

The background is a collage of purple-tinted images. At the top, there's a close-up of a lion's paw resting on a stone ledge. Below that, a wide landscape view of York University's campus with rolling hills and buildings. In the lower right, a multi-story brick building with many windows. In the lower left, a storefront with a large glass window and a sign that says '15+'.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

York 2001

July 16th - 19th

**Assembly
Record**



MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration *
For Action X

Resolution Number	Annual Reports	Assembly Record		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
22	59	12,15	Three Ecumenical Principals	*	*	*
21	47	25	Jobcentres Survey	*		
25	67	27	Holocaust Memorial Day	*		
40		35	Refugees and Asylum Seekers	*		
9	29	36	Changes to structure, grouping			X
11	31	38	Section 'O' part 1			X
28	76	11	Plan for Partnership	X		

Contents

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the
United Reformed Church
16-19 July 2001**

Pages 3 - 45

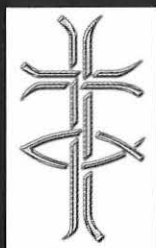
Report of Assembly Commissions

Pages 46 - 47



The
United
Reformed
Church

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Minutes of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church 2001

Monday, 16 July 2001

First Session

Assembly Service including Holy Communion

At 2.30 pm members of Assembly met in the Central Hall on the Campus of the University of York where Holy Communion was celebrated. This was led by the Moderator, the Revd Bill Mahood, assisted by his Chaplain, the Revd Paul Bedford.

Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries

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

Ministers who had served at home and as missionaries overseas and had died since Assembly 2000

Donald ANDERSON
Albert BAILEY
Joseph BOLTON
Alan Stuart BOUND
Thomas Arthur CHADWICK
Winifred CLARK
Kenneth Frank COOK
Philip Ernest GEE
Peter Roland GOODCHILD
Thomas GREENAWAY
Gerald David HALLAS
James Howard HANDLEY
Carl HANNAM
George Alexander HARDING
John Glyndwr HARRIS
David Edwin HAWARD
Hugh Geoffrey HAYES
Bryan IRVINE

Missionaries

Rupert Geoffrey BLISS
Janet Ruth CONOLLY
Ida Elizabeth Muriel FENN
Helen Mary FIRTH
David JACQUES

Eileen Mary Forster JEFFERAY
Dewi Daniel JENKINS
Arthur LISTER-HETHERINGTON
Cecil Hugh Robertson MARTIN
Stanley John METCALF
John Stewart MILLER
Ivy Beamish MORAN
Nancy MORGAN
Doreen Jeanne PELLIS
Keith PHILLIPS
Maureen Mary PONSFORD
James Vincent ROSS
Edward William George SMITH
David McDonald VALENTINE
Kenneth Wright WADSWORTH
Albert Reginald WILLIAMS
Edgar George YOUDELL

Lila Esther Mary GRIFFITHS
Barbara Lucy HODGSON
Anne MACKEITH
Gwendoline Grace SKINNER
Gillian SMITH

Constitution of Assembly

The Moderator, the Revd Bill Mahood, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and the time having been duly appointed.

Induction of Moderator

The Revd Elizabeth Welch, Moderator-elect, was inducted as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church. She signed the Assembly Bible and was presented with an inscribed copy of the Bible by the retiring Moderator of Assembly.

Thanks to the Retiring Moderator

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to the Revd Bill Mahood and Mrs Denise Mahood. The Chaplain, the Revd Flora Winfield, led the worship and the Moderator addressed the Assembly.

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

Roll of Assembly

Moderator:		Revd Elizabeth Welch
Clerk:		Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith
General Secretary:		Revd Anthony Burnham
Deputy General Secretary:		Revd John Waller
Moderators of Synods:	I	Revd Peter Poulter
	II	Revd Peter Brain
	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 Dr 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	Revd D A Herbert, Mrs L Whiting, Ms H Middleton
II	Mrs S Brain, Revd A R Cottam, Revd M J Truscott
III	Mr J R Brown, Mrs J Cook, Revd A B Holroyd
IV	Revd B A Collins, Revd J B Jenkinson, Mr G Greenwood
V	Revd D M Miller, Mrs J Strong
VI	Revd S Ansa-Addo, Mrs A Sheldon
VII	Revd A Dones, Miss C Gouldthorp, Mr P A Wade
VIII	Miss A Bebbington, Revd R Lowes, Revd H Martell
IX	Mrs V Taylor, Revd S Thornton, Revd S Thomas
X	Mr W Boyd, Miss K Campbell, Revd F Thomas
XI	Mr D Colechin, Mrs B Jesse, Mrs N Welch
XII	Mr A Grand, Mr S Jones, Revd P Noble
XIII	Revd B Bailey, Mr W Fettes, Mr D Hay, Miss K Gracie, Revd T Heggie, Ms H Mee, Revd D Pattie, Revd A Paterson

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 A Martlew	VIII	Mr G Latham	XIII	Mr J Maguire
IV	Miss M E Atkinson	XI	Mr G Gage		
V	Mr D H Buxton	X	Miss V Ham		

Theological College Representatives:

Mansfield College, Oxford:	Revd Dr W Houston, Mr A J Seymour
Northern College, Manchester:	Revd Dr J M Parry, Mr M Knight
Westminster College, College:	Revd Dr J Tollington, Miss J Sutton
Queens College, Birmingham:	Revd Dr Neil Messer, Mrs J Embrey
Scottish Congregational & URC College:	Revd J W Dyce

Youth representatives:

Ms L Hartwell

Assembly Members from Other Churches in the United Kingdom:

Baptist Union of Great Britain	Revd Kenneth Stewart
The Church of England	Mrs Elizabeth Fisher
The Church of Scotland	Revd Tom McIntyre
The Congregational Federation	Revd Barry Osborne
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain	Revd Vincent Onwukanjo
The Methodist Church	Revd Peter Sulston
The Moravian Church	Revd Geoffrey Tate
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Revd Colin McClure
Union of Welsh Independents	Revd Allan Pickard
The United Free Church of Scotland	Revd A Douglas Scrimgeour
Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales	Mgr William Steele

Assembly Members from Churches outside of Britain and Ireland:

International Ministries Exchange	Revd Gregor Henderson
United Church of Canada	Ms Judith Johnson
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand	Revd Reg Weeks
Presbyterian Church of Ghana	Revd Dr Charles Gyang-Duah
Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa	Revd Alastair Rodger
Presbyterian Church in India	Revd Sangkhuma
Reformed Church of Sub-Carpatho Ukraine	Bishop Horkay
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan	Revd Shu-Chen Chuang

Council for World Mission: Revd Andrew Williams

Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces in Britain: Revd Michael Meachin

Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:

Mrs G 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 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, Revd W Mahood

District representatives:

Synod I

- A: Revd Dr A R Ritchie, Revd B Hutchinson, Revd J Askew,
Miss D Kailofer, Miss S Fairbairn, Mrs N Todd
- B: Revd G Bobbett, Revd J Breslin, Revd G Clarke, Revd M Robb, Revd K Watson,
Mrs E Livingstone, Mrs M Rickerby, Mr M Porter, Mr T Bellis, Mrs L Percival
- C: Revd D Meister, Revd V Towler, Revd N Johnson, Revd Dr A Haws,
Mr P Etwell, Mr E Dale, Mrs E Lawson, Mrs M Armstrong
- E: Revd Dr G Davis, Mrs O Bell, Mr A MacKenzie

Synod II

- A: Dr R John, Revd J McCullagh, Revd E Sambrooks, Miss R Fisher
- B: Revd N Uden, Revd A Greasley, Revd J Hopkins, Mrs H Hurst, Miss J Daggars, Mrs D Greasley
- C: Revd W Bahadur, Revd R Pickering, Revd G Townsend, Mr G Grime, Mrs M Omerod, Mr E Ledger
- D: Revd B Moore, Revd M Perrott, Revd D Allen, Mrs D Allen, Mr J Rea, Mr K Wade
- E: Revd L Mycroft, Revd C Muir, Revd D Wiseman, Revd R Wollaston,
Mr R Howard, Miss J Ashworth, Mrs S Coop, Mr M Thomason
- F: Revd P Sharp, Revd J Barron, Revd B Jolly, Revd N Riches, Mr R Banwell, Miss L Betts,
Mr E Chilton, Mrs S Wilkinson
- G: Revd R J Day, Revd P Brewerton, Mrs J Davies, Mrs S Checkley

Synod III

- A: Revd K Thorpe, Revd E Blair, Revd C Davies, Revd J Kingsley,
Mr A Ventham, Mr G Lee, Mrs A Lee, Mrs B Williams
- B: Revd J Martin, Revd R Shallcross, Revd K Wilson, Mr W Dixon, Mr R Lathaen, Mr A Ireland
- C: Revd B Upperton, Revd D Greenwood, Revd H Gabbott, Mrs B Gibson, Dr A Doodson,
Mr B Richardson
- D: Revd B Acty, Revd B Clarke, Revd Dr G Mercer, Mr C Cookson, Mrs S Acty, Mr B Masters

Synod IV

- A: Revd I G Jones, Revd M Mewis, Revd R Ward, Mrs A Dean, Miss J Glover, Mrs A Dean, Mrs P Mewis
B: Revd B Hill, Revd D Hudston, Revd R West, Mrs G Morrison, Mr R Morrison, Miss A Tatley
C: Revd K Argyle, Revd S Griffiths, Revd R Heathcote, Mrs A Holdsworth, Ms G Holdsworth, Mrs S Telfer
D: Revd A Evans, Revd P Frampton, Revd H Wilkinson, Mr A Middlemass, Mrs V Jenkins, Mr J Wilkinson
E: Revd M Heard, Revd V Newman, Revd E Sanderson, Mr A Brook, Mrs W Higginbottom
F: Revd A Dunstone, Revd T Key, Mrs A Duffton, Mrs E Brook

Synod V

- A: Revd P Breeze, Revd C Meynell, Revd R Alford, Revd S Sawyer, Mrs L Alford, Miss F Hand, Mrs B Turner
B: Revd L Gill, Revd B Russell, Revd I Smith, Mrs M Garrow, Mr D Smith, Mrs E Williams
C: Revd Dr P Jupp, Revd H Gardiner, Revd E McDonald, Mrs P Hinks, Mr G Jackson, Mrs B Panter
D: Revd M Deacon, Revd M Westerman, Revd E Young, Mrs A Ball, Mr G Chambers, Mrs A Westerman
E: Revd G Fox, Revd J Hayton, Revd S Martin, Mrs A Fox, Mr M Hopkins, Mr I Salmon
F: Revd R Martin, Revd M MacKenzie, Mrs J Martin, Mrs A MacKenzie

Synod VI

- A: Revd T Carmichael, Revd S Mountcastle, Revd M Thomas, Mrs J M Baker, Mrs L Badger, Mr G Harrison, Miss K Cattell
B: Revd T Harwood, Revd W Williams, Mrs I Jacobs, Miss M Jones
C: Revd M Buchanan, Revd R Woodall, Revd M Howe, Mr M Allman, Mr W Robson, Miss M Whittall
D: Revd H Goodchild, Revd S Helme, Revd P Rate, Mrs D Frusher, Miss B Pain-Tolin, Miss B Potts
E: Revd M Chippindale, Revd K Chippindale, Revd M Fisher, Revd K P Jones, Mr R Coombes, Mr W Hopkins, Mrs V Lawson, Mrs N Thomas
F: Revd L Giller, Revd K Newborough, Revd G Spicer, Revd P Stevenson, Mr D Griffiths, Mrs M Marshall, Mr S Powell

Synod VII

- A: Revd D Littlejohns, Revd R Mortimer, Revd J Marsh, Mrs J Marsh, Mrs P Ross, Mrs S Watling
B: Revd D Bunney, Revd C White, Revd C Wood, Mr M Barnes, Mr A Mann, Mrs D Woodward, Mrs M Playford
C: Revd P Andrianatos, Revd R Church, Revd G Millington, Mrs H Brown, Mr D Jenkins, Mr C Thorby
D: Revd R Canham, Revd D Rees, Revd J Whately, Mr R Brett, Mrs M Chambers, Mrs T Woods
E: Revd M Irish, Revd R J Wood, Revd A G Smith, Revd E Springbett, Mrs R Callaghan, Mr T Jackson, Mrs S Sturrock, Mrs J Turner
F: Revd T MacMeekin, Mr J Bannister

Synod VIII

- A: Revd C Baker, Revd P Stokes, Mrs M Stidson, Mr F Whittaker
B: Revd H Pope, Revd R Pope, Mrs J Potter, Mrs J Burnan-Richards
C: Revd C Bowman, Revd R Harrison, Revd M O'Hara, Mr G Powell, Miss M Williams
D: Revd G Jones, Revd M Manley, Mr R Fawcett, Mrs D Watson
E: Revd P Henderson, Revd K Wilkinson, Mrs A Lowe, Mr J Marshall
F: Revd W Baskett, Revd S Henderson, Revd I Kirby, Revd S Newell, Mrs R Fullbrook, Mrs A Kinnersley, Ms D Souter, Mr R Thackray
G: Revd J Clare, Mrs J M Spencer
H: Revd G Hoslett, Mr A Watson
J: Revd R J Rees, Mrs M Denning

Synod IX

- A: Revd F Cochrane, Revd E Dunn, Revd W Edwards, Revd B Sturtridge, Revd J Weedon, Mrs P Cochrane, Mrs J Edwards, Mrs J Sturtridge, Mr B Weedon, Mr A Dunn
B: Revd T Grant, Revd T Hinks, Revd B Shirley, Revd S Wilkins, Mrs A Bevan, Mrs A Bray, Mrs C Hardwick, Mr W Turnpenny

- C: Revd D Jones, Revd P Trow, Revd D Williams, Mr K Burroughs, Miss A Kitcher, Mr J Mason
 D: Revd D Bedford, Revd G Bowerman, Revd J Reed, Mrs J Fowles, Mr J Harris, Miss A Marshall
 E: Revd R Ball, Revd A Caton, Revd O Laber, Revd T Stiff, Revd B Stops, Revd R F Taylor,
 Miss S Dickson, Miss J Stolton, Mrs D Woods

Synod X

- A: Revd H Baker, Revd R Jones, Revd G Roper, Revd A J Spring, Mrs A Aguila, Mrs H Floyd,
 Mr J Heming, Mrs M Naylor
 B: Revd D Ackling, Revd Dr D Hilborn, Revd A Owens, Miss F James, Mrs J Owens, Mr J Wright
 C: Revd Dr J Coleman, Revd K P Gray, Revd A Kirkcaldy, Revd R Maitland, Mr W Stephen
 D: Revd K J Brown, Revd A Rufell, Revd A R Smith, Revd J Wade, Mrs M Hardie, Mrs M Ingram,
 Mr G Tarn, Miss A Wade
 E: Revd Revd F Ackroyd, Revd D Gay, Revd R Goddard, Miss C Cross, Miss L Downer, Mrs P Duncan
 F: Revd J Colley, Revd J Gascoigne, Revd L Nevard, Mr T Cottrell, Mrs B Hare, Mr S Neville

Synod XI

- A: Revd R J Blows, Revd M Hensman, Revd M Munyaneza, Revd G Moule, Mrs L Ashford,
 Mrs J Chamberlain, Mr O Azu-Okeke
 B: Revd A Skelton, Revd J Sowerbutts, Revd D Tapley, Revd G Watt, Mr A Fox, Miss E Isaac,
 Miss N Mark, Mr M Prevett
 C: Revd A Beeson, Revd M Bray, Revd R S Singh, Revd D Thomas, Miss H Liddell, Mrs J McAllen-Wade,
 Mrs S Robertson, Mr A Russell
 D: Revd A Francis, Revd P Welsh, Revd W Landon, Miss H Honess, Mrs R White, Mrs S Wootton
 E: Revd G Felton, Revd P Jones, Revd N Setchell, Mr E Trickey, Miss S Rudofsky, Mr A Millership
 F: Revd M Davies, Revd M Fife, Mr J Harris, Mrs S A Pratt, Mrs C Robertson, Mrs S Charlesworth
 G: Revd M Ashby, Revd S Franklin, Revd K Lynch, Mr I Chalmers, Mr D Curry, Mrs H Redman

Synod XII

- A: Revd K Price, Revd S Walkling, Mrs J Challis, Dr R Pope, Miss M Price, Mrs E Pritchard
 B: Revd S Copley, Revd S Morgan, Mr W Arnold, Mrs J Smith-Draper, Miss E Williams
 C: Revd A M Davis, Revd K Gutwein, Revd D Marshall-Jones, Revd S Pollard,
 Mrs M Griffiths, Mr B Griffiths, Mr B Jordan, Mrs C Jordan
 D: Revd K Fabricius, Revd D Salisbury, Mrs J Griffiths, Mr J Price
 E: Revd C Foreman, Revd Dr J Hopkins, Mrs C Phillips, Mr D Phillips
 F: Revd T G Jones, Revd C Richards, Revd A Willcocks, Mrs E Tadd, Mrs C Willcocks

Synod XIII

- A: Revd P R MacKenzie, Revd J R MacKenzie, Mr T K Dobson, Mr C Jenkins, Mrs M Millan, Ms M Taylor
 B: Revd D J Coleman, Revd D Taylor, Mr T McDowall, Mr P Smyth
 C: Miss E I King, Mr R McKillop, Mrs M Oliver, Mr G W Smith
 D: Revd D M Phillips, Miss W Sinclair
 E: Revd E Armstrong, Revd D Cheyne, Mrs R Barr, Mr R Calder
 F: Revd K Hilton, Mr W Beaugie

RECEPTION OF VISITORS AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Local Visitors were introduced by Revd Arnold Harrison, Moderator, Yorkshire Synod:

The Most Revd David Hope	Archbishop of York
Revd David Dickinson	Moravian
Peter Jarman	Society of Friends
Revd Stuart Burgess	Methodist
Revd Ernie Whalley	Baptist
His Grace Bishop Stephen	Celtic Orthodox Church

Dr Stephanie Rybak
Lieut.-Colonel Ray Kirby
Mgr Billy Steele

County Ecumenical Officer
Salvation Army
representing the Roman Catholic Bishop of Leeds

The Revd Ernie Whalley spoke on behalf of the local visitors.

Visitors and Assembly members from churches in the United Kingdom and overseas were introduced by the Revd Bob Andrews, Convener, Ecumenical Committee. Those present were received by the Moderator:

Baptist Union of Great Britain
The Church of England
The Church of Scotland

The Congregational Federation
The Methodist Church
The Moravian Church
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales
Union of Welsh Independents
The United Free Church of Scotland
Free Churches Group
Churches Together in England

Council for World Mission
International Ministry Exchange
United Church of Canada
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand

Presbyterian Church of Ghana
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
Presbyterian Church in India
Reformed Church of Sub-Carpatho Ukraine
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
The Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian
United Congregational Church of South Africa
Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana

Revd Kenneth Stewart
Mrs Elizabeth Fisher
Rt Revd John Miller
Revd Tom McIntyre
Revd Barry Osborne
Revd Peter Sulston
Revd Geoffrey Tate
Revd Trevor Gribben
Revd Colin McClure
Mgr William Steele
Revd Allan Pickard
Revd A Douglas Scrimgeour
Revd Geoffrey Roper
Mrs Pauline Main

Revd Andrew Williams
Revd Gregor Henderson
Ms Judith Johnson
Revd Reg Weeks
Revd Phil King
Revd Dr Charles Gyang-Duah
Revd Chuang, Shu-Chen
Revd Alastair Rodger
Revd Sangkhuma
Bishop Horkay
Revd Barrie and Mrs Ann Gray
Revd David Chiboboka
Prince Moiseraela and Cheryl Dibeela
Revd Francis Amenu

The Rt Revd John Miller, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and the Revd Gregor Henderson, Secretary of the International Ministry Exchange, spoke on behalf of the guests.

The Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain conducted opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd Dr John Campbell.

The Moderator welcomed the Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Irene Waudby, and invited her to address the Assembly.

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.

Finance

The Moderator invited the Convener of the Finance Committee, Mr Graham Stacy, to move adoption of Resolutions 23 and 24:

Resolution 23

Accounts

General Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2000.

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

Resolution 23 was carried.

Resolution 24

Ministry and Mission Fund

General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2000 to the Ministry & Mission Fund.

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

Resolution 24 was carried.

Maintenance of the Ministry

The Moderator invited the Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Graham Long, to present the report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee.

After responding to a question on the retirement of ministers after 40 years service, Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 28:

Resolution 28

Plan for Partnership

General Assembly amends the Plan for Partnership by the inclusion of the words in italics in Appendix B Note 2, which will then read:

Allowances specifically 'in lieu of manse accommodation'

Allowances which are currently being paid may have been calculated on various bases and for different reasons and it is expected that these will be honoured. When determining new allowances the following should be taken into consideration:

- i. rates (where payable), Council Tax
- ii. water/sewage charges
- iii. interior and exterior redecorations (estimated yearly average)
- iv. repairs (estimated yearly average)
- v. property insurance.

The allowance should be recalculated annually.

Note: The reference in i. above will not apply to Council Tax in Scotland where Council Tax is the responsibility of the local church even if the minister owns the property.

With permission Mr Geoffrey Wood, Convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee, responded to a question.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 28 was carried.

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 38:

Resolution 38

MoM Pensions

General Assembly agrees that the following category of membership be added to the rules of the URC Ministers' Pension Fund:

- 14.1.1.3 Any former CUS minister who, as a result of being over age 55 at 1st April 2000, was not permitted to become a contributing member of the Fund upon Union of the Scottish Congregational Church with the URC will be permitted to become a contributing members of the Fund at any date between 1st August 2001 and 31st December 2001.

And that the following definition be added to the list in the Schedule:

24. Any former CUS minister
Shall mean ordained ministers of the Word and Sacrament of the Congregational Union of Scotland, who were party to the Union with the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom on 1st April 2000 and were members of the Scottish Congregational ministers' Money Purchase Pension Scheme as at 31st March 2000.

There being no debate the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 38 was carried.

The Treasurer, Mr Graham Stacy, presented the Budget for 2002, Resolution 17. In doing so, he highlighted a projected shortfall in Ministry and Mission (M&M) contributions in 2001, and presented a detailed analysis of the current cost of ministry and the challenges facing the URC in the year ahead. Mr Stacy assured the Assembly that serious consideration was being given to the methods by which M&M targets are allocated among synods.

The Moderator explained that debate and decision on Resolution 17, Budget for the year 2002, would be taken at a later time during Assembly.

Synod Presentation

The Moderator invited Yorkshire Synod to make its presentation, noting that there would be an opportunity to respond and discuss this and the other Synod presentations later in the Assembly.

Ecumenical Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Bob Andrews, to present the report of the Ecumenical Committee. Mr Andrews, at the end of his term of office as Convener, thanked the committee and staff for their support. He invited the Moderator to greet the Rev Ernests Ivanovs, of Riga, Latvia, who was serving for a year as member of the Community Team at the National Youth Resource Centre at Yardley Hastings.

There were a number of comments and questions to which the Convener responded.

With the permission of the Assembly Mr Andrews moved Resolution 22 in the following revised form:

Resolution 22	Three Ecumenical Principles
General Assembly	
1.	adopts the following three principles as a basis for the United Reformed Church's ecumenical commitment locally, nationally and internationally for the coming five years:
A	The United Reformed Church will seek to expand the range and deepen the nature of the Christian common life and witness in each local community.
B	The United Reformed Church will seek to proclaim more clearly, in word and deed, that in Christ we are one world church family living in a world which God loves. It will, therefore, seek to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures, languages, church traditions and religious faiths within each local community and world-wide.
C	The United Reformed Church will persevere in the search for the visible and organic unity of the Church through church-to- church conversations on matters of faith and church order so that sinful, and sometimes death-dealing, divisions may be healed and the Christian message of reconciliation be proclaimed with integrity.
2.	encourages synods, district councils, and local churches to consider how they might put these principles into practice and to that end invites the ecumenical committee to publicise them and the supporting material in an attractive form throughout the Church.

A number of members spoke in support of the Resolution, relating their own experiences of ecumenical co-operation.

The Revd Paul Stokes moved that the second sentence of paragraph B be amended to read:

"It will, therefore, seek to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures, languages and church traditions within each local community and world-wide."

The amendment was formally seconded by the Revd Richard Alford who reserved his right to speak later.

After some discussion the Moderator ruled that for the remainder of the debate on Resolution 22 speeches should last no longer than three minutes. The Revd Dr David Hilborn gave notice that, should the amendment before the Assembly fall, he would move a further amendment. At the close of the debate on the amendment Mr Alford replied and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote. The result being unclear she called for tellers; there were 222 votes for the amendment and 250 against, and the amendment was therefore not carried.

The Moderator suspended further discussion on Resolution 22 until a later time.

Election of Moderator of Assembly 2002-2003

The Moderator invited the Clerk to explain the voting procedure.

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

Reflections from a visiting Mission Enabler

The Moderator invited the Revd Prince Dibeela to address the Assembly. Mr Dibeela reflected on his three years of service in the United Reformed Church, drawing Assembly's attention to the dangers of denying or ignoring social problems of poverty and abuse. He spoke of the church's tendency to invest effort and time in maintaining and operating the structures of the church while neglecting the needs of communities, and urged Assembly to recognize the need for ministry to be community-based. He concluded by warning that theological diversity within the URC should not be allowed to become theological division.

The Moderator thanked Mr Dibeela for his input and for his contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church over three years.

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer, and Assembly adjourned.

Tuesday, 17th July 2001

Second Session

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer.

The Moderator asked the Clerk to present the minutes of both sessions of Monday 16th July 2001. She did so, and Assembly approved the minutes subject to minor corrections.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee outlined changes to the Order of Business.

Synod Presentation

The Moderator invited the East Midlands Synod to make its presentation.

The General Secretary drew Assembly's attention to the formal notice of East Midlands Synod that the Milton Keynes District Council had been recognised by that synod as an Area of Ecumenical Co-operation.

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 and the Committee Secretary responded to questions and comments. Mr Beattie moved adoption of Resolutions 26 and 27:

Resolution 26

Commitment to Evangelism

General Assembly, recognizing the urgent missionary challenge facing the church at the beginning of the 21st century and affirming the importance of evangelism for the Church and its ministry at every level, acknowledges the need to identify those in lay and ordained ministry who have the gift of evangelism.

Resolution 27

The Ministry of Evangelists

General Assembly directs the Life and Witness Committee to initiate discussions with other committees of the Church, so that together they might recommend ways of releasing men and women to exercise their ministry as evangelists, and suggest ways of supporting them in their ministry.

A number of members spoke to Resolution 26, relating examples of their own experience of evangelistic activity in the URC.

Mr Beattie replied to the debate and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 26 was carried.

Speaking to Resolution 27, the Revd Graham Long, Convener of the Ministries Committee, reminded the Assembly of the task that the Ministries Committee had been set by Assembly 2000 to look at future patterns of ministry. Mr Beattie responded, expressing the hope that the two committees could co-operate.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on Resolution 27.

Resolution 27 was carried.

Members' Resolution

The Moderator invited the Revd Gillian Bobbett to move adoption of Resolution 39:

Resolution 39

Foot and Mouth Crisis

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church meeting at York July 16-19 2001 calls upon Her Majesty's Government to institute a Public Enquiry into:

- a) **the causes of the current outbreak of the foot and mouth disease;**
- b) **the actions taken to prevent the spread of the disease; and**
- c) **the consequences of both the outbreak and the measures taken to contain it for farming and the whole rural economy.**

The resolution was seconded by the Revd Ray Adams.

Following discussion Miss Bobbett responded and the resolution was put to the Assembly.

Resolution 39 was carried. The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer for all who had been and were suffering as a result of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease.

Ecumenical Committee (continued)

The Moderator called upon the Revd Dr David Hilborn to propose the following amendment to Resolution 22:

Amend the second sentence of part B as follows: replace the comma following "languages" with "and", delete: "and religious faiths" and after "world-wide" insert: "and seek, as appropriate, to work with members of other faith communities for the promotion of Biblical values of love, peace and justice."

The amendment was formally seconded by the Revd Jane Wade.

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

The amendment was carried.

The Moderator put the substantive Resolution 22 to the Assembly for discussion:

General Assembly

1. adopts the following three principles as a basis for the United Reformed Church's ecumenical commitment locally, nationally and internationally for the coming five years:
 - A The United Reformed Church will seek to expand the range and deepen the nature of the Christian common life and witness in each local community.
 - B The United Reformed Church will seek to proclaim more clearly, in word and deed, that in Christ we are one world church family living in a world which God loves. It will, therefore, seek to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures, languages and church traditions within each local community and world-wide and seek, as appropriate, to work with members of other faith communities for the promotion of Biblical values of love, peace and justice.
 - C The United Reformed Church will persevere in the search for the visible and organic unity of the Church through church-to-church conversations on matters of faith and church order so that sinful, and sometimes death-dealing, divisions may be healed and the Christian message of reconciliation be proclaimed with integrity.
2. encourages synods, district councils, and local churches to consider how they might put these principles into practice and to that end invites the Ecumenical Committee to publicise them and the supporting material in an attractive form throughout the Church.

The Convener replied to items raised in discussion and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 22, as amended, was carried.

The Moderator conveyed the Assembly's congratulations to the Revd Dr David Thompson on his inauguration as President of the World Convention of the Churches of Christ (WCCC) and to Mrs Muriel Garrow on her inauguration as President of the World Christian Women's Fellowship of the WCCC.

On behalf of the Assembly the Moderator greeted and thanked the retiring Convener of the Ecumenical Committee, the Revd Bob Andrews.

Mrs Wilma Frew took the chair.

The Moderator invited the Revd Derek Wales to present the report of the Synod Moderators.

Mr Wales replied to a number of comments. The Assembly received the report with applause.

The Moderator greeted and thanked the Revd John Humphreys, the Revd David Helyar and the Revd Derek Wales all of whom would shortly complete their terms of service as Synod Moderators.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch resumed the chair.

Nominations Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Glyn Jenkins, to present the report of the Nominations Committee, including the supplementary report which was before the Assembly:

1 ASSEMBLY STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 The Review Group for Mersey Synod Moderator convened by Mr Brian Evans recommends that Revd Graham Cook be re-appointed to serve until 31st January 2004.

- 1.2 The Review Group for South Western Synod Moderator convened by Mrs Wilma Frew recommends that Revd Ray Adams be re-appointed for a period of five years until 31st August 2006.
- 1.3 The Review Group for Secretary for Ministries convened by Mrs Wilma Frew recommends the re-appointment of Revd Christine Craven for a period of five years until 31st August 2006.
- 1.4 The Review Group for Secretary for International Relations convened by Revd Michael Davies recommends the re-appointment of Revd Philip Woods for a period of five years until 31st August 2006.
- 1.5 The following groups have been appointed:
 - 1.5.1 Appointment Group for Secretary of Racial Justice convened by Revd Peter Brain.
 - 1.5.2 Nominating Group for Wessex Synod Moderator convened by Revd Glyn Jenkins
 - 1.5.3 An Appointment Group for Secretary for Training is being convened by Dr Anthony Jeans

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 2001 are indicated by one asterisk (*), two asterisks (**) denotes those whom Assembly 2001 is invited to appoint for the first time. (#) indicates a Convener Elect who will become Convener in 2002.
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. In accordance with the decision of General Assembly 2000 some nominations have been made by the National Synods of Wales and Scotland.

2.1 ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS

Convener: Revd Alasdair Pratt [2002]

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

Mr William McVey **# [2006]

2.1.1 Tellers for Election of Moderator for 2003**

Mr John Seager [Convener] Mr Donald Swift, Revd Roz Harrison

2.2 CHURCH and SOCIETY

Convener: Ms Gabrielle Cox [2002]

Secretary: Secretary for Church and Society

Revd Martin Camroux **# [2006]

Dr Sue Brisley [2002]

Revd Ken Cox [2003]

Revd Owiny Laber ** [2005]

Mrs Helen Warmington [2003]

Mrs Marva Ward [2003]

Miss Catriona Waterson [2003]

Revd Alan Paterson ** [2005]

2.3 COMMUNICATIONS and EDITORIAL

Convener: Revd Graham Cook [2003]

Secretary: Secretary for Communications

Mr Richard Lathaen [2003]

Mr John East [2002]

Revd Peter Moth [2004]

Miss Elizabeth Bruce [2004]

Mrs Melanie Frew [2004]

Revd Bob Maitland ** [2005]

Mr Peter Knowles ** [2005]

Revd Martin Truscott ** [2005]

Ms Eleri Evans** [2005]

2.4 DOCTRINE, PRAYER and WORSHIP

Convener: Revd John Young * [2005]

Secretary: Revd Kirsty Thorpe [2004]

Mr Colin Ferguson [2002]

Revd Dr David Peel [2003]

Revd Glyn Millington * [2004]

Revd Nadim Nassar [2003]

Revd Charles Martin [2003]

Mrs Jenny Poulter [2004]

Revd Hugh Graham [2003]

Revd Alistair Smeaton ** [2005]

Dr Robert Pope ** [2005]

Revd Anne Sardeson ** [2005]

2.5 ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd John Rees *[2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Revd Mary Buchanan [2002] Revd Philip Jones [2002] Revd Elizabeth Nash [2002]
Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reed [2004] Revd Cecil White ** [2005] Revd Bryan Shirley ** [2005]
A N Other *to be advised* Revd Stuart Jackson representing the National Synod of Wales
Revd John R Smith representing National Synod of Scotland

2.5.1 ECUMENICAL - INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd John Crocker [2003]

Secretary: Secretary for International Relations

Mr Peter Bryant [2002] Revd Keith Riglin [2002] Revd Gwenneth Collins [2003]
Revd Peter Brain ** [2005] Revd Birgit Ewald ** [2005]

2.6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Revd Nannette Lewis Head [2002]

Secretary: Ms Ruth Norton [2004]

Revd Wilf Bahadur ** # [2006] Miss Stella Salmon [2002] Revd Derek Hopkins [2002]
Revd Susan Armitage [2003] Miss Sarah Moore [2004] Ms Gloria Bujan ** [2005]

2.7 FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: Secretary for Finance

Mr Alan Duncan [2002] Mr Gordon Latham [2003] Revd John Piper [2003]
Miss Muriel Proven [2004] Mr John Woodman ** [2005] Mr John Rowatt ** [2005]
Convener of the URC Trust *to be advised* ** # [2006]

2.8 INTER-FAITH RELATIONS

Convener: Mrs Daphne Beale [2003]

Secretary: Revd Sally Thomas [2004]

Revd David M Taylor [2002] Mr Matthew Bean [2003]
Revd Alistair Ellefsen-Jones [2004] Miss Marie Williams ** [2005]

2.9 LIFE and WITNESS

Convener: Revd Frank Beattie [2002]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Revd Peter Ball [2002] Revd Suzanne Hamnet [2003] Mrs Sheila Thatcher [2003]
Revd Eddie Boon [2003] Revd Bob Warwicker [2003] Revd Angela Hughes [2004]
Mrs Alison Lowe * [2004] Revd Kenneth Forbes ** [2005] Mrs Liz Kam ** [2005]
Revd Peter Hurter ** [2005] Revd Brian Jolly #** [2005]

2.9.1 LIFE and WITNESS - STEWARDSHIP Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Keith Webster [2004]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Mrs Susan Wilkinson [2002] Mr Frank Dale [2003] Mrs Sheila Yates [2003]
Mrs Anne Mitchell [2004] Mr Mick Barnes ** [2005]

2.9.2 WINDERMERE ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Mr Jim Wilkinson * [2005]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere

Revd Douglas McFarlane [2003] Mrs Christine Millward [2004] Dr Peter Clarke ** [2005]
Convener of Windermere Management Committee Convener of Life and Witness Committee
Representative of Carver URC

2.10 MINISTRIES

Convener: Revd Graham Long [2002]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mr John Ellis ** # [2006] Ms Sally Abbott [2002] Revd Roz Harrison [2003]
Revd Tjarda Murray [2003] Revd Peter Noble [2004] Mrs Alison Biggs ** [2005]
Revd Stuart Brock ** [2005] Convener of National Assessment Board

2.10.1 **MINISTRIES - ACCREDITATION Sub-Committee**

Convener: Revd Ken Chippindale *[2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Frances Caldwell [2002]

Mr Peter Mann [2003]

Revd Roberta Rominger [2003]

Revd Keith Argyle ** [2005]

Mrs Sheila Telfer ** [2005]

2.10.2 **MINISTRIES - CRCW Management Sub-Committee**

Convener: Revd Alison Hall [2004]

Secretary: The CRCW Development Workers

Revd Peter Cruchley Jones [2002]

Revd Clifford Wilton [2002]

Mrs Adella Pritchard [2004]

Mrs Diana Herbert [2003]

Mr Chris Lawrence ** [2005]

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]

Revd Roger Woodall [2004]

Revd Pauline Parkin [2004]

Mr Barry Swift [2004]

The Treasurer

Convener of Pensions Executive

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

Convener: Revd Simon Swailes [2002]

Secretary: The Secretary of the Retired Ministers Housing Society

Revd John Pugh **# [2006]

Revd Graham Cook [2002]

Mr Malcolm Lindo** [2005]

Mrs Edith Tolley ** [2005]

Mrs Pauline Mewis ** [2005]

The Treasurer

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 at Church House

2.10.6 **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT BOARD**

Convener: Mrs Darryl Sinclair * [2005]

Retiring 2002

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

Retiring 2003

Mrs Elaine Patrick, 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

Retiring 2006 **

Revd Thomas Heggie, Revd Michael Mewis, Revd Peter Poulter, Revd Hilma Wilkinson

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: Revd Hazel Martell ** [2005]

Revd Dr Stephen Orchard **# [2006]

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],

to be advised [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

Revd Arnold Harrison [2003]

Mr Okeke Azu Okeke [2004]

Revd Pat Hall [2004]

Mrs Irene Brunskill [2005]**

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 RACIAL JUSTICE

Convener: Revd Raymond Singh *[2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Racial Justice

Mr Kofi Akuumani **

Mr Shaheen Zar**

Mrs Vanessa Honeyghan **

Revd Julie Martin **

Mrs Helen Renner**

2.14 TRAINING

Convener: Revd John Proctor [2003]

Secretary: Secretary for Training

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 Principal John Dyce **[2005]

Revd Dr John Parry [2004]

2.15 YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Convener: Revd Derek Lindfield [2002]

Secretary: Mrs Soo Webster [2003]

Revd Kathryn Price **# [2006]

Mrs Caroline Chettleburgh [2002]

Mrs Brenda Cheer [2003]

Mrs Rita Joyner [2003]

Mrs Kath Lonsdale [2003]

Revd Andrew Willett [2004]

Revd John Sanderson **[2005]

Mrs Daphne Clarke **[2005]

Ms Lorraine Downer**[2005]

Mrs Elaine Thomas**[2005]

FURY Chair

FURY Council Member

2.16 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS - Commission Panel

Convener: Revd Donald Hilton [2002]

Deputy Convener: Mrs Helen Brown [2002]

Secretary: Revd Alasdair Walker [2002]

Convener Elect: Mrs Helen Brown **[2005]

Secretary Elect: Mr Brian Evans **[2005]

Members:

retiring 2002

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

Mrs Sheila Pratt

Mr Nicholas Pye

Mrs Sally Quilter

Revd Michael Rees

Revd John Slow

Revd Dr David Thompson

Miss Sheila Tweed

retiring 2004

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

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 Provincial Moderators 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, Mr Eric Chilton, Mrs Janice Cockcroft

Mersey Synod

Mrs Lillian Clovell, Dr Donald South, Mr Donald Swift

Yorkshire Synod

Revd John Jenkinson, A N Other, Mrs Val Morrison

East Midlands Synod

Mrs Anne Ball, A N Other, Revd David Miller

West Midlands Synod

Mr Simon Rowntree, Revd Dr S F Ansa-Addo, Mrs Ann Sheldon

Eastern Synod

Revd Michal Burrell, Mr Ken Woods, Revd Richard Mortimer

South Western Synod

Revd Roy Lowes, Revd Paul Snell, Miss Angela Bebbington

Wessex Synod	Mr Graham Rolfe, Miss Veronica Taylor, Revd Simon Thomas
Thames North Synod	Mr Keith Webster, Revd Dr Robin Pagan, Miss Gill Shepherd
Southern Synod	Revd Dawn Mather, Mr Ian Chalmers, Mrs Marion Bayley
National Synod of Wales	Revd Kristin Ofstad, Mrs Delyth Rees, Revd David Fox
National Synod of Scotland	Revd Ken Forbes, Mrs Helen M Mee, Miss Catriona Smith

4 TRUST BODIES

4.1 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST

Convener: Dr Brian Woodhall

Secretary: Mr Tony Bayley

Directors

Revd Tony Burnham

Mr Graham Stacy

Ms Valerie Ham [2004]

Mr Peter Ward [2005]

Ms Avis Reaney

Dr Brian Woodhall [2004]

Revd David Marshall-Jones [2004]

Revd Leslie Watson [2006]

Mrs Christine Meekison

Mr John Squires [2004]

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 Gwynneth Thomas ** [2007]
Revd Kenneth Graham [2005]

[*ex officio* The Secretary for Finance, The Treasurer, Mr Victor Hughff, Mr Geoffrey Wood]

4.3 CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revds Peter Grimshaw**

David Hannen**

Peter Jupp**

Messers Victor Fox**

Hartley Oldham**

The Treasurer**

4.4 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

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Revd Bill Mahood

General Synod of Church of England

Revd Fleur Houston

Methodist Conference

Revd John Rees *

General Assembly of Church of Scotland [note5]

Revd Bill Mahood, Revd John Arthur, Revd John R Smith

Presbyterian Church of Wales [note5]

Revd Bill Mahood

Union of Welsh Independents [note 5]

Revd T Gerwyn Jones

Congregational Federation

Revd Tony Burnham

Church in Wales Governing Board [note 5]

Revd Stuart Jackson

United Free Church of Scotland [note5]

Mr Ceri Jenkins

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 Kenneth Forbes*, Mrs Olive Bell*, Mr Neill Platt*.

Secretary for International Relations

6.2 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - Assembly 2002

General Secretary Convener of the Ecumenical Committee.
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Secretary for Church and Society,
eight other representatives to be advised

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 2001

Mrs Wilma Frew, Revd Alan Thomasson, Mrs Val Morrison, Revd Peter Southcombe
Revd Graham Cook*, Mrs Darnett Whitby-Reid*, Mr Mark Argent*, Revd Kirsty Thorpe*,
Revd John Rees* and Secretary for Ecumenical Relations plus two representatives from FURY Assembly.

6.3.1 Churches Together in England - Enabling Group

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

6.4 ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) see Note 5

Central Council

Revd John Arthur

6.4.1 ACTS Assembly**

Dr Ken Ledingham, Revd Susan Kirkbride, Mrs Maureen Stewart, Revd Rona Phillips, Revd Peter Phillips,
Mrs Patricia Young, Revd John Arthur, Revd Robert Philip, Revd Ross McLaren, Mr Tom Woodbridge,
Revd Alan Paterson, Mrs Helen Mee, Miss Marjory King, Revd Kenneth Forbes, Mr Angus Paddison,
Revd Margaret Nuttall, Mr Arthur Milton, Revd John Young, Revd Carolyn Smyth, Revd John Smith,
Ms Helen Rowbotham, Dr James Merrilees

6.5 CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales) see Note 5

Y Gymanfa Mrs Jackie Yeomans**, Revd Stuart Jackson**

Council

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

6.6 FREE CHURCH COUNCIL for WALES see Note 5

The Synod Moderator Synod Ecumenical Officer

6.7 Assembly of Leuenberg Agreement *

Mrs Hillian Durrel Revd Derek Wales

6.8 World Alliance of Reformed Churches European Area Council 2002 **

Mr John Bradbury, Miss Sarah Hall, Revd Dr David Pickering, Revd Leonora Visser't Hooft

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

7.1 METHODIST/URC Liason 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 Anne Morgan

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

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

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

8.1 Mansfield College:

Ministerial and Educational Training Committee: Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow
Secretary for Training
Convener of the Training Committee**
Revd Roy Lowes

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 Brian Evans**, Revd David Fox**,
Revd David Jenkins**, Mr Bill McLaughin**

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

8.4 Westminster College: Board of Governors Convener: Revd Dr David Thompson

Clerk: Revd Clifford Wilton ** [2006]
Mr Don Taylor, Secretary for Training,
Mrs Sally Abbott ** [2006],
Revd Sandra Lloydlangston

8.4.1 Cheshunt Foundation

Revd Dr Jean Black** Mr David Butler**

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 United Reformed Church is associated

9.1 Caterham School

Revd Nigel Uden **, Mr John Mathias

9.2 Eltham College

Revd Clifford Charlton

Walthamstow Hall

Miss Margaret Vokins

9.3 Milton Mount Foundation

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

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

Revd Nigel Rogers**

10. Miscellaneous:

The United Reformed Church is represented on a variety of other national organisations and committees as follows:

Retired Ministers and Widows Fund **
Christian Education Movement Council
Churches Main Committee
Congregational Fund Board

Mr Ken Meekison, Mrs Jill Strong, Mr Laurence Macro
Mrs Margie Jenkins
Ms Avis Reaney, Mr Hartley Oldham, Mr Tegid Peregrine
Revd Cyril Grant, Revd Margaret Taylor**, Revd Eric Allen,
Revd John Taylor
Mrs Susan Walker
Mrs Patricia Hubbard, Mrs Rosemary Johnston
Mrs Rosemary Scarrow
Revd D. Marshall-Jones
Mrs Mary Davies, Mr Michael Hopkins**, Mrs Carol Rogers,
Revd Eric Wollaston, Revd Dr David Thompson
Revd Michael Rees
Mr Norman Fabb

Guides' Religious Advisory Panel
National Christian Education Council
Pilots Management Committee
Scouts' Religious Advisory Group
United Reformed Church History Society

URC Boy's Brigade Companies Council
Wharton Trust

Resolution 29

Nominations

General Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 77 to 84 of the Book of Reports subject to the additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly.

In response to a question Mr Jenkins assured members of Assembly that every effort would be made to achieve balance in the membership of the Racial Justice Committee. He then moved adoption of Resolution 29:

Resolution 29 was carried.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 30:

Resolution 30

Mersey Synod Moderator

General Assembly reappoints the Revd Graham Cook to serve as Mersey Synod Moderator from 1 September 2001 to 31 January 2004.

Resolution 30 was carried.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 31:

Resolution 31

South Western Synod Moderator

General Assembly re-appoints the Revd Ray Adams to serve as South Western Synod Moderator from 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2006.

Resolution 31 was carried.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 32:

Resolution 32

Secretary for Ministries

General Assembly re-appoints the Revd Christine Craven to serve as Secretary for Ministries from 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2006.

Resolution 32 was carried.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 33:

Resolution 33

Appointment of Clerk-Elect

General Assembly appoints the Revd James Breslin to the office of Clerk of Assembly for a period of five years, starting from the close of Assembly 2002 until the close of Assembly 2007.

Resolution 33 was carried.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 34:

Resolution 34

Appointment of Wessex Synod Moderator

General Assembly appoints the Revd Adrian John Bulley to the Office of Moderator of the Wessex Synod for seven years, starting from 1 February 2002.

Resolution 34 was carried.

The Moderator on behalf of the Assembly offered thanks and good wishes to Mr Desmond Curry on his retirement as Secretary of the Nominations Committee.

Mission Council

As immediate past Moderator the Revd Bill Mahood invited the Moderator to greet the Revds Peter Noble, Nigel Uden and Adrian Bulley, the future Moderators of the Wales, Southern and Wessex Synods respectively, and the Revd Dr Stephen Orchard, Principal of Westminster College.

The Revd Dr David Thompson moved adoption of Resolution 35:

Resolution 35

Nivison chair

General Assembly appoints the Revd Dr Stephen Orchard to the Nivison chair of Church History at Westminster College, to be held in conjunction with his tenure of the office of Principal of the College.

The resolution was formally seconded by the Revd Ruth Ball.

Resolution 35 was carried.

Synod Presentation

The Moderator invited the Eastern Synod to make its presentation.

Moderator 2002-2003

The Revd Adrian Bulley reported that 502 ballot papers had been received, none of which had been spoilt. He announced that the Revd John Waller had been duly elected as Moderator of Assembly for 2002-2003. The Moderator greeted Mr Waller on Assembly's behalf.

After worship, Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain led opening worship, which included the induction of the Secretary for Racial Justice, Katalina Tahaafe-Williams; Bible Study was led by the Revd Dr John Campbell.

Reception of Guests

The Convener of the Inter-Faith Relations Committee, Ms Daphne Beale, introduced Ms Samina Kauser and Rabbi Douglas Charring. The Moderator greeted them and Rabbi Charring addressed the Assembly.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee presented the Order of Business for the day.

Church and Society Committee

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

After responding to a number of comments and questions, Ms Cox moved adoption of Resolution 21:

Resolution 21

Jobcentres Survey

General Assembly:

notes with concern that surveys of Jobcentres undertaken by local churches show that significant proportions of jobs available to unemployed people around the country pay below the National Insurance Lower Earnings Level, below the Income Support rate for a couple with two young children, and below the threshold for access to a Stakeholder Pension.

affirms:

- a) the concept of social insurance as an important mechanism for providing people with security in unemployment, illness and old age and as a means of expressing the church's commitment to 'the common good';
- b) the view of the Churches' Enquiry on Unemployment and the Future of Work that it is possible to provide 'enough good work for all' and that government should make this a key policy aim.

General Assembly calls upon local churches to work with the Church and Society Committee to raise these issues at local and national level.

Ms Cox thanked those who had participated in this major survey and gave a summary of its findings.

The Moderator invited discussion, following which the Convener replied.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 21 was carried.

Union Street Church, Oldham

The Moderator invited a representative of Union Street Church, Oldham, to make a statement to Assembly concerning the church's response to recent racial disturbances in Oldham.

The Chaplain led Assembly in prayer for all divided communities.

Synod Resolution

With the permission of the Assembly Dr Peter Clarke on behalf of Northern and Wessex Synods moved Resolution 2 in the following revised form:

General Assembly:

- a) urges the URC Trust and the URC Pensions Trust to dispose of all shares held in any company involved with the arms trade and
- b) instructs Mission Council to report to the Assembly on the ethical policies followed with regard to the investments of the Church.

Mr Graham Rolfe formally seconded the resolution.

In response to a request the Moderator agreed to take parts a) and b) separately. After some debate Mr Graham Stacy moved that part a) **be not put**. This was seconded by Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow.

Assembly agreed that part a) be not put.

Mr Matthew Prevett moved an amendment to Resolution 2 such that it would read:

General Assembly instructs Mission Council to review and report to General Assembly in 2002 upon the ethical policies of the United Reformed Church with regard to the investments of the church, with particular reference to companies involved with the arms trade.

The amendment was formally seconded by Mr Andrew Grand.

Following discussion and response by the proposer, the Moderator called for a vote, and **the amendment was carried**.

The substantive motion was before the Assembly, and the Moderator ruled that future speeches in the debate should last no longer than three minutes.

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow proposed an amendment to the effect that the words 'with particular reference to companies involved with the arms trade' be deleted.

The amendment was seconded by Mr Desmond Curry.

Following debate, the amendment was withdrawn with Assembly's permission.

The Moderator called for a vote on the substantive resolution.

Resolution 2

Ethical Investment

General Assembly instructs Mission Council to review and report to General Assembly in 2002 upon the ethical policies of the United Reformed Church with regard to the investments of the church, with particular reference to companies involved with the arms trade.

Resolution 2 as amended was carried.

The Revd John Reardon took the chair.

Inter-Faith Relations Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, Ms Daphne Beale, to present the report of the Inter-Faith Relations Committee.

There being no question or comments on the report, Ms Beale moved adoption of Resolution 25:

Resolution 25

Holocaust Memorial Day

General Assembly urges all local churches to observe Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27 and commends the excellent material available through Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and the Council for Christians and Jews (CCJ).

The Convener responded to contributions and questions and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 25 was carried.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch resumed the chair.

The Assembly agreed to extend the session in order to complete essential business.

Church Changes

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 5:

Resolution 5

New Churches

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

New Churches

St Mark's Church, Hallwood Ecumenical Parish, Runcorn	<i>Mersey</i>
Beechwood West Church, Hallwood Ecumenical Parish, Runcorn	<i>Mersey</i>
Whiteley	<i>Wessex</i>
Pontprennau	<i>Wales</i>
Immanuel at St Giles, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes	<i>E Midlands</i>

New Mission Project

Churches Together in Cambourne	<i>Eastern</i>
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These were no questions or comments, and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 5 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 6:

Resolution 6

Closure of Local Churches

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.

Durham Street, Hartlepool	<i>Northern</i>
Dent, Cumbria	<i>North Western</i>
Moulton	<i>Mersey</i>
Byfield	<i>East Midlands</i>
St Paul's, Reading	<i>Wessex</i>
Pangbourne with Theale	<i>Wessex</i>
Charndon	<i>Wessex</i>
St Andrew's, Woolwich	<i>Southern</i>

Isle of Grain
West Hill, Dartford
Tretower, Powys
Govan
Broomhill Trinity
Knowle

*Southern
Southern
Wales
Scotland
Scotland
South Western*

The President of the Reading and Oxford District Council spoke of the lessons learned by the district during the process of closing three churches.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 6 was carried.

Synod Presentation

The Moderator invited Thames North Synod to make its presentation.

After prayer, Assembly adjourned.

Wednesday, 18th July 2001

Second Session

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer.

The Moderator invited the Moderators of Synods to introduce the ministers who had been ordained since the last meeting of Assembly. Each of those present was greeted in turn and the Assembly welcomed them with applause:

Northern Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Poulter)

Revd Jason Askew Wooler & Chatton

North Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Brain)

Revd Lorraine Mycroft North East Manchester District
Revd Marta Damo Sugar Darwen Ecumenical Partnership
(unable to be present)
Revd Jason McCullagh Christ Church, Morecambe

Mersey Synod (Moderator: Revd Graham Cook)

Revd Elizabeth Blair Handbridge and St. Andrew's Chester
Revd Kirstin Thorpe Malpas
Revd Christine Davies Blacon, Ellesmere Port & Little Sutton
Revd Martin Hardy Tranmere and Higher Bedington Road
Revd Bruce Upperton Ramsey

West Midlands Synod

(introduced by the Revd Glyn Jenkins on behalf of the Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Welch)

Revd Pauline Rate Gloucester and Brockworth
Revd Peter Stevenson North West Coventry Group

East Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Malcolm Hanson)

Revd. Patricia Davis Brackley

South Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Ray Adams)

Revd Dr Hazel Starritt	Hanham and Oldland Common
Revd Helen Pope	Dawlish
Revd Mary Thomas	CWM Jamaica & Cayman Islands
Mrs Susan Lincoln	CRCW at Southmead, Bristol

Thames North Synod

(introduced by the Revd Adrian Bulley on behalf of the Moderator: Revd Roberta Rominger)

Revd Helen Franklin	Chadwell Heath and Goodmayes
Revd June Colley	Buckhurst Hill
Revd Deborah Hodge	Leaside Ware (unable to be present)
Revd Roger Jones	Bayswater & Paddington Chapel
Revd John Mackerness	Luton & Dunstable Team Ministry
Revd Bridget Powell	Chalfont St Giles (unable to be present)
Revd Edward Sanniez	Lea Valley District (unable to be present)

Southern Synod (Moderator: Revd David Helyar)

Revd Geoffrey Felton	Ash, Canterbury & Littlebourne
Revd. Beatrice Yamoah	Commons Team Ministry
Revd Malcolm Fife	Hassocks

Synod of Wales (Moderator: Revd John Humphreys)

Revd David Salsbury	Carmarthen Road and Hill
Revd David Marshall-Jones	Synod advocate for 5 Marks of Mission
Revd Dr Robert Pope	St Paul's URC/Methodist, Penmaenmawr

Synod of Scotland (Moderator: Revd John Arthur)

Revd Helen Pattie	Mosspark, Glasgow
Revd Linda Rice	Stirling University
Revd Gordon Smith	Hamilton
Revd Mary Taylor	Tweedbank

The Moderator addressed the new ministers and led the Assembly in prayer.

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

St Mark's Church and Beechwood West, Runcorn	Revd Alan Poolton Revd Sue Wilkinson Mr Gareth Johnson Mr Alan Ventham Claire Pitts
Whiteley, Hampshire	Revd Judy Henning Mr Geoff Henning
Pontprennau, Cardiff	Revd Steve Willson Revd Sharon Dunn
Churches Together in Cambourne	Revd Peter Wood Miss Fiona Drummond
Immanuel at St Giles, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes	Mrs Elaine Eldridge

The Moderator greeted them, saying that the Assembly was encouraged by their stories. She led the Assembly in prayer.

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

Ordained in 1931

Kathleen Mallalieu HENDRY

Ordained in 1941

Bertram Jacklin ANDREWS
Henry Martyn COOK
Charles Ernest Burland CRANFIELD
David John LEWIS
David Ellis LEWIS
Alan Edward SEAGER
Kenneth SMART
Stanley Gilbert SMITH
Arnold John TODMAN
Samuel Henry Francis YEO

Ordained in 1951

Derek John Davey BAKER
Basil Earnest BRIDGE
James DEY
N Keith FISHER
Florence Emily FROST-MEE
David Stanton GOODALL
Thomas McClure GORDON
Horace Frederick Paul HENSON
Ivor David Alexander HOWELLS
Charles J Alexander INNES
Leslie Smith IVORY
Alan William LYDE
William Simpson MINNIS
J Dennis PICKERING
Baron Ralph Stuart PONT
Raymond PORTER
Geoffrey William SIRKETT
Thomas Charles STIFF
Derek Homewood STRANGE
John Howard WILLIAMS

The Moderator greeted those who were present, who were Basil Bridge, Leslie Ivory, Geoffrey Sirkett, Tom Stiff, Jack Andrews, Alan Seager and Kathleen Hendry. The Assembly applauded them warmly. The Moderator would write to those not present to convey the greetings of the Assembly.

Mrs Wilma Frew took the chair.

Accreditation Sub-Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Graham Long, to present the report of the Accreditation Sub-Committee. In doing so Mr Long expressed thanks to the Revd Robert Way, Convener of the Sub-Committee, and Mr Brian Evans, Convener of the National Assessment Board, both of whom had completed their terms of service.

Members' Resolution

The Moderator invited the Revd Allan Smith to move adoption of Resolution 37:

Resolution 37

Chaplaincy

General Assembly, recognising the importance of chaplaincy as a part of the church's mission, instructs the Ministries Committee to review the support given to chaplains.

The resolution was seconded by the Revd Tony Ruffell.

Following a number of speeches in support of the resolution, some of which urged that a wide range of chaplaincies should be included in the review, the Revd Graham Long, on behalf of the Ministries Committee, indicated that the committee would, should the resolution be passed, undertake to carry out such a review, and that in so doing it would take into account the comments made during the debate.

Mr Smith responded to a number of questions and comments and, in particular, said that he envisaged that support for volunteer chaplains would be included in the review.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 37 was carried.

Pastoral Reference Committee

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

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 19:

Resolution 19

Pastoral Reference Remit (1)

General Assembly confirms that its resolution 58 of 1999 concerning the revised terms of reference of the Assembly Pastoral Reference Committee applies to all the sections (1-6) on page 122 in the 1999 Book of Reports, and not only to section 1.

There being no comments the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 19 was carried.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 20:

Resolution 20

Pastoral Reference Remit (2)

General Assembly agrees to the following amendments to the terms of reference of the Assembly Pastoral Reference Committee:

Add to paragraph 1d: This authority may be exercised in respect of those who were on the roll of ministers but who have now left it, but only for up to three months after the date of leaving.

Delete the words 'each year' from the first sentence of paragraph 6.

There being no comments the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 20 was carried.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch resumed the chair.

Assembly Arrangements Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Alasdair Pratt, to present the report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee. The Moderator greeted Mr Hilary Gunn, Office and Personnel Manager and secretary to the committee, who had recently returned to work following illness.

Mr Pratt, responding to a comment on the report, expressed thanks to those who prepared the screen displays which were much appreciated by members of Assembly.

Mr Pratt moved adoption of Resolution 18:

Resolution 18

General Assembly 2003

General Assembly agrees that General Assembly in 2003 will meet at the Guildhall, Portsmouth, from July 5th - 8th.

The Convener responded to a number of questions and comments, undertaking that the committee would consider the suggestions made.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 18 was carried.

The Moderator invited the Clerk to present the minutes of both sessions of Tuesday 17th July. Having noted corrections Assembly approved the minutes.

Keynote Address

Drawing on his experience of 40 years of ministry, the Revd Tony Burnham gave a stimulating and challenging address entitled "The Salt of the Earth". Mr Burnham introduced the new document *All Change!*, a short programme of Bible study and prayer designed for use by individuals within the church and focussed on the Five Marks of Mission. Assembly received the address with enthusiastic applause. Following a short time of discussion in small groups members related stories of their own experiences of church life and expressed their hopes for the future.

After worship, Assembly adjourned.

Thursday, 19th July 2001

First Session

The Chaplain led worship which included the induction of the Revd Dr David Cornick as General Secretary. Bible Study was led by the Revd Dr John Campbell.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee presented the Order of Business for the day and conveyed to members of Assembly the greetings of the Revd Dr Robert Latham.

World Church

The Revd John Waller, who had been one of a group representing Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) who had visited the churches in the Middle East Council of Churches in March 2001, shared reflections on the visit. He described the difficult circumstances of Christian churches in the Middle East, and urged Assembly to show solidarity to them in their suffering. The official report of the CTBI visit would be published shortly.

Edmonton Secession Request

On behalf of Mission Council the Revd John Reardon moved adoption of Resolution 16:

Resolution 16

Secession

General Assembly does not agree to the secession of the local church at Edmonton (Thames North Synod) and requests the congregation, district council and synod patiently to seek ways of restoring fellowship.

Mr Reardon, who had convened the commission which had, at the request of the Mission Council, visited Edmonton and heard from the local church, the district council and the synod, expanded on the reasons for bringing the resolution in that form. Two representatives of the Edmonton church, Mrs Clydella Richards and Mr Claude Cover, addressed the Assembly. There was lengthy debate, during the course of which the Moderator ruled that future speeches should last not more than three minutes. At the conclusion of the debate Mrs Richards and Mr Cover spoke again, followed by Mr Reardon. The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer and then called for a vote.

Resolution 16 was carried.

The Revd Dr David Thompson took the chair to allow the Moderator to spend time with the overseas guests.

The Moderator ruled that all speeches from the floor for the remainder of the meeting of the Assembly should last no longer than three minutes.

Synod Resolution

The Moderator invited the Revd Francis Ackroyd on behalf of Thames North Synod to move adoption of Resolution 1:

Resolution 1

Assembly Membership

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

Amend paragraph 2.[5] by adding the following category to the membership of the General Assembly:

'All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and CRCWs who are to be received by Assembly at the outset of their Ministry in the United Reformed Church.'

The resolution was seconded by the Revd Lytham Nevard.

Following discussion, the Revd James Breslin proposed that the **resolution be not put**. This was seconded by Miss Sheila Fairbairn.

Assembly agreed that Resolution 1 be not put.

The Assembly greeted the Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee who was leaving the post of Secretary for Training having served for 11 years and wished her well in her new post at Northern College.

The Assembly greeted Mr Clive Willis, retiring secretary of the Retired Ministers' Housing Association.

The Chaplain led prayer and the Assembly adjourned.

Thursday, 19th July 2001

Second Session

Doctrine, Prayer and Worship

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

Dr Thompson responded to a number of questions and comments, and the Moderator thanked Dr Thompson on Assembly's behalf as he ended his period of service as Convener of the committee.

Health and Healing

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 that the list in paragraph 4.1 of those churches which had been represented at the January meeting should have included the Methodist Church. She also reported that there had been a subsequent meeting at which the Church of Scotland had been represented; it was expected that other denominations would join in at a later stage. Mrs Russell would chair the new group described in that paragraph. The Moderator thanked the Convener for her report and expressed good wishes for the future of the group.

Synod Resolutions

On behalf of East Midlands Synod, the Revd Chris White moved adoption of Resolution 3:

Resolution 3

District Children's and/or Youth Worker

In view of the catastrophic decline over the past twenty years of the number of children and young people who are part of the worshipping and learning fellowship of the Church and because of the long term consequences of this to a society with little or no knowledge of Christianity and no experience of Christian worship and because this will make evangelism increasingly difficult General Assembly requests the Youth and Children's Committee to ensure that the review into its work explores the possibility of providing every district council which requires it with a children's and/or youth worker.

This was seconded by Mr Ray Chambers.

There was some discussion, during which the Revd Derek Lindfield, Convener of the Youth and Children's Work Committee, indicated that that committee welcomed the resolution.

The Revd Gordon Smith moved the following amendment:

Add the words 'seeking to do so in partnership with other churches and organisations, where possible' The amendment was formally seconded by the Revd Murdoch McKenzie.

The amendment was carried.

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow moved that the resolution **be now put**. This was seconded by the Revd Dr Neil Messer. **The Assembly agreed that the resolution be now put.**

Resolution 3

District Children's and/or Youth Worker

In view of the catastrophic decline over the past twenty years of the number of children and young people who are part of the worshipping and learning fellowship of the Church and because of the long term consequences of this to a society with little or no knowledge of Christianity and no experience of Christian worship and because this will make evangelism increasingly difficult General Assembly requests the Youth and Children's Committee to ensure that the review into its work explores the possibility of providing every district council which requires it with a children's and/or youth worker, seeking to do so in partnership with other churches and organisations, where possible.

Resolution 3, as amended, was carried.

The Revd Dr David Thompson took the chair.

On behalf of West Midlands Synod, the Revd John Johansen-Berg moved adoption of Resolution 4:

Resolution 4

Gift to Reformed Church in Romania

General Assembly approves the offering of a gift of grace to the Reformed Church in Romania in the form of an annual gift of £50,000, shared between two Districts, for a period of three years and to begin as soon as possible.

This was seconded by Mr Ray Coombes.

There was some debate following which the Revd Tony Burnham moved and Miss B Pain-Tolin seconded that the resolution **be now put**. **The Assembly agreed that the resolution be now put.**

Following response to debate by the Revd John Johanssen-Berg, the Moderator called on the Assembly to vote:

Resolution 4 was not carried.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch resumed the chair.

Additional resolutions

With the permission of the Assembly, the Revd Dr Walter Houston moved adoption of Resolution 36 in the following revised form:

Resolution 36

Initial Training Decisions

General Assembly, in order to take proper account of previous Assembly decisions about initial ministerial training, instructs the Training Committee to devise a new process for taking decisions about the mode and place of such training.

This process should:

- a) take due account of the needs of individual candidates;
- b) allow for proper consultation with their sending synods;
- c) provide for the final decision, in cases where no consensus emerges, to be taken by a group representing synods, training institutions and the Training Committee, and responsible to the General Assembly through its Training Committee.

The resolution was seconded by the Revd Dr Neil Messer.

The Revd Craig Bowman proposed an amendment: that clause c) be deleted.

This was formally seconded by the Revd Roy Lowes, who reserved his right to speak later in the debate. After some discussion the Moderator called for a vote, and the amendment was not carried.

It was moved by Mr Michael Hopkins that the resolution **be not put**. This was seconded by Mr Ian Salmon.

After Dr Houston had commented on the reasons given, the Moderator called for a vote and **Assembly agreed that Resolution 36 be not put**.

At the Moderator's request, the Assembly agreed to extend the session by 45 minutes.

The Revd Dr RJ McKelvey moved adoption of Resolution 40:

Resolution 40

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

General Assembly urges Her Majesty's Government to accord greater dignity and respect to those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom by:

1. **Adopting a positive attitude to refugees and asylum seekers.**
2. **Accurately informing and educating the public, thereby dispelling myths that give rise to resentment and racism.**
3. **Simplifying and expediting the asylum seeker procedure.**
4. **Ending the voucher system forthwith and introducing a workable cash benefit system.**
5. **Ensuring that where detention is deemed to be necessary, it is caring and supportive to which end prisons should not be used.**
6. **Liaising with local statutory and voluntary bodies and churches in dispersal areas to ensure adequate resourcing and human support.**

General Assembly encourages all United Reformed Churches, with their ecumenical and inter-faith partners, to develop and sustain a positive approach by:

1. **Welcoming refugees and asylum seekers irrespective of faith or ethnicity and valuing the contributions they have to offer.**
2. **Encouraging congregations to befriend, advise and support.**
3. **Offering material assistance as appropriate.**
4. **Lobbying constituency MPs.**

This was seconded by Mrs Moira Ormerod.

Resolution 40 was carried.

Mission Council (continued)

The Moderator invited the Revd Bill Mahood, immediate past Moderator, to present the report of Mission Council. Mr Mahood asked Assembly to greet the Revd Peter McIntosh, Moderator 1999/2000, who had been unable to be present at the annual meeting of the Assembly in 2000. The Assembly expressed its appreciation of his year of service as Moderator.

After brief comments on the report the General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 7:

Resolution 7

Inter-Faith Relations Committee

General Assembly:

- a) agrees to an extension of the life of the Inter-Faith Relations Committee for a further five years until 2006 with a review at the beginning of the fifth year and
- b) agrees to add Hinduism to the list of other faiths in the committee's remit and also to add religious discrimination to its brief.

Resolution 7 was carried.

With the permission of the Assembly, the General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 8 in the following revised form:

Resolution 8

Charity Trustees

General Assembly confirms that for the purposes of section 97 of the Charities Act 1993 the members of the Mission Council Advisory Group for the time being are considered to be the Charity Trustees of the United Reformed Church.

In response to a question the General Secretary said that Mission Council would consider the provision of indemnity and/or legal support for those concerned in order to ensure that they would not be personally liable, although such matters had already been considered in another context, and it was understood that appropriate support would be given to anyone serving the church in this or a similar capacity where he or she had acted properly.

Resolution 8 was carried.

The Deputy General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 9:

Resolution 9

Changes to the Structure: Grouping

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Structure:

Paragraph 1(1)

Number the present paragraph from the second sentence to the end as paragraph 1(1)(a) and add the following two paragraphs:

1(1)(b) Where two or more local churches together, and in consultation with the district council, decide that their mission will be more effective if they share resources and ordained ministry, they may, on the recommendation of the district council and the decision of the synod, form an association known as a group of churches with a structured relationship and a constitution governing the way in which they relate to one another as to the sharing of both resources and the ordained ministry. Each church within the group shall retain its own identity, and its church meeting and elders' meeting shall continue to exercise all their functions in relation to that church, save that, so long as the constitution shall so declare, decisions relating to the calling of a minister (see paragraph 2(1)(vii)) may be taken by a single group church meeting at which all the members of each of

the constituent churches in the group shall be eligible to attend and vote.

1(1)(c) Where two or more local churches together, and in consultation with the district council, decide that their mission will be more effective if they share ordained ministry

(but not other resources), they may, on the recommendation of the district council and the decision of the synod, form an association known as a joint pastorate, with a structured relationship with respect to the provision of ordained ministry only and a statement of intent governing the way in which they relate to one another in relation to the sharing of ordained ministry. Each church within the joint pastorate shall retain its own identity, and its church meeting and elders' meeting shall continue to exercise all their functions in relation to that church, save that, so long as the statement of intent shall so declare, decisions relating to the calling of a minister (see paragraph 2(1)(vii)) may be taken by a single joint pastorate church meeting at which all the members of each of the constituent churches in the joint pastorate shall be eligible to attend and vote.

Paragraph 2(1)(vii)

Add the following:

(Where two or more churches have formed a group or joint pastorate in accordance with paragraph 1(1)(b) or (c) above on the decision of synod under its function 2(4)(A)(iv), the church meetings of each church may, with the agreement of the synod on the advice of the district council and so long as the group constitution or the statement of intent as appropriate shall so provide, join together as a group or joint pastorate church meeting for the purpose of calling a minister, in which case this function shall be exercised by the group or joint pastorate church meeting.)

Paragraph 2(3)(c)

Change the words in brackets by amending 'the second sentence of para.1(1)' so that it reads 'para. 1(1)(a)'.

Paragraph 2(3)(A)(ii)

Change the second word 'church' to 'church(es)'.

Paragraph 2(3)(A)(iv)

Change the word 'church' to 'church(es)'.

Paragraph 2(4)(c)

Change the words in brackets by amending 'the second sentence of para.1(1)' so that it reads 'para. 1(1)(a)'.

Resolution 9 was carried with the necessary two thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 9 be referred to synods with the 18th March 2002 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 sought Assembly's permission to withdraw Resolution 10. Assembly agreed.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 11 :

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to Part I of the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline:

Paragraph 1

Delete the existing Paragraph 1 and substitute the following :-

‘1.1 Under the provisions of this Section O an Assembly Commission (as defined in Paragraph 3) shall operate under the authority of the General Assembly for the purpose of deciding (in cases properly referred to it) the questions as to whether a Minister has committed a breach of discipline and, if the Assembly Commission should so decide, whether on that account his/her name should be deleted from the Roll of Ministers or alternatively whether a written warning should be issued to him/her. Under the Section O Process the Assembly Commission is also able to make recommendations and offer guidance but only within the scope of Paragraphs 10 and 16 of this Part I.

1.2 Once the case of any Minister is being dealt with under the Section O Process, it shall be conducted and concluded entirely in accordance with that Process and not through any other procedure of the Church’

Paragraph 2

Delete the words ‘the Process set out in this Section O’ and substitute the words ‘the Section O Process’.

Delete the words ‘of the United Reformed Church’ after the word ‘Structure’.

Delete the words ‘this Section O’ and substitute ‘the Section O Process’.

Paragraph 3

Delete Paragraph 3 and its sub-paragraphs and substitute the following :-

‘3 For the purpose of this Section O, the following words and expressions carry the following meanings :-

3.1 ‘Appeals Commission’ shall mean the Commission constituted for the hearing of each Appeal in accordance with Paragraph 12.

3.2 ‘Appointers’ shall mean the persons responsible under Paragraph 6 for the appointment of the Assembly Commission.

3.3 ‘Assembly Commission’ shall mean a Commission consisting of five (5) persons selected from the Commission Panel for the purpose of hearing and deciding each case dealt with under the Section O Process.

3.4 ‘Basis of Union’ shall mean the Basis of Union of the United Reformed Church.

3.5 ‘Commission Panel’ shall mean a Panel consisting of a maximum of fifty (50) members of the United Reformed Church from whom shall be chosen the persons to form the Assembly Commission to hear each case being dealt with under the Section O Process.

3.6 ‘Commission Stage’ shall mean that part of the Section O Process initiated in accordance with Paragraph 5.

3.7 ‘Council’ shall mean the council of the Church whose Mandated Group issues the Referral Notice.

- 3.8 'Deletion' and 'to delete' shall mean the removal of/to remove the name of a Minister from the Roll of Ministers other than at the request of the Minister concerned or by the acceptance of his/her resignation or by his/her death.
- 3.9 '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 and references to District Council 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'.
- 3.10 'Hearing' shall mean the Hearing conducted by the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission under Section E or Section G of the Rules of Procedure.
- 3.11 'Investigation' shall mean the process of investigation carried out by the Mandated Group as set out in Section D of the Rules of Procedure.
- 3.12 'Mandated Group' shall mean the group mandated to act in the name of a District Council under Section B of the Rules of Procedure and in any case where the Referral Notice has been issued in the name of a council other than the District Council the expression 'Mandated Group' shall where the context so permits be construed as a reference to the member or members (not exceeding three) of any corresponding group of such other council.
- 3.13 'Minister' shall mean a person whose name is on the Roll of Ministers and who is under consideration within the Section O Process.
- 3.14 'Notice of Appeal' shall mean a Notice specified in the Rules of Procedure whereby either of the parties in any case indicates his/her/its intention to appeal against the decision of the Assembly Commission.
- 3.15 'Notice of Reference back' shall mean a Notice from the Appeals Commission of any reference back for re-hearing by the Assembly Commission under Paragraph 14.7.
- 3.16 'Parties' shall mean (i) the Council, which for the purpose of the Section O Process shall act solely and exclusively through its Mandated Group, and (ii) the Minister.
- 3.17 'Referral Notice' shall mean a Notice specified in the Rules of Procedure whereby a case concerning Ministerial Discipline is referred into the Commission Stage and shall contain the statement of reasons for such referral.
- 3.18 'Roll of Ministers' shall have the meaning given to it in Paragraph 1 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union.
- 3.19 'Rules of Procedure' shall mean the Rules of Procedure governing the system of ministerial discipline commencing with the exercise by the District Council, Synod or General Assembly of its function as set out in Paragraph 2(3)(xviii), Paragraph 2(4)(xiv) or Paragraph 2(5)(xxiii) of the Structure as the case may be and continuing throughout the Section O Process such Rules being contained in Part II of Section O.
- 3.20 'Secretary of the Assembly Commission' shall mean the person appointed by the General Assembly on the advice of the Nominations Committee to be responsible for all secretarial and procedural matters laid upon him/her by virtue of the Section O Process, and the period and terms of office of that person shall be such as the General Assembly shall decide.

- 3.21 'Section O Process' shall mean the whole Process set out in this Section O (subject to such variations as shall from time to time be made)
- 3.22 'Structure' shall mean the Structure of the United Reformed Church.
- 3.23 'Suspension' and 'to suspend' shall have the meanings assigned to them in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union.
- 3.24 'Synod Panel' shall mean the Panel to be set up by each Synod from which the Mandated Group shall be appointed as set out in Section B of the Rules of Procedure. '

Paragraph 4

After the words 'Nominations Committee' insert the words '(or such other committee as may in the future perform the functions of the existing Nominations Committee)'.

Paragraph 5

Delete Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 and substitute the following :-

'5 The Commission Stage shall be initiated in every case by the service upon the Secretary of the Assembly Commission of a Referral Notice in the name of the District Council, the Synod or the General Assembly (or Mission Council acting on its behalf) in pursuance of their respective functions as contained in the Structure and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.'

Paragraph 7

In Paragraph 7.2 delete the words 'a Minister, or the council lodging the Referral Notice' and substitute the words 'either of the parties'.

Paragraph 10

In Paragraph 10.2.2 add the following words at the end: 'or guidance in accordance with paragraph 16.1.4'.

Paragraph 11

In Paragraph 11.2 delete the opening words 'The council of the Church which lodged the Referral Notice in any case may' and substitute the words: 'The Mandated Group of the Council which lodged the Referral Notice in any case may in the name of that Council'.

Delete the word 'concerned' after the word 'Minister'.

Also add the following sentence at the end of Paragraph 11.2 :-

'In any case where no written warning is attached to the decision not to delete, the Notice may state, if the Mandated Group so desires, that the appeal is limited to the question of the issue of a written warning to the Minister.'

Paragraph 12

In Paragraph 12 delete the first sentence and substitute the following :-

'The Appeals Commission for the Hearing of each Appeal shall consist of five (5) persons and shall include the Moderator of the General Assembly (subject to the provisions of Paragraphs 7.1.1 and 7.1.2).'

Paragraph 14

In Paragraph 14.7, after the words 'of the information before it' insert the words 'or of any aspect of the Section O Process itself'.

Paragraph 16

In Paragraph 16.1.3, after the word 'Roll' insert the words 'of Ministers'.

Paragraph 17

In Paragraph 17.2 add the following words at the end :-

' , provided that, where the Mandated Group has formally signified to the Assembly Commission that it does not intend to press the case for any disciplinary action to be taken against the Minister and provided that the Assembly Commission decides not to issue a written warning, the Assembly Commission may as an appendage to its decision not to delete state that the Minister's suspension shall terminate with immediate effect.'

Paragraphs 19 and 20

In both paragraphs, delete the word 'concerned'.

Paragraph 21

In Paragraph 21 after the words 'applying for training' in the final sentence insert the words 'for the ministry' and delete the bracketed words '(local church, district, national assessment, synod)'.

Paragraph 22

In Paragraph 22 delete the words 'of the United Reformed Church'.

The General Secretary informed the Assembly that the Introduction to the Section O Process which had been included in the Manual had been withdrawn. It had been written when the Process was originally introduced in order to be helpful, but it had never been presented to nor accepted by the Assembly and was now out of date.

The General Secretary and Clerk responded to questions, then the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

Resolution 11 was carried with the necessary two-thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 11 be referred to synods with the 18th March 2002 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with. This was agreed.

With the permission of the Assembly the General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 12 in the following revised form:

Resolution 12

Health and Healing Development Group

General Assembly agrees to continue the life of the present Health and Healing Development Group for a further year, or until the group set up by Churches Together in England is ready to take over the work, whichever is sooner.

Resolution 12 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 13, noting that no objections had been received:

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 2000 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 13 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 14, noting that no objections had been received:

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 2000 to add 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: 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.

Resolution 14 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 15, noting that no objections had been received:

Resolution 15

Basis Schedule A(2)

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 2000 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.'**

Resolution 15 was carried.

Budget

The Moderator invited the Treasurer, Mr Graham Stacy, to present the Budget for the year 2002, noting that Resolution 17 (Budget for the year 2002) had already been proposed.

Resolution 17

Budget for the year 2002

General Assembly accepts the budget for the year 2002 set out in Appendix 1 to the Book of Reports.

Resolution 17 was carried.

On behalf of the Assembly the Moderator thanked Mr Stacy for his work as Treasurer.

Assembly Commissions

The General Secretary reported on the work of Assembly Commissions. These reports are appended to the Record.

Minutes

The Moderator invited the Clerk to present the minutes of both sessions of Wednesday, 18th July. 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. This was agreed.

Address to the Throne

The Moderator invited the Revd Bill Mahood, immediate past Moderator, to present the Address to the Throne:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

19 July 2001

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church now meeting in York sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty. Before we next meet as an Assembly, Your Majesty will have celebrated Your golden jubilee. We, with the rest of the nation, look forward to this opportunity to give gratitude and thanks to God for all the service you have rendered to us during those years.

We are meeting just a few weeks into the second term of office of Your Majesty's Government, and look to it for further measures to improve the quality of life of all in our community, especially the most vulnerable and needy. We welcome all that has been done to enhance the dignity and well-being of disadvantaged people in our society – for example, in the areas of welfare provision and unemployment – and look forward to further work being done in these fields. We have recently made a study of the type of work available to people seeking employment, and hope that our findings will be a useful contribution to the ongoing debate about the nature and purpose of work in our society.

As a Church deeply rooted in the countryside, we share the pain and loss of all who have suffered as a consequence of the recent foot and mouth crisis. We know that this has been a matter of deep concern to Your Majesty, the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family. We pray that an end to this crisis may not be far away, and that all who have borne the brunt of the disaster will find the strength and courage to face the future and rebuild their lives.

Many of our churches have also had a long presence in the inner-city, working alongside others of goodwill to foster genuine harmony between people of all religions and races. We pray that efforts to bring peace and build community in our cities will succeed. We seek to follow the biblical injunction to 'welcome the stranger' into our midst, and stand in prayerful solidarity with those from ethnic minorities, including those seeking asylum, who so often find themselves among the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society.

Our concern to bring the 'good news to the poor' which Jesus announced has an international as well as national dimension, and through our overseas aid and development programme, Commitment for Life, we support vital work in a number of 'third world' countries. One of these is Zimbabwe, sadly still one of the most troubled regions of the Commonwealth. Our commitment to the poor also inspires us to continue to press for full remission of the debts which so weigh down the world's poorest countries, and to support the initiative of Your Majesty's Government through the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for International Development to halve child poverty by 2015. We very warmly welcome Your Government's decision to honour Your Majesty's Jubilee next year with the establishment of a fund to speed the introduction of universal primary education in the Commonwealth.

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.

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

Revd Elizabeth Welch
Moderator

Revd Anthony Burnham
General Secretary

The Assembly approved the address.

Moderator-elect

The Moderator invited the Moderator-elect, the Revd John Waller, to address the Assembly.

Vote of Thanks

The Moderator called upon the Revd John Arthur, who thanked Yorkshire Synod for its welcome and hospitality. Mr Arthur assured members of Assembly of a warm welcome to St. Andrew's in 2002.

The Moderator thanked those who had contributed to the smooth running of Assembly, and paid tribute to the Revd John Waller, who had carried additional responsibilities due to the illness of the Office and Personnel Manager. She thanked the Chaplain, the Revd Flora Winfield, and the Bible Study leader, the Revd Dr John Campbell.

The General Secretary thanked the Moderator for her leadership of the Assembly and expressed his personal thanks for the events and gifts which had marked his retirement.

The General Secretary formally announced that the Assembly had completed its business and would adjourn to meet as agreed in St Andrew's on 4 July 2002 or at such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.

The Chaplain led the closing worship.

Report of Assembly Commissions

1. On 18 July 2000 a Disciplinary 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 was £130.08.
2. The Durham and Teeside District Council referred the Revd Timothy John London to the Section O Process. A decision was reached by the Commission on 15 September 2000 but the Mandated Group, acting on behalf of the District Council, appealed. The result of the Appeals Commission was that Mr London be deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church. The cost was £678.60.

Report of an Appeal to the General Assembly by Mr Christopher Buckwell against a decision of the Thames North Synod 26 September 2000

- 1 Mr Christopher Buckwell, an elder of Finchley and Whetstone United Reformed Church and a co-opted member of the Central and North London District Council, appealed against the following decision of the Executive Committee of the Thames North Synod.

The Synod Executive, acting on behalf of Thames North Synod, unanimously rejects the appeal of Mr Christopher Buckwell against the decision of the Central and North London District Council taken on 2 May 2000 regarding the redevelopment of Totteridge United Reformed Church.

Despite obvious deficiency in the procedure of the District Council, Synod Executive believes that District Council took sufficient remedial action to allow a properly constituted Council to make an informed decision on the redevelopment of Totteridge United Reformed Church.

In his letter giving reasons for making his appeal, Mr Buckwell expressed concern that Union Church, Totteridge is embarking upon redevelopment which involves demolition of the whole of the present premises which are less than 50 years old, well-constructed and in basically good condition, which is really one individual's scheme, and will waste substantial resources bearing in mind the few remaining members and their ages, and the proximity of other United Reformed Churches in the area. (letter to General Secretary 6 July 2000).

- 2 The appeal followed the procedure laid down under the Structure of the United Reformed Church paragraph 5 and the Rules of Procedure paragraph 8.
- 3 Both the appellant and the synod agreed that the appeal should be heard by a specially appointed Commission of the General Assembly, which would act on its behalf.
- 4 The officers of the Assembly appointed the following to serve as members of the Commission. Neither the appellant nor the synod objected to any of the names.

Mrs Wilma Frew, elder, West Midlands Synod, former Moderator of General Assembly, to convene the Commission.

Revd Clifford Charlton, minister, Southern Synod.

Mr Graham Rolfe, elder, Clerk of Wessex Synod.

The Clerk of the Assembly was present to advise both the Commission and the two parties. The General Secretary was also present to facilitate the process, record the decision and prepare the report for Assembly. Neither was present while the Commission reached a decision.

- 5 Mr Buckwell presented his own case. Thames North Synod was represented by the Clerk, the Revd Adrian Bulley and the Revd Martin Hazell.

- 6 Papers, as requested by both parties, were circulated in advance. In addition, copies of two letters were tabled by the representatives of the Synod during the hearing.
- 7 The hearing took place at the United Reformed Church House on 26 September 2000. The Commission began with prayer at 2.00pm and completed its business at about 4.00pm.
- 8 Mr Christopher Buckwell presented his arguments elaborating his written statement, which had been circulated in advance. The Revd Adrian Bulley presented the Synod's response. Members of the Commission questioned both parties. They then withdrew to consider whether they needed to ask more questions. Mr Bulley then offered to make available two letters which had been part of his personal briefing. These were copied for the Commission and Mr Buckwell and there was an opportunity for them to be read during the adjournment. On the Commission's return the Moderator stated that the members had no further questions and invited Mr Bulley to make the Synod's final submission. Mr Buckwell was then given an opportunity to respond and to complete his submission.
- 9 The parties left and the Commission, after further discussion, reached the following decision.
- 9.1 ***The Assembly Commission, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, unanimously rejects the appeal of Mr Christopher Buckwell against the decision of the Thames North Synod on 9 June 2000, regarding the development at Totteridge Union. We took the view that it was not our task to overturn the substance of decisions taken by other councils of the church, providing these had been arrived at in accordance with proper procedures.***
- 9.2 ***We are concerned at the inadequacy of the recording by the Central and North London District Council of its processes and decisions which has been revealed to us in the papers submitted to the Commission. Nevertheless, after questioning the Synod's representatives, we are satisfied that ultimately the decision was properly taken.***
- 9.3 ***We recommend that the Synod should re-examine its procedures, and those of its district councils, for granting approval for building and development projects to ensure that the pastoral, mission and ecumenical aspects of each situation are given as much weight as property and financial considerations.***
- 10 The parties were invited to return and the decision was read out by the Moderator. They were reminded that this was, in effect, a decision of the General Assembly against which there was no appeal.
- 11 The Moderator thanked the members of the Commission and the Clerk and General Secretary for their service and closed the meeting.

INDEX

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

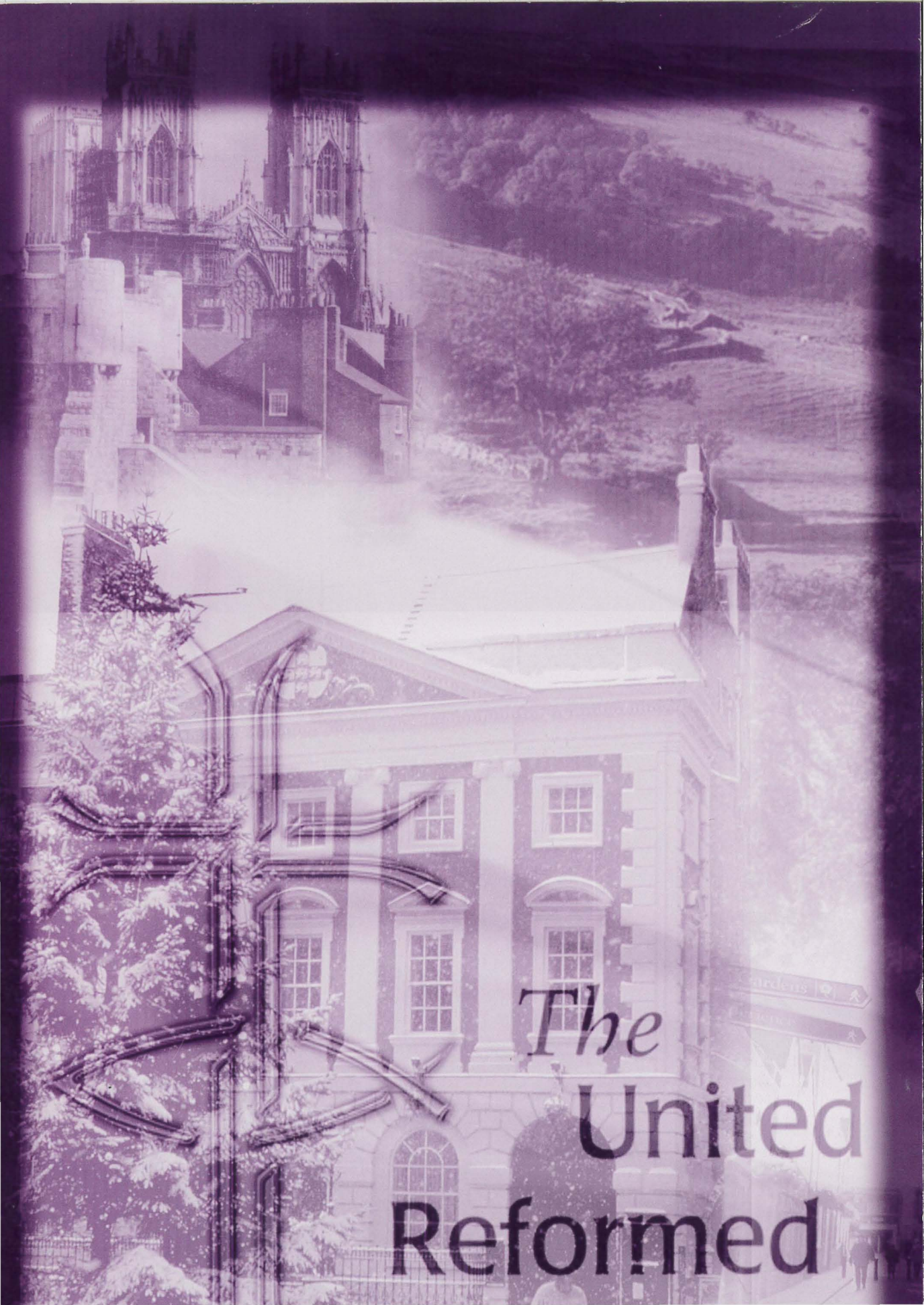
	Reports	Record
Accounts	64, 88	10
Accreditation Sub-Committee	74	30
Adams, Revd Ray	85	23
Address to the Throne		44
Assembly Arrangements Committee	40	31
Assembly 2003	40	31
Assembly Commissions		46
Assembly membership	8	33
Assembly Pastoral Reference Committee	42	31
Basis of Union, Schedule A(1)	36	42
Basis of Union, Schedule A(2)	37	43
Breslin, Revd James		24
Buckwell, Mr Christopher		46
Budget	37, 113	11, 43
Bulley, Revd Adrian		24
Burnham, Revd Tony		32
Keynote address		32
Chaplaincy		30
Charity Trustees	29	36
Children's and/or Youth Worker, District	9	34
Church and Society Committee	44	25
Jobcentre Survey	47	25
Churches, closure	14	27
Churches, new churches	12	27
Clerk-Elect, appointment of		24
Constitutional amendments:		
Grouping	29	36
Section O part 1	31	38
Cook, Revd Graham	85	23
Craven, Revd Christine	85	23
District children's and/or Youth Worker	9	34
Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee	49	33
Ecumenical Committee	51	12, 14
Three ecumenical principles	59	12, 15
Edmonton, Secession Request from	119	32
Ethical investment	8	26
Evangelism, Commitment to	73	13
Evangelists, Ministry of	73, 127	14
Finance Committee	64	10
Accounts	64, 88	10
Ministry and Mission Fund	64	10
Budget	37, 113	11
Foot and Mouth crisis		14
Grouping, changes to structure	29	36
Health and Healing Development Group	65	33, 41
Holocaust Memorial Day	66	27
Initial Training decisions		35
Inter-Faith Relations Committee	66	26, 36
Holocaust Memorial Day	67	27

	Reports	Record
Jobcentres, survey	47	25
Life and Witness Committee	68	13
Evangelism	73	13
Evangelists	73, 127	14
Maintenance of the Ministry	75	10
Pensions	75	11
Mansfield College	135	
Ministerial Jubilees		30
Ministers and Missionaries, Commemoration		3
Ministry and Mission Fund	64	10
Mission Council	23	24, 36
Moderator 2002-3, Election of		24
Newly ordained ministers		28
Nivison Chair, Westminster College		24
Nominations Committee	77	15
Northern College	136	
Oldham, Union St Church, statement by		25
Orchard, Revd Dr Stephen		24
Pastoral Reference Committee	42	31
Pastoral Reference Remit (1)	42	31
Pastoral Reference Remit (2)	43	31
Pensions	75	11
Plan for Partnership	76	11
Queen's College	137	
Refugees and Asylum seekers		35
Roll of Assembly		4
Romania, gift to Reformed Churches of	10	34
Schedule A(1), Basis of Union	36	42
Schedule A(2), Basis of Union	37	43
Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College	138	
Section 'O'	31	38
Secession, request from Edmonton	119	32
Structure, changes to	30	42
grouping	29	36
Synod reports	1	
Eastern	2	
East Midlands	4	
Thames North	5	
Yorkshire	7	
Thames North Synod		46
Training, initial decisions		35
Waller, Revd John		24, 45
Westminster College	140	

Notes

Notes

Notes



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