



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Portsmouth 2003

July 5th - 8th

Assembly Record



The
United
Reformed
Church

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

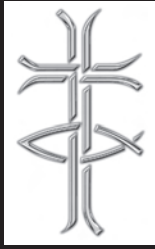
For Consideration *
For Action X

| Resolution Number | Annual Reports | Assembly Record | | Local Churches | District Councils | Synods |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| 31 | - | 10 | Faith stance on global crisis of Life | | * | * |
| 27 | 93 | 25 | Refugees & Asylum Seekers | X | | |
| 7 | 36 | 31 | Ministries - deployment plans | | * | * |
| 8 | 36 | 32 | Westminster College Bursar | | | X |
| 16 | 52 | 32 | Faith Schools | X | | |
| 20 | 67 | 44 | International Situation | * | | |
| 9 | 36 | 45 | Section O Advisory Group | | | X |
| 17 | 53 | 33 | Millennium Development Goals | X | | |
| 23 | 72 | 35 | Inter-faith Relations | * | * | * |



The
United
Reformed
Church

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Minutes of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

2003

Saturday, 5 July 2003

First Session

Constitution of Assembly

At 4.00 pm. members of Assembly met in the Guildhall, Portsmouth. The Moderator, the Revd John Waller, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and the time having been duly appointed.

Induction of Moderator

The Revd D Alasdair Pratt, Moderator-elect, was inducted as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church. He 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 John and Mrs Margaret Waller. The Chaplain, the Revd Carolyn Smyth led the worship of the Assembly and the Moderator then addressed the Assembly.

The Roll of Assembly was placed on the table.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Moderator: | Revd D Alasdair Pratt |
| Clerk: | Revd James Breslin |
| General Secretary: | Revd Dr David Cornick |
| Deputy General Secretary: | Revd Raymond Adams |

Moderators of Synods:

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| I | Revd Peter Poulter |
| II | Revd Peter Brain |
| III | Revd Graham Cook |
| IV | Revd Arnold Harrison |
| V | Revd Malcolm Hanson |
| VI | Revd Elizabeth Welch |
| VII | Revd Elizabeth Caswell |
| VIII | Revd David Miller |
| IX | Revd Adrian Bulley |
| X | Revd Roberta Rominger |
| XI | Revd Nigel Uden |
| XII | Revd Peter Noble |
| XIII | Revd John Arthur |

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Assembly Arrangements | Mr William McVey |
| Church and Society | Revd Martin Camroux |
| Communications and Editorial | Revd Graham Cook |
| Doctrine, Prayer & Worship | Revd John Young |
| Ecumenical | Revd John Rees |
| Equal Opportunities | Revd Wilfred Bahadur |
| Finance | Mr Eric Chilton |
| Inter-Faith Relations | Mrs Daphne Beale |
| Life and Witness | Revd Brian Jolly |
| Ministries | Mr John Ellis |
| Nominations | Revd Principal Stephen Orchard |
| Pastoral Reference | Revd David Jenkins |
| Racial Justice | Revd Andrew Prasad |
| Training | Revd John Proctor |
| Youth & Children's Work | Revd Kathryn Price |

Synod Clerks:

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| I | Dr Peter Clarke |
| II | Mr George Morton |
| III | Mr Donald Swift |
| IV | Mr John Seager |
| V | Mrs Irene Wren |
| VI | Mr Simon Rowntree |
| VII | Mr Kenneth Woods |
| VIII | Revd Rosalind Harrison |
| IX | Mr Graham Rolfe |
| X | Revd Martin Hazell |
| XI | Mrs Christine Meekison |
| XII | Revd Colin Richards |
| XIII | Revd Kenneth Forbes |

Additional Synod Representatives:

| | |
|------|--|
| I | Miss Sara Goodfellow |
| II | Mrs Janet Eccles |
| III | Revd John Oldershaw, Ms Sandra Wellington, Mrs Jean Cook |
| IV | Revd Simon Swailes, Mrs Val Jenkins |
| V | Revd David Miller, Mrs Ann Ball, Mrs Barbara Turner |
| VI | Revd Simon Helme, Miss Sarah Hopkins, Mrs Ann Sheldon |
| VII | Revd Victor Ridgewell, Mrs Penelope Davies-Brown, Mr Philip Wade |
| VIII | Revd Peter Henderson, Mr Peter Scott, Mr John Saunders |
| IX | Revd David Bedford, Revd Stephen Thornton, Mrs Veronica Taylor |
| X | |
| XI | Revd Peter Southcombe, Mr Gilbert Anderson, Mr Desmond Colechin |
| XII | Revd Dr Robert Pope, Mrs Elizabeth Richards, Ms Helen Stenson |
| XIII | Revd Mary Buchanan, Revd Dr John Clark, Revd John Humphreys, Revd Paul Jupp, Miss Ismay Mackenzie, Ms Helen Mee, Dr James Merrilees, Mrs Christine Paterson, Dr Philip Theaker |

Synod Treasurers:

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| I | Mr David Hayward |
| II | Dr Brian Woodhall |
| III | Mr Andrew Martlew |
| IV | Miss Margaret Atkinson |
| V | Mr Donald Buxton |
| VI | Revd Roger Woodall |
| VII | Mr Clifford Patten |
| VIII | Mr Gordon Latham |
| IX | Mr Graham Gage |
| X | Miss Valerie Ham |
| XI | Mr Brian West |
| XII | Mr Patrick Hickey |
| XIII | Mr James Maguire |

Theological College Representatives:

Mansfield College
 Northern College
 Queens Foundation
 Scottish United Reformed & Congregational College
 Westminster College

Revd Dr Walter Houston, Mr David Morgan
 Revd Janet Berry, Mrs Ruth Browning
 Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, Mr Andrew Birch
 Revd John Dyce
 Revd Dr Janet Tollington, Mrs Lucy Brierley

Youth Representatives:

Miss Amanda Wade, Miss Rosemary Simmons

Assembly Members from Other Churches in the United Kingdom:

Baptist Union of Great Britain
 Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales
 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
 Churches Together in England
 International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
 Methodist Church
 Moravian Church
 Presbyterian Church in Ireland
 Presbyterian Church of Wales
 The Church of England
 The Church of Scotland
 United Free Church of Scotland
 Union of Welsh Independents

Revd Kathryn Morgan
 Mgr William Steele
 Dr David Goodbourn
 Revd John Bradley
 Mrs Agatha Baptiste
 Revd Martyn Skinner
 Revd Jan Mullin
 Revd Colin McClure
 Revd Neil Kirkham
 The Right Revd David Hawtin
 Mrs Christine Tait
 Revd John McFie
 Revd Kevin Davies

Assembly Members from Churches outside Britain and Ireland:

Evangelical Church of the Pfalz
 Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women
 Kiribati Protestant Church
 Mission Convent Church of Sweden
 National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon
 Presbyterian Church in Myanmar
 World Convention of the Churches of Christ
 Presbyterian Church USA

Revd Martin Henninger
 Mrs Ruth Clarke
 Revd Bureieta Karaita
 Revd Krister Andersson
 Revd Ma'n Bitar
 Revd Dr Lai Thuama
 Mr Lyndsay Jacobs
 Ms Sara Lisherness

Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces in Britain:

Revd Michael Meachin

Council for World Mission

Revd Dr Desmond van der Water

Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:

Ms Gwen Hall, Revd Norman Birnie, Revd Arthur Macarthur, Revd John Johansen-Berg,
 Revd Martin Cressey, Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow, Revd John Francis, Revd Richard Murray,
 Revd Bernard Waterton, Revd Bentley Webster, Revd Dr Peter Arthur, Revd George Sharpe,
 Revd Dr David Thompson, Revd Victor Smith, Revd Alasdair Walker, Revd Dr Philip Morgan,
 Revd David Dale, Mr Ray Heritage, Revd Cyril Franks, Revd Edmund Banyard, Revd Keith Forecast,
 Revd Graham Cook, Revd Malcolm Hanson, Mrs Ruth Clarke, Revd Donald Hilton, Revd Dr Jack McKelvey,
 Revd John Reardon, Revd David Jenkins, Mrs Wilma Frew, Revd Peter McIntosh, Revd William Mahood,
 Revd Elizabeth Welch, Revd John Waller

District Representatives: (There are no names appointed to fill District vacancies cf. Resolution 10 pg. 21
 Assembly Record 1978)

Synod I

- A: Revd Jason Askew, Revd Janet Calderley, Revd Ronald Forster
 Miss Alison Beecroft, Mrs Joyce Calcraft, Mr Steven Forster
- B: Revd Kay Alberg, Revd Peter Heckels, Revd Peter Main, Revd Terry Oakley, Revd David Walton
 Mr Ronald Golightly, Mrs Eileen Heckels, Mrs Eileen Livingstone,
- C: Revd Andrew Coyne, Revd Ruth Crofton, Revd Daniel Meister, Revd Colin Ofor
 Mrs Daphne Clarke, Mr Alan Dixon, Mrs Margaret Dixon, Mr Matthew Prevett
- E: Revd John MacKenzie, Revd Alistair Smeaton
 Mrs Rosalind Fearon, Mrs Jean Howarth

Synod II

- A: Revd Helga Cornell, Revd Brenda Willis, Revd Ronald Wilson, Mrs Pamela Baines, Mr Steven Cook, Mr Gordon Eccles
- B: Revd David Spence, Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher, Mrs Irene Kendall, Mrs Jennifer Liddell
- C: Revd Robert Pickering, Revd Marta Sugar Damo, Revd Sally Thomas, Mr Alan Barnes, Mr George Grime, Mr E Ledger
- D: Revd David Fraser, Revd Brenda Moore, Revd Michael Thomason, Mrs Sheila Brain, Mr John Rea, Mrs Sue Wilkinson
- E: Revd Alan Morris, Revd Ruth Wollaston, Mr Allan Dawes, Mr G Ollerenshaw, Mrs Arline Ollerenshaw
- F: Revd Dr Donald Firth, Mrs Elizabeth Firth, Revd Gary Gotham, Revd Brian O'Neill, Revd Peter Sharp, Mrs Barbara Lancaster, Mr Ben Morrell, Mr Michael Williams
- G: Revd Martin Truscott, Revd Rosemary Tusting, Mrs Margaret Beasley, Mrs Kathleen Lacy

Synod III

- A: Revd Albert Holroyd, Revd Timothy Jackson, Revd Kirsty Thorpe, Mr Robin Hodgkins, Mr Richard Lathaen, Mr Peter Linsey, Mr Robert Pritchard
- B: Revd Vernon Broomfield-Payne, Revd Kenneth Summers, Mrs Pamela Pigott, Miss Emma Pugh, Mr C Woodside
- C: Revd Jonathan Morgan, Miss Emma Taylor, Mr Ian Taylor
- D: Revd Brian Clarke, Revd Susan Flynn, Revd Glenys Wilkinson, Mrs Hilary Bell, Mr Christopher Cookson, Mr John Wilkinson

Synod IV

- A: Revd David Coote, Revd George Holborn, Revd David Purse, Mr Mark Buxton, Mrs Eileen Holborn, Mr James Sharp
- B: Revd Stephen Collinson, Revd David Hudston, Revd Richard West, Mr Philip Baiden, Miss Jean Russell, Mrs Angela West
- C: Revd Angela Hughes, Revd Brian Hunt, Revd Dr David Whiting, Mr Paul Robinson, Mr Ronald Sweeney, Mrs Lesley Whiting
- D: Revd Alan Evans, Revd Stella Hayton, Revd John Hayton, Mrs Helen Eteson, Mrs Audrey Evans, Mrs Muriel Wood
- E: Revd Gillian Brown, Revd John Jenkinson, Miss Ina Barker, Mrs Margaret Morgan
- F: Revd George Courtney, Revd Timothy Key, Mr Hugh Moran

Synod V:

- A: Revd David Legge, Revd Peter Meek, Revd Paula Parish West, Mr Norman Greville, Mr Christopher Hackett, Mrs Anthea Jackson
- B: Revd David Morris, Revd Maxwell Shepherd, Mrs Susan Lincoln, Mr Geoffrey Milnes, Ms Gemma Timson, Mrs Eileen Williams
- C: Revd Ann Campbell, Revd Henry Gardiner, Revd Reginald Rooke, Miss Hazel Bond, Mrs Joan Cook, Mr Philip Laws
- D: Revd Elizabeth Byrne, Revd Jacqueline Gavin, Revd John Maitland, Mr Christopher Gavin, Mrs Sally Maitland, Mrs Jennifer Morgan
- E: Revd Maureen Buxton, Revd John Filsak, Revd Christopher Ford, Mrs Louise Gee, Miss Margaret Hodson
- F: Revd Prof Alan Sell, Mrs Margaret Gateley, Mr Paul Gateley

Synod VI:

- A: Revd Peter Christie, Revd Timothy Clarke, Revd Patrick Taylor, Revd Marion Thomas, Mrs Dorothy Hewitson, Mr Geoff Harrison, Mrs Christine Christie, Mr James Hewitson
- B: Revd David Cassidy, Revd Shirley Mountcastle, Mrs Isobel Jacob, Mrs Brenda Cassidy
- C: Revd Robert Brown, Revd Mary Howe, Revd Noel Sharp, Mrs Grace Alcorn, Mr Terence Blake, Mr W Robson
- D: Revd Pauline Rate, Revd Heather Whyte, Mrs Melanie Frew, Mr John Potter
- E: Revd Richard Becher, Revd Irene Bound, Revd Martha McInnes, Revd Kevin Jones, Miss Rachel Greening, Miss Isobel Simmons, Mrs Christine Marlow, Mrs Elizabeth Whitehorn
- F: Revd Rowena Francis, Revd Marion Hartwell, Revd Graham Spicer, Mr John Desmond, Mrs Dorothy MacDonald, Mrs Margaret Marshall

Synod VII:

- A: Revd Rudolph Dixon, Revd Richard Mortimer, Revd Robert Waldron, Mrs Rhona Burns, Mr Philip Burns, Mrs Lisa Wilkinson
- B: Revd David Bunney, Revd Nicholas Mark, Revd Christopher Wood, Mr Michael Barnes, Mrs Margaret Evans, Mr Andrew Royal, Mr John Woodman
- C: Revd Lorna Bantock, Revd Harold Bignell, Revd Kenneth Ellis, Mrs Heather Brown, Mrs Mary Stanhope, Mr John Tyler
- D: Revd Birgit Ewald, Revd Lynn Fowkes, Revd Geoffrey Wright, Mrs Enid Gear, Mrs Monica Penny, Mr Stephen Thompson
- E: Revd Alan Ashton, Revd Peter Ball, Revd Carole Pearl, Revd A Gordon Smith, Dr Pamela Cressey, Dr Alan Rickard, Mrs Joan Turner, Mrs Jean West
- F: Revd Thomas MacMeekin, Mr Gordon Lee

Synod VIII:

- A: Revd Roger Cornish, Revd Patricia Whittaker, Mrs Pearl Pearson, Mr Frank Whittaker
- B: Revd Robert Jennings, Revd Richard Pope, Mrs Jean Baker, Mrs Jean Potter
- C: Revd Nicholas Adlem, Revd Jacqueline Knight, Revd Philip Wagstaff, Miss Susanna Adlem, Miss Peggy Cooke, Mr Gareth Curl
- D: Revd Sandra Pickard, Revd Kathryn Taylor, Mr Alexander Watson, Mrs Doreen Watson
- E: Revd Michael Hodgson, Revd Norman Whitaker, Mrs Sheila Ellis, Ms Sarah Lane
- F: Revd Hazel Martell, Revd Janos Nagy, Revd Dr Hazel Starritt, Revd Angela Steele, Miss Josie Carpenter, Mrs Anne Fletcher, Mr John Haddrell, Mr Rob Thackray
- G: Revd Alan Finch, Mrs Barbara Madge
- H: Revd Hazel Allen, Mrs Eileen Robinson
- J: Revd Jennifer Davies, Mrs Margaret Skyrme.

Synod IX:

- A: Revd David Langford, Revd Dr Donald Norwood, Revd J Clive Sutcliffe, Miss Nikki Andrews, Mr Peter Mann, Mrs Sheila Mann, Dr John Mellor, Mrs Joyce Sutcliffe
- B: Revd George Bembridge, Revd Simon Thomas, Miss Jill Cole, Mrs Christine Hardwick, Mr David Taylor, Mr Graham Thatcher
- C: Revd Judy Henning, Revd Peter Norris, Revd David Williams, Mrs Jean Antcliffe, Miss Iona Hine, Mrs Pat Moore
- D: Revd Tom Bayliss, Revd Pat Hall, Revd Robert Macaulay, Revd David Netherwood, Miss Megan Bedford, Mr Gordon McCallum, Mr Philip Stanley, Mrs Lynne Upsdell
- E: Revd Peter Flint, Revd Michael Hill, Revd Michael Hopkins, Revd Julian Macro, Mr Colin Ferguson, Miss Jo Howard, Mr Peter Pay, Mr David Rooke

Synod X:

- A: Revd Ronald Garner, Revd Naison Hove, Revd Maurene O'Hagan, Revd Rodney Woods, Mr Allan Down, Mrs Pauline Eyles
- B: Revd Peter Colwell, Revd Elizabeth Davies, Mrs C Jacobs
- C: Revd Bridget Powell, Revd Michael Shrubsole, Revd Erna Stevenson, Miss Elizabeth Boyes, Mr David Eldridge, Mrs Janet Reid
- D: Revd Meryl Court, Revd Allan Smith, Revd Neil Thorogood, Revd Jane Wade, Mrs Sandra Ackroyd, Mr John Hornby, Mr Donald Vallance, Ms Suzie Wade
- E: Revd Hugh Graham, Revd John Macaulay, Revd Christine Willis, Dr Paul Ashitey, Miss Andin Fonyonga, Miss Fleur James, Mr R Willis
- F: Revd Samuel Cyuma, Revd John Danso, Revd John Edwards, Mrs Helen Clapp, Mr Noel Espuet, Mr Emmanuel Kpikpi

Synod XI:

- A: Revd Dr Richard Goldring, Revd Ceri Lewis, Revd Alexander Mabbs, Mrs Jeanette Chamberlain, Miss Avril Hiscock, Mr David Howell, Mr Romilly Micklem, Mrs Jenny Snashall
- B: Revd John Bremner, Revd David Joseph, Revd Ranald Macdonald, Revd Susan White, Mr James Barbour, Miss Jill Campbell, Mr John Keddie, Mr Matthew Moreton
- C: Revd Robert Bushby, Revd Martyn Coe, Revd Andrew Prasad, Revd David Thomas, Mrs Marion Bayley, Miss Elizabeth Moss, Mr Peter Richardson, Mr Peter Sheehan
- D: Revd Edmund Boon, Revd Brenda Russell, Revd Richard Wells, Mr Richard Blackwell, Miss Helen Honess, Miss Pamela Tolhurst

- E: Revd Harold Lanham, Mr Jim Catherall, Mrs Anne Catherall, Mr Terry Cooke-Davies,
Mr Kenneth Meekison, Miss Kristina Monkhouse
- F: Revd Michael Davies, Revd Howard John, Revd Charles Mather, Miss Rosalie Bungard,
Mrs Sheila Charlesworth, Mr Chris Fosten
- G: Revd Kenneth Lynch, Revd Jean West, Mr Desmond Curry, Miss Clare Franklin, Mr John Gunning

Synod XII:

- A: Revd Brian Acty, Revd Peter Nunn, Mrs Irene Clarkson, Mrs Maureen Jones, Mr Trevor Suddick
- B: Revd Nigel Douglas, Revd David Marshall-Jones, Revd Michael Smith, Mrs Margery Davies,
Mrs Glenna Paynter
- C: Revd Dilys Brace, Revd Alison Davis, Mr Allen Powell, Mrs Janice Proctor, Mrs Jean Silvan Evans,
Mrs Coral Smith
- D: Revd William Stanyon, Mr William Jones, Mr Jonathan Price
- E: Revd Dr Julie Hopkins, Revd Nannette Lewis-Head, Mr William Copp, Mrs Cynthia Jones
- F: Revd Michael Cruchley, Revd Dilys Davies, Revd Charles Gaskell, Mr Alwyn Batley,
Mrs Elizabeth Tadd

Synod XIII:

- A: Revd Janet Adamson, Revd George Sykes, Mrs Doris Caldwell, Mr Terence Dobson
- B: Revd Ian Baillie, Mr Patrick Smyth
- C: Revd Alan Paterson, Mr D Hay, Miss Elizabeth King, Mr Ronald McKillop
- D: Revd Stephen Brown, Mr Brian Walker
- E: Revd Daniel Cheyne, Revd John Clark, Mr David Barr
- F: Revd Connie Bonner, Mr Clive Bonner

RECEPTION OF VISITORS AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Local Visitors were introduced by Revd Adrian Bulley, Moderator, Wessex Synod:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Southern Division of the Salvation Army | Major Ian Barr |
| Southampton District of The Methodist Church | Revd Thomas Stuckey |
| Representing the Bishop of Winchester | The Ven. Adrian Harbidge |
| Representing the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth | Canon Brian Scantlebury |

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Church of England | The Right Revd David Hawtin |
| Church of Scotland | Mrs Christine Tait |
| | Rt Revd Prof Ian Torrance |
| | Revd Dr Iain Barclay |
| United Free Church of Scotland | Revd John McFie |
| Presbyterian Church in Ireland | Very Revd Dr Russell Birney and Mrs Arline Birney |
| | Revd Colin McClure |
| Presbyterian Church of Wales | Revd Neil Kirkham |
| Union of Welsh Independents | Revd Kevin Davies |
| The Methodist Church | Revd Martyn Skinner |
| | Revd Peter Sulston |
| Congregational Federation | Mr Graham Adams |
| Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales | Mgr William Steele |
| International Ministerial Council of Great Britain | Mrs Agatha Baptiste |
| Churches Together in England | Revd John Bradley |
| Churches Together in Britain and Ireland | Dr David Goodbourn |
| Baptist Union of Great Britain | Revd Kathryn Morgan |
| Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women | Mrs Ruth Clarke |
| Moravian Church | Revd Jan Mullin |

The Rt Revd Prof Ian Torrance responded to the welcome on behalf of those from the Churches in the United Kingdom.

Congregational Christian Church in Samoa
Church of South India
Council for World Mission
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Church/PCG
Evangelical Church of the Pfalz
Kiribati Protestant Church
Mission Convent Church of Sweden
National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lenanon

Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

Presbyterian Church USA
Presbyterian Church in Myanmar
World Convention of the Churches of Christ
World Exchange Programme students:

Revd Henry Iputau
and Mrs Maressa Iputau
Mrs Jasmine Jebakani
Revd Dr Desmond van der Water
Revd Francis Amenu
Revd Martin Henninger
Revd Bureieta Karaita
Revd Krister Andersson
Revd Ma'n Bitar
and Mrs Bitar
Revd Jen-Ho Chang
and Mrs Chang
Ms Sara Lisherness
Revd Dr Lai Thuama
Mr Lindsay Jacobs

Mr Hylton Dunkley
Mr Hewitt Holmes
Mrs Lorna Letts
Mr Obren Thomas
Ms Khureen Wilson
Mrs Maria Cristina Borges

The Revd Dr Lai Thuama responded to the welcome on behalf of the Overseas Visitors.

The Moderator then greeted and welcomed the Revd Arthur McArthur, first General Secretary and third Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, and spoke of his long and distinguished service to the Church. The Assembly stood to greet Mr McArthur with acclamation.

The Assembly adjourned.

Saturday 5th July 2003

Second Session

The Moderator welcomed the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Tom Blair, and invited him to address the Assembly.

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

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, Mr William McVey, presented the Order of Business, drawing attention to the list of errors and omissions in the Book of Reports, and to the additional items of business which had been included in the Order Paper.

'The Agenda Before Us'

The General Secretary addressed the Assembly. He reported on the progress of the 'General Secretary's Review', related some of the initiatives being taken in various synods, and spoke of 'a divine restlessness in our midst' evidenced in work going on throughout the church. He noted the changing international situation, and a number of important issues to be addressed by the Assembly.

Church and Society

The Revd Martin Camroux, Convener of the Church and Society Committee, presented the committee's report.

In response to a question by the Revd Nicholas Adlem, Mr Camroux undertook on the committee's behalf to address the issue of a non-collusion policy towards nations (such as Zimbabwe and Myanmar) where the population is suffering through government action.

The Revd David Legge moved adoption of Resolution 31:

Resolution 31

Faith Stance on the global crisis of life

General Assembly draws the attention of the councils and appropriate committees of the church to 'Faith Stance on the Global Crisis of Life', invites them (as a matter of priority) to find space to discuss and reflect on it, and instructs the Church and Society and Ecumenical Committees to collate responses to the document for report to the 2004 General Assembly.

Seconded by the Revd Jacqui Gavin.

After discussion, **Resolution 31 was carried.**

A brief audio-visual presentation on *Commitment for Life* was given by the Church and Society Convener.

The Assembly was addressed by Ms Rula Nesnas, from the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee.

After worship led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

Sunday 6th July 2003

First Session

The Chaplain led opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd Lance Stone.

Synod Presentation

The North Western Synod made its presentation.

Doctrine, Prayer and Worship

The Revd John Young presented the report of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee. Members of the committee introduced the newly-published service book, *Worship: from the United Reformed Church*. Mr Young presented a copy of the book to the Moderator.

Synod Moderators' Report

The Revd Elizabeth Welch presented the report of the Synod Moderators.

The Moderator, on behalf of Assembly, thanked the Moderators for their report, and for their work throughout the year. He greeted the Revd Graham Cook and the Revd Malcolm Hanson, who would shortly be retiring as Moderators of Mersey and East Midlands Synods respectively.

The Revd John Waller took the Chair.

Standing Orders

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 29:

Resolution 29

Alterations to Standing Orders

General Assembly resolves to alter the second sentence of Standing Order 5c to read. "This rule does not apply to debates on amendments or alternative motions since the Assembly needs to decide the final form of a motion before it can responsibly vote on deferral."

Resolution 29 was carried.

The Revd William Mahood, on behalf of Eastern Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 1:

Resolution 1

Sabbaticals

General Assembly notes that the present policy of the Training Committee is to allow only a reduced sabbatical period (two months instead of three) for ministers who have reached the age of sixty, is concerned that this conflicts with equal opportunities principles, and asks the Training Committee to reconsider the policy with a view to allowing the full sabbatical period for such ministers.

This was seconded by the Revd Peter Ball.

After brief discussion, **Resolution 1 was carried.**

The Revd Alasdair Pratt resumed the Chair.

Election of Moderator of General Assembly 2004 – 2005

The Assembly Clerk explained the voting procedure.

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

Yardley Hastings Task Group

The Assembly Clerk explained the procedure for dealing with business under Standing Order 3k.

The Revd John Humphreys presented the report of the Yardley Hastings Task Group and moved adoption of Resolution 11:

Resolution 11

Yardley Hastings 1

General Assembly thanks God for all who have been involved in the life of the National Youth Resource Centre, Yardley Hastings, for their commitment and inspiration.

Resolution 11 was carried.

Mr Humphreys sought Assembly's permission to withdraw Resolution 12A and replace it with a re-worded Resolution 12A. Assembly agreed.

The Revd John Humphreys, on behalf of the Task Group, moved adoption of Resolution 12A:

Resolution 12A

Yardley Hastings 2

The General Assembly instructs the Youth and Children's Work Committee and General Secretariat to oversee the implementation of the proposals recommended in the Task Group report so that:

- a) the Centre be renamed the "Yardley Hastings Centre for Youth and children's Ministry (United Reformed Church)"
- b) the positions of Centre Minister and Centre Manager be discontinued and the positions of Centre Director and Centre Chaplain be created
- c) the Centre Management Committee be discontinued and an executive Committee be created
- d) further work may be done about the suggestion for the re-location of Assembly staff for youth and children's work and proposals brought to a future Assembly.

- e) the appraisal and review process timetabled in section 6 of the Task Group report is implemented
- f) the 'greater vision' contained in Appendix VIII is given to the General Secretary to consider as a part of the review of the life of the United Reformed Church commissioned by Mission Council in October 2002.

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell, on behalf of the Task Group, moved adoption of Resolution 12B:

Resolution 12B

Yardley Hastings 2

The General Assembly instructs the Youth and Children's Work Committee and General Secretariat to implement the closure of the National Youth Resources Centre Yardley Hastings and cessation of use of the Yardley Hastings United Reformed Church buildings by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

The Revd Adrian Bulley, seconded by the Revd Ronald Forster, moved adoption of Resolution 12C:

Resolution 12C

Yardley Hastings 2

General Assembly reaffirms its declaration that 'the prime venue for work with children and young people is the local church in community, within the context of a national strategy and the provision of supportive resources' (resolution 2002:41a), and to this end:

- a) calls upon the Youth and Children's Work Committee to use the model of the Ginger Group teams and work with others in drawing up plans for the development of a team to become a resource to local churches, District/Area Councils and Synods in the stimulation and support of youth and children's ministry, such a team to be appropriately managed and supported, and based in a central location or locations
- b) instructs the Youth and Children's Work Committee and General Secretariat to work with the Centre Management Committee, the local church and the Northamptonshire District Council to implement the closure of the National Youth Resource Centre Yardley Hastings and cessation of use of the Yardley Hastings United Reformed Church buildings by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

For the debate, the Moderator restricted the time of speeches to three minutes.

The Revd John Johannsen-Berg, seconded by the Revd Peter Flint, moved an amendment to resolution 12C:

Clause (b): insert after 'closure', 'or alternative use'.
 insert after 'United Reformed Church Buildings', 'for Youth and Children's purposes'

A vote was taken and the amendment fell.

Mrs Melanie Frew, seconded by the Revd Jane Wade, moved an amendment to Resolution 12A:

Clause (e), add: 'unless by January 2005 utilisation and budgets have made very significant development towards their target levels, then 12B.'

There being insufficient time for further debate, the matter was deferred and Assembly adjourned.

The Assembly Clerk presented the minutes of Saturday 5th July. The Assembly approved the minutes, subject to minor corrections.

Synod Presentation

The Mersey Synod made its presentation.

Mission Council

The Mission Council report was presented by the Revd John Waller, immediate Past- Moderator.

The Revd Adrian Bulley, on behalf of the Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 10:

Resolution 10 Task Group on Authority in the United Reformed Church

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Standing Orders of the Assembly with effect from the close of the annual meeting of the Assembly in 2003:

Alter the title of Standing Orders section 5 to read:

“Motions on Status or Closure of Debate’

and add a new paragraph 5a:

“A member of Assembly may deliver to the General Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting of the Assembly a notice in writing of a motion that the General Assembly, for the better consideration of a specified resolution and its related documents, goes into a committee of the whole Assembly. Provided that the Moderator, Clerk and General Secretary together decide that this rule may appropriately be applied in the case of the said resolution, the motion shall be presented immediately following the opening speeches in support of the primary motion. For such a motion to be carried, two thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. Committee procedure enables members to speak more than once and exploratory votes to be taken on particular points or suggested changes. The number and length of speeches shall be at the discretion of the Moderator. After discussion in committee and decision on any proposed changes the Clerk shall draw the attention of the Assembly to any changes to the original text which have been agreed.

The Moderator shall then declare the committee stage to be ended, and the Assembly shall proceed to hear a closing speech from the mover of the motion under discussion and proceed to a vote on the motion, subject to any further motion under Standing Order 5. The decision of the Moderator with the Clerk and the General Secretary on the application of this Standing Order shall be final.

Re-number the existing paragraphs 5a, 5b, 5c and 5d as 5b, 5c, 5d and 5e respectively, and in the new 5e, amend the first reference to ‘5a, 5b and 5c’ to read: ‘5b, 5c and 5d’ and the second reference to ‘5a, 5b and 5c’ to read: ‘5a, 5b, 5c and 5d’.

Resolution 10 was carried.

Yardley Hastings Task Group (continued)

Discussion resumed with clarification of the wording of the amendment to Resolution 12A:

Clause e): add, ‘if by January 2005 the utilisation and budgets have not made very significant development towards their target levels then 12B will apply.’

Following a point of order, the Moderator ruled the amendment out of order.

The Revd Wilfred Bahadur proposed that the resolution be now put, and various members of the Assembly indicated their willingness to second.

After summing up by the proposers, the Moderator invited the Assembly to cast its votes in favour of Resolutions 12A, 12B and 12C in turn.

Resolution 12B fell, and the Moderator invited the Assembly to cast its votes in favour of Resolutions 12A and 12C.

Resolution 12A fell, and Resolution 12C became the substantive Resolution 12:

Resolution 12

Yardley Hastings

General Assembly reaffirms its declaration that ‘the prime venue for work with children and young people is the local church in community, within the context of a national strategy and the provision of supportive resources’ (resolution 2002:41a), and to this end:

- a) **calls upon the Youth and Children’s Work Committee to use the model of the Ginger Group teams and work with others in drawing up plans for the development of a team to become a resource to local churches, District/Area Councils and Synods in the stimulation and support of youth and children’s ministry, such a team to be appropriately managed and supported, and based in a central location or locations**
- b) **instructs the Youth and Children’s Work Committee and General Secretariat to work with the Centre Management Committee, the local church and the Northamptonshire District Council to implement the closure of the National Youth Resource Centre Yardley Hastings and cessation of use of the Yardley Hastings United Reformed Church buildings by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.**

Resolution 12 was carried.

Following the vote, the Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

Moderator 2004 – 2005

The Revd Rosalind Harrison, Convener of Tellers for the election of the Moderator of the General Assembly, reported that 457 ballot papers had been received, one of which had been spoilt. She announced that the Revd Sheila Ruth Maxey had been duly elected as Moderator of the General Assembly for 2004 – 2005. The Moderator greeted Mrs Maxey on the Assembly’s behalf.

Nominations Committee

The Revd Principal Stephen Orchard presented the report of the Nominations Committee.

Members

Convener: Revd Dr Stephen Orchard [2006]

Secretary: Revd Hazel Martell [2005]

Synod Representatives:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| I Revd Terry Oakley | II Revd Ruth Woolaston | III Mr Donald Swift |
| IV Mr John Seager | V Mrs Irene Wren | VI Mr Simon Rowntree |
| VII Revd Elizabeth Caswell | VIII Revd Roz Harrison | IX Mr Graham Rolfe |
| X Revd Roberta Rominger | XI Mrs Christine Meekison | XII Dr Jean Sylvan-Evans |

XIII Revd John Arthur with the Immediate Past Moderator and General Secretary.

1. ASSEMBLY STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 The Review Group, convened by Mrs Ruth Clarke, recommended the re-appointment of Revd Elizabeth Welch to serve as Moderator of West Midlands Synod for a further term of 5 years from 1st September 2003 to 31st August 2008.

- 1.2 The Review Group, convened by Revd Elizabeth Nash, recommended the re-appointment of Revd John Steele to the post of Secretary for Life & Witness for a further period of three years, from 1 October 2003 until 30 September 2006.
- 1.3 The Review Group, convened by Revd Glyn Jenkins, recommended the re-appointment of Mrs Karen Bulley to the post of Pilots Development Officer for a further period of three years from 1 October 2003 until 31 August 2006.
- 1.4 The Nominating Group, convened by Revd Elizabeth Welch, recommended the appointment of Revd Richard John Mortimer to the post of Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order for a period of five years, from 1 August 2003 until 31 July 2008.
- 1.5 The Nominating Group, convened by Revd John Sutcliffe, recommended the appointment of Revd Terry Oakley to serve as Moderator of East Midlands Synod for seven years from 1st October 2003 until 31st August 2010.
- 1.6 The Review Group, convened by Dr Anthony Jeans, recommended the re-appointment of the Revd Elizabeth June Caswell to serve as Moderator of the Eastern Synod for a further term of 5 years from 1st February 2004 until 31st January 2009.
- 1.7 The Nominating Group, convened by Mr Simon Rowntree, recommended the appointment of Revd Howard Sharp to serve as Moderator of Mersey Synod for seven years from 1st February 2004 until 31st January 2011.
- 1.8 The Training Committee has re-appointed Mr Howard Nurden to serve as YCWT in the Southern synod for a further term commencing 1 August 2003.
- 1.9 The Training Committee has re-appointed Mr Stephen Collins to serve as YCWT in Thames North synod commencing 1 December 2003.
- 1.10 The Training Committee has appointed of Mr Andrew Micklefield to serve as YCWT in Wessex synod commencing 1 July 2003.
- 1.11 The following groups have been appointed:
 Secretary for Youth Work Nominating Group: Convener Revd Peter Noble
 Yardley Hastings Task Group: Convener Revd John Humphreys

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 2002 are indicated by one asterisk (*), two asterisks (**) denotes those whom Assembly 2003 is invited to appoint for the first time. (#) indicates a **Convener Elect** who will become Convener in 2004. (») indicates a **Secretary Elect** who will become Secretary in 2004.
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: Mr William McVey [2006]

Secretary: Office & Personnel Manager

Synod Representative for forthcoming Assembly

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

Representative for Assembly two years hence.

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

2.1.1 Tellers for Election of Moderator for 2005**

Mr Donald Swift [Convener], Dr Peter Clarke, Mr John Seager

2.2 CHURCH and SOCIETY

Convener: Revd Martin Camroux [2006]

Secretary: Secretary for Church and Society

Revd Alan Paterson [2005]

Revd Owiny Laber [2005]

Mr Geoffrey Duncan [2006]

Mr Simon Loveitt [2006]

Revd Tjarda Murray** [2007]

Mrs Glenna Paynter** [2007]

Miss Emma Pugh** [2007]

2.3 COMMUNICATIONS and EDITORIAL

Convener: Revd Martin Hazell **[2007]

Secretary: Secretary for Communications

Revd Peter Moth [2004]

Mrs Elizabeth Whitehorn [2004]

Mrs Melanie Frew [2004]

Revd Bob Maitland [2005]

Mr Peter Knowles [2005]

Revd Martin Truscott [2005]

Ms Eleri Evans [2005]

Mr Philip George [2006]

Revd Martin Whiffen** [2007]

2.4 DOCTRINE, PRAYER and WORSHIP

Convener: Revd John Young [2005]

Secretary: Revd Kirsty Thorpe [2004]

Revd Glyn Millington [2004]

Mrs Jenny Poulter [2004]

Revd Dr Robert Pope [2005]

Revd Alistair Smeaton [2005]

Revd Prof Alan Sell* [2007]

Revd Geoffrey Clarke** [2007]

Revd Hilary Collinson** [2007]

Revd Dr Susan Durber** [2007]

Miss Sarah Lane** [2007]

Dr John Turner** [2007]

2.5 ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd John Rees [2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

Mrs Darnette Whitby-Reid [2004]

Revd Bryan Shirley [2005]

Revd Cecil White [2005]

Revd Rowena Francis [2006]

Mr Malcolm Porter [2006]

Revd Lindsey Sanderson [2006]

Mrs Ann Shillaker** [2007]

Revd Stuart Jackson representing the National Synod of Wales

Revd Mary Buchanan representing National Synod of Scotland

2.5.1 ECUMENICAL - INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Chris Baillie [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for International Relations

Revd Birgit Ewald [2005]

Mrs Heather Barnes [2006]

Revd Nigel Uden [2006]

Mrs Eileen McIlveen** [2007]

Revd Michael Thomason** [2007]

2.6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Revd Wilf Bahadur [2006]

Secretary: Ms Ruth Norton [2004]

Miss Sarah Moore [2004]

Ms Gloria Bujan [2005]

Mr Derek Estill [2006]

Mr Alan Hart [2006]

Revd Sue MacBeth** [2007]

Revd Derek Hopkins** [2008]

2.7 FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: Financial Secretary

Miss Muriel Proven [2004]

Mr John Woodman [2005]

Mr John Rowatt [2005]

Ms Alison Holt [2006]

Revd David Dones** [2007]

Mrs Marie Whitman** [2007]

Convener of the URC Trust

2.8 INTER-FAITH RELATIONS

Convener: Revd Dr John Parry [2007]

Secretary: Revd Sally Thomas [2004]

Revd Alistair Ellefsen-Jones [2004]

Miss Marie Williams [2005]

Revd Peter Colwell [2006]

Mrs Jean Potter** [2008]

2.9 LIFE and WITNESS

Convener: Revd Brian Jolly [2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Revd Angela Hughes [2004]

Mrs Alison Lowe [2004]

Revd Kenneth Forbes [2005]

Revd Peter Hurter [2005]

Revd Linda Elliott [2006]

Mrs Sheila Brain** [2007]

Mr Colin Ferguson** [2007]

Revd Ian Fosten** [2007]

Revd Michael Hodgson** [2007]

2.9.1 LIFE and WITNESS - STEWARDSHIP Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Keith Webster [2004]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Mrs Anne Mitchell [2004]

Mr Mick Barnes [2005]

Revd David Legge [2006]

Mrs Jackie Haws** [2007]

Mrs Susan Wilkinson** [2007]

Mr Ray McHugh**# [2008]

2.9.2 WINDERMERE ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Mr Jim Wilkinson [2005]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere

Mrs Christine Millward [2004]

Dr Peter Clarke [2005]

Revd Bernard Collins** [2007]

Convener of Windermere Management Committee

Convener of Life and Witness Committee

Representative of Carver URC

2.10 MINISTRIES

Convener: Mr John Ellis [2006]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Revd Peter Noble [2004]

Mrs Alison Biggs [2005]

Revd Stuart Brock [2005]

Revd Pauline Barnes [2006]

Mrs Joan Trippier** [2007]

Revd Paul Whittle** [2007]

Convener of National Assessment Board

2.10.1 MINISTRIES - ACCREDITATION Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Ken Chippindale [2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Revd Keith Argyle [2005]

Mrs Sheila Telfer [2005]

Mrs Judith Booth [2006]

Revd Adrian Bulley** [2007]

Revd Tony Wilkinson** [2007]

2.10.2 MINISTRIES - CRCW Programme Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Alison Hall [2004]

Secretary: The CRCW Development Workers

Mrs Adella Pritchard [2004]

Mr Chris Lawrence [2005]

Revd John Burgess [2006]

Mrs Janet Holden [2006]

Mr Peter Twilley** [2007]

*vacancy convener elect**#* [2008]

2.10.3 MINISTRIES - LAY PREACHING Sub Committee

Lay Preaching Commissioner: Dr Philip Theaker [2007]

And four members elected by the Lay Preacher Commissioners Consultation

2.10.4 MINISTRIES - MAINTENANCE OF MINISTRY Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd John Piper [2007]

Secretary: Financial Secretary

Revd Pauline Parkin [2004]

Mr Barry Swift [2004]

Revd Roger Woodall [2004]

Mr Patrick Hickey** [2007]

The Treasurer

Convener of Pensions Executive

2.10.5 MINISTRIES - RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING - Sub-Committee

Convener: *to be advised*

Secretary: Secretary Retired Ministers' Housing Society Ltd

Mr Malcolm Lindo [2007]

Mrs Edith Tolley [2005]

Mrs Pauline Mewis [2006]

Revd Elizabeth Caswell [2008]

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: Mr Tony Bayley at Church House

2.10.6 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT BOARD

Convener: Mrs Darryl Sinclair [2005]

Retiring 2004 Revd Marilyn Allen, Revd Craig Bowman, Revd Graham Hoslett, Revd Kevin Watson
Retiring 2005 Dr David Cutler, Revd Rachel Poolman, Dr Jean Stevenson, Mrs Joyce Sutcliffe
Retiring 2006 Revd Thomas Heggie, Revd Michael Mewis, Revd Peter Poulter, Revd Hilma Wilkinson
Retiring 2007 Revd Diana Cullum-Hall, Miss Sarah Dodds, Revd Roy Fowler, Mrs Wilma Frew,
 Mrs Pat Poinen, Revd Nigel Uden, Revd Simon Walkling
Retiring 2008 Mrs Judith Harris**, Mrs Barbara Lancaster**, Dr Cameron Wilson**

2.10.7 PANEL FOR ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES - CRCW - Sub-Section

Revd Susan Armitage [2004]

2.11 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd Dr Stephen Orchard [2006]

Secretary: Revd Hazel Martell [2005]

Synod Representatives: Revd Peter Poulter [1], Revd Ruth Wollaston [2], Mr Donald Swift [3],
Mr John Seager [4], Mrs Irene Wren [5], Mr Simon Rowntree [6], Revd Elizabeth Caswell [7],
Revd Roz Harrison [8], Mr Graham Rolfe [9], Revd Martin Hazell [10], Mrs Christine Meekison [11],
Dr Jean Silvan Evans [12], Revd John Arthur [13], with the Immediate Past Moderator and the
General Secretary

2.12 PASTORAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd Keith Forecast [2007]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Mr Okeke Azu Okeke [2004]

Revd Pat Hall [2004]

Mrs Irene Brunskill [2005]

Revd David Miller [2007]

Convener of Welfare Sub-Committee

The Treasurer

The General Secretary

2.12.1 PASTORAL WELFARE -Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Alan Wharton [2007]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings

[*ex officio* Financial Secretary, The Treasurer, Convener Pastoral Reference Committee]

2.13 RACIAL JUSTICE

Convener: Revd Andrew Prasad* [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for Racial Justice

Revd Julie Martin [2004]

Mrs Helen Renner [2004]

Revd John Campbell [2005]

Mrs Sandra Ackroyd** [2007]

Mrs Elaine Patrick** [2007]

Revd Norman Setchell** [2007]

vacancy [2007]

2.14 TRAINING

Convener: Revd John Humphreys [2007]

Secretary: The Secretary for Training

Revd Paul Ballard [2004]

Mrs Anthea Coates [2004]

Revd Dr John Parry [2004]

Revd Principal John Dyce [2005]

Mrs Susan Brown [2006]

Revd Sue Henderson [2006]

Revd Malachie Munyaneza [2006]

Mrs Valerie Burnham** [2007]

Dr Ian Morrison** [2007]

2.15 YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Convener: Revd Kathryn Price [2006]

Secretary: Mrs Soo Webster [2004]

Revd Andrew Willett [2004]

Mrs Daphne Clarke [2005]

Ms Lorraine Downer [2005]

Revd John Sanderson [2005]

Mrs Elaine Thomas [2005]

Mr Huw Morrison [2006]

Mrs Hannah Middleton** [2007]

Mrs Doreen Watson** [2007]

Mr Augustus Webbe** [2007]

FURY Chair FURY Council Member

2.16 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS - Commission Panel

Convener: Mrs Helen Brown [2005]

Deputy Convener: Revd David Helyar** [2007]

Secretary: Mr Brian Evans [2005]

Members:

retiring 2004

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr Martin Ballard | Revd John Chisholm | Mrs Ruth Clarke | Mr Mike Garnett |
| Revd Brenda Hill | Mr Ray Holden | Miss Janice Jeater | Revd Margaret Juhasz |
| Mr Peter Jolly | Dr John Kennedy | Revd David Main | Mr Peter Mann |
| Mrs Barbara Martin | Mrs Vera Maskery | Revd Dr Rick Mearkle | Mr John Moore |
| Mr Ian Lloyd Parry | Revd Shelagh Pollard | Revd Raymond Singh | Revd David Skitt |
| Mr Donald Taylor | Revd Margaret Taylor | Revd Joan Winterbottom | Ms Elizabeth Whitten |

retiring 2007

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr Noreen Baillie | Miss Ina Barker | Mr Keith Brookes | Revd Ken Chippindale |
| Revd Jessie Clare | Mrs Janice Cockcroft | Miss Kathleen Cross** | Revd Alison Davis |
| Revd John Du Bois | Mr Ralph Forsyth | Mrs Wilma Frew | Revd Joan Grindod-Helmn** |
| Mr Alan Hart | Revd Peter Killick | Miss Elizabeth Lawson QC | |
| Revd Julian Macro | Revd Ted Marley | Revd Denise Megson | Mrs Sheila Pratt |
| Mr Nicholas Pye | Revd Michael Rees | Revd Dr David Thompson | Mrs Shelagh Tweed |

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 | Mrs Janet Eccles, Mr George Morton, Revd Chris Vermeulen |
| Mersey Synod | Revd Martin Hardy, Revd John Kingsley, Mr Donald Swift |
| Yorkshire Synod | Revd John Jenkinson, Mrs Val Morrison, Mr John Seager, Revd Pauline Loosemore |
| East Midlands Synod | Mrs Anne Ball, Revd David M Miller, Mrs Barbara Turner |
| West Midlands Synod | Mrs Melanie Frew, Revd Simon Helme, Mr Simon Rowntree |
| Eastern Synod | Revd Victor Ridgewell, Mr Ken Woods, <i>to be advised</i> |
| South Western Synod | Miss Angela Bebbington, Revd Roz Harrison, Revd Paul Snell |
| Wessex Synod | Revd David Bedford, Revd Clive Sutcliffe, Miss Veronica Taylor |
| Thames North Synod | Mrs Helen Clapp, Revd Dr Roger Scopes, Revd Jane Wade, |
| Southern Synod | Mrs Marion Bayley, Revd Lesley Charlton, Mr David Howell |
| National Synod of Wales | Mrs Janet Gray, Mr Stuart Jones, Revd David Marshall-Jones. |
| 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 [2004]

Secretary: Mr Tony Bayley

Directors

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ms Valerie Ham [2004] | Revd David Marshall-Jones [2004] | Mr John Squires [2004] |
| Dr Brian Woodhall [2004] | Mr Peter Ward [2005] | Revd Leslie Watson [2006] |
| Revd Paul Bedford [2008] | Mrs Fiona Smith [2008] | Mr Malcolm Littlefair** [2009] |

[*ex officio* Financial Secretary, General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Secretary-Retired Ministers' Housing Society]

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

Chairman: *to be advised*

Secretary: Financial Secretary

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Members of URC: | Mr Richard Nunn [2005] | Mr Philip Sheridan [2006] |
| | Mr Brian Moere [2008] | Mr Michael Goldsmith** [2009] |
| Members of Fund: | Revd Kenneth Graham [2005] | Revd Gwen Thomas [2007] |
| | Revd Michael Davies [2008] | Revd Graham Spicer** [2009] |

[*ex officio* Financial Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Convener MoM sub-committee, Convener MoM Pensions Executive]

4.3 CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revd Peter Grimshaw
Mr Hartley Oldham

Revd David Hannen
Mr Graham Stacy

Revd Dr Peter Jupp

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 John Waller |
| General Synod of Church of England | Revd Fleur Houston |
| Methodist Conference | Revd John Rees |
| General Assembly of Church of Scotland [note5] | Revd John Waller, Revd Lesley Charlton, Revd Mary Buchanan |
| Presbyterian Church of Wales [note5] | Revd John Waller |
| Union of Welsh Independents [note 5] | Revd Ivor Rees |
| Congregational Federation | Revd Dr David Cornick |
| Church in Wales Governing Board [note 5] | Revd Stuart Jackson |
| United Free Church of Scotland [note5] | Revd Ken Forbes |
| Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church | Revd David Tatem |

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 Assembly 2003

Revd David Coleman, Mrs Olive Bell, Ms Catherine Lewis-Smith, Secretary for International Relations

6.1.1 CWM European Region Meeting 2003–2006

Revd David Coleman, Mrs Olive Bell, Ms Catherine Lewis-Smith, Secretary for International Relations, Deputy General Secretary

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,
Revd Ray Adams, Miss Nikki Andrews, Mrs Ruth Clarke, Miss Lorraine Downer, Mrs Wilma Frew,
Mrs Katalina Tahaafe-Williams, Mrs Jackie Yeomans, Revd John Young.

6.2.1 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - Church Representatives Meeting

General Secretary, Mrs Wilma Frew

Churches Together in England - Forum 2003**

General Secretary, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Mr Mark Argent, Revd Bernie Collins,
Miss Alison Micklem, Mr Dan Pipe, Revd Peter Poulter, Revd Andrew Prasad, Mrs Helen Renner,
Revd Kirsty Thorpe, Mrs Darnett Whitby-Reid

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

6.5 CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales) see Note 5

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
Synod Ecumenical Officer (alternate, Synod Moderator)

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

7.1 METHODIST/URC Liaison Committee

The Secretary for Ecumenical Relations together with: Ms Rachel Greening, Revd Peter Poulter, Revd Roy Fowler, Revd Harry Lanham, Mr Kevin Lewis and Mrs Karen Watts.

7.1.1 HEALTH and HEALING DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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

Anglian/Moravian Contact Goups

Revd David Tatem

7.3 ENFYYS (The Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales) see Note 5

Synod Moderator, Synod Ecumenical Officer, Mrs Ann Shillaker, Revd Dr Robert Pope

7.4 SCOTTISH CHURCH INITIATIVE FOR UNION [SCIFU] see Note 5

Synod Moderator, Revd Alan Paterson, Synod Ecumenical Officer, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

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

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 8.1 | Mansfield College Ministerial and Educational Training Committee: | Professor Malcolm Johnson [2006] Revd Rachel Poolman [2006] Convener of the Training Committee Secretary for Training |
| 8.2 | New College, London Foundation Trustees: | Mr John Smethers [2006] Mr Graham Stacy** [2007] Mr Philip Wade** [2007] |
| 8.3 | Northern College Council of the Partnership for Theological Education, Manchester | Secretary for Training Revd David Jenkins [2005] Mr Bill McLaughin [2005] Miss Margaret Atkinson** [2007] Mrs Helen Brown** [2007] <i>vacancy**</i> [2007] Secretary for Training |
| 8.4 | Westminster College Board of Governors: | Convener: Revd Dr David Thompson** [2008] Clerk: Revd Clifford Wilton [2006] Mrs Sally Abbott [2006] Revd Sandra Lloydlangston [2004] Mr Don Taylor [2004] Revd Craig Muir** [2009] Mr John Kidd** [2009] Secretary for Training |
| 8.4.1 | Cheshunt Foundation | Mr David Butler |
| 8.4.2 | Cambridge Theological Federation | Convener of the Westminster College Governors |
| 8.5 | Homerton College Trustees | Revd Dr David Thompson [2004] Mr John Chaplin [2005] Mrs Elisabeth Jupp [2006] Lady Sally Williams** [2007] |

8.6 Queen's College, Birmingham
Revd Elizabeth Welch
Mr Howard Bridge
Secretary for Training in attendance

8.7 Memorial College, Aberystwyth
Mr Leslie Jones

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

9.1 Caterham School
Revd Nigel Uden
Mr John Mathias

9.2 Eltham College
Revd Derek Lindfield** [2007]

9.3 Walthamstow Hall
Miss Margaret Vokins

9.4 Milton Mount Foundation
Revd George Thomas [2006]
Mrs Clare Meachin [2006]
Mr David Butler
Revd David Cuckson** [2006]
vacancy [2006]

9.5 Silcoates School
Dr Peter Clarke [2005]
Revd Arnold Harrison [2005]
Revd Brenda Hill [2006]
Professor Clyde Binfield** [2007]
Mr David Figures** [2007]

9.6 Taunton School
Revd David Miller

9.7 Wentworth College
Revd Brian Rawling

9.8 Bishops Stortford College
Revd Nigel Rogers

10. Miscellaneous:

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

Retired Ministers and Widows Fund
Mr Ken Meekison
Mrs Jill Strong
Mr Laurence Macro

Christian Education Movement:
Board of Trustees
Publications Development Group
Churches Main Committee
Mrs Patricia Hubbard
Mrs Rosemary Johnston
Ms Avis Reaney
Mr Hartley Oldham

Congregational Fund Board
Revd Margaret Taylor
Revd Eric Allen
Revd John Taylor
Mr Anthony Bayley
Revd David Helyar**
Mrs Susan Walker
Mr Huw Morrison
Revd David Marshall-Jones
Mrs Mary Davies
Revd Michael Hopkins
Mrs Carol Rogers
Revd Eric Wollaston
Revd Dr David Thompson
Mr Norman Fabb

Wharton Trust

Principal Orchard moved adoption of Resolution 26:

Resolution 26

Nominations

General Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 83 to 90 of the Book of Reports subject to additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly.

Resolution 26 was carried.

The Moderator greeted Mr Andrew Micklefield, YCWT North Western Synod.

Principal Orchard moved adoption of Resolution 32:

Resolution 32

Nominations

General Assembly re-appoints Revd Elizabeth June Caswell to serve as Moderator of the Eastern Synod for a further term of 5 years from 1st February 2004 until 31st January 2009.

Resolution 32 was carried.

Dr Orchard moved adoption of Resolution 33:

Resolution 33

Nominations

General Assembly appoints Revd Howard Sharp to serve as Moderator of Mersey Synod for seven years from 1st February 2004 until 31st January 2011.

Resolution 33 was carried.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Elizabeth Caswell.

Assembly Arrangements

The report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee was presented by the Convener, Mr William McVey. Mr McVey thanked the Revd George Thomas for his long service as Convener of Tellers. The Moderator greeted Mr Thomas.

Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 15:

Resolution 15

General Assembly 2005

Assembly agrees that the General Assembly in 2005 will meet at the University of Warwick from 2nd-5th July.

Resolution 15 was carried.

Assembly Worship including Holy Communion

The Moderator, assisted by the Chaplain, presided as the Assembly celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The sermon was delivered by the immediate past Moderator, the Revd John Waller.

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 previous General Assembly:

Ministers who had served at home and as missionaries overseas and had died since Assembly 2002

Ralph Leonard ACKROYD
Kenneth Mackenzie ANDERSON
Samuel Frederick ANSA-ADDO
Ernest George ASHDOWN
Derek John Davey BAKER
Raymond Oliver BALMER
Thomas BARRY
Gordon Paul BREEZE
Charles Richard BRUFORD
Karl Carlyle BURDETT
Frances E. CHAMBERS
James Albert CUMMING
Colin Ewart GUNTON
John Emrys DAVIES
Glyn EDWARDS-BEYNON
David Glyn, EVANS
Florence Emily FROST-MEE
Wilfred GEORGESON
Thomas John HOPKINS
Michael Fortescue HUBBARD
William HUGHES-EDWARDS
Anthony William Jestyn JEFFREYS

Robert Owen LATHAM
Aubrey David LEWIS
Thomas Caryl MICKLEM
Lorraine MYCROFT
Dudley Stuart NOEL
Mary OSBORN
Roy PARKINGTON
John Miles PARKINSON
John Anthony PUGH
Winston Stanley REED
Kenneth SMART
James R. SHANKS
Thomas Charles STIFF
Rachel STORR
Marjorie Gwendolene TARRY
Arnold John TODMAN
Winifred Phyllis WENYON
Walter Alexander WHITEHOUSE
Raymond Lawrence WHITTLE
Albert Elias WILLIAMS
Walter John WYATT

Missionaries

Mary Kate WILLIAMS (nee Hall)
Jennie BEIGHTON
Margaret Marchant SOMERVELL
Nancy PARTRIDGE (nee Brown)
Irene Edith CURTIS (nee Elmy)
Florence Elizabeth HUNT (nee Mole)
Wilfred GEORGESON

The Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain led opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd Lance Stone.

Fellowship of United Reformed Youth

A presentation on behalf of FURY was given.

Racial Justice Committee

The committee report was presented by the Convener, the Revd Andrew Prasad, who then moved adoption of Resolution 27:

Resolution 27

Refugees & Asylum Seekers

General Assembly, noting the strength of feeling on the issue of refugees and asylum seekers in our society today, urges all members and local churches of the United Reformed Church to:

- a) acknowledge the unequivocal call of the Bible to care for the stranger in our midst and to respond to the needs of strangers in our own neighbourhoods with compassion and practical friendship;**
- b) seek to address our own attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers with honesty and in ways that reflect the quality of our faith and commitment to our caring God;**
- c) seek to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in relation to refugees and asylum seekers through challenging the selfishness and racism that their presence has exposed, and by resisting any attempts to make this racism socially acceptable, whilst being aware that honest attempts to do so may lead to ridicule by many in British society.**

Dr Pamela Cressey moved the following amendment:

Add: 'd) join with other non-Governmental Organisations in active local and national campaigning to further the above aims.'

Seconded by the Revd William Mahood.

The amendment was carried.

After discussion, the Convener responded and the amended Resolution 27 was put to the vote.

Resolution 27 was carried.

Ecumenical Committee

At the invitation of the Convener of the Ecumenical Committee, the Revd John Rees, the Moderator greeted:

The Revd Kevin Davies, Union of Welsh Independents;
the Revd Graham Adams, Congregational Federation;
the Revd Francis Amenu, Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana – completing four years' service in London;
Mrs Jasmine Jebakani, Church of South India – completing four years' work with the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme;

and welcomed:

Revd Chang Jen-Ho, Presbyterian Church of Taiwan – working with Taiwanese students in Manchester;
Revd Henry Iputau, Congregational Christian Church of Samoa – Mission Enabler at Princes Street, Norwich.

Mr Rees then presented the report of the Ecumenical Committee.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair.

For debate on the report of the Ecumenical Committee, the Moderator restricted speeches to three minutes.

Mr Rees responded to questions. The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 28:

Resolution 28

Ecumenical Bishop in Wales

General Assembly resolves to proceed no farther with the constitutional proposals regarding an Ecumenical Bishop in Wales.

Resolution 28 was carried.

The Revd Alasdair Pratt resumed the Chair.

Mr Rees moved adoption of Resolution 18:

Resolution 18

Anglican Methodist Covenant

General Assembly

- a) gives thanks to God for the proposal of an Anglican Methodist Covenant as a significant move towards the Christian unity for which we pray and to which we, as a united and uniting church are committed in our Basis of Union – and as a strengthening of God's mission to the world through the co-operation it encourages.
- b) Rejoicing in the stated commitment of the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church to the unity of the Church of Christ, instructs the Ecumenical Committee to explore with these two churches (but with an openness to other partners) what further steps would be necessary to form a covenantal relationship or relationships between or among these churches.
- c) Gives thanks to God for Conversations on the Way to Unity, the report of the tri-lateral informal conversations between the three churches, for the common ground it uncovers, for its honest exploration of difference within the one body of Christ and for the dedicated service of those who represented the United Reformed Church – Revd Robert Andrews, Revd John Waller, Revd Elizabeth Welch and Revd Sheila Maxey.
- d) affirms the agenda for further work on this ecumenical journey with these partners as set out in paragraph 73 of Conversations on the Way to Unity:
 - the relationship between how we understand the nature of the Church and our understanding of the nature of and path to Christian unity
 - the relationship between personal and conciliar oversight and authority in the life of the church, locally and more widely
 - our understandings of ordination and authorisation of the whole range of ministries
 - the relationship between and understanding of baptism and membership
 - and adds, as a matter of priority, from the riches of our traditions and for the sake of the mission of the Church, the question of how ministry is (and may be) exercised through persons and councils, locally and more widely, by the whole people of God; and how such ministry is to be recognised within a covenantal relationship.

- e) mindful that all ministries in the United Reformed Church are open to both men and women (Basis of Union para 25) and that “the United Reformed Church declares that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only ruler and head of the Church, has therein appointed a government distinct from civil government and in things spiritual not subordinate thereto’ (Basis of Union Schedule D.8), requires the Ecumenical Committee in any future conversations to keep before the Church of England our concerns about its present limits to women’s ministry and our difficulties with its present established position.

Following debate, Resolution 18 was put to the vote.

Resolution 18 was carried.

The General Secretary of the Council for World Mission, the Revd Dr Desmond van der Water, addressed the Assembly.

The Revd John Rees moved adoption of Resolution 19:

Resolution 19

Belonging to the World Church

The General Assembly receiving the report of the Ecumenical Committee on the Belonging to the World Church programme

- a) welcomes what has been achieved and encourages the committee to continue to develop the programme, and
- b) encourages more people to make use of the opportunities it offers to experience and learn from the world church and so enrich the life and witness of the United Reformed Church.

Resolution 19 was carried.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Sheila Maxey, retiring Secretary of the Ecumenical Committee, the Revd Terry Oakley and the Revd Howard Sharp, newly appointed Moderators of East Midlands and Mersey Synods, and Dr Philip Theaker, National Lay Preaching Commissioner.

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 30:

Resolution 30 Amendment to the Minutes of Assembly 2002

General Assembly notes the corrected version of Resolution 56 of Assembly 2002.

The corrected text of Resolution 56 of Assembly 2002 therefore reads:

Resolution 30

Amendment to the Minutes of Assembly 2002

General Assembly agrees with Mission Council that the present URC guidelines on ethical investment cannot be a ‘final position’ and welcomes the commitment of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to take the lead in further work.

Assembly requests the Ethical Investment Advisory Group:

- i) to give particular attention to:
 - a) the more detailed research and policies of some sister churches;
 - b) the scope for greater URC participation in relevant ecumenical bodies;
 - c) the option of the day-to-day investment decisions being given to managers explicitly committed to a Christian ethos.

and

- i) to bring recommendations to the 2003 meeting of the General Assembly through Mission Council.

Resolution 30 was carried.

Assembly adjourned.

Monday 7th July

Second Session

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer.

The Assembly Clerk presented the minutes of Sunday 6th July. The Assembly approved the minutes.

Synod Presentation

The West Midlands Synod made its presentation.

New Ministers and CRCW's

Synod Moderators introduced ministers and Church Related Community Workers who had been ordained or commissioned since the previous meeting of the Assembly, or transferred from other denominations. Each of those present was greeted in turn and received by the Assembly with applause.

Northern Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Poulter)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Revd Andy Coyne | St Bede & Grindon URC in the Sunderland & Bolton Partnership |
| Revd Colin Offor | Teesdale Group |
| Revd David Walton | Newcastle upon Tyne: Heaton |

North Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Brain)

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Revd Helga Cornell | Sefton Road |
| Revd Anne Gray | Ravenstonedale |
| Revd Lena Talbot | Revidge Fold & Trinity, Blackburn |
| Revd Mike Thomason | Bolton West Pastorate |

Mersey Synod (Moderator: Revd Graham Cook)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Revd Tim Jackson | Joint pastorate of Vicars Cross, Caldley Valley & Farndon |
|------------------|---|

Yorkshire Synod (Moderator: Revd Arnold Harrison)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Revd Stella Hayton | Bingley & Shipley |
| Ms Lesley Whiting | South Leeds |

East Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Malcolm Hanson)

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Revd Jane Campbell | Lincoln District |
| Revd Gareth Jones | Industrial Chaplain, Churches in North Lincs |
| Revd Paula Parish West | Erewash Valley Group |

West Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Welch)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Revd Peter Christie | Hatherton URC |
| Revd Jacky Embrey | Weoley Hill URC & Sparkhill United Church |
| Revd Marion Hartwell | Lillington Free Church |
| Revd Cat Morrison | Dudley URC & Zion URC, Langley Green |
| Revd Colin Phipps | Penn & St Columba's, Finchfield |
| Revd Susan Walker | Wolstanton, Chesterton and Tunstall |
| Revd Heather Whyte | Rodborough Tabernacle & Christ Church, Painswick |

Eastern Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Caswell)

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Revd Lorna Bantock | Witham & Perling, Chelmsford |
| Revd Lyn Fowkes | Brentwood & Ingatestone |
| Revd Nicholas Mark | Felixstowe & Saxmundham, Ipswich & Colchester District |
| Revd Bruce Waldron | United Bungay Circuit, Norwich District |

South Western Synod (Moderator: Revd David Miller)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mr John Saunders | Penhill |
| Revd Angela Steele | Larkhall & Rush Hill + Rural Officer, South Western Synod |

Wessex Synod (Moderator: Revd Adrian Bulley)

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Revd Michael Hopkins | Twyford URC, Berkshire (with the ecumenical parish of Ruscombe & Twyford) |
| Revd Maria Hooper | Southampton District & Ecumenical Chaplain at Royal Hampshire County Hospital |
| Revd Tim Meachin | Dorset District and Christ Church, Creekmoor |
| Revd Leslie Milton | Reading and Oxford District |
| Revd Linda Spokes | Reading and Oxford District |

Thames North Synod (Moderator: Revd Roberta Rominger)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Revd Jayne Bazeley | Newham Group |
| Revd Meryl Court | St. Albans, Trinity & Bricket Wood |
| Revd Samuel Cyuma | Ilford, Vine |
| Revd Maurene O'Hagan | District Minister for Healing, Counselling & Pastoral Care |
| Revd Jenny Simmons | Ashwell, within the North Herts Group of churches |

Southern Synod (Moderator: Revd Nigel Uden)

Wales Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Noble)

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Revd Dilys Brace | Ely Pastorate in Cardiff |
|------------------|--------------------------|

Synod of Scotland (Moderator: Revd John Arthur)

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revd Connie Bonner | Annan |
| Revd Paul Jupp | West Scotland Area |

The Moderator greeted the new ministers and CRCW's, and invited the Chaplain to lead the Assembly in prayer.

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

Ordained 1943

Ivor Vivian CASSAM
George Dudley CLARK
William James ELSE
Frank William HEWIS
George Archibald HOOD
William Edward PETERS
Thomas RUSSELL
Owen SKILLETER
James Edward WATSON

Ordained 1953

Ronald Herbert YOUNG
Garth ANDERS
William John BROWN
Bernard Oliver CHART
William CONNELLY
George CORFIELD
Alastair Norman DYKES
John Islwyn EVANS
Bernard Swain HOLT
Norman Watts KEMP
William Norman LEAK
John Wilson MCMINN
Philip MORGAN
Terence PERRY
John Craddock PRICE
Leslie PUGH
Derek Norman RICHMOND
Andrew Frank ROCK
Cecil Stewart ROSS
Stuart Ritchie Burness SMITH
Robert Arthur Christopher WEST
Mark WILSON

Those present were greeted by the Moderator, to the warm applause of Assembly.

Life and Witness Committee

The Convener of the Life and Witness Committee, the Revd Brian Jolly, presented the committee's report, and invited the Revd Canon Joel Edwards, Director of the Evangelical Alliance, to address the Assembly.

Mr Colin Ferguson, seconded by the Revd David Williams, moved adoption of an emergency Resolution:

Emergency Resolution

This Assembly had heard today of the withdrawal by Canon Jeffrey John from his appointment as Bishop of Reading. We realise that this is a time of great anguish for our friends in the Church of England and her ecumenical partners. Our prayers are with all those who have been hurt, and our hope is that by God's grace this conflict may lead to a wider understanding of God's love for all people.

The Emergency Resolution was carried.

The Assembly agreed that the text of the Emergency Resolution would be forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Oxford.

Mission Council

Mr John Ellis, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 7:

Resolution 7

Ministries

Recognising the current financial difficulties of the United Reformed Church, General Assembly:

- i) reiterates the call it made in 1992 to church members to give at least 5% of their take home pay to the Church;
- ii) agrees that for 2004, and until further notice, the target number of stipendiary ministers should be changed from that of the previous year by the same percentage as membership has changed;
- iii) encourages Synods and District and Area Councils to develop appropriately flexible and adventurous deployment plans.

The Revd John Waller took the Chair.

The Revd David Bedford moved the following amendment:

Delete (i) and replace with:

affirms the biblical teaching on tithing and generosity and encourages all church members to take seriously this aspect of our discipleship ensuring that God's work is not impeded through lack of finances.

Seconded by Megan Bedford.

Following discussion, the General Secretary moved that the motion be now put; the Revd Elizabeth Welch seconded. This was agreed.

A vote was taken and **the amendment fell**.

Following discussion, **Resolution 7 was carried**.

Finance

The Treasurer, Mr Eric Chilton, presented the finance report, and moved adoption of Resolutions 21 and 22:

Resolution 21

Accounts

General Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002.

Resolution 21 was carried

Resolution 22

Ministry and Mission Fund

General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2002 to the Ministry and Mission Fund and the work of the local church, district and synod treasurers.

Resolution 22 was carried.

The Revd Roy Lowes, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 8:

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

Delete 'and Bursar' from General Assembly function (vi) and replace 'Board of Studies' with 'Board of Governors' in that same function so that it reads:

'..to make regulations respecting Theological Colleges belonging to the United Reformed Church, to appoint the principal, professors and other members of the teaching staff, and Board of Governors, and to superintend their work'.

There being no debate, a vote was taken and **Resolution 8 was carried.**

The General Secretary proposed that:

'In accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 8 be referred to synods with the 29th March 2004 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.'

The Assembly agreed.

Church and Society Committee

The Revd Martin Camroux moved adoption of Resolution 16:

Resolution 16

Faith Schools

Assembly views with concern the Government's commitment to increasing the number of 'faith schools' in England and Wales.

While affirming the right of local communities to decide the nature of their school, and regretting the lack of 'faith input' and promotion of a religious worldview to be found in some state schools, Assembly's concern is that schools promoting a particular faith position may contribute to an erosion of our multi-cultural experience at a time when greater understanding and dialogue between faith communities is more vital than ever.

Welcoming the affirmation given by OFSTED to the teaching of Religious Education in schools, Assembly calls upon churches to support people teaching RE in state schools and encourage others to consider it as a vocation.

Mr John Ellis proposed an alternative to Resolution 16 [Resolution 16A]:

Regretting the lack of both "faith input" and promotion of a religious worldview in some schools, Assembly:

welcomes the contribution to British education of schools which seek to provide an ethos and religious teaching which promote good relationships in a pluralist society;

recognises that many of these schools have a religious foundation, including those schools linked with the United Reformed Church, and welcomes the example of best practice they can provide;

shares the concern of many people of goodwill about teaching in a minority of so-called "Faith Schools" likely to promote religious or racial intolerance;

calls upon churches to seek links with local schools with the objective of nurturing friendship and understanding as the essence of community; and

calls upon churches to support Christian teachers, particularly those engaged in Religious Education, and encourage others to consider teaching as a vocation.

Seconded by the Revd Nigel Uden.

After debate the Revd Wilfred Bahadur moved that the motion be now put. This was seconded and the Assembly agreed.

The Moderator called upon the Assembly to cast its votes in favour of Resolutions 16 and 16A: Resolution 16 fell, and Resolution 16A became the substantive Resolution:

Resolution 16

Faith Schools

Regretting the lack of both “faith input” and promotion of a religious worldview in some schools, Assembly:

welcomes the contribution to British education of schools which seek to provide an ethos and religious teaching which promote good relationships in a pluralist society;

recognises that many of these schools have a religious foundation, including those schools linked with the United Reformed Church, and welcomes the example of best practice they can provide;

shares the concern of many people of goodwill about teaching in a minority of so-called “Faith Schools” likely to promote religious or racial intolerance;

calls upon churches to seek links with local schools with the objective of nurturing friendship and understanding as the essence of community; and

calls upon churches to support Christian teachers, particularly those engaged in Religious Education, and encourage others to consider teaching as a vocation.

The Resolution was carried.

The Revd Alasdair Pratt resumed the Chair.

Mr Camroux moved adoption of Resolution 17:

Resolution 17

Millennium Development Goals (2015 targets)

General Assembly:

- i) welcomes and endorses the Millennium Development Goals;**
- ii) pledges itself to work, with others, to see that they are achieved by the year 2015;**
- iii) reaffirms its commitment to the Trade Justice Movement and encourages congregations to support the campaign actively by writing to their MP and taking other relevant actions.**

An amendment was proposed by the Revd Peter Lindsay, seconded by the Revd Brian Holroyd Add:

- iv) as an integral part of the process of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, encourages continued support of the movement for cancellation of the unpayable debts of the poorest countries of the world.**

The Convener indicated his willingness to accept the amendment, and **the amendment was carried.**

The amended Resolution 17 was carried.

National Synod of Scotland

The Revd John Arthur, Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland, seconded by the Revd Mary Buchanan, moved adoption of Resolution 2:

Resolution 2

The National Synod of Scotland

General Assembly endorses the resolution passed by the National Synod of Scotland accepting and approving the six recommendations of the Scottish Church Initiative for Union Proposal.

Resolution 2 was carried.

Mr Arthur, seconded by Mrs Buchanan, moved adoption of Resolution 3:

Resolution 3

The National Synod of Scotland 2

General Assembly endorses the resolution passed by the National Synod Scotland agreeing that, in the event of any other partner church or churches rejecting the Scottish Church Initiative for Union Proposal, the United Reformed Church should proceed in the process with those partners willing to do so.

Resolution 3 was carried.

The General Secretary moved 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.

Loftus, Durham & Teesside District
Chorley Old Road, Bolton
Weaste, Salford
Somerset Road, Bolton
Ladybridge Road, Cheadle
Allithwaite
Zion United Reformed Church, Wakefield
Horncastle
Tolleshunt d'Arcy
Tower Road, Hindhead
Woodhall Farm, Hemel Hempstead
Clapham United Reformed Church
Earlsfield United Reformed Church
Berea, Blaina
Hannah Street, Cardiff
Neyland
Tabor United Reformed Church, Maesycwmmmer
Zion, Wattsville

Northern
North Western
North Western
North Western
North Western
North Western
Yorkshire
East Midlands
Eastern
Wessex
Thames North
Southern
Southern
Wales
Wales
Wales
Wales
Wales

Resolution 6 was carried.

The Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer.

Church and Society

The Secretary of the Church and Society Committee, the Revd Andrew Bradstock, introduced the former Secretary of State for International Relations, the Rt Hon Clare Short MP, who addressed the Assembly.

Ms Short responded to a number of questions. The Moderator thanked her and the Assembly showed its appreciation in warm applause.

After worship led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

Tuesday 8th July 2003

First Session

The Chaplain led opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd Lance Stone.

National Synod of Wales

The National Synod of Wales made its presentation.

Inter-faith Relations

Mrs Daphne Beale, Convener of the Inter-faith relations Committee, presented the committee's report, and invited the Moderator to greet guests from other faith traditions:

Mr Shadi Bashir, Research and Documentation Committee, Muslim Council of Great Britain;
Mr Mohammed Zaman, Jamia Mosque, Portsmouth.

The Moderator invited Mr Bashir to address the Assembly.

Mrs Beale moved adoption of Resolution 23:

Resolution 23

Inter-Faith Relations

Assembly urges local churches, Districts and Synods to establish good relations with Muslims in the community and to enhance their understanding of the world of Islam and Muslim attitudes towards Christianity and the West.

After brief discussion, **Resolution 23 was carried.**

The Moderator greeted the retiring Convener of the Inter-faith Relations Committee, Mrs Daphne Beale. He noted the retirement of the Convener of the Training Committee, the Revd John Proctor, and asked that the Assembly's appreciation of his service be noted.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair.

The Revd Alan Paterson, seconded by the Revd John Young, moved adoption of Resolution 4:

Resolution 4

The National Synod of Scotland

General Assembly mindful that in recent decades military technology has developed substantially, that definitions and terminology for various acts of warfare have been evolving, and that the politics of conflict has moved into a new, post-Cold-War era, asks its Church and Society Committee to explore and prepare a report on the ethics of warfare for the twenty-first century.

The report should take account of;

- a) an understanding of terrorism, suicide bombing and state sponsored assassination
- b) weapons of mass-destruction, including nuclear, chemical, biological and multi-kiloton [conventional] bombs
- c) weapons which continue to cause death and suffering in a post-conflict era, e.g. land-mines, unexploded cluster-bombs, depleted uranium dust.
- d) the argument that a perceived threat is justification for a pre-emptive attack, or that "regime change" is a legitimate objective for armed aggression.
- e) other matters germane to the concept and practice of 'Total War'

In whatever methodology it adopts the Committee is encouraged to take account of past General Assembly resolutions and to work ecumenically and internationally.

After debate, **Resolution 4 was carried.**

The Revd Alasdair Pratt resumed the Chair.

Yorkshire Synod

The Revd Arnold Harrison, seconded by Mr John Seager, moved adoption of Resolution 5:

Resolution 5

Yorkshire Synod

General Assembly asks its officers, through the Churches Main Committee, to continue discussions with appropriate government agencies with a view to:

- i) obtaining adequate assistance with the extra costs or securing a more equitable distribution of the grant aid already made available for the maintenance of historical church buildings and
-
- ii) securing a relaxation of the regulations surrounding the granting of "change of use" for redundant places of worship.

Resolution 5 was carried.

Mission Council

Mr Eric Chilton, on behalf of mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 14:

Resolution 14

Budget for the year 2004

General Assembly accepts the budget for the year 2004, set out in Appendix 6 to the Book of Reports.

Resolution 14 was carried.

Mr Chilton, formally seconded by the Assembly Clerk, moved adoption of Resolution 35:

Resolution 35

General Assembly noting the advice of its Actuaries requests that the trustees of the United Reformed Church Minister's Pension Fund take appropriate action to increase the contribution of members of the United Reformed Church Minister's Pension Fund by 1.25% to 4.5% as from 1 January 2004.

Resolution 35 was carried.

Maintenance of Ministry

On behalf of the maintenance of Ministry Sub-committee, Mr John Ellis formally moved adoption of Resolution 24:

Resolution 24 Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration

General Assembly approves and adopts, as an addition to the Plan for Partnership, Appendix E:

APPENDIX E – NATIONAL MANSE GUIDELINES

1 Background

1.1 Review of Ministerial Remuneration

During the Review information was sought from Synods about their policies for manse provision. The conclusion was that it would benefit ministers and those responsible for providing manses if there were clear nationally agreed guidelines based on current best practices; recommending a list of benefits that should be included in such guidelines. This Appendix seeks to address that issue.

It should be stressed that having sought information from Synods, most do have guidelines. It also has to be recognised that in seeking to set guidelines it is important to offer some flexibility to take account of local circumstances. For example, it is felt that a garage should be provided and indeed that should be seen as a requirement. But it has to be recognised that this is not always a practical possibility.

Within that flexibility Synods should take care to ensure that standards are maintained when considering the provision of manse accommodation.

1.2 Plan for Partnership

A responsibility is placed upon District Councils (para. 6.3.1) – taking advice from Synod – to take note of the condition and facilities of the manse or, if alternative arrangements are to be made, should approve the details of the arrangement before concurring in Calls and regularly thereafter.

2 Process

2.1 Location

This will depend on many factors but churches may wish to seek a location so that the minister is within walking distance of the church; or one of the churches in the pastorate.

A manse adjoining the church should be avoided in the exercise of pastoral care for the minister.

The purchase of a manse is a substantial investment and the church would be wise to consider locating in an area where property values might be expected to be maintained (or may appreciate). Consideration should be given to other factors e.g. proximity to schools and shops and availability of public transport.

2.2 Type and Structure

Care must be taken where an older property is considered to ensure that the costs of bringing the house up to a reasonable standard – and costs of further maintenance – are not excessive.

A full professional survey must be obtained prior to the purchase and this should be carefully assessed. It is important to give consideration to the condition of the roof, walls, gutters, wallplaster, glass, drainage, water supply, gas & electricity installations, ventilation and woodwork. Internal decoration may present less of a problem if the structure is sound. Poor external decoration may point to structural problems e.g. rotting woodwork and this should be looked at with great care.

Redecoration work may be relatively inexpensive – but to remedy structural defects can be very costly.

2.3 Standard

The manse is the minister's 'office' as well as being a home for the minister and his/her family. The Plan (para. 6.3.2) does seek to ensure that as far as possible the minister has use of a separate room as a study at the manse. The manse should be suitable for a wide range of ministers and their families – and this requirement for flexibility should be carefully considered when the manse is purchased. In the case of smaller modern properties care should be taken that there is adequate accommodation for interviews when

the study itself is not large enough for that purpose. Churches should avoid as far as possible the need to change a manse each time a minister is called – although there may be circumstances when this may be necessary.

3 Requirements

3.1 Accommodation

This should include:

Lounge

Dining Room (separate if possible)

Kitchen

Hall (large enough to provide for cloaks)

Study (downstairs is recommended)

Bedrooms: at least 3 good size rooms – 4 if possible

Bathroom and Toilet

Downstairs toilet is seen as essential

Garage and/or adequate parking

Grounds – paths, gate and fences in satisfactory repair, garden of manageable size.

Storage space

3.2 Facilities and equipment

The manse should have:

Full Central Heating

Water heating system

Bathroom fitted with modern equipment including a shower

Kitchen of reasonable size with adequate space for larger electrical appliances

Double Glazing is desirable

Adequate number of power sockets throughout the house

Telephone points – including the study

Security locks on external doors – and windows where possible

Smoke detectors

Curtain rails and light fittings in all rooms.

3.3 Heat conservation

It is important to have regard to heat conservation for economy purposes and for the comfort of the occupants. Give consideration then to e.g.

Roof insulation

Lagging of pipes and water cistern

Double glazing

4 On Going Responsibility

4.1 Maintenance

This is very important and an annual inspection should be undertaken to ensure provision is made for a programme of maintenance. This is for the benefit of the minister and his/her family and is also to ensure the value of the asset is protected. Synods should ensure there is a mechanism in place to monitor the way District and the local church exercise their responsibility for maintaining the property in good order. The church should identify who is to be responsible for ensuring the procedure for maintenance of the property is followed. It is normal practice for the church building to be surveyed on a regular basis, normally every 5 years. The manse should be included in such a review.

4.2 Services

Servicing of main appliances and boilers are essential.

4.3 Insurance

The property should be adequately insured at all times. Do check the insurance cover if the property is empty to ensure that all risks are fully covered.

1.1 The Report on Ministerial Remuneration received and endorsed by Assembly in 1999 said the Review Group 'concluded that it would benefit both ministers and those responsible for providing manses if there were clear, nationally agreed, guidelines based on current best practice.'

1.2 Consultation has taken place with all Synods, many of which have guidelines in place. Those guidelines vary little in substance and so setting National Guidelines will not greatly affect existing patterns within Synods but will bring together best practice.

1.3 The housing market varies widely across the United Reformed Church and so the guidelines include sufficient flexibility to be of practical application within individual Synods.

During debate, an amendment was proposed that the second paragraph of 2.1 be deleted from; 'A manse adjoining...'

The amendment fell

The Revd Kenneth Forbes proposed that the heading 'Requirements' of section 3 be deleted.

A number of members indicated their willingness to second.

The amendment was carried.

Resolution 24, as amended, was carried.

Resolution 24 Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration

General Assembly approves and adopts, as an addition to the Plan for Partnership, Appendix E:

APPENDIX E – NATIONAL MANSE GUIDELINES

1 Background

1.1 Review of Ministerial Remuneration

During the Review information was sought from Synods about their policies for manse provision. The conclusion was that it would benefit ministers and those responsible for providing manses if there were clear nationally agreed guidelines based on current best practices; recommending a list of benefits that should be included in such guidelines. This Appendix seeks to address that issue.

It should be stressed that having sought information from Synods, most do have guidelines. It also has to be recognised that in seeking to set guidelines it is important to offer some flexibility to take account of local circumstances. For example, it is felt that a garage should be provided and indeed that should be seen as a requirement. But it has to be recognised that this is not always a practical possibility. Within that flexibility Synods should take care to ensure that standards are maintained when considering the provision of manse accommodation.

1.2 Plan for Partnership

A responsibility is placed upon District Councils (para. 6.3.1) – taking advice from Synod – to take note of the condition and facilities of the manse or, if alternative arrangements are to be made, should approve the details of the arrangement before concurring in Calls and regularly thereafter.

2 Process

2.1 Location

This will depend on many factors but churches may wish to seek a location so that the minister is within walking distance of the church; or one of the churches in the pastorate.

A manse adjoining the church should be avoided in the exercise of pastoral care for the minister.

The purchase of a manse is a substantial investment and the church would be wise to consider locating in an area where property values might be expected to be maintained (or may appreciate). Consideration should be given to other factors e.g. proximity to schools and shops and availability of public transport.

2.2 Type and Structure

Care must be taken where an older property is considered to ensure that the costs of bringing the house up to a reasonable standard – and costs of further maintenance – are not excessive.

A full professional survey must be obtained prior to the purchase and this should be carefully assessed. It is important to give consideration to the condition of the roof, walls, gutters, wallplaster, glass, drainage, water supply, gas & electricity installations, ventilation and woodwork. Internal decoration may present less of a problem if the structure is sound. Poor external decoration may point to structural problems e.g. rotting woodwork and this should be looked at with great care.

Redecoration work may be relatively inexpensive – but to remedy structural defects can be very costly.

2.3 Standard

The manse is the minister's 'office' as well as being a home for the minister and his/her family. The Plan (para. 6.3.2) does seek to ensure that as far as possible

the minister has use of a separate room as a study at the manse. The manse should be suitable for a wide range of ministers and their families – and this requirement for flexibility should be carefully considered when the manse is purchased. In the case of smaller modern properties care should be taken that there is adequate accommodation for interviews when the study itself is not large enough for that purpose. Churches should avoid as far as possible the need to change a manse each time a minister is called – although there may be circumstances when this may be necessary.

3.

3.1 Accommodation

This should include:

Lounge

Dining Room (separate if possible)

Kitchen

Hall (large enough to provide for cloaks)

Study (downstairs is recommended)

Bedrooms: at least 3 good size rooms – 4 if possible

Bathroom and Toilet

Downstairs toilet is seen as essential

Garage and/or adequate parking

Grounds – paths, gate and fences in satisfactory repair, garden of manageable size.

Storage space

3.2 Facilities and equipment

The manse should have:

Full Central Heating

Water heating system

Bathroom fitted with modern equipment including a shower

Kitchen of reasonable size with adequate space for larger electrical appliances

Double Glazing is desirable

Adequate number of power sockets throughout the house

Telephone points – including the study

Security locks on external doors – and windows where possible

Smoke detectors

Curtain rails and light fittings in all rooms.

3.3 Heat conservation

It is important to have regard to heat conservation for economy purposes and for the comfort of the occupants. Give consideration then to e.g.

Roof insulation

Lagging of pipes and water cistern

Double glazing

4 On Going Responsibility

4.1 Maintenance

This is very important and an annual inspection should be undertaken to ensure provision is made for a programme of maintenance. This is for the benefit of the minister and his/her family and is also to ensure the value of the asset is protected. Synods should ensure there is a mechanism in place to monitor the way District and the local church exercise their responsibility for maintaining the property in good order. The church should identify who is to be responsible for ensuring the procedure for maintenance of the property is followed. It is normal practice for the church building to be surveyed on a regular basis, normally every 5 years. The manse should be included in such a review.

4.2 Services

Servicing of main appliances and boilers are essential.

4.3 Insurance

The property should be adequately insured at all times. Do check the insurance cover if the property is empty to ensure that all risks are fully covered.

1.1 The Report on Ministerial Remuneration received and endorsed by Assembly in 1999 said the Review Group 'concluded that it would benefit both ministers and those responsible for providing manses if there were clear, nationally agreed, guidelines based on current best practice.'

1.2 Consultation has taken place with all Synods, many of which have guidelines in place. Those guidelines vary little in substance and so setting National Guidelines will not greatly affect existing patterns within Synods but will bring together best practice.

1.3 The housing market varies widely across the United Reformed Church and so the guidelines include sufficient flexibility to be of practical application within individual Synods.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 34:

Resolution 34

Church Related Community Workers (Assembly 2002 Resolution 34)

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Basis of Union:

- a) Add to the sentence at the end of paragraph 20:

“and in the case of church related community workers be termed commissioning.”
- b) Insert the following paragraph after paragraph 21 and renumber the existing paragraphs 22-25 as 23-26:

22. Some are called to the ministry of church related community work. After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be church related community workers in a post approved by the United Reformed Church, and are then commissioned and inducted to their office to serve for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with Schedules D & F. Church related community workers are commissioned to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God’s will for the well-being of the community, and to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world.
- c) In the footnote to the paragraph currently numbered 24, which will become paragraph 25, replace “The provisions of paragraph 24” with “The provisions of paragraph 25”
- d) In the note at the start of Schedule B, replace “22” with “23”.
- e) Add a new Schedule F as follows:
SCHEDULE F (see clause 22 in the Basis of Union)

Affirmations to be made by church related community workers at commissioning and induction.

NOTE: The service will also include the reading of the Statement contained in Schedule D, and provision will be made for a statement to be made concerning the circumstances of the call. Church related community workers may also make a personal statement about their faith and sense of calling
After the statement has been read the presiding minister shall then ask one of the following sets of questions:

Either: VERSION I

1. A.B., Do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

I do.
2. Do you believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God’s people?

I do.

- 3 Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world? Do you believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people? And will you faithfully proclaim this Gospel?

By the grace of God this I believe and this I will proclaim.

4. Do you believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ?

I do.

5. Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Holy Spirit and a desire for the salvation of the world, so far as you know your own heart, the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?

They are.

6. Do you promise to live a holy life, and to maintain the truth of the gospel, whatever trouble or persecution may arise?

Relying on the strength of Christ, I do.

7. Do you promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the wellbeing of the community? Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church and to enable

the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world?

By the grace of God, I do.

8. Do you promise as a church related community worker of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, purity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always to build up the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

By the grace of God, I do.

9. Will you undertake to exercise your ministry in accordance with the statement concerning the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church?

I will, and all these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Or: VERSION II

1. A.B., will you confess anew your faith?

I confess anew my faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.

I believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and

who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world.

I believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people.

And by the grace of God I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully.

I believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ.

2. What leads you to this ministry?

So far as I know my own heart,
I believe that zeal for the glory of God,
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,
obedience to the Holy Spirit
and a desire for the salvation of the world,
are the chief motives which lead me to enter this ministry.
Relying on the strength of Christ,
I promise to live a holy life,
and to maintain the truth of the gospel,
whatever trouble or persecution may arise.

3. Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?

By the grace of God I promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the wellbeing of the community.

I promise to take my part in the councils of the Church and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world.

As a church related community worker of the United Reformed Church

I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches,
and always to build up the one holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.

I undertake to exercise my ministry in accordance with the statement concerning the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church.

All these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Resolution 24 was carried.

Mr John Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 25:

Resolution 25

Ministers' Pension Fund

General Assembly amends the definitions of the Rules and the Rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund by the addition of the words in italics in the Rules shown:

Add a new Definition 27 to read

27. CRCW
means any commissioned Church Related Community Worker.

Add a new rule 12.6 to read

12.6 Commissioned Church Related Community Workers (CRCWs).

Add a new rule 14.1.1.4 to read

14.1.1.4 From 1 August 2002 any CRCW under the age of fifty five years at the date of commissioning to stipendiary service remunerated under the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration, may become a contributing member of the Fund. His/her contribution shall commence from the first day of the month following such commissioning.

Amend Rule 14.1.2 to read

14.1.2 If a contributing member serving full-time reduces his/her commitment to that of part-time service whilst under normal pension age, the Pension Trustee may raise the Pensionable Service to the level applicable to a full-time minister or CRCW having regard to the length of any previous full-time service, to the age and health of the member, to the fraction of basic stipend being paid and to the purpose and pensionability of any other employment and shall in such cases allow full membership of the Pension Fund, contributions then being payable on the full basic stipend.

Amend the first paragraph of Rule 20 to read

20. Ill-health Retirement

In the event that a member retires before normal pension age on account of incapacity to undertake the duties of a stipendiary minister or CRCW due to ill-health duly certified to the satisfaction of the Pension Trustee, he/she shall be entitled to an immediate pension which shall be calculated as provided in Rule 18 but with the substitution of the date of retirement for the attainment of normal pension age provided always that when the period of pensionable service completed up to the date of retirement is less than twenty years, the amount of pension will be calculated on the basis of:

Resolution 25 was carried.

Ecumenical Committee

The Revd John Rees formally moved adoption of Resolution 20:

Resolution 20

The International Situation

This Assembly, noting the suffering, powerlessness and loss of dignity and hope endured by many people across the world, especially in situations of war, conflict, terror and repression, and that the responses to these situations can themselves be violent and extreme:

- Expresses its support for our partners throughout the world who are facing particular difficulties at this time;
- Welcomes the statements made by Mission Council and the Ecumenical and Church and Society committees, especially in relation to Iraq, Zimbabwe and the Middle East;
- Calls upon the Ecumenical Committee and Church and Society committees to enter into a dialogue with our partner churches in the USA on ways in which we can support one another as we witness to our nations promoting an alternative vision of peace and justice in the world today; and
- Encourages local congregations to make their own witness, promoting understanding, resisting violence and seeking justice for all God's people locally and globally.

Resolution 20 was carried.

Assembly Pastoral Reference Committee

The Revd David Jenkins presented the report of the APRC.

The Moderator greeted Mr Jenkins, thanking him for his service as he retires as Convener of the APRC.

The General Secretary moved the adoption of Resolution 9:

Resolution 9

Section O Advisory Group

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

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 1.2. Insert “disciplinary’ after the opening words “Once the “

Paragraph 2

Insert “(whether or not on appeal)” after the words “particular case”.

Paragraph 3

Insert the following additional definitions in their correct alphabetical positions and amend the sub-numbering of the other definitions as required:

‘Initial Enquiry’ shall mean the enquiry conducted by the Mandated Group in conjunction with the Moderator of the Synod during the period beginning when it is called in by the Moderator and ending when it serves either a Notice of Non-Continuance or a Referral Notice in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
‘Notice of Non-Continuance’ shall mean a Notice served on the Moderator of the Synod by the Mandated Group at the conclusion of the Initial Enquiry to indicate that it does not intend to proceed further with the disciplinary case against the Minister.

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 4.1 Delete the current paragraph and replace with:

‘Subject the age limit imposed by Paragraph 4.4, appointment to the Commission Panel shall be by Resolution of the General Assembly on the advice of the Nominations Committee (or such other committee as may in the future perform the functions of the Nominations Committee), who shall in considering persons for appointment take into account (i) the need for balance and for a variety of skills and specialisations, particularly in the following areas - experience in ministerial oversight, theology and doctrine, law, counselling, psychology, mental health, experience in conduct of meetings and tribunals, and (ii) the advantages of including on the Commission Panel persons from a variety of ethnic minority backgrounds.

Paragraph 4.2. Insert the words ‘Subject the the age limit imposed by Paragraph 4.4,’ before the words ‘Members of the Commission Panel’

Paragraph 4.4. Insert a new Paragraph 4.4. ‘When any member of the Commission Panel reaches the age of seventy, s/he must forthwith resign from the Commission Panel and shall no longer be eligible to serve on any new Assembly Commission, but any person who reaches his/her seventieth birthday whilst serving on an Assembly Commission in a case in progress may continue so to serve until the conclusion of that case.

Paragraph 6

Paragraph 6.4 Delete all and replace with:’ Those charged under this Paragraph 6 with the appointment of the Assembly Commission shall (so far as possible) (i) appoint at least one man and at least one woman onto the Assembly Commission, and (ii) have regard to the nature of the case, the need for balance and the skills, specialisation and cultural understanding of the members of he Commission Panel.’

Paragraph 7

Paragraph 7.1.1 Delete all.

Paragraph 7.1.2 Renumber as 7.1.

Paragraph 8.

Delete all and Insert 'Procedural matters arising under the Section O Process shall in every case be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.'

Paragraph 11

Paragraph 11.3. Add a new Paragraph 11.3. ' No-one other than the Parties has any right of appeal from a decision of the Assembly Commission.

Paragraph 12.

Delete all and insert:

12.1 'The Appeals Commission for the hearing of each such appeal shall consist of the following five persons:

(a) a Convener who shall be a member of the United Reformed Church (but not necessarily a member of the General Assembly) with legal and/or tribunal experience to be selected by the officers of the General Assembly and

(b) the Moderator of the General Assembly or if for any reason he/she should be unable to serve, a former Moderator of the General assembly to be selected by the officers of the General Assembly and

(c) three other members of the General Assembly to be selected by the officers of the General Assembly.

12.2 'The relevant date for ascertaining whether persons qualify for appointment under Paragraph 12.1 is the date on which under the Rules of Procedure the Secretary of the Assembly Commission notifies the General Secretary that an appeal has been lodged against the decision of the Assembly Commission.'

12.3 'In selecting persons for appointment to the Appeals Commission in accordance with Paragraph 12.1(c) the officers of the General Assembly shall, so far as possible, apply the same criteria as are set out in Part I, Paragraphs 4.1 and 6.4, in relation to appointments to the Commission Panel and to Assembly Commissions.'

'12.4 'All persons proposed for appointment to an Appeals Commission, in any capacity, are subject to Part I, Paragraph 7.1.'

Paragraph 18

Delete "shall, if requested to do so, appoint a representative to attend any hearing conducted under the Section O Process for such purpose' and Insert 'shall appoint a representative to attend the Hearing for such purpose, unless his/her attendance has been expressly dispensed with by the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission as the case may be.

Paragraphs 21 & 22

Delete all and Insert a new Paragraph 21

Save only as provided in Paragraph 21.2, this Part I of the Section O Process is subject to Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure.

21.2 Mission Council acting in the name of General Assembly has authority by single resolution of that Council to make as and when necessary and with immediate effect such changes to Part 1 as are, on the advice of the legal advisers to the United Reformed Church, required to bring the Section O process into line with the general law of the land consequent upon any changes in legislation and/or case law.

All such changes to the Section O Process as are made by Mission Council under Paragraph 21.2 shall be reported to the next annual meeting of the General Assembly.

Resolution 9 was carried.

The General Secretary proposed that: 'In accordance with para 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 9 be referred to Synods with the 29th March 2004 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.' **The Assembly agreed.**

Minutes

The Assembly Clerk moved that:

Assembly receives the minutes of the First Session of 7th July and approves the insertion of the minutes of its closing sessions into the full minutes after review and any necessary correction by officers of Assembly.

Assembly agreed.

Address to the Throne

The Revd John Waller, the immediate past Moderator, presented the Address to the Throne:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church now meeting in Portsmouth sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty. In this anniversary year of Your Majesty's coronation we give gratitude to Almighty God for all the service you have rendered to our nation during the fifty-one years of Your Majesty's reign.

The recent conflict in Iraq continues to cast its long shadow over our proceedings. With other churches and faith groupings in these islands we voiced our grave concern at the wisdom and morality of the military assault on Iraq. We were – and remain – unconvinced that Iraq posed such a threat to world security as to justify military action against it, and urged Your Majesty's Government to consider war only as a last resort and after all diplomatic efforts to secure a peaceful settlement to the crisis had foundered. We viewed it as a matter of regret both that the weapons inspectors were not allowed to complete their investigations and that the United Nations gave no approval for the use of military force. While we had no desire to see the former regime in Iraq remain in power, we could not condone the use of military action to remove it.

Though there are few grounds for hope amid this crisis we do welcome warmly the publication of the 'road map' drawn up to reactivate the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. As a Church we have long been concerned about the plight of people living in the Palestinian Territories, and continue to support practically efforts by Christian Aid and others to improve their quality of life. We have urged Your Majesty's Government to be energetic and resourceful in following through on this key development so as to achieve a just and lasting peace that will give security to both peoples and greater stability to the region.

As we reflected on the war in Iraq we felt led to suggest that, where conflict and tension abound, lasting peace and stability are more likely to emanate from a dismantling of structures which perpetuate injustice or division than from violence and aggression. We are unconvinced that a 'war on terrorism' can succeed without a concomitant war on injustice, and so, through our overseas aid and development programme, Commitment for Life, continue to support vital work in several 'third world' countries. One of these is Zimbabwe, sadly still one of the most troubled regions of the Commonwealth. Our commitment to justice also inspires us to campaign for significant changes in the rules governing multilateral trade, for full remission of the debts which continue to weigh down many of the world's poorest countries, and for the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals with their vision of a world free from the worst excesses of poverty by the year 2015. At this Assembly the Church unanimously passed a resolution pledging support for these targets.

Our concern to bring the 'good news to the poor' which Jesus announced also informs our work closer to home. Our churches in inner city areas continue to work with others to foster genuine harmony between people of all religions and races, and we pray that every effort to bring peace and build community in our cities will succeed. Our belief that all people are of equal worth and dignity in the sight of God leads us to stand in prayerful solidarity with those from different ethnic communities, including those seeking asylum, who so often find themselves among the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society.

We pray for the continued health and strength of Your Majesty as you give 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 Alasdair Pratt
Moderator

Revd Dr David Cornick
General Secretary

The Assembly approved the address.

Moderator-Elect

The Moderator-elect, the Revd Sheila Maxey, addressed the Assembly.

Vote of Thanks

The Revd Peter Noble thanked the Wessex Synod for its welcome and hospitality, and assured members of a warm welcome to the National Synod of Wales in 2004.

The Moderator thanked those who had been involved in the administration of the Assembly and the presentation of worship; he thanked especially the Chaplain, the Revd Carolyn Smyth and the leader of Bible study, the Revd Lance Stone.

The General Secretary thanked the Moderator for his gracious and gentle conduct of the Assembly's business.

Closing Worship

The Chaplain led the Assembly in worship which included the induction of the Revd Richard Mortimer as Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith and Order.

The General Secretary formally announced that the Assembly had completed its business and would adjourn to meet as agreed at the University of Glamorgan on 3rd July 2004 or at such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.

Omission from the Book of Reports P.164 and not an official part of the Record

World Day of Prayer – Scotland

1. Scotland dropped "Women's" from the World Day of Prayer title in 1980 (our Golden Jubilee Year) in line with the International Committee. We are now fully inclusive, welcoming men to our services.
2. This year's service "Holy Spirit, Fill Us" was written by the Christian women of Lebanon. We incorporated the artwork of the Order of Service into a bookmark.
3. Over 750 services were held, throughout the length and breadth of Scotland, of varying sizes. Small groups took the service to residents in homes for the elderly, sheltered housing and hospitals. Schools held services for pupils. Homeless folk attended at least one service and local women joined male prisoners in at least one prison. Men attended many of our services. Yes we are fully inclusive.
4. Money from the offerings were shared between "Feed the Minds" and the Scottish Bible Society.
5. We will have delegates attending the international meeting in England in the summer and we are also offering accommodation to anyone wishing to visit Scotland before or after the meeting.
6. We look forward to March 2004 and the service prepared by the women of Panama.
7. Anyone wishing any further details of services in Scotland may contact me at 146 Campbell Street, Wishaw, ML2 8HU (01698 373419)

Miss Elizabeth I M King, United Reformed Church Delegate, World Day of Prayer, Scottish Committee.

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