S Fairbairn, Mr J Heathorn, Mrs T Heathorn.
- B: Ms K Reed, Revd R Rominger, Ms M Robb, Revd G Clarke, Revd J McAuley, Revd N Husband, Mr R Rothery, Ms D Bell, Dr A Graydon, Mr P Hartley.
- C: Revd R Jones, Mrs G Mason, Revd D Roberts, Mr G Smith.
- D: Revd M Bowman, Revd C P Nevard, Mr R Harris, Mr P Hebron.
- E: Revd F Cochrane, Revd G Davies, Mrs R Fearon, Mrs J Gordon.
- F: Revd M Bunting, Mrs C Smyth.

**Province II**

- A: Mr R Clarke, Revd M Cock, Mrs A Humphreys, Revd B Hutchinson, Revd A Tomlinson, Revd S Thomas\*.
- B: Revd A Greasley, Mrs D Greasley, Revd A Lonsdale, Mrs K Lonsdale, Revd R Turnbull, Revd N Uden.
- C: Revd E Kirkman, Revd W Bahadur, Revd G Townsend, Miss D Watts, Miss K Whittle, Mr D Estill.
- D: Revd J Hollyman, Revd G McCleave, Revd D Megson, Mr C Muir, Mr N Platt.
- E: Revd M Jeffrey, Revd D Brown, Revd N Riley, Revd M Tait, Miss J Ashworth, Mr P Jeffrey, Mrs O Bradley, Miss C L Lane.
- F: Revd S Bidmead, Revd A Harrison, Revd A Harper-Massey, Revd B J O'Neill, Mr N Burnell, Mr R Banwell, Revd H Catton, Mr D Cooper, Mr K Whiting, Mr N Jones.
- G: Revd S Armitage, Mr J McCullagh, Revd D Batchelor, Revd S Thomas, Miss S Salmon.

**Province III**

- A: Revd T N Clarke, Revd N J Lemon, Revd W A Burgess, Revd A Holroyd, Mr A Helsby, Mr H Klein, Mrs B Martin, Ms K Thorpe.
- B: Revd E Boon, Revd J Gordon, Revd J Seddon, Mrs A Brighthouse, Mr W Woodside, Mrs M Traverse.
- C: Revd H Gabbott, Revd I Ring, Revd T Jamison, Mr P Bate, Miss E Haskell, Mr J McStravick.
- D: Revd W A Blue, Revd S C Bevan, Revd M McInnes, Miss L Acty, Mr R Roberts, Mr A Renner.

**Province IV**

- A: Revd M J Wear, Revd Dr B S Holt, Revd D Coote, Mr J Barnett, Mrs D Hoyland, Mrs T Murray.
- B: Revd B Hill, Revd F Houston, Revd D Stec, Mrs J Cook, Mrs H Morrison, Miss E Houston.
- C: Revd R J Way, Revd M Ayton, Revd D Miller, Mrs A Coates, Mrs J Howse, Miss D Hallas.
- D: Revd C Ellefsen, Revd R Jones, Mrs P Wilson, Mr A Lowe, Mr A Jones, Mr S Eteson.
- E: Revd J Jenkinson, Revd D Hudston, Mr C Priestley, Mrs D Hitch.
- F: Revd G Courtney, Revd N Haslam, Revd R Tusting, Mr A R Jones, Mr R Sheard, Mrs D Courtney.

**Province V**

- A: Revd K Burchell, Revd S Willett, Mrs J Jackson, Miss W Dunn, Revd B S McDowell, Revd S Sawyer, Mr D Goodwill, Mr N Greville.
- B: Mrs D Beale, Mrs I Wren, Revd M Clarke, Revd D Howlett, Revd P Smith, Dr J Coaton.
- C: Revd D Miller, Revd J Findlay, Revd P Gray, Mrs A Gray, Mr J Reid, Mr M Breeze.
- D: Revd M Bond, Revd R Eveleigh, Mrs D Eveleigh, Revd M Taylor, Mr J Kemp, Mr A N Gilbey.

- E: Revd B Drake, Miss M Hodson, Revd H Temple, Mr S Walker, Revd C Wilton, Ms S Yaxley.  
(Note: Mr Temple tendered his resignation as an Assembly representative to the District Secretary, following the Tuesday vote in favour of Resolution 19)
- F: Revd E Allen, Revd R Davis, Mrs T Davis, Mr J Jesudoss, Revd M Dunn\*.

#### **Province VI**

- A: Revd J Spragg, Revd B Griffin, Revd C Price, Revd G Tate, Revd D Haslam, Mr A Spragg, Mr G Harrison, Mr F Jenkins.
- B: Revd T Bayliss, Revd A Thomasson, Revd P Frampton, Mrs I Jacob, Miss M Jones, Mr D Lacey.
- C: Revd J Brown, Revd M Renton, Revd R Mitchell, Mrs R Allman, Mr N Jacobowitz, Mrs M Thomas.
- D: Revd D Goldie, Revd L Reynolds, Mrs M Reynolds, Miss S Cowmeadow, Revd J Winterbottom, Miss P A Brown.
- E: Revd K Newborough, Revd K Chippindale, Revd T Arthur, Revd P Whittle, Mrs R Page, Mrs A Evans, Miss D Cullum, Miss D Benson, Miss H Smith, Ms J Ellis.
- F: Revd P Bedford, Revd S Jackson, Revd W Young, Miss G Margrett, Mrs M Marshall, Mrs B Rose.

#### **Province VII**

- A: Mrs R Murray, Mr P Mobbs, Revd W Murray, Revd A Chart, Revd D Gill, Ms G Hall.
- B: Revd C Croll, Revd D Atkinson, Revd T Lowe, Revd J Pugh, Dr R Jurd, Mr T Wilson, Mrs M Evans, Mr R Baker.
- C: Revd D Mather, Revd J Priest, Revd M Thomas, Mr T Andrews, Mr L Mather.
- D: Revd D Littlejohns, Revd M Mills, Revd J Whately, Mr T Collins, Mr C Mead, Mr P Westlake.
- E: Revd D Redfern, Revd K Riglin, Revd L Rapkin, Revd R Wood, Mr M Argent, Dr P Cressey, Mrs M MacLeod, Mrs M Wood.
- F: Revd A Smith.

#### **Province VIII**

- A: Revd P Snell, Revd P Ford, Revd R Cornish, Mrs P Clark.
- B: Revd A Willcocks, Revd I Kirby, Mrs J Potter, Mr I Andrews.
- C: Revd C Bowman, Revd A Sowden, Revd C Searle, Mr G Curl, Miss S King, Mrs P Shapland.
- D: Revd H P Barkham, Revd K M Coles, Dr E H Paterson, Mr R J Butland.
- E: Revd M Camroux, Revd N Whitaker, Miss S Crabb, Mrs J Pevy.
- F: Revd S Henderson, Revd S Pickard, Revd M Roberts, Revd R Riddell, Mrs A Holloway, Mrs A Kinnersley, Mrs B Powell, Mrs A Evans.
- G: Revd N George, Mr D Walter.
- H: Revd T MacMeekin, Mrs P Martin.
- J: Revd J Wiggall, Mrs Wiggall.

#### **Province IX**

- A: Revd M Elvin, Revd H Morgan, Revd D Harkison, Revd M Tilley, Revd G Collins, Revd S Sivour, Mr R Mudd, Mr M Gibbins, Mrs S Brown, Mr D Poulton.
- B: Revd E Browne, Revd F Noden, Revd H Sharp, Revd S Thomas, Mrs J Adamson, Mrs B Fleming, Dr D Hoadley, Miss C Hardwick.
- C: Revd P McManus, Revd D J Williams, Revd D M Thomas, Mrs J Antcliffe, Mr M Compston, Mr A Blunt.
- D: Dr J Butler, Mrs S Brooks, Mr S McDonald, Revd P Hall, Revd G Bowerman, Revd D Macalister, Revd N Edsall, Miss E Mitchell.
- E: Prof R Mead, Revd N Mead, Revd K Pryde, Revd K Green, Revd J Wyatt, Mr J Dryburgh, Mr J Goddard, Miss M Nance, Miss L Young, Revd B Stops.

#### **Province X**

- A: Revd B Clarke, Revd H Graham, Revd Dr A Jeffers, Revd A Mills, Revd T Spring, Mrs S Chinn, Ms A Barden, Mr D Horrex, Ms S Rudofsky, Mrs J Turner.
- B: Miss R Bailey, Mr D Hogge, Mr B Klessel, Revd C Allen, Revd S Hynd, Revd R Pagan.
- C: Revd B Maitland, Revd D Witts, Mrs R Grindle, Mr M Scott, Mr R Webster.
- D: Revd A Wilson, Revd J Hardaker, Revd S Lewis, Revd T Ruffell, Mr N Muire, Mr D Ilines, Mr S Freeman.



E: Revd P Colwell, Revd M Hazell, Revd J Macaulay, Mrs W Cooper, Ms R Watson, Miss S Berry.  
F: Revd R Alford, Revd A Sardeson, Revd J Webber, Ms S Fox, Ms L Trenkel, Mr A Woodgate.

### **Province XI**

A: Mrs S Black, Revd A Mabbs, Revd R Irving, Revd B Stuart, Revd Dr B White, Mr F Forbes, Mrs N Owen, Mrs D Poulton.  
B: Revd P Barnes, Revd L Charlton, Revd P Jones, Revd B Pavitt, Miss J Campbell, Miss S Greenslade, Mr T Winstanley, Miss C Waterson.  
C: Revd I Bird, Revd J Gould, Revd R Furley-Smith, Revd J Thomas, Mrs J Halden, Mrs M Parfit, Miss C Squires, Ms G Trew.  
D: Revd K Street, Revd J Titlow, Revd A Wharton, Mr J Ellis, Mrs S Fender, Mr M Neads.  
E: Revd H Lanham, Revd J Braund, Revd J Lawson, Mrs L Charnley, Mr L Gammon, Miss D Nye.  
F: Revd S Ellis, Revd B Stone, Revd E Symmons, Dr G Campling, Mrs R Smith, Mr K Wright.  
G: Revd K Lynch, Revd C Martin, Revd R Whittle, Mr G Dearsley, Mrs I Tuley, Mr P West.

### **Province XII**

A: Revd D Coleman, Revd K Jones, Revd S Walkling, Mrs E Charlton, Mrs L Davies, Mr R Jones, Mrs J Gray.  
B: Revd P Webb, Revd R Gordon, Revd S Copley, Mrs L Webb, Mr A Gordon, Mr W Arnold.  
C: Revd K Graham, Revd K Ofstad, Revd P Scotland, Revd N Head, Mrs J Jones, Dr A Jones, Mr H Morrison, Mr K Jenkins.  
D: Revd K Fabricius, Revd K Watson, Mr S Jones, Mrs B Willis.  
E: Revd A Gregory, Revd J Joseph, Mr T Lane, Mrs M Lane.  
F: Revd G Rhys, Revd M Woodland, Miss L Bessant, Miss K Hardcastle.

### **VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING OTHER CHURCHES**

Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland:	The Revd Frank Boyd
Church of England:	The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt (offered a vote but declined)
Church of Scotland:	The Revd Sheilagh Kesting
Congregational Federation:	Mr Frank Wroe
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain:	Chaplain Eileen Boyce (did not arrive)
Methodist Church:	Mrs Rosemary Wass
Moravian Church in England and Wales:	Mr Ashton McIntosh
Presbyterian Church in Ireland:	The Revd David Campbell
Presbyterian Church of Wales:	The Revd Robert Bebb
Roman Catholic Church:	The Revd Bernard Longley (offered a vote but declined)
Scottish Congregational Church:	The Revd W S Drummond
United Free Church of Scotland:	The Revd J G McPhee
Union of Welsh Independents:	The Revd Evan D Morgan

## **Reception of Guests**

The Revd Derek Wales, Moderator, Wessex Province, introduced local visitors and those present were received by the Moderator:

The Revd Nigel Collinson, Chairman of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church.

Lt Col John Pearce-Haydon, Divisional Commander, Salvation Army.

Bishop Crispian Hollis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth.

The Revd Geoffrey Reynolds, Area Superintendent, Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Stevenson, Anglican Bishop of Portsmouth

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

### **Visitors and Assembly Members from other UK Churches**

Baptist Union of Great Britain:

The Church of Scotland:

The Revd Frank Boyd\*

The Revd Sheilagh Kesting\*

The Rt Revd Alexander McDonald

Mrs Helen McDonald

The Rt Revd Charles Heriot

Mrs Audrey Heriot

The Revd John Campbell

Mrs Janey Campbell

The Congregational Federation:

Mr Frank Wroe\* (Monday)

Pastor Graham Adams (Tuesday to Friday)

Scottish Congregational Church:

The Revd W S Drummond\*

The Revd John Arthur

Mrs Jean Arthur

The International Ministerial Council  
of Great Britain:

Chaplain Eileen Boyce\*

The Methodist Church:

Mrs Rosemary Wass\*

The Moravian Church;

Mr Ashton McIntosh\*

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

The Revd David Campbell\*

The Very Revd Dr Harry Allen

Mrs Florence Allen

The Revd J A Noble

Mrs Lynda Noble

The Presbyterian Church in Wales:

The Revd Robert Bebb\*

Mrs Jacqui Bebb

Union of Welsh Independents:

The Revd Evan D Morgan\*

The United Free Church of Scotland:

The Revd J G McPhee\*

The Roman Catholic Church in England  
& Wales:

The Revd Bernard Longley

The Church of England:

The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt\*

Free Church Federal Council:

The Revd Dr Kathleen Richardson

Action of Churches Together in Scotland:

The Revd Maxwell Craig

*\*Voting Member of Assembly*

## **International Visitors**

The Church of Bangladesh:

China Christian Council:

The Presbyterian Church in Malaysia:

The Presbyterian Church in Singapore:

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan:

Church of South India:

Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz:

Evangelische Kirche der Union:

United Church Board for World Ministries (USA):

The Rt Revd B D Mondal

The Revd Su De-Ci

The Revd Wong Fong Yang

The Revd Teo Ee Hock

The Revd Hsu Tien-Hsien

The Revd C S Yang

The Most Revd Dr V P Dandin

Herr Dr Horst Hahn

Mrs Hahn

Oberkirchenrat Gerhard Linn

Mrs Linn

The Revd K Ziebell

The Revd Nigel Collinson & Herr Dr Horst Hahn responded to the welcome on behalf of the guests.

## **Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church**

The Moderator, assisted by his Chaplain, the Revd Stephen Thornton, led a service of celebration and rededication.

The former General Secretary and Moderator of General Assembly, the Revd Arthur L Macarthur, gave a reflection.

The twelve provinces each presented a symbol of their work and offered prayer. Assembly adjourned to meet again in the Guildhall at 9.30 the next morning.

## **Tuesday 8 July 1997**

After opening worship led by the Moderator's Chaplain, the Revd Stephen Thornton, the Moderator welcomed the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Tony Golds and Mrs Golds and invited the Lord Mayor to address the Assembly. The Lord Mayor welcomed the Assembly back to Portsmouth and detailed developments in the city over the last four years.

The Moderator thanked him for his good wishes.

The Moderator welcomed the members, particularly those here for the first time. He then introduced the platform party which included the Minutes Secretary, Mrs Christine Hardwick, and the Clerk-Elect, Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee presented the Order of Business and called attention to the fact that Resolution 8 would be taken before Resolution 7.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee also moved that Resolution 19 and subsequent resolutions on human sexuality be taken by paper ballot.

This was agreed.

If there was time in the evening Resolution 40 would then be moved.

She also informed Assembly that the press were recording direct from the microphones that day.

## **Election of Assembly Moderator**

The Clerk explained that members could indicate an order of preference when voting for the 1998/9 Assembly Moderator on the green voting slip. The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer before inviting members to cast their votes.



## **Mission Council**

The Moderator called on Dr David Thompson to introduce the Mission Council Report.

Dr Thompson called attention to the appointment of a Multi-Racial and Multi-Cultural Development Worker (with the help of CWM) the Revd Majorie Lewis-Cooper of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Questions were raised about the inequalities between Provinces regarding car loans and the subsequent effect on Ministers and it was agreed the Resource Sharing Task Group would look into this.

In response to another question Dr Thompson further explained the Mission Council concern about theological groupings; he confirmed the right of individual URC ministers to become members of the Evangelical Alliance.

Professor Malcolm Johnson, on behalf of the Mission Council's Millennium Task Group and with the agreement of the Revd Elizabeth Caswell as his seconder, asked Assembly to allow an addition to the third paragraph of Resolution 8 so that it read as follows;

*"notes the link already made with Jubilee 2000 and the plans for significant support of the campaign through Commitment for Life;"*

Assembly agreed. The motion thus altered was then put and agreed.

### **RESOLUTION 8**

**Jubilee 2000**

**Assembly**

**endorses and commends the 'Jubilee 2000' programme of action to every local church as a model for a workable and acceptable solution to the problem of poor country debt;**

**urges church members and adherents to sign - and to secure at least one additional signature for - the supporting petition being distributed in the Information Service;**

**notes the link already made with Jubilee 2000 and the plans for significant support of the campaign through Commitment for Life;**

**commends the British Government for their proposals on debt relief in recent years and urges them to press with more vigour for the adoption of such proposals within the International Monetary Fund and G7 nations, especially in relation to sub-Saharan Africa.**

Revd Elizabeth Caswell introduced Resolution 7 and asked particularly that churches participate in a period of study during 1999. She then moved:

### **RESOLUTION 7**

**The Millennium**

**Assembly**

**accepts that "the task of the churches in the Millennium is to forge a link between the year 2000, the name of Jesus Christ and the possibility of personal meaning and public hope" and encourages local churches to become involved;**

**adopts the idea of 1999 being a year of commitment to Jesus Christ and urges Synods, District Councils and local churches to participate;**

**agrees that the United Reformed Church should participate along with other churches if there is an appeal for funds approved by the Churches Together in England Millennium Co-ordinating Group or by similar groups within ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) and CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales).**

This was agreed.

The Assembly Arrangements Committee Convener Mrs Wilma Frew asked members to keep mobile phones switched off during Assembly. She also asked members if they agreed to having television cameras recording the Human Sexuality debate. It was agreed that they could be present in the gallery.

The Moderator invited Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow to speak on behalf of Mission Council to introduce the debate on Human Sexuality. She described the process that had been followed in finding out the Church's views on these issues and although the response was limited (only 29 % of Churches actually responded) it was acknowledged that those responses encompassed a wide range of views from the most conservative to the very liberal.

Resolution 17 was moved.

## **RESOLUTION 17**

## **Human Sexuality and Unity**

### **Assembly recognises**

- a) **the seriousness of the issues of human sexuality and their implications for acceptable behaviour and lifestyles among Christians; and**
- b) **the lack of agreement in the responses submitted to General Assembly by local churches, District Councils and Provincial Synods concerning aspects of the contemporary debate on human sexuality and the teaching and application of scripture;**

### **and therefore**

- 1 **believes that these disagreements, though serious, must not be allowed to injure the unity and peace of the United Reformed Church;**
2. **encourages local churches, District Councils and Provincial Synods to apply with wisdom and sensitivity the pastoral practice and discipline set out in the Basis of Union and Structure of the United Reformed Church, in a way which respects the rights of personal conviction and which does not override conscientious decisions in these matters nor use such decisions as a reason for breaking the fellowship of the United Reformed Church;**
3. **calls on those who exercise pastoral care of members, elders and ministers in the Church to seek ways of ensuring that all those who experience rejection because of their convictions in these matters are sustained within the fellowship of the Church held together by Jesus Christ.**

The Moderator asked that there be no applause to speeches as he felt this would undermine the spirit of unity of the General Assembly.

After discussion the Clerk responded to a question by the Revd Arthur MacArthur assuring Assembly that existing responsibilities with regard to candidature and eligibility were not being removed. Dr David Thompson spoke on the position regarding the training of candidates.

This Resolution was carried.

## **Afternoon Session - Tuesday 8th July 1997**

After lunch the Moderator invited Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow to introduce Resolution 18.

18. Assembly,  
noting the requests made in a number of responses from local churches, District Councils and Provincial Synods for further time and space to reflect on these matters, asks Mission Council to arrange for further work to be done, ecumenically where appropriate and possible, on

- a) the nature of Biblical authority for the life of the church;
  - b) the relationship between the authority of General Assembly and the other Councils of the Church;
  - c) the matter of ordination and human sexuality;
- and also to consider ways in which the Church may be assisted in reflection on the wider issues of human sexuality.

After discussion the Moderator invited the Revd Andrew Mills to propose the following amendment to this Resolution; this was seconded by the Revd Charles Croll.

Amend further work to be done, ecumenically where appropriate and possible

to read further work to be done, ecumenically *and in consultation with our partner churches through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Council for World Mission (CWM)* where appropriate and possible.

This was carried.

A second amendment to this Resolution was proposed by Revd Andrew Mills and seconded by Revd Charles Croll.

Amend be assisted in reflection on the wider issues of human sexuality

to read be assisted in reflection on the wider issues of human sexuality. *To enable this process Assembly asks Mission Council to establish a timetable for these reflective processes and ensure appropriate representation on necessary consultative groups and working parties.*

This amendment was carried by 262 votes to 203, after tellers had been called.

The following amendment was proposed by Revd Malcom Hanson and seconded by Revd David Helyar.

Amend Add to 18(c) the following words

including the implications of ordaining ministers in committed homosexual relationships

This was carried

The Convener then spoke to the amended Resolution urging Assembly to accept it.

## RESOLUTION 18

## Human Sexuality and further work

**Assembly,**  
**noting the requests made in a number of responses from local churches, District Councils and Provincial Synods for further time and space to reflect on these matters, asks Mission Council to arrange for further work to be done, ecumenically and in consultation with our partner churches through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Council for World Mission (CWM) where appropriate and possible, on**

- a) the nature of Biblical authority for the life of the church;**
  - b) the relationship between the authority of General Assembly and the other Councils of the Church;**
  - c) the matter of ordination and human sexuality, including the implications of ordaining ministers in committed homosexual relationships;**
- and also to consider ways in which the Church may be assisted in reflection on the wider issues of human sexuality. To enable this process Assembly asks Mission Council to establish a timetable for these reflective processes and ensure appropriate representation on necessary consultative groups and working parties.**



This was carried.

After a break the Moderator indicated to Assembly that an alternative Resolution on the Order Paper would be put if Resolution 19 was not passed. This read as follows:

In the light of (a) the need for further work to be done in relation to ordination and human sexuality, (b) the deeply divided views now made evident within the Church, and (c) the present practice of the church, Assembly declares that, for the time being, it is inappropriate for any district council to ordain to the ministry of Word and Sacrament a person whom it knows to be in an active homosexual relationship

Proposer:       Revd Dr R J McKelvey  
Seconder:       Revd Sally Willett

A further Resolution had also been received and this was as follows;

The United Reformed Church, meeting in General Assembly, affirms that all people are part of God's Creation, celebrates the contribution made by lesbians and gay men to its Christian life and mission and hopes this contribution will continue.

Proposed:       Revd Peter Colwell  
Seconded:       Revd Martin Hazell

The Moderator then invited Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow to introduce and move Resolution 19.

## **RESOLUTION 19**

## **Human Sexuality and the call to Ministry**

### **Assembly**

- a) recognises**
  - 1. that no candidate admitted for training can be assured of ordination until a call is issued and accepted with the concurrence of a District Council;**
  - 2. that all decisions on candidature and on the calling of a particular minister involve seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the weighing of the strengths and weaknesses of the candidate.**
- b) declares concerning persons in a homosexual relationship that, during the process of further reflection and discussion set out in the previous resolution:**
  - 1. no local church or pastorate is to be constrained to consider or accept such a person as their minister nor any District Council constrained to concur with such a call;**
  - 2. Assembly will uphold a call to such an ordinand or minister duly issued by a local church with the concurrence of the relevant District Council (s) leading to ordination and / or induction;**
  - 3. Assembly will also uphold the refusal of a local church to call as their minister a person who is in a homosexual relationship;**
  - 4. in view of these options, the fact of a homosexual relationship shall not be the ground for rejecting a candidate for ministry during the process of selection, assessment, entry to a college or course and ministerial training.**
- c) resolves that in the case of a disagreement wherein a local church still wishes to call such a person when a District Council has refused concurrence, the relevant Synod, through an appropriate committee or commission, shall seek to secure agreement, failing which agreement the appeals procedure can be applied.**
- d) instructs the Ministries Committee to produce guidelines for the application of this decision in the cases of non-stipendiary ministers.**

Due to the high number of people who wished to address this Resolution the Moderator felt it was necessary to reduce the time allowed to each person to three minutes.

The Revd Derek Gill proposed and the Revd James Breslin seconded that the Resolution be not put. The Moderator judged that as Assembly had been asked to address the issue on a number of occasions and come to some decision the motion proposed by the Revd Derek Gill would be an unfair use of the relevant Standing Order and therefore declined to put the motion (see Standing Order 5a).

There was then a request from the Assembly floor for the Clerk to repeat the statement that he made earlier in the day clarifying Resolution 19 paragraph b4. He re-affirmed that Resolution 19 would not remove any of the responsibilities connected with candidature and eligibility for ordination but would guide those persons and councils which had these responsibilities.

The Moderator then invited Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow to reply on behalf of the Task Group.

The Moderator then called for a period of silence for members to reflect on the discussion before voting. After this he asked members to say the Grace to each other and cast their ballot.

## **Evening Session - Tuesday 8th July 1997**

At the start of the evening session the Moderator announced the result of the secret ballot on Resolution 19. A total of 523 papers were received, 8 papers were spoilt and 2 abstained. The result was as follows: 324 voted in favour of Resolution 19 and 189 voted against.

Therefore this was carried and the alternative resolution (see page 15) in consequence did not arise.

The Moderator then asked the Assembly to say the Grace to one another. He then stressed that it was important to re-affirm to those who would have liked a different outcome that there would be no pressure put on them at any level. He urged the Assembly to show sensitivity to one another and affirmed the diversity of views that were gently expressed during the afternoon discussion.

There was then a question from the Assembly floor asking the Moderator how Churches and districts could express their dissent. On the Clerk's advice, the Moderator replied that there is no formal provision in the constitution for registering dissent except by those voting members of General Assembly who invoke Standing Order 8c.

The Moderator further stated that dissent must be voiced during the course of General Assembly and that members could only dissent for themselves and not speak for their congregations or Councils. He made it clear that he regarded dissent from Resolution 19 as falling under paragraph 10 of the Basis of Union. Members who wished to record their dissent then came to the microphones.

The Clerk asked all dissenters to let the minute secretary also have their names in writing and the list of these is as follows:

### Dissent to Resolution 19

The Revd Richard Alford  
Mrs Rosemary Allman  
The Revd David Atkinson  
Mr J D Barnett  
The Revd Tom Bayliss  
The Revd Ian K Bird  
The Revd Michael Bond  
The Revd E Boon  
Mrs Annie Brighthouse  
The Revd John Braund  
The Revd David Brown  
The Revd Bill Burgess  
Mr Philip D Burroughs  
The Revd E J Caswell

The Revd Hazel Catton  
The Revd Brian Clarke  
The Revd Malcolm Clarke  
The Revd Roger E Cornish  
Mrs Jean Cook  
The Revd Simon Copley  
The Revd Charles Croll  
Mrs L M Davies  
The Revd Geoffrey Davis  
Mrs Patricia Davis  
Revd Richard F Davis  
Mr Geoffrey Dearsley  
The Revd Simon Ellis  
The Revd Mark Elvin

Mr Alan N Gilby  
Mrs Jean Gordon  
Mr W B Grieve  
The Revd Malcolm Hanson  
The Revd John A Hardaker  
The Revd Dave Harkison  
The Revd Dr B S Holt  
Mrs Jean Jackson  
Mr Howard Klein  
The Revd Brian McDowell  
The Revd Dr R J McKelvey  
The Revd Graham Maskery  
The Revd Charles S Martin  
The Revd Andrew Mills  
The Revd Monica Mills  
Miss Mary Nance  
The Rt Revd Dr Lesslie Newbiggin  
Mrs Rita Page  
Mrs June Pevy  
Mrs Wilma Prentice  
The Revd Derek Redfern

The Revd Ian Ring  
Mr Richard Roberts  
The Revd Jean Seddon  
The Revd Chris Searle  
Mrs Pat Shapland  
The Revd Allan Smith  
The Revd Paul C Snell  
The Revd Brian S Stone  
The Revd Edward Symmons  
The Revd Hamish Temple  
The Revd Simon Thomas  
The Revd John Titlow  
Mrs Margaret Traverse  
Mrs Irene Tuley  
The Revd Richard Turnbull  
The Revd Michael J Wear  
The Revd Alan Wharton  
The Revd Ray Whittle  
The Revd Sally Willett  
The Revd David J Williams

The Moderator then led Assembly in prayer.

The Moderator then asked the Revd Peter Colwell if he wished to put forward his resolution. Mr Peter Colwell stated that he and his seconder wished to withdraw the proposed resolution and this was agreed by the Assembly.

The Moderator stressed the availability of quiet areas if people wished to go and pray and be silent or receive counselling and he thanked Assembly for handling the debate with such sensitivity.

The Moderator took the opportunity to publicly thank the Mission Council Task Group, Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow, the Revd Peter Brain and the rest of the team for all the work they had done. Assembly then showed their appreciation by applause.

## **Election of Moderator of Assembly 1998/9**

The Moderator called the Revd Sandra Lloydlangston, Convener of Tellers, to announce the result of the ballot for Moderator of Assembly for 1998/9.

500 papers were returned, 1 was spoilt; Mrs Wilma Frew was duly elected. The Moderator greeted Mrs Wilma Frew and then led Assembly in prayer for Wilma and the other candidates.

The Revd Donald Hilton took the chair.

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to move Resolution 9.

### **RESOLUTION 9**

### **Discipleship, Stewardship and Witness**

**Assembly agrees to create a Discipleship, Stewardship and Witness Committee, with a Stewardship Sub-Committee, in place of the present Discipleship and Witness Committee and Advocacy and Stewardship Task Group.**

This was carried unanimously.

The General Secretary then moved Resolution 10.

## **RESOLUTION 10**

## **Increases in size of committees**

**Assembly agrees to increase the size of both the Communications and Editorial Committee and the Training Committee by two members.**

This was carried unanimously.

The General Secretary then moved Resolution 11.

## **RESOLUTION 11**

## **Changes in Rules of Procedure**

**Assembly agrees to amend paragraph 1(4) of the rules of procedure for the conduct of the United Reformed Church so that District Councils are required to send the names and addresses of their representatives to Assembly so as to reach the General Secretary not later than fourteen weeks before the meeting of the Assembly.**

This was carried unanimously.

The General Secretary then moved Resolution 14, stating that there had been no objection from Synods.

## **RESOLUTION 14**

## **Constitutional Change - Representation**

**Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 1996 to add 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.**

This was carried unanimously.

The minutes of the previous day's Assembly were presented. The Clerk stated that if there were any amendments to the Roll of Assembly these needed to be put in writing and given to him before the close of Assembly.

The minutes were approved subject to amendments of names.

The Moderator then asked the Revd David Tatem to move Resolution 40.

The Revd David Tatem noted that at the end of the third line the 'a' should be 'and'. Therefore the Resolution reads as follows:

## **RESOLUTION 40**

**General Assembly urgently requests the Officers and Mission Council to establish agreed standards for the use of IT at all levels of the denomination in order to encourage and facilitate greater use of and confidence in computer-based information sharing and networking, and to set in place the necessary support and training to enable this to develop as quickly as possible.**

Mr Jim Wilkinson seconded the Resolution and stated that if the Church was to be efficient and effective in the modern world then Information Technology must be wisely used.

The Revd David Lawrence, Convener of the IT Task Group asked for permission to speak and this was granted. He counselled caution and acknowledged the problems of standardisation of equipment that the Church would face. However, he stated that he welcomed the motion if the Church would put its weight behind a specific IT strategy.

The Resolution was then carried.

## **Communications and Editorial**

The Moderator then asked Mr Chris Wright to present the report on Communication and Editorial matters.

Mr Chris Wright addressed the Assembly and highlighted some items.

He then drew the Assembly's attention to recent URC publications.

The Moderator stated that there was no resolution; therefore the report was open to questions and comments. Questions were asked.

Mr Chris Wright replied to questions. The scope of the Christian Copyright Licensing Scheme did not yet include music but work was continuing towards this. Any abuse by postal advertisers of information published in the Ministerial yearbook was regrettable. He drew attention to the 'Statement of Rights Reserved' on the obverse of the Year Book title page but stated that there was little that could be done to prevent abuse, since the Year Book was on public sale.

The Moderator thanked Mr Chris Wright for his report.

The Moderator then invited the Revd Graham Cook to come to the platform to launch a new magazine 'Articles of Reformed Faith and Religion' which would be on sale in the bookshop.

The General Secretary then spoke to Assembly concerning the violent arrest of the Revd Timothy Njoya, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. The General Secretary informed Assembly that messages of concern would be sent to the Kenyan High Commission and Church contacts in East Africa on behalf of the URC.

The Revd Stephen Thornton, Chaplain to the Moderator, then led Assembly in prayer and meditation.

## **Wednesday, 9th July 1997**

During the opening worship the Moderator inducted the Revd Marjorie Lewis-Cooper as URC Multi-Racial and Multi-Cultural Development Worker. He then invited Marjorie to bring greetings from the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

The Moderator called upon the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee to present the timetable for the day.

The Moderator called on Revd Bill Mahood to present members of Other Faiths. He introduced Mrs Girija Nair, acting deputy head of a local school, who is a representative of the Hindu community.

The Revd Murdoch Mackenzie was invited to introduce the report of the Ecumenical Committee. He first introduced two ecumenical visitors: the Revd Graham Adams from the Congregational Federation and the Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt from the Church of England.



Under para 2.1 he apologised to Mrs Margaret Fenn that the author of the History of the English Presbyterian Mission had been wrongly reported as the Revd Eric Fenn, brother of her late husband; the actual author was the Revd Reginald E Fenn.

The Moderator then presented copies of Rejoice and Sing to:

The Revd Su De-Ci	China Christian Council
The Revd C S Yang	Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
The Revd Teo Ee Hock	Presbyterian Church in Singapore
The Revd Wong Fong Yang	Presbyterian Church in Malaysia
The Rt Revd B D Mondal	Church of Bangladesh

All the above churches were deeply influenced by the work of the Presbyterian Church of England.

Two overseas partners returning to their own churches were then greeted by the Moderator:

The Revd Andrew Midian from Papua New Guinea who has been working at Christchurch, Estover, Plymouth.

Mr Johnson Jesudoss from South India who has been working with the Peace and Justice Centre in Milton Keynes.

The Moderator welcomed the Revd John Samuel Ponnuswamy from South India who is teaching at Northern College and the Revd Martin Rafalimanana, the Evangelism Secretary of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, who holds the John Hall Scholarship at Emmanuel URC Cambridge.

The Revd David Campbell from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland had temporarily taken the place of the Revd Jim Waring but the PCI have now appointed the Revd Gabrielle Ellis.

In the report, under 3.5.2., the word 'minority' should be changed to 'ministry'.

It was pointed out that the final words of para. 3.5.3. which are 'documents on baptism and church membership have been revised' should be deleted as the consultation process has not yet been completed. After discussion the Convener replied to the points raised.

In response to a question the Revd Philip Woods spoke about the second European Ecumenical Assembly at Graz. The subject was reconciliation and he assured members that there will be opportunities to hear about the discussion which took place.

The Moderator invited the Very Revd Dr D H Allen, past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, to speak on the present situation in Northern Ireland. He concluded by thanking members for their prayer.

The Moderator asked members to join in saying hymn 627 as a prayer. The Convener then spoke about synod responses to 'Called to be One' which often called for patience and tolerance in the process.

The Convener then moved Resolution 26.

## RESOLUTION 26

## Called to be One

**The General Assembly endorses the response to the Called to be One process presented by the Ecumenical Committee and encourages its representatives attending the July Forum of Churches Together in England to seek God's guidance as to an appropriate form of visible unity for churches in England as they enter the Third Millennium.**

The Convener invited the Revd Sheila Maxey to respond on the subject of dual membership with the Church of England. Guidelines and suggestions are being produced for those situations in which this would be appropriate.

The resolution was carried.

The Convener moved Resolution 27.

## RESOLUTION 27

## Council and Committee Agendas

**General Assembly urges the councils and committees of the United Reformed Church, including the local, to head every agenda, as a matter of regular practice, with the question "what are the ecumenical implications of this agenda?"**

The Convener accepted the point that the resolution was intended to encourage an approach, not determine the layout of agenda papers.

The resolution was carried.

The Convener moved Resolution 28.

## RESOLUTION 28

## Commitment to Mission and Unity

**The General Assembly approves the response prepared by the Ecumenical Committee to *Commitment to Mission and Unity*, the report of the informal conversations between the Church of England and the Methodist Church.**

Methodist and Anglican members of Assembly spoke in warm support as did the Revd Dr Kathleen Richardson, Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council.

The Bishop of Winchester explained the position of the Church of England as an established church.

The resolution was carried.

The Revd Sheila Maxey invited Mr Desmond Curry to express thanks to the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie who is completing his term as Convener of the Ecumenical Committee.

The Revd Dr Jack McKelvey then took the chair.

He invited the Revd Malcolm Hanson to present the Provincial Moderators' report '*Passionate People*'. Mr Hanson gave examples of some projects undertaken by some smaller churches as their passionate response to their concerns. He expressed sadness at the retirement of the Revd Donald Hilton and joy at the appointment of the Revd Arnold Harrison. The Moderator greeted Donald and Ann Hilton and wished them good health and happiness. He also expressed thanks to the Revd Bill Gathercole and his wife Betty, who were not present. He welcomed the Revd Arnold Harrison as the new Moderator of Yorkshire Province. The Moderator then called for responses to the Provincial Moderators' report, to which the Revd Malcolm Hanson replied. The Moderator thanked him for his presentation and the Provincial Moderators for their report.

The Revd David Jenkins returned to the Chair and invited the Revd Elizabeth Caswell to present the Discipleship and Witness Committee report. She talked of resources that will help churches to become outward looking, including '*Partners in Learning*' and the '*Open Book*' initiative. She thanked Mrs Muriel Garrow for her work on Mission which the Assembly acknowledged with applause. The Moderator thanked the Committee for the stimulus they gave to local church life.

A presentation was given featuring a pack '*Let's Discover the United Reformed Church*' which has been produced for teachers for use in schools and will also be very useful to local churches.

## **Afternoon session - Wednesday 9 July 1997**

The Moderator invited the Clerk to present the minutes of Tuesday; the Clerk gave details of the alterations. It was agreed to receive the minutes with these changes.

The General Secretary was invited to present Resolution 5.

### **RESOLUTION 5**

### **Churches - Changes**

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

**Willmore Street, Sunderland**

**St Aidan's, Thornaby**

**Trinity URC, Bridlington**

**Radford URC**

**Maxey URC**

**Haslemere URC**

**Frilford**

**Putney URC**

**St Andrew's URC, Tatsfield**

**Williams Memorial URC, Merthyr Tydfil**

**Northern Province**

**Northern Province**

**Yorkshire Province**

**West Midlands Province**

**East Midlands Province**

**Wessex Province**

**Wessex Province**

**Southern Province**

**Southern Province**

**Wales Province**

The Moderator stated that we should give thanks for the life of these churches.

The resolution was carried.

## **New Churches**

### **RESOLUTION 6**

### **Churches - Changes**

**Assembly receives the churches and mission projects listed below as local churches and mission projects of the United Reformed Church.**

The Moderator greeted representatives of these new churches. He asked members to pray in thanksgiving for these signs of new life.

**The Airfield Church, Woodley, Reading** introduced by the Revd Derek Wales

**Reps:** the Revd Pam Richardson (URC), Mr Graham Carpenter (Methodist)

**Cloverfield Community Church, Thetford** introduced by the Revd Elizabeth Caswell.

**Rep:** Mrs Alison Romanos

**Montfort URC Mission Project, Romsey** introduced by the Revd Derek Wales.

**Rep:** the Revd Emily Browne

**Church Langley Mission Project, Harlow** introduced by the Revd Elizabeth Caswell.

**Reps:** the Revd Allan Smith (URC), Audrey Griffin (Anglican), Kate Cook (Baptist).

**New Community Church, Halstead** introduced by the Revd Elizabeth Caswell.

**Reps:** Mr Eddie Morley and Ms Elsie Horton

## Newly Ordained Ministers and Newly Commissioned Church Related Community Workers

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

### Northern Province (Moderator: David Jenkins)

Janet Calderley	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea & Widdrington
Meg Robb	Forest Hall & Killingworth LEP

### North Western Province (Moderator: Keith Forecast)

Wilfred McD Bahadur	Trinity Blackburn
Marlene Brown	Trinity Pastorate Bolton
Susan Flynn	Wythenshawe
Brenda Moore	North West Manchester District
Dr Christopher Tonge	Darwen Group

### Mersey Province (Moderator: Graham Cook)

Sarah Bevan	St Andrews, Hoylake with Meols
Timothy Clarke	Over, Winsford
John Gordon	Rainsford & Haresfinch, St Helens
Dr Graham Mercer	East Wirral Team Ministry at Highfield, Tranmere, & Higher Bebington

### Yorkshire Province (Moderator: Donald Hilton)

Richard Becher	South Leeds Team
Peter Clarkson	Wigton Moor
Carole Ellefsen	Heaton St Andrews & Wilsden

### East Midlands Province (Moderator: Malcolm Hanson)

Barry Drake	North Nottingham Group
K Philip Gray	Long Sutton and Wisbech
David M Miller	St Andrews, Peterborough
Christine Ramsden	Boulevard, Nottingham

### West Midlands Province (Moderator: Elizabeth Welch)

Diana Cullum	Broadway and Blakenall
Barry Griffin	Burslem and Tunstall
Jean Spragg	Wombourne, Wall Heath and Swindon
William Goldie Young	North West Coventry Group

### Eastern Province (Moderator: Elizabeth Caswell)

Monica Mills	Christchurch URC, Wickford
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### South Western (Moderator: Ray Adams)

Kenneth Coles	Wellington, Taunton
Ivan Fowler	Horfield & Argyle Morley, Bristol
Ian Kirby	Paignton & Foxhole, Torbay
Jennifer Mountford-Davies	Larkhall and Rush Hill, Bath

Wessex Province (Moderator: Derek Wales)

Mark Elvin	Weymouth & Portland, Dorset
Donald Macalister	Weybridge, Guildford
Michael Meachin	Royal Navy Chaplaincy Service
Heather Morgan	Mere, Dorset

Thames North Province (Moderator: Janet Sowerbutts)

Pat Clamp	St Paul's Island House & Stepney Meeting House
Chris Lawrence	Clapton Park, Hackney
Nadim Nassar	Chaplain to Universities & Colleges of London
Fiona Thomas	Bethnal Green

Southern Province (Moderator: David Helyar)

Bob Street	Tunbridge Wells
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## **Ministerial Jubilees**

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

1947

Alexander Peden DICKEY  
Dorothy Kathleen HAVERGAL-SHAW  
John MACKELVIE  
Harold Enoch OSMAR  
David Hendrik VAN DAALEN

1937

Karl Carlyle BURDETT  
Walter DICKINSON  
Elfed JONES  
Arthur Leitch MACARTHUR  
Dudley Stuart NOEL  
Mary OSBORN  
Nigel George PORTER  
Dewi RHYS

The Moderator asked the Assembly to pay tribute to these ministers, which it did with applause. He received Arthur Macarthur, Dudley Noel and Dewi Rhys: he also received the Revd Ian Latto, who had not been present at the General Assembly two years ago when he attained his diamond jubilee.

The Chaplain led Assembly in prayer in thanks for their service.

The Revd John Reardon took the Chair.

The Moderator invited the Training Committee to present their report.

The Clerk then explained to General Assembly the provision concerning reference back.

The Moderator then called the Revd Richard Alford and Revd Simon Ellis to speak to their motion to refer back Resolution 36 and the parts of the report immediately following it (1.1 to 1.6).

After several comments from the Assembly floor it was moved that the resolution be now put. This was agreed.

The motion to refer back was then put and failed to attain the required majority.

The Convener of the Training Committee, the Revd Dr John Sutcliffe then introduced the report.

The Revd David Jenkins then resumed the Chair.



The Moderator of the Church of Scotland expressed his interest in the Training Committee Report and presented four copies of the Church of Scotland Training Report to the Convener.

The Revd Keith Forecast, on behalf of the Ministries Committee, replied to some comments and questions in that the working of the two committees often overlapped.

The Convener of the Training Committee then responded.

The Moderator then asked the Convener of the Training Committee to speak to Resolution 36.

36. Assembly accepts the following qualifications for entry into the United Reformed Church Ministry:

- a) GCSE (Grade A-C) in English Language or the equivalent as an essential prerequisite.
- b) Plus one of the following:
  - i) 2 'A' Levels including at least one in a discursive subject
  - ii) 3 Scottish "Highers" including at least one in a discursive subject
  - iii) a degree from a UK University, or equivalent.
  - iv) 120 first degree credits from the Open University or other UK University working on a modular system.
  - v) An advanced GNVQ, involving a substantial quality of discursive work

The Convener then pointed out that the words 'training for' should be inserted after the words 'entry into' in the first line of the resolution. This change was accepted by Assembly.

The Moderator then took the following amendment to resolution 36 which was proposed by the Revd David Cooper and seconded by the Revd Brian O'Neill.

Assembly resolves that a candidate for entry into the United Reformed Church ministry should have at least the minimum academic qualification for entry to a degree course in the UK, together with any specific prerequisite(s) which the admitting institution in consultation with the Training Committee may impose, taking into account the candidate's age and experience.

After discussion the amendment was lost.

The Moderator then suggested that General Assembly should move to the Youth and Children's Work Report. This decision was challenged from the floor of Assembly. The Moderator then stated that there were reasons for his suggestion, as the Youth and Children's Work Team were introducing the new Pilot Development Officer, Erica Beglin, who would only be present at that time.

The Clerk also stated that Assembly should be aware that it would not be possible to finish resolution 36 that afternoon.

Assembly voted to hear the Youth and Children's Work report in full and finish the Training Report at some other time (this was done on Friday morning, see page 39).

The Convener Revd Stephen Thornton introduced the Youth and Children's Work report, emphasising the need to recognise young people and children as being part of the church.

The Convener spoke warmly of Mr Paul Franklin's work and asked the Moderator to greet Paul who will be coming to the end of his service as Youth Secretary later this year. FURY members also greeted him and presented him with gifts.

The Convener asked the Moderator to greet the Revd Erica Beglin who will become Pilot Development Officer (Master Pilot). This is an appointment made together with the Congregational Federation.

The Convener asked members to amend 4(iii) of the report to read "a National Youth prayer day is now planned for Saturday 21st February 1998".

The Convener replied to points made.

The Moderator thanked the Committee for their valuable work during the year.

He urged members to be present at the service of thanksgiving celebrating 150 years of the English Presbyterian Mission, at which he would preside in the presence of many former missionaries and overseas representatives.

The Chaplain led the Assembly in closing prayer.

## **Thursday 10th July 1997**

After morning worship the Moderator thanked those who prepared the worship to mark the 150 years of the English Presbyterian Mission, and those who came to share in it.

Notice was given of the following resolution (to be numbered 41) which the Moderator then read:

General Assembly instructs Mission Council as a matter of urgency to form a Working Group to enable sensitive care of Districts, Churches and individuals who feel pain and distress as a result of the passing of Resolution 19.

Proposer: Revd Graham Maskery

Seconder: Revd Mark Dunn

(The Resolution was put on Thursday afternoon; see page 32)

The Moderator then called on the Convener of the Church and Society, Professor Malcolm Johnson, to present the report. He outlined the breadth of the issues covered, particularly 'Commitment For Life' which it is hoped will continue to grow. He also spoke of the problem of world debts and new work to be undertaken on economics and ageing.

During the comments and questions on the report the Moderator ruled that all speeches should be limited to three minutes for the rest of Assembly.

There were no objections to this.

The Convener replied briefly due to lack of time and he called the Revd Peter Brain to speak about the Palestinian situation and the situation in Russia.

The Clerk was asked whether a motion could be brought about AIDS Advice. The Clerk stated his view that it could not because no prior notice had been given and because it would involve expenditure for the church. Motions could be taken to Synods. The Moderator so ruled.

The Convener was invited to introduce resolution 23.

Comments and questions were invited to which the Convener replied.

### **RESOLUTION 23**

### **Values in Education and the Community**

#### **Assembly**

- 1 welcomes the serious attempt made by the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) to discover what values are commonly held in different sections of society and affirms the need to continue with this exercise;**
- 2 applauds the efforts by many teachers and governors to promote such values within the ethos of their schools and colleges as they assist the development of children and young people growing up in a society which is often hostile to such values;**
- 3. believes that, in the "*promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at school*" as required under the 1988 and 1992 Education Acts, moral principles must be linked with spiritual and cultural education and therefore resists the suggestion that 'values' might be taught as a separate subject on the curriculum.**
- 4. instructs Church and Society to pass on these views to the FCFC Education Committee, the government and the SCAA.**

This was carried.

The Moderator called the Convener of the Advocacy and Stewardship Committee, the Revd Julian Macro, to introduce the report. Mr Macro drew attention to the legacy folder and the GEM programme.

He then introduced resolution 39 and asked Assembly to add to the resolution the following wording that had been omitted from the Book of Reports.

"and requests the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee to prepare material to facilitate this".

This was agreed.

## **RESOLUTION 39**

## **Rededication Sunday**

**Assembly asks local churches to observe the first Sunday in October (or other convenient date) each year as a Rededication Sunday in the United Reformed Church and requests the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee to prepare material to facilitate this.**

The Resolution was then carried.

The Moderator then thanked the Convener and the team for their leadership of the programme.

Mrs Ruth Clarke took the chair and she invited the Treasurer, Mr Graham Stacy to introduce the report of the Finance Committee.

The Treasurer introduced Resolution 29

## **RESOLUTION 29**

## **Accounts**

**Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31st December 1996. (Appendix 3)**

He apologised for the way in which the accounts had been printed in the Book of Reports in an unhelpful layout and stated there were correct copies of them available.

He reported that the actuary had produced figures showing that the deficiency in the pension fund was now reduced to £4.5 million.

The resolution was carried.

The Treasurer, Mr Graham Stacy, was invited to present Resolution 30. He expressed his pleasure in being able to move the resolution.

## **RESOLUTION 30**

## **Ministry and Mission Fund**

**Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 1996 to the Ministry & Mission Fund.**

This was carried.

The General Secretary asked for permission for the Revd Duncan Wilson to speak and moved Resolution 13 on behalf of Mission Council.

13. Assembly adopts the budget for 1998 (as set out on pages I8 and 19 of the Accounts Appendix 4 of the Book of Reports).

As Convener of the Resource Planning Advisory Group, the Revd Duncan Wilson spoke to the resolution. He emphasised the many questions that need to be answered to give the Committee the ability to plan ahead including planning for the number of ministers that are needed.

Questions and answers were invited and the Convener replied with help from the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Moderator thanked them for their contribution.

The Treasurer was called to introduce the resolution and permission was given by Assembly for the following revised wording:

## **RESOLUTION 13**

## **Budget for 1998**

**Assembly adopts the budget for 1998 shown in Appendix 4 on pages 177 and 178 of the Book of Reports, with the amendment of the following figures:**

**Stipend - local and special ministries - delete £12,081,000 replace with £12,181,000**

**Pension Fund additional contributions - normal - delete £1,158,000 - replace with £750,000**

**Ministry and Mission Fund Contributions - delete £16,973,000 - replace with £16,665,000**

**with consequential alterations to the sub-totals and totals.**

He explained that the amendments were required to reflect changes in contributions to the Pension Fund following the substantially improved outcome of the actuarial valuation as at January 1997. He also advised that similar changes would affect 1997 and increase the currently estimated surplus for that year to about £700,000. A decision on action related to this surplus would be taken later this year.

The Convener then moved the amended resolution and questions and comments were taken. The Clerk advised that a proposed amendment had arisen within the debate and could be put.

The following amendment was proposed by Revd Malcolm Hanson and seconded by Mr Ken Woods:

Add at end of resolution

"and asks Mission Council to review the number of stipendiary ministers to be included in the budget calculations."

Assurance was given that consideration of the number would happen at Mission Council; while the proposer was willing to accept the assurance, he wished Assembly to vote on this amendment.

A point of order was raised asking for further explanation of the amendment which was given by the Clerk on the basis that it would not affect the current budget.

The General Secretary then advised that if it would affect the current budget, it would be out of order. Mr Hanson thought it should affect the current budget.

The amendment was put and was lost.

Mr Clem Frank replied to a question about the cost of Assembly and the Treasurer replied to comments on the budget.

Resolution 13 was then put and carried.

The Moderator thanked all those involved in the finance of our Church and members showed their appreciation with their applause.

The Revd David Jenkins resumed the Chair and permission was given for the session to be extended to 12.45pm.

Dr David Thompson was invited to speak to resolution 12.

## **RESOLUTION 12**

## **Presidency at the Sacraments in an Emergency**

**Assembly resolves to add the following words as a footnote to paragraph 24 of the Basis of Union:**

**"The provisions of paragraph 24 are intended to establish the principle that worship should be led by representative persons recognised by the wider church as well as by the local church. The provisions do not prevent the congregation assembled for a baptismal or communion service from themselves appointing, as a church meeting, a suitable person to preside at the celebration of the sacrament in a case of emergency, for example if the expected president is taken ill or held up in travel. The provisions do not require such an action rather than a postponement of the baptismal or communion service if that seems preferable."**

He moved it on behalf of Mission Council. As this is a constitutional amendment a two thirds majority would be required. An amendment was proposed by Mr Vernon Lane and seconded by Mrs Jane Wyber.

Add after 'a church meeting'

"convened without such notice as is usual in that local church."

The Convener replied that the words 'a church meeting' refer not to business meetings of a local church but to the classical sense in which 'a church meeting' can mean a church meeting for worship. The amendment was put and was lost.

The Convener replied to further comments; he pointed out that this footnote should be read in the context of paragraph 24 which chiefly concerns presidency at the sacraments.

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

The General Secretary then proposed that in accordance with para 3(1) of the Basis and Structure Resolution 12 be referred to Provincial Synods with 23rd March 1998 as the final date for responses as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.

This was agreed.

Dr David Thompson then proposed resolution 15.

## **RESOLUTION 15**

## **Constitutional Change - Alternative Statement of Faith**

**Assembly, acting under paragraph 18 of the Basis of Union, exercises its right to make a new statement of its faith and ratifies its decision made in July 1996 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.

He defended the statement which he felt had been rejected by some on grounds that did not take into account the Commentary on the statement. However, he drew attention to the significance of the fact that four provincial synods had registered objections and explained the arguments that had led the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee to propose an amendment to the Basis of Union.

Comments and questions were raised.

A question was raised about the constitutional process and the Clerk described this and said that this meant this year's Assembly must vote on this: for this second vote by Assembly a simple majority would suffice.

A point of order was put forward but the Clerk advised that reference back could not be moved in the course of a debate without due notice under Standing Order 2d.

The Moderator began to ask whether any member wished to put a closure motion under Standing Order 5b. The Revd Robert Irving proposed that the question be now put; this was seconded and carried with a two thirds majority.

Resolution 15 was put and carried.

The Moderator offered prayers.

At this point several members expressed their dissent verbally to Assembly; the Moderator gave permission under Standing Order 8c and they were asked to register their dissent in writing; the list of these is as follows:

Dissent to Resolution 15

The Revd Richard Alford

The Revd E Boon

The Revd John Braund

The Revd Brian Clarke

Mrs L M Davies

The Revd Geoffrey Davis

The Revd Simon Ellis

The Revd Mark Elvin

The Revd John A Hardaker

The Revd Dave Harkison

The Revd Charles S Martin

The Revd Andrew Mills

Miss Mary Nance

The Revd Derek Redfern

The Revd Ian Ring

The Revd Paul Snell

The Revd Simon Thomas

The Revd John Titlow

The Revd Kevin Watson

The Revd Alan Wharton

The Revd Sally Willett

The Revd David Williams

## **Afternoon Session - Thursday 10th July 1997**

The Moderator said he had had disquiet expressed to him about the quickness with which Resolution 15 was dealt with. He said that he had felt that the Assembly was ready to vote on a motion for closure.

He invited the Revd Charles Brock to introduce Professor David Marquand, Principal of Mansfield College Oxford. The Moderator greeted him, thanked him for his presence at a lunch time meeting for members of Assembly and now in Assembly and invited him to bring a brief greeting to Assembly. Professor Marquand thanked the Assembly for inviting him.

The Moderator moved on to Synod Reports and invited the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt, to make comments on these reports. The Moderator thanked him for his comments and his presence here over the last three years.

The General Secretary requested Assembly to note the following District Boundary changes, first in the South Western Province as noted in that Synod's report (Book of Reports p. 11).

The South Western Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under para 2(4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure, that at the meeting of Synod on 15 October 1996 it was agreed that Wells United Church (URC/Baptist) move from Bristol District to Taunton District.

In addition:

The Eastern Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under para 2 (4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure, that Synod agreed that Ongar United Reformed Church move from Chelmsford District to West Essex United Area (Methodist/URC), to facilitate the sharing of ministry between Church Langley Mission Project and Ongar.

The Thames North Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under para 2 (4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure, that at the meeting of the Synod Executive, acting on behalf of the Synod, it was agreed that Hertford URC move from the St Albans to the Lea Valley District.

Assembly moved to Synod resolutions. The Revd Peter Poulter proposed and the Revd James Breslin seconded.

1. General Assembly instructs

- (i) each Province, District and local church to deposit its significant records (including those of predecessor constituent denominations), when no longer required for current administrative purposes, in the appropriate local records repository on a permanent loan basis,
- (ii) The United Reformed Church History Society to release the local records it holds at Tavistock Place (or elsewhere) of mainly Presbyterian churches, Presbyteries etc.,
- (iii) The General Secretary, in conjunction with (a) The United Reformed Church History Society and (b) representatives of the archives profession, if available, to provide guidelines on retention, location, disposal etc. for the records of the United Reformed Church at all levels, local, national, provincial, district, local church, ecumenical etc.

An amendment was moved by Mr David Walton that the words "General Assembly instructs" be replaced by "General Assembly requests". This was accepted by the proposer and seconder.

This was carried.

The Moderator called Dr David Thompson to move an amendment and this was formally seconded by Revd E Brown, to delete sections (i) and (ii).

The Moderator invited comments and questions which were answered by the seconder of the motion. The amendment was lost by 156 for and 175 votes against, after tellers had been called.

A point of order was raised about the timing of the lights. The Moderator proposed and it was agreed to reduce the time for speeches to two minutes for the rest of this debate. This was agreed.

A second amendment was proposed by the Revd Hugh Graham and the Revd Peter Colwell:

To add after the words "on a permanent loan basis....."

"Assembly further requests that the United Reformed Church History Society undertake to maintain a central record of material placed on permanent loan and the location of that material, and to that end instructs each Province, District and local church to provide the Society with the necessary information."

to add

"(iv) each Province to undertake to compile and maintain a record of items of historical value which form an integral part of the record of a local church's history, for example items of furniture or communion silver".

The proposer and seconder agreed to accept the amendment as a re-wording and the Assembly agreed to this.

The amended Resolution was carried.

## RESOLUTION 1

## Church Records

### General Assembly requests

- (i) each Province, District and local church to deposit its significant records (including those of predecessor constituent denominations), when no longer required for current administrative purposes, in the appropriate local records repository on a permanent loan basis. Assembly further requests that the United Reformed Church History Society undertake to maintain a central record of material placed on permanent loan and the location of that material, and to that each instructs each Province, District and local church to provide the Society with the necessary information.
- (ii) The United Reformed Church History Society to release the local records it holds at Tavistock Place (or elsewhere) of mainly Presbyterian churches, Presbyteries etc.
- (iii) The General Secretary, in conjunction with (a) The United Reformed Church History Society and (b) representatives of the archives profession, if available, to provide guidelines on retention, location, disposal etc. for the records of the United Reformed Church at all levels, local, national, provincial, district, local church, ecumenical etc.
- (iv) each Province to undertake to compile and maintain a record of items of historical value which form an integral part of the record of a local church's history, for example items of furniture or communion silver.

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow took the Chair and invited the Revd Graham Cook to propose Resolution 2 on behalf of Mersey Province, seconded by Mr W Woodside.

2. General Assembly resolves to ensure that the aims of the document '*Good Practice*' are implemented and monitored in the life of the local churches of the United Reformed Church through the work of the Youth and Children's Work Committee.

With the consent of Assembly the resolution was re-worded to read:

## RESOLUTION 2

## Good Practice

**General Assembly resolves to ensure that the aims of the document '*Good Practice*' are implemented and monitored in the life of the local churches of the United Reformed Church through the Provincial Synods and District Councils overseen by the Assembly Youth and Children's Work Committee**

This was carried.

The Moderator invited the Revd Trevor Jamison to propose Resolution 3, seconded by the Revd Ian Ring. The proposer asked permission to re-word the resolution, taking up proposals made for its amendment.

This was agreed and the amended resolution was moved; during discussion a further re-wording (the place of the word 'unnecessarily') was agreed.

## RESOLUTION 3

## Media Standards

**General Assembly resolves that all branches of the media, in particular television, radio and the press, be made aware of the offence which is given to many people when the names of Jesus Christ and God are used unnecessarily in a profane and irreligious context.**

The resolution was carried.

The Moderator invited the Revd Chris Searle to move Resolution 4.

4. General Assembly expresses its concern at the injustice and oppression of the people of Burma by the present military regime (S.L.O.R.C.) and urges the British Government urgently to review its policy of trading with Myanmar (Burma) until its illegal government allows the democratic process fully and completely to take place. The General Assembly also urges the British Government to use its influence to assist aid reaching the displaced people on the border of Myanmar and Thailand.

Assembly agreed that, in view of the change in government in the United Kingdom, the published resolution could be reworded as set out below.

Revd Craig Bowman seconded the resolution.

A further amendment was proposed by Mr Alistair Jones and seconded by the Revd Carole Ellefsen to substitute "people of Myanmar" in place of "people of Burma". This was agreed. After further comments the amended resolution was carried.

## RESOLUTION 4

## Human Rights in Myanmar (Burma)

**General Assembly expresses its concern at the injustice and oppression of the people of Myanmar by the present military regime (S.L.O.R.C)**

**We welcome the changes made by the new British Government arising from its current review of its trading policy with Myanmar (Burma).**

**We urge them to continue their efforts until the current illegal regime allows the democratic process fully and completely to take place.**

**The General Assembly also urges the British Government to use its influence to assist aid reaching the displaced people on the border of Myanmar and Thailand.**

The Revd David Jenkins returned to the chair and he proposed that the Assembly move to Resolution 41.

In the debate the Clerk offered the following constitutional comment:

Resolution 19, as was explained on Tuesday, is an exercise of Function (x) of the General Assembly "to interpret all forms and expressions of the polity practice and doctrinal formulations of the United Reformed Church"; Resolution 19 is therefore before the other Councils of the church, including church meetings, as the interpretative judgement of Assembly on where the URC is now in terms of Basis and Structure. It is a resolution qualified by reference to a process of study to be undertaken under Resolution 18. While Resolution 19 will not be subject to any necessary vote in any council or local church, they are free to express their views through the study process and/or to the Mission Council, on where the URC ought to move for the future in the light of Resolution 19's interpretation of where the URC is now.



The Moderator invited Revd Graham Maskery to present Resolution 41. This was seconded by the Revd Mark Dunn.

41. General Assembly instructs Mission Council as a matter of urgency to form a Working Group to enable sensitive care of Districts, Churches and individuals who feel pain and distress as a result of the passing of Resolution 19.

The Moderator called on the General Secretary to propose an amendment. He associated himself and the Moderator with this concern. The amendment moved by the General Secretary was seconded by Mrs Wilma Frew.

Delete the words "Mission Council" and substitute "the Officers of the Assembly". Add the words "and asks Mission Council to review the work of the group at its next meeting" at the end of the final line.

The General Secretary also said it was necessary to communicate with all our ministers and churches so that the true picture could be given; in addition the Moderator would write a pastoral letter to accompany this communication. (see Appendix 1, page 51)

The proposer was grateful for the sharpening of the resolution and the concern expressed. The amendment was carried and the resolution was discussed; the General Secretary and the proposer responded.

The amended resolution was put.

## RESOLUTION 41

**General Assembly instructs the Officers of Assembly as a matter of urgency to form a Working Group to enable sensitive care of Districts, Churches and individuals who feel pain and distress as a result of the passing of Resolution 19 and asks Mission Council to review the work of the group at its next meeting.**

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Moderator called the Revd Keith Forecast to present the report on Ministerial Discipline on behalf of Mission Council. He proposed resolution 20 to ratify the proposal agreed last year.

## RESOLUTION 20

## Ministerial Discipline - Constitutional Change

**The Assembly ratifies its decision made in July 1996 to amend the Basis and Structure of the United Reformed Church in accordance with the resolutions agreed by the necessary two thirds majority numbered 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 with Part I of the Annex as printed in Appendix 2 of the Assembly Reports 1997.**

The General Secretary reported that no objection had been received from Synods. After discussion, questions were replied to. The Revd Ian Ring asked that we suspend Standing Order 3a to refer this matter back. The Clerk pointed out the problems of this and the Moderator ruled that the motion was out of order in terms of Standing Order 12a.

The Convener answered some of the points raised and asked permission for Mr Hartley Oldham, the legal adviser, to reply to further points.

Resolution 20 was carried.

The Moderator asked permission for Assembly to continue until 5.30pm. This was agreed.

The Convener proposed resolution 21.

## **RESOLUTION 21**

## **Ministerial Discipline - Rules of Procedure**

**Assembly adopts, for the carrying out of the Section 0 Process defined in Resolution 14 (1996), the Rules of Procedure set out in Part II of the Annex to this report to Assembly.**

He emphasised that all the comments submitted had been listened to and the Rules of Procedure submitted last year had been appropriately changed. A set of guidelines is also being prepared. Minor changes that are needed will be noted and brought to Mission Council or Assembly. If agreed, the Rules will come into force immediately and any current discipline cases should be brought into the process as appropriate, and so far as possible without repeating work or investigations already undertaken. Comments and questions were raised, answers were given by the legal adviser and the Convener.

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly.

Resolution 22 was presented by the Convener.

## **RESOLUTION 22**

## **Ministerial Discipline - Indemnity**

**Assembly resolves that the United Reformed Church shall provide a full indemnity for those persons who act as members of any Panel, Commission or Group appointed in accordance with the Section 0 Process as defined in Resolution 14 (1996) in respect of all actions, proceedings, cost, claims and demands of any kind arising out of the Section 0 Process, so long as such persons have not acted maliciously or in blatant disregard of their responsibilities under the Section 0 Process.**

This was carried.

The Moderator thanked members for their patience.

## **Evening Session - Thursday 10th July 1997**

The Moderator invited the Most Revd Dr V P Dandin, the Moderator of the Church of South India, to address the assembly to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Church of South India in September. Dr Dandin brought the greetings of the church, told us of some of their celebrations and encouraged us to search for further unity in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Moderator assured him of our prayers and asked members to affirm the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Rt Revd Dr Leslie Newbiggin as a bishop of that Church. He was greeted by the Moderator; after applause, he thanked Assembly for the honour.

The Moderator called on the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee to inform Assembly of the Order of Business.

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce Resolution 16 on behalf of Mission Council.

**RESOLUTION 16****Negotiations with the Scottish Congregational Church**

**Assembly confirms the decision of Mission Council to agree to the request of the Scottish Congregational Church to re-open negotiations with a view to effecting the union of our two denominations as soon as possible.**

He outlined the history of the relationship of the URC with the Scottish Congregational Church and outlined the reasons for pursuing these negotiations. After a number of contributions Assembly voted unanimously in favour of the resolution.

The Moderator invited Dr David Thompson to introduce the report of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee. Questions and comments were replied to by the Convener; in particular he gave further indication of the nature of the Committee's concern about grouping within the church to foster particular theological viewpoints. He recalled divisions that had occurred in the past through the development of such groupings, not by their own intention, e.g. in the history of the Disciples of Christ and the Southern Baptist Convention in North America.

Dr Thompson then moved Resolution 24.

**RESOLUTION 24****Holy Living**

**Assembly notes the statement on holy living prepared by the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee.**

After comments from the floor of Assembly, Dr Thompson replied. Resolution 24 was carried overwhelmingly.

The Convener was invited to introduce Resolution 25.

**RESOLUTION 25****Revised Common Lectionary**

**Assembly welcomes the publication of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, notes the increasing use of the lectionary in other churches in the United Kingdom, and agrees to commend it for use in the United Reformed Church in place of that printed in the 1989 *Service Book*.**

This was carried.

The Moderator affirmed the service that Dr David Thompson had given as Convener of Doctrine, Prayer & Worship Committee and Assembly showed that appreciation with applause.

The Moderator invited the Conveners of Equal Opportunities, the Methodist/URC Health & Healing Development Group and Inter-Faith Relations to come to the platform. Members of Assembly were invited to ask questions about these reports to which the Conveners responded.

The Clerk was invited to present the Minutes covering Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Thursday morning. He gave details of corrections that needed to be made and re-iterated that dissent to resolutions could be registered in writing until the end of the Assembly.

Assembly accepted the Minutes.

The platform party then left the stage and FURY presented an imaginative video explaining what FURY stands for.

The Chaplain then led Assembly in closing prayers.

## **Friday 11th July 1997**

The Chaplain led the Assembly in opening worship, after which the Moderator thanked the Revd Ray Adams for his share in Assembly worship as cantor and FURY for their video and all the effort they had put into the entire presentation.

The Moderator then called upon the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee to outline the order of business for the day and emphasised the amount of business remaining.

The Moderator then invited Dr David Thompson to present the Address to the Throne for Assembly's approval. After a few amendments this was agreed.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

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

We offer our congratulations to you and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh as you celebrate your Golden Wedding this year.

As a nation we have recently elected a new parliament which has led to a change of Government. The Assembly supports the commitment of your ministers to work for the reduction of poverty and the increase of opportunities for life-fulfilling employment. As a church we believe that our society will only flourish if it is based on sound moral and spiritual values; we welcome the fact that this is increasingly recognised today and our Assembly has affirmed the need to continue this work.

The Assembly looks forward to a celebration of the Millennium which will bring out the significance of Jesus Christ for our history as a nation, whilst being sensitive to the character of modern Britain as a multi-faith society. We are urging your ministers to support proposals to cancel the unpayable debts of the poorest countries of the world so that the year 2000 may be a true jubilee.

This year has also seen the return of Hong Kong to China where you were represented by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at the ceremonies to mark this occasion. We welcome your message of continuing concern for and interest in all the people there. As a Church we have historic links with Hong Kong and we shall maintain our links with the Church there and in the rest of China. This year we have celebrated 150 years of the missionary work of the former Presbyterian Church of England, which has particular links with China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and Bangladesh and we have welcomed to our Assembly representatives of the churches founded as a result of that work.

The Assembly has shared the pain of continuing violence in Northern Ireland and prays with its partner churches in the Province for peace. It offers its support to your ministers as they strive to find a way forward which will command the support of the whole population of the Province.

We pray for the continued health and strength of your Majesty as you offer leadership and service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

We are

Your faithful and loyal subjects.

Moderator

General Secretary

The Moderator affirmed the contribution of our guests and he asked Dr Thompson to convey this to them as they leave.

The Moderator then called upon Mrs Wilma Frew, Moderator Elect to address the Assembly and he promised the support and prayers of Assembly in her preparation during the coming year.

At the request of a member of Assembly it was agreed to send a message to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland assuring them of our prayers for peace and expressing our gratitude to those in the Orange Order who had agreed to re-route marches or not to march this weekend.

The Moderator called upon the Convener of Ministries, the Revd Keith Forecast to present the report. He asked Assembly to note the following additions and changes to the report.

The Accreditation Sub-Committee asked permission to add two names of ministers to be deleted from the Roll by resignation (see **Reports** p.109 para 8.4a)

These decisions had been made since 19 February 1997:

Andrew Herbert McLuskey  
Andrew Newman-Williams

Also on p.109 Ian Kirby's name should appear under 'Stipendiary' and not 'Non-Stipendiary'.

The additions and the change were accepted.

The Moderator invited comments on the report. There were none.

The Convener formally moved Resolution 31 and asked permission for Mr Michael Harrison to speak and this was given.

He asked that the R.P.I. figure in 1.3 of the Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee report be changed to 2.679 %

## **RESOLUTION 31**

## **Plan for Partnership**

**Assembly adopts the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration, as set out in Appendix 5 of the book of Annual Reports to the 1997 General Assembly.**

After comments and questions the Convener replied and also asked permission for Mr Clem Frank, the Chief Accountant, to speak about the way heating and lighting costs are dealt with.

The resolution was carried.

The Convener was then called on to present Resolution 32.

## **RESOLUTION 32**

## **Ministerial Accompanied Self-Appraisal**

- a) **General Assembly approves a national Ministerial Accompanied Self-Appraisal scheme as set out in Ministerial Accompanied Self-Appraisal - a scheme for the United Reformed Church.**
- b) **General Assembly approves the timetable set out in section 8 of Ministerial Accompanied Self-Appraisal - a scheme for the United Reformed Church.**



The Convener then asked permission for the Revd Christine Craven to answer questions on this resolution. After comments and questions the Moderator invited the Revd Christine Craven to reply.

The Resolution was carried overwhelmingly.

The Moderator asked the Convener to present Resolution 33.

## RESOLUTION 33

## Age of Retirement

- a) **Assembly resolves that ministers should normally retire from full time stipendiary service not later than six calendar months from the date on which they have attained the age of 65.**
- b) **Assembly agrees that in exceptional circumstances a minister may remain in full time service for a maximum of three years beyond the age of 65. The application shall be supported by the pastorate, and receive the concurrence of the District Council before the agreement of the Accreditation Sub-Committee is sought. Ministers should make application for such an extension by the date of their 64th birthday.**

Notice was given that if the resolution was not passed, alternative proposals would be moved, either to return to the rules which prevailed before the 1993 Assembly or to bring guidelines to Mission Council concerning circumstances in which continuation of full-time stipendiary service beyond the age of 65 would be considered.

The Convener replied to comments and questions.

The resolution was carried.

The alternative motions were therefore not put.

The Convener introduced resolution 34 which had resulted from strong comments made at last year's Assembly.

- 34.
- a) Assembly resolves that training for the stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments may begin from the date of a candidates 18th birthday, recognising that enquiries may be made several years earlier
  - b) Assembly resolves that the normal minimum age for the commencement of training for the non-stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments shall be 25
  - c) Assembly believes that Ordination to the stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments should take place by the age of 55, and to this end, given the present Assessment and Training processes, resolves that formal application for training for the stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments must be received by the Province by the date of the applicant's 50th birthday
  - d) Assembly believes that Ordination to the non-stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments should take place by the age of 55, and to this end, given the present Assessment and Training processes, resolves that formal application for training for the non-stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments must be received by the Province by the date of the applicant's 50th birthday.
  - e) Assembly resolves that the provisions of resolutions c) and d) above shall apply to all applications received by the Provinces after the close of the 1997 General Assembly.

- f) Assembly resolves that applications to transfer from non-stipendiary to stipendiary ministry must be received by the Province before the date of the applicant's 53rd birthday
- g) Assembly resolves that the provisions of resolution f) above shall apply to any applications received by the Province after October 1 1997
- h) Assembly resolves that any variation to the requirement established in resolutions a) - g) will need the agreement of the Accreditation Sub-committee

After question and comments to which the Convener replied the Moderator ruled that the resolution should be voted upon in sections.

Section a was carried.

Section b was carried.

An amendment to section c and d was proposed by the Revd Janet Calderley to add the word 'normally' immediately before the wording 'by the age of 55' and the wording 'by the age of 50'. This was seconded by the Revd Mark Elvin.

After one comment the Convener asked that the amendment be put. The amendment was lost.

Section c was then carried.

Amendments were then proposed by the Revd Phillip Jones and seconded by Miss Sheila Greenslade regarding section d of resolution 34 on the ground that the amendments would enable suitable candidates to come forward on early retirement.

Proposed amendment to:

Section D line 2:

"Age of 55" amend to read "Age of 60"

Section D Line 5:

"Applicant's 50th Birthday" amend to read "Applicant's 55th Birthday"

The Convener indicated that he was prepared to accept this amendment.

The amendment was carried.

Sections e, f, g and h were carried and the substantive resolution was then carried.

## RESOLUTION 34

## Age of Entry

- a) **Assembly resolves that training for the stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments may begin from the date of a candidates 18th birthday, recognising that enquiries may be made several years earlier**
- b) **Assembly resolves that the normal minimum age for the commencement of training for the non-stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments shall be 25**
- c) **Assembly believes that Ordination to the stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments should take place by the age of 55, and to this end, given the present Assessment and Training processes, resolves that formal application for training for the stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments must be received by the Province by the date of the applicant's 50th birthday**

- d) Assembly believes that Ordination to the non-stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments should take place by the age of 60, and to this end, given the present Assessment and Training processes, resolves that formal application for training for the non-stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments must be received by the Province by the date of the applicant's 55th birthday.**
- e) Assembly resolves that the provisions of resolutions c) and d) above shall apply to all applications received by the Provinces after the close of the 1997 General Assembly.**
- f) Assembly resolves that applications to transfer from non-stipendiary to stipendiary ministry must be received by the Province before the date of the applicant's 53rd birthday**
- g) Assembly resolves that the provisions of resolution f) above shall apply to any applications received by the Province after October 1 1997**
- h) Assembly resolves that any variation to the requirement established in resolutions a) - g) will need the agreement of the Accreditation Sub-committee**

The Moderator expressed thanks to the Revd Keith Forecast for his work for Ministries and Assembly affirmed this with applause.

Assembly then moved to the remaining business of the Training Committee.

It was indicated that the Convener was prepared to ask Assembly to incorporate in Resolution 36 the amendments proposed by the Revd David Littlejohns and seconded by Mr Ken Woods.

After "Assembly accepts the following", insert "educational"

Before "for entry into" insert as the "normal standard"

After "for entry into" insert "training for"

Under (v) replace "quality" with "quantity".

Under b(i) and b(ii) delete "Including at least one in a discursive subject".

Insert "Such professional qualifications or experience of life and work as, in the opinion of the Assessment Panel, is of equivalent standard and provides a suitable foundation for training."

This change of wording was voted on without discussion and carried.

A further amendment was proposed by the Revd Anne Wilson and seconded by the Revd Derek Hines to add:

- vi) a successful completion of TLS at an agreed standard.

This was formally moved and carried without discussion.

The amended resolution was carried.

**Assembly accepts the following educational qualifications as the normal standard for entry into training for the United Reformed Church Ministry:**

- a) GCSE (Grade A-C) in English Language or the equivalent as an essential prerequisite.**
- b) Plus one of the following:**
  - i) 2 'A' Levels**
  - ii) 3 Scottish "Highers"**
  - iii) a degree from a UK University, or equivalent.**
  - iv) 120 first degree credits from the Open University or other UK University working on a modular system.**
  - v) an advanced GNVQ, involving a substantial quantity of discursive work**
  - vi) a successful completion of TLS at an agreed standard.**
  - vii) such professional qualifications or experience of life and work as, in the opinion of the Assessment Panel, is of equivalent standard and provides a suitable foundation for training.**

The Moderator then asked for Resolution 37 to be moved.

**Assembly recommends that, at the end of initial ministerial training, the minimum qualification for ordination should be 240 undergraduate credit points, or the equivalent of two thirds of a first degree on a course recognised by the Training Committee, plus 800 hours of supervised and assessed placement or internship work.**

After comments and discussion the resolution was carried.

The Convener moved Resolution 38 and indicated his willingness to accept the amendment that was proposed by Mr Vernon Lane and seconded by Mr Maurice Dyson.

In line 1 delete "course"

At the beginning of line 3 insert "(1)"

Delete sub paragraphs (c), (d) and (e)

Substitute:

"(2) after ordination ministers are expected

- (a) to follow a programme of post-ordination training normally during the three years service following their ordination; and
- (b) to undertake appropriate subsequent training (known as continuing ministerial education) throughout their ministry".

This was agreed and the amended resolution was opened for discussion. The Convener replied to the points raised and the resolution was carried.

Assembly accepts the paths for training for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments outlined below:

- (1) to obtain the minimum requirement for ordination, candidates will follow one of the following course paths; or a mixed-mode combination.
- a) The satisfactory completion of the Introductory Course, including attendance at the "United Reformed Church Ethos and History" weekend.
- b) 

<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>
College based 3 or 4 years including Internship year or placements in each year.	Ecumenical course (3 years) plus one year assessed placement work, supervised by college staff in consultation with the Provincial Training Officer or <i>Faith in Living</i> Course (4 years)
- (2) after ordination ministers are expected
- (a) to follow a programme of post-ordination training normally during the three years service following their ordination; and
- (b) to undertake appropriate subsequent training (known as continuing ministerial education) throughout their ministry.

The Moderator thanked the Training Committee for their work which is of great value.

### **Pastoral Committee**

The Moderator called for the report which was briefly presented by the Convener, the Revd John Johansen-Berg, who called attention to the Ministerial Counselling Service now available.

### **Nominations Committee**

The Moderator called the Secretary of the Nominations Committee, Mr Arnold Harrison to present the report on behalf of Revd Jessie Clare who was ill. He then brought those listed in the Book of Reports (p.120 -127) and the supplementary report.

The Corrected Report now reads as follows

The following appointment and review groups have been established: -

- 1 Thames North - Provincial Moderator Review Group  
Convened by Mrs Wilma Frew
- 2 Appeal to General Assembly - Commission  
Convened by Revd Alasdair Walker
- 3 Secretary for Church and Society - Review Group  
Convened by Revd Bill Mahood
- 4 Secretary for Youth Work - Review Group  
Convened by Revd John Reardon



- 5 Thames North - Provincial Moderator Nominating Group  
Convened by Mrs Wilma Frew (June 1998)
- 6 Secretary for Discipleship, Stewardship and Witness - Nominating Group  
Convened by Revd Jessie Clare
- 7 Secretary for Youth Work - Nominating Group  
Convened by Revd John Reardon
- 8 Secretary for Ecumenical Relations Review Group  
Convened by Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow

**YCWTO** Thames North - Sandra Ackroyd - an extension of 4 months  
**Appointments** to 31-12-97  
 Yorkshire - Mr Michael Markell - from 1-10-97 for five years  
 to 31-9-2002

## 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 1996 are indicated by one asterisk, two asterisks denotes those whom Assembly 1997 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

Mr George Morton [2001]\*\*

Revd David Fraser [2000]

Revd Michael Powell [1999]

Revd Hazel Barkham [1999]

Ms Janine Lawley [1998]

Mr Paul Franklin representing the Youth & Children's Committee

### COMMUNICATIONS AND EDITORIAL

**Convener:** Mr Chris Wright [1999]

**Secretary:** Mrs Carol Rogers

Revd Paul Brewerton [2001]\*\*

Mr Richard Lathaen [2001]\*\*

Ms Kirsty Thorpe [2001]\*\*

Revd Michael Forster [2001]\*\*

Mr John East [2001]\*\*

Revd Peter Moth [2001]\*\*

Revd Roger Hall [2001]\*\*

Mrs Pat Stannard [2000]

Revd David Coleman [2000]

### DISCIPLESHIP, STEWARDSHIP AND WITNESS

**Convener:** Revd Elizabeth Caswell [1999]

**Secretary:** Revd Roger Whitehead [1998]

Miss Tina Arthur [2001]\*\*

Revd Bob Day [2000]

Revd David Tatem [1999]

Revd Jean Forster [1998]

Mr Jim Wilkinson [1998]

Mrs Jean Antcliffe representing the Youth & Children's Committee

### WINDERMERE - Advisory Group

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

**Secretary:** The Director of Windermere

Revd Elizabeth Caswell, Revd Frank Cochrane, Mrs Angela Hughes, Revd Jean Mortimer,  
 Revd Stephen Thornton, Mrs Moira Rose, Revd Alan Gaunt.\*\*

## **DOCTRINE, PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

**Convener:** Revd Colin Thompson [2001]\*\*

**Secretary:** Revd Terry Hinks [2000]

Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2001]\*\*

Revd Jean Black [2000]

Revd Stephen Brown [1999]

Mr Tony Cheer [1998]

Revd Wendy Baskett [1998]

Revd Philip Nevard representing the Youth & Children's Committee

Revd John Hall [2001]\*\*

Revd Fleur Houston [1999]

Revd Donald Norwood [1999]

Miss Fiona Gow [1998]

## **ECUMENICAL**

**Convener:** Revd Bob Andrews [2001]\*\*

**Secretary:** Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Mrs Jackie Marsh [2001]\*\*

Ms Bethan Galliers [2000]\*\*

Revd Elizabeth Welch [extended to 1998]

Revd David Fox [1998]

Mrs Rosemary Johnston representing the Youth and Children's Committee.

Mr John Rees [2001]\*\*

Revd Peter Arthur [1999]

Revd Richard Mortimer

## **ECUMENICAL - Sub-Committee - OVERSEAS EXCHANGE**

**Convener:** Revd Barrie Scopes [1999]

**Secretary:** Secretary for International Church Relations

Mrs Virginia Becher [2001]\*\*

Revd David Helyar [1998]

Mrs Muriel Sleigh [1998]

Revd Ken Graham [1999]

Revd Mia Hilborn [1998]

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Convener:** Mrs Susan Rand [1999]

**Secretary:** Revd Simon Walkling [1999]

Ms Georgette Margreet [2001]\*\*

Revd Wilf Bahadur [2001]\*\*

Revd John Macauley [1998]

Revd Nanette Lewis Head [2001]\*\*

Ms Lucille King [2000]

Mrs Daphne Beale [1998]

## **FINANCE**

**Convener:** The Treasurer

**Secretary:** Mr Clem Frank

Ms Catriona Waterson [2001]\*\*

Mrs Elizabeth Reeve [1999]

Mrs Edwina Rockey [1999]

Mr Bill Grieve [2000]

Revd Richard Wiggins [1999]

Convener of the URC Trust

## **HEALTH AND HEALING Development Group - Joint Committee \*\***

Revd Robin Hine, Revd Jim Hollyman, Mrs Jackie Ballard, Dr Margaret Moore.

## **INTER-FAITH RELATIONS \*\***

**Convener:** Revd Bill Mahood [1999]

**Secretary:** Revd Brenda Willis [1998]

Mrs Linda Hopley, Miss Sarah King, Revd Jonathan Dean, Revd Molly Kenyon

## **MINISTRIES**

**Convener:** Revd Graham Long [2001]\*\*

**Secretary:** Revd Chris Baker [1998]

Revd Martha McInnes [2001]\*\*

Revd Tony Ruffell [2000]

Mr John Ellis [1999]

Convener of National Assessment Board

Revd Brian Jolly [2001]\*\*

Revd Graham Sweeney [2000]

Revd Sandra Lloydlangston [1999]

## **MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - ACCREDITATION**

**Convener:** Revd Robert Way [2001]\*\*

**Secretary:** Revd Hazel Martell [1998]

To be advised [2001]\*\*

To be advised [2001]\*\*

Mr Bert Worrall [1999]

Revd John Humphreys [1999]

## **MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - LAY PREACHERS**

Details of this committee have not yet been finalised and will be reported to Mission Council.

## **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT BOARD**

**Convener:** Mr Brian Evans [2001]\*\*

Retiring 2002\*\* Mr Alan Small, Revd Denise Megson, Miss Margaret Compton

Revd Alison Davis, Mrs Janine Lawley, Dr Christopher Whitehead

Retiring 2001 Revd Derek Wales, Mrs Darryl Sinclair, Mrs Flo Humes-Dixon

Retiring 2000 Mrs Jean Barraclough, Revd Ivor Rees, Revd Reginald Rooke, Revd Howard Starr

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

Retiring 1998 Mrs Pat Pierce, Mrs Marva Ward, Revd Cecil White, Revd Barbara Plenderleith,  
Revd Leonard Bhagwandin

## **PANEL FOR ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES - CRCW - Sub-Section**

Mrs Daphne Beale

Revd Peter Loveitt

Revd Kate McIlhagga

Revd Vaughan Jones

Mrs Ann Sutcliffe

## **MINISTRIES - Sub-Committee - CRCW Management**

**Convener:** Revd Robert Vaughan Jones

**Secretary:** Mr John Boddy

Revd Marlene Brown

Mrs Doreen Finneron

Revd Janet Loveitt

Mr Simon Loveitt

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCESS - Commission Panel\*\***

**Convener:** Revd Donald Hilton

**Deputy Convener:** Mrs Helen Brown

**Secretary:** Revd Alastair Walker

### Members

Revd Donald Hilton (C)

Mrs Helen Brown (DC)

Revd R M Jones

Revd Ted Marley

Revd Denise Megson

Mr Alan Hart

Mr Nicholas Pye

Miss Ina Barker

Ms Kate Breeze

Mr Keith Brooks

Revd John Slow

Revd K Chippindale

Mrs W Frew

Dr David Thompson

Mrs Sally Quilter

Revd Brenda Stevenson

Mr R Forsyth

Mrs Sheila Tweed

Mrs Sheila Pratt

Revd Julian Macro

Miss Elizabeth Lawson QC

Sir James Nursaw

Revd Brian Johanson

Revd Michael Rees

Revd Alison Davis

## **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 Hannen [1998]

**Secretary:** Mr Clive Willis [1999]

Mrs Margaret Waller [2001]\*\*

Mrs Sheila Woodcock [2001]\*\*

Mr Martin Ballard [1998]

Revd Janet Sowerbutts [1998]

The Treasurer

## **RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING SOCIETY LTD - Management Committee**

**Convener:** Revd David Hannen

**Secretary:** Mr Clive Willis

**Ass. Secretary:** Mr Ken Meekison

Mr John Gilbey

Mr George Anderson

Revd Janet Sowerbutts

Revd George Hooper

Mr Martin Ballard

Mrs Barbara Williams

Mr Brian Vaughan

Mr Brian Gould

Mr Norman Fabb

Mrs Pauline Mewis

Mr Bob Carruthers

Mr Clem Flank

Mr Graham Stacy

Mr Malcolm Summers

## **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:** Mr Desmond Curry [2001]\*\*

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 Simon Rowntree

XII Mr John Trollope

together with the immediate past Moderator.

## **ASSEMBLY PASTORAL COMMITTEE**

**Convener:** Revd John Johansen-Berg [1999]

**Secretary:** Deputy General Secretary

Dr Anthea Kaan [2001]\*\*

Revd Jean Forster [2000]

Mrs Joan Staples [2000]

Revd John Humphreys [1999]

Convener of Welfare Sub-Comm.

The Treasurer

General Secretary

## **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 John Proctor [2001]\*\*

Dr Tony Jeans [2001]\*\*

Revd Sandra Dears [2000]

Dr Iain Frew [2000]

Dr Jean Butler [1999]

Revd Chris Warner [1999]

Revd Ruth Ball

Revd Ron Forster representing Youth and Children's Committee

## **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK**

**Convener:** Revd Stephen Thornton [1998]

**Secretary:** Mrs Jean Antcliffe [1999]

Mr Gareth Curl [2001]\*\*

Revd Margaret Collins [2001]\*\*

Revd Philip Nevard [2000]

Miss Kathryn Swift [1999]

Revd Ron Forster [1999]

Mr Lewis McKenzie

Revd Brenda Plenderleith [1999]

Mrs Elizabeth Crocker [1998]

FURY Chair

FURY Council Member

## MISSION COUNCIL

Moderator, Moderator-elect, immediate past Moderator, General Secretary, Clerk, Legal Advisor, Deputy General Secretary, Conveners of Standing Committees (except the Pastoral Committee), 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, Mr Peter Clarke, Revd Ann Jackson
North Western:	Revd Bob Day, Mrs Ann Sutcliffe, Mr Gordon Ollerenshaw
Mersey:	Mrs Barbara Martin, Mr Wesley Woodside, Revd Peter Roche
Yorkshire:	Mr Brian Evans, Revd Duncan Wilson, Mrs Angela Hughes
East Midlands:	Mr Geoff Prentice, Revd Graham Maskery, Mrs Irene Wren
West Midlands:	Mr Simon Rowntree, Mrs Erica Young, Revd Patricia Nimmo
Eastern:	Mr William McVey, Mrs Elizabeth Whitten, Revd Margaret McKay
South Western:	Revd John Rees, Mrs Mary Eden, Mr Geoff Lunt
Wessex:	Revd Bernie Collins, Revd Jeffrey Evans, Mrs Christine Robertson
Thames North:	Dr Jack Gow, Miss Marian Crack, Revd John Edwards
Southern:	Mrs Christine Meekison, Revd Lesley Charlton, Dr Graham Campling
Wales:	Dr Jean Sylvan Evans, 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:	Miss Valerie Ham	Mr Desmond Davies
	Mr Tom Swan	Mr Geoffrey Lunt
	To be advised [2001]**	
Members of the Fund:	Revd Pam Ward	Revd Tony Spring
	Revd John Martin	Revd Dr Arthur Chadwick
	Revd Alasdair Walker [2001]**	

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST

**Convener:** Mr Desmond Davies

**Secretary:** Mr Clem Frank

Revd Tony Burnham	Mr Clem Frank	Mr Robert Hardie
Mr Harold Kempton	Mr Ron Masser	Mr William McVey
Revd Richard Wiggins	Mr Graham Stacy	Mr Clive Willis

## REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ON OTHER BODIES

### 1 OTHER ASSEMBLIES

Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Dr David Thompson, Mrs Doreen Courtney, Mrs Rosemary Johnston
General Synod of Church of England	Revd Christine Craven, Revd Murdoch Mackenzie
Methodist Conference	Revd Sheila Maxey
Baptist Union of Scotland	No representative required
Church of Scotland	Dr David Thompson, Revd Fleur Houston
Scottish Congregational Church	Revd Dr Stephen Orchard
Presbyterian Church of Wales	Dr David Thompson
Union of Welsh Independents	Revd Ivor Rees
Congregational Federation	Revd Chris White
World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council	Revd Elizabeth Nash, Revd John Humphreys, Revd Pat Nimmo, Ms Tina Arthur, Mr Dylan Morgan
WCC Assembly 1998	Revd Tony Burnham, Mrs Wilma Frew
Second European Ecumenical Assembly	Revd John Waller, Mrs Sheila Brain, Mr Peter Lyth
Eleventh Assembly of the Conference of European Churches	Revd Philip Woods, Revd John Waller, Ms Jenny Hale



## 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

Mr John Bradbury	Revd Rudolph Dixon	Miss Betty Vickerton
Revd Mark Fisher	Mr Graham Ghaleb	Revd Donald Norwood
Ms Tina Arthur	Mr Tony Cheer **	Revd Elizabeth Caswell

### Churches Together in England - Enabling Group

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

### Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland - Assembly 1997

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

Revd Peter Brain	Mrs Eileen McIlveen	Mrs Ruth Clarke
Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow	Revd Elizabeth Welch	Mr John Bradbury
Ms Melanie Frew	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*

<b>Council</b>	The Provincial Moderator (Wales) Ms Jackie Yeomans	Mr John Rhys (Synod Clerk)
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**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

The Nominations Committee has submitted the nomination of the Revd A G Burnham for the coming ballot for Moderator of the FCFC.

Council	General Secretary	Secretary for Ecumenical Relations
	Revd Janet Lees	Mr Desmond Curry

Executive - General Secretary

Chaplaincy Board - Revd Daphne Williams

Education Committee - Mr Graham Handscombe, Revd Michael Powell\*

Co-options - Dr Stephen Orchard and Revd John Sutcliffe

Women's Council - Revd Janet Lees

## **METHODIST / URC LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Revd Susan Henderson  
Miss Betty Vickerton

Revd Ron Parker  
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Revd Joe Clemson

## **SCOTTISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH / URC NEGOTIATING GROUP**

**Co-Convenor:** Revd Dr Stephen Orchard

**Co-Secretary:** Revd Tony Burnham

Revd Mary Barr, Revd James Breslin, Miss Felicity Harris

### **3. 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 Churches Commission for Racial Justice	Mrs Sandra Ackroyd Revd Tony Addy (Trustee) Revd Vaughan Jones (Management Committee)
Churches Community Work Alliance	Mr Clem Frank, Mr Hartley Oldham, Mr Tegid Peregrine
Churches Main Committee	Revd Cyril Grant, [1999] Revd Dorothy Havergal-Shaw [2001] Revd Aubrey Lewis [1998], Revd Eric Allen [2000] Revd Fleur Houston, Revd Nigel Uden
Congregational Fund Board	Revd Fleur Houston Revd Keith Forecast, Mrs Rosemary Johnston
Joint Liturgical Group	Revd Peter Brain
Methodist Faith & Order Committee	Secretary for Ministries, Revd Kevin Swaine Mrs Molly Glen
National Christian Education Council	Revd Florence Frost-Mee
National Council of of Voluntary Organisations	Secretary for Ministries, Revd Dennis Friend Revd John Paul, Revd Hamish MacLagan Revd Tony Burnham
National Ecumenical Agency for Further Education	Mrs Mary Davies, Revd Peter Jupp, Mrs Carol Rogers Revd Eric Wollaston, Dr David Thompson A nomination is being sought and will be brought to Mission Council
Scottish World Day of Prayer	Mr Ken Meekison, Revd Geoffrey Satchell Mr Laurence Macro
Society for the Ministry of Women in the Church	Mrs Josie Owens
United Navy, Army and Airforce Board	
United Reformed Church History Society	
Wharton Trust	
Widows Fund of the Three Denominations	
Women's World Day of Prayer	

### **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, School Council	Revd David Helyar, Mr John Mathias
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 (to 31.12.97),  
Mrs Gwen Hall\*, Revd Peter Grimshaw\*,  
Revd George Thomas\*, Revd Erica Beglin,  
Mr David Butler (from 1.1.98)\*

Northern College

Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd John Marsh,  
Mrs Helen Brown, Mr Jim Wilkinson\*

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

Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee  
Mrs Haro Horsfield, Mrs Marieke Arthur  
Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd Sheila Maxey\*

Silcoates School, Governor  
(URC now appoints 6 governors)

Dr Clyde Binfield  
Dr Peter Clark, Mr John Gilbey,  
Revd Arnold Harrison, Mr Brian Herbert,  
Revd Brenda Hill

Taunton School  
Tettenhall College Governors

Revd Ray Adams  
Dr William Blakeley, Mr Roddy McKenzie  
Mrs Melanie Hawley, Mrs Doris Margetts  
Revd George Thomas\*

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

Dr Richard Jurd  
Mr J E Payne, Prof Robert Steel,  
Revd Eric Lord

#### 5. COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

Revd Tony Burnham  
Mr Wallie Warmington

Ms Bethan Galliers

Revd Philip Woods\*

#### 6. CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revd Dr Peter Jupp  
Mrs Mary Stacy  
Mr Graham Stacy  
Mr Hartley Oldham

Mrs Christine Meekison  
Mr Robert Hardie  
Mr Arthur Smith  
Revd Peter Grimshaw

Revd Maurice Husselbee  
Revd Geoffrey Satchell  
Revd David Hannen  
Revd John Taylor

#### 7. NEW COLLEGE LONDON FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Mr John Smethers

Mr Graham Stacy\*

Revd John Pugh

#### REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COMMITTEES

Other Committees and National Organisations

Churches' Commission on Overseas Students  
Churches' Consortium on Industrial Mission  
Churches' Council for Health and Healing

Revd Kevin Swaine  
Revd Tony Ruffell  
Revd Robin Hine  
Revd Jim Hollyman\*  
Mrs Connie Bunker  
Mrs Carol Rogers  
Revd Brenda Willis  
Revd Dr John Parry

Churches' Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting  
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith Relations

Churches' Group on Funeral Services  
at Cemeteries and Crematoria

Revd Dr Peter Jupp  
Revd Sally Thomas

Council of URC Boys' Brigade Companies

Revd Michael Rees,  
Mr Paul Franklin

Guides' Religious Advisory Panel  
International Bible Reading Association

Mrs Susan Walker  
vacant

Media Awareness Project  
Scout & Guide Fellowship (URC)

Mrs Carol Rogers  
Mr Paul Franklin

Scouts' Religious Advisory Group

Mr D Marshall-Jones

He asked for permission to take further names to Mission Council in October when they are available. He thanked those who had supported him in this role and those who responded to the requests to serve.

He moved Resolution 35 which was carried unanimously.

## RESOLUTION 35

## Nominations

**Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 120 to 127 of the Book of Reports subject to the additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly and additional alterations communicated to Assembly by the Secretary.**

The Moderator thanked Revd Arnold Harrison for his meticulous work and Assembly showed their appreciation with applause.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee was called. She indicated that in 1999 Assembly will meet from 5-9 July in Mersey Province. The venue is not yet known. This was agreed.

The Moderator then asked the Clerk to present the minutes. He moved that under Standing Order 11b the remaining minutes be incorporated in the full minutes of the Assembly after review and any necessary corrections by the officers of Assembly.

He gave notice that the Record of Assembly will this year be printed chronologically and that there will be additional items in the index, including the names of all Committees reporting to Assembly.

The General Secretary expressed the Assembly's gratitude to the Revd Martin Cressey for the great service that he has given over the last five years. He emphasised that Martin has primarily been concerned to protect the rights of Assembly.

This was greeted by loud and prolonged applause.

The Moderator called Clifford Wilton to thank Wessex province for their arrangements and the Portsmouth City Council for the venue and its staff for looking after everyone so well. Thanks were also expressed to the Assembly Arrangements Committee. He thanked the Moderator especially for his leadership. The Chaplain was thanked for his participatory worship.

He invited Assembly to the University of Nottingham next year. The Moderator thanked members of Assembly for their understanding and patience.

The General Secretary formally announced that General Assembly had completed its business and the Chaplain led the closing worship.

## APPENDIX I - Resolutions 17, 18 and 19

Text of letters sent by the Moderator and the General Secretary to all Ministers, Church Secretaries, District Secretaries, Synod Clerks, Provincial Moderators and Members of Assembly following the Assembly.

17 July 1997

The issue of human sexuality has been discussed in our churches during the past two years and last week came to the General Assembly. This letter is to tell you what happened there and is accompanied by a pastoral letter from the Assembly Moderator, David Jenkins, as well as a copy of the four resolutions which were passed.

However, I want to emphasise that at the Assembly there were discussions and decisions about a number of other very important aspects of our life. Some believe that they are likely to have an impact on our life together which will be more significant than the sexuality debate. For example, several times the issue of number of members, the reasons for decline and how we respond to this were mentioned. A Mission Council group has this on its agenda. A related subject is the number of ministers. We will hear more about both these later in the year. On unity, Assembly confirmed our agreement to talk to the Scottish Congregational Church and also agreed that we wished to share in conversations with Methodists and Anglicans about union. For ministers, we introduced an appraisal scheme and affirmed our need for further developments with regard to in-service training. As we looked outside ourselves, we emphasised the need for values in society and committed ourselves to Jubilee 2000, a campaign to wipe out the debts of poorer nations.

Against this background, we debated three resolutions about human sexuality. We know from the discussions in local churches, districts and synods that in our Church, as in every other Church in the world which has discussed this, diverse views are held. Conscious of their differences, the Assembly began by considering Resolution 17. This resolution acknowledges the importance of the issue and also our lack of agreement. It reflects the message received from local churches that our disagreements must not injure the unity and peace of the church. It goes on to ask local churches, districts and synods to be sensitive and give pastoral care to all who feel rejected or could be hurt in the coming days.

Resolution 18 recognises that we must take more time to seek God's guidance by reflecting, consulting and studying the nature of Biblical authority and the authority of the Assembly and the other Councils to the Church. In particular, we need to consider the implications of ordaining ministers who are in committed homosexual relationships.

These two resolutions were both passed overwhelmingly on a show of hands.

Resolution 19 deals with the interim period between now and the time when we take a decision on this divisive issue. In the long debate, 37 people spoke, dividing almost evenly between those who supported the resolution and those who were against it. As the Moderator says in his letter, *the atmosphere was gentle with the entire proceedings undergirded with silence and prayer*. The vote was by ballot and 324 voted in favour with 189 against. 57 of those who were against the resolution asked for their dissent to be recorded in the minutes.\*

How do we discern the leading of God in this decision? It is comparatively easy to say that the Spirit was heard in the consensus of support for the first two resolutions. There was no such consensus in the third. It is true that there was a large majority but there was also a significant minority. The depth of feeling within the minority was shown by the large number who recorded their dissent.



Following such a decision, we must continue to be sensitive to one another and to seek the truth of God which will unite us. The purpose of this resolution is to give us a way forward in the short term. It is a way which tries to respect the position of those with different views on the matter of ministers in a homosexual or lesbian relationship. Its main points are:

- a church does not have to accept such a person as a minister and a refusal to call will be upheld by the Assembly
- a district council does not have to concur with such a call
- where a church calls and a district concurs the Assembly will uphold the call
- where a church calls but a district does not concur, the synod is asked to mediate
- because there is the possibility of such a call, the fact of a relationship shall not be the ground for rejecting a candidate for ministry

The purpose of the resolution is to cover that period during which we attempt to reach agreement on what God is saying to us. Resolution 18 establishes that we have not yet taken a decision which settles the matter.

Resolution 41 was proposed from the floor later in the meeting and accepted warmly by the Assembly. It reflects the pastoral spirit that was present in our discussions. The officers are in the course of setting up the working group: for the time being, anyone wishing to get in touch with the group should do so through me.

I hope that every member, every elder and every minister will read David Jenkins' letter with care and be ready to commit themselves to these resolutions. Recognising the strength of the views held by many members, when I spoke to the Assembly I urged those who were dismayed by the passing of Resolution 19 not to take any hasty action but to consult with their friends and to wait on God. We are seeking a way forward that will enable all of us to stay together *it is the decision of the Holy Spirit and our decision.* (Acts 15.28)

Yours sincerely,  
**Anthony G Burnham**  
**General Secretary**

\* This figure was later revised

## **A Pastoral Letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Revd David Jenkins**

17 July 1997

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to all ministers and congregations of the United Reformed Church to share with you my thoughts on the decisions which were reached at our General Assembly in Portsmouth on the subject of human sexuality. It is important that those who were not present are informed accurately about the results of the debate and that we are all given the necessary information to enable us to reflect calmly on the implications of what has been decided.

Members of General Assembly spent nearly a whole day discussing the three resolutions which had been offered by Mission Council. The atmosphere of debate was gentle and fair, with the entire proceedings undergirded by silence and prayer. Resolutions 17 and 18 which focused on the need first to maintain the unity of our Church and second to undertake more work on key issues were accepted enthusiastically by most members of Assembly. Resolution 19 however, was much more difficult for people, because it declared that Assembly would both support local churches and District Councils if they decided to ordain and/or induct ministers who were in homosexual relationships, and also that it would support those which did not. I am aware that it will cause considerable heart-searching among many ministers and congregations.

My chief concern is that we remain calm and do not divide the church through hasty reactions to what has happened. Resolution 19 is very broad-ranging and one of its purposes is to allow freedom of conscience to individuals and churches. Rosalind Goodfellow, in introducing the resolution, stressed very strongly that no ministers, churches or District Councils will be pressured in any way to accept or not to accept homosexual ministers. We need to be immensely alert to the pain which some people feel because of their sincerely held views. Furthermore we need to remember at all times that we are still seeking the mind of Christ.

Later in the week, I was very pleased when a further resolution was offered from the floor of Assembly asking for a working group to be set up immediately to strengthen and co-ordinate the pastoral care offered to those who may be deeply hurt to hear that the Assembly has passed Resolution 19. This additional resolution was passed overwhelmingly.

This letter is part of that pastoral response. I am deeply anxious that the spirit of waiting on God which was so evident at General Assembly will now be felt and experienced across our churches. We belong to Christ and are held together in Christ's body. In Assembly we spoke to each other as friends of Jesus. Before we voted and afterwards we affirmed our unity in the fellowship by praying that "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all".

I pray that this prayer may be echoed by us all in the weeks and months ahead. May God nurture in us these three gifts of grace, love and fellowship.

The first gift is grace. We pray for grace because it is by grace we are all embraced and forgiven by God. Grace is God's way of touching us with tenderness. To live by grace is to realise that God touches the lives of those whose views we do not hold as much as he touches our own. Grace puts everything into perspective for it places us all before the Cross.

The second gift is love, which is the heart of God's being. In the end God calls us to act and re-act with love and only with love. The enemy of love is fear. Perfect love casts out fear. At this moment I believe we are being called not to increase fear but build bridges of love. At General Assembly I kept wondering what "outsiders" looking in would have thought. Would they have said "How these Christians love one another!?" I hoped so, and still do.

The third gift is *koinonia*, which is covenant-fellowship. The fourth Gospel describes it as “remaining in the vine”. We are being called to hold one another together as friends of Jesus, or to put it into Paul's language “to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”. Again and again the New Testament writers called for this Spirit of *koinonia* to be affirmed, especially in times of dissension and persecution. We need the same discipline and openness at this time for the covenant is corporate: it proclaims the good news that God never gives up on saying: “I will be your God and you will be my people”.

God gives grace, love and fellowship to us in times of tears and emptiness, searching and questioning, joy and celebration. May we receive them as gifts we can never deserve, but which are given to us to share with each other for the enrichment of Christ's Church and the healing of the nations.

Yours, in Christian service,

**David Jenkins**

**Moderator**

**Report of an Appeal  
to the General Assembly  
by Revd Anne Stokes  
against a decision  
of the Thames North Synod  
10 February 1997**

1. The Revd Anne Stokes appealed against the decision of a Committee of the Thames North Synod not to allow her to transfer from the non-stipendiary ministry to the stipendiary ministry. The Synod forwarded this to the Assembly because the grounds of the appeal were based on the process which had been followed.
2. The appeal followed the procedures laid down under the Structure and Rules of Procedure for the Conduct of the United Reformed Church. (Manual pp B13 and C6)
3. Both the appellant and the Synod agreed that the appeal should be heard by a specially appointed Commission of the Assembly and that the findings would be accepted as if they were a decision of the Assembly.
4. The Nominations Committee on 12 December 1996 nominated the Moderator and members of the Commission. These were appointed by the Mission Council on 18 January 1997:  
Revd Alasdair Walker, former Moderator of the General Assembly, to convene the Commission.  
Miss Margaret Compton, Elder, Bromley District  
Mr Alex Mackie, Elder, Birmingham District  
Revd Denise Megson, Minister, (non-stipendiary), NW Manchester District  
Mrs Alison Morgan, Elder, Croydon District

In addition the Clerk of the Assembly was present to advise both the Commission and the two parties. The General Secretary was also present to facilitate the process, record the decision and prepare the report for the Assembly.

5. The Revd Anne Stokes was accompanied, in the role of a friend, by the Revd Dr Roger Scopes.
6. The Thames North Synod was represented by the Revds David Jenkins and Rachel Poolman.
7. The Clerk, noting that one issue related to a letter from Westminster College during the time he was Principal, wished to place on record that he personally had not been involved in the interviews to which the letter referred or its drafting and it had been signed by another member of the staff. He had therefore not been directly involved in the business before the Commission. This explanation was accepted by the Commission and the two parties.
8. Twenty four papers were presented by the appellant and the Synod, most of which were circulated in advance. In addition, seventeen letters of support had been received. Each party was allowed fifteen minutes to present their case.
9. The hearing took place at the United Reformed Church House on 10 February 1997. The Commission began with prayer at 1pm and completed its business at 4.15pm.
10. The Synod representatives gave details of the procedures they had followed in considering Mrs Stokes' application for transfer to stipendiary ministry. Mrs Stokes then commented on the procedures from her perspective. Members of the Commission questioned both parties on their statements and on matters contained in the papers. After this both parties withdrew.
11. After further discussion the Commission reached the following unanimous decision:

*In the case of the application of the Revd Anne Stokes to transfer from non-stipendiary to stipendiary ministry, the Commission judged that the procedure was not followed to the letter, in so far as there was no evidence of a statement from the Province prior to the Re-Assessment Panel meeting; but the Commission believed that this fact by itself would not necessarily have led to a decision which could be claimed to be unjust.*



*However, the Commission strongly believed that the transfer procedure as set out was flawed in not calling for the submission of references by people with whom a non-stipendiary minister has been working. Natural justice would suggest that this should be part of the process, and the Commission recommends that in future the Ministries Committee should include this step when a non-stipendiary minister seeks to transfer to stipendiary ministry.*

*With regard to the appellant's complaint that the College report was not available to the Re-Assessment Panel or to the Province's Ministry Committee, the Commission noted that she has accepted that College reports at that stage in the procedure are advisory and conditional in nature.*

*Noting the degree of hesitance which was evident at some stages in the process, and noting the fact that the Synod had referred the matter to the General Assembly, the Commission resolved that, in the particular circumstances of this case, the appellant should be allowed to have her vocation to stipendiary ministry tested:*

- 1. by undertaking a full year's residential course at Westminster College;*
- 2. if she is qualified so to do, by taking the MA in Pastoral Theology (including the Pastoral Placement module). If she is not so qualified, the College should ensure that the course designed for her should include specific tests of her capacity for theological reflection.*

*The Church will require a report from the College "that the minister has completed satisfactorily the recommended training" before a district council concurs with a call from a pastorate to stipendiary ministry.*

12. The parties were invited to return and the decision was read out by the Moderator. The parties were asked if they accepted this decision and both Mrs Stokes and the representatives of the Thames North Synod indicated that they did.
13. The Clerk and General Secretary were thanked for their assistance. The Moderator expressed the gratitude of the Church to the members of the Commission for their service and closed the meeting with prayer.

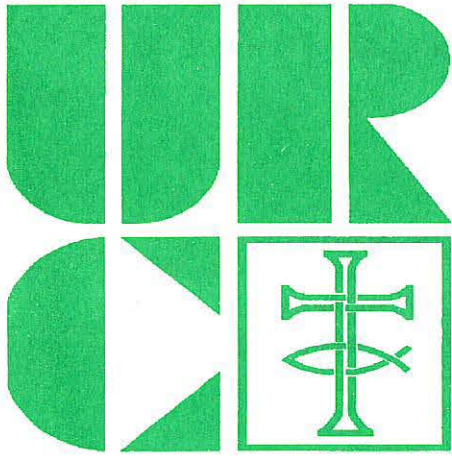
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**The  
United  
Reformed  
Church**

in the United Kingdom

**ACCOUNTS  
1997**



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

**Assembly Officers**

Moderator of the General Assembly (1997/8) - Revd David Jenkins  
General Secretary - Revd Anthony Burnham  
Clerk of the General Assembly - Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith  
Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee - Revd Alasdair Pratt  
Deputy General Secretary - Revd John Waller

**Other Officers**

Moderator Elect - Mrs Wilma Frew  
Immediate Past Moderator - Dr David Thompson  
Honorary Treasurer - Mr Graham Stacy FCA

**Trustee**

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

**Bankers**

Midland Bank Plc  
Newgate Street Branch, 31 Holborn, London EC1N 2HR

**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**

Aon Consulting (formerly Alexander Clay)  
Carnegie House, Peterborough Road  
Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AJ

## THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

### ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1997

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.

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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

### AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

1997 was a quite exceptional year in the financial affairs of the Church. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 5 shows that there was a net increase in funds in the year of £4,646,000 which must be the highest ever increase in our 25 years' existence.

This increase in funds can be broken down into a number of separate parts:

Increase in market value of investments	2,497,000
Surplus for the year on Ministry & Mission and the other funds covered by our annual budget	877,000
Surplus for the year on other restricted funds	<u>1,272,000</u>
	<u>£4,646,000</u>

#### Investment value increase - £2,497,000

The increase in market value of our investments reflects the fact that the UK stock market rose in value very significantly in the year. Although values have risen in each of the last three years, it should be remembered that in 1994 our investments went down in value by over £2.5 million; investment values can go down as well as up so we should not expect this year's performance to be a regular event.

#### Surplus of £877,000 compared to budget deficit of £140,000

The surplus of £877,000 on Ministry and Mission and other funds covered by the budget compares with a deficit of £140,000 shown by the budget adopted by General Assembly in 1996. The main reasons for this large turnaround are a reduction of about 27 in the number of stipendiary ministers compared with the budget which reduced costs by £486,000, and a reduction of £380,000 in the subvention paid to the Pension Fund.

Estimating the number of ministers is far from straightforward especially as the budget is prepared nine months before the start of the year to which it relates. At that stage there is a natural tendency to be cautious in estimating numbers and there are many changes that are extremely difficult to predict. Over-estimating minister numbers has been a recurring feature in our budgets for many years but the Resource Planning Advisory Group and Ministries Committee are endeavouring to improve the accuracy of this number used in our budgets.

The reduction in the subvention paid to the Pension Fund was made possible by the fact that the actuarial valuation of the Fund at 1st January 1997 showed a deficiency of only £4.5 million, a vast improvement on the valuation three years earlier which showed an £11 million deficiency. The improvement was due to very good investment performance, a lower increase in stipends than the actuary had assumed in the previous valuation and the exceptional contribution of £2.5 million paid to the fund in 1996 out of our reserves.

#### Restricted funds surplus - £1,272,000

The restricted funds are listed on page 8 and include the Retired Ministers' Housing Society, the Retired Ministers' Fund, which pays ex gratia additional pensions, and the Church Buildings Funds. The funds which showed the largest increase were those for housing retired ministers, which benefited from legacies of £303,000 and a transfer of £570,000 in respect of houses and funds formerly owned by the Northern Congregational Ministers' Housing Society Limited. The need to purchase more retirement houses in the future will create a substantial financing requirement for which legacies are an invaluable help.

**REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONTINUED****Transfers between funds**

The transfers between funds shown towards the bottom of the Statement of Financial Activities on page 5 contain some important amounts.

The largest transfer is £1 million to the Retired Ministers' Fund from unrestricted income funds. The Retired Ministers' Fund is used mainly to supplement the pensions of ex-Congregational and Churches of Christ ministers in respect of years of service prior to Union but the present level of supplement still results in a pension significantly below the pension payable to ex-Presbyterian ministers. The Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee has agreed a recommendation from the Pensions Executive to increase this supplement so as to bring pensions of all ministers to at least 95% of the Presbyterian level. The increase in the Retired Ministers' Fund required to enable this proposed improvement is estimated at £1 million and a transfer of this amount has been made in the 1997 accounts.

The other large transfer is the release of a "major repairs reserve" amounting to £593,000. This reserve was established many years ago and has been credited with annual transfers which have not exceeded £3,500 in any recent year. Over the years, the accumulation of dividends and investment appreciation has brought this reserve to the remarkable amount of £593,000. The Finance Committee and the Resource Planning Advisory Group have agreed that it is not appropriate to retain this reserve as a separate amount because the Church should be able to meet repair costs as they arise.

The other transfers comprise a number of smaller amounts. The impact of these transfers on individual funds can be seen in the Movement on Funds statement on page 8 in the column headed 'transfers'. Some of these transfers have been made as a result of the continuing review of the numerous separate funds we have. Many of these funds have been inherited from the past and their original intention has not always continued to match current needs. As the research continues we expect to be able to release other funds that have become dormant or under-used so that they too can better serve the current needs of the Church.

**Conclusion**

In this brief report it is possible to mention only the most significant features of the 1997 accounts. The Treasurer and the Financial Secretary will be pleased to respond to requests for further information or explanations on any aspect of the accounts at General Assembly or at any other time.

Signed on behalf of the Finance Committee.

**GRAHAM STACY**  
Convener

24th March 1998



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1997

1996 £'000		Notes (pages 12 & 13)	1997 £'000
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
	Tangible assets	2	
11,619	Houses for retired ministers		12,512
3,480	Houses for serving ministers		3,348
1,729	Other properties		1,846
16,828	Total properties		17,706
307	Cars and equipment		380
17,135			18,086
17,362	Long term investments	5	18,347
662	Loans and advances	3	550
35,159			36,983
	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
	<b>Current assets</b>		
71	Stock		65
3,038	Short term investments	5	5,633
993	Debtors	4	960
1,539	Bank balances and money on call		1,089
5,641			7,747
4,935	Less: <b>Current liabilities</b>	6	4,219
706	Net current assets		3,528
35,865	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		40,511
	<b>Representing:</b>		
9,131	<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>		9,951
22,312	<b>Restricted income funds</b>		25,241
4,422	<b>Capital funds</b>		5,319
35,865	<b>TOTAL FUNDS (see pages 8 &amp; 9)</b>		40,511

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



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1997**

1996 Total funds £'000		1997 Total funds £'000	---- Income funds ----		Capital funds £'000
			Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	
<b>INCOME</b>					
16,462	Ministry and Mission Fund contributions	16,763	16,763		
1,409	Investment income	1,229	522	707	
880	Grants received	981	911	70	
579	Legacies	388	59	325	4
589	Sundry income	1,372	204	1,153	15
387	Profit on sale of properties	370	35	335	
20,306	<b>Total income (see page 6)</b>	<b>21,103</b>	<b>18,494</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
17,026	Ministry	13,979	13,384	595	
1,370	Training	1,492	1,386	106	
546	Assembly appointed staff	593	581	12	
1,069	Mission	1,596	1,133	463	
151	Assembly related costs	193	192	1	
177	Communication and editorial	194	194		
719	Administration	907	747	150	10
21,058	<b>Total expenditure (see page 7)</b>	<b>18,954</b>	<b>17,617</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>10</b>
(752)	<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>					
-	Repairs reserve to unrestricted	0	593	(593)	
-	Unrestricted to Retired Ministers' Fund	0	(1,000)	1,000	
-	Other	0	140	(230)	90
-		0	(267)	177	90
(752)	<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Gains and losses on investments</b>					
149	Realised gains	315	36	277	2
963	Unrealised gains	2,182	174	1,212	796
1,112	<b>Total gains on investments</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>798</b>
360	<b>Net increase in funds in the year</b>	<b>4,646</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>897</b>
35,505	Balances brought forward at 1st January	35,865	9,131	22,312	4,422
35,865	<b>Balances carried forward at 31st December</b>	<b>40,511</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>25,241</b>	<b>5,319</b>

*This page shows the total of the income and expenditure accounts of all funds administered on behalf of the Church nationally. The total for 1997 is then divided between "Unrestricted income funds" which are available for the general purposes of the Church, "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

1996 Total funds £'000		1997 Total funds £'000	--- Income funds ---		Capital funds £'000
			Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	
<b>MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>					
<b>Provinces</b>					
1,075	Northern	1,088	1,088		
1,538	North Western	1,511	1,511		
1,100	Mersey	1,120	1,120		
1,100	Yorkshire	1,135	1,135		
1,060	East Midlands	1,071	1,071		
1,220	West Midlands	1,260	1,260		
1,462	Eastern	1,462	1,462		
1,105	South Western	1,150	1,150		
1,831	Wessex	1,831	1,831		
1,940	Thames North	2,000	2,000		
2,445	Southern	2,565	2,565		
586	Wales	570	570		
16,462		16,763	16,763	0	0
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>					
1,034	Dividends	806	156	650	
375	Interest	423	366	57	
1,409		1,229	522	707	0
<b>GRANTS RECEIVED</b>					
518	Memorial Hall Trust	616	546	70	
225	New College London Trust	235	235		
78	URC Insurance Company Limited	71	71		
-	Council for World Mission	8	8		
59	Department for Education & Employment	51	51		
880		981	911	70	0
<b>LEGACIES</b>					
<b>For</b>					
74	Ministry and Mission Fund	59	59		
270	Housing Retired Ministers	303		303	
235	Other	26		22	4
579		388	59	325	4
<b>SUNDRY INCOME</b>					
152	Provincial contributions to YLTO/YCWT programme	181	181		
-	Transfer of retired ministers' housing funds from Yorkshire fund	570		570	
158	Donations	372	9	348	15
279	Other	249	14	235	
589		1,372	204	1,153	15
387	<b>PROFIT ON SALE OF PROPERTIES</b>	370	35	335	
<b>20,306</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>21,103</b>	<b>18,494</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>19</b>

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

## ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

1996 Total funds £'000		1997			Capital funds £'000
		Total funds £'000	---- Income funds ---- Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	
<b>MINISTRY</b>					
11,615	Stipends - local and special ministries	11,874	11,834	40	
133	Stipends - Church Related Community Workers	146	146		
873	Pension grants	555		555	
415	Resettlement and other grants	279	279		
390	Provincial moderators - stipends & expenses	375	375		
1,100	Pension Fund additional contributions - normal	750	750		
2,500	- exceptional	0			
17,026		13,979	13,384	595	0
<b>TRAINING</b>					
660	College training for stipendiary ministry	813	707	106	
72	Other training for stipendiary ministry	74	74		
81	Training for non-stipendiary ministry	71	71		
360	YLTO/YCWT programme	363	363		
29	Support for Westminster College	(3)	(3)		
27	Support for Windermere Centre	37	37		
51	Support for Yardley Hastings	36	36		
12	Lay training costs	20	20		
78	Scholarship programme	81	81		
1,370		1,492	1,386	106	0
<b>ASSEMBLY APPOINTED STAFF</b>					
237	Salaries/stipends - executive staff	245	241	4	
181	Salaries/stipends - support staff	231	223	8	
128	Housing and expenses	117	117		
546		593	581	12	0
<b>MISSION</b>					
614	Council for World Mission	647	647		
75	Missionaries	92	92		
258	Grants for national and local mission	725	262	463	
122	Ecumenical councils	132	132		
1,069		1,596	1,133	463	0
<b>ASSEMBLY RELATED COSTS</b>					
71	General Assembly	94	94		
58	Assembly committees/conferences	72	71	1	
22	Mission Council committees/conferences	27	27		
151		193	192	1	0
<b>COMMUNICATION AND EDITORIAL</b>					
143	Salaries	141	141		
34	Other costs	53	53		
177		194	194	0	0
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
245	Personnel and finance - salaries	273	273		
9	- other costs	37	37		
168	Premises costs	168	168		
83	Professional fees	89	77	12	
214	Miscellaneous expenses	340	192	138	10
719		907	747	150	10
21,058	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	18,954	17,617	1,327	10

*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 1997**

Fund	Classification (see note 1(ii))	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Investment	Balance
		1st Jan 1997 £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	value change £'000	31st Dec 1997 £'000
Ministry and Mission Fund	Capital Unrestricted	310 6,536	18,094	(16,732)	90 (274)	174	400 7,798
Maintenance of the Ministry Fund	Capital Unrestricted	543	37	(37)		71	614 0
Ministerial Training Fund	Capital Unrestricted	126 580	345	(848)	7	17 36	143 120
Memorial Hall Trust Grant Fund	Capital Unrestricted		18				0 2,033
Westminster College Funds	Capital Restricted	917 1,068	253	(108)	11 39	103 173	1,031 1,425
Church Buildings Funds	Capital Restricted	184 3,114	120	(82)		386	184 3,538
Retired Ministers' Housing Funds	Capital Restricted	355 1,337	5 8		9		360 1,354
Retired Ministers' Housing Society	Capital Restricted		1,272	(31)			0 8,490
Welfare Fund	Capital Restricted	109 287	30	(36)	18 57	15 40	142 378
Retired Ministers' Aid Fund	Capital Restricted	147 674	45	(52)		19 85	166 752
Retired Ministers' Fund	Capital Restricted		226	(356)	1,101	508	0 5,597
World Church and Mission Funds	Capital Restricted	214 1,186	81	(1)	(123)	26 143	240 1,286
Windermere Centre Fund	Capital Restricted		1				0 345
Yardley Hastings Fund	Capital Restricted		4				0 554
Other Funds	Capital Restricted	1,517 2,385	14 550	(10) (661)	(29) (906)	547 154	2,039 1,522
<b>Totals (see page 5)</b>		<b>35,865</b>	<b>21,103</b>	<b>(18,954)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>40,511</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>4,422</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>5,319</b>
	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>22,312</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>(1,327)</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>25,241</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>18,494</b>	<b>(17,617)</b>	<b>(267)</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>9,951</b>

*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 1997**

Balance 31st Dec 1997 £'000	Property £'000	Cars and equipment £'000	Investments £'000	Loans £'000	Net Current assets £'000	Inter- -fund balances £'000	Fund
400	310		90				Ministry and Mission Fund
7,798	1,973	280	3,627	131	3,721	(1,934)	
614			614				Maintenance of the Ministry Fund
0							
143			143				Ministerial Training Fund
120						120	
0							Memorial Hall Trust Grant Fund
2,033						2,033	
1,031	612		419				Westminster College Funds
1,425		13	1,281			131	
184			184				Church Buildings Funds
3,538	1,461		1,514	390		173	
360	360						Retired Ministers' Housing Funds
1,354	1,300					54	
0							Retired Ministers' Housing Society
8,490	10,853				(193)	(2,170)	
142			142				Welfare Fund
378			357	14		7	
166			166				Retired Ministers' Aid Fund
752			738			14	
0							Retired Ministers' Fund
5,597			4,549			1,048	
240			240				World Church and Mission Funds
1,286			1,245			41	
0							Windermere Centre Fund
345	304	29				12	
0							Yardley Hastings Fund
554	482	47				25	
2,039			2,039				Other Funds
1,522	51	11	999	15		446	
<b>40,511</b>	<b>17,706</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>18,347</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>3,528</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Totals (see page 4)</b>
<b>5,319</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Capital Restricted</b>
<b>25,241</b>	<b>14,451</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,683</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>(193)</b>	<b>(219)</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
<b>9,951</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>3,627</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>3,721</b>	<b>219</b>	

*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 1997**

1996 £'000		1997 £'000
	<b>RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES SHOWN IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES TO THE ACTUAL CASH (OUTFLOW)/INFLOW FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>	
(752)	Net (outgoing)/incoming resources (see page 5)	2,149
(19)	(Increase)/decrease in stock	6
(7)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	33
(43)	Decrease in creditors	(245)
(66)	Decrease in sums held for provinces and congregations	(471)
(387)	Profit on sale of properties	(370)
91	Depreciation	159
76	Amortisation of gilts	65
(28)	Interest added to loans	(25)
(1,135)	Net cash (outflow)/inflow from general activities	1,301

**STATEMENT SHOWING DISPOSITION OF CASH  
RESOURCES IN THE YEAR**

(1,135)	Net cash (outflow)/inflow from general activities (above)	1,301
	<b>Net amount of cash received from/(applied in) investing activities</b>	
941	Fixed assets	1,046
(2,106)	sales	(1,786)
	purchases	
3,706	Long term investments	2,067
(1,770)	sales	(582)
	purchases	
-	Net change in short term investments	(2,633)
771		(1,888)
	<b>Cash received from a net decrease in loans and advances to congregations and ministers</b>	
(193)	Loans made	(146)
364	Loans repaid	283
171		137
	<b>Bank balances and money on call</b>	
(193)	Decrease in balances	(450)
1,732	Balances at beginning of year	1,539
1,539	Balances at end of year	1,089

*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 decrease our cash balances by £450,000.*

## 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 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

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the religious and charitable work of the Church.

Restricted income funds are funds whose use is restricted to specific purposes according to the terms on which the funds were received. However, if the purpose is one that forms part of the Church's regular expenditure and the income of the funds could therefore be fully spent each year, the restriction has no practical effect and funds with such restrictions are treated as unrestricted.

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 Church subject, in certain cases, to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

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 40 years or more	0 %
Properties deemed to have a useful life of less than 40 years	2½%
Cars	30 %
Computers	25 %
Photocopiers	20 %
Other furniture and equipment	10 %

#### (vi) Investments

Listed securities, investment properties and units in the United Reformed Church Trust Investment Pool are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. In previous years, investment properties have been shown at an original valuation. Unlisted securities 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 mainly of books in the 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
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1st January 1997	11,619	3,480	1,935	754	17,788
Additions during year	1,211	212	172	191	1,786
Disposals during year	(318)	(344)	(261)	(99)	(1,022)
At 31st December 1997	12,512	3,348	1,846	846	18,552
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1st January 1997			206	447	653
Charged during year			55	104	159
Written back on disposal			(261)	(85)	(346)
At 31st December 1997			0	466	466
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31st December 1997	12,512	3,348	1,846	380	18,086
At 31st December 1996	11,619	3,480	1,729	307	17,135

Rents for retired ministers' housing are set at levels estimated to cover maintenance costs only. Total rents received in 1997 were £198,000 (1996 - £184,000) and maintenance costs were £159,000 (1996 - £170,000). All properties are considered to have a remaining useful life exceeding 40 years.

At 31st December 1997 312 (1996 - 311) houses were owned for housing retired ministers and 29 (1996 - 30) 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

	1997 £'000	1996 £'000
Loans and advances comprise:		
To churches	405	520
To ministers	145	142
	<u>550</u>	<u>662</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

	1997 £'000	1996 £'000
Debtors comprise:		
Tax recoverable	56	85
Prepayments and accrued income	410	457
Other debtors	494	451
	<u>960</u>	<u>993</u>

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

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED

## NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS

	1997 £'000	1996 £'000
<b>Long term investments</b>		
Investments held for the longer term comprise the following:		
Units in the Investment Pool at market value	15,287	14,730
Other listed securities at market value	2,341	2,308
URC Insurance Company Limited shares at cost (see note 13)	73	73
Other unlisted securities at cost	24	24
Investment properties at estimated market value (1996 - at cost)	622	227
	<u>18,347</u>	<u>17,362</u>

All investments are in UK companies or properties.

	1997 £'000	1996 £'000
<b>Short term investments</b>		
Short term investments comprise:		
£3 million 8.75% Treasury Stock 1997 at market value	-	3,038
Money market term deposits	5,633	-
	<u>5,633</u>	<u>3,038</u>

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

	1997 £'000	1996 £'000
Current liabilities comprise:		
Sums held for provinces and congregations	2,384	2,855
Advance contributions to the Ministry and Mission Fund	374	525
Other creditors	1,461	1,555
	<u>4,219</u>	<u>4,935</u>

## NOTE 7 - REMUNERATION

During the year the following remuneration was paid to:

		1997 £'000	1996 £'000
Ministers: 731 (1996 - 740)	Gross	10,503	10,264
	Social security costs	962	954
	Pension contributions	1,018	991
		<u>12,483</u>	<u>12,209</u>
Lay staff: 94 (1996 - 85)	Gross	1,127	1,021
	Social security costs	98	90
	Pension contributions	97	87
		<u>1,322</u>	<u>1,198</u>

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

## NOTE 8 - AUDITORS 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:

	1997 £'000	1996 £'000
Auditors' remuneration	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED

### NOTE 9 - ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR OTHERS

At 31st December 1997 United Reformed Church Trust held investments with a market value of approximately £21 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 accounts (see note 1(i)).

### NOTE 10 - THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS PENSION FUND

Pensions for most 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.

During 1997 the Church contributed 10.65% (increased to 11.75% with effect from 1st January 1998) of basic stipend in respect of members and makes further payments towards the actuarial deficit, as recommended by the consultant actuary.

A valuation of the Pension Fund was undertaken by the consultant actuary as at 1st January 1997. The valuation used the attained age method, and indicated that the shortfall on the long-term valuation basis is £4.5 million. At that date the funding level was 90%, and the scheme assets were valued at £49.5 million. Following advice from the actuary the subvention has been reduced to £750,000 per annum. This should eliminate the deficit within nine years. These contributions will be reviewed at the time of the next actuarial valuation. 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 Church also operates a number of other defined benefit schemes for a relatively small number of office and other staff. These schemes showed actuarial surpluses at the time of the most recent actuarial review.

### NOTE 11 - COMMITMENTS

At 31st December 1997 the URC Retired Ministers' Housing Society had commitments for the purchase of properties amounting to £500,000 (1996 - £312,000), but no contractual liabilities for the purchase of properties (1996 - £118,000). At 31st December 1997, the Church had a commitment amounting to £100,000 (1996 - NIL) to make a grant towards the cost of building a new church, but no contractual liabilities for the purchase of properties (1996 - £63,000).

### NOTE 12 - INTERESTS IN TRUSTS

The Church 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 1997 the Church received income of £616,000 (1996 - £518,000) from this trust. In addition, 23 (1996 - 24) properties owned by the trust are occupied by retired 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 Church's interest amounts to approximately 82%. In 1997 the Church received income of £235,000 (1996 - £225,000) 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 13 - URC INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

The Church owns the whole of the share capital of 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 Ecclesiastical Insurance Group who also provide management services. URCIC entered into a deed of covenant to pay to the Church 95% of its pre-tax profits; in 1997, this amounted to £71,000 (1996 - £78,000). The accounts of URCIC are not included in the accounts of the Church on the grounds that its activities are not considered comparable with the main activities of the Church and are not material in the context of these accounts.

### NOTE 14 - UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST INVESTMENT POOL

United Reformed Church Trust operates an Investment Pool for funds it holds as managing trustee and for funds of other trusts and churches. The financial statement of the Pool is shown on page 15. Of the total investment in the Pool, valued at £36.3 million (1996 - £32.6 million), only £15.3 million (1996 - £14.7 million) is held for central funds and is dealt with in these accounts (see note 5).

During 1997 the Charity Commissioners have indicated that the Pool should be restricted to the investment of funds belonging to United Reformed Church Trust as managing trustee. The Board of the Trust is exploring with investment advisers and the Charity Commissioners alternative ways of regularising this situation before 31st December 1998.



**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST INVESTMENT POOL  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1997**

CAPITAL	1997		1996	
	1000 Units	£'000	1000 Units	£'000
Units in issue at 1st January 1997	602,645	32,569	641,095	32,107
Units issued in the year	26,013	1,501	39,905	2,058
Units cancelled in the year	(33,908)	(1,967)	(78,355)	(4,113)
Management fees		(73)		(70)
Increase in value of investments during the year		4,314		2,587
Units in issue to central funds	250,172	15,287	272,559	14,730
Units in issue to other funds	344,578	21,057	330,086	17,839
	<u>594,750</u>	<u>36,344</u>	<u>602,645</u>	<u>32,569</u>

**REPRESENTED BY**

	1997		1996	
	Cost £'000	Market value £'000	Cost £'000	Market value £'000
Investments				
British Government				
Gilt-edged securities	10,123	10,572	9,611	9,556
Other British fixed interest stock	906	1,025	906	976
British equities	16,776	24,328	15,606	20,480
	<u>27,805</u>	<u>35,925</u>	<u>26,123</u>	<u>31,012</u>
Cash and short term deposits		344		1,291
Sundry debtor				
The United Reformed Church		75		266
		<u>36,344</u>		<u>32,569</u>
Based on the underlying market value of investments and uninvested cash, the value of each unit was		<u>6.11 pence</u>		<u>5.40 pence</u>

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

3 months ended	1997		1996	
	Rate per unit pence	£'000	Rate per unit pence	£'000
31st March	0.0729	442	0.0383	246
30th June	0.0802	490	0.1511	984
30th September	0.0788	470	0.0840	548
31st December	0.0529	317	0.0648	390
	<u>0.2848</u>	<u>1,719</u>	<u>0.3382</u>	<u>2,168</u>

The policy for accounting for income is as follows:

- 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.



## 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

24th March 1998

*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 1997, and of its financial activities for the year then ended.

186 City Road  
London EC1V 2NU

ROBSON RHODES  
Chartered Accountants and  
Registered Auditor

24th March 1998

*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 1999

	Actual 1996 £'000	Actual 1997 £'000	Budget 1997 £'000	Estimate 1998 £'000	Budget 1999 £'000
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Ministry</b>					
Stipends - local and special ministries	11,615	11,834	12,320	12,180	12,693
Stipends - CRCWs	133	146	157	160	169
Resettlement and other grants	354	279	301	308	309
Provincial moderators - stipends & expenses	390	375	369	395	411
Pension Fund additional contributions - normal	1,100	750	1,130	750	750
- exceptional	2,500				
	16,092	13,384	14,277	13,793	14,332
<b>Training</b>					
College training for stipendiary ministry	637	707	763	757	809
Other training for stipendiary ministry	72	74	79	78	266
Training for non-stipendiary ministry	81	71	79	90	90
YLTO/YCWT programme	360	363	432	376	392
Support for Westminster College	29	(3)	58		
Support for Windermere Centre	27	37	37	39	40
Support for Yardley Hastings	51	36	45	47	59
Lay training costs	12	20	12	32	39
Scholarship programme	78	81	80	83	85
	1,347	1,386	1,585	1,502	1,780
<b>Assembly appointed staff</b>					
Salaries/stipends - executive staff	237	241	249	265	270
Salaries/stipends - support staff	181	223	205	235	244
Housing and expenses	128	117	112	125	134
	546	581	566	625	648
<b>Mission</b>					
Council for World Mission and missionaries' support	689	739	715	204	167
Grants for national and local mission	186	262	191	195	202
Ecumenical councils	122	132	123	188	197
	997	1,133	1,029	587	566
<b>Assembly related costs</b>					
General Assembly	71	94	102	156	95
Assembly committees/conferences	56	71	73	79	88
Mission Council committees/conferences	22	27	29	33	34
	149	192	204	268	217
<b>Communication and editorial</b>					
Salaries	139	141	112	164	171
Other costs	27	53	33	54	58
	166	194	145	218	229
<b>Administration</b>					
<b>(support for the church nationally and locally)</b>					
Personnel and finance - salaries	245	273	267	283	295
- other costs	9	37	29	27	42
Premises costs	171	168	152	210	173
Professional fees	79	77	66	73	76
Miscellaneous expenses	191	192	152	193	235
	695	747	666	786	821
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>19,992</b>	<b>17,617</b>	<b>18,472</b>	<b>17,779</b>	<b>18,593</b>

	Actual 1996 £'000	Actual 1997 £'000	Budget 1997 £'000	Estimate 1998 £'000	Budget 1999 £'000
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Investment income</b>					
Dividends	304	156	190	159	171
Income from World Church & Mission Fund			50	50	50
Interest	308	366	190	250	300
	612	522	430	459	521
<b>Grants</b>					
Memorial Hall Trust	448	546	475	476	476
New College London Trust	225	235	225	245	245
URC Insurance Company Limited	78	71	66	78	75
Department for Education & Employment	59	51	50	54	55
CWM towards cost of multi racial development worker		8		8	8
	810	911	816	861	859
<b>Ministry and Mission Fund contributions</b>	16,462	16,763	16,797	16,712	16,700
<b>Legacies and major donations</b>	74	59	50	50	50
<b>Other income</b>					
Sundry income	99	23	44	8	22
Provincial contributions to YLTO/YCWT programme	152	181	195	183	190
	251	204	239	191	212
<b>Profit on sale of properties</b>	85	35			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	18,294	18,494	18,332	18,273	18,342
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) IN YEAR</b>	(1,698)	877	(140)	494	(251)



**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS PENSION FUND**

	1997		1996	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>INCOME</b>				
Contributions from ministers and central funds	1,370		1,345	
Transfer values received	63	1,433	44	1,389
Investment income	1,945		1,689	
Underwriting commission	0	1,945	3	1,692
Allocation toward Actuarial Deficit	768		3,610	
Donations	51	819	1	3,611
		4,197		6,692
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Benefits paid	3,078		2,935	
Transfer values paid	0		3	
	3,078		2,938	
Management expenses	156	3,234	134	3,072
 <b>NORMAL INCREASE IN RESOURCES IN THE YEAR</b>				
		963		3,620
Realised profit on sale of investments		1,429		3,088
Increase in unrealised surplus on investment revaluation		5,975		1,535
		8,367		8,243
 <b>TOTAL INCREASE IN RESOURCES IN THE YEAR</b>				
Balance of resources at 1st January		49,514		41,271
Balance of resources at 31st December		57,881		49,514
 <b>Represented by:</b>				
Investments		57,657		48,195
Net current assets		224		1,319
		57,881		49,514

This account should be read in conjunction with note 10 on page 14

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

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

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









**The United Reformed Church  
in the United Kingdom  
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