

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2000

**July 1st - 4th**  
**London**



*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## **Assembly Record**

## MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration      \*  
For Action                      X

Annual Reports <i>Page</i>	Assembly Record <i>Page</i>	Resolution Number		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
30	28	6	Changes to the Structure			X
52	39	20	Commitment for Life	*		
59	24	22	New Service Book	*		
60	25	23	Addition to Schedule A			X
60	25	24	Change in Schedule A			X
61	26	25	Celebrating Church Membership	*		
63	26	26	Do we believe in Creeds?	*		
82, 171	22	30	Local Inter-Faith Activity	*		
99	40	31	Plan for Partnership	X		
105	18	33	Stipendiary Ministers & Retirement	X	X	X
109	19	34	Non-stipendiary Ministry in the URC			
112			Recommendation 2		X	
113			Recommendation 4		X	
113			Recommendation 5		X	
113			Recommendation 6		X	X



# Contents

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the  
Congregational Union of Scotland,  
the General Assembly of the  
United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom  
and of the United Reformed Church,  
1 April 2000**

Page 3 - 8

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the  
United Reformed Church 2000  
1-4 July 2000**

Page 9 - 59

**Report of Assembly Commissions**

Page 60



*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church



# THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland,  
the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom  
and of the United Reformed Church

1 April 2000

Members of the Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland and of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom met together in the Barony, Glasgow on April 1st, 2000, and were led in prayer by the President of the Congregational Union of Scotland, Dr James Merrilees.

The Chairman of the Congregational Union of Scotland, the Revd John W Dyce, declared that the purpose of the meeting was to join the separate bodies together into one body, the United Reformed Church. He further declared that the Assemblies of the Congregational Union of Scotland and the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom were duly constituted.

The Revd Alan G M Paterson presented the Assembly Bible of the Congregational Union of Scotland and spoke of the history of Scottish Congregationalism. The Revd Professor Stephen C Orchard presented the Assembly Bible of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom and spoke of the history of that church.

## Completion of Business on the Proposals for Union

The General Secretary of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, the Revd Anthony Burnham, proposed, and the Moderator of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, the Revd Peter McIntosh, formally seconded:

### Resolution I

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom resolves to ratify its decision of July 1999 to amend the Proposals for Union with the Congregational Union of Scotland in the terms as printed.

(i) the following paragraph shall be added as Paragraph 3 (c) (iii) of Part 3:

'Any member church of the Congregational Union of Scotland which does not comply with the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph shall nevertheless be a concurring church if it passes before the 30th day of November 1999 a resolution to concur which complies with the formalities laid down in sub-paragraph (i) above, notice of which shall have been given by the person specified in the resolution addressed to the General Secretary of the Congregational Union of Scotland by the 31st day of December of 1999'.

(ii) the following amendment shall be made to Paragraph B (ii) of Part 4, namely that the second sentence thereof shall be replaced by the following sentence:

'Any assets of the Council will at the date of unification be passed to the newly formed Synod of Scotland'.

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom signified its assent.

Mr Burnham moved and Mr McIntosh seconded:

### **Resolution 2**

**The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom resolves that, in order to give effect to the intention embodied in the Proposals, the year 2000 be substituted for the year 1999 in the new sub-section (c) to Schedule E.1 as set out in Appendix C of the Proposals.**

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom signified its assent.

The General Secretary of the Congregational Union of Scotland, the Revd John Arthur, proposed and Dr James Merrilees formally seconded:

### **Resolution 3**

**The Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland resolves that, in order to give effect to the intention embodied in the Proposals, the year 2000 be substituted for the year 1999 in the new sub-section (c) to Schedule E.1 as set out in Appendix C of the Proposals.**

The Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland signified its assent.

## **Statements**

The General Secretaries of the Congregational Union of Scotland and of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom made statements confirming that the procedures laid out in the Proposals for the Union of March 1998 had all been carried out by each church.

The Chairman stated that the United Reformed Church Bill had received its Royal Assent on 10th February 2000 and that its provisions would come into force that day. It would be known as "The United Reformed Church Act 2000" and would be so described in Paragraph 23 of the Basis of Union.

All the formalities having been concluded the two Assemblies proceeded to the Resolutions to Unite which together would comprise the Unifying Declaration by which the uniting process set out in the Proposals would be completed.

## **Resolutions to unite**

The Revd John Arthur proposed and Dr James Merrilees seconded:

### **Resolution 4**

**The Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland meeting in the Barony, Glasgow on this first day of the month of April in the year 2000, being satisfied that all necessary action has been taken for the giving of legal effect to such parts of the Proposals for Union of March 1998 (as amended) as require legal sanction, declares and resolves that the Congregational Union of Scotland and the concurring churches are hereby united with the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom in the one Church to be the United Reformed Church, in accordance with the Proposals and with the Basis and Structure amended in accordance with the scheduled amendments and with the amalgamation of membership and ministry provided for in the Proposals, giving thanks to God for graciously leading us thus far.**

The Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland signified its assent.

The Revd Anthony Burnham proposed and the Revd Peter McIntosh seconded:

### **Resolution 5**

**The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom meeting in the Barony, Glasgow on this first day of the month of April in the year 2000, being satisfied that all necessary action has been taken for the giving of legal effect to such parts of the**

Proposals for Union of March 1998 (as amended) as require legal sanction, declares and resolves that the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom is hereby united with the Congregational Union of Scotland and the concurring churches in the one church to be the United Reformed Church, in accordance with the Proposals and with the Basis and Structure amended in accordance with the scheduled amendments and with the amalgamation of membership and ministry provided for in the Proposals, giving thanks to God for graciously leading us thus far.

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom signified its assent.

The Members of the Annual Assembly and the General Assembly, having voted separately and resolved that the Church and the Union and concurring churches should unite, the Revd Anthony Burnham proposed and the Revd John Dyce seconded:

### **Resolution 6**

The Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland and the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, meeting in the Barony, Glasgow on the first day of the month of April in the year 2000, being satisfied that all necessary action has been taken for the giving of legal effect to such parts of the Proposals for Union of March 1998 (as amended) as require legal sanction, declare and resolve that the Congregational Union of Scotland and the concurring churches and the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom are hereby united in the one church to be the United Reformed Church, in accordance with the Proposals and with the Basis and Structure amended in accordance with the scheduled amendments and with the amalgamation of membership and ministry provided for in the Proposals.

At the Chairman's invitation the members of both Assemblies showed their assent by standing together. The guests, visitors and all others present stood also to witness to their promise to pray for the new church.

### **Declaration of Union**

Everyone said together:

**To the glory of God,**

**We declare the formation of the United Reformed Church.  
Where there were two bodies now there is one  
and we rejoice and give thanks for the steadfast leading of the Holy Spirit  
to this moment of union.**

**We declare our hope that, now united,  
we shall be able to mirror more effectively the unity of God, three-in-one.  
We believe that Christ still calls us, with all who seek God, to search more deeply  
for the truth that lies beyond the riches of our different traditions.**

**We declare our faith which does not let us rest here  
but urges us on to listen for God's Word and to follow the bidding of the Holy Spirit  
as local congregations and as the wider councils of the Church.**

**So may we find new ways to make real the abundant life Christ offers to all  
and journey further along the way of unity which is God's will and gift.**

**To the glory of God, in the name of Christ Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The declaration was affirmed with acclamation.

The united Assembly was led in prayer.

The members of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church acknowledged the Revd Peter McIntosh as Moderator and Mr McIntosh signed the new Assembly Bible.



The Revd Fiona Bennett proposed and the Revd Bob Andrews seconded:

## **Resolution 7**

**The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church instructs the General Secretary to inform other bodies that union has taken place and resolves to seek to continue in membership of**

**the Council for World Mission  
the Conference of European Churches  
the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council  
the World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
the World Council of Churches**

**and ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland)  
CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales)  
CTE (Churches Together in England)  
CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)**

**and all other ecumenical bodies to which either of the former churches belonged**

This was agreed.

## **Reception of guests**

The Assembly then received the following distinguished guests:

Rt Revd John B Cairns	Moderator, Church of Scotland
The Very Revd Monsignor Docherty	General Secretary, Catholic Bishops' Conference
Revd Alan Anderson	Methodist Church
Mrs Gisela Creed	Society of Friends
Colonel John Flett	Salvation Army
Revd T Watson Moyes	Baptist Union
Revd A Douglas Scrimgeour	United Free Church of Scotland
Revd J E Wynne Davies	Moderator-elect, Presbyterian Church in Wales
Revd J W Doff	President, Reformed Churches of Netherlands
Revd R Vallely	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Revd Dr John Ponnusamy	Church of South India
Revd Dr Sam A Owen	ENFYS (The Covenanting Churches in Wales)
Mrs Jenny Carpenter	Churches Together in England
Sister Marie Gallagher	Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Revd Andrew Prasad	Council for World Mission (Church of North India)
Revd Sheilagh Kesting	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
Dr Alison Elliot	Conference of European Churches
Dr Lesley Orr MacDonald	World Council of Churches
Revd Prof J C McCullough	Leuenberg Church Fellowship
Mr Jim Wallace	Deputy First Minister of the Scottish Parliament
Baillie Irene Graham	Provost of Glasgow's representative
Principal Professor Sir John Arbuthnott	Strathclyde University

On the invitation of the Moderator, Mr Jim Wallace, the Revd J E Wynne Davies and the Revd J W Doff addressed the Assembly on behalf of the guests, bringing greetings and congratulations.

Greetings had been received from the Revd Dr Bernard Thorogood, the Union of Welsh Independents, the Free Churches' Council of England and Wales, Churches Together in Wales, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Ecumenical Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The General Secretary read the last of these to the Assembly.

Following the singing of a hymn the Moderator pronounced a blessing and the Assembly adjourned for lunch.

The Moderator re-convened the Assembly.

Following readings from the Bible, the Revd Dr Michael H Taylor preached a charge to the Church.

The General Secretary proposed and the Revd John Dyce seconded:

## **Resolution 8**

### **The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church:**

**8.1 recognises the following colleges and courses for the training of ordinands:**

**Mansfield College, Oxford  
Northern College, Manchester  
Queen's Foundation, Birmingham  
Scottish Congregational and United Reformed College  
Westminster College, Cambridge  
East Anglian Ministerial Training Course (EAMTC)  
East Midlands Ministry Training Course (EMMTC)  
North East Oecumenical Course (NEOC)  
Partnership for Theological Education, Manchester (PTEM)  
(through Northern College, Manchester)  
St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course (SAOMC)  
South East Institute for Theological Education (SEITE)  
South West Ministry Training Scheme (SWMTS)  
Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme (STETS)  
West Midlands Ministerial Training Course (WMMTC);**

**8.2 acknowledging the great service to the church of the Women's Union of the Congregational Union of Scotland, instructs the Mission Council to consider whether there are implications for the central organisation of the church in the context of current ecumenical thinking;**

**8.3 resolves to establish the Synod of Scotland and calls it to meet at the University of St. Andrews on 25-27 August 2000, or such other time and place as may be duly determined;**

**8.4 appoints John Arthur as Moderator of the Synod of Scotland for five years from 1 April 2000;**

**8.5 affirms the appointments hitherto made by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom and confirms their terms of service;**

**8.6 acting on behalf of the Synod of Scotland, appoints Kenneth McArthur Forbes as Synod Clerk for seven years from 1 April 2000;**

**8.7 acting on behalf of the Synod of Scotland, affirms the appointments hitherto made by the Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland of John Dyce as Education Secretary, James Maguire as Treasurer and Lindsey Sanderson as Mission Enabler, and confirms their terms of service.**

This was agreed.

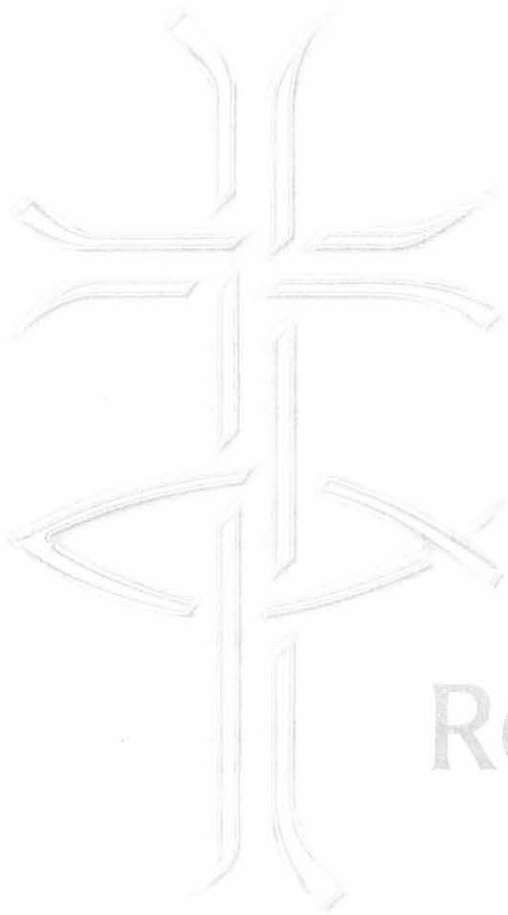
## Induction

Members of Assembly, led by the Clerk, joined in the Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church and the Revd John Arthur was inducted to office as Moderator of the Synod of Scotland.

Holy Communion was celebrated, led by the Moderator of the General Assembly, assisted by his chaplain, the Revd Peter Poulter, and the Revd Carolyn Smyth and the Revd John Young.

Having completed its business the Unifying Assembly was closed.

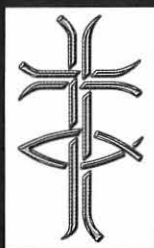
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*The*  
United  
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# THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



## Minutes of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

2000

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000**

**First Session**

### **Constitution of Assembly**

At 2.00 pm members of Assembly met on the Queen Mary and Westfield Campus of the University of London. The General Secretary announced that the Moderator, the Revd Peter McIntosh, was unable to be present because of illness and that he sent his sincere apologies for absence to the Assembly. Therefore the immediate past Moderator, Mrs Wilma Frew, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and time having been duly appointed.

### **Induction of Moderator**

The Revd William Mahood, 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 Mrs Wilma Frew.

### **Thanks to the Retiring Moderator**

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to the Revd Peter McIntosh and Mrs Kay McIntosh in absentia.

The Chaplain, the Revd Paul Bedford, led the worship of the Assembly and the Moderator addressed the Assembly.

The **Roll of Assembly** was placed on the table.

### **Roll of Assembly**

<b>Moderator:</b>		Revd William Mahood
<b>Clerk:</b>		Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith
<b>General Secretary:</b>		Revd Anthony Burnham
<b>Deputy General Secretary:</b>		Revd John Waller
<b>Moderators of Synods:</b>	I	Revd Peter Poulter
	II	Revd C Keith Forecast
	III	Revd Graham Cook
	IV	Revd Arnold Harrison
	V	Revd Malcolm G Hanson
	VI	Revd Elizabeth Welch
	VII	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
	VIII	Revd Raymond Adams
	IX	Revd Derek Wales
	X	Revd Roberta Rominger
	XI	Revd David Helyar
	XII	Revd John L Humphreys
	XIII	Revd John Arthur

## Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees and Task Groups:

Assembly Arrangements:	Revd Alasdair Pratt
Church & Society:	Ms Gabrielle Cox
Communications & Editorial:	Revd Graham Cook
Doctrine, Prayer & Worship:	Revd Dr Colin Thompson
Life & Witness:	Revd Frank Beattie
Ecumenical:	Revd Bob Andrews
Equal Opportunities:	Revd Nannette Lewis Head
Finance:	Mr Graham Stacy
Inter-faith Relations:	Mrs Daphne Beale
Ministries:	Revd Graham Long
Nominations:	Revd Glyn Jenkins
Pastoral Reference:	Revd David Jenkins
Training:	Revd John Proctor
Youth & Children's Work:	Revd Derek Lindfield

## Synod Clerks:

I	Dr Peter Clarke	VII	Mr Ken Woods
II	Mr Raymond Clarke	VIII	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
III	Mr Donald Swift	IX	Mr Graham Rolfe
IV	Mr John Seager	X	Revd Adrian Bulley
V	Revd A Christopher White	XI	Mrs Christine Meekison
VI	Mr Simon Rowntree	XII	Mr Geoff Griffiths
		XIII	Revd Kenneth M Forbes

## Additional Synod Representatives:

I	Mrs Hillian Durell, Miss Alison Beecroft, Revd R Forster
II	Revd Tamas Sugar, Revd Nigel Uden, Revd Ron Lewis
III	Mr Andrew Martlew, Mr Donald Swift, Revd Kenneth Summers
IV	Mrs Pat Evans, Mr Steve Wood, Revd John Jenkinson
V	Mrs I Wren, Mrs J Strong, Mr John Quilter
VI	Ms Rachel Greening, Mrs Melanie Frew, Mr Steve Williams
VII	Mrs Claire Smallman, Miss Claire Gouldthorp, Revd Michael Burrell
VIII	Dr Roger Hunt, Mr Malcolm Summers, Revd Jennifer Davies
IX	Dr David Hoadley, Revd Simon Thomas, Revd Stephen Thornton
X	Mr Geoffrey Duncan, Mr Stephen Collins, Miss Janet Layne
XI	Mrs Mary Helyar, Revd R Blows, Mr Desmond Colechin
XII	Mrs Delyth Rees, Revd Henry Gordon, Revd Gregory Thompson
XIII	Mr D Hay, Miss M King, Mrs H Mee, Mrs E McDonald, Miss Karen Gracie Revd Jack Dyce, Revd L Sanderson, Revd Alan Paterson, Revd B Bailey

## Synod Treasurers:

I	Mr M Holloway	VI	Mr D Hibbard	XI	Mr B West
II	Dr B J Woodhall	VII	Mr C Patten	XII	Mr D Weaver
III	Mr R D Holden	VIII	Mr G Lunt	XIII	Mr J Maguire
IV	Mr G Wood	IX	Mr G Gage		
V	Mr D H Buxton	X	Miss V Ham		

## Theological College Representatives:

Mansfield College, Oxford:	Revd Dale Rominger, Mr Michael Hopkins
Northern College, Manchester:	Revd Dr Walter J Houston, Mr Chris Tolley
Westminster College, Cambridge:	Revd Dr David Cornick, Mr Nigel Warner
Queens College, Birmingham:	Revd Dr Neil Messer, Ms Jacky Embrey

**Youth representatives:** Mr Huw Morrison, Miss Catherine Smith

**Council for World Mission:** Dr V Sagar Lall

**Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:**

Mrs Gwen Hall, Revd N Birnie, Revd A L Macarthur, 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 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,  
Revd 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,  
Revd Dr D M Thompson, Revd D Jenkins, Mrs W Frew, Revd P McIntosh

**District representatives:**

**Synod I**

- A: Revd C Biggs, Revd J Calderley, Revd S Hamnett, Miss D Kailofer, Mr J Heathorn, Mrs T Heathorn  
B: Revd M Kay Alberg, Revd J Breslin, Revd W Ellerby, Revd T Oakley, Revd N G Percival,  
Mr C Drew, Mr M Porter, Mr W Robertson, Mr M G Spicer, Mr F C Thomson  
C: Revd G Bobbett, Revd J Durell, Revd N Leveridge, Mrs D Clarke, Mr S Loveitt, Ms L Granville,  
Ms H Ogilvie  
E: Revd Dr G Davis, Revd J Robinson, Mr W Hanvey, Mr A MacKenzie

**Synod II**

- A: Revd P Killick, Revd B Willis, Ms J Byrne, Ms J Glover, Mr J Willis, Mr J Bradbury  
B: Revd D C Phillips, Revd M Storr, Revd C J Weddle, Mrs J Hailwood, Mr N Shaw  
C: Revd G Townsend, Revd David Mather, Revd S Thomas, Mr G Grime, Mr A Barnes, Mr D Estill  
D: Revd D Allen, Revd M Perrott, Mr M Thomason  
E: Revd N Riley, Revd J J Roche, Revd A Morris, Revd M Jeffrey, Mr G Ollerenshaw,  
Mrs J Ollerenshaw, Mr T P Jeffrey, Mr M Walsh  
F: Revd J Barron, Revd B Jolly, Revd M Tait, Revd A Wilkinson, Mr R Banwell, Miss L Betts,  
Mr E C Chilton, Mrs S Wilkinson  
G: Revd C Vermeulen, Revd J Piper, Dr S Dunn, Mrs S Checkley

**Synod III**

- A: Revd T Clarke, Revd R Allen, Revd K Jones, Revd B Holroyd, Dr R Allen, Miss A Micklem,  
Mr R Clewes, Mr R Milward  
B: Revd C Coe, Revd Gwneth Thomas, Revd C Veitch, Dr D South, Mrs P Piggott, Mr I Cooper  
C: Revd L Guthrie, Revd I Ring, Revd S Dears, Mrs A Parker, Miss M Proven, Miss K Pope  
D: Revd H MacLeod, Revd M Spencer, Revd P Foster, Mr K J Howell, Mrs E Brown, Mrs P Harrison

**Synod IV**

- A: Revd S Knapton, Revd H Drummond, Revd D Coote, Mrs K Webb, Mr K Webb, Ms B Stephenson  
B: Revd S Collinson, Revd R Jones, Revd P Parkin, Mrs F Digby, Mr R Studd, Miss E Walton  
C: Revd Tony Gardiner, Revd Tony Lee, Revd R Stanyon, Mrs A Holdsworth, Ms G Holdsworth,  
Mrs J Throssell  
D: Revd W Frame, Revd C Ellefsen-Jones, Revd H Wilkinson, Miss K Priestley, Mr J Wilkinson,  
Mrs E Collins  
E: Revd M Heard, Revd V Newman, Miss R Norton, Mrs H Carter  
F: Revd A Smeaton, Revd R Tusting, Miss K Bridge, Mr A Jones

**Synod V**

- A: Revd P Breeze, Revd P Lidgett, Revd J Haigh, Revd H Eder, Mrs A Lilley, Mr J Lilley, Mr A Blurton  
B: Revd J Findlay, Revd J Downing, Revd J Hall, Mr M Gardner, Mrs M Green, Mrs M Garrow  
C: Revd E McDonald, Revd G Robson, Revd Dr P Jupp, Mr G Jackson, Mrs B Panter, Mrs P Hinks  
D: Revd I Smith, Revd Josephine Williams, Mr D Edwards, Mr J Williams  
E: Revd C Ford, Revd E Nash, Revd M Buxton, Miss S McDonald, Mr A Hudson, Mrs S Yaxley  
F: Revd L Watson, Revd R Martin, Mrs B Nield, Mrs S Watson



## Synod VI

- A: Revd B Hawsworth, Revd D Haslam, Revd P Taylor, Miss K Cattell, Mr G Harrison, Mr J Titley, Mrs A Pritchard, Mrs L Badger  
B: Revd S Mountcastle, Revd T Bayliss, Miss M Jones, Mrs I Jacob  
C: Revd S Ansa-Addo, Revd J Brown, Revd R Woodall, Mrs A Sheldon, Mrs J Farrar, Mrs L Brown  
D: Revd D Featonby, Revd H Goodchild, Revd R Francis, Miss B Potts, Mr F Dale, Mrs C Wallace  
E: Revd M Burgess, Revd J Marsh, Revd S Scott, Revd G Sweeney, Dr I Frew, Miss S Smith, Mr A MacDougall, Mr J Winton  
F: Revd P Holmes, Revd G Spicer, Revd W Young, Miss S Thompson, Mr S Powell, Mrs C Darracott

## Synod VII

- A: Revd C Croll, Revd O North, Revd R Mortimer, Dr S Brisley, Mrs R Allen, Mrs E North  
B: Revd D Bunney, Revd M Dunford, Revd J Pugh, Revd C White, Mr M Barnes, Miss G Creasey, Mrs J Gronow, Mr J White  
C: Revd K Ellis, Revd N Rogers, Revd J Thorneycroft, Mr S Rickett, Mrs E Whitten, Mr J Tyler  
D: Revd M Mills, Revd V Ridgewell, Revd D Sebley, Mr G Bates, Mr R Brett, Mr M Pape  
E: Revd P Ball, Revd C Hare, Revd D Simpson, Revd J Stone, Mr M Ballard, Mrs S Baker, Mr R Elbourn, Mrs J Turner, Miss E Doyle  
F: Revd R Garfoot, Mr J Bannister

## Synod VIII

- A: Revd P Ford, Revd Dr L Phelps, Revd P Snell, Mrs J Stidson  
B: Revd J Armistead, Miss N Andrews, Mrs J Potter  
C: Revd J Knight, Revd M O'Hara, Revd R Sleigh, Mrs A Phillips, Mr L Phillips, Mrs M Sleigh  
D: Revd E Kemp, Revd M Whitfield, Miss I Reeves, Mrs D Watson  
E: Revd P Henderson, Revd S Kirkbride, Mrs H Thomas, Mrs J Trippier  
F: Revd D Burnett, Revd P Cemlyn-Jones, Revd H Martell, Revd H Pencavel, Miss A Bebbington, Mr A Jones, Mrs S Lincoln, Mrs S Windmill  
G: Revd R Blick, Mr R Roderick  
H: Revd G Hoslett, Mrs J Clarke  
J: Revd R Fowler, Mr G Miles

## Synod IX

- A: Revd C Bones, Revd G Collins, Revd B Collins, Revd B Hesketh, Revd S Nuttall, Mrs J Ayles, Miss P Gray, Mrs K Hesketh, Ms M Keats, Miss C Meachin  
B: Revd C Bembridge, Revd H Sharp, Revd B Shirley, Revd J Waghorn, Mr P Hamilton, Miss C Hardwick, Mrs C Hardwick, Mrs J Waghorn  
C: Revd P Trow, Revd D Williams, Revd K Wilson, Mrs J Bartlett, Mrs G Bennett, Miss A-M Kitcher  
D: Revd D Macalister, Revd C Macaulay, Revd D Netherwood, Revd R Pullen, Mrs J Fowles, Mr J Hutson, Mr S Shore, Mrs A Toplas  
E: Revd M Jackson, Revd O Laber, Revd J Macro, Revd K Pryde, Revd B Stops, Revd J Wilkinson, Miss D Hill, Miss E Jones, Mr C MacBean, Miss L Pryde

## Synod X

- A: Revd J Cox, Revd D Elliott, Revd Dr A Jeffers, Revd P Loveitt, Mrs J Ellis, Mr R Murray, Mr G Noble, Miss A Thorn  
B: Revd R Dixon, Revd J Loveitt, Revd D Varcoe, Dr J Stevenson, Mr T Stevenson, Mr J Wright  
C: Revd D Parkin, Revd M Playdon, Revd M Shrubsole, Miss D Baldock, Mrs D Smith  
D: Revd D Aplin, Revd P Dean, Revd J Ennals, Revd J Hardraker, Dr J Anderson, Mrs M Ingram, Mrs S Marsden, Miss E Mason  
E: Revd F Ackroyd, Revd D Bradburn, Revd D Gay, Mrs P Duncan, Miss J Layne  
F: Revd B Cheetham, Revd J Edwards, Revd N Samuel, Ms C Davison, Mr M Wheadon

### **Synod XI**

- A: Revd M Hensman, Revd M Munyaneza, Revd I Stewart, Revd B Treharne, Mr O Azu-Okeke, Mrs B Buabeng, Miss M Short, Mrs M Watson  
B: Revd A Skelton, Revd J Sowerbutts, Revd D Tapley, Revd J West, Mr P Baikie, Miss E Isaac, Mr M Prevett, Mr R Roberts  
C: Revd B Carter, Revd R Singh, Revd R Wells, Revd M Wilson, Mr P Cross, Mr C Fosten, Mr P Heatley, Mr W Irving  
D: Revd R Mearkle, Revd A C Mills, Revd R Street, Mr J G Ellis, Miss H Honess, Mrs S Wootton  
E: Revd Dawn Mather, Revd D Sturt, Mrs L-M Browning, Mr L Mather  
F: Revd A Fairchild, Revd T Lowe, Revd K Trice, Mrs S Charlesworth, Mrs S Pratt, Mr G Purdye  
G: Revd G Allan, Revd K Lynch, Revd C Martin, Mr I Chalmers, Mr D Curry, Mrs K Hancox

### **Synod XII**

- A: Revd D Fox, Revd J Huntingdon, Revd S Walkling, Mrs E Charlton, Ms K Grey, Mrs E Pritchard  
B: Revd N Douglas, Revd N Head, Revd S Jackson, Mr W Arnold, Mrs M Davies, Mrs J Smith-Draper  
C: Revd Dr P Cruchley-Jones, Revd A Davis, Revd P Noble, Revd K Ofstad, Mr A Grand, Miss L Morgan, Mrs M Morgan, Mrs B Tomlin  
D: Revd P Lewis, Revd K Price, Mr J Price, Mr W Stuart Jones  
E: Revd M Evans, Revd R Gordon, Mrs K Apps, Mrs J Evans  
F: Revd D Cassidy, Revd M Cruchley, Revd A Willcocks, Mrs B Cassidy, Mr K Jenkins, Mrs C Willcocks

### **Synod XIII**

- A: Revd M Bunting, Revd P Phillips, Revd R Phillips, Mrs D Caldwell, Mr T Dobson, Mr C Jenkins  
B: Revd D Pattie, Revd J Sanderson, Mr B Bannister, Mrs E McCulloch  
C: Revd A D Brown, Revd J W S Clark, Mrs L Highton, Mrs E King  
D: Revd T Heggie, Dr J Merrilees  
E: Revd E Armstrong, Revd D Cheyne, Mrs R Barr, Mr R Calder  
F: Revd K Hilton, Mr A Milton

### **Voting Members Representing Other Churches:**

Baptist Union of Great Britain	Revd Kenneth Stewart
The Church of Scotland	Revd Tom McIntyre
The Congregational Federation	Pastor Graham Adams
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain	Revd Vincent Onwukanjo
The Methodist Church	Mrs Rosemary Wass
The Moravian Church	Mr Blair Kessler
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Revd Colin McClure
The Presbyterian Church of Wales	Revd Geoffrey Barrington
Union of Welsh Independents	Revd Allan Pickard
The United Free Church of Scotland	Revd A Douglas Scrimgeour
Church of England	Mrs Elizabeth Fisher
Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales	Revd Bernard Longley

## Reception of Guests

The Revd Roberta Rominger, Moderator, Thames North Synod, introduced the Revd Erial Kirby, District Chairman, London North-East, Methodist Church. Mr Kirby was received by the Moderator and spoke to the Assembly.

The Revd Bob Andrews, 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 Congregational Federation  
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain  
The Methodist Church  
The Moravian Church  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

The Presbyterian Church of Wales  
Union of Welsh Independents  
The United Free Church of Scotland

The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales  
Church of England  
Action for Churches Together in Scotland  
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Revd Kenneth Stewart  
Revd Tom Macintyre  
Rt Revd Andrew McLellan  
Mrs Irene McLellan  
Revd Ian Brady  
Mrs Pat Brady  
Pastor Graham Adams  
Revd Vincent Onwukanjo  
Mrs Rosemary Wass  
Mr Blair Kessler  
Revd Colin McClure  
Very Revd Dr John Lockington  
Mrs Norma Lockington  
Revd Geoffrey Barrington  
Revd Allan Pickard  
Revd A Douglas Scrimgeour  
Mrs Barbara Scrimgeour  
Fr Bernard Longley  
Mrs Elizabeth Fisher  
Sister Maire Gallagher  
Senior Apostle James Ozigi

### International Visitors:

World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
Church of North India  
Conference of European Churches  
Presbyterian Church of USA  
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana

The Church of South India  
United Congregational Church of Southern Africa  
United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Revd Dr Setri Nyomi  
Dr Sagar Lall  
Mr Keith Jenkins  
Revd Jeff Powell  
Revd Li Hau-Tiong  
Mrs Li  
Rt Revd J Y Ledo  
Revd Francis Amenu  
Mrs Jasmine Jebakani  
Revd Moiseraele Prince Dibeela  
Revd Marjorie Lewis-Cooper

Dr Sagar Lall and Mrs Rosemary Wass responded to the welcome on behalf of the guests.

The Assembly adjourned.

The Moderator greeted the Assembly, welcomed those who were attending Assembly for the first time, and introduced the people on the platform.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, the Revd Alasdair Pratt, presented the Order of Business and drew attention to the list of errors and omissions in the Book of Reports and additional items of business which had been included in the Order Paper.

**Church Changes**

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to move adoption of Resolution 4:

<b>Resolution 4</b>	<b>New Churches</b>
<b>General Assembly receives the churches and the mission project listed below as local churches and a mission project of the United Reformed Church.</b>	

New Churches

- Locking Castle Christian Partnership, Weston-super-Mare – South Western
- The Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads, North Swindon – South Western
- Fairford Leys (Aylesbury) Local Ecumenical Partnership – Thames North
- Slough United Reformed Asian Christian Church – Thames North

Mission Project

- Holy Island Mission Project – Northern

The Moderator invited comments from the Assembly, following which the vote was taken.

**Resolution 4 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 5:

<b>Resolution 5</b>	<b>Closure of Local Churches</b>
<b>General 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.</b>	

- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Norham                        | Northern      |
| Trinity, Bishop Auckland      | Northern      |
| Brierfield                    | North Western |
| St Paul's and Trinity, Bootle | Mersey        |
| Union Street URC, Wallasey    | Mersey        |
| Lane URC, Holmfirth           | Yorkshire     |
| Hognaston                     | East Midlands |
| Alfreton                      | East Midlands |
| Adsborough                    | South Western |
| Debden                        | Thames North  |
| Slough, Mustard Seed Church   | Thames North  |
| Ingress Vale                  | Southern      |
| Carmel, Bonvilston            | Wales         |
| Hodley, Montgomeryshire       | Wales         |
| Lanteg, Pembrokeshire         | Wales         |

**Resolution 5 was carried.**

The Moderator received and greeted representatives of the new churches and mission project:

Locking Castle Christian Partnership, Weston-super-Mare:	Revd John Bolton
The Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads, North Swindon:	Deacon Maureen Spinks
Slough United Reformed Asian Christian Church:	Mr Salim Fazal Din, Mr Mehebob Anil, Mr Philip Glen
Holy Island Mission Project:	Revd Ian Fosten, Mr & Mrs J Heathorn

The Moderator invited the Moderators of Synod to introduce the ministers who had been ordained since the last annual meeting of the Assembly, noting that this was the first Assembly at which the Synod of Scotland had the opportunity to make such introductions. Each of those present was greeted in turn and the Assembly welcomed them with applause.

**Northern Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Poulter)**

Revd M Kay Alberg	Blyth
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**North Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Keith Forecast)**

Revd Jane Barron	Goyt Valley Pastorate (unable to be present)
Revd Edward Rawson Cox	Ministry in the South West Manchester District and Community Pride Initiative (unable to be present)

**Mersey Synod (Moderator: Revd Graham Cook)**

Revd Ruth Allen	Congleton and Haslington and Crewe
Revd Christopher Coe	Tunley and prospective minister at Orrell (unable to be present)
Revd Camilla Veitch	Peasley Cross and Tollbar, St Helen's and prospective minister at Prescott (unable to be present)
Ms Alison Micklem	Church Related Community Worker at Runcorn (unable to be present)

**Yorkshire Synod (Moderator: Revd Arnold Harrison)**

Revd Alistair Smeaton	Highfield St James Group in Huddersfield
Revd Alistair Ellefsen-Jones	Little Lane, Wilsden and Westfield Wyke
Revd Sandra Griffiths	Trinity, Harehills Avenue, Leeds

**West Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Welch)**

Revd Harry Goodchild	Christchurch, Tetbury
Mrs Adella Pritchard	Church Related Community Worker at Lea Road

**Eastern Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Caswell)**

Revd Catherine Hare	St Neot's
Revd David Rees	Joint minister at Christchurch, Rayleigh
Revd David Sebley	Hockley and Hawkwell
Revd Jim Thorneycroft	North and East Springfield LEP
Revd Dr David Thompson	Ecumenical Officer and Rural Mission Consultant, Cambridge District Council

**South Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Ray Adams)**

Revd Susan Kirkbride	Highworth, Cricklade, and Wootton Bassett
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**Wessex Synod (Moderator: Revd Derek Wales)**

Revd Jackie Lowe	South Wiltshire Group (unable to be present)
Revd Alan Wickens	The United Church, Dorchester
Revd Rosemary Pullen	Hindhead and Elstead Group



### **Thames North Synod (Moderator: Revd Roberta Rominger)**

Revd Raymond Ashley	Alexandra Park (unable to be present)
Revd David Downing	Rectory Road, Stoke Newington (unable to be present)
Revd David Varcoe	Trinity, Harrow and St John's, Kenton
Revd Alan J Kirkcaldy	Amersham (unable to be present)
Revd Derek Ilines	Hitchin

### **Southern Synod (Moderator: Revd David Helyar)**

Revd Barbara Pearson	Tolworth
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### **Synod of Wales (Moderator: Revd John Humphreys)**

Revd Klaus Gutwein	Ely Pastorate, Cardiff
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### **Synod of Scotland (Moderator: Revd John Arthur)**

Revd David Brown Pattie	Morison Memorial, Clydebank
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The Moderator addressed the new ministers and led the Assembly in prayer.

The General Secretary named those ministers who were celebrating ministerial jubilees during the year:

Ordained in 1940	Ordained in 1950
Donald Alfred DAVIS	Raymond William ARNOLD
Donald Frederick FLAWN	Edwin Malcolm CHUBB
Douglas M GORDON	Charles Henry COUPLAND
Daniel Thomas JENKINS	David Howard DALE
John Selwyn ROBERTS	John Stronach HENDERSON
Lawrence S SQUIRES	George HEWITT
Francis Thomas SUMMERS	Hugh KEMBER
Walter Alexander WHITEHOUSE	Arthur LISTER-HETHERINGTON
	George Mortimer NEADS
	Walter PHILLIPS
	Geoffrey William SATCHELL
	James R SHANKS
	Alfred Victor SMITH
	Kenneth Frank SOUTHERN
	Gwyn Lewis THOMAS
	Ernest Stanley WALTERS
	Ronald WATERS
	John William Patrick WILLIAMSON

The Moderator greeted those who were present, who were David Dale, John Henderson, Hugh Kember, Geoffrey Satchell and John Williamson. The Assembly applauded them warmly. The Moderator would write to those not present to convey the greetings of the Assembly.

### **Ministries Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Graham Long, to present the report of the Ministries Committee. Mr Long thanked those who had contributed to the work of the committee and highlighted certain aspects of the committee's work.

The Moderator invited comments and questions.

In response to questions, the Convener reported that the committee was considering the relationship between the Overseas Recruitment Scheme and Overseas Exchange, and that the financial issues surrounding the call of ministers from abroad were under review.

The following additions to the report of the Accreditation Sub-Committee which had been circulated on the Order Paper were noted:

**Admissions to the Roll of Ministers:**

**By Ordination – Stipendiary:**

Mary Kay Alberg, Edward Rawson Cox, Alistair Ellefsen-Jones, Klaus Gutwein

**By Ordination – Non-stipendiary**

Sandra Griffiths, Jackie Lowe (formally Hillier)

**By Transfer from other Churches:**

Daniel George Meister (United Church of Christ, USA)

Gerald Moule (Church of Scotland)

John Howard Reed (Presbyterian Church, USA)

**Deletions from the Roll of Ministers:**

**By Resignation:**

Martyn Poole

In response to a question concerning ministers of other churches serving the URC and being paid through the Maintenance of the Ministry Scheme, Mr Long said that the committee was reviewing the policy and hoped to bring the matter to the next Assembly for decision. Requests for ministers admitted to the Roll on transfer from other churches to be presented and received at Assembly had been received with sympathy by the committee, but Mr Long noted that financial cost and other issues needed to be considered.

Mr Long introduced the National Lay Preaching Commissioner, Carol Dixon, who was received by the Moderator and welcomed by the Assembly.

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 33:

**Resolution 33**

**Stipendiary Ministers and Retirement**

**General Assembly, welcoming the statement on stipendiary Ministers and Retirement:**

- a) thanks the working party for its assistance;
- b) urges stipendiary ministers, local churches, District Councils and Synods to adopt it as an aid to the development of good practice;
- c) instructs Ministries Committee to prepare a further statement on church related community workers and non-stipendiary ministers and retirement.

A number of members spoke in favour of the resolution, though concerns were expressed about the workload of moderators of synods and that paragraph 8.1 of the text supporting the resolution appeared to link ministers' retirement accommodation to the ministry and mission needs of synods and districts.

The Convener responded that ministers who had the ability and the desire to serve after retirement might have the option of retiring to a specific place and serving there for a limited time. This might be a way of providing ministry for some churches which could not otherwise have any. He assured Assembly however that there was no question of placing such conditions upon the provision of retirement housing.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 33 was carried.**

The Assembly adjourned.

**Ministries Committee (continued)**

The Moderator invited the Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Graham Long, to move adoption of Resolution 34. Mr Long, presenting Resolutions 34 and 35, highlighted areas of concern expressed in the review and assured Assembly that the concerns were being addressed. He stressed the need for more creative thinking in the range of ministries available to the church, and spoke of the success of non-stipendiary ministry and expressed thanks to non-stipendiary ministers for their contribution.

Mr Long moved Resolution 34:

<p><b>Resolution 34</b></p> <p><b>General Assembly expresses gratitude for the service offered by our non-stipendiary ministers and offers encouragement in their ministries by:</b></p> <p>a) <b>thanking the working party for its support;</b></p> <p>b) <b>urging the speedy implementation of recommendations 1 to 6 in the report on non-stipendiary ministry in the United Reformed Church.</b></p>	<p><b>Non-stipendiary ministry in the URC</b></p>
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The Moderator invited debate.

Many speakers indicated broad support for the resolution and the report, though concern was expressed at the use of the word 'contract' in a non-stipendiary context and that the models did not adequately describe actual situations of ministry.

Mr Long responded by expressing gratitude for the positive comments that had been made, and assured Assembly that further consideration would be given to the points raised. He noted that the duration of supervised placement was a matter for the Training Committee, and was the result of a decision of the Assembly.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on Resolution 34.

**Resolution 34 was carried.**

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 35:

Resolution 35

New pattern of Ministries

General Assembly notes the concern expressed in Section 4 of the report on non-stipendiary ministry in the United Reformed Church and instructs the Ministries Committee, in consultation with others, to draw up proposals for a new, diverse pattern of ministries, building on ecumenical insights and designed to enable the church to respond more effectively to the challenge of the mission strategy outlined in *Growing Up*.

In discussion, considerable concern was expressed about the resolution and section 4 of the report.

The Revd John Waller indicated that he wished to move an amendment. He stated it orally, then the Revd Dr Walter Houston said that he would second such an amendment.

The Moderator closed discussion of this matter until a written amendment could be provided, and moved to the next business.

**Youth and Children's Work Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Derek Lindfield, to present the report of the Youth and Children's Work Committee.

Mr Lindfield spoke of the need for children to be noticed, valued, and protected, and for churches to ensure good practice. He commended Pilots to Assembly, speaking of its growth as one of the most positive areas of the church's life, and further commended the National Youth Resource Centre at Yardley Hastings.

Some discussion took place highlighting Good Practice and useful materials which were available.

The Moderator invited Mr Huw Morrison, FURY Chair, to address the Assembly. Mr Morrison spoke of Pilgrim 2000 and of action which had been taken following the FURY Review which had been reported to the Assembly in 1999. This had now become a continuing programme.

## **Equal Opportunities Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Nanette Head, to present the report of the Equal Opportunities Committee, which she did, stressing that the church should be aware of issues of equal opportunity. The Assembly was warned against inadvertent discrimination.

The report of the 1999 survey was discussed, and the view was expressed that the membership of Assembly did not reflect either the ethnic or gender balance of the church as a whole. Assembly was urged to consider carefully the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, using the booklet published by the Churches Main Committee as an aid in this. It was noted that special difficulty was experienced by churches whose buildings were listed.

## **Ministries Committee (continued)**

Consideration of Resolution 35 was resumed, and the following amendment was proposed by the Revd John Waller and seconded by the Revd Dr Walter Houston:

**Delete the words: "notes the concern expressed in Section 4 of the report on non-stipendiary ministry in the United Reformed Church and";**

**delete the words: "draw up proposals for a new, diverse pattern" and replace with the words: "continue the discussion of present and future patterns".**

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the amendment.

**The amendment was carried.**

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the substantive Resolution 35:

### **Resolution 35**

### **New pattern of Ministries**

**General Assembly instructs the Ministries Committee, in consultation with others, to continue the discussion of present and future patterns of ministries, building on ecumenical insights and designed to enable the church to respond more effectively to the challenge of the mission strategy outlined in Growing Up.**

**Resolution 35 as amended was carried.**

The Moderator invited the Chaplain to lead closing worship. The Assembly adjourned.

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2000**

## **First Session**

The Moderator, assisted by the Chaplain and the Revd Peter Poulter, led the Assembly in worship which included the sacrament of Holy Communion. The music was joyously led by the gospel choir from Upper Clapton Church.

### **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 annual Assembly.

**Ministers who have served at home, some as missionaries overseas, and who have died since Assembly 1999.**

David Bruce ADAM  
Leslie Staines ALCOCK  
David Glyn BOWEN  
Albert Philip BURLEY  
Allan Pearce BUTLER  
Ronald Charles CHRISTOPHER  
John Walter CLARK  
Stanley George COULSON  
Phyllis Mary DAVIES  
Leonard Charles Kenneth FRENCH  
William Henry Isaac HAIGH  
Brian Ernest HARRIS  
George Edward HOOPER  
David HOWELL-JONES  
Bernard Hodgson JONES  
David Brynmor JONES  
Norman Ernest JONES  
Paul Stansfield KING

James Taylor MADDISON  
John Johnston MARTIN  
James McNaughton MCAULAY  
Catherine Ann MIDDLETON  
Herbert Reginald NEALE  
Harold Enoch OSMAR  
Gilbert Rees OWEN  
Joseph James PRATT  
Dewi RHYS  
Victor Lawrence SHELDRIK  
David Little SKIDMORE  
Gilbert John TATE  
Edward Horace THOMAS  
Eifion THOMAS  
Joseph Stanley VIRDEN  
Geoffrey WALKER  
Geoffrey WARD  
Jean WILEMAN

## **Missionaries**

Celia DOWNWOOD  
Cyril Bruce FIRTH  
Gwen MORRIS  
Harold Arthur PACKER

Ernest DAWE, a regular attender at the General Assembly from Landeskirche der Pfalz.

After announcements by the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, the Moderator invited the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to address the Assembly. Mr McLellan spoke of the importance of the relationship between the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church and presented the Moderator with a gift.

In the absence of the Revd Peter McIntosh the Moderator invited Mr John Ellis, who had convened the sub-group of the special committee which had interviewed those short-listed, to move adoption of Resolution 36:

### **Resolution 36**

### **Appointment of General Secretary**

**General Assembly appoints the Revd Dr David Cornick to serve as General Secretary for a period of seven years from 1 August 2001 to 31 July 2008.**

**Resolution 36 was carried.**

Dr Cornick was greeted by the Moderator and warmly received by the Assembly.

## **Life and Witness Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Frank Beattie, to present the report of the Life and Witness Committee.

Mr Beattie noted that paragraph 12.7 should have reported the retirement from the Stewardship Subcommittee of Mr Geoffrey Wood, and introduced the new Rural Consultant, Mrs Jenny Carpenter, who was greeted by the Moderator and welcomed by Assembly.

Mr Beattie introduced paragraphs 1-10 of the report.



During discussion, welcome for the College of Evangelists recently established by the Church of England was expressed. It was noted that the steering group referred to in paragraph 10.4 had met.

After responding to the discussion, Mr Beattie addressed the section of the report dealing with *Growing Up*. He spoke of the challenge to the church of making the 5 Marks of Mission incarnate in local churches, and outlined the steps being taken by the Life and Witness Committee to encourage and enable this.

During discussion, several members of Assembly told of local responses to *Growing Up* and commended the use of modern media for presentation of material.

Mr Beattie responded.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Julian Macro as he ended his service as Convener of the Stewardship Sub-Committee and, before that, of the Advocacy Group and the Advocacy and Stewardship Committee.

The Assembly adjourned.

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2000

## Second Session

### Inter-Faith Relations Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, Mrs Daphne Beale, to present to the report of the Inter-Faith Relations Committee. Before proceeding with the report, Mrs Beale introduced Mr Brian Pearce, Director of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, and Mr Jehangir Sarosh, member of the executive of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, Chair of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, and Co-Chair of the UK and Ireland Branch. They were greeted by the Moderator and welcomed by the Assembly.

Each of the guests briefly addressed the Assembly.

Mrs Beale notified the Assembly of a number of changes in committee personnel and consultants, thanking those who had retired from office. She also paid tribute to the Revd Dr David Bowen (consultant on Hinduism and Islam) who had recently died.

Following presentation of the report and discussion Mrs Beale moved adoption of Resolution 30:

#### Resolution 30

#### Christians and Local Inter-Faith Activity

**General Assembly commends the paper *Christians and Local Inter-Faith Activity* produced by the Churches Commission for Inter-Faith Relations and encourages churches to use it in their local situations.**

Following speeches broadly commending the paper the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 30 was carried.**

### Church and Society Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, Ms Gabrielle Cox, to present the report of the Church and Society Committee.

In presenting the report, Ms Cox expressed gratitude to the outgoing Secretary, the Revd Peter Brain, wishing him well for the future.

Ms Cox responded to a number of questions and comments from the floor of Assembly, assuring Assembly that the reference to the Seattle riots in paragraph 5.3 was not intended to imply approval of violence.

Ms Cox moved adoption of Resolution 19. With the permission of the Moderator, Mrs Erica Young addressed Assembly on clause b) of the resolution.

**General Assembly:**

- a) **invites Church and Society to gather a working group, including members suggested by other Assembly committees, to examine the range of issues listed in the Book of Reports and other related matters associated with the end of life, to work on some of them and to report in 2002;**
- b) **in particular reaffirms its belief in and support for the National Health Service as a necessary expression of our common life.**

The Moderator invited discussion and a number of members of Assembly spoke in support of the resolution. The Committee was urged to examine the issue in an ecumenical and multi-faith context.

In response, Ms Cox assured the Assembly that the committee would address as many of the issues raised as possible.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 19 was carried.**

### **Training Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd John Proctor, to present the report of the Training Committee; he informed Assembly that the Training Committee had been allowed ten minutes to present its report instead of the usual five minutes. Mr Proctor paid tribute to the late Revd Dr Catherine Middleton. He introduced the newly appointed Director of Training at Mansfield College, the Revd Dr Walter Houston, who was greeted by the Moderator and welcomed by Assembly.

The Revd David Jenkins took the Chair.

Mr Proctor presented the report, emphasising particularly the committee's intentions for a successor to Training for Learning and Serving (TLS). In the short-term, it was intended to continue using Scottish Churches Open College (SCOC) material, without university validation; in the longer term, it was intended to produce suitable course material and seek a university link in England or Wales. The committee intended to bring a resolution to that effect to Mission Council. It was recognised that the costs would need to be clarified. They would be substantial at first, but it was expected that this approach would produce significant savings in the future. The Moderator invited discussion on paragraphs 1-7 of the report. Mr Proctor responded to comments and questions raised, and assured Assembly that the suggestions made had been noted and would be given consideration. In particular, Mr Proctor noted that the committee would undertake to review the 800 hour placement requirement (paragraph 3.4), and to consider whether stipendiary ministers and non-stipendiary ministers required different patterns of Continuing Ministerial Education.

The Moderator invited discussion on paragraphs 8-11 of the report.

It was suggested by a number of members that when planning the successor to TLS the committee should investigate the possibility of an ecumenical course.

Mr Proctor responded, reporting on ecumenical investigations that had already been made. He was concerned that ecumenical involvement would involve loss of flexibility in training, particularly in provision for those not intending to become Lay Preachers.

The Revd Bill Mahood resumed the Chair.

### **Synod Resolution**

The Moderator invited Dr R Hunt to introduce and move adoption of Resolution 1 on behalf of the South Western Synod. The Revd R Blick seconded formally and reserved his right to speak following discussion.

**General Assembly agrees to explore the setting up of an Occupational Health Service for the benefit and support of all serving ministers, Church Related Community Workers and others paid from central funds.**

A number of members contributed to the debate; many supported the resolution, and others expressed reservations.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 1 was carried.**

Assembly adjourned.

## **Sunday 2nd July 2000**

## **Third Session**

The Moderator asked the Clerk to present the minutes of Saturday's sessions. She did so and noted a number of corrections. She asked that the minutes be accepted, noting that corrections to the Roll of Assembly would be included in the Record of Assembly.

Assembly approved the minutes of the first, second and third sessions of Saturday, 1st July.

### **Election of Moderator of Assembly 2001-2**

The Moderator invited the Clerk to explain the voting procedure.

The Moderator led Assembly in prayer and the vote was taken by secret ballot.

### **Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Dr Colin Thompson, to present the report of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee.

Dr Thompson, in presenting the report, expressed the committee's gratitude to the retiring secretary, the Revd Terry Hinks.

The Moderator invited comments on the report. During discussion, tribute was paid to Mary Parnaby, who had died during the past year, and who had made a significant contribution to the church's work and, in particular, to the relationship with the Church of the Pfalz.

Dr Thompson moved adoption of Resolution 22:

**Resolution 22****New Service Book**

**General Assembly notes that the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee has begun work on producing a new Service Book. It encourages use of and comment on the draft services provided for Baptism and Holy Communion (in the period July 2000 to February 2001), in order to assist with the process of drafting.**

After brief discussion to which Dr Thompson responded the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 22 was carried.**

Dr Thompson introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 23:

## Resolution 23

## Addition to Schedule A

General Assembly accepts the addition to Schedule A of the Basis of Union outlined in Version III, as follows:

Or: (c) Addition to Schedule A: *Version III*

*(At Baptism at an age of responsibility or at profession of faith for those baptised as infants)*

Q: Do you believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
giver of life, redeemer of the world?

A: I do.

Q: Do you repent of your sins, turn away from evil, and turn to Christ?

A: By God's grace, I do.

Q: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

A: I do.

*(At reception into the full privileges and responsibilities of membership)*

Q: From the beginning,  
believers have continued in the worship  
and fellowship of the church:  
N, do you commit yourself to this life?

A: I do, with God's help.

Q: Do you accept the gift and the cost of following Christ  
in your daily life and work?

A: I do, with God's help.

Q: With the whole Church, will you proclaim  
by word and action  
the good news of God in Christ?

A: I will, with God's help.

The Moderator called for questions or comments. Dr Thompson replied to a number of questions, and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 23 was carried** with the required two-thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Basis and Structure, Resolution 23 be referred to synods with the 19th March 2001 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with. This was agreed.

Dr Thompson moved adoption of Resolution 24:

## Resolution 24

## Change in Schedule A

General Assembly agrees to delete from Schedule A of the Basis of Union

“Or: (c) in the forms customarily used in the uniting churches before unification.”  
and to add

“Or: (d) in a form which includes the following elements:

- a Trinitarian confession of faith
- repentance of sin
- a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord
- a promise to share in the worship, fellowship and mission of the Church.”

The Moderator invited discussion to which Dr Thompson responded; the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 24 was carried** with the required two-thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Basis and Structure, Resolution 24 be referred to synods with the 19th March 2001 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with. This was agreed.

Dr Thompson moved adoption of Resolution 25:

### **Resolution 25**

### **Celebrating Church Membership**

**General Assembly receives the discussion paper *Celebrating Church Membership* and encourages local churches to discuss and respond to it.**

After brief discussion Dr Thompson replied and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 25 was carried.**

Dr Thompson moved adoption of Resolution 26:

### **Resolution 26**

### **The United Reformed Church and Creeds**

**Recognising that “the United Reformed Church accepts with thanksgiving the witness borne to the catholic faith by the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds” (paragraph 4 of Schedule D of the Basis of Union), the General Assembly commends the paper *Do we believe in Creeds?* to local churches for discussion.**

The Moderator invited discussion following which Dr Thompson replied.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 26 was carried.**

A brief presentation was made featuring the Prayer Handbook for 2000-2001.

The Moderator invited the Revd Dr David Thompson to move adoption of Resolution 41:

### **Resolution 41**

### **Westminster College Appointment**

**General Assembly re-appoints Revd Dr Peter McEnhill to the Barbour Chair of Systematic Theology at Westminster College for five years from 1 September 2001.**

The resolution was seconded formally by the Revd John Proctor, Convener of the Training Committee. The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 41 was carried.**

The Moderator invited the Revd Dr David Thompson to move adoption of Resolution 42:

### **Resolution 42**

### **Westminster College Appointment**

**General Assembly re-appoints Revd Lance Stone to the Cheshunt Chair of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College for five years from 1 September 2001.**



The resolution was seconded formally by the Revd John Proctor, Convener of the Training Committee. Dr Thompson responded to discussion, making it clear that the proposed five year period represented a final term. The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 42 was carried.**

The Chaplain led the Assembly in worship which included Bible Study led by the Revd John Proctor.

The Assembly adjourned.

## **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

## **First Session**

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The Chaplain led opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd John Proctor.

During worship, Ms Avis Reaney was inducted to the post of Financial Secretary.

The Moderator welcomed the Worshipful the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Councillor Soyful Alom, and invited him to address the Assembly.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee presented the order of business then the Moderator invited the Convener of the Tellers to report the result of the election of the Moderator 2001-2002.

The Revd Adrian Bulley reported that 423 ballot papers, 6 of them spoilt, had been received. He announced that the Revd Elizabeth Ann Welch had been duly elected as Moderator of Assembly for 2001-2002.

### **Mission Council**

The Moderator invited the Revd John Waller, in the absence of the Revd Peter McIntosh, to present the report of Mission Council.

There were a number of comments and questions, to which Mr Waller responded. He pointed out that the final sentence of paragraph 4.3 was in error and should be deleted from the report.

The Moderator invited the Revd Marjorie Lewis-Cooper to report on the multi-racial, multi-cultural development programme. Mrs Lewis-Cooper introduced His Excellency the Hon. David Muirhead OJ, QC, Jamaican High Commissioner, who was greeted by the Moderator and welcomed by Assembly. She highlighted a number of racial justice issues and incidents she had encountered during her term of office.

Discussion continued, with a number of members stressing the importance of the programme and the need for continuation of work in this area.

Under Standing Order 3b, the Revd Martin Cressey orally stated the following resolution:

### **Resolution 49**

**General Assembly resolves to urge Mission Council as a matter of high priority to secure funding and urgently to make an appropriate appointment to continue the work begun by the Revd Marjorie Lewis-Cooper.**

The Revd John Reardon rose to second the resolution. There was debate during which the General Secretary pointed out that this resolution was in accordance with the decision of Mission Council, taken at its meeting in March 2000, when it had agreed to the establishment of a staff post, but deferred taking steps to fill it until there had been discussion with ecumenical partners and until a way had been found to guarantee the funding required. He emphasised that the church must be involved in the struggle for racial justice.

Mr Cressey responded to the discussion, and the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 49 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 6:

## **Resolution 6**

## **Changes to the Structure**

**General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church:**

**Amend paragraph 2(5)(b) by inserting “and” before “the Deputy General Secretary” and deleting the words “and the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee”.**

**Add a new paragraph 3(1)(h): For the purposes of this paragraph 3(1), only synods, district councils and churches in existence on the date set for responses to be made shall be counted in the calculations.**

**Resolution 6 was carried** with the necessary two-thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Basis and Structure, Resolution 6 be referred to synods with the 19th March 2001 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with. This was agreed.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 7, reporting that no objections had been received:

## **Resolution 7**

## **Changes to the Structure**

**General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 1999 to make the following changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church (see the procedure for constitutional amendment set out in paragraph 3(1) of the Structure):**

- a) **Amend the existing paragraph 1(2)(a) by inserting the following sentence after the existing second sentence: “The expression “Provincial Synod” when used in the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972 and 1981 shall in relation to property in Wales be read as referring to the national Synod of Wales.”**
- b) **Amend the existing category at paragraph 2(3)(a) by deleting the words “deaconesses” and “registered local pastors”. This paragraph would then read: “All ministers, registered pastors (in Scotland) and church-related community workers engaged directly in the service of the United Reformed Church within that district, and Assembly appointed ministers who are members of a local church in that district”.**
- c) **Amend the existing category at paragraph 2(3)(b) by deleting the words “deaconesses” and “registered local pastors”. This paragraph would then read: “Such other ministers, registered pastors (in Scotland) and church related community workers as shall from time to time be appointed by the synod as hereinafter provided”.**
- d) **Amend the existing category at paragraph 2(4)(a) by deleting the words “deaconesses” and “registered local pastors”. This paragraph would then read: “All ministers, registered pastors (in Scotland) and church-related community workers who are for the time being members of district councils within the province or nation.”**
- e) **Delete the present category 2(4)(xiv).**
- f) **Renumber the existing categories 2(4)(xv) - 2(4)(xvii) as 2(4)(xiv) - 2(4)(xvi)**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 7 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 8, reporting that no objections had been received:

## **Resolution 8**

## **Belonging to the World Church - Membership of General Assembly**

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 1999 to amend paragraph 2(5)(e) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church so that it reads: "Up to twelve representatives from the partner churches of the United Reformed Church outside of Britain and Ireland or such other number as the Assembly shall from time to time determine;

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 8 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 9, reporting that no objections had been received:

## **Resolution 9**

## **The Section O process - ministerial discipline Changes to Part I**

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 1999 to make the following changes to the Section O process (See the procedure for constitutional amendment set out in paragraph 3(1) of the Structure.):

**Paragraphs 3.2 and 3.9**

**Delete Provincial**

**Paragraph 3.13**

**Insert a new Paragraph as follows:-**

References to district councils shall be understood to include area councils in Scotland, such area councils being in every respect identical with district councils and wherever the words "district council" or "district" appear they shall, as regards Scotland, be read as meaning "area council" or "area".

**Paragraph 4.2**

**Delete the final sentence.**

**Paragraph 5.1**

**Delete Provincial**

**Paragraph 7.1.1**

**Insert a new paragraph as follows:**

No person shall be a member of the Commission Panel or of any Appeals Commission and at the same time also be a member of any Synod Panel or Mandated Group as defined in the Rules of Procedure.

**Paragraph 7.1.2**

**The existing Paragraph 7.1 will become 7.1.2.**

**Also delete Provincial.**

**Paragraph 10.2**

**Delete the existing Paragraph 10.2 and add the following Paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3.**

**10.2** If the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission considers that there has been some conduct, statement, act or omission on the part of the Minister which, although not sufficiently serious to justify deletion is nevertheless of sufficient concern to justify lesser disciplinary action against the Minister it may, whilst allowing the name of the Minister to remain on the Roll, take either or both of the following steps, the first being part of its decision and the second being by way of recommendation:-

10.2.1 It may issue a written warning to the Minister that any continuance or repetition of any of the disciplinary matters complained of might be considered a cause for deletion by a future Assembly Commission or Appeals Commission.

10.2.2 It may append recommendations to its decision in accordance with Paragraph 16.1.3.

10.3 If the decision of the Appeals Commission is to delete the name of the Minister from the Roll, it will in recording its decision also consider Paragraph 16.1.4.

Paragraphs 11.1, 14.2, 14.3 and 14.6

Delete Paragraph 10.2 and substitute Paragraph 10.2.1.

Paragraph 16.1

Delete and substitute the following:

16.1 In recording its decision the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission as the case may be shall comply with the following:

16.1.1 It shall state whether its decision is unanimous or by a majority.

16.1.2 It shall append a written statement of its reasons for reaching its decision, but shall not be obliged (unless it wishes to do so) to comment in detail on all or any of the matters of evidence laid before it.

16.1.3 In the event that the decision is not to delete the name of the Minister from the Roll it may in its written statement append such recommendations as it considers will be helpful to moderators of synod, district councils, local churches and others within the Church in relation to the future ministry of the Minister.

16.1.4 If the decision is to delete the name of the Minister from the Roll of Ministers it is particularly requested to include appropriate guidance to assist moderators of synod, district councils, local churches and others within the Church concerning any restrictions which might be placed upon any church-related activities involving the Minister after his/her deletion.

16.1.5 In addition to its power to make recommendations or to offer guidance under Paragraph 16.1.3 or Paragraph 16.1.4 respectively, the Appeals Commission may if it sees fit endorse, overrule, vary or modify in any way any recommendation made or guidance offered by the Assembly Commission in the case in question.

Paragraph 21

In the first and second sentences, delete Provincial Moderator and substitute moderator of the synod.

In the last sentence delete Province and province and substitute synod each time.

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 9 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 10:

## **Resolution 10**

## **The Section O process - ministerial discipline Changes to Part II**

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to Part II of the Section O Process (the Rules of Procedure) :-

A.2.7 First line - replace "Provincial" with "Synod" and replace "Province" with "Synod"

**A.2.9** Add an additional definition as follows :-

“” The Structure” shall mean the Structure of the United Reformed Church”

**A.2.10** Add an additional definition as follows :-

“” The District Council” shall mean that District Council which in relation to any minister exercises oversight of that minister in accordance with its function under Paragraph 2(3)(i) of the Structure”

**A.3** Third line - delete “Provincial”.

Fifth line - delete “of the United Reformed Church”.

**A.4** Add an additional sentence as follows :-

“The Assembly Commission should also consider whether to make any recommendations under Paragraph 16.1.3 of Part I or to offer any guidance under Paragraph 16.1.4 of Part I”

**A.8** Add an additional Paragraph as follows :-

“In any case where a person authorised or required to take some action regarding (i) the appointment of persons to any Mandated Group under Paragraphs B.5 or B.9 or (ii) the calling in of a Mandated Group under Paragraphs B.6 or B.9 or (iii) some other administrative or procedural matter under the Section O Process is unable for any reason to do so, then, unless the Section O Process already makes specific provision for such a situation, that person’s duly appointed deputy shall take such action in his/her place. This Paragraph does not permit any member of an Assembly Commission, an Appeals Commission or a Mandated Group to appoint his/her own deputy.”

**B** Replace the heading of Section B with “Appointment and role of Mandated Groups of District Councils, Synods and General Assembly”.

**B.2** First line - delete “Provincial”  
Second line - replace “Provincial” with “Synod”  
Third line - replace “Province” with “Synod”  
Fourth line - replace “Province” with “Synod”

**B.3** First line - replace “Provincial” with “Synod”

**B.4** First line - replace “Provincial” with “Synod”

**B.5.1** The existing Paragraph B.5 shall become B.5.1. On the second line replace “Provincial Moderator” with “Moderator of the Synod” and on the third line replace “Provincial” with “Synod”.

**B.5.2** Add a new Paragraph as follows :-

“Persons appointed to any Mandated Group or Synod Panel set up under this Section B are subject to the restrictions contained in Paragraphs 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 of Part I”.

**B.6** Add a new Paragraph B.6 as follows :-

“If at any time the Moderator of the Synod or (if for any reason s/he should be unavailable or unable to act) the President of the District Council in consultation with such officers of the District Council as s/he considers appropriate believes that there is or may be a disciplinary issue in respect of any minister s/he may forthwith in the name and on the authority of the District Council call in its Standing Mandated Group”



- B.7** This is the original Paragraph B.6, now renumbered B.7. Replace the opening words “The functions of the Mandated Group are twofold with the following :-
- “The functions of the Mandated Group called in by the person duly authorised for that purpose under Paragraph B.6 in any particular case are twofold :-”
- Continue with the original B.6.1 and B.6.2, now renumbered, B.7.1 and B.7.2.
- B.7.1** Replace the opening words “To carry out the initial enquiry in consultation with the Provincial Moderator” with the following :-
- “To carry out its own initial enquiry in consultation (where practical and appropriate) with the Moderator of the Synod .....”
- B.7.2** Add the following words “ ..... and at the Hearing of any Appeal under Section G of these Rules”
- B.8** Delete the original Paragraph B.8.
- B.8.1 &**  
**B.8.2** These are the former Paragraphs B.7.1 and B.7.2, and will now be renumbered B.8.1 and B.8.2.
- B.8.3** Add a new Paragraph as follows :-
- “The Mandated Group shall forthwith notify the Moderator of the Synod and the Secretary of the District Council in writing of the issue of the Referral Notice and the Notice of Suspension”.
- B.9.2** Replace the existing Paragraph with the following :-
- “In connection with the any such steps under Paragraph B.9.1 as are required to be taken by a Synod, if at any time the Moderator of the Synod in consultation with such officers of the Synod as s/he considers appropriate, believes that there is or may be a disciplinary issue in respect of any minister in membership of that Synod, s/he may forthwith in the name of the Synod appoint a Mandated Group for the particular case from the Synod Panel for that Synod and the Mandated Group so appointed shall be deemed to be called in and vested with authority in like manner to the Standing Mandated Group of a District Council called in under Paragraph B.6”
- B.9.3** Replace the existing Paragraph with the following :-
- “In connection with any steps under B.9.1 as are required to be taken by General Assembly (or Mission Council on its behalf), if at any time the Deputy General Secretary, in consultation with such other officers of the General Assembly as s/he considers appropriate, believes that there is or may be a disciplinary issue in respect of any minister s/he may forthwith in the name of General Assembly appoint a Mandated Group for the particular case from a Synod Panel other than that of the Synod out of which the case arises and the Mandated Group so appointed shall be deemed to be called in and vested with authority in like manner to the Standing Mandated Group of a District Council called in under Paragraph B.6”
- B.9.4** In the first sentence delete the reference to Paragraph B.6. In the first change referred to replace “Provincial Moderator” with “Moderator of the Synod”. In the second change replace “Paragraph B.6.1” with “Paragraph B.7.1” and “Provincial Moderator” with “Moderator of the Synod”. In the third change replace “Paragraph B.7.1” with “Paragraph B.8.1”. Remove the fourth change altogether.
- B.10** Replace “Paragraph B.7.1” with “Paragraph B.8.1”
- B.11** Add an additional Paragraph as follows :-

“Once a Referral Notice has been issued by a Mandated Group in any case, no further Referral Notice shall in any circumstances be issued in respect of the subject matter of that referral”.

**C.1.3** Replace “preliminary response” with “comments”.

**C.1.5** Add an additional Paragraph as follows :-

“Inform the General Secretary of the receipt of the Referral Notice”

**D.4** Add an additional Paragraph as follows :-

“In cases where Paragraph E.7.1 applies, the Mandated Group shall forthwith suspend its own investigation during the period specified in that Paragraph”.

**E.3** Replace the existing Paragraph E.3 up to the words “which shall :-” with the following :-

**E.3**

**E.3.1** “Unless the case is subject to compulsory adjournment under Paragraph E.7, the Secretary of the Assembly Commission shall as soon as practicable after the appointment of the Assembly Commission consult with the Convener and the other members of the Assembly Commission and, where possible, with the parties as to a suitable venue, date and time for the Hearing and, having so consulted, shall decide thereupon.

**E.3.2** Having complied with Paragraph E.3.1, the Secretary of the Assembly Commission shall forthwith serve on the Minister and the District Council a notice which shall :-”

Continue with the sub-paragraphs which are now renumbered E.3.2.1, E.3.2.2., E.3.2.3, E.3.2.4, E.3.2.5 and E.3.2.6.

**E.3.2.4** Elide the whole of this Paragraph into one clause as follows :-

“Invite the parties to state the names of persons whom they propose to invite to attend the Hearing and, briefly, the purpose of their attendance and the approximate length of time which each of the parties will require at the Hearing”

**E.4.1** Replace the references to Paragraphs E.3.3 and E.3.4 with references to Paragraphs E.3.2.3 and E.3.2.4.

**E.4.3** Replace the references to Paragraphs E.3.5 and E.3.6 with references to Paragraphs E.3.2.5 and E.3.2.6 and at the end of the existing text continue with the words “ ..... and copies of each party’s response shall thereupon be sent by the Secretary of the Assembly Commission to the other party”.

**E.7.4** Add an additional Paragraph as follows :-

“If the case falls within this Paragraph E.7, the Secretary of the Assembly Commission shall, as soon as practicable after the appointment of the Assembly Commission, notify the parties of the compulsory adjournment of the case”.

**E.8** Replace the existing Paragraph E.8 in its entirety with the following :-

“Any of the following may be taken into account by the Assembly Commission in reaching its decision under Paragraph 10 of Part I that is to say :-

**E.8.1** Any obstruction or unreasonable delay on the part of either of the parties in complying with the procedural steps prior to the Hearing and/or

**E.8.2** The failure by the Minister to attend at the Hearing without satisfactory explanation and/or

- E.8.3** Any obstruction caused by either of the parties to the Assembly Commission in the conduct of the Hearing itself”
- E.9** Replace the words “of the consequences of such admission” with the following words :-  
 “ ..... that the consequences of such admission might be a decision to delete or to issue a written warning ..... ”
- E.12.2** Add the following additional sentence :-  
 “S/He shall not be present when the Assembly Commission deliberates and decides on the case”.
- E.14.2** Insert the “2” in the Paragraph numbering.
- E.14.3** Add the following words :-  
 “ ..... , nor shall s/he be present when the Assembly Commission deliberates and decides upon the case”
- E.16.1.1** Add a new Paragraph number E.16.1.1 as follows :-  
 “In all cases the burden of proving the case against the Minister shall fall upon the Council”.
- The existing Paragraph E.16.1 then becomes Paragraph E.16.1.2.
- F.2.1** On line 2 after the words “and the General Secretary” add the words “and the Moderator of the Synod”
- F.2.2** Replace “omission” with “Commission”
- G.1.4** Add an additional Paragraph as follows :-  
 “Except for those Rules which by their content are inappropriate for the Appeals Procedure, the Rules set out in Section E shall also apply to Section G (with the necessary changes).
- G.8.2.2** Replace the existing Paragraph with the following :-  
 “The General Secretary shall consult with the Convener and the other members of the Appeals Commission and, where possible, with the parties as to a suitable venue, date and time for the Hearing and, having so consulted, shall decide thereupon and shall forthwith send a notice to the parties informing them of the arrangements for the Hearing”.
- G.8.2.3** Delete this Paragraph as it has been moved forward to become Paragraph G.1.4. The succeeding sub-paragraphs will be re-numbered G.8.2.3 and G.8.2.4
- G.9.2** On line 1 after the word “Council” remove “and” and insert a comma.  
 On line 2 after the words “Assembly Commission” add the words “and the Moderator of the Synod”
- H.2.2.1** Replace the existing Paragraph with the following :-  
 “By delivering the document personally to any person nominated by the Mandated Group to accept service or, in the absence of any such nomination, to the spokesperson for the Mandated Group”.
- H.2.2.2** Add the following words :-  
 “ ..... or, in the absence of any such nomination, to the spokesperson for the Mandated Group.

**H.2.2.3 Delete this Paragraph.**

**H.2.2.4 This now becomes H.2.2.3.**

**H.5 Replace the final sentence with the following :-**

**“Each Secretary must pass all papers on to his/her successor, and the importance of retaining all written records is emphasised”.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 10 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 11:

### **Resolution 11 Role of Mandated Group in Section O Process**

**General Assembly confirms that once a Mandated Group has been appointed from the Synod Panel(s) in connection with a particular case, it has full authority to act on behalf of the appointing council (be it district council, synod or the General Assembly) throughout the Section O Process to the exclusion of such council.**

After brief discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 11 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 12:

### **Resolution 12 Assembly Committee Conveners**

**General Assembly resolves that normally anyone appointed to the office of convener of an Assembly committee or sub-committee shall be appointed to serve, ex-officio, for a preliminary year as convener-elect.**

The Moderator invited comments and questions.

The General Secretary responded to the debate, and, answering a question, undertook to refer to Mission Council the issue of whether secretaries of committees should be treated similarly.

**Resolution 12 was carried.**

The General Secretary introduced Mr Hartley Oldham, who was retiring as the church's Legal Adviser. He paid tribute to Mr Oldham's invaluable contribution to the life of the church. Mr Oldham was greeted by the Moderator and warmly welcomed by Assembly.

The Deputy General Secretary introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 14:

### **Resolution 14 Human sexuality : continuing discussion**

**General Assembly, recognising that the statement contained within Resolution 34 of 1999 has received a measure of support in the councils of the church, but not sufficient to allow it to proceed:**

- a) **accepts that there is a lack of agreement relating to issues of human sexuality, and that any further resolution attempting to declare the mind of the church on this subject would be unlikely to find sufficient support at this time;**
  - b) **affirms that the process the church uses to assess candidates and to call ministers is the means by which the church seeks to discern the call of God;**
- and**

- c) **acknowledges that discussion on these matters will continue within as well as beyond the church and encourages the United Reformed Church to base its consideration on the Human Sexuality Report 1999, wherever possible within an ecumenical context.**

In calling for discussion, the Moderator placed a 3 minute time limit on speeches for the remainder of that session.

Mr Maurice Gardner asked the Assembly to reject Resolution 14 and gave notice that, should Resolutions 14 and 15 fall, he would move an alternative resolution of which notice had been given.

After discussion and response by Mr Waller, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 14 was carried.**

It was agreed that the voting figures contained in paragraph 35 of the Mission Council Report would be included in the Record of the Assembly.

*Since the Assembly of 1999 some local churches had closed and two district councils had joined together. The 1999 resolution did not make clear on what date the total number of local churches, district councils and synods should be calculated. In the event this did not affect the outcome, but, to avoid any dispute, the table below gives the figures both on the day of the Assembly decision and the date given for the conclusion of the process.*

*The number of those NOT in favour of accepting the statement in Resolution 34 of 1999, shown also as a percentage of the total number of churches, district councils and synods, was as follows:*

	7 July 1999	14 March 2000
Local churches	439 (25.4%)	436 (25.3%)
District Councils	30 (40.5%)	29 (39.7%)
Synods	6 (50%)	6 (50%)

The Deputy General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 15:

**Resolution 15**

**A sabbatical on resolutions**

**General Assembly asks that for a period of seven years, during which reflection, prayer and sharing continue, no resolutions attempting to define the policy of the church on homosexuality should be proposed in any of the councils of the church.**

After brief discussion, the following amendment was moved by the Revd John Hall. The Revd Simon Thomas seconded, reserving his right to speak after discussion.

Insert at the beginning the words: 'For the sake of the greatest unity and peace within the church'  
Insert after 'no resolutions' the words 'or actions'.

After some debate Mr Michael Hopkins moved that the amendment be not put. The Moderator ruled that this was an unfair use of the rule.

The Revd Julian Macro moved that the amendment **be now put**, seconded by Dr Peter Clarke.

The Assembly agreed with the necessary two-thirds majority that **the amendment be now put**.

Following reply to the debate by the proposer of the amendment, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

The amendment was not carried.

Ms Gabrielle Cox moved that Resolution 15 **be now put**, seconded by Mr Geoff Lunt.

The Assembly agreed with the necessary two-thirds majority **that Resolution 15 be now put**.

After response from Mr Waller, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote on Resolution 15.

**Resolution 15 was carried.**

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer, then Assembly was adjourned.



The Revd Dr David Thompson took the Chair.

**Assembly Arrangements Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Alasdair Pratt, to present to the report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee.

After responding to comments, Mr Pratt introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 16:

**Resolution 16**

**General Assembly 2002**

**General Assembly agrees that General Assembly in 2002 will meet at the University of St Andrews from 4th - 8th July.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 16 was carried.**

Mr Pratt moved adoption of Resolution 18:

**Resolution 18**

**Rules of Procedure**

**General Assembly agrees to make the following change to the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the United Reformed Church.  
In the last line of paragraph 2(3) delete “annually” and add at the end: “as and when the Assembly shall direct”.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 18 was carried.**

Mr Pratt introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 17:

Resolution 17

Future Patterns of General Assembly

General Assembly agrees that from 2001 committees will report in alternate years, except where for legal or administrative reasons annual reports are required, namely Assembly Arrangements, Finance, Ministries, Mission Council and Nominations.

The following amendment was proposed by the Revd Martin Cressey and seconded by the Revd Simon Walkling:

**In place of the word ‘will’ in the first line, insert ‘may in consultation with the Assembly Arrangements Committee’.**

On behalf of the committee Mr Pratt indicated willingness to accept the amendment.

The Moderator invited discussion on the amendment following which he invited Assembly to vote.

**The amendment was carried** and therefore the substantive resolution was before the Assembly:

Dr Walter Houston moved the following amendment, seconded by the Revd Tom Bayliss:

Insert the word ‘only’ after the word ‘report’

After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was not carried.

Mrs S Checkley moved the following amendment, seconded by Mr Huw Morrison:

Insert 'at least' after the word 'report'.

After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was not carried.

On completion of the debate Mr Pratt replied to the points made, then the Moderator called for voting on the substantive resolution:

## **Resolution 21**

## **Future Patterns of General Assembly**

**General Assembly agrees that from 2001 committees may in consultation with the Assembly Arrangements Committee report in alternate years, except where for legal or administrative reasons annual reports are required, namely Assembly Arrangements, Finance, Ministries, Mission Council and Nominations.**

**Resolution 17, as amended, was carried.**

The Revd Bill Mahood resumed the Chair.

## **Communications and Editorial Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Graham Cook, to present the report of the Communications and Editorial Committee. In doing so, Mr Cook drew attention to the committee's leaflet *Get Smart*.

Mr Cook responded to a number of questions and comments then introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 21:

## **Resolution 21**

## **Religious Broadcasting and the BBC**

**The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church thanks the BBC for much splendid religious broadcasting over many years and calls upon the Corporation:**

- a) to broadcast more religious radio and television programmes at peak listening and viewing times;**
- b) to restore the hours of religious television to the average of the 1980's;**
- c) to ensure that in a time of budget reductions high production values are maintained;**
- d) to produce programmes for young people which treat religion seriously; and to give religious programmes a prominent place in existing and future digital radio and television channels.**

After discussion, Mr Cook responded and the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 21 was carried.**

## **Ecumenical Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Bob Andrews, to present the report of the Ecumenical Committee.

Before doing so, Mr Andrews introduced the following visitors, who were greeted by the Moderator and welcomed by Assembly:

Revd Tom McIntyre	Church of Scotland
Sister Maire Gallacher	Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Snr Apostle James Ozigi	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Revd Prince Dibeela	United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

Mr Andrews introduced members and staff of the Ecumenical Committee.

A number of questions were asked and comments made, to which Mr Andrews responded.

Mr Andrews introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 27:

## **Resolution 27**

## **Change of Name**

**General Assembly agrees that the Overseas Exchange Sub-Committee of the Ecumenical Committee be re-named the International Exchange Sub-Committee.**

The Moderator called for discussion; there being none, he invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 27 was carried.**

Mr Andrews introduced to the Assembly the Revd Dr Setri Nyomi, General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), who was greeted by the Moderator and the Assembly.

Dr Nyomi addressed Assembly, bringing greetings from the Reformed family, and speaking of his vision of the work to be done through WARC during the next few years.

## **Church and Society Resolution**

The Moderator invited the Convener of the Church and Society Committee, Ms Gabrielle Cox, to move adoption of Resolution 20.

Ms Cox spoke briefly then introduced Dr Daleep Mukarji, Director of Christian Aid. The Moderator greeted Dr Mukarji, and invited him to address the Assembly in support of the resolution:

## **Resolution 20**

## **Commitment for Life**

**General Assembly:**

- a) **welcomes the growth in the number of local churches participating in Commitment for Life and the consequent increase in funds raised and associated activity, including production of worship material, a pack for children and campaigning around debt and fair trade;**
- b) **recognises the personal effort in promoting the programme put in by advocates in each synod and the effective work of the Co-ordinator and support staff;**
- c) **notes the fresh emphasis on the four countries with primary partners in each country;**
- d) **agrees that the disbursement of Commitment for Life income shall remain at 75% going overseas via Christian Aid, 10% for World Development Movement, 15% for Grants and Advocacy, and that Church and Society shall continue to devote staff time to the programme;**
- e) **therefore urges non-participating churches, large or small, to join in the Commitment for Life programme.**

The Moderator invited members of Assembly to 'tell stories' about Commitment for Life, and many inspiring examples of the positive impact of Commitment for Life on local churches and their international partners were related.

With the Moderator's permission, Dr Mukarji responded. Ms Cox also responded, and the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 20 was carried.**

The Moderator greeted the Revd Peter Brain, outgoing Secretary of the Church and Society Committee, paying tribute to him and thanking him for his work in that capacity. He invited Assembly to join him in offering Mr Brain good wishes for the future.

Assembly was adjourned.

The Moderator invited the Clerk to present the minutes of all three sessions of Sunday 2nd July. She did so, noting one correction. The Assembly accepted the minutes.

## Ministries Committee (Continued)

The Moderator called for discussion on the report of the Maintenance of the Ministry(MoM) Sub-Committee. With the permission of the Assembly, the Convener of Ministries, the Revd Graham Long, invited Mr Geoffrey Wood, Convener of the MoM Sub-Committee, to reply. Mr Wood responded to questions on ministers' pensions, explaining that the new rules would ensure that where a minister retired having completed 40 years of stipendiary service but before reaching the age of 65 no reduction would be made to the level of pension payable. The Committee had considered whether, in some form, additional payments should be made in that pre-65 years of age period, but had decided against doing so.

Under Standing Order 3b, the Revd Graham Cook moved that:

General Assembly instructs the MoM committee to reconsider its decision in regard to the remuneration of ministers retiring after 40 years service before the age of 65.

This was seconded by the Revd Keith Forecast.

Before the vote was determined, the officers of the MoM Sub-Committee indicated that they would reconsider as suggested.

The Revd Elizabeth Nash had given notice under Standing Order 7a of the following question:

Is the Sub-Committee willing to review the following sentence in the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund Rule 22.2 (Book of Reports page 102):

"The pension (of a surviving spouse) will be subject to reduction on the advice of the Actuary if the surviving spouse is more than ten years younger than the member";

by:

1. establishing the cost for the removal of this reduction with regard to present pensioners;
2. establishing the cost for the removal of this reduction with regard to future pensioners;
3. discussing the implications of the present rule with the Equal Opportunities Committee; and
4. bringing a report and proposal to Assembly in 2001?

On behalf of the Sub-Committee, Mr Wood answered affirmatively.

The Revd Graham Long moved adoption of Resolution 31, with corrected wording, and invited Mr Geoffrey Wood to present it to the Assembly.

### Resolution 31

### Plan for Partnership

**General Assembly amends the Plan for Partnership by the inclusion of the words in italics in para 6.3.4 which will then read:**

**Expenses: The local church or other appropriate body shall reimburse the minister or CRCW for the cost of postage, telephone, stationery and any other expenses necessarily incurred on church business. *This may well include expenses relating to the use of a computer and in some instances the provision of a computer.* The reimbursement of expenses will be on the basis of actual cost incurred, and not by a pre-determined sum.**

The Moderator invited discussion, following which Mr Wood responded and the vote was taken.

**Resolution 31 was carried.**

Mr Long moved Resolution 32 and invited Mr Victor Hughff, Convener of the Pensions Executive, to present it to the Assembly. Mr Hughff noted a minor correction to the wording of Rule 48.

General Assembly amends the definitions of the rules, and the rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers Pension Fund, by the deletion of the words in square brackets, and the addition of the words in italics in the rules shown:

Definition 10 to read

10. Pensionable Service comprises:
- 10.1 all service while a contributory member of the Fund or the Congregational Fund or the Presbyterian Fund;  
together with
- 10.2 Any service after age 21 but before joining the Congregational Fund which was recognised pastoral service rendered to churches within the former Congregational Church in England and Wales. *Provided that for any year of such service covered above in which less than the basic stipend is received, for the reason that some of such service was part-time, a fraction only of that year, calculated as the ratio of stipend received to full stipend, shall rank as Pensionable Service, unless a concession under Rule 14.1.2 has been granted.*

Definition 12 to read

12. Qualifying Service in respect of a person means the aggregate of any periods of service in membership of the Fund or the Congregational Fund or the Presbyterian Fund together with any period[s of service pensionable in] *granted at entry in respect of a transfer value received from any other pension fund [scheme or arrangement for which a transfer value has been received by the Fund] provided that in no other form shall any period of service preceding payment from this Fund of a refund of contributions or a transfer value in respect of such period constitute Qualifying Service [there shall be deducted from Qualifying Service any such service as aforesaid which precedes an interval between two successive periods of membership if:-*
- 12.1 the period of such service before the interval is no longer than two years after deduction of any period in respect of which a refund of contributions or a transfer value has been paid out, and
- 12.2 the interval itself is
- 12.2.1 one during which such person aforesaid was neither a member nor a pensioner of the Fund and
- 12.2.2 not coterminous with an interval in the service of such person which is brought to an end by exercise of a right to return to work under Section 45(l) of the Employment Protection (Consolidated) Act 1978 (or the equivalent of that sub-section in previous or subsequent legislation) and
- 12.2.3 longer than a month.]

Amend Rule 12 to read

12. Membership  
Members of the Fund shall consist of the following persons:
- 12.1 *Remunerated* ministers of the URC who on the amalgamation date were members of the Presbyterian Fund or of the Congregational Fund.
- 12.2 Missionaries who prior to 5th October 1972 were in the service of the former Presbyterian Church of England and who on the amalgamation date were members of the Presbyterian Fund.
- 12.3 Such other *remunerated* ministers of the URC in the service of the Church other than in local churches as the Assembly shall appoint.
- 12.4 All *remunerated* ministers of the URC admitted after the amalgamation date as is provided in Rule 14.
- 12.5 Ministers of the URC who are serving Participating Bodies approved by the Committee.



Amend Rule 13.2 to read

- 13.2 Members in *the* [full-time] service of the URC either in a local church or as appointed by the Assembly and who have not reached the pension age shall normally be contributing members.

Amend Rule 14.1.2 to read

- 14.1.2 If a minister serving a local church is inducted to part-time service whilst under the age of fifty five years or being a contributing member of the Fund reduces his/her commitment to that of part-time service whilst under normal pension age, *the Pension Trustee may raise the Pensionable Service to the level applicable to a full-time minister* [his/her entry to the Fund or his/her continuing contributory membership to the Fund shall be regarded as limited membership. In such cases contributions due and the benefits available in respect of the period of limited membership shall be based upon the proportion of basic stipend being paid for the part-time service and not on the full basic stipend. The Pension Trustee may however] having regard to the length of any previous full-time service, to the age and health of the minister, to the fraction of basic stipend being paid and to the purpose and pensionability of any other employment *and shall in such cases allow full membership of the Pension Fund* [in appropriate cases,] contributions then being payable on the full basic stipend.

Amend Rule 14.2 to read

- 14.2 Every minister who has ceased to be a contributing member under Rule 13.3. and who whilst under normal pension age is re-admitted to full-time *or part-time* service in the URC [shall] *may* become a contributory member of the Fund as is provided in the previous Rule. At the time of re-admission the Pension Trustee shall have discretion to aggregate for the purposes of Rules 18-23 that minister's previous period or periods of membership with the minister's latest period of membership PROVIDED that the minister waives his/her right to any deferred pension and surviving spouses pension under Rule 29. in respect of such previous period or periods of membership and repays to the Fund an amount equal to the sum of

Amend Rule 15.3 to read

Where [limited] *part-time* membership only has been granted under Rule 14.1.2 the contributions referred to in paragraphs 15.1. and 15.2. of this rule shall apply only in relation to the proportion of the basic stipend being paid.

Amend Rule 18 to read

18. Normal Retirement Pensions  
Subject to Rules 18.3. and 18.4. all pensions are based on stipend at date of retirement or normal pension age whichever is the earlier.  
A member retiring in respect of whom all due contributions have been made shall be entitled to a pension based on years and months of *pensionable* service. The pension will be proportionately reduced in respect of any year of [limited] *part-time* membership granted under Rule 14.1.2. . . . . .

Add a new Rule 18.5 to read

- 18.5 *Provision for dependent children may be payable (see Rule 48).*

Amend Rule 20.3 to read

- 20.3. If a member at the time of ill-health retirement is a [limited] *part-time* member under Rule 14.1.2. any uncompleted years under paragraph 20.2 above shall be reduced to the proportion that the number of pensionable years under Rule 18. bears to the number of years membership of the Fund, *unless a concession granted under Rule 14.1.2 is in operation and full contributions were paid up to the date of incapacity.*

Add a new Rule 20.5 to read

20.5 *Provision for dependent children may be payable (see Rule 48).*

Amend Rule 21 to read

21. Early Retirement

A member may retire within ten years before normal pension age; he/she will then become entitled to an immediate pension based on the actual years of pensionable service and the amount of pension so calculated shall then be reduced on the advice of the Actuary having regard to the age of the member at the date of retirement, *save that no reduction will be required if the member has completed 40 years of stipendiary service to the URC or its constituent denominations.*

Amend Rule 22 to read

22. Death in Service before normal Pension Age

In the event of the death of a contributing member in service before normal pension age, there shall become payable the following benefits:

*Where the member leaves a spouse or a lawful or adopted child or children who is or are a dependent or dependents and who in either case survive the member by 30 days or more, a lump sum equal to three year's basic stipend at the date of death, to be held by the Pension Trustee upon Discretionary Trusts; and in all other cases, [to be held by the Pension Trustee upon Discretionary Trusts] a lump sum equal to two year's basic stipend at the date of death to be held by the Pension Trustee upon Discretionary Trusts; Provided [save] that in the case of a part-time [limited] member who has at no time during membership of the Fund been paid the full basic stipend, the lump sum shall equal only a proportion of three years or two years basic stipend at the date of death as the case may be. In such a case the proportion shall be equal to three times or twice as the case may be the greatest proportion of basic stipend which [has] in any year has been paid to him/her during membership of the Fund.*

Amend Rule 22.2 to read

22.2 To the surviving spouse a pension for life of an annual amount equal to one half of the pension to which the member would have been entitled if the member had attained normal pension age plus in the case of the spouse of a member of the Congregational Fund £17.34 or one quarter of the amount authorised from time to time under Rule 18.2.1. per annum for each year of pensionable service prior to June 1971 provided always that the total annual amount of such pension shall not be less than £200 (Two hundred pounds). The pension will be subject to reduction on the advice of the Actuary if the surviving spouse is more than ten years younger than the member. In the case of a member who is at the time of his/her death a [limited] part-time member under Rule 14.1.2. the pension to which the member would have been entitled had he/she attained normal pension age shall be calculated by assuming the same average proportion for each future year as the entitlement in years at date of death bears to the number of years membership of the Fund.

The existing rule 22.3 will be re-numbered as Rule 48.

Add a new Rule 22.3 to read

22.3 *Provision for dependent children may be payable (see Rule 48).*

Add a new Rule 23.4 to read

23.4 *Provision for dependent children may be payable (see Rule 48).*

Amend rule 25 to read

25.1 . . . . . This shall apply to pensions payable in the terms of Rules 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, [and] 29 and 48

Amend rule 22.3 and renumber as rule 48, to read

48. Provision for Dependent children

*Where a retired member has, or a member dies leav[es]ing, one or more children below the age of 24 years, an annual pension shall be paid to the retired member or the widow(er) in respect of each child (or if there is no such widow(er) to such person as the Pension Trustee may determine) until the child attains the age of 24 years, or until the child ceases to be dependent, whichever is the earlier. [Initially this pension is £256 and this level of pension will be reviewed annually]*

*For the purposes of the Rule a child shall mean a lawful or adopted child of the retired or deceased member and such child shall be deemed to be dependent so long as he/she shall in the opinion of the Pension Trustee be dependent upon the retired member or in the case of a deceased member the surviving spouse or estate for the provision of all or a substantial number of the ordinary necessities of life.*

*From July 1st 2000 the initial level of the pension in respect of a dependent child or children will be £800 pa for the first dependent child, and £400 pa per child for any further dependent children. The initial level of the pension will be reviewed by the Committee at least annually. Once in payment the pension will escalate as is provided for in rule 25, until the children cease to be dependent, as defined in this rule.*

*The pension in respect of a dependent child or children will not be subject to early retirement reduction (Rule 21,) nor late retirement addition (Rule 19), nor the age disparity reduction (Rules 22.2 and 23.1).*

The Moderator called for discussion, to which Mr Hughff responded. It was confirmed that the provisions of paragraph 14.1.2 covered the situation of a contributing member who reduced his or her commitment from full-time to part-time service whilst under normal retirement age, whether this took place when the member was under or over the age of 55.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 32 was carried.**

## **Finance Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, Mr Graham Stacy, to present the report of the Finance Committee.

Discussion took place, to which Mr Stacy responded.

Mr Stacy moved adoption of Resolution 28. In doing so, he drew Assembly's attention to Note 10 of the accounts, and, as required, informed the Assembly of the updated situation. A valuation of the Pension Fund at January 2000 showed a significant improvement over the position previously reported, in that there was a surplus of £2 million. Therefore the annual payments of £750,000 would cease with effect from January 2000. This would have implications for the budget to be considered under Resolution 13.

### **Resolution 28**

### **Accounts**

**General Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31st December 1999.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 28 was carried.**

Mr Stacy moved adoption of Resolution 29:

## Resolution 29

## Ministry and Mission Fund

**General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 1999 to the Ministry & Mission Fund.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 29 was carried.**

## Mission Council (Continued)

The Moderator invited Mr Stacy to present the budget for 2001. Mr Stacy asked that Revd Duncan Wilson, Convener of the Resource Planning Advisory Group to the Mission Council, might speak to this item. The Moderator granted permission.

With the permission of the Assembly Mr Stacy moved Resolution 13 in the following amended form:

## Resolution 13

## Budget for 2001

**General Assembly accepts the budget for 2001 set out in Appendix 1 to the Book of Reports amended in the final column, headed 'Budget 2001', by**

- (i) the deletion of the figure 750 from the line 'Pension Fund additional contributions', and**
- (ii) the substitution of the figure 97 for the figure (653) in the line 'Net incoming/outgoing resource', and**
- (iii) changes to subtotals consequent upon these amendments.**

After discussion, to which Mr Stacy and Mr Wilson responded, the Moderator called for a vote on Resolution 13.

**Resolution 13, as amended, was carried.**

Mr Stacy introduced Mr Clem Frank, retiring Secretary for Finance. Mr Frank was greeted by the Moderator, who thanked him for his many years of faithful and efficient service to the United Reformed Church, and wished him every blessing in his retirement. Mr Frank spoke of his gratitude to the United Reformed Church, its officers and staff, for their friendship and support. Mr Frank was warmly applauded by Assembly.

The Moderator invited the Chaplain to lead worship and the Assembly adjourned.

## Tuesday 4th July 2000

## First Session

The Moderator invited the Chaplain to open the session in worship.

The Moderator invited the Revd Dr David Thompson to introduce and move adoption of Resolution 3 on behalf of the Eastern Synod. The Revd Catherine Hare seconded formally, reserving her right to speak following discussion.

## Resolution 3

## Drugs and charity workers

**General Assembly**

- a) seeks to support those who work in hostels, shelters and drop-in centres, noting with sadness the increased use of drugs among the homeless, which creates difficulties for them, those seeking to help them and the whole community;**
- b) is concerned at the conviction and dismayed at the sentence of Ruth Wyner and John Brock, and most concerned that this judgement might undermine work with homeless people and those with drugs problems; and**
- c) urges Church and Society, in consultation with ecumenical partners and appropriate secular agencies, to make representations to the government to secure a clarification or change of the law to minimise the risk of prosecution for those working in similar situations.**

A number of members of Assembly spoke in support of the resolution and the Convener of the Church and Society Committee indicated that committee's support. Dr Thompson responded.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 3 was carried.**

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

## **Ecumenical Committee Resolution**

The Ecumenical Committee proposed that the following greeting be sent from the Assembly with the United Reformed Church representatives to the World Convention of Churches of Christ, meeting in Brisbane, Australia, 2-6 August 2000:

### **Resolution 50**

**The Assembly of the United Reformed Church greets the World Convention of the Churches of Christ meeting in Brisbane.**

**We commend to you our members the Revd Dr David Thompson and Mrs Muriel Garrow whom you have selected to be your President and Women's Convention President respectively. We look forward to your coming to Brighton, England in 2004 for the next Convention.**

The Assembly agreed.

## **Synod Moderators**

The Moderator invited the Revd Graham Cook to present the Synod Moderators' report.

Following wide-ranging discussion during which appreciation was expressed for the stimulating report, Mr Cook responded.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Keith Forecast, retiring Moderator of the North Western Synod.

## **Synod Resolution**

The Moderator invited the Revd Stuart Jackson, on behalf of the Synod of Wales, to introduce and move adoption of Resolution 2. The Revd Kathryn Price seconded formally, reserving her right to speak after discussion.

### **Resolution 2**

### **Proposed Ecumenical Bishop (East Cardiff)**

**General Assembly endorses the positive response from the National Synod of Wales to the request from Enfys (the Commission of Covenanted Churches) addressed to member Churches to approve in principle the proposals entitled 'Towards the Making of an Ecumenical Bishop'. The Synod in Wales passed such proposals without dissent on 16 October 1999 with the following areas of concern being noted:**

- a) **The post must be, in principle, open to any ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in any of the four constituent denominations;**
- b) **In the liturgy for the making of the Bishop there should be no expression that might suggest any sort of re-ordination of the individual concerned;**
- c) **Clear expression should be given to the newness of what is being proposed. The Bishop, whilst being in continuity of community with our different traditions, should be recognised as a new departure that may, and, we hope will, develop in ways that we have not yet foreseen;**
- d) **Further detailed work must be undertaken regarding the relationship of the Bishop to the structures of authority and oversight within each church and between the Covenant Partners to ensure that the Bishop can be in practice the focus of unity and mission that the proposals envisage; and,**
- e) **No appointment should be agreed until the financial arrangements are known and accepted by all the member churches.**



The Moderator ruled that speeches should be restricted to three minutes.

There was discussion, and the Clerk explained that, should the resolution be passed, the Synod of Wales would need to present to a future Assembly a fully worked out scheme. Acceptance of such a scheme would constitute a modification of the polity of the United Reformed Church in that it would make provision for the appointment of a Bishop, albeit in only one area. The Assembly would thus be acting under its function 2(5)(A)(xi) which meant that that decision would need to be taken in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 3(1) of The Structure. The resolution before the Assembly, however, would require only a simple majority to pass.

The Revd Stuart Jackson responded to discussion.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 2 was carried.**

Mrs Wilma Frew took the Chair.

## **Synod Reports**

The Moderator invited presentation of Synod reports. Reports were received from Mersey, North Western, Wales and West Midlands Synods.

The Revd Bill Mahood resumed the Chair.

## **District Boundaries**

The General Secretary drew the attention of the Assembly to the following changes in District Boundaries:

### **Southern Synod**

The Synod formally reports to General Assembly, under paragraph 2(4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure, that at its meeting of Synod on 10th March 2000, it was agreed that Balcombe United Reformed Church move from Croydon District to the Sussex East District.

### **Northern Synod**

The Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under paragraph 2(4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure, that at its meeting of Synod on 15/16 October 1999, it was agreed that the Durham and Teesside District Councils unite to become the Durham and Teesside District Council from 1st January 2000.

The Synod formally reports to the General Assembly, under paragraph 2(4)(ii) of the Basis and Structure, that at its meeting of Synod on 4th March 2000, it was agreed that Haltwhistle United Reformed Church move from Cumberland District to Newcastle District from 1st April 2000.

The Moderator invited the Revd Andrew Mills to move adoption of Resolution 47 which was seconded by the Revd David Bradburn, who reserved his right speak after discussion.

Resolution 47

Synod Reports

General Assembly appreciates the Synod reports presented to it as a way of sharing the visions and concerns across the breadth of our denomination, creating opportunities for prayer and increasing our sense of unity.

Assembly asks for the pattern of annual reports by all Synods to be re-established as one channel of communication which encourages our common responsibility to care and pray for one another within the United Reformed Church.

After brief discussion, Mr Mills responded, and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 47 was not carried.

## Training Committee (Continued)

The Moderator invited the Revd John Proctor to introduce and move adoption of Resolution 39:

### Resolution 39

### St Michael's College, Llandaff

**General Assembly adds the non-residential course at St Michael's College, Llandaff, to its list of recognised colleges and courses for initial ministerial training.**

After brief discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 39 was carried.**

Mr Proctor moved adoption of Resolution 40:

### Resolution 40

### Westminster College, Cambridge: Lewis and Gibson Scholarship

**General Assembly adopts, with immediate effect, the revised regulations for the Lewis and Gibson Scholarship, as drafted in the book of Reports.**

Lewis and Gibson Scholarship, Westminster College. Revised Regulations, July 2000.

Mrs Margaret Dunlop Gibson (died 1920) and Mrs Agnes Smith Lewis (died 1926) bequeathed funds to establish the Lewis and Gibson Scholarship at Westminster College, Cambridge. The purposes for which these funds may be used are outlined in the Will of Mrs Lewis and Mrs Gibson and in a Scheme annexed to the Will. The following Regulations govern the use of the funds for due purposes.

- i) The Scholarship may be used to support candidates for the ministry, from the United Reformed Church, and from any other church (not established by the state) in the United Kingdom or overseas which is a member church of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and which holds Presbyterian order. Scholars may pursue a course of study in Theology for any primary or higher degree of the University of Cambridge, or – in the case of a Cambridge graduate – for a diploma of the University of Cambridge.
- ii) In addition to the Senatus of Westminster College, who are appointed Electors by the Will, the Assembly has power to add to the number of Electors. The following shall be additional Electors: the Convener of the College Board of Governors, and the Convener and Secretary of the College Board of Studies.
- iii) Before electing any person to a scholarship, the Electors shall require:
  - a) Evidence of good standing as a ministerial candidate.
  - b) A declaration of intent to enter the ministry.
  - c) Evidence of ability, attainment and character.
  - d) Any other material the Electors may consider necessary.
- iv) A scholar's syllabus and progress shall be monitored by the College Senatus, and reported to the Electors, who may report to the candidate's sending church as they see fit.
- v) A scholar shall be expected to be a resident member of Cambridge University, and to take a due part in the religious and social life of Westminster College.
- vi) The tenure of these scholarships depends upon good conduct and diligent study on the part of the scholar, and of these the Electors are the judges by the terms of the Will.
- vii) A Lewis and Gibson Scholarship is by the terms of the Will tenable with any Exhibition, Scholarship, Fellowship or Studentship in the University of Cambridge and any of its Colleges.
- viii) The Electors shall report annually on their work, through the Board of Studies to the College Governors.
- ix) Expenses incurred by the Governors in the administration of the Scholarship shall be chargeable to the general Scholarship fund.
- x) No alteration shall be made in these regulations relating to any aspect of the Lewis and Gibson Scholarship Funds, except by the General Assembly, on the report of the appropriate Assembly committee.

Mr Proctor acknowledged that, although the former rule on world-wide advertisement had been removed, it was morally incumbent on the Electors to undertake a degree of world-wide advertisement. This would be done through the web-site.

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 40 was carried.**

## **Methodist/URC Health and Healing Development Group**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Brenda Russell, to present the report of the Methodist/URC Health and Healing Development Group.

Mrs Russell noted a correction to paragraph 1.1 of the report: the Revd Elsie Howell had not taken the place of Dr Ivan Cox, but was present as an observer.

Mrs Russell responded to a number of questions from members of Assembly.

## **Pastoral Reference Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd David Jenkins, to present the report of the Pastoral Reference Committee.

Responding to a question Mr Jenkins indicated that the committee would note the concerns of one member over the allocation of educational grants and bursaries.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Glyn Jenkins, to present the report of the Nominations Committee.

Mr Jenkins presented the list of appointments, updated by the supplementary report before the Assembly and some further corrections, all of which are included in the following list.

### **1. ASSEMBLY STAFF APPOINTMENTS**

- 1.1 The Nominating Group for the North Western Synod Moderator was convened by Revd Angus Duncan and recommended to Mission Council the appointment of Revd Peter James Brain from 1 Sept 2000 until 31 August 2007.
- 1.2 The Nominating Group for the Secretary for Finance was convened by Revd David Hannen and recommended to Mission Council the appointment of Ms Avis Reaney with effect from 1 April 2000.
- 1.3 The Review Group for the Children's Advocate was convened by Mrs Wilma Frew and recommended to Mission Council that Mrs Rosemary Johnston be re-appointed from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005.
- 1.4 The Review Group for the Editor of Reform and Media Officer was convened by Revd Donald Hilton and following its recommendation Mission Council re-appointed Revd David Lawrence for a further period from 1st July 2000 to 31st August 2005.
- 1.5 The following groups have been appointed:
  - 1.5.1 Appointment Group for Secretary of Church and Society convened by Revd Keith Forecast.
  - 1.5.2 Review Group for Mersey Synod Moderator convened by Mr Brian Evans.
  - 1.5.3 Review Group for South Western Synod Moderator convened by Mrs Wilma Frew.
  - 1.5.4 Nominating Group for Southern Synod Moderator convened by Revd Sandra Lloydlangston.
  - 1.5.5 Nominating Group for National Synod of Wales Moderator convened by Revd Christopher White.
  - 1.5.6 Nominating Group for Principal of Westminster College convened by Revd David Jenkins.
  - 1.5.7 Review Group for Secretary for Ministries convened by Mrs Wilma Frew.
  - 1.5.8 Review Group for Secretary for International Relations convened by Revd Michael Davies.

## 2. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES and Sub-COMMITTEES

- Notes:
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 1999 are indicated by one asterisk (\*), two asterisks (\*\*) denotes those whom Assembly 2000 is invited to appoint for the first time. (#) indicates a representative of the National Synod of Scotland who will serve until 2001.
  3. The date in brackets following the names indicates the date of retirement, assuming a full term.
  4. Many committees have cross-representation [e.g the Ecumenical Committee has representatives from Doctrine, Prayer & Worship, Church and Society, Youth and Children's Work etc.,] These are internal appointments and are not listed here.
  5. These nominations are made by the Synods of Scotland or Wales and are presented in this report for confirmation by the General Assembly.

### 2.1 ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS

Convener: Revd Alasdair Pratt [2001]

Secretary: Office & Personnel Manager

Synod Representative for forthcoming Assembly

Synod Representative for previous Assembly who is then replaced after 'review' meeting by Synod Representative for Assembly two years hence.

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

### 2.2 CHURCH and SOCIETY

Convener: Ms Gabrielle Cox [2002]

Secretary: Secretary for Church and Society

Mr George Morton [2001]

Dr Sue Brisley [2002]

Revd Ken Cox [2003]

Revd Raymond Singh [2003]

Mrs Helen Warmington [2003]

Mrs Marva Ward [2003]

Miss Catriona Waterson [2003]

Revd Alan Paterson #

### 2.3 COMMUNICATIONS and EDITORIAL

Convener: Revd Graham Cook [2003]

Secretary: Secretary for Communications

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]

Miss Elizabeth Bruce [2004]\*\*

Mrs Melanie Frew [2004]\*\*

### 2.4 DOCTRINE, PRAYER and WORSHIP

Convener: Revd Dr Colin Thompson [2001]

Secretary: Ms Kirsty Thorpe [2004]\*\*

Revd Dr Janet Tollington [2001]

Mr Colin Ferguson [2002]

Revd Dr David Peel [2003]

Revd Nadim Nassar [2003]

Revd Charles Martin [2003]

Mrs Jenny Poulter [2004]\*\*

Revd Hugh Graham [2003]

Revd John Young #

### 2.5 ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd Bob Andrews [2001]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Mrs Jackie Marsh [2001]

Revd Richard Mortimer [2001]

Revd John Rees [2001]

Revd Mary Buchanan [2002]

Revd Philip Jones [2002]

Revd Elizabeth Nash [2002]

Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reed [2004]\*\*

Revd Stuart Jackson representing the National Synod of Wales

Revd John R Smith #

#### 2.5.1 ECUMENICAL - INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd John Crocker [2003]

Secretary: Secretary for International Relations

Mr Peter Bryant [2002]

Revd John Humphreys [2001]

Revd Keith Riglin [2002]

Revd Gwenneth Collins [2003]

### 2.6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Revd Nannette Lewis Head [2002]

Secretary: Ms Ruth Norton [2004]

Ms Georgette Margrett [2001]

Revd Wilf Bahadur [2001]

Miss Stella Salmon [2002]

Revd Derek Hopkins [2002]

Revd Susan Armitage [2003]

Miss Sarah Moore [2004]\*\*

## 2.7 FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: The Secretary for Finance

Miss Catriona Waterson [2001]

Revd John Piper [2003]

Mr Alan Duncan [2002]

Miss Muriel Proven [2004]\*\*

Mr Gordon Latham [2003]

Convener of the URC Trust

## 2.8 INTER-FAITH RELATIONS

Convener: Mrs Daphne Beale [2003]

Secretary: Revd Sally Thomas [2004]\*\*

Mrs Linda Hopley [2001]

Revd Alistair Ellefsen-Jones [2004]\*\*

Revd David M Taylor [2002]

Mr Matthew Bean [2003]

## 2.9 LIFE and WITNESS

Convener: Revd Frank Beattie [2003]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Mrs Tina Rook [2001]

Revd Suzanne Hamnet [2003]

Revd Bob Warwicker [2003]

Revd Kenneth Forbes #

Mr David Williams [2002]

Mrs Sheila Thatcher [2003]

Revd Angela Hughes [2004]\*\*

Revd Peter Ball [2002]

Revd Eddie Boon [2003]

Revd Simon Copley [2004]\*\*

### 2.9.1 LIFE and WITNESS - STEWARDSHIP Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Keith Webster [2004]\*\*

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Mrs Susan Wilkinson [2002]

Mrs Anne Mitchell [2004]\*\*

Mr Frank Dale [2003]

To be advised [2004]

Mrs Sheila Yates [2003]

## 2.10 MINISTRIES

Convener: Revd Graham Long [2001]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Revd Martha McInnes [2001]

Revd Roz Harrison [2003]

Revd Peter Noble [2004]\*\*

Revd Brian Jolly [2001]

Revd Tjarda Murray [2003]

Convener of National Assessment Board

Ms Sally Abbott [2002]

Miss Marjory King #

### 2.10.1 MINISTRIES - ACCREDITATION Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Robert Way [2001]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Julie McLaren [2001]

Mr Peter Mann [2003]

Revd Graham Robson [2001]

Revd Roberta Rominger [2003]

Mrs Frances Caldwell [2002]

### 2.10.2 MINISTRIES - CRCW Management Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Alison Hall [2004]\*\*

Secretary: Mr John Boddy [2001]

Revd Peter Cruchley Jones [2002]

Revd Clifford Wilton [2002]

Mrs Adella Pritchard [2004]\*\*

### 2.10.3 MINISTRIES - LAY PREACHING Sub-Committee

Lay Preaching Commissioner: Mrs Carol Dixon [2003]

And four members elected by the Lay Preacher Commissioners Consultation

### 2.10.4 MINISTRIES - MAINTENANCE OF MINISTRY Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Geoffrey Wood [2003]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings [2003]

Mrs Jill Strong [2003]

Mr Barry Swift [2004]\*\*

Revd Roger Woodall [2004]\*\*

The Treasurer

Revd Pauline Parkin [2004]\*\*

### 2.10.5 MINISTRIES - RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING - Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Simon Swailes [2002]

Secretary: Mr Clive Willis [2003]

Mrs Margaret Waller [2001]

Revd Graham Cook [2002]

Mrs Sheila Woodcock [2001]

The Treasurer

Revd John Pugh [2002]



**Note:** Properties are managed by a Company viz: **RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING SOCIETY LTD**  
Details of the Members of the Board etc may be obtained from the Secretary: Mr Clive Willis at Church House

#### 2.10.6 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT BOARD

Convener: Mr Brian Evans [2001]

Retiring 2001 Revd Derek Wales, Revd Reginald Rooke

Retiring 2002 Mr Alan Small, Revd Denise Megson, Miss Margaret Compton  
Revd Alison Davis, Mrs Janine Lawley, Dr Christopher Whitehead

Retiring 2003 Mr David Coaker, Ms Elaine Gentles, Mr Monty Helmn, Revd Lythan Nevard

Retiring 2004 Revd Marilyn Allen, Revd Craig Bowman, Revd Graham Hoslett  
Revd Kevin Watson, Revd Ray Adams

Retiring 2005 Mrs Joyce Sutcliff \*\*, Dr Jean Stevenson \*\*, Dr David Cutler\*\*, Revd Rachel Poolman\*\*

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

Revd Bob Day [2003] Mr Andrew Edwards [2003] Mr Graham Ghaleb [2003]  
Mrs Kathleen Stephenson [2003] Ms Allison Trimble [2003] Revd Susan Armitage [2004]\*\*

#### 2.11 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd Glyn Jenkins [2002]

Secretary: Mr Desmond Curry [2001]

Synod Representatives: Miss Janet Turner [1], Revd Geoff Tolley [2], Mr Donald Swift [3], Mr John Seager [4],  
Revd Christopher White [5], Mr Simon Rowntree [6], Revd Elizabeth Caswell [7], Revd Ray Adams [8],  
Mr Graham Rolfe [9], Revd Adrian Bulley [10], Mrs Christine Meekison [11], Revd John Humphreys [12],  
Revd John Arthur [13], with the Immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretary

#### 2.12 PASTORAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd David Jenkins [2003]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Dr Anthea Kaan [2001] Revd Arnold Harrison [2003] Mr Okeke Azu Okeke [2004]\*\*  
Revd Pat Hall [2004]\*\* Convener of Welfare Sub-Committee The Treasurer

The General Secretary

#### 2.12.1 PASTORAL WELFARE - Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Nelson Bainbridge [2003]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings

#### 2.13 TRAINING

Convener: Revd John Proctor [2003]

Secretary: The Secretary for Training

Revd Ruth Ball [2001] Mrs Helen Brown [2002] Revd Roy Lowes [2002]  
Dr Andrew Dawson [2002] Dr Graham Campling [2003] Revd Carole Ellefsen-Jones [2003]  
Mrs Anthea Coates [2004]\*\* Revd Paul Ballard [2004]\*\* Revd Dr John M Parry [2004]  
Revd John Dyce #

#### 2.14 WINDERMERE ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Revd David A L Jenkins [2001]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere

Revd Stephen Thornton [2001] Revd Douglas McFarlane [2003] Mrs Christine Millward [2004]\*\*  
Convener of Windermere Management Committee Convener of Life and Witness Committee  
Minister of Carver URC

#### 2.15 YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Convener: Revd Derek Lindfield [2002]

Secretary: Mrs Soo Webster [2003]

Mr Gareth Curl [2001] Revd Margaret Collins [2001] Mr Lewis McKenzie [2001]  
Mrs Caroline Chettleburgh [2002] Mrs Brenda Cheer [2003] Mrs Rita Joyner [2003]  
Revd Kathryn Price [2003] Mrs Kath Lonsdale [2003] Revd Andrew Willett [2004]\*\*  
FURY Chair FURY Council Member

## 2.16 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS - Commission Panel

**Convener:** Revd Donald Hilton

**Deputy Convener:** Mrs Helen Brown

**Secretary:** Revd Alasdair Walker

### Members:

Miss Ina Barker	Ms Kate Breeze	Mr Keith Brooks	Revd K Chippindale
Revd Alison Davis	Mr R Forsyth	Mrs Wilma Frew	Mr Alan Hart
Revd R M Jones	Miss Elizabeth Lawson QC	Revd Julian Macro	Revd Ted Marley
Revd Denise Megson	Sir James Nursaw	Mrs Sheila Pratt	Mr Nicholas Pye
Mrs Sally Quilter	Revd Michael Rees	Revd John Slow	Revd Dr David Thompson
Miss Sheila Tweed	Mr John Moore	Mr Ray Holden	Mr Mike Garnett
Mr Donald Taylor	Mr Peter Mann	Mr Peter Jolly	Dr John Kennedy
Mr Ian Lloyd Parry	Mrs Barbara Martin	Ms Rachael Greening	Mrs Vera Maskery
Mrs Ruth Clarke	Ms Elizabeth Whitten	Revd John Chisholm	Revd David Main
Revd Raymond Singh	Revd David Skitt	Revd Dr Rick Mearkle	Revd Brenda Hill
Revd Margaret Taylor	Revd Joan Winterbottom	Revd Margaret Juhasz	Revd Shelagh Pollard
Miss Janice Jeater	Mr Martin Ballard		

## 3. MISSION COUNCIL

Mission Council acts on behalf of General Assembly. It consists of the Officers of Assembly, the Moderators of Synod and three representatives from each Synod together with the Conveners of Assembly Committees.

Northern Synod	Dr Peter Clarke, Revd Pamela Ward, Mrs Roberta Wood
North-Western Synod	Revd Geoffrey Townsend, Mrs Margareta Batchelor, Mrs Janice Cockcroft
Mersey Synod	Mrs Lillian Covell, Dr Donald South, Revd Gwynfor Evans
Yorkshire Synod	Revd John Jenkinson, Mr Steve Wood, Mrs Val Morrison
East Midlands Synod	Mrs Jill Strong, Revd Clifford Wilton, Revd David Miller
West Midlands Synod	Mr Simon Rowntree, Revd Dr S F Ansa-Addo, Mrs Ann Sheldon
Eastern Synod	Revd Michael Burrell, Mr Ken Woods, Revd Richard Mortimer
South Western Synod	Revd Roy Lowes, Revd Paul Snell, Miss Angela Bebbington
Wessex Synod	Mr Graham Rolfe, Revd David Williams, Revd Simon Thomas
Thames North Synod	Mr Keith Webster, Revd Dr Robin Pagan, Mr Geoffrey Duncan
Southern Synod	Mrs Christine Meekison, Revd Dawn Mather, Mr Ian Chalmers
Synod of Wales	Revd Kristin Ofstad, Mrs Delys Rees, Revd David Fox
Synod of Scotland	Revd Ken Forbes, A N Other ( <i>to be advised</i> ), A N Other ( <i>to be advised</i> )

## 4. TRUST BODIES

### 4.1 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST

Convener: Dr Brian Woodhall

Secretary: Mr Tony Bayley

Directors:

Revd Tony Burnham	Ms Avis Reaney	Mrs Christine Meekison
Mr Graham Stacy	Mr Clive Willis	Dr Brian Woodhall [2004]
Mr John Squires [2004]	Ms Valerie Ham [2004]	Mr David Marshall-Jones [2004]
Mr Peter Ward [2005]	Revd Leslie Watson [2006]**	

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

Chairman: Revd Alasdair Walker

Secretary: Revd John Martin

Members of URC: Ms Valerie Ham [2002], Mr Ray Chambers [2003], Mr Richard Nunn[2005],  
Mr Philip Sheridan [2006]\*\*

Members of Fund: Revd John Martin [2002], Revd Alasdair Walker [2003], Revd Jessie Clare [2004],  
Revd Kenneth Graham [2005]

[*ex officio* Ms Avis Reaney, Mr Graham Stacy, Mr Victor Hughff, Mr Geoffrey Wood ]

#### 4.3 CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

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

#### 4.4 MILTON MOUNT FOUNDATION

Miss Nan Mark*	Revd Peter Grimshaw	Revd George Thomas
Mrs Clare Meachin **	Mr David Butler	

#### 4.5 THE AUSTRALIAN FRONTIER SERVICES CHARITABLE TRUST \*\*

Mr Clem Frank  
Mr Brian Wates - joint appointment with Uniting Church in Australia

#### 5. Representatives of the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH to Meetings of SISTER CHURCHES

Note 5. In accordance with the decision of Mission Council [see Reports p28 para 4.12] some nominations have been made by the National Synods of Wales and Scotland.

Presbyterian Church in Ireland (2000)	Revd Peter McIntosh, Revd Kenneth Lynch
General Synod of Church of England	Revd Murdoch McKenzie
Methodist Conference	Revd Bob Andrews
General Assembly of Church of Scotland (2000)	Revd Peter McIntosh, Revd Peter Poulter, Revd John Arthur
Provincial Synod of Moravian Church	Revd David Tatem
Presbyterian Church of Wales	Revd Bill Mahood
Union of Welsh Independents	Revd T Gerwin Jones
Congregational Federation	Revd David Helyar
Church in Wales Governing Board	Revd Stuart Jackson

#### 6. Representatives of the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH on ECUMENICAL CHURCH BODIES

The following have been nominated as URC representatives at the major gatherings of the Ecumenical Bodies listed.

**Note:** A list of representatives to other ecumenical bodies, commissions and committees, co-ordinating groups and agencies, who are appointed by the relevant committees, will be distributed to all members of General Assembly. Additional copies are available, on request, from the Secretary for Ecumenical Relations.

##### 6.1 Council for World Mission

Revd John Crocker*	Ms Lesley Anne-Morgan*	Miss Joanne Ellis
Secretary for International Relations		

##### 6.2 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - Assembly 1999

General Secretary                      Convener of the Ecumenical Committee.  
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Secretary for Church and Society, Revd Dr Donald Norwood,  
Mr John Bradbury, Mrs Ruth Clarke, Revd Elizabeth Welch, Mrs Jackie Yeomans, Mrs Kathleen Ziffo,  
Revd Marjorie Lewis-Cooper and Miss Sarah King.

##### 6.2.1 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - Church Representatives Meeting

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations                      Mrs Wilma Frew

##### 6.3 Churches Together in England - Forum 1999

Convener Ecumenical Committee, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Revd Elizabeth Caswell together with the following **nine** representatives: Mrs Wilma Frew, Mrs Tina Rook, Ms Georgette Margrett, Mr Graham Ghaleb, Revd Donald Norwood, Revd Rudi Dixon, Mrs Val Morrison, Revd Peter Southcombe, Revd Alan Thomasson.

##### 6.3.1 Churches Together in England - Enabling Group

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

#### **6.4 FREE CHURCHES' COUNCIL**

**Council** Secretary for Ecumenical Relations  
Mr Bill Boyd Revd Daphne Williams

**Executive** General Secretary

**Women's Council** Revd Claire Downing

#### **6.5 ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) see Note 5**

##### **Central Council**

Revd John Arthur *to be advised*

#### **6.6 CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales) see Note 5**

**Y Gymanfa** next meets in 2001

**Council** The Synod Ecumenical Officer (alternate Synod Moderator)  
Mrs Jackie Yeomans (alternate Mrs Eileen McIlveen)

#### **6.7 FREE CHURCH COUNCIL for WALES see Note 5**

The Synod Moderator Synod Ecumenical Officer

### **7. URC Representatives at formal bi-lateral and multi-lateral committees.**

#### **7.1 METHODIST/URC Liaison Committee**

The Secretary for Ecumenical Relations together with: Revd Derek Wales, Ms Rachel Greening, Revd Alan Thomasson, Revd Geoffrey Clarke and Ms Karen Watts

##### **7.1.1 HEALTH and HEALING DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Revd Brenda Russell, Dr Margaret Moore, Mrs Jackie Ballard, Revd Delia Bond \*\*

#### **7.2 Church of England - Methodist formal talks**

URC Ecumenical Participants: Revd Dr David Thompson, Revd Sheila Maxey

##### **7.2.1 Trilateral Informal talks [Church of England/Methodist/URC]**

URC Representatives: Revd Bob Andrews, Revd John Waller, Revd Elizabeth Welch with Secretary for Ecumenical Relations as Staff Member

#### **7.3 ENFYS (The Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales) see Note 5**

Synod Moderator Synod Ecumenical Officer Mrs Ann Shillaker  
Revd Henry Gordon Revd David Cassidy Revd Alan Willcocks

#### **7.4 Council for Wales Consultation on Forming a United Church in Wales see Note 5**

Synod Moderator Synod Ecumenical Officer Revd James Breslin Revd David Morgan

#### **7.5 SCOTTISH CHURCHES INITIATIVE FOR UNION [SCIFU] see Note 5**

Revd John Arthur Revd Alan Paterson Revd John Smith Revd Sheila Maxey  
Revd Fleur Houston

### **8. URC Representatives on Governing Bodies of Theological Colleges etc.,**

#### **8.1 Mansfield College:**

Ministerial and Educational Training Committee: Revd Graham Robson  
Secretary for Training Revd Roy Lowes Revd Janet Sowerbutts

#### **8.2 New College London**

Foundation Trustees  
Mr John Smethers, Mr Graham Stacy, Revd John Pugh

#### **8.3 Northern College**

Secretary for Training, Mrs Helen Brown, Mr Jim Wilkinson

Council of the Partnership for Theological Education, Manchester: Secretary for Training

- 8.4 Westminster College: Board of Governors      Convener: Revd Dr David Thompson  
 Clerk: Mr Andrew Armour  
 Mr Don Taylor, Secretary for Training,  
 Mrs Valerie Burnham, Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
- 8.4.1 Cheshunt Foundation      Mr Desmond Davies, Revd Michael Dunford
- 8.4.2 Cambridge Theological Federation      Convener Westminster College Governors  
 Secretary for Training  
 Secretary for Training  
 Joint Academic Committee
- 8.5 Homerton College Trustees      Mr John Chaplin, Lady Sally Williams,  
 Mrs Elisabeth Jupp, Revd Dr David Thompson
- 8.6 Queen's College, Birmingham      Revd Elizabeth Welch, Revd Ken Chippindale,  
 Mr Howard Bridge\*  
 Secretary for Training in attendance
- 8.7 Aberystwyth (Memorial College)      Revd Dr Glyndwr Harris, Mr Leslie Jones

**9. GOVERNORS of COLLEGES and SCHOOLS with which the URC is associated**

- 9.1 Caterham School      Revd David Helyar, Mr John Mathias \*
- 9.2 Eltham College      Revd Clifford Charlton
- 9.3 Walthamstow Hall      Miss Margaret Vokins
- 9.4 Silcoates School      Dr Clyde Binfield
- 9.5 Taunton School      Revd Ray Adams
- 9.6 Wentworth College      Revd Brian Rawling
- 9.7 Bishops Stortford College      Mr Hugh Joscelyne

**10. Miscellaneous:**

The URC is represented on a variety of other national organisations and committees as follows:

- Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund      Mr Ken Meekison  
 Mrs Jill Strong\*  
 Mr Laurence Macro
- Christian Education Movement Council      Mrs Margi Jenkins  
 Churches Main Committee      Ms Avis Reaney  
 Mr Hartley Oldham  
 Mr Tegid Peregrine
- Congregational Fund Board      Revd Cyril Grant  
 Revd Dorothy Havergal-Shaw  
 Revd Eric Allen  
 Revd John Taylor\*
- Guides' Religious Advisory Panel      Mrs Susan Walker
- National Christian Education Council      Mrs Patricia Hubbard  
 Mrs Rosemary Johnston
- Scouts' Religious Advisory Group      Mr D Marshall-Jones
- United Reformed Church History Society      Mrs Mary Davies  
 Revd Peter Jupp  
 Mrs Carol Rogers  
 Revd Eric Wollaston  
 Revd Dr David Thompson
- URC Boy's Brigade Companies Council      Revd Michael Rees
- Wharton Trust      Mr Norman Fabb
- Widows Fund of the Three Denominations      Mr Ken Meekison  
 Mrs Jill Strong  
 Mr Laurence Macro

**11. Tellers for 2001 Assembly (election of Moderator of General Assembly):**

- Revd Adrian Bulley [Convener]      Revd Sandra Lloydlangston      Mr John Seager



Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 37:

### **Resolution 37**

### **Nominations**

**General Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 121 to 128 of the Book of Reports subject to the additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly.**

The Moderator called for discussion; there being none he invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 37 was carried.**

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 38:

### **Resolution 38**

### **Church Treasurer**

**General Assembly invites Mr Graham Stacy to serve as Treasurer for a further two years until General Assembly 2002.**

The Moderator called for discussion; there being none he invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 38 was carried.**

Mr Jenkins moved that:

### **Resolution 51**

**General Assembly extends the term of service of the Revd Alasdair Pratt, Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, by one year to General Assembly 2002.**

The Moderator called for a vote and **the Resolution was carried.**

Mr Jenkins invited the Revd Keith Forecast, Convener of the Nominations Group for the Secretary for Church and Society, to introduce Resolution 46:

### **Resolution 46**

### **Nominations**

**General Assembly appoints Dr Andrew Bradstock to the post of Secretary for Church and Society for five years starting from the 1st September 2000.**

**Resolution 46 was carried.**

The Moderator greeted Dr Bradstock.

The Moderator invited the Revd Alasdair Pratt to move adoption of Resolution 43. With the permission of the Assembly Mr Pratt moved the resolution in the following amended form:

### **Resolution 43**

**General Assembly agrees to delete 'annually' from clause (d) of the remit of the Equal Opportunities Committee.**

The resolution was seconded formally by the Revd Tony Burnham. There was brief discussion, to which Mr Pratt responded. The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 43 was carried.**

Miss Catherine Smith and Mr Huw Morrison sought the permission of the Assembly to withdraw Resolution 44:

Resolution 44

General Assembly agrees that in years in which the Youth and Children's Work Committee does not report, FURY shall present a report to the Assembly which shall be subject to the timing arrangements specified in Standing Order 4a.

Permission being granted, the resolution was withdrawn.

## Report of Assembly Commissions

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to report on Assembly Commissions. He did so, and said that the reports would be included in the Record of the Assembly.

The General Secretary introduced and moved adoption of Resolution 48 which was seconded formally by the Revd Ian Ring:

### **Resolution 48      Section O Process: Assembly Commission Report**

**General Assembly instructs the General Secretary that, under the Section O Process, when reporting the decision of a Commission that there has been no breach of discipline, in addition to omitting the name of the minister, the name of the district council should also be omitted.**

**Resolution 48 was carried.**

In response to a question concerning the reporting of a disciplinary issue in Reform, the General Secretary said that the case concerned had been already in the public domain. In those circumstances the Editor took the view that it would not be right to exclude any reference from Reform. No privileged information had been used or reported. Furthermore, Assembly was reminded that when a minister was suspended that fact was publicly known in the church, and was not a confidential matter. The Editor would not break a news story, and only in very exceptional cases would he print something which was not already in the public domain. The General Secretary indicated that he fully supported the Editor in his decision.

## Minutes of Previous Sessions

The Moderator invited the Clerk to present the minutes of the first and second sessions of Monday 3rd July. After noting corrections, she asked that these minutes be approved and, under Standing Order 11b, the remaining minutes be inserted into the full minutes of the Assembly after review and any necessary correction by the officers of the Assembly. Assembly agreed.

## Address to the Throne

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to present the Address to the Throne:

4th July 2000

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

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

The histories of the Presbyterian, Congregationalist and Churches of Christ denominations which joined together to establish the United Reformed Church have left us with strong ties of partnership with many indigenous churches across the Commonwealth. We acknowledge Your own unique role as Head of the Commonwealth. We share the apprehension felt by everyone committed to the Commonwealth ideal over the evident vulnerability of democratic institutions in several Commonwealth countries, with the temporary exclusion of Pakistan and Fiji from this unique family of nations and the return of Nigeria to full membership after a period of military rule. Our hearts go out at this time to the people of Zimbabwe and of the Solomon Islands in their present difficulties. We also remain anxious at the apparent arms race, including nuclear programmes, in the Indian subcontinent and elsewhere.

A growing sense that our world is becoming ever more inter-connected for better and for worse in the complex processes of globalisation leads us to share again our concern at the persistence of poverty and gross inequalities in the world and in our own country. We congratulate Your Government at

moves made to mark the Millennium by tackling the burden of unpayable debt being carried by many of the poorest countries and by using its influence to press international institutions towards policies which give priority to the fundamental reduction of poverty across the world. We have welcomed the expansion of tax-free giving for such causes by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We are urging Your Ministers to do significantly more, believing that the British public will support them in such moves.

One result of growing globalisation is the increased pressure on people to leave their homelands, whether fleeing persecution and torture or seeking a better life as our own ancestors did in previous centuries. We have had occasion to criticise some statements and actions of Your Ministers in dealing with the growth in refugees seeking asylum and security in our land. It is our belief that most new arrivals enrich and strengthen us as a nation, socially and economically. We look for more constructive policies on this issue and for no encouragement to be given to racist elements among us.

We have noted with pleasure the celebrations marking Her Majesty the Queen Mother's birthday this year and the coming of age of Prince William. The changing patterns and mixed experiences of family life across British society are reflected in Your own family. As a church we continue to affirm the unique importance of marriage as a bond of loyalty. Our long-standing acceptance of the possibility of the remarriage of divorced persons within the United Reformed Church, when certain conditions are met, is intended to uphold, not to weaken, the institution of marriage.

We pray for the continued health and strength of Your Majesty as You offer leadership and service to the United Kingdom and to the Commonwealth in a new century.

We have the honour to remain Your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects.

Revd William Mahood  
Moderator

Revd Anthony Burnham  
General Secretary

The Assembly approved the Address.

### **Moderator-elect**

The Moderator invited the Moderator-Elect, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, to address the Assembly.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Moderator called upon the Revd Arnold Harrison, who thanked Thames North Synod for its friendly and efficient hosting of the Assembly, the Local Arrangements Committee, stewards, staff of Queen Mary and Westfield College, and all who had worked before and during the Assembly to enable it to function successfully.

The Moderator added his personal thanks to those who had supported and advised him before and during Assembly. On behalf of the Assembly he thanked Mr Andrew Tait and Mr Steve Lethbridge, organists, the music group, the Revd John Proctor who had led Bible studies, all Church House staff, the officers of the Assembly and the Chaplain, the Revd Paul Bedford.

The General Secretary formally announced that the Assembly had completed its business and would adjourn to meet as agreed in York on 16th July 2001, or at such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.

The Chaplain led the closing worship.

## **MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

### **REPORT OF ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONS**

1. On February 18th 2000 a Commission met to hear the case of a minister who had been referred by a district council. It was the unanimous decision of the Commission that there had been no breach of ministerial discipline.  
The legal costs of the Commission, which consisted of the costs of the United Reformed Church's solicitor and Counsel's fees, were £4,100. The other Commission costs were £350. The reason that costs of this level were incurred was due to the need to respond to a legal challenge made by the district council regarding the interpretation by the Commission of the Rules of Procedure. The district council was responsible for its own legal costs. The Church obtained Counsel's opinion, which the district council was willing to accept.
2. The Mission Council referred the Revd Martin John Nicholls to the Section O Process. It was the unanimous decision of the Commission, meeting on May 5th 2000, that Mr Nicholls be deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church.  
The cost of the Commission was £1,494.
3. On May 18th 2000 a Commission met to hear the case of a minister who had been referred by a district council. It was the unanimous decision of the Commission that there had been no breach of ministerial discipline.  
The cost of the Commission was £552.55

Revd A G Burnham

General Secretary

# INDEX

## The Unifying Assembly April 2000 and the Annual Assembly July 2000

The page numbers given are where the item starts. It might run to succeeding pages.

(UA) indicates a resolution of Unifying Assembly.

	<b>Reports</b>	<b>Record</b>
Accounts 1999	79, 142	44
Accreditations sub-committee	92	18
Address to the Throne	-	58
Admissions to the Roll of Ministers	-	18
Appointment of General Secretary	118	21
Appointments - Resolution 8.5 (UA)	-	7
Arthur, Revd John - Resolution 8.4 (UA)	-	7
Assembly 2002	45	37
Assembly Arrangements Committee	44	37
Assembly Arrangements Committee Convener	-	57
Assembly Commissions Section O Process	-	58, 60
Assembly, future patterns	45	37
Assembly, membership of partner churches	31	29
Assembly Reports	44	37
Assembly, Roll of	-	9
Basis of Union Schedule A addition	60	25
Basis of Union Schedule A change	60	25
BBC and religious broadcasting	57	38
Bishop, Ecumenical	8	46
Bradstock, Dr Andrew	-	57
Budget 2001	38	45
Cambridge Theological Federation, inspection	183	-
Celebrating church membership	61	26
Changes to the Structure	30	28
Church and Society Committee	46	22
Church and Society Secretary	-	57
Church membership, celebrating	61	26
Church Related Community Work Central Management Sub-Committee	95	-
Churches of Christ, World Convention	-	46
Churches, closures	13	15
Churches, new	12	15
Christian Aid	52	39
Colleges and Courses, recognition: Resolution 8.1 (UA)	-	7
St Michael's, Llandaff	136	48
Commemoration of ministers and missionaries	-	21
Commissions of Assembly Section O Process	-	58, 60
Commitment for Life	52	39
Committee Conveners, Assembly	37	35
Communications & Editorial Committee	54	38
Congregational Union of Scotland/URCUK Liaison Committee	168	-
Constitutional Changes: Resolution 7	30	28
Resolution 8	31	29
Resolution 9	31	29
Conveners of Assembly Committees	37	35
Cornick, Revd Dr David	118	21
Creeds and the United Reformed Church	63	26
Declaration of Union	-	5
Deletions from the roll of ministers	92	18



District boundaries:		
Northern Synod	-	47
Southern Synod	7	47
Doctrine Prayer & Worship Committee	58	24
Drugs and charity workers	9	45
Dyce, Revd John - Resolution 8.7 (UA)	-	7
Ecumenical Bishop	8	46
Ecumenical bodies, membership - Resolution 7	-	6
Ecumenical Committee	65	38
Education Secretary of the Synod of Scotland - Resolution 8.7 (UA)	-	7
Election of Moderator 2001-2002, Revd Elizabeth Welch	-	27
End of life	50	23
Equal Opportunities:		
Committee	76	20
remit	-	57
Finance Committee	78	44
Forbes, Revd Kenneth - Resolution 8.6 (UA)	-	7
Garrow, Mrs Muriel	-	46
General Secretary appointment	118	21
Health and Healing Development Group	80	49
Human Sexuality Resolution 34 of 1999	39	35
Human Sexuality Resolution 34 of 1999, voting figures	29	36
Human Sexuality sabbatical on resolutions	42	36
Inter-faith activity, local	82 & 171	22
Inter-faith Relations Committee	81	22
International Exchange sub-committee, change of name	72	39
Inspection, Cambridge Theological Federation	183	-
Lay Preaching Support Sub-Committee	96	-
Legal adviser	-	35
Lewis & Gibson Scholarship, Westminster College	136	48
Lewis-Cooper, Revd Marjorie	28	27
Life and Witness Committee	83	21
Life, end of	50	23
Llandaff, St. Michael's College	136	48
Local interfaith activity	82 & 171	22
Maguire, Mr James - Resolution 8.7 (UA)	-	7
Maintenance of the Ministry	99	40
Mandated Group, Section O Process	37	35
Mansfield College	178	-
McEnhill, Revd Dr Peter	-	26
Membership of General Assembly, partner churches	31	29
Methodist/URC Health and Healing Development Group	80	49
Ministerial Discipline, changes to Section O process part 1	32	29
Ministerial Discipline, changes to Section O process part 2	33	30
Ministerial Discipline, Commissions	-	58, 60
Ministers and Missionaries, commemoration	-	21
Ministers Pension Fund	100	41
Ministers, newly ordained	-	16
Ministers, stipendiary and retirement	105	18
Ministries Committee	90	17, 20, 40
Ministries, new patterns of	109	20
Ministry and Mission Fund	79	45
Ministry non-stipendiary	109	19
Mission Council	23	27
Mission Enabler of the Synod of Scotland - Resolution 8.7 (UA)	-	7
Mission Project	13	15
Missionaries and ministers, commemoration of	-	21
Moderator of Assembly, 2001-2002, election Revd Elizabeth Welch	-	27
Moderator of the Synod of Scotland - Resolution 8.4 (UA)	-	7
Moderators of Synods report	19	46

Multi-racial multi-cultural Development programme	28 & 187	27
National Assessment Board	94	-
National Health Service	50	23
New Churches	12	15
New Mission Projects	13	15
New pattern of Ministries	109	20
New Service Book	59	24
Newly ordained ministers	-	16
Nominations and appointments - Resolution 8.5 (UA)	-	7
Nominations Committee	119	49
Non-stipendiary ministry	109	19
Northern College	179	-
Northern Synod, district boundaries	-	47
Occupational Health Service	8	24
Oldham, Mr Hartley	-	35
Overseas Exchange sub-committee:		
Change of name	72	39
Report	73	-
Pastoral Reference Committee	127	49
Pension Fund, ministers	100	41
Pilgrim 2000	167	20
Plan for Partnership	99	40
Pratt, Revd Alasdair	-	57
Procedure, Rules of	45	37
Proposals for Union, amendment	-	4
Queens College	180	-
Racial Justice Secretary	28	27
Recognition of colleges and courses - Resolution 8.1 (UA)	-	7
Religious broadcasting and the BBC	57	38
Retirement of stipendiary ministers	105	18
Retired Ministers Housing Sub-Committee	97	-
Roll of Assembly	-	9
Roll of ministers, admissions	-	18
Roll of ministers, deletion	-	18
Rules of Procedure	45	37
Sabbatical on Human Sexuality resolutions	42	36
Sanderson, Revd Lindsey - Resolution 8.7 (UA)	-	7
Schedule A addition, Basis of Union	60	25
Schedule A change, Basis of Union	60	25
Scottish Congregational and United Reformed College	181	-
Secretary for Church & Society	-	57
Secretary for Racial Justice	28	27
Section O Process, Commission	58	60
Section O Process part 1 changes	31	29
Section O Process part 2 changes	33	30
Section O Process, mandated group	37	35
Service Book, new	59	24
Southern Synod, district boundaries	7	47
Stacy, Mr Graham	126	57
St. Michael's College Llandaff	136	48
Standing Orders	200	-
Stewardship Sub-Committee	89	-
Stipendiary ministry and retirement	105	18
Stone, Revd Lance	-	26
Structure changes	30	28
Students: Names	175	-
Statistics	177	-
Synod Clerk of Scotland - Resolution 8.6 (UA)	-	7
Synod Moderators Report	19	46
Synod of Scotland Resolution 8.3 (UA)	-	7

Synod		
Reports:		
Mersey	2	47
North Western	3	47
Wales	5	47
West Midlands	6	47
District Boundaries:		
Northern	-	47
Southern	7	47
Thompson, Revd Dr David	-	46
TLS	133	23
Training Committee	129	23
Training for Learning and Serving (TLS)	133	23
Treasurer	126	57
Treasurer, Synod of Scotland - Resolution 8.7 (UA)	-	7
Union, declaration	-	5
Union, proposals, amendment	-	4
Union, Resolutions 4, 5 & 6 (UA)	-	4
Welch, Revd Elizabeth	-	27
Welfare Sub-Committee	128	-
Westminster College:		
Appointments	-	26
Lewis & Gibson Scholarship	136	48
Report	182	-
Women's Union - Resolution 8.2 (UA)	-	7
World Convention of the Churches of Christ	-	46
Youth and Children's Work Committee	138	19



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United  
Reformed  
Church