



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Warwick
University 2005

July 2nd - 5th

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
23	64	10	Giving to central funds	*	*	*
25	77	14	Elders and Ecumenism		X	
26	77	14	Election of Elders	X		
27	78	14	Elders and Wider Church Representation	X	X	
28	78	14	Elders, Personal Development	X		X
29	79	15	Collaborative Leadership	*		
30	79	15	Deployment		X	X
6	33	17	Declaration of a Safe Church	*	*	X
20	53	20	Make Poverty History	*	*	*
	<u>Catch the Vision</u>					
40	5	35	Councils of the Church One level		X	X
41	5	34,35	New Synods		X	X
45	7	40	Local Ecumenical Possibilities	*		
46	7	41	Local Ecumenism, strategy	X	X	X



The
United
Reformed
Church

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Minutes of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH 2005

Saturday, 2 July 2005

First Session

Constitution of Assembly

At 3.30 pm members of Assembly met in the Butterworth Hall of the University of Warwick. The Moderator, the Revd Sheila Maxey constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and the time having been duly appointed.

The Moderator then called the Assembly to worship, welcoming the Revd David Peel, Moderator-Elect, Revd Jill Thornton, Chaplain to the Moderator-Elect, Revd Alastair Smeaton, Chaplain to the Moderator, and Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary.

Past Moderators, Presidents, and Chairmen were then greeted by the Moderator and the Moderator-Elect, as were the local Church guests, introduced by the Revd Elizabeth Welch, Moderator of the West Midlands Synod:

The Revd Mark Bratton – Anglican Chaplain at Warwick University and Area Dean of Coventry South Deanery
The Revd Brian Nicholls – Regional Team Leader of the Heart of England Baptist Association
The Rt Revd Vincent Nichols – the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
The Revd William Anderson – the Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District

United Kingdom and Ecumenical guests present were introduced by the Revd Elizabeth Nash, Convener of the Ecumenical Committee:

The Revd Llynos Gordon, Union of Welsh Independents
The Revd Martyn Skinner, The Methodist Church
The Revd Iain Hodgins, The Presbyterian Church of Wales
The Rt Revd David Lacy, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
The Revd Ian Hamilton, Chaplain to the Moderator, The Church of Scotland
The Revd Alister Goss, The Church of Scotland
The Rt Revd Dr Harry Uprichard, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
The Revd Dr Donald Watts, The Presbyterian Church in Ireland
The Revd Jan Mullin, The Moravian Church
The Revd John Nockels, The Congregational Federation
The Revd Stephen Matthews, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland
The Revd Michael Cleaves, The Baptist Union of Great Britain
The Revd Judith Maizel Long, Assistant General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
The Ven Richard Blackburn, The Church of England
The Revd Lindsay Sanderson, Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Dame Anne Doyle, The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
The Rt Revd Onye Obika, Secretary-General of the International Ministerial Council of Great Britain

The Moderator then invited Dame Anne Doyle, representing the ecumenical guests, to greet the Assembly.

Visitors and members from overseas were introduced by the Revd Elizabeth Nash:

The Revd Steven Titus, The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
Mr Andrew Johnston, Executive Secretary for Administration, Council for World Mission
The Revd Setri Nyomi, General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches
The Rt Revd Dr Yaw Frimpong-Manso, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana
The Rt Revd Suputhrappa Vasanthakumar, Church of South India
The Revd Julie Walkup Bird, Presbyterian Church of the USA
The Revd Chen Hsin-Liang, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan

The Revd Chang Jen-Ho, Mission Partner and Chaplain to Taiwanese students in Manchester
The Revd Godwin Odonkor, Mission Partner and the Ghanaian Minister for London
Mr David Jonathan, Mission Partner and Inter-community Relations worker, Grassroots

Four of the above brought a painted letter to both the Moderator and the Moderator-Elect, which was placed in front of the communion table. The Moderator-Elect then invited the Revd Steve Titus, General Secretary of the United Congregational Church of South Africa, to greet Assembly.

FURY representatives then brought 13 painted letters, which were placed in front of the Bible and Communion Table.

The Chaplain led Assembly in prayer.

The Revd Dr David Peel, was inducted with prayer into the office of 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. Mrs Patricia Peel was also greeted by the outgoing Moderator.

The Moderator then thanked Mrs Maxey for her ministry as Moderator and Mr Smeaton for his as Chaplain. The Moderator also greeted and thanked Mr Kees Maxey.

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

Moderator:	Revd Dr David Peel
Clerk:	Revd James Breslin
General Secretary:	Revd Dr David Cornick
Deputy General Secretary:	Revd Ray Adams

Moderators of Synods:

I	Revd Peter Poulter
II	Revd Peter Brain
III	Revd Howard Sharp
IV	Revd Arnold Harrison
V	Revd Terry Oakley
VI	Revd Elizabeth Welch
VII	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
VIII	Revd David Grosch-Miller
IX	Revd Adrian Bulley
X	Revd Roberta Rominger
XI	Revd Nigel Uden
XII	Revd Peter Noble
XIII	Revd John Humphreys

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees:

Assembly Arrangements:	Mr William McVey
Church and Society:	Revd Martin Camroux
Communications and Editorial:	Revd Martin Hazell
Doctrine, Prayer & Worship:	Revd John Young

Ecumenical/International:	Revd Elizabeth Nash
Equal Opportunities:	Revd Wilf Bahadur
Finance:	Mr Eric Chilton
Interfaith Relations:	Revd Dr John Parry
Life and Witness:	Revd Brian Jolly
Ministries:	Mr John Ellis
Mission Council:	Revd Sheila Maxey
Nominations:	Revd Principal Stephen Orchard
Pastoral Reference:	Revd Keith Forecast
Racial Justice & Multi Cultural Ministries:	Revd Andrew Prasad
Training:	Revd John Humphreys
Youth & Children's Work:	Revd Kathryn Price

Synod Clerks:

I	Revd John Durell
II	Mr George Morton
III	Mr Donald Swift
IV	Mrs Val Morrison
V	Mrs Irene Wren
VI	Mr Bill Robson
VII	Mr Mick Barnes
VIII	Revd Roz Harrison
IX	Mr Peter Pay
X	Revd Martin Hazell
XI	Dr Graham Campling
XII	Revd David Fox
XIII	Dr James Merrilees

Additional Synod Representatives:

I	
II	Miss Jennifer Platt
III	Mr Malcolm Evans, Revd Barbara Exley, Revd John Oldershaw
V	Mrs Barbara Turner
VI	Mr Chris Basterfield, Mrs Melanie Frew, Revd Anthony Howells
VII	Mr Andrew Littlejohns
VIII	Mrs Janet Gray, Mr Malcolm Summers
X	Ms Esther Akingbade, Mr Felix Osie
XI	Revd Peter Southcombe, Miss Louisa Weeks
XII	Revd Alison Davis
XIII	Revd Timothy Huc, Revd Dr Irene John, Ms Morag McLintock, Revd Leslie Morrison, Mr Simon Peters, Revd John Smith, Ms Jen Wilson, Mrs Patricia Young, Miss Sheena Young

Synod Treasurers:

I	Revd David Walton
II	Mr Gordon Eccles
III	Mr Andrew Martlew
IV	Mrs Margaret Atkinson
V	Revd Richard Turnbull
VI	Revd Roger Woodall
VII	Mr Clifford Patten
VIII	Revd Richard Gray
IX	Mr David Butler
X	Mr Michael Gould
XI	Revd John Waller
XII	Mr Paul Roberts

XIII Mr Tom Woodbridge
Theological College Representatives:

Mansfield College	Revd Dr Walter Houston, Mrs Caroline Vodden
Northern College	Revd Dr John Campbell, Mrs Caroline Andrews,
Queens Foundation	Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, Mr Suk In Lee
Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College	Revd Jack Dyce, Mr Craig Jesson
Westminster College	Revd Dr Janet Tollington, Mrs Sam White

Youth representatives: Miss Fleur James, Mr Gareth Jones

Assembly Members from Other Churches in the United Kingdom:

Action of Churches Together in Scotland	Revd Lindsey Sanderson
Baptist Union of Great Britain	Revd Michael Cleaves
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales	Dame Anne Doyle
Church of Scotland	Revd Alister Goss
Congregational Federation	Revd John Nockels
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	Revd Judith Maisel Long
International Ministerial Council of Gt Britain	Rt Revd Onye Obika
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Revd Dr Donald Watts
Presbyterian Church of Wales	Revd Iain Hodgins
The Church of England	Ven Richard Blackburn
The Methodist Church	Revd Martyn Skinner
The Moravian Church	Revd Jan Mullin
Union of Welsh Independents	Revd Llunos Gordon
United Free Church of Scotland	Revd Stephen Matthews

Assembly Members from Churches outside of Britain and Ireland:

Church of South India	Rt Revd Suputhrappa Vasanthakumar
Council for World Mission	Mr Andrew Johnston
Presbyterian Church of Ghana	Rt Revd Dr Yaw Frimpong-Manso
Presbyterian Church of Taiwan	Revd Chen Hsin-Liang
Presbyterian Church, USA	Revd Julie Walkup Bird
United Congregational Church of Southern Africa	Revd Steven Titus
World Alliance of Reformed Churches	Revd Dr Setri Nyomi
Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces in Britain:	no representation

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 Victor Smith, Revd Alasdair Walker, Revd Dr Philip Morgan, Revd David Dale, 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 Dr David Thompson, Revd David Jenkins, Mrs Wilma Frew, Revd Peter McIntosh, Revd William Mahood, Revd Elizabeth Welch, Revd John Waller, Revd Alasdair Pratt, Revd Sheila Maxey.

District Representatives: (Names appearing with an asterisk were appointed to fill District vacancies cf. Resolution 10 pg. 21 Assembly Record 1978)

Synod I

- A: Revd Barry Hutchinson, Revd Pamela Ward, Miss Rebella Sutherland
- B: Revd Gordon Brown, Revd Ann Jackson, Revd Margaret Johnson, Mrs Pat Gurr, Miss Sheila Hill, Miss Sara Paton
- C: Revd Norma Leveridge, Revd Jan Maxwell, Mrs Maranny Jones, Mrs Jean Lamplugh
- G: Revd Barry Welch, Miss Alison Beecroft

Synod II

- J: Revd Ann Hufton, Revd Alistair Smeaton, Mrs Freda Bradbury, Mr Jim Bradbury, Mrs Margaret McQueen
- K: Revd Thomas Carmichael, Revd David Greenwood, Revd Sarah Moore, Revd Lena Talbot, Revd Geoffrey Townsend, Mr Derek Estill, Mr George Grime, Mr Peter Hunter
- L: Revd George McCleave, Revd Craig Muir, Revd Anne Stokes, Revd Kirsty Thorpe, Miss Mavis Butterworth, Mr Tim Rudge, Mr James Wickens
- M: Revd Kate Gray, Revd John Piper, Revd Peter Sharp, Revd Marion Tugwood, Revd Mike Walsh, Ms Bethan Galliers, Mr Michael Aspinall, Mrs Eula Mesquita, Miss Katie Unsworth

Synod III

- A: Revd Ruth Allen, Revd David Coaker, Revd Sally Willett, Dr Roger Allen, Mr Robin Hodgkins, Mr John White
- B: Revd Gary McGowan, Mrs Margaret Blair, Mr Richard Lathaen
- C: Revd John Bradbury, Revd Ruth Dillon, Mrs Pat Fagan, Mrs Jackie Irwin
- D: Revd Jenny Morgan, Revd Ian Smith, Dr Janet Large, Mr David Powell

Synod IV

- A: Revd David Coote, Revd Graham Maskery, Dr Lesley Coote, Mrs Anne Murison
- B: Revd Bob Heathcote, Revd Pauline Loosemore, Mrs Judith Garthwaite, Mrs Betty James
- C: Revd Keith Argyle, Revd Dr David Pickering, Dr Moira Gallagher, Mrs Sandra Murison
- D: Revd Mirella Moxon, Revd Heather Pollard, Mr Simon Loveitt, Mrs Daphne Egan
- E: Revd Gillian Brown, Mrs Margaret Morgan
- F: Revd George Courtney, Revd Timothy Key, Mr John Pulman

Synod V

- A: Revd Brian Norris, Revd Jenny Yule, Mrs Gwen Johnson, Ms Tamara Oates
- B: Revd Clare Downing, Revd Jay Phelps, Mr Peter Downing, Dr Lesley Moseley
- C: Revd Jane Campbell, Mr Grenville Jackson
- D: Revd Keith Morrison, Revd Ed Rawlins, Mrs Elizabeth Thomson
- E: Revd Peter Blackband, Revd Tim Clarke, Mr John New, Mrs Barbara Parker
- F: Revd Janet Conway, Revd Dr Mary Cotes, Miss Ruth Hodgson*

Synod VI

- A: Revd Marion Thomas, Mr Colin Choyce, Mr Geoff Harrison, Mrs Margaret Marshall
- B: Revd Shirley Mountcastle, Revd Nick Nicholas, Mr Timothy Mullings, Mrs Elinor Nicholas
- C: Revd Jim Brown, Revd Cat Morrison, Mrs Pat Radford, Mrs Helen Yare
- D: Revd Simon Helme, Revd Heather Whyte, Miss Charlotte Carter-Jones, Mrs Liz Shankland
- E: Revd Jacky Embrey, Revd Roy Fowler, Revd Graham Sweeney, Mrs Maureen Thompson, Mr Peter Murphy, Miss Isobel Simmons
- F: Revd Louise Franklin, Revd Graham Spicer, Miss Rachel Grain, Mrs Doreen Watson

Synod VII

- A: Revd Alison Chart-Key, Revd Ian Fosten, Mrs Bridget Fosten, Mr Ron Wade
- B: Revd Mark Ambrose, Revd Kenneth Forbes, Revd Heather Kent, Mr Shannon Craig, Miss Claire Harrison, Mrs Linda Harrison, Miss Denise Searle
- C: Revd Michael Rigney, Revd Nigel Rogers, Ms Laura Baker, Mr Tony Deighton
- D: Revd David Rees, Revd Victor Ridgewell, Mr Robert Gazely, Mr Clive Goodhew

E: Revd Catherine Ball, Revd Keith Riglin, Revd Eileen Springbett, Miss Claire Gouldthorp, Mrs Pat Plumb, Mrs Joan Turner
F: Revd Thomas MacMeekin, Mrs Ann Stokes

Synod VIII

A: Revd Paul Snell
B: Revd Glyn Millington, Mrs Jean Baker
C: Revd Rose Barrett, Revd Craig Bowman, Dr Wendy Milne, Mr Geoffrey Powell
D: Revd Michael Whitfield, Mrs Marie Whitman, Mr John Willis
E: Revd Andrew Francis, Revd Michael Hodgson, Ms Sara Crabb, Mrs Joan Trippier
F: Revd Wendy Baskett, Revd Dilys Brace, Revd Ian Kirby, Mr John Waines
G: Revd Barbara Bennett, Mrs Barbara Madge
H: Mrs Shirley Paton
J: Mrs Peggy Gray, Revd Martyn Skinner

Synod IX

A: Revd Clive Sutcliffe, Revd Margaret Tilley, Mrs Brenda McCarron
B: Revd Terry Hinks, Revd George Thomas, Mrs Christine Hardwick, Mr Josh Thomas
C: Revd Michael Thomas, Revd David Williams, Miss Ruth Hezlett, Mr Roy Markham
D: Revd David Bedford, Revd David Mather, Revd Stephen Thornton, Ms Nikki Andrews, Mr Peter Bulley, Ms Sarah Power
E: Revd Andrew Lonsdale, Revd Dick Wolff, Mrs Kath Lonsdale, Mr Colin Macbean, Mrs Julie McLaren, Mrs Margaret Telfer

Synod X

A: Revd John Danso, Revd Lynn Fowkes, Revd Kathryn Louch, Mrs Sally Abbott, Miss Gloria Osie, Mr Cliff Purchase
B: Revd Sheena Dickson, Revd Elizabeth Kemp, Mr Douglas Hogge, Mrs Janet Hogge
C: Revd Dr Jim Coleman, Revd Bridget Powell, Miss Shirley Raw, Mr Howard Williams
D: Revd Jeanne Ennals, Revd Neil Thorogood, Revd Mark Woodhouse, Mr Robert Harvey, Mr Andrew Jack, Mr Alan Vine
E: Revd Janet Llewellyn, Revd John Macaulay, Miss Barbara Leighton, Ms Margaret Stuart
F: Revd Phil Nevard, Revd Ann Woodhurst, Mrs Glenys Cockerell, Mr Reg Cockerell

Synod XI

A: Revd Gerald Moule, Revd Barbara Pearson, Revd Bruce Stuart, Mrs Sylvia Back, Mrs Jeanette Chamberlain, Mr Benjamin Munyaneza
B: Revd Susan Henderson, Revd Adrian Skelton, Mrs Judith Davey, Mrs Judith Johnson, Mr Michael Musgrove, Mr Matthew Prett
C: Revd Sue Powell, Revd Raymond Singh, Revd Julian Thomas, Miss Lizzie King, Mr Albert Sinclair, Mrs Garcia Yearwood
D: Revd Peter Clark, Revd Kenneth Thom, Mr Desmond Colechin, Mr Matthew Percival
E: Revd Christine Jefferies, Revd Norman Setchell, Mrs Barbara Ellis, Mr John Ellis
F: Revd Roy Cole, Revd Dr Gerald Munro, Revd Bryan Shirley, Miss Hilary Munro, Mrs Christine Robertson, Mr David Walters
G: Revd Graeme Allan, Revd Simon Franklin, Mrs Maureen Lawrence, Mrs Kay McIntosh

Synod XII

A: Revd Brian Acty, Revd Keith Jones, Mr David Clarkson, Ms Naomi Wilkinson
B: Revd Stuart Jackson, Revd Alan Thomasson, Mrs Gwyneth Jarrett, Mrs Joyce Smith-Draper
C: Revd Paul Floe, Revd Gethin Rhys, Revd Simon Walking, Mrs Barbara Jones, Mr Idris Jones, Dr Jean Silvan Evans
D: Revd Nick Stanyon, Mr Stuart Jones
E: Revd Nanette Lewis-Head, Revd Malcolm Shapland, Mr Richard Laws, Mrs Barbara Shapland
F: Revd Stephen Gilbert, Revd Margery Woodland, Mrs Liz Tadd, Mr Dennis Woodland

Synod XIII

- A: Revd Linda Rice, Dr Andrew Davidson
- B: Revd John Sanderson, Mrs Maureen Stewart
- C: Revd Gordon Smith, Mr Douglas Hay, Mr James Mack, Mr Keith Muskett*
- D: Revd Thomas Heggie, Mrs Irene Merrilees
- E: Mr George Barclay, Mrs Mary Howat

The Moderator then delivered his address. This was followed by prayers of Intercession. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was then administered by the Moderator assisted by the Chaplain. The Moderator pronounced the Blessing and the Assembly stood adjourned.

Saturday, 2 July 2005

Second Session

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. Mr McVey gave notice of procedures for addressing the *Catch the Vision* report.

Retiring Moderator

The retiring Moderator, the Revd Sheila Maxey, addressed the Assembly, reflecting on her year in office.

Nomination of Moderator 2006-7

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 53:

Resolution 53

Enabling Resolution

General Assembly resolves:

- a) to suspend the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the United Reformed Church paragraph 33 and to accept nominations for Moderator of the General Assembly 2006-7 submitted by Synods and their Executive Committees received after 31 March.
- b) To request Mission Council to bring forward proposals for changes to the Rules of Procedure which will address the problem of years when no Synod nominates by the stated date.

Resolution 53 was carried.

The Revd Peter McIntosh took the Chair.

Finance

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Eric Chilton, presented the report of the Finance Committee and, on behalf of the committee, moved adoption of Resolution 21:

Resolution 21

Accounts

General Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004.

Resolution 21 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 22:

Resolution 22

Appointment of Auditors

General Assembly resolves that PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP be appointed auditors of the United Reformed Church, to hold office until the conclusion of the next meeting at which accounts are laid before General Assembly and that their remuneration be fixed by the Finance Committee.

Resolution 22 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 23:

Resolution 23

Ministry and Mission Fund

General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2004 to the Ministry and Mission Fund and the work of the local church, district and synod treasurers.

Resolution 23 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 18:

Resolution 18

2006 Budget

General Assembly accepts the budget for the year 2006 as set out in the Book of Accounts.

Resolution 18 was carried.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked Ms Avis Reaney for her service to the Church on her departure after five years as Secretary for Finance.

Mission Council

The General Secretary, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 12:

Resolution 12

Ratification of changes to Section O, Part 1

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision to make the following changes to Part 1 of the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline:

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to Part 1 of the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline:

Paragraph 4.2

Add the following words at the end of this Paragraph: '... but any person who reaches the end of the term of his/her appointment on the Commission Panel whilst serving as a member of an Assembly Commission in a case in progress may continue so to serve until the conclusion of that case.'

Paragraph 9

The existing Paragraph 9 to become 9.1 and a new paragraph to be added as 9.2:

'9.2 As part of such consideration, the Assembly Commission or Appeals Commission shall be entitled to have regard to any conduct on the part of a Minister occurring prior to his/her ordination to the ministry which, in the Commission's view and when viewed in the light of schedule E to the Basis of Union, would have prevented, or was likely to have prevented, him/her from becoming ordained, where such conduct was not disclosed by the Minister to those responsible for assessing his/her candidacy for ordination.'

Resolution 12 was carried.

The General Secretary, of behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 13:

Resolution 13

Ratification of changes to the Structure regarding the resignation of ministers

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

Paragraph 2(3)A(viii)

Insert the words 'not currently the subject of any case within the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline referred to in Function (xviii) below' after the word 'ministers'.

Paragraphs 2(3)A(xviii), 2(4)A(xiv) and 2(5)A(xxiii)

In all these paragraphs, delete the words 'following initial enquiry' on the first line and add the words 'at the appropriate time as specified in that Process' at the end of the paragraph.

Paragraph 2(3)(B)

Delete the existing Paragraph 2(3)(B) and replace it with the following:

B.1 'As soon as any minister becomes the subject of a case under the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline, the District Council shall not exercise any of its functions in respect of that minister in such a manner as to affect, compromise or interfere with the due process of that case, provided that the provision of such pastoral care as shall be deemed appropriate shall not be regarded as a breach of the Paragraph.'

B.2 'The responsibility for calling in the District Council's Mandated Group to conduct an Initial Enquiry which marks the beginning of the Disciplinary Process rests with the Synod Moderator acting in consultation with such officers of the District Council as s/he considers appropriate'.

Paragraph 2(4)(B)

Deleting the existing Paragraph 2(4)(B) and replacing it with the following:

'As soon as any minister becomes the subject of a case under the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline, the Synod shall not exercise any of its functions in respect of that minister in such a manner as to affect, compromise or interfere with the due process of that case, provided that the provision of such pastoral care as shall be deemed appropriate shall not be regarded as a breach of this Paragraph'.

Final unlettered paragraph immediately after Paragraph 2(5)A(xxiv)

Delete this paragraph and replace it with the following:

2(5)(B) 'As soon as any minister becomes the subject of a case against a minister under the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline, neither General Assembly nor Mission Council on its behalf shall exercise any of General Assembly's functions in respect of that minister in such a manner as to affect, compromise or interfere with the due process of that case, provided that the provision of such pastoral care as shall be deemed appropriate shall not be regarded as a breach of this Paragraph'.

Paragraph 2(4)A(viii)

Amend the reference in this paragraph from Function (xv) to (xiv).

Resolution 13 was carried.

The General Secretary, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 14:

Resolution 14 Ratification of a Constitutional Change to the Basis of Union

General Assembly resolves to amend the Basis of Union and Structure of the United Reformed Church as follows:

Add to the end of paragraph 22 of the Basis of Union (as agreed by General Assembly in 2003):
Their service may be stipendiary or non-stipendiary, and in the latter case their service is given within the area of a District or Area Council and in a context it has approved".

Amend paragraph B2(3)(A)(iii) on page B6 (July 2000 edition of The Manual) to read:
"to appoint, or to concur in the appointment of, non-stipendiary ministers and church-related community workers to their particular service and to review this service at stated intervals."

Resolution 14 was carried.

The Convener of the Ministries Committee, Mr John Ellis, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 15:

Resolution 15 Non-Stipendiary Church-Related Community Workers

General Assembly resolves to make the following changes to the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration:

- a) Amend section 5.4.3 to read: 'Non-stipendiary ministers and non-stipendiary CRCW's
- b) Amend section 9.2.1. to read: 'An interest free loan is available to ordinands for the stipendiary ministry at the time of their ordination; to stipendiary CRCW's upon commissioning; and to former non-stipendiary ministers and non-stipendiary CRCW's at the time they transfer to stipendiary service (see Appendix A).'

Resolution 15 was carried.

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 17:

Resolution 17**Authorisation to make changes to Equal Opportunities Policy consequent to changes in the law**

General Assembly resolves that Mission Council, acting in the name of General Assembly, shall have the authority by a single resolution of that council to make as and when necessary and with immediate effect such changes to any part of the Equal Opportunities policy as are, on the advice of the legal advisors to the United Reformed Church, required to bring that policy into line with the general law of the land consequent upon any changes in legislation and/or case law.

Resolution 17 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 5:

Resolution 5**Closure of Local Churches**

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

Broadway, Hammersmith	Thames North
Ecclestone	Mersey
Foxhole, Paignton	South Western
Salem, Great Bridge	West Midlands
Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme	West Midlands
South Ockendon	Eastern
St Thomas, Exeter	South Western
Swinton	Yorkshire

Resolution 5 was carried.

The Moderator then led the Assembly in prayer. Mr McIntosh left the Chair and Dr Peel resumed the Chair.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 4:

Resolution 4**New Churches**

General Assembly receives the churches listed below as local churches of the United Reformed Church.

Trinity Church, Cottam Hall	North Western
Great Notley	Eastern
Gamston	East Midlands

Resolution 4 was carried.

The Assembly welcomed the Revd Lena Talbot, representing Trinity Church, Cottam Hall; Mr Tom Chacko, Mrs Marian Summers and the Revd Michael Rigney, representing Great Notley; and Mr Tony Bray, representing Gamston.

Synod Moderators' Report

The Revd Roberta Rominger presented the report of the Synod Moderators, which the Assembly received with applause.

After brief discussion the Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked the Synod Moderators for their report.

After worship led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

Opening worship was conducted by the chaplain; Bible study was led by the Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam, Principal of the United College of the Ascension, Birmingham.

Northern Synod

The Northern Synod made its presentation.

Ministries Committee

Mr John Ellis, Convener of the Ministries Committee, presented the *Equipping the Saints* report. He responded to a number of questions, and moved adoption of Resolution 25:

Resolution 25

Elders and Ecumenism

General Assembly reaffirms the place of Elders in the work of the United Reformed Church as described in paragraph 23 of the Basis of Union. Assembly requests that District and Area Councils seek to ensure that even when the precise processes and title set out in paragraph 23 are not used, some leaders of each congregation cover the functions of Elders and can properly be recognised as Elders for the purposes of the wider councils of the Church.

After brief discussion, Resolution 25 was carried.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 26:

Resolution 26

Election of Elders

Given the importance of Elders in the leadership of United Reformed Church congregations and the need for ecumenical partners to respect the office, Assembly urges every local church to use a selection process for Elders which reflects the significance of their appointment.

Resolution 26 was carried.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 27:

Resolution 27

Elders and Wider Church Representation

General Assembly, recognising that an Elder is part of the leadership of the whole Church as well as of the local congregation, requests the explicit involvement of the wider Church in the induction of Elders.

Resolution 27 was carried.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 28:

Resolution 28

Personal Development of Elders

To promote the development of the gifts and skills of Elders, Assembly requests:

Synods to ensure the provision of locally based opportunities for the development of Elders in local churches or groups of churches; and each local church to set aside time and resources at least once a year specifically for the development of the gifts and skills of Elders.

Resolution 28 was carried.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 29:

Resolution 29

Collaborative Leadership

General Assembly urges local churches and groups of churches to develop collaborative leadership patterns, and wherever possible to do so ecumenically.

After discussion, Resolution 29 was carried.

Election of Moderator of General Assembly 2006/7

The Assembly Clerk explained the voting procedure. The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer and ballot slips were collected.

The Revd William Mahood took the Chair.

Mr John Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 30:

Resolution 30

Deployment

General Assembly, recognising that the number of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments continues to fall much more rapidly than the number of congregations, requests Synods, District and Area Councils to deploy Ministers in ways which show imagination and flexibility, and in particular:

- a) to focus on present and future opportunities not historical patterns;
- b) to look at leadership needs and resources in each congregation, accepting that not every congregation has or will have a Minister directly providing their day-to-day leadership;
- c) to take account of the deployment plans of sister denominations;
- d) to take account of the service offered by self-supporting Ministers;
- e) to take account of the Church's policy on Local Church Leaders as agreed at the 1998 meeting of the Assembly;
- f) to remember the possibilities provided by the Special Category Ministry scheme.

The Revd Alistair Smeaton moved adoption of the following Amendment to Resolution 30:

to replace the words 'not every congregation has or will have a Minister directly providing their day-to-day leadership' with 'there may be variation in the way that elders and ministers of Word and Sacrament share in the pastoral oversight and leadership of local churches.'

The Amendment was seconded by the Revd Timothy Key.

After response by the Convener, a vote was taken and the amendment fell.
Resolution 30 was carried.

Ministries Committee

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 31:

Resolution 31

Ministry and Mission Fund Report

General Assembly resolves that a report showing how the Ministry and Mission Fund contributions have been used should be sent each year to every local church.

Resolution 31 was carried.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked the Convener and members of the *Equipping the Saints* working group for their work.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 32:

Resolution 32

Ill-health retirement

General Assembly

- a) consents to the use of Rule 44 of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund (the Scheme) such that any member of the Scheme who in future retires on ill-health grounds shall be paid a pension based on their full prospective years of pensionable service up to their normal retirement date; and
- b) requests that comparable grants are paid to those who have retired on ill-health grounds since January 2004.

Resolution 32 was carried.

Catch the Vision

The General Secretary presented the report of the *Catch the Vision* group.

After announcements by the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, the Assembly adjourned.

After meeting in groups to discuss the *Catch the Vision* report, the Assembly resumed in plenary session and the Assembly Clerk presented the minutes of Saturday 1st July. With minor alterations the Assembly approved the minutes.

Moderator 2006-2007

Mrs Val Morrison, Convener of Tellers for the election of the Moderator of the General Assembly, reported that 343 votes had been cast, 3 papers had been spoiled and that the Revd Elizabeth Caswell had been duly elected as Moderator of General Assembly 2006-7.

National Synod of Scotland

The Synod of Scotland made its presentation.

Ecumenical and International Guests

On behalf of the Assembly, the Moderator welcomed:

The Rt Revd David Lacy	Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
The Revd Ian Hamilton	Chaplain to the Moderator, Church of Scotland
The Ven. Richard Blackburn	Archdeacon of Sheffield, Church of England
The Rt Revd Onye Obika	Secretary General, International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
The Revd Llunos Gordon	Union of Welsh Independents

Resolutions

The Revd Ray Adams, on behalf of Mission Council, briefly introduced Resolution 6, which was formally moved by the Revd Peter Poulter and Mrs Sheila Brain. With the consent of the Moderator a personal statement was made by the Revd Moira Kerr.

Resolution 6 Declaration of a Safe Church – a Charter for Action

General Assembly

- a) accepts the Declaration of a Safe Church
- b) instructs all General Assembly committees to operate within it;
- c) urges synods, district councils and local churches to affirm the declaration, resolve to apply it in all aspects of their life and work; and synods to report their response to Mission Council by March 2006.

Following discussion, the Revd Peter Poulter responded, and Resolution 6 was carried.

The Revd Claire Downing, on behalf of East Midlands Synod, moved adoption of a revised Resolution 2:

Resolution 2

Saying sorry

General Assembly, noting the actions of the Methodist Church with regard to those who have been sexually abused, instructs Mission Council to prepare recommendations for similar actions on the part of the United Reformed Church and to bring them to the Assembly of 2006.

Seconded by Mrs Irene Wren.

Following discussion, Resolution 2 was carried.

Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee

The report of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd John Young. The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked the Mr Young for the report and for his Convenership of the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee.

Training Committee

The Convener of the Training Committee, the Revd John Humphreys, moved adoption of Resolution 35:

Resolution 35

Partnership within the Hind Process

General Assembly, recognising that the Training Committee is working within a climate of considerable change,

- a) encourages the Committee to continue in constructive partnership with the Church of England's training review 'Formation for Ministry within a Learning Church' (known as 'the Hind process') and its subsequent implementation, and
- b) emphasises the need for the Committee to safeguard
 - i. the aims and parameters of its own programmes in any arrangements to subsume them in new ecumenical provision; and
 - ii. the financial resources and commitments needed to sustain them.

The Revd Roy Lowes, Secretary of the Training Committee, responded to a number of questions, and Resolution 35 was carried.

Pastoral Reference Committee

The report of the Pastoral Reference Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Keith Forecast.

The Assembly adjourned.

Sunday 3rd July 2005

Third Session

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Eric Chilton, moved adoption of Resolution 24:

Resolution 24

URC Ministers' Pension Fund Investment Policy

General Assembly resolves that:

- a) It supports the ethical dimension of the investment policy currently operated by the Trustee of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund.
- b) If the Trustee continues to invest the pension fund assets having regard to ethical issues (and having consulted the Church over any changes to the policy) the Church will promptly reimburse the pension fund in respect of any losses (including inferior investment performance) attributable to the ethical dimension of the Trustee's investment policy, as identified in periodic reports commissioned by the Trustee from their professional advisers. Such reimbursement shall be made within a period satisfactory to the Trustee and, if it so requires, shall be made in addition to any contributions which would otherwise be required on the advice of the Actuary.

Following discussion, Resolution 24 was carried.

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

Resolution 7

Revised Ethical Investment Policy

General Assembly recommends that trustees and all those with investment responsibilities connected with the United Reformed Church should avoid any investment in:

- a) companies directly engaged in the manufacture or supply of weapons of destruction;
- b) companies a significant part of whose business is in the supply of alcoholic drinks or tobacco products or military equipment (other than weapons of destruction); or the provision of gambling facilities; or the publication or distribution of pornography.

General Assembly notes that the definition of these activities, or of what constitutes a significant part of a company's business, requires judgement and the Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) of Mission Council is available to offer advice. In general, EIAG will deem "significant" to mean where the share of turnover derived from the activity concerned is more than around 10-20% of the company's total turnover.

General Assembly recognises that this policy can only be advisory as the responsibility for specific investment decisions remains with each body of trustees.

Resolution 7 was carried.

Church and Society Committee

The report of the Church and Society Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Martin Camroux.

The Revd Elizabeth Nash moved adoption of Resolution 54:

Resolution 54

Emergency Resolution – Zimbabwe

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church meeting in Warwick University, mindful of the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and of its church and 'Commitment for Life' partners in that country:

- expresses its outrage at the actions being taken against the people of Zimbabwe by their own government;
- reaffirms the support of the United Reformed Church for its partners in Zimbabwe and instructs the Moderator to convey the news of this to them;
- calls upon its Ecumenical Committee and the Commitment for Life Programme to explore with all the church's partners fresh initiatives to end the injustices being committed against the Zimbabwean people;
- calls upon Her Majesty's Government to recognise the claims of refugees and asylum seekers from Zimbabwe and to offer them shelter in the UK.

Several members spoke in support of the Resolution.

Resolution 54 was carried. Members of Assembly stood, and were led in prayer by the Chaplain, as a token of solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, greeted Mrs Ann Martin and offered her the Assembly's best wishes as she completes her term of office as *Commitment for Life* co-ordinator.

Assembly Worship

The speaker was the Revd Dr Setri Nyomi, General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Worship included a presentation on *MakePovertyHistory*.

MakePovertyHistory

Mrs Ann Martin moved adoption of Resolution 20:

Resolution 20

MakePovertyHistory

As part of the United Reformed Church's renewed commitment to challenging the world's injustices under Catch the Vision, General Assembly warmly welcomes the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY campaign and calls on all relevant councils of the church to engage fully and imaginatively with the campaign actions for the remainder of the year.

Resolution 20 was carried.

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

Opening worship was conducted by the chaplain; Bible study was led by the Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam.

Southern Synod

The Southern Synod made its presentation.

Resolutions

The Revd Martin Hazell, on behalf of Thames North Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 3:

Resolution 3

Age Discrimination

General Assembly notes the intention of the Equal Opportunities Committee to review the current Equal Opportunities policy and instructs the committee to give particular attention to issues relating to age discrimination and the implementation of Assembly Policy in this area.

Seconded by Mr Douglas Hogge.

Following discussion Resolution 3 was carried.

The Revd Ray Adams, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 16:

Resolution 16

Target representation on Panels and Boards

General Assembly instructs the Nominations Committee to monitor appointments to the Assessment Board, the Commission Panel for the Disciplinary Process and the Panel for the appointment and review of Synod Moderators in order to further its Equal Opportunities objectives and sets the following targets for the lists of nominations to each of these bodies presented in the annual report to Assembly:

- a) An equal number of men and women.**
- b) At least 10% representation from minority ethnic groups.**

Under Standing Order 7, a question was put by the Revd John Danso. The Revd Dr Stephen Orchard responded.

Following debate, the Revd Martin Cressey moved that the Resolution be now put. Assembly agreed.

The Moderator called for tellers. Resolution 16 was carried with 184 votes in favour and 93 votes against. There were a number of abstentions.

The Revd Dr Stephen Orchard, on behalf of the Conveners of the Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry, Nominations, and Equal Opportunities Committees, moved adoption of Resolution 36:

General Assembly instructs the Nominations Committee to monitor the appointments of Synod Moderators, Assembly Appointed Staff, Westminster College Staff and the Conveners of Assembly Committees for equal opportunities purposes. It further instructs Nominations, Equal Opportunities and Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry Committees to work together to devise a strategy for all appointment procedures which ensure a balance in those groupings which matches the balance in other nominations of:

- a) an equal number of men and women;
- b) at least 10% representation from minority ethnic groups.

Seconded by the Revd Andrew Prasad.

After debate, the Revd Dr Stephen Orchard responded, and Resolution 36 was carried.

The Moderator welcomed the Revd Mark Fisher, Secretary of the Free Churches Group of Churches Together in England.

The Moderator welcomed Ms Michelle Marcano, Human Resources and Facilities Manager, Church House; The Revd Neil Thorogood, Director of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College; and the Revd John Humphreys, Moderator, Synod of Scotland, all of whom had been appointed by Mission Council since the Assembly last met.

Mrs Wilma Frew took the Chair.

Life and Witness Committee

The report of the Life and Witness Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Brian Jolly.

Mission Council

Under Standing Order 7, a question was put by the Revd Dr Walter Houston regarding the Training Committee's review of training needs.

The Deputy General Secretary responded.

Nominations Committee

The report of the Nominations Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Dr Stephen Orchard.

Members

Convener: Revd Dr Stephen Orchard [2006], Revd Malcolm Hanson#** [2010]

Secretary: Revd Elizabeth Brown [2009]

Synod Representatives: Revd Peter Poulter [1], Revd Ruth Wollaston [2], Revd John Oldershaw [3], Mrs Val Morrison [4], Mrs Irene Wren [5], Dr Anthony Jeans [6], Revd Elizabeth Caswell [7], Revd Roz Harrison [8], Mr Peter Pay [9], Revd Martin Hazell [10], Dr Graham Campling [11], Dr Jean Silvan Evans [12], Dr James Merrilees [13], with the Immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretary.

1. ASSEMBLY STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 The Nominating Group, convened by Mrs Val Morrison recommended the appointment of Ms Michelle Marcano for the position of Human Resources and Facilities at Church House and she commenced work on the 1st September 2004.
- 1.2 The Nominating Group, convened by Revd Lesley Charlton, recommended the re-appointment of Revd Roberta Rominger to serve as Moderator of Thames North Synod from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2010.

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 2004 are indicated by one asterisk (*), two asterisks (**) denotes those whom Assembly 2005 is invited to appoint for the first time (#) indicates a **Convener Elect** who will become Convener in 2006. (☛) indicates a **Secretary Elect** who will become Secretary in 2006.
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 [2008]

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 2007

Revd Martin Hazell [Convener], Mr Peter Pay, Dr Graham Campling

2.2 CHURCH and SOCIETY

Convener: Revd Martin Camroux [2006]

Secretary: Secretary for Church and Society

Mr Geoffrey Duncan [2006]

Mr Simon Loveitt# [2010]

Revd Tjarda Murray [2007]

Mrs Glenna Paynter [2007]

Miss Emma Pugh [2007]

Revd David Pickering** [2009]

Revd Margaret Tait** [2009]

2.2.1 COMMITMENT FOR LIFE sub committee

Convener: Mrs Melanie Frew

2.3 COMMUNICATIONS and EDITORIAL

Convener: Revd Martin Hazell [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for Communications

Mr Philip George [2006]

Revd Martin Whiffen [2007]

Revd Paul Snell [2008]

Revd Janet Sutton [2008]

Ms Julia Wills [2008]

Mrs Valerie Jenkins** [2009]

Ms Catherine Lewis-Smith** [2009]

Mr Ron Sweeney** [2009]

Mr Richard Lathen** [2009]

2.4 DOCTRINE, PRAYER and WORSHIP

Convener: Revd Dr Susan Durber [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order

Revd Prof Alan Sell [2007]

Revd Geoffrey Clarke [2007]

Revd Hilary Collinson [2007]

Miss Sarah Lane [2007]

Dr John Turner [2007]

Mrs Chris Eddowes [2008]

Revd Jason McCullagh [2008]

Revd Peter Trow [2008]

Revd Gordon Smith** [2009]

Miss Suzanne McDonald** [2009]

Mrs Jill Jenkins** [2009]

2.5 ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd Elizabeth Nash [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order

Revd Rowena Francis [2006]

Mr Malcolm Porter [2006]

Revd Lindsey Sanderson [2006]

Mrs Ann Shillaker [2007]

Mrs Pat Gurr [2008]

Revd Graham Maskery** [2009]

Revd Anthony Howells** [2009]

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

Mrs Heather Barnes [2006]

Revd Nigel Uden [2006]

Mrs Eileen McIlveen [2007]

Revd Michael Thomason [2007]

Mrs Sylvia Jackson** [2009]

2.6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Revd Wilf Bahadur [2006]

Ms Morag McLintock #** [2010]

Secretary: Revd Derek Hopkins [2008]

Mr Derek Estill [2006]

Mr Alan Hart [2006]

Revd Sue MacBeth [2007]

Dr Ruth Shepherd [2008]

Mrs Louise Sanders [2008]

Revd Kate Gartside** [2009]

2.7 FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: *to be advised*

Ms Alison Holt [2006]

Revd David Dones [2007]

Mrs Marie Whitman [2007]

Mr Errol Martin [2008]

Mr Graham Law [2008]

Revd Dick Gray** [2009]

Mr Graham Morris** [2009]

Mr John Kidd** [2009]

Convener of the URC Trust

Financial Secretary

2.8 INTER-FAITH RELATIONS

Convener: Revd Dr John Parry [2007]

Secretary: Mrs Jean Potter [2008]

Revd Peter Colwell [2006]

Dr Iain Frew [2008]

Revd Helen Pollard [2008]

Mr David Jonathon** [2009]

2.9 LIFE and WITNESS

Convener: Revd Brian Jolly [2006]

Revd Peter Ball**# [2010]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Revd Linda Elliott [2006]

Mrs Sheila Brain [2007]

Mr Colin Ferguson [2007]

Revd Ian Fosten [2007]

Revd Michael Hodgson [2007]

Revd Kate Gray [2008]

Mr Emmanuel Nkusi [2008]

Revd Simon Walkling** [2009]

Mr Patrick Smyth** [2009]

2.9.1 LIFE and WITNESS – STEWARDSHIP Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Ray McHugh [2008]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Revd David Legge [2006]

Mrs Jackie Haws [2007]

Mrs Susan Wilkinson [2007]

Revd John Durrell [2008]

Mr Gareth Curl** [2009]

2.9.2 WINDERMERE ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Revd Bernard Collins [2009]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere

Mrs Irene Wren [2008]

Revd Carole Allison** [2009]

Revd Jan Berry** [2009]

Convener of Windermere Management Committee Convener of Life and Witness Committee

Representative of Carver URC

2.10 MINISTRIES

Convener: Mr John Ellis [2006]

Revd Peter Poulter#** [2010]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Revd Pauline Barnes [2006]

Mrs Joan Trippier [2007]

Revd Paul Whittle [2007]

Revd Terry Oakley [2008]

Revd Alan Evans** [2009]

Mrs Joanna Morling** [2009]

Convener of Assessment Board

2.10.1 **MINISTRIES – ACCREDITATION Sub-Committee**

Convener: Revd Gwen Collins [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Judith Booth [2006]

Revd Tony Wilkinson [2007]

Revd Howard Sharp** [2009]

Mr Simon Rowntree** [2009]

Mr Rod Morrison** [2009]

2.10.2 **MINISTRIES – CRCW Programme Sub-Committee**

Convener: Revd Bob Day [2008]

Secretary: The CRCW Development Workers

Revd John Burgess [2006]

Mrs Janet Holden [2006]

Mr Peter Twilley [2007]

Revd Tracey Lewis [2008]

Mrs Maureen Thompson** [2009]

2.10.3 **MINISTRIES – LAY PREACHING Support Sub Committee**

Assembly Lay Preaching Advocate: Dr Philip Theaker [2007]

And four members elected by the Lay Preaching Commissioners Consultation

2.10.4 **MINISTRIES – MAINTENANCE OF MINISTRY Sub-Committee**

Convener: Revd Geoffrey Roper** [2009]

Secretary: *to be advised*

Mr Patrick Hickey [2007]

Mrs Lyn Alford [2008]

Mr David Hayden [2008]

Mr David Taylor [2008]

The Treasurer

Convener of Pensions Executive

Financial Secretary

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

Convener: Revd David Bedford [2010]

Secretary: Secretary Retired Ministers' Housing Society Ltd

Mr Malcolm Lindo [2007]

Mrs Pauline Mewis [2006]

Mrs Liz Tadd** [2009]

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 **ASSESSMENT BOARD**

Convener: Prof David Cutler [2009]

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 Walking
Retiring 2008 Mrs Judith Harris, Mrs Barbara Lancaster, Dr Cameron Wilson
Retiring 2009 Mrs Tina Ashitey, Dr Peter Clarke, Mr Hugh Abel
Retiring 2010** Revd David A L Jenkins, Revd Dr Irene John, Revd Edward Sanniez, Revd Lesley Charlton

2.11 **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Convener: Revd Dr Stephen Orchard [2006]

Revd Malcolm Hanson#** [2010]

Secretary: Revd Elizabeth Brown [2009]

Synod Representatives: Revd Peter Poulter [1], Revd Ruth Wollaston [2], Revd John Oldershaw [3],
Mrs Val Morrison [4], Mrs Irene Wren [5], Dr Anthony Jeans [6], Revd Elizabeth Caswell [7], Revd Roz Harrison [8],
Mr Peter Pay [9], Revd Martin Hazell [10], Dr Graham Campling [11], Dr Jean Silvan Evans [12],
Dr James Merrilees [13], with the Immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretary.

2.12 **PASTORAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Convener: Revd Keith Forecast [2007]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Revd David Grosch Miller [2007]

Revd Meryl Court [2008]

Mrs Sharn Waldron [2008]

Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith** [2009]

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 and MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

Convener: Revd Andrew Prasad [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for Racial Justice

Mrs Sandra Ackroyd [2007]

Mrs Elaine Patrick [2007]

Revd Carla Grosch Miller [2007]

Mr Iain Bhagwandin [2008]

Revd Helga Cornell [2008]

Mrs Pat Poinen** [2009]

vacancy [2009]

2.14 TRAINING

Convener: Revd John Humphreys [2007]

Secretary: The Secretary for Training

Mrs Susan Brown [2006]

Revd Sue Henderson [2006]

Revd Malachie Munyaneza [2006]

Mrs Valerie Burnham [2007]

Dr Ian Morrison [2007]

Revd Rachel Poolman [2008]

Revd Richard Church [2008]

Revd Dr John Campbell** [2009]

vacancy [2009]

2.15 YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Convener: Revd Kathryn Price [2006]

Revd Neil Thorogood*** [2010]

Secretary: Revd Steven Faber [2008]

Mr Huw Morrison [2006]

Mrs Doreen Watson [2007]

Mr Augustus Webbe [2007]

Revd Tim Meachin [2008]

Revd Sian Collins** [2009]

Revd Robert Weston** [2009]

Miss Rosemary Simmons** [2009]

Ms Ruth Hezlett** [2009]

Mrs Rita Griffiths** [2009]

FURY Chair

FURY Council Member

2.15.1 PILOTS MANAGEMENT Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Pamela Smith

2.16 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS – Commission Panel

Convener: Mrs Helen Brown [2009]

Deputy Convener: Revd David Helyar [2007]

Secretary: Revd Alison Hall [2010]

Members:

Mr Martin Ballard

Miss Ina Barker

Revd Wendy Baskett

Revd David Bedford

Revd James Bolton

Revd James Brown

Revd Ken Chippindale

Mrs Janice Cockcroft

Miss Kathleen Cross

Revd Alison Davis

Revd John Du Bois

Mr Colin Ferguson

Mrs Wilma Frew

Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn

Mr Peter Jolly

Mrs Barbara Lancaster

Miss Elizabeth Lawson QC

Revd Daphne Lloyd

Revd Julian Macro

Mrs Barbara Madge

Mr Peter Mann

Revd Nicholas Mark

Revd Ted Marley

Revd Denise Megson

Mrs Jean McAslan

Revd Sandra Pickard

Revd Shelagh Pollard

Mrs Sheila Pratt

Mr Nicholas Pye

Revd Michael Rees

Revd Raymond Singh

Revd Dr David Thompson

Mrs Lynne Upsdell

Ms Elizabeth Whitten

Mr Clive Willis

Revd Joan Winterbottom

Mr Ken Woods

** Mr Des Colechin

Revd Meryl Court

Mr Derek Craig

Mr David Eldridge

Revd Nanette Lewis-Head

Dr Fiona Liddell

Dr James Merrilees

Mrs Pamela Sharp

Mr Alan Small

Mr Patrick Smyth

2.17 PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND REVIEW OF SYNOD MODERATORS

Mrs Sally Abbott, Revd Mary Buchanan, Revd Craig Bowman, Mrs Helen Brown, Dr Graham Campling, Revd Lesley Charlton, Revd Dr Susan Durber, Dr Jean Silvan Evans, Mrs Janet Gray, Mr Alun Jones, Revd Nanette Lewis-Head, Mr John Lumsden, Mr Okeke Azu Okeke, Mr Simon Rowntree, Revd Raymond Singh, Mr Ron Todd, Revd Cecil White, Mrs Irene Wren

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	Revd John Durell, Revd Colin Ofor, Mrs Susan Rand
North Western Synod	Miss Kathleen Cross, <i>vacancy, vacancy</i>
Mersey Synod	Revd Jenny Morgan, Mrs Wilma Prentice, Mr Donald Swift
Yorkshire Synod	Mrs Val Morrison, Revd Pauline Loosemore, Mr Roderick Garthwaite
East Midlands Synod	Mrs Ann Ball, Mrs Barbara Turner, Mrs Irene Wren
West Midlands Synod	Mrs Melanie Frew, Revd Anthony Howells, Mr Bill Robson
Eastern Synod	Mr Mick Barnes, Revd Victor Ridgewell, Mrs Joan Turner
South Western Synod	Revd Roz Harrison, Mrs Janet Gray, Revd Richard Pope
Wessex Synod	Mrs Glenis Massey, Revd Clive Sutcliffe Revd Ruth Whitehead
Thames North Synod	Revd John Macauley, Revd Dr Roger Scopes, <i>vacancy</i> ,
Southern Synod	Dr Graham Campling, Mrs Maureen Lawrence, Mr Nigel MacDonald
National Synod of Wales	Mrs Janet Gray, Revd Stuart Jackson, Mr W Stuart Jones
National Synod of Scotland	Miss Irene Hudson, Revd Alan Paterson, Mr Patrick Smyth

4 TRUST BODIES

4.1 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST

Chairman: *to be advised*

Secretary: Mr Tony Bayley

Directors

Revd Leslie Watson [2006]

Mrs Fiona Smith [2008]

Dr Geoffrey Sides [2009]

Mr Ernest Gudgeon [2010]

Mr Donald Swift [2010]

Mrs Jill Stidson** [2011]

Revd John Waller** [2011]

[*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: Mr Brian Moere

Secretary: *to be advised*

Members of URC:

Mr Brian Moere [2008]

Mr Michael Goldsmith [2009]

Mrs Hilary Reynolds** [2011]

*vacancy** [2011]*

Members of Fund:

Revd Gwen Thomas [2007]

Revd Michael Davies [2008]

Revd Graham Spicer** [2009]

Revd Dr Colin Baxter** [2011]

[*ex officio* Financial Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Convener MoM sub-committee

Convener MoM Pensions Executive]

4.2.1 PENSIONS EXECUTIVE

Convener: Mr Maurice Dyson [2010]

the Pensions Executive reports to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pensions Trust Board, the Maintenance of Ministry sub committee and to the Finance committee.

4.3 CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revd Peter Grimshaw

Revd Dr Peter Jupp

Mr Hartley Oldham

Mr Graham Stacy

Dr John Thompson

Dr Elaine Kaye

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 Sheila Maxey

General Synod of Church of England

Revd Fleur Houston

Methodist Conference
General Assembly of Church of Scotland [note 5]

Revd Richard Mortimer
Revd Sheila Maxey
Revd John Humphreys
Revd Mary Buchanan
Revd Sheila Maxey
Revd Stuart Jackson
Revd Heather Whyte
Revd Stuart Jackson
Mr Alan K Smith
Revd David Tatem

Presbyterian Church of Wales [note 5]
Union of Welsh Independents [note 5]
Congregational Federation
Church in Wales Governing Board [note 5]
United Free Church of Scotland [note 5]
Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church

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

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 WARC General Council 2004

Ms Sarah Hall, Ms Emma Pugh, Revd David Pickering, Secretary for International Relations, General Secretary

6.3 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland – Assembly 2004

General Secretary Convener of the Ecumenical Committee
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry,
Revd Peter Brain, Mrs Eileen McIlveen, Revd Stephen Brown

6.3.1 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland – Church Representatives Meeting

General Secretary Mrs Wilma Frew

6.4 Churches Together in England – Forum

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

6.4.1 Churches Together in England – Enabling Group

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

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

Central Council Revd John Humphreys

6.6 CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales) see Note 5

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

6.7 FREE CHURCH COUNCIL for WALES see Note 5

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 Roy Fowler, Revd Harry Lanham, Revd Roberta Rominger

7.1.1 HEALTH and HEALING DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Dr Margaret Moore, Mrs Jackie Ballard, Revd Delia Bond, Revd Deborah McVey

7.2 Anglican/Moravian Contact Groups

Revd David Tatem

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

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

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

8.1 Mansfield College:

Ministerial and Educational Training Committee: Professor Malcolm Johnson [2006]
Revd Fiona Thomas** [2009]
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]
alternate Mr Colin Howard [2008]

8.3 Northern College Secretary for Training, [2009]
Revd David Jenkins [2009]
Mr Bill McLaughin [2009]
Miss Margaret Atkinson [2007]
Mrs Helen Brown [2007]
Revd Dr Robert Pope [2007]

Council of the Partnership for
Theological Education, Manchester: 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 Craig Muir [2009]
Mr John Kidd [2009]
Mr Brian Long [2010]
Revd Fleur Houston** [2010]
Secretary for Training

8.4.1 Cheshunt Foundation Mr David Butler

8.4.2 Cambridge Theological Federation Convener Westminster
College Governors

8.5 Homerton College Trustees Mr John Chaplin [2005]
Mrs Elisabeth Jupp [2006]
Lady Sally Williams [2007]
Revd Dr David Thompson [2008]

8.6 Queen's College, Birmingham Revd Elizabeth Welch
*vacancy***
Secretary for Training in attendance

8.7 Aberystwyth (Memorial College) Mr Leslie Jones

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

9.1 Caterham School
Revd Nigel Uden [2007]
Mr John Mathias [2008]

9.2 Eltham College
Revd Derek Lindfield [2007]

9.3 Walthamstow Hall
Mrs Margaret Abraham

9.4 Milton Mount Foundation
Mrs Clare Meachin [2006]
Revd David Cuckson [2006]
Mr Graham Rolfe [2008]
Mr Brian West [2008]
Revd Nicola Furley-Smith* [2008]

9.5 Silcoates School
Dr Peter Clarke [2009]
Dr Moira Gallagher [2009]
Mrs Val Morrison [2006]
Prof Clyde Binfield [2007]
Mrs Valerie Jenkins [2009]
Mr David Figures [2007]

9.6 Taunton School
Revd David Grosch-Miller

9.7 Wentworth College
Revd Daphne Hull

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
Revd Julian Macro

Christian Education
Board of Trustees
Publications Development Group
Mrs Patricia Hubbard
Mrs Rosemary Johnston

Churches Main Committee
Ms Avis Reaney
Mr Hartley Oldham

Congregational Fund Board
Revd Margaret Taylor
Revd Eric Allen
Revd John Taylor
Mr Anthony Bayley
Revd David Helyar

Guides' Religious Advisory Panel
Mrs Susan Walker

Pilots Management Committee
Mr Huw Morrison

Samuel Robinson's Charities
Mr Tony Alderman

Scouts' Religious Advisory Group
Revd David Marshall-Jones

United Reformed Church History Society

Mrs Mary Davies
Revd Michael Hopkins,
Mrs Carol Rogers,
Revd Kirsty Thorpe
Revd Dr David Thompson

Wharton Trust

Dr John Thompson** [2009]

Dr Orchard, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 33:

Resolution 33

Nominations

General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pp 83-91 of the Book of Reports subject to additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary report before Assembly.

Resolution 33 was carried.

The Revd Dr David Thomson moved adoption of Resolution 55:

Resolution 55

Re-appointment at Westminster College

General Assembly reappoints the Revd Dr Peter McEnhill to the Barbour Chair of Systematic Theology at Westminster College for seven years from 1st September 2006.

Seconded by the Revd Craig Muir.

Resolution 55 was carried.

The Moderator resumed the Chair.

The Moderator welcomed three recently appointed Youth and Childrens' Work Training and Development Officers:

Malcolm Evans
Chris Burgham
Ruth White

Mersey
West Midlands
Wessex

The Moderator greeted those present.

Catch the Vision

On behalf of the *Catch the Vision* Steering Group, the Revd Dr Stephen Orchard, addressed the Assembly, reporting on the feedback received from the previous day's discussion groups.

The Assembly adjourned.

The Assembly met in groups to discuss the *Catch the Vision* report.

New Ministers and CRCWs

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

Northern Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Poulter)

Revd Elaine Brown	Gateshead Group
Revd Gordon Brown	Gateshead Group
Revd Jan Maxwell	North West Durham Group
Revd Margaret Johnson	Industrial Chaplain, Port of Tyne
Revd Barry Welch	Ashington and Widdrington

North Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Brain)

Revd Ann Hufton	Furness
Revd Sarah Moore	Darwen Ecumenical Partnership
Revd Marion Tugwood	Goyt Valley Pastorate
Revd Dr Mark Houghton	SW Manchester District (<i>in absentia</i>)

Mersey Synod (Moderator: Revd Howard Sharp)

Revd David Coaker	St John's and Elmwood Avenue, Warrington
Revd Jenny Morgan	Hamilton Memorial, Prenton and Upton, Birkenhead
Revd John Bradbury	Earle Road and Liverpool City Centre Ecumenical Team
Revd Ruth Dillon	Stoneycroft, Oakvale and Huyton

Yorkshire Synod (Moderator: Revd Arnold Harrison)

Revd Geoff Ellis	Leeds District (<i>In absentia</i>)
Revd Sarah Hall	St Andrew's, Sheffield and University Chaplaincy

East Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Terry Oakley)

Revd Jenny Yule	Sinfin Moor
Revd Keith Morrison	Castle Hill and Doddridge Memorial
Revd Peter Blackband	Arnold, Burton Joyce and The Dales

West Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Welch)

Revd Stuart Turner	Winson Green and Wilton Road, Birmingham
Revd Peter Hurter	Rugby and Brinklow

Eastern Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Caswell)

Revd Heather Kent	Harwich Road and Christchurch, Colchester, and Emmanuel, Walton-on-the-Naze
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Wessex Synod (Moderator: Revd Adrian Bulley)

Revd Anne Bray	Bitterne
Revd Gordon Connell	Portsmouth Road, Guildford
Revd Alison Toplas	Worplesdon

Thames North Synod (Moderator: Revd Roberta Rominger)

Revd Sheena Dickson	South Oxhey
Revd Clare Davison	Highams Park, Forest Group
Revd Philip Turner	Hitchin
Revd Mark Woodhouse	Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead
Revd Ann Woodhurst	Hornchurch and Upminster

Revd Viv Randles
Revd Janet Llywellyn

Wembley Park (*in absentia*)
Clapton Park and Dalston (*in absentia*)

Southern Synod (Moderator: Revd Nigel Uden)

Revd Alan Seymour
Revd Susan Powell
Revd Ernest Yu
Revd Christine Jeffries

Folkestone and Hythe (*in absentia*)
South East London District
Wimbledon Trinity
Folkestone and Hythe

National Synod of Scotland (Moderator: Revd John Humphreys)

Revd Dr Irene John

Carlisle

The Moderator greeted the new ministers and CRCWs.

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

Ordained 1935

Ian LATTO
William SIMPSON

Ordained 1945

Boris ANDERSON
Derrick BARBER
Earnest BRITTAIN
Howard BYERS
Bryan DAWSON
Harold JOHNSON
David RICHARDS
John RUTHERFORD
Lorna STANFIELD

Ordained 1955

Nelson BAINBRIDGE
Ernest CRUCHLEY
Marshall EDWARDS
Peter EVANS
Clifford FRY
James GARFITT
Roger HALL
Stanley JONES
Frederik KAAAN
Thomas MACKAY
Raymond MOODY
Bernard MORRELL
Elisabeth NEALE
Lewis NEEMS
Frank NUNN
James SPARKES
Allan SPEIGHT
David STAPLETON
John STURNEY
David WELBROCK
Desmond BENDING

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

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair.

The Clerk presented the minutes of the First Session, Sunday 3rd July. The Assembly approved the minutes.

Catch the Vision

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 38:

Resolution 38

Ministry and Mission Fund

General Assembly instructs the Treasurer to conduct a review of the Ministry & Mission Fund and report to the 2006 Assembly.

Resolution 38 was carried.

Under Standing Order 3(a), the Revd Dr David Thompson moved the Resolution:

'General Assembly refers back Resolution 40 to Mission Council'

Seconded by the Revd John Bradbury.

The General Secretary responded.

Following debate, Dr Thompson responded and a vote was taken:

The Resolution fell.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 40.

Resolution 40 Catch the Vision

General Assembly resolves, that there shall be one level of council between the General Assembly and the local church.

The Revd John Johansen-Berg moved an amendment to Resolution 40, that the words '**subject to any legal constraints**' be included after 'General Assembly resolves'.

Seconded by the Revd Alistair Smeaton.

The amendment was carried.

Resolution 40

Catch the Vision

General Assembly resolves, subject to any legal constraints, that there shall be one level of council between the General Assembly and the local church.

Following debate, the General Secretary responded and a vote was taken.

Resolution 40 was carried by more than the required two-thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that: '**In accordance with Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 40 be referred to Synods and District Councils with the 31st March 2006 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.**'

The Assembly agreed.

The Revd Dr David Thompson formally moved the resolution:

'General Assembly refers back Resolution 41 to Mission Council'

Seconded by the Revd John Bradbury.

The General Secretary responded.

Following debate, the Revd Dr David Thompson responded, and a vote was taken.

The Resolution fell.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 41.

Resolution 41 Catch the Vision

General Assembly resolves, that as from General Assembly 2007, there shall be one level of council between the General Assembly and the local church, the thirteen 'new Synods'.

The Revd John Johansen-Berg moved an amendment to Resolution 41, that the words '**subject to any legal constraints**' be included after 'General Assembly resolves'.

This was seconded from the floor.

The Clerk moved that the amendment be now put. Assembly agreed.

The amendment was carried:

The Revd Keith Argyle proposed the amendment:

delete: 'the thirteen 'new Synods'.

add: 'Existing synods to be charged to split into new synods appropriate to local circumstances and served jointly by existing Moderators and professional staff.'

Seconded by Mr Robert Harvey.

Dr Orchard moved that the amendment be not put.

Seconded by the Revd Peter McIntosh.

The Assembly agreed that the amendment be not put.

After lengthy debate, the Moderator temporarily suspended discussion on Resolution 41.

Inter-faith Relations

The report of the Inter-faith Relations Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Dr John Parry. Members of the Coventry inter-faith group were welcomed:

Mrs Jameela Qu'reshi
Sister Cherry Steinberg
The Revd Jean Clark

Mrs Qu'reshi addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Andrew Johnston, representing CWM and offered best wishes on behalf of the Assembly to David Jonathan.

Catch the Vision

Debate on Resolution 41 resumed.

The following amendment was proposed by the Revd Keith Riglin:

delete: "'the 13 'new synods;'"

add: "' 'new' synods, the number and bounds of which to be determined after discussion within the church's 13 existing synods."

Seconded by the Revd Roberta Rominger.

Following debate, the General Secretary responded and a vote was taken.

The amendment fell.

Following debate, the Revd David Bedford proposed that the resolution be now put, seconded by Sarah Powell.

The motion failed to achieve the required two thirds majority, and therefore fell.

After further debate Revd Clare Downing proposed that the resolution be now put, seconded by the Revd Brian Jolly. Assembly agreed by more than the required two thirds majority.

The General Secretary responded, and a vote was taken:

Resolution 41, as amended, and having achieved more than the required two thirds majority, was carried.

Resolution 41

Catch the Vision

General Assembly resolves, subject to any legal constraints, that as from General Assembly 2007, there shall be one level of council between the General Assembly and the local church, the thirteen 'new Synods'.

The General Secretary proposed that: **'In accordance with Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 41 be referred to Synods and District Councils with the 31st March 2006 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.'**

The Assembly agreed.

The Assembly adjourned.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 42:

Resolution 42**Catch the Vision**

General Assembly appoints a Commission of Assembly to investigate the creation of a London Synod, to report back to the 2006 Assembly.

Following discussion, Resolution 42 was carried.

Mr John Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 39:

Resolution 39**Special Category Ministry**

General Assembly rejoices in the valuable and creative work done by the small minority of ministers working under the Special Category Ministry scheme, who are complemented and supported by the equally crucial work led by Ministers in more traditional roles. Noting the pleas from around the Church for ministry in situations where no suitable United Reformed Church minister is available, and requests for the Ministry and Mission Fund to be used more flexibly, Assembly resolves:

- a) to double the size of the Special Category Ministry scheme by increasing the resources available to the scheme by an amount equivalent to six full-time stipends in each of the five years 2006 to 2010;**
- b) to open the additional posts not just to United Reformed Church ministers but, where appropriate, also to accredited ministers of sister Churches and to suitably qualified lay people;**
- c) to continue to fund the scheme within the Ministry and Mission Fund, recognising that some posts might be partly funded from local sources; and**
- d) to request the Ministries Committee to continue to administer the Special Category Ministry scheme, making suitable arrangements for the support and accountability structures for each post.**

Following discussion, the Revd Peter Brain proposed that the resolution be now put, seconded by the Revd Peter Poulter.

The Assembly agreed.

Mr Ellis responded and a vote was taken.

Resolution 39 was carried.

General Secretary sought the Assembly's consent to ask MCAG to appoint a convener for the Commission of Assembly (Resolution 42). Assembly agreed.

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

Tuesday 5th July

Opening worship was conducted by the chaplain; Bible study was led by the Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee moved adoption of the Resolution:

General Assembly remits Resolutions 8, 9, 10 and 11 (Section O and Ministerial Incapacity) to Mission Council for consideration and such action as it deems necessary.

Following an explanation by the Clerk the Resolution was carried.

The Moderator greeted Mrs Rosemary Johnstone, Children's Advocate, pending her retirement in March 2006.

Wessex Synod

The Wessex Synod made its presentation.

The Revd Alasdair Pratt took the Chair.

Synod Resolution

The Revd Andrew Francis, on behalf of the South Western Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 1:

Resolution 1

Detention without trial

General Assembly notes with concern the actions of Her Majesty's Government in introducing 'detention without trial' for UK citizens and passport holders and calls for the rapid repeal of the relevant legislation.

Seconded by Miss Sara Crabb.

Resolution 1 was carried.

Assembly Arrangements

The report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee was presented by the Convener, Mr William McVey.

Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 19:

Resolution 19

General Assembly 2007

Assembly agrees that the General Assembly in 2007 will meet at the University of Manchester (Fallowfield Campus) from 7th to 10th July.

Resolution 19 was carried.

Catch the Vision

Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 43:

General Assembly resolves that, as from 2007, General Assembly shall meet every two years.

After discussion, the Revd Wilf Bahadur proposed that the Resolution should be now put. Seconded by the Revd David Bedford. The Assembly agreed.

Resolution 43 was carried with more than the required two thirds majority.

The General Secretary proposed that: 'In accordance with Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 43 be referred to Synods with the 31st March 2006 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.' **The Assembly agreed.**

Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 44:

Resolution 44 General Assembly

General Assembly instructs the Assembly Arrangements Committee to prepare a detailed scheme for a representative Assembly of 250 people, and report to the 2006 Assembly.

The Revd Peter Southcombe proposed the following amendment:

General Assembly instructs the Assembly Arrangements Committee to prepare detailed schemes which offer options for a revised Assembly of about 250 people, and report to the 2006 Assembly.

Seconded by the Revd Alastair Smeaton

Mr McVey indicated that the amendment was acceptable to the proposer.

A number of members proposed that the Resolution be now put. The Assembly agreed.

The amended Resolution was carried.

General Assembly instructs the Assembly Arrangements Committee to prepare detailed schemes which offer options for a revised Assembly of about 250 people, and report to the 2006 Assembly.

Catch the Vision

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 37:

General Assembly instructs the Communications and Editorial Committee to undertake a feasibility study on the use of electronic media as a method of communication in the United Reformed Church and to report to the 2006 Assembly.

Revd Dr Walter Houston proposed that the resolution be not put. Seconded by the Revd Peter Clark. The proposal fell.

Resolution 37 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 48:

Resolution 48

Catch the Vision

General Assembly instructs Mission Council to oversee a cross-committee report on Eldership which will bring together Doctrine, Prayer and Worship's own work on models within the Reformed tradition with the unresolved questions from Conversations on the Way to Unity and the work of Life and Witness about the structures of the local church.

Resolution 48 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 49:

Resolution 49

Catch the Vision

General Assembly instructs the Ecumenical Committee, the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee and the Advisory Group on Faith and Order, to consult with our Anglican partners in the three nations to consider how best to revisit and build on the report 'God's reign and our unity, in particular regarding the issue of episcopate.

Resolution 49 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 50:

Resolution 50

Catch the Vision

General Assembly instructs the Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee and the Advisory Group on Faith and Order to offer a Reformed perspective on the theme of Covenant.

Resolution 50 was carried.

Ecumenical Committee

The report of the Ecumenical Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Elizabeth Nash.

Catch the Vision

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 45:

Resolution 45

Catch the Vision

General Assembly asks all congregations to look again for more local ecumenical possibilities and encourages an increase in the percentage of local churches involved in formally recognised ecumenical situations.

Resolution 45 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 46:

Resolution 46

Catch the Vision

General Assembly instructs whatever Councils now and in the future represent the structure between local church and General Assembly to plan a coherent strategy for local ecumenism appropriate for each place.

Resolution 46 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 47:

Resolution 47

Catch the Vision

General Assembly affirms further explorations of the idea of 'a Church of churches' and informal conversations between the Ecumenical Committee and our ecumenical partners.

Resolution 47 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 51:

Resolution 51

Catch the Vision

General Assembly endorses as key training principles for the United Reformed Church:

- Integrated education and training to equip the whole people of God for mission – promoted with coherence and in tune with the policies flowing from the Equipping the Saints and Catch the Vision reports
- Ecumenical engagement at every stage
- The presentation of a distinctive Reformed Ethos and History in that ecumenical Engagement
- The delivery of this policy in a manner appropriate to the circumstances of the three nations in which the United Reformed Church is situated.

Resolution 51 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 52:

Resolution 52

Catch the Vision

The United Reformed Church declares itself to be a Multicultural Church welcoming all cultures and ethnicities in worship witness and service, and celebrating the diverse gifts of the whole people of God for the mission and ministry to which God calls us.

Resolution 52 was carried.

Mission Council

The report of Mission Council was presented by the Deputy General Secretary, the Revd Ray Adams.

Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry

The report of the Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Andrew Prasad.

Mr Prasad moved adoption of Resolution 34:

Resolution 34

Developing Multicultural Ministry

- a) General Assembly requires racial awareness training to be included in the induction of future Assembly staff, employees and committee members, and instructs that provision be made for training all existing staff and committee members at least once every two years.
- b) General Assembly affirms its support for the Racial Justice Advocacy Network, strongly urges each synod or region to appoint a Racial Justice Advocate Co-ordinator and encourages congregations to support the advocacy by encouraging members to join the network.
- c) General Assembly instructs the Secretaries for Training, Ministries and Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry to evaluate the accessibility to minority ethnic people of the systems of candidacy and training for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Church Related Community Workers, lay preachers and lay leaders, and to report with recommendations to Mission Council no later than March 2006.
- d) General Assembly authorises the Committee for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry to conduct an audit of church structures, policies, procedures and practices for the presence of barriers to full participation of minority ethnic people, and to report with recommendations to Mission Council no later than October 2006.
- e) General Assembly endorses the 'Guidelines for welcoming and Receiving Migrant Churches' (Assembly Reports 2005 Appendix 5) and commends them to the United Reformed Church.

Resolution 34 was carried.

Minutes

The Assembly Clerk moved that:

Assembly receives the minutes of the second and third sessions of Sunday 3rd July and the first session of Monday 4th July, and approves the insertion of the minutes of the second and third sessions of Monday 4th July and of the closing session into the full minutes after review and any necessary correction by officers of the Assembly. **The Assembly agreed.**

Dr Peel resumed the Chair.

Assembly Commissions

The General Secretary reported on Assembly Commissions held during the past year. There had been one hearing since Assembly 2004 and the minister concerned had been retained on the Roll of Ministers. The cost was £908.65, exclusive of legal cost which have yet to be charged.

Address to the Throne

The Revd Alasdair Pratt, former 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 Warwick sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty.

We are meeting just a few weeks into the third term of office of Your Majesty's Government, and look to it for further measures to improve the safety and quality of life of all our community, especially the most vulnerable and needy. We welcome all that has been done to enhance the dignity and well-being of disadvantaged people in our society – for example, in the areas of welfare provision and opportunities for meaningful employment – and look forward to further work being done in these fields. Many of our churches exercise a special ministry to people seeking asylum, and we have had occasion of late to express our dismay at the policy adopted by Your Majesty's Government of forcing to return to their homelands people who have fled to the United Kingdom from countries where they face extreme danger, most notably Zimbabwe.

We are meeting over a weekend which is seeing unprecedented public demonstrations of concern about poverty and injustice in the developing world. As a church we find tremendous inspiration and hope in our Lord's announcement that He came to 'bring good news to the poor', and through our 'Commitment for Life' programme our churches and members seek to help make that a reality in different parts of what is known as the 'third world'. We welcome all that Your Majesty's Government has done in recent years to alleviate poverty in parts of Africa and other regions, particularly by removing the burden of debt which has impeded their growth and development, and we are adding our voice to the many millions raised in Hyde Park and Edinburgh this weekend in anticipation of the forthcoming summit of the leaders of the G8 nations at Gleneagles. It is our fervent prayer that real progress towards eliminating poverty through the introduction of fairer international trade rules, the cancellation of unpayable debts and the provision of more and better aid will be made at this summit.

As a church we also take seriously our calling to the stewards of God's creation and we also look for action on the part of the G8 leaders to prevent the further deterioration of our planet. We believe climate change and global poverty, which are of course inter-linked, to be the two big issues demanding urgent action by world leaders. We are alarmed at the irresponsible way that we in the developed world continue to mistreat our planet, and call upon our leaders urgently to adopt measures to halt further damage before it is too late.

Six months after the tsunami in south east Asia we remember especially all who were bereaved in that unspeakable tragedy. Our prayers go to Almighty God for all who are suffering at this time, as well as for ourselves that we may have the courage and perseverance to bring hope and healing into situations of despair and pain.

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

*Revd Dr David Peel, Moderator of General Assembly
Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary*

The Assembly approved the address.

Moderator-Elect

The Moderator-elect, the Revd Elizabeth Caswell, addressed the Assembly.

Vote of Thanks

The Revd Roz Harrison thanked the West Midlands Synod for its welcome and hospitality, and assured members of a warm welcome to the South Western Synod in 2006.

The Moderator thanked the staff of the University of Warwick, the Assembly administrative staff, musicians and worship leaders.

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

Closing Worship

Closing worship was led by the Chaplain.

The General Secretary formally announced that the Assembly had completed its business and would adjourn to meet as agreed at the University of Exeter on 7th July 2006 or at such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.

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Appendix

The following report of the Women's World Day of Prayer (Scotland) was inadvertently omitted from the Book of Reports.

Women's World Day of Prayer (Scotland)

5 March 2005 saw many women converging on churches, halls and Eventide Homes, schools and various other locations to attend services organised by the World Day of Prayer committees. The committee of Polish women prepared the Service and in Scotland, we were able to have speakers who knew Poland which added to the effectiveness of the services.

In the autumn of 2004 we had our Retreat, where we worked on the Service for 2006 prepared by the churchwomen of South Africa "Sign of the Times". We also worked on our services of Thanksgiving to mark our 75 years.

Our 75th Anniversary Services were held in April, in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness, with church, civic and political dignitaries at each venue, together with the women and men who attend our annual services.

After the excitement we will get down to the services for 2007 from Paraguay and look forward to our Retreat which we find is a wonderful experience meeting together over 24 hours working hard, praying together and getting to know each other.




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