

Record

General Assembly, Loughborough 2010

United
Reformed
Church

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Matters for consideration and action

United Reformed Church • General Assembly 2010

Resolution number	Report	Record		Synods	Local churches
1	7-29	17-18	<i>vision2020</i>	X	X
2	94-6	28	Ethical investment policy	X	X
11	248-50	31	Ministerial working week		X
12	215-20, 251	41	Guidelines for conduct and behaviour		X
21		50	Vetting and barring	X	X
32	113	44	Olympics and Queen's Jubilee	X	X
38	101-6	39	Wesminster appeal	X	X
43-48	49-50, 58-59, 245-6, 259-61	46-53	Constitutional resolutions 5-9 and 26 referred to synods	X	



Church 2010

United Reformed Church

Church 2010





Record of Assembly

United Reformed Church General Assembly, Loughborough 2010



“We’re all in
this together.”



Rev. Nigel Uden



■ We're all in this together

Moderator and members of Assembly, you may not all share my devotion to the American industrial rock band, *Nine Inch Nails* and their 1999 album, *The Fragile*. If you don't, you may have been absorbed by this year's Reith Lectures; *Martin Rees*, the President of the Royal Society, has been speaking profoundly about humanity's future on earth. And most of us will have looked with concerned fascination at *David Cameron's* proposals in the recent Emergency Budget.

For all their diversity *Nine Inch Nails*, *Martin Rees* and *David Cameron* use a common mantra: 'we're all in this together'.

The Nails' lead singer cries out intensely to the partner who is his only hope as their 'world breaks in two';¹ *Lord Rees* quietly reflects upon his deep concern that 'we are destroying the book of life before we have read it.'² And *David Cameron* offers a strategy for the nation's financial recovery. Each of them repeats time and again, 'we're all in this together.'

They and we may start from different places but the mantra is one we Christians can share. 'We're all in this together.' Or, as *Carole Elphick's* hymn had us sing yesterday, *God calls us all to travel life together*.

The Jewish Law and Jesus' Love nudge us towards togetherness, encourage us into community – whether it's the church – many members, yet one body,³ the New Commandment,⁴ the Fruit of the Spirit⁵ or the Torah's thirty six prods to 'love the stranger in our midst'.⁶ 'We're all in this together.'

Perspectives on Christianity from other parts of the world make the same point. *Minjung* theology from Korea inspires ordinary people to work collaboratively for social welfare and social change.⁷ *Ubuntu* thinking from Africa emphasises 'I belong, therefore I am.'⁸ The Quaker *Ecumenical Accompaniment* programme of solidarity in Palestine and Israel 'provides protective presence to vulnerable communities.'⁹ 'We're all in this together,' or as *Loretta Minghella's* contact in Kenya put it, 'We are the same.'

And such is the burden of the Synod Moderators' report. Though the similarity between the Moderators and an industrial rock band may not be immediately obvious, our mantra is the same. 'We're all in this together.'

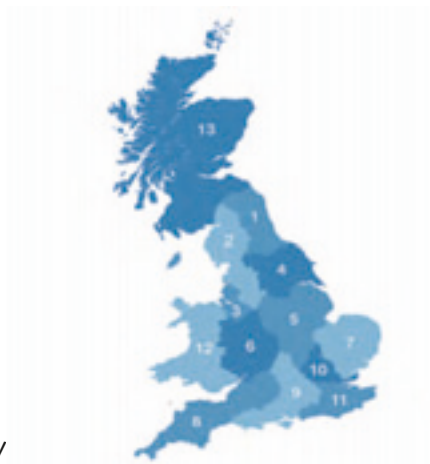
As we serve across the thirteen synods, and as we review the *Book of Reports*, like you, we see that, relentlessly, everything in the church and in the world is changing. Now, it may be that we are persuaded of the positive view of change that some scientists offer, that it is '... the process of bringing a potentiality in a substance to fulfilment.'¹⁰ There's some rich theology there.

1 Available at <http://www.sing365.com> – accessed 26th June 2010.
2 Rees, Martin 2009. *The Times*, 26th May 2009 'We're all in this together.' Available at <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/article6382080.ece> – accessed 26th June 2010
3 I Corinthians 12.20
4 John 13.34
5 Galatians 5.22f
6 Sacks, Jonathan 2000. *Radical Then, Radical Now: on being Jewish*, London: Continuum p.92
7 Castle, Brian 2004. *Unofficial God?: Voices from Beyond the Walls*, London: SPCK pages 55ff
8 Tutu, Desmond Mpilo 1999. *No future without forgiveness*, London: Rider p.35
9 See <http://www.eappi.org/> – accessed 26th June 2010
10 Sweetman, Brendan 2010. *Science and Religion: an introduction*, London and New York: Continuum p.29

Synod Moderators' report

But all the time we encounter examples of how change is also testing and even painful. And when things are changing – when they are not, too – we are convinced that the United Reformed Church's life and work thrives most as we realise 'we're all in this together' – on pilgrimage, in covenant with God and with each other.

Although the synods strategise differently in our varied national and regional contexts, we all feel similarly challenged by this era of decline, just as we all feel similarly committed to the Gospel and the church, to the community and one another. We're all in this together.



By the same token almost without exception, the programmes and frameworks placed before this Assembly are born of shared passion for and dedication to a renewed future for the church and the world within God's reign. We're all in this together.

Vision4Life is a denomination-wide process of shared discovery and discipleship. vision2020 is a strategy for integrated mission across our three nations. The Marketing Campaign will open our door and smoothen our threshold. All five elements of the Youth and Children's Work Vision focus on togetherness. The Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee embodies our determined and durable caring. Communications oils our connections.



Equal Opportunities encourages loving awareness of one another under the law. The Guidelines on conduct of Elders, CRCWs and Ministers urge those boundaries that enable respectful closeness. The North Western Synod resolution on Children in Immigration Centres is about campaigning against our inhumanity to one another.

'We're all in this together', just as we are in so much more that I could have highlighted from the *Book of Reports*.

To illustrate this togetherness there is a musical thread running through this report and the specific analogy is musical accompaniment.

Crucially, *our* accompanying is but an echo of God's.

Drawing on the notion that God's wholehearted love is 'an enduring melody'¹¹ the Moderators' report buys into a point which emerges in a festschrift for Erik Routley: [that] *all history is point and counterpoint – two melodies running side by side – God's and [ours]. Alone one of them is always incomplete, even God's.[God] preferred to die rather than be without us.*¹²

So God accompanies us. We accompany God. And accompaniers is what we are to one another and to the communities in which we are set.

That's how we are best enabled to grow into Jesus Christ as friend and teacher and Saviour. That's how discipleship is best nurtured. That's how we're best equipped 'to give and account of the hope that is in us.'¹³ That's how Ministerial service is best reviewed. Accompanying is how love is best embodied. That's how justice is best achieved. That's how creation's integrity is best sustained. That's how the church is best the church.

In mutual dependability, and pliable to the Holy Spirit, we're all in this together. Moderator and members of Assembly, the things at the heart of this report are not always most adequately expressed in words. Sometimes we have to do togetherness; to demonstrate it more than to articulate it. That's what the Minjung, the Bantu and the Quakers teach us. It's also the essence of *Vision4Life*, of *Alpha* and of *Fresh Expressions*.

So by way of illustration this afternoon we are going to make music together; to accompany one another, for, as Aldous Huxley has it, 'After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.'

We are going to sing, not a Nine Inch Nails number – but a version of *Dona nobis pacem*, which is sometimes attributed to their equally unconventional brother, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

It's a prayer for that peace which is the ultimate gift to us as we accompany one another in the church and the world celebrating the God who accompanies us in Christ.

Moderator, on behalf of my colleagues,
I present the report of the Synod Moderators.

N P Uden
Report of the Synod Moderators
Saturday 3rd July 2010



11 Mayne, Michael 2006. *The Enduring Melody*, London: Darton, Longman and Todd

12 Leaver, Robin A. *The Theological Character of Music in Worship*, a chapter in *Duty and Delight: Routley Remembered – a memorial tribute to Erik Routley (1917-82)*, eds Leaver, Robin A. and Litton, James H. Norwich: Canterbury Press 1985 p.48

13 I Peter 3.15



Mrs Valerie Morrison and the Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe inducted as Moderators of the General Assembly 2010-2012.



Bible study, presented by Gerard Kelly

First Session

Friday, 2 July

Constitution of Assembly

At 3.30 pm members of Assembly met in the Assembly Conference Hall in the University of Loughborough. The Moderator, the Revd John Marsh constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and the time having been duly appointed.

Induction of Moderators

Mrs Valerie Morrison and the Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe, Moderators-elect, were each inducted with prayer into the office of Moderator of the General Assembly of The United Reformed Church. They signed the Assembly Bible and were presented with inscribed copies of the Bible by the retiring Moderator.

Thanks to the retiring Moderator

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderators to the Revd John Marsh and to Mrs Marsh, together with the Revd Mary Buchanan, his Chaplain. Mrs Marsh was presented with a photographic album.

Assembly then continued with Bible study, presented by Gerard Kelly, introducing the theme of 'The Power of the Story', after which both Moderators addressed the Assembly.

The Roll of Assembly was then placed on the table by the Clerk to Assembly, the Revd James Breslin.

Moderators

Mrs Valerie Morrison
Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe

Clerk

Revd James Breslin

General Secretary

Revd Roberta Rominger

Deputy General Secretary

Revd Richard Mortimer

Moderators of synods

I Revd Rowena Francis
II Revd Richard Church
III Revd Howard Sharp
IV Revd Kevin Watson
V Revd Terry Oakley
VI Revd Roy Lowes
VII Revd Paul Whittle
VIII Revd David Grosch-Miller
IX Revd Adrian Bulley
X Revd Dr Andrew Prasad
XI Revd Nigel Uden
XII Revd Peter Noble
XIII Revd John Humphreys

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees and Task Groups

Assembly Arrangements	Dr David Robinson
Communications and Editorial	Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe
Education and Learning	Prof Malcolm Johnson
Equal Opportunities	Ms Morag McLintock
Finance	Mr John Ellis
Ministries	Revd Peter Poulter
Mission	Revd Edward Cox
Mission Council	Revd John Marsh
Nominations	Revd Malcolm Hanson
Pastoral Reference and Welfare	Revd Alasdair Pratt
Youth and Children's Work	Revd Rob Weston

Friday, 2 July

Theological College Representatives

Northern College:	Staff Student	Revd Dr Kathy White Mrs Anthea Wickens
Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College:	Staff Student	Mr William Young
Westminster College:	Staff Student	Revd Dr Susan Durber Mrs Melanie Frew

Youth Representatives

FURY Moderator Representative	Mr David Harvey Miss Jane Hoddinott
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Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces in Britain Revd Mike Thomason

Synod Representatives

Synod I – Northern

Revd Elizabeth Blair, Revd John Durell, Revd William Ellerby, Revd Philip Gray,
Revd Meg Robb, Revd Val Towler

Mr Matthew Appleyard, Mrs Joyce Calcraft, Mrs Rhona Dunn, Mrs Chris Eddowes,
Mr Henry Gowland, Mrs Ann Honey, Mrs Maranny Jones, Dr Donna Moore

Synod II – North Western

Revd Michael Aspinall, Revd Janet Calderley, Revd Geoffrey Clarke, Revd David Coaker,
Revd Michelle Jarmany, Revd Dr John Parry, Revd John Piper, Revd Sally Thomas,
Revd Marion Tugwood, Revd Wendy White, Revd Ruth Wollaston

Mr David Amvam, Mrs Dorothee Buurma, Miss Kathleen Cross, Mrs Pamela Dent,
Mr Derek Estill, Mrs Kate Grand, Mrs Jean Gordon, Revd Brian Jolly, Mrs Linda Rayner,
Miss Charis Unsworth, Miss Katy Unsworth, Mrs Sue Wilkinson, Mr Keith Whiting,
Mr Kaze Yemtsa

Synod III – Mersey

Revd Caroline Andrews, Revd Hilary Bell, Revd Debbie Brown, Revd Alan Crump,
Revd Gary McGowan, Revd Gordon Smith, Revd Dr Ronald Reid

Mrs Barbara Ellis, Mr John Grundy, Dr Janet Large, Mr Gary Leighton, Mr Chris Maple,
Ms Alison Micklem, Miss Emma Pugh, Mrs Pam Sharp, Mr Arthur Swift

Synod IV – Yorkshire

Revd Philip Baiden, Revd Peter Clarkson, Revd Claire Gouldthorp, Revd John Hayton,
Revd Jamie Kissack, Revd Sue Macbeth, Revd Alison Termie

Mr Michael Beard, Mrs Judith Drake, Mrs Pat Evans, Mr Andrew Murison,
Mrs Suzanne Punter, Mr Chris Reed, Mrs Barbara Robinson, Miss Miriam Webb

Synod V – East Midlands

Revd Nick Adlem, Revd Paul Bedford, Revd Jane Campbell, Revd Clare Downing,
Revd David Featonby, Revd Jenny Mills, Revd Richard Turnbull

Miss Helen Carr, Miss Ruth Hodgson, Mrs Una Hubbard, Mr Dennis Russell,
Mr Duncan Smith, Mr Philip Timson, Mr Allan Tinnie, Mrs Jill Turner

Synod VI – West Midlands

Revd Elizabeth Caswell, Revd Helga Cornell, Revd Diana Cullum-Hall, Revd Jacky Embrey, Revd Louise Franklin, Revd Tim Mullings

Mrs Brenda Climer, Ms Jean Creighton, Mr John Desmond, Mr Andrew Evans, Mr Jim Hewitson, Mr Michael Harvey, Mrs Julie Jeffries, Mrs Margaret Marshall, Miss Lucy Noble, Mrs Zaidie Orr, Mr Gerald Peters, Mrs Val Phillips, Mrs Adella Pritchard, Mr Bill Robson, Mr Mark Tubby

Synod VII – Eastern

Revd Catherine Ball, Revd Peter Ball, Revd Alison Davis, Revd Sohail Ejaz, Revd Kenneth Forbes, Revd John Hardaker, Revd Andrew Royal, Revd Michael Shrubsole, Revd David Vincent, Revd Ruth Whitehead

Prof Sir Tony Bottoms, Mr Tunde Biyi, Mrs Wendy Cooper, Mr Clive Goodhew, Miss Lisa Guest, Mrs Linda Harrison, Mrs Moira Kleissner, Mr Clifford Patten, Miss Victoria Paulding, Mr Ron Wade

Synod VIII – South Western

Revd Dick Gray, Revd Roz Harrison, Revd Viv Henderson, Revd Robert Jordan, Revd Tracey Lewis, Revd Norman Price, Revd Graham Tarn, Revd Heather Whyte

Mrs Jean Cleare, Mr George Faris, Miss Katherine La Fleur, Ms Sarah Lane Cawte, Mr Tony Langmead, Mrs Maria Mills, Mrs Joanna Morling, Mr Jon Oliverio

Synod IX – Wessex

Revd Carla Grosch-Miller, Revd Brian Harley, Revd Michael Hopkins, Revd Paul Holmes, Revd Phillip Jones, Revd Owiny Laber, Revd Mark Meatcher, Revd Romilly Micklem, Revd Tanya Rasmussen, Revd Timothy Searle, Revd Edward Symmons, Revd Mary Thomas, Revd Dick Wolff

Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith, Mrs Mary Cooper, Mr Andrew Gibb, Mr David Hoadley, Ms Saz Holland, Mrs Virginia Lawson, Mr Nick Lowe, Revd Patrick McManus, Mr James Meachin, Mr Peter Pay, Mr Philip Ray, Miss Alison Southwood, Mr Graham Thatcher, Mrs Sheila Thatcher, Mr Malcolm Townsend

Synod X – Thames North

Revd Ray Adams, Mrs Joyce Berry, Revd Ute Blohm, Revd Meryl Court, Revd John Danso, Revd Kate Hackett, Revd Naison Hove, Revd David Lawrence, Revd Dr Rosalind Selby, Revd Kevin Swaine, Revd Rosemary Tusting, Revd Jane Wade

Mr Stephen Amoah, Mr Steven Ansa-Addo, Mr Solomon Aryee-Brown, Mr Simon Fairnington, Mrs Wendy Gray, Dr Malcolm Haslett, Mr Brian Hosier, Mrs Marian Mole, Mr Ulric Quee, Mrs Memonah Shahbaz, Mr Keith Webster, Mrs Joan Young

Synod XI – Southern

Revd Andrew Birch, Revd Robert Bushby, Revd Michael Davies, Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor, Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Revd Ian Gow, Revd Richard Grocott, Revd Jenny Morgan, Revd Kristin Ofstad, Revd Andrew Sellwood, Revd Darryl Sinclair, Revd Raymond Singh, Revd Peter Southcombe, Revd Bruce Stuart, Revd Wendy Swan

Mr Jacob Bali, Mrs Hilary Birch, Mr Stephen Brockett, Mrs Lisa-Maria Browning, Mr Alex Cameron, Mrs Jeanette Chamberlain, Mr Frank Liddell, Mr Ben Littlejohns, Miss Eleanor MacIntyre, Mrs Hilary Miles, Mrs Dawn Powell, Ms Katie Steel, Mr Lyndon Thomas, Mrs Christine Thompson, Mr David Walters

Synod XII – Wales

Revd Keith Forecast, Revd Stephen Gilbert, Revd Nanette Lewis-Head, Revd Shelagh Pollard,

Mr Matt Barkley, Mr Andrew Buxton, Mrs Rosie Buxton, Ms Janet Drogan, Mr Patrick Hickey, Ms Bethan Noble, Ms Helen Stenson

Friday, 2 July

Synod XIII – Scotland

Revd Jan Adamson, Revd John Bremner, Revd Steven Manders, Revd Leslie Morrison, Revd Dr Lesley Moseley, Revd Carolyn Smyth, Revd Mary Taylor, Revd Ian Wilkie

Mr Barclay Bannister, Mr Bob Christie, Ms Eilidh Forsyth, Mr Matthew Henderson, Ms Mary Mbae, Mrs Irene Merrilees, Dr Jim Merrilees, Mr Michael Smerdon, Mr Patrick Smyth, Miss Sheena Young, Mr William Young, Mrs Kathleen Ziffo

British and Irish ecumenical representatives

Rt Revd John Christie	Church of Scotland
Revd Michael Cleaves	The Baptist Union of Great Britain
Revd Peter Colwell	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Dame Anne Doyle	Roman Catholic Bishops Conference
Revd Aled Edwards	CYTUN
Revd Llunos Gordon	Union of Welsh Independents
Rt Revd Onye Obika	Independent Methodist Churches of Great Britain
Revd Gwenda Richards	Presbyterian Church of Wales
Ven Dr Joy Tetley	Church of England
Revd Philip Turner	The Methodist Church
Revd Sandra Turner	The Congregational Federation
Revd Dr Donald Watts	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Revd David Howarth	British Province of the Moravian Church

Overseas representatives

Revd Dr Lal Engzau	Presbyterian Church of Myanmar
Revd Joel Ortega Dopico	Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba
Revd Ernesto Langa	Presbyterian Church of Mozambique
Revd Davide Ollearo	Waldensian Church
Revd Jose Tovel Junior	Presbyterian Church of Mozambique
Dekan Michael Pernt-Weigel	Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz
Revd Deborah Streeter	United Church of Christ (USA)
Revd Randolph Turner	Council for World Mission
Revd Reinerio M Arce Valentin	Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba

The presiding Moderator announced adjournment of the first session and reminded Assembly to reconvene at 7.00 pm.



Second Session

Welcomes

The Moderator, the Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe, welcomed new members of Assembly and introduced the people on the platform and explained their roles.

Reception of guests

British and Irish ecumenical representatives were introduced by the Revd David Tatem:

Revd Michael Cleaves	The Baptist Union of Great Britain
Revd Peter Colwell	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Dame Anne Doyle	Roman Catholic Bishops Conference
Revd Aled Edwards	CYTUN
Revd Trevor Gribben	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Revd Llunos Gordon	Union of Welsh Independents
Rt Revd Onye Obika	International Ministerial Council of Great Britain.
Ven Dr Joy Tetley	Church of England
Revd Philip Turner	The Methodist Church
Revd Sandra Turner	The Congregational Federation
Revd David Howarth	British Province of the Moravian Church

Overseas guests were introduced by the Revd Jane Rowell:

Revd Dr Lal Engzau	Presbyterian Church of Myanmar
Revd Ernesto Langa	Presbyterian Church of Mozambique
Revd Davide Ollearo	Waldensian Church
Revd Jose Tovela Junior	Presbyterian Church of Mozambique
Dekan Michael Pernt-Weigel	Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz
Revd Deborah Streeter	United Church of Christ (USA)
Revd Randolph Turner	Council for World Mission

Revd Dr Lal Enzgau and the Ven Dr Joy Tetley were invited to address the Assembly.

The Mayor of Charnwood, Councillor Jill Vincent, was introduced by Mrs Daphne Beale. Councillor Vincent addressed the Assembly.

Procedural notices and general information were given by the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, Dr David Robinson.

The Moderator outlined the 'consensus' method of decision making.

The Clerk proposed resolutions 35 and 36.



Resolution **35** Appointment of Deputy Clerk

General Assembly appoints Mrs Melanie Frew to serve as Deputy Clerk on Saturday afternoon or at such other times as the Clerk may require.

Resolved by consensus.

Resolution 36 Appointment of the Convener of Tellers for the election of the Moderators

General Assembly appoints Dr Jim Merrilees to serve as Convener of Tellers for the election of Moderators 2012.

Resolved by consensus.

The Clerk moved resolution 24.

Resolution 24 Proposed changes to the Assembly Rules of Procedure Term of appointment of the Clerk to the Assembly

General Assembly resolves to amend paragraph 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure to read:

5.1 The General Assembly may appoint a Clerk of Assembly as distinct from the General Secretary. In that case the Nominations Committee shall submit a name to the General Assembly for appointment as Clerk, for six years in the first instance, renewable for a maximum additional period of four years, but ensuring an overlap with a period of service of the General Secretary.

Resolved by consensus.

The General Secretary proposed resolution 30.

Resolution 30 Mission Council: (Resolution 24 of General Assembly 2008)

General Assembly resolves to amend the Structure of the United Reformed Church paragraph 2(5)(f) to read:

A staff representative and a student representative being members of the URC, from each of such theological colleges as the General Assembly has designated as resource centres for learning, and a staff representative and a student representative being members of the URC, from such other colleges or centres as shall from time to time be designated by the Education and Learning Committee as engaged in significant training for the United Reformed Church.

and to add a new paragraph 2(5)(o) to read:

The Chair of the United Reformed Church Trust

The resolution was passed *nem con.*

Introduction to the Children's Assembly

Mr Leo Roberts and a group of children explained some of the work being undertaken by the Children's Assembly.



Children's Assembly



The Clerk moved resolution 25.

Resolution 25 Proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure: application of the standing orders

General Assembly resolves to amend clause 1.3 of the Rules of Procedure to read:

1.3 All meetings of the Assembly shall be convened and held as provided by these rules. The Standing Orders which are printed in the Book of Reports to General Assembly shall apply to all meetings of the Assembly and the Mission Council and, in so far as they are applicable, to meetings of synods, district councils and their committees.

Resolved by consensus.

Friday, 2 July

Reflections of the outgoing Moderator

Revd John Marsh offering his reflections provided Assembly with information about the visits and preaching engagements he had undertaken during his two years in office.

He was exhilarated by the experience of two years as Moderator but noted that the workload was only possible because he was retired. He commented enthusiastically on his trip to Zimbabwe which included visiting Christian Aid funded projects.



The Revd John Marsh

Closing prayers

These were led by the Chaplain, the Revd Dr James Coleman.

The Assembly stood adjourned.





■ First Session

Opening worship was led by the Chaplains, the Revd James Coleman and the Revd Rachel Poolman. The children left to continue their own work.

With the Moderator, Mrs Val Morrison in the chair, Bible study was again led by Gerard Kelly, continuing the theme from the Acts of the Apostles. At this point, the children rejoined the Assembly.

The Moderator welcomed visitors for the day and explained the new format of the morning's business.

■ Themed session 1: *vision2020*

The Moderator invited the Revd Ed Cox to introduce the session.

Introductory comments – Mr Cox referred to *vision2020* and the importance of mission. He offered brief thanks for responses and reflected on the consultation process. He introduced the statements and indicators.

A number of children reported views from the Children's Assembly from a DVD presentation.



Presentation by the Children's Assembly

On behalf of Ministries committee, Revd Peter Poulter supported the framework with the local church at the heart of mission and the *vision2020* framework.

Mr Tim Reith from Crossway URC shared the story from his local church experiencing numerical growth with strong emphasis on work with children and young people. The Revd Tracey Lewis of Trinity Henleaze URC shared a story about her local church engaging with issues of climate change.

Saturday, 3 July

Members of Assembly were invited to discuss a series of questions.

Revd Terry Oakley introduced the Revd Carolyn Smyth of the Synod of Scotland, and Revd Roy Lowes, Moderator of West Midlands Synod, who gave perspectives from their own synods.

Members of Assembly were invited to discuss further questions. Mrs Linda Mead spoke about the *Commitment for Life* programme and its emphasis on justice and peace issues. She introduced Ms Loretta Minghella the new director of Christian Aid, who addressed the Assembly.



Ms Loretta Minghella

Mr Cox spoke how *vision2020* is being applied at Assembly level. The members of the 'Mission Team' introduced themselves and their work.



Mr Cox thanked the members of the team for the way they are working together. The Revd Brian Harley and Revd Dr Susan Durber updated members of Assembly on the progress of the 'Prayer year', part of the *Vision4Life* programme.

The General Secretary, Revd Roberta Rominger co-chair of the steering group, introduced the 'Identity and Marketing Campaign'. She introduced Denese Chikwendu the campaign co-ordinator. Mr Lawrence Moore, co-chair emphasised that the campaign, is not contrary to the United Reformed Church's ecumenical stance.

The 'Mission Team' introduced themselves

Plenary Feedback

Members of Assembly shared their views and offered suggestions from the morning's discussions. Mr Cox and Mr Moore responded to the points raised.

The Clerk moved adjournment of the debate and Assembly concurred.

The Assembly stood adjourned.



Discussions at Assembly

Second Session

The Moderator, the Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe took the chair.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the adoption of the minutes from Friday July 2 sessions one and two. Assembly concurred.

Themed session 2

Synod Moderators' report

The report, on the theme, 'We're all in this together', was presented by the Revd Nigel Uden, Moderator of Southern Synod (see p 4-7 of the *Record*). Assembly discussed the report, and how it might be disseminated to churches, in buzz groups. The Moderator thanked Mr Uden for the report.

Equipping people for service

Professor Malcolm Johnson, on behalf of the Education and Learning Committee, and the Revd Peter Poulter, on behalf of Ministries Committee, presented the report.

Assembly was asked to identify a vivid experience of being equipped for service by the United Reformed Church.

The Revd Craig Bowman interviewed Mrs Joanna Morling, Mr David Harvey and Mr Kaze Yemtsa about their learning experiences in the United Reformed Church. Members of Assembly were asked to respond to the stories they heard, and asked what they believed the United Reformed Church needed to hear to shape future work.

The Moderator invited questions and comments on the reports which were not the subject of resolutions.

Communications and Editorial Committee

Mrs Morrison took the chair for Dr Thorpe to respond to questions as Convener of the committee.

Dr Thorpe resumed the chair.

Education and Learning Committee

The Revd Fiona Thomas, Secretary, responded to questions.

Equal Opportunities

The Revd Elizabeth Nash, Convener-elect, responded to questions.

Ministries Committee

Revd Craig Bowman, Secretary, and Revd Peter Poulter, Convener, responded to comments and questions.

In response to a question concerning Ministerial retirement age the Revds Craig Bowman and Peter Poulter stated that discussions regarding retirement age for Ministers are already taking place in the committee.



Signers were present throughout the Assembly

Saturday, 3 July

Pilots

The Revd Rob Weston, Convener of the Youth and Children's Committee introduced the DVD of the Pilots' Big Day Out at Warwick Castle. Mr Weston invited comments on the day and a number of affirmations were received.

Mr Weston thanked the Pilots Officer Mrs Karen Bulley-Morrison and her team for all their hard work in preparation for the day.



Re-enactments at Warwick Castle



The Clerk moving resolution 23 requested the permission of Assembly for the Revd Professor David Thompson to introduce the resolution.

Resolution 23 Homerton College, Cambridge

Assembly sends greetings and good wishes to the Principal, Fellows and students of Homerton College on the occasion of its reception of a Royal Charter as a college of the University of Cambridge and expresses gratitude to all who have served as Trustees.

The resolution was resolved by acclamation.

Professor Thompson read the following message from the principal:

The Principal apologises for not being present to respond to the resolution, concerning Homerton College. She, and the Fellows and Students of Homerton College, thanks the General Assembly for its greetings and good wishes; and in turn wishes to thank all those who have served as Trustees on behalf of the United Reformed Church in recent decades – and before that the Congregational Union – for their constant wisdom and guidance over more than two centuries.

Community Awards sponsored by Congregational and General Insurance Company

Ms Margaret Slater, from the Congregational and General Insurance Company, joined Mrs Val Morrison, as two of the judges, to make the awards. Ten projects were shortlisted from eighty-two applications. Five winners were selected:

3rd place winners, awarded £1,000
Peaceful Solutions for Conflict Resolution, High Cross URC Tottenham.

The award was received by Lorraine Downer-Mattis and Steven Ansa-Addo

Cafe Unity Heald Green.

The award was received by Revd Mike Walsh and Sarah Pritchard

2nd place winners awarded £2,000

Sleaford Community Shop.

The award was received by Lynne Higgins and Audrey Wilson

Children's allotment, Southchurch Park United Reformed Church, Southend.

The award was received by Elaine Stevens and Shannon Manning.

1st place winner awarded £3,000

Asylum Justice, City Church, Cardiff.

The award was received by Mr Patrick Hickey and Mr Mike Addlington



Community Awards winners with Martin Hazell (Director of Communications, URC) and Margaret Slater (Congregational and General Insurance Company)

Reception of local ecumenical guests

The Revd Terry Oakley
 Father John-Joe Maloney
 Mrs Dianne Tidball
 Mr Michael Hockaday
 Revd Peter Hancock
 Rt Revd Malcolm McMahon
 Mr Vic Allsop

Moderator of East Midlands Synod introduced:
 Roman Catholic Episcopal Vicar for Leicestershire and Rutland
 Regional Minister for the East Midland Baptist Association
 Representing the Congregational Federation
 Chair of the Northampton District of The Methodist Church
 Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Nottingham
 County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Leicestershire

The Moderator greeted these guests.

Moderator's election for 2012 - 2014

The Clerk explained the method for the election of an Elder and a Minister. The Moderator led Assembly in prayer and members were then invited to vote.

Closing prayers were led by the Chaplain, the Revd Rachel Poolman.



■ First Session

Assembly met for worship led by the Revd Rachel Poolman and the Revd Dr James Coleman. Bible study was again led by Mr Gerard Kelly. This included the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries who had died since the last Assembly in 2008.

We remembered:

ANDREWS, Bertram Jacklin
BAKER, Alfred TJ
BESSANT, Colin Peter
BIDMEAD, Stuart
BINDEMAN, George
BARBER, Derrick
BENNETT, Maurice James
BRITAIN, Albert Ernest John
BROWN, Elizabeth Robertson
BROWN, William John
BUTLER, Owen Harmsworth
BYERS, Howard
CARRUTHERS, Robert William
CHAMBERS, Eric
CHARLTON, Clifford
CHRISTIE, Pauline Jeanne
CLARK, George Dudley
CLARK, John
CLARKE, David Edward
CLARKE, Donald George
COLLIN, Christine Elizabeth
COX, Dennis Alfred
CROSS, Arthur Howard
DAVIES, Constance Olive Maud
DAVIES, Granville
DOWNIE, William
EVANS, Colin
FINCH, Alan Frederick
FLAWN, Donald Frederick
FOX, David
FRANKS, Cyril
GOOD, Robert
GORDON, Henry
GRIFFITHS, Philip
HALL, Francis
HEWITT, George
HOWELLS, Ivor David Alexander

HUGHES, Francis Edward
JOHNSON, Harold Eaton
KAAN, Frederik Herman
KEMP, Norman Watts
LOVEITT, Peter
MACARTHUR, Arthur Leitch
MAITLAND, Robert Anthony
MARSDEN, David Edward
MERCER, Graham Allison
NEADS, George Mortimer
NEALE, Elisabeth Joyce
NICHOLSON, Thomas Arthur
PAGE, Malcolm David
PETERS, William Edward
PLOWMAN, Jeffrey Room
PORTER, Raymond
SEAGER, Alan Edward
SHAPLAND, Howard
SHELDON, Ann
SLEIGH, Robin John
STARKEY, Henry
STENTIFORD, Harold
STOUT, Thomas
SWANSBURY, Derek Harry
THOMAS, George Harry
UNDY, Harry
WALKER, Richard George
WALL, Daniel
WARNER, Christopher Frederick
WEBB, Phillip
WIGLEY, Thomas
WILSON, Anne Dorothea
WOOD, Gilbert

Former Missionaries: **CATMAN**, Mrs Annie
TODMAN, Mrs Margaret

Former Moderator: **GOODFELLOW**, Mrs Rosalind

Sunday, 4 July

Sunday, 4 July

Welcome to new churches/mission projects

The Moderator welcomed representatives of the new Mission Projects:

West London Asian Christian Church, Thames North Synod

Revd Noble Samuel accompanied by Mr Shahzad Qadir

Bournemouth International Church, Wessex Synod

Pastor Joshua Han

The Bristol Korean Church, South Western Synod

Revd Douglas Burnett accompanied by Mr Paul Kim and Mr Seghun Choi

Reception of new Ministers, Church Related Community Workers (CRCWs) and Children and Youth Development Officers (CYDOs)

(Those names in italics were unable to be present)

Moderator of Northern Synod, the Revd Rowena Francis, introduced

Ann Claire Honey, CRCW

Robert Stewart Memorial, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Moderator of North Western Synod, the Revd Richard Church, introduced

Revd Michael Aspinall

Chapel Street and Hope

Michele Susan Jarmany

Clitheroe, Barrow and Newton Pastorate

Wendy Elaine White

Ecumenical Chaplain to Middlebrook Retail and Business Park

Moderator of Mersey Synod, the Revd Howard Sharpe, introduced

Caroline Andrews

Peasley Cross, Toll Bar with Prescot, St Helen's and Newtown

Hilary Emma Bell

Parkgate and Neston

Debbie Brown

Highfield, Higher Bebington and Tranmere

Alan Geoffrey Crump

St James' Woolton Methodist and URC, Liverpool and St Columba's

Timothy Meadows

Liverpool City Centre

Moderator of Yorkshire Synod, the Revd Kevin Watson, introduced

Philip Baiden

Hallgate and Intake

Claire Marie Gouldthorp

Shiregreen

Shirley Margaret Knibbs

Sheffield South Group

Moderator of East Midlands Synod, the Revd Terry Oakley, introduced

Nancy Babarinde

Corby and Rothwell

Helen Carr

Toller and Desborough

Jennifer Mary Mills

Newport Pagnell and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership

Moderator of West Midlands Synod, the Revd Roy Lowes, introduced

George Okoro Kalu

Weoley Castle Community Church and Weoley Hill

Peter James Little

South Aston and Bloomsbury

Timothy Peter Mullings

Tettenhall Wood

James Taylor

Tetbury, Fairford and South Cerney

Mark John Tubby, CRCW

Weoley Castle Community Church

Moderator of Eastern Synod, the Revd Paul Whittle, introduced

Sohail Ejaz

Southend-on-Sea, The Cornerstone and Southchurch Park

Paul Thomas Ellis

Witham and Terling

Mary Janet Playford

Bury St Edmunds, Whiting Street, West Suffolk Area

Andrew Royal

Saxmundham; Framlingham United Free Church

Moderator of South Western Synod, the Revd David Grosch-Miller, introduced

Robert Jordan

Immanuel Swindon and Highworth

Graham Ronald Tarn

Ottery St Mary, Primley Road Sidmouth and Ayelbeare

Peter Scott

Pilgrim Plymouth

Moderator of Wessex Synod, the Revd Adrian Bulley, introduced

Ulrike Bell	Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church
Mark Rickard Meatcher	Christchurch Group
Romilly Wakefield Micklem	Walton-on-Thames; Weybridge
Timothy Andrew Searle	South West Hants Group
Tanya Rasmussen	Wheatley (also Chaplain, Mansfield College)

Moderator of Thames North Synod, the Revd Andrew Prasad, introduced

Uta Blohm	Trinity, Camden Town
Karen Campbell, CRCW	Berry Park and Beech Hill Council of Churches
Katrina Irene Hackett	Muswell Hill
<i>Janet Hopewell</i>	<i>Burnham and Cores End</i>
Shahbaz Javed	UR Asian Christian Church, Walthamstow

Moderator of Southern Synod, the Revd Nigel Uden, introduced

Ian Alexander Gow	Centrepiece, Cade Road and Faversham Road, Ashford
Darryl Brenda Sinclair	Hassocks URC
<i>Hilary Mary Nabarro</i>	<i>Folkestone and Hythe</i>
Hans Stein	Swanley
Wendy Anne Swan	St John's, Orpington
Roger David Wood	Housom Memorial, Hove, Portslade and Central

Moderator of The National Synod of Wales, the Revd Peter Noble, introduced

Kevin Snyman	Tabernacle, Newport and Synod of Wales Training/ Development Officer
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Moderator of The National Synod of Scotland, the Revd John Humphreys, introduced

Steven Manders	Nairn
<i>Frances Jean Ruthven</i>	<i>Morningside United</i>

The Revd Rob Weston introduced newly appointed Children and Youth Development Officers (CYDOs)

Mr Philip Ray	Wessex
Ms Jan Murphy	South Western
Mrs Judy Harris	Wales
Mr Simon Rudiger	Thames North

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

The General Secretary read the names of Ministers celebrating jubilees:

50 years

Alan Gerald Burroughs
William Sydney Campbell
Donald James Finnan
John Allen Flack
Christopher (Keith) Forecast
Alan James Frost
Mary Elaine Frost
George (Derek) Gill
Conrad Thomas Husk
Norman Barry Jones
John Adrian Key
Peter Russell MacKenzie
David Maldwyn Owen
Peter Leonard Pittaway
Clifford Gerrard Prenton
Brian Godfrey Prior
Antony Richmond Ritchie
Kenneth Ernest Roach
Kenneth Maltus Smith
Andrew Woodside Taggart
Richard Francis Taylor
Lionel John Thomas
Stanley James Whiffen
Thomas Owen Williams
Wendy Irene Williams
John Branscombe Wilmot

60 years

Edwin Malcolm Chubb
John Stronach Henderson
Hugh Kember
Walter Phillips
Geoffrey William Satchell
Alfred Victor Smith
Gwyn Lewis Thomas
Ernest Stanley Walters

70 years

Lawrence Squires

51 years

Erik John Bentliff
Sidney Bindemann
John Robinson Brunskill
Thomas Cecil Cheesebrough
Michael John Davies
John McBride Dean
Thomas Leslie Haywood
William Philip Kennerley
Ronald Hugh Lewis
John Martin
Robert John (Jack) McKelvey
Colin Edward Richards
Stanley Herbert Russell
Alan Philip Sell
William Ewart Sewell
Noel Lewis Shepherd
Bernard Sheppard
Hubert John Smith
John Alan Stanyon
John Eric Ticehurst
David Wilson Turner
David Roy Viles

61 years

Edmund Arthur Banyard
Ronald Arthur Bocking
Peter John Brewer
John Fuller
James Graham
Cyril Handel Grant
David Murray Main
Stuart Hardy Marsh
Albert Edward Molineux
Leslie Newton
Ronald William Talmey
John Horace Taylor

75 years

Ian Latto

The Moderators welcomed those present as follows:

50th Anniversary in 2009

Revd John and Mrs Dorothy Bentliff
Revd Michael and Mrs Rosemary Davies
Revd Jack and Mrs Myrtle McKelvey
Revd Colin and Mrs Elizabeth Richards
Revd Dr Stanley and Mrs Pam Russell
Revd Antony and Mrs Sheila Ritchie
Revd Prof Alan and Dr Karen Sell
Revd David and Mrs Avril Turner
Revd David and Mrs Josie Viles

50th Anniversary in 2010

Revd Donald and Mrs Barbara Finnan
Revd Derek and Mrs Ruth Gill
Revd Dr David Owen
Revd Peter and Mrs Enid Pittaway
Revd Kenneth and Mrs Mavis Smith
Revd Richard and Mrs Veronica Taylor
Revd Lionel and Mrs Deidre Thomas
Revd Wendy and Mr Trevor Williams
Revd Stanley and Mrs Rosemary Whiffen
Revd Keith Forecast

60th Anniversary in 2009

Revd Ronald Bocking
Revd Peter Brewer
Revd David and Revd Pauline Main
Revd Ronald and Mrs Evelyn Talmey

60th Anniversary in 2010

Revd Geoffrey and Mrs Margaret Atchell

75th Anniversary in 2010

Revd Ian Latta

Assembly adjourned briefly and then resumed with the report of the Mission Council.



Jubilee Ministers were welcomed by the Moderators and General Assembly



Mission Council report

The past Moderator, the Revd John Marsh, invited the Revd Malcolm Hanson and the Revd Richard Mortimer to respond to questions on parts of the report not subject to resolutions. Revd John Waller, Convener of the Human Sexuality Task Group, responded to a question from Revd Brian Harley.

Mission Council, ethical investment statement of principle

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr John Ellis introduced the resolution and moved the adoption of resolution 2.

Resolution 2 Ethical investment principles for the use of the United Reformed Church

General Assembly welcomes the statement 'Ethical investment principles for the use of the United Reformed Church' for the guidance of those responsible for making investment decisions and commends the summary statement 'Recommended Mandate for Investors'.

Resolved by consensus.

Recommended mandate for investors

- 1) 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;
 - b) Companies a significant part of whose business is in the manufacture or supply of alcoholic drinks, or tobacco products, or military equipment (other than weapons); or the provision of gambling facilities; or the publication or distribution of pornography.

General Assembly is of the view that in the definition of the activities outlined in b), "significant" means that the share of turnover derived from the activity concerned is more than 10% of the company's total turnover.
- 2) In addition to the exclusions listed above, the URC's investment bodies should reserve the right to avoid investment in companies whose operations are deemed to:
 - contribute directly to human rights violations or support the maintenance of oppressive regimes who are guilty of gross human rights violations;
 - contribute to a systematic, harmful impact on the social or natural environment;
 - harm the society in which they operate more than they benefit it;
 - promote injustice.
- 3) Further it is expected that governance standards of our advisers, our fund managers, their agents, and the companies in which we invest, both directly and indirectly, should meet internationally accepted norms. By focusing on these standards, investors will favour companies which will be seeking to develop their businesses sustainably in the long term interests of their shareholders and other stakeholders.
- 4) General Assembly recognises that this policy cannot be binding upon those with responsibility for specific investment decisions but when these bodies seek advice on investment matters they should apply due diligence to ensure that the integrity and reputation of the United Reformed Church is, as far as is practical, protected.

Resolution 3, Nestlé

General Assembly:

- i. agrees that Nestlé should no longer be treated on a different investment basis from all other companies;
- ii. recognises that this means URC bodies may consider engagement with Nestlé through the selective purchase of shares if and when the appropriate investment managers deem such purchase appropriate. This will facilitate better engagement with Company policies and practices from within; and
- iii. instructs that this decision and its context be reported to those entrusted with investment decisions on behalf of the URC as well as Nestlé management and the Church Investors Group.

Mr Ellis introduced the resolution and he and Mr Andrew Middleton, the legal advisor, responded to questions. Revd Ed Cox indicated that he would encourage the Mission Committee to monitor investments made under the ethical investments policy.

No consensus being reached a Facilitation Group was asked to rework the resolution over lunch. The Assembly adjourned for lunch.





Second Session

The Moderator, Mrs Val Morrison took the chair.

On the motion of the Clerk the Assembly adopted the minutes of Saturday 3 July Sessions one and two.

The Clerk then moved resolution 13.

Resolution 13

Church changes

- a) General Assembly welcomes the Bournemouth International Church and the West London Asian Christian Fellowship as Mission Projects of the United Reformed Church.
- b) Assembly receives notice of the closure of the local churches listed on pages 198-209 of the Book of Reports 2010 and gives thanks to God for their worship, witness and service.

Resolved by consensus.

Ministries Committee

Resolution 11, Minister's/CRCW's working hours

General Assembly approves the following as the principles governing the Ministerial working week:

- a) there should be more clarity in defining working hours;
- b) the working week, translated into hours in a four week period, should be not less than 160 hours and not more than 192;
- c) a note on the working week should be included in the Plan for Partnership and the rationale for the working week, set out as supporting text for this resolution, should be available on request from the Ministries office.

The Convener of the committee, the Revd Peter Poulter introduced the resolution and moved its adoption. A number of questions were asked, and comments made and Mr Poulter responded. Clause b) was amended to:

Resolution 11 Minister's/CRCW's working hours

General Assembly approves the following as the principles governing the Ministerial working week:

- a) there should be more clarity in defining working hours;
- b) the working week, translated into hours in a four week period, is recommended to be not less than 160 hours and not more than 192;
- c) a note on the working week should be included in the Plan for Partnership and the rationale for the working week, set out as supporting text for this resolution, should be available on request from the Ministries office.

Resolved by agreement.

Dissent was recorded by Revd Michael Aspinall.

Sunday, 4 July

The Convener agreed that the committee would continue to work on the issue to integrate it into the work of Local Mission Ministry Review (LMMR).

Dr Kirsty Thorpe took the chair.

The Assembly returned to consideration of resolution 3.

Mr Ellis moved resolution 3 in a form reworded by the Facilitation Group.

Resolution 3

Mission Council, Nestlé

General Assembly agrees that for investment purposes, all companies should be treated in accordance with our ethical investment policy.

Resolved by consensus.

Resolution 4, Mission Committee Nestlé

Mrs Melanie Frew moved the adoption of the resolution as recommended by the Facilitation Group.



Resolution 4

Facilitation group recommendation

General Assembly resolves that if Nestlé obtains listing on the FTSE4Good index, Mission Council be instructed to rescind the boycott on Nestlé products outlined in the Assembly 1992 resolution.

Resolved by agreement.

Dissent was recorded by David Featonby and Chris Maple.

A suggestion was made that the Children's Assembly be invited to write to Nestlé to make their views known.

Mrs Val Morrison resumed the chair.

Mission Committee

The Revd Ed Cox responded to questions and comments and moved the adoption of resolution 1 agreeing to amended wording of section c).

Resolution 1

vision2020

- a) General Assembly celebrates God's calling to each and every member, local church, synod, council and committee to join in God's transformational journey of good news for all creation.
- b) General Assembly gives thanks for the mission journey of the United Reformed Church in years gone by but recognizes the significant challenges ahead in our denomination and in our world.
- c) General Assembly adopts *vision2020* as the framework of mission planning and church growth for the United Reformed Church in the coming decade.

Resolved by agreement.

Dissent was recorded by Andrew Buxton, Janet Calderley, Kenneth Forbes, Linda Harrison, Brian Harley and Chris Maple.

Finance Committee and URC Trust

Trustee's Report and Accounts

There were no questions and comments on the Finance report.

Mr Ellis spoke positively about the finances of the church at this time and moved the adoption of resolution 27.

Resolution 27

Trustee's Report and Accounts

General Assembly receives the Trustee's Report and adopts the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009.

This was agreed.

Mr Ellis moved the adoption of resolution 29.

Resolution 29

Giving to the Ministry and Mission Fund

General Assembly gives gratitude to God for the giving of local churches to the Ministry and Mission Fund and expresses its thanks to synod and church treasurers and to all those who made possible a total fund income of £20.6m in both 2008 and 2009.

This was agreed.

Mr Ellis moved the adoption of resolution of 28 and responded to comments and questions.

Resolution 28

Appointment of Auditors

General Assembly resolves that Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP be appointed auditors of the United Reformed Church Trust for such period as determined by the Trust and for their remuneration to be set by the Finance Committee.

This was agreed.

Mr Ellis moved the adoption of resolution 41.

Resolution 41

Pension Fund

General Assembly, further to Resolution 54 of Assembly 2007 regarding the covenant to the Minister's Pension Fund, authorises the United Reformed Church Trust to take the necessary legal steps to give effect to the covenant and to apply, as far as it is legally able, to such of the assets that it may hold from time to time as trustee of the United Reformed Church in support of this purpose.

This was agreed.

Mr Alan Small, Chair of the Trust, introduced and moved the adoption of resolution 31.

Resolution 31

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the United Reformed Church Trust (appendices 4a and 4b)

General Assembly approves the adoption of the Memorandum of Association and the Articles of Association of the United Reformed Church Trust.

This was agreed.

In response to a question Mr Alan Small stated that the Governing document relating the Church to the Trust is in process of being updated and will be presented in due course.



Nominations Committee

The report containing the complete list of committees and appointments was presented by the Convener, the Revd Malcolm Hanson. (*See Appendix 1*)
In presenting the report Mr Hanson commented that resolution is still required of how the report is published in non-assembly years.

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 14.

Resolution 14

Appointment Extensions

General Assembly agrees that:

- (i) the present term of service of Mr John Ellis as Honorary Treasurer of the United Reformed Church be extended from July 2011 until 30th June 2013;
- (ii) the present term of service of Dr David Robinson as Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee be extended from Assembly 2012 to the close of Assembly 2014;
- (iii) the appointment of Mr Andrew Perkins as a member of the URC Ministers' Pension Trust Ltd be extended to 2012.

This was agreed.

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of the resolution 15.

Resolution 15

Clerk to the General Assembly 2012-18

General Assembly appoints Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith as Clerk to General Assembly from the close of Assembly 2012 to the close of Assembly 2018.

This was agreed.

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 16.

Resolution 16

Power of appointment

General Assembly agrees that the power to appoint Assembly staff members, other than officers of Assembly and Synod Moderators, shall be delegated to appointing groups duly appointed so long as appropriate processes and employment and related criteria have been met. All such appointments shall have effect from the date determined by the appointing group, and shall be reported to the next meeting of Mission Council or General Assembly.

This was agreed.

Sunday, 4 July

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 17.

Resolution 17

Moderator of the Mersey Synod

General Assembly reappoints the Revd Howard Sharp to serve as Moderator of the Mersey Synod from 1 February 2011 to 30 June 2014.

This was agreed.

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 37.

Resolution 37

Moderator of the Synod of Scotland

General Assembly reappoints the Revd John Humphreys to serve as Moderator of the Synod of Scotland from September 1 2012 to 30 June 2016.

This was agreed.

The Moderator greeted those Moderators who will have retired, or moved to a local pastorate, before the next Assembly. The Revds Nigel Uden, Adrian Bulley and Terry Oakley.

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 18.

Resolution 18

Director of Old Testament Studies, Westminster College

General Assembly reappoints the Revd Dr Janet Tollington to serve as Director of Old Testament Studies at Westminster College, Cambridge, from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2016, subject to review.

Resolved by majority vote.

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 19.

Resolution 19

Appointment of committees and groups

General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 176-187 (sections 2 – 10) of the Book of Reports, subject to additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report to Assembly.

Resolved by majority vote.

(N.B. The full list of appointments appears as *Appendix 1* to the Record of Assembly)

Mr Hanson moved the adoption of resolution 20.

Resolution 20

Vote of thanks

General Assembly records its deep appreciation for all the work done by those who serve as committee members and representatives.

Resolved by acclamation.

The Moderator thanked Mr Hanson as he completed his term of Convener of the Nominations Committee.

Interfaith guests

The presentation of the Nominations Committee report was interrupted by an 'Order of the Day' where the Assembly received a number of Inter-Faith Guests who were introduced by Mrs Daphne Beal.

Sughra Ahmed
Dr Ram Chhabra
Mrs Fafar Catling
Gurbaksh Singh Liddar
Tony Nelson

Research Fellow, Policy Research Centre, Islamic Foundation
Secretary, Geeta Bhawan Hindu Temple, Loughborough
Member of the Bahá'í Community in Loughborough
Committee member, Loughborough Gurdwara
Member of Synagogue Board with responsibility for Inter
Faith matters and Vice Chair of Leicester Council of Faiths

The Moderator welcomed the guests and invited Sughra Ahmed (pictured right) to address the Assembly. The Chaplain Revd James Coleman led Assembly in prayer.





Mr Lawrence Moore and the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, Moderators for 2012 to 2014



Westminster College appeal presentation

Third Session

The Moderator, the Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe took the chair.

Announcement of Moderators for 2012 to 2014

Dr Jim Merrilees announced the result of the election. 275 papers were returned for each post, 3 were spoiled in each case. The **Revd Dr Michael Jagessar** and **Mr Lawrence Moore** were duly elected.

Westminster College appeal

The Revd Dr Susan Durber presented the vision for refurbishment of Westminster College, the reason for the appeal. She explained the need for changes to the building to enable the college to be a resource to meet the challenges of education, hospitality and community for the United Reformed Church in the twenty first century. The plans will cost £7m. A business plan has been scrutinised by the Finance Committee. £1m is already available with the possibility of a further million. £5m will need to be raised.

Professor Sir Anthony Bottoms, on behalf of the Governors, assured Assembly that the Governing body is unanimous in its support. Planning permission and Listed Building support has already been sought. The Governors have sold a valuable manuscript for £400,000 to raise money for the fund. Mr Brian Long, who has considerable experience in this field, has been appointed to co-ordinate the appeal.

A number of questions and comments were raised to which Sir Tony responded. Mr John Ellis, Honorary Treasurer reported that the results of the finance Committee's deliberations were very positive but recognised that non URC business would have to grow to maintain another strong income stream. He offered two resolutions for discussion.

A number of questions were raised.

The Moderator invited the Revd Fiona Thomas to respond on behalf of the Education and Learning Committee. Dr Durber responded on behalf of the College.

Westminster College Development resolutions 38 and 39.

Resolution 38

General Assembly:

- (i) welcomes the Westminster College Development Plan;
- (ii) authorises the College to make this Plan the subject of an Assembly Appeal throughout the United Reformed Church; and
- (iii) encourages all synods, local churches and members to demonstrate support for this Appeal through their commitment to prayer, publicity and generosity.

Resolved by agreement.

A number of questions were raised to which Mr Ellis responded.

Resolution 39

General Assembly authorises the Finance Committee to release denominational funds to assist the Westminster College Development Plan as and when building works are agreed by the Governors of the College and the URC Trust and particularly:

- (i) to provide support from the Legacy Fund to offset the loss of income during the temporary closure of parts of the College;
- (ii) to invest £1m in the Westminster buildings from money held from the proceeds of the sale of the former New College, London;
- (iii) to consider bridging loans against future expected Appeal income.

Resolved by consensus.

Ministries Committee

Resolution 12, Guidelines on conduct and behaviour

General Assembly, recognising the high standard of conduct and behaviour displayed by the vast majority of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Church Related Community Workers, and Elders within the United Reformed Church, encourages all in leadership positions within the Church to continue to maintain those standards. Realising, however, there are times in the life of the Church when disagreement arises over the boundaries of acceptable conduct and behaviour, General Assembly adopts the Guidelines on Conduct and Behaviour for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Church Related Community Workers and Elders.

The resolution was introduced by the Convener the Revd Peter Poulter; he commended the document to Assembly and moved the adoption of the resolution.

A number of questions were raised to which Mr Poulter and the Revd Craig Bowman responded. Mr Poulter agreed that the guidance could be widened to include church members and others who work for the church, but did not feel it should be the task of Ministries Committee. Vulnerable adults will be included when policies are next updated. Ms Karen Bully-Morrison emphasised that two adults should be present when transporting children in a car.

A point was made that single Ministers could be placed in difficult situations by the current wording in the documents referring to Ministers, (line 3c).

Mr Poulter responded to the concerns raised.

Consensus not being achievable, Assembly moved to working under non-consensus standing orders, Mr John Ellis proposed and Revd Ruth Wollaston seconded that “the motion be not put”.

The proposal was lost.

The Chaplain, the Revd Rachel Poolman led Assembly in prayer.

After further discussion it was moved and agreed that “The motion be now put”.

Resolution 12**Guidelines on conduct and behaviour**

General Assembly, recognising the high standard of conduct and behaviour displayed by the vast majority of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Church Related Community Workers, and Elders within the United Reformed Church, encourages all in leadership positions within the Church to continue to maintain those standards. Realising, however, that there are times in the life of the Church when disagreement arises over the boundaries of acceptable conduct and behaviour, General Assembly adopts the Guidelines on Conduct and Behaviour for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Church Related Community Workers and Elders.

The resolution was agreed.

The Revd Ruth Whitehead, incoming Convener, recommended *the Sexual Ethics Training* and promised to continue the work in this area in the coming months.

Synod Resolutions**Resolution 33, East Midlands Synod: properties advice for local churches**

Mr Duncan Smith proposed the adoption of resolution 33; seconded by the Revd Paul Bedford.

Mr Ellis responded that the time is right for beginning a new piece of work with the Methodist Church.

Resolution 33**properties advice for local churches**

In the light of the 2008 resolution seeking closer co-operation between the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church, Assembly instructs its officers to explore the possibility of collaboration in the area of property advice to local churches.

Resolved by consensus.

The Moderator responded to a question about the handling of the previous debate.

The Revd Rachel Poolman led evening prayers.



■ First Session

The Moderator, Mrs Val Morrison took the chair. Worship was led by the Chaplains, the Revd James Coleman and the Revd Rachel Poolman, followed by Bible study. Gerard Kelly completed his study from the Acts of the Apostles. The Moderator thanked Gerard for his contribution to the Assembly.

The Moderator also thanked the Revd Terry Oakley for his service to the Church in the East Midlands, as he will complete his service before the next Assembly. Minutes from Sunday were not available due to the over running of the evening session. A draft hardcopy was available for scrutiny.

Ecumenical Relations

World Communion of Reformed Churches.

The Revd Jane Rowell gave a report of the recent Uniting Council.

The Clerk moved the adoption of resolution 42

Resolution 42

World Communion of Reformed Churches

General Assembly noting that the Presbyterian Church in England and the Congregational Union of England and Wales were respectively founder members of the Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in 1875 and the International Congregational Council in 1891 which in 1970 united to form the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, of which the United Reformed Church was a member rejoices in its union with the Reformed Ecumenical Council to create the World Communion of Reformed Churches and resolves that all references to WARC in governing documents and guidelines issued by the Assembly or any of its committees or agents should be understood hereafter to refer to the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

Resolved by acclamation.

Communications and Editorial

The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe introduced the resolution, responded to questions and moved its adoption.

Resolution 32

2012 Olympics and Queen's Jubilee

General Assembly welcomes the work being done by the Mission and Communications and Editorial Committees in preparation for the Church's involvement in the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and in events surrounding the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. It encourages churches to engage in the celebrations and events that will take place throughout the year as an opportunity for witness and service, doing so wherever this is possible with partners from their community, including members of other churches and faiths.

Resolved by consensus.

Assembly Arrangements Committee

Dr David Robinson, Convener of the committee announced the total of the offertory (£2,200.07 of which £1,900 was gift aided). He presented the resolution:

Resolution 22

Dates and venue of 2012 Assembly

General Assembly resolves to meet in the Southport Conference Centre from the Fri 6 July – Monday 9 July 2012 or at such other place and time as may duly be determined.

Resolved by majority vote.

A question regarding the size of Assembly was asked and the Convener promised that the matter will be discussed further in other places.

Members of Assembly were invited to complete feedback sheets on their table.



Marketing and Identity Campaign

The General Secretary gave further explanation of preparations being made and she and Mr Lawrence Moore responded to questions asked in a previous session.

The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe took the chair.

Reports not subject to resolutions

Questions and comments were invited about the Assessment Board; Church Related Community Workers sub-committee; Leadership in Worship sub-committee; Maintenance of the Ministry sub-committee and Retired Ministers' Housing sub-committee.

The Revds Peter Poulter, Paul Whittle, Craig Bowman, and Mr John Ellis responded.

Report from the Children's Assembly

Children's Assembly shared their experiences of meeting together in words and song and presented a DVD.

They also shared a DVD they had made with regard to resolution 34, Children in Detention. Three children offered prayers for children currently in detention centres. The Moderator thanked the children and their leaders whose work had enriched and enhanced Assembly.

Resolution 34, North Western Synod: children in immigration detention centres

Permission was granted for the North Western Synod to withdraw the original resolution 34 and replace it with:

Resolution 34**Children in immigration detention centres**

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church calls upon Her Majesty's government to end the detention of children for immigration purposes immediately and ensure that alternatives to detention should not involve the separation of children from their parents.

*Proposed by Revd Marian Tugwood
Seconded by Revd Geoffrey Clarke*

Resolved by consensus.

Youth and Children's Committee Report

The Moderator thanked the Revd Rob Weston for the report and work of the committee.



Remaindered business

Mission Council – Two

The Clerk moved the adoption of resolutions 5, 7 and 10.

Resolution 5

Disciplinary Process Part I (requiring a two thirds majority)

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to Part I of the Disciplinary Process (Section O):

Paragraph 1.1

In the second sentence after the words '*Assembly Commission*' remove the words '*or, in the event of an appeal, the Appeals Commission*'.

In the final sentence, after the words '*is also able to*' remove the words '*make recommendations (other than recommendations under Paragraph 1.3) and*'.

After the words '*Section F*' insert '*or, in the event of an appeal, Section G*'.

Paragraph 1.3.1

Remove the words '*or, in the event of an appeal, the Appeals Commission*'.

Paragraph 1.3.2

Replace the words '*within the time limit therein specified*' with '*with all due expedition, consistent with the consultation process laid down by the Incapacity Procedure*'.

Remove the words '*or the Appeals Commission*'.

Paragraph 1.3.3 and Paragraph 1.3.4

Remove the words '*or the Appeals Commission*'.

Paragraph 2

After the words '*Appeals Commission*' insert '*, the Special Appeals Body*'.

Paragraph 7.2

After the words '*case law*' add '*and/or official statements of good practice issued by a government department or agency*'.

Resolved by majority vote.

The General Secretary moved that this be referred to synods with dissent to be communicated to her by 31 March 2011.

This was agreed.

Resolution 7**Disciplinary Procedure Part I**

General Assembly agrees to make the following change to Part I of the Disciplinary Process (Section O):

Paragraph 7

Remove this paragraph in its entirety.

Resolved by majority vote.

The General Secretary moved that this be referred to synods with dissent to be communicated to her by 31 March 2011.

This was agreed.

Resolution 10**Disciplinary Procedure Part II**

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

Paragraph A.4.1

Remove the words *'recommendations or'*

Paragraph A.5.20

Remove the words *'the particular recommendation(s) or'* and insert the word *'any'* before the word *'guidance'*.

Paragraph E.9.3

Replace the words *'and/or to append recommendations to its decision under Paragraph F.2.3 or where, of its own accord, it might have it in contemplation to adopt either or both of those courses'* with the words *'or where, of its own accord, the Assembly Commission might have it in contemplation to adopt that course'*.

Paragraph F.2.3

Delete entirely.

Paragraph F.2.4

Re-number as F.2.3.

Paragraph F.5.2

Remove the words *'recommendations or'* and *'or Paragraph F.2.4'.**

Paragraph F.6.4

Remove the words *'recommendations or'*.

Paragraph G.8.4

Remove the words *'recommendations or'* and *'or Paragraph F.2.4 as the case may be'*.

Paragraph G.13.4

Delete entirely, renumbering the subsequent subparagraphs of G.13

Paragraph G.13.6 (to become G.13.5)

Replace the existing paragraph with the following:

'In addition to its power to offer guidance under Paragraph G.13.4, the Appeals Commission may if it sees fit endorse, overrule, vary or modify in any way any guidance offered by the Assembly Commission in the case in question. For the avoidance of duplication, the Decision Record shall in every case set out in full any guidance offered by the Appeals Commission, even where this simply endorses that offered by the Assembly Commission in its entirety.'

Paragraph G.14.4

Remove the words *'recommendations or'* and *'or Paragraph G.13.5 as the case may be'*.

Paragraph G.14.6

Remove the words *'recommendations or'*.

Paragraph J.1.5

Remove the words *'Recommendations or'* and give the word *'guidance'* a capital G.

Resolved by majority vote.

Monday, 5 July

Section O costs

The General Secretary reported that eight cases have been heard with the cost £47,435. Since the last report to the Assembly the names of four Ministers had been deleted from the roll:

- Ronald Alistair MacNab (deleted September 07);
- Sidney Owen North (deleted September 08);
- Barry Griffin (deleted November 08);
- Geoffrey Rodgers (deleted February 2010).

An appeal from a church member against decisions of a Church Meeting had been heard by an Assembly Commission at a cost of £10,072.

Mission Committee Report

Questions and comments were received to which Ms Francis Brienen responded.

Incapacity Procedure Part I

The Clerk moved the adoption of resolutions 6, 8 and 9.

Resolution 6

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to Part I of the Incapacity Procedure (Section P):

Paragraph 1.1

The existing Paragraph 1 to become 1.1.

Paragraph 1.2

Add a new paragraph as follows:-

'The Review Commission may also decide to make a recommendation/referral in accordance with Part II Section H. The Review Commission or, in the event of an appeal the Appeals Review Commission, is also able to make recommendations (other than recommendations under Part II Section H) and offer guidance, but only within the limits prescribed in Part II Sections K and L'

Paragraph 2

After the words 'Appeals Review Commission' insert ', the Special Appeals Body'.

Paragraph 7

After the words 'case law' insert 'and/or official statements of good practice issued by a government department or agency'.

Resolved by majority vote.

The General Secretary moved that this be referred to synods with dissent to be communicated to her by 31 March 2011.

This was agreed.

Resolution 8

Incapacity Procedure Part I

General Assembly agrees to make the following change to Part I of the Incapacity Procedure (Section P):

Paragraphs 6 and 7

Remove these two paragraphs in their entirety.

Resolved by majority vote.

The General Secretary moved that this be referred to synods with dissent to be communicated to her by 31 March 2011.
This was agreed.



Resolution

9

Amendments to the Structure

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

Paragraph 2(6)(A)(xi)

Remove the words 'Part I of the Statement of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process referred to in Function (xxxiii) below, and Part I of the Incapacity Procedure referred to in Paragraph 6 of the Structure.'

Paragraph 3.(1)

Change the reference in the text from 'Paragraph 2.5.xi.' to 'Paragraph 2(6)(A)(xi)'.

Paragraph 5.(2)

Change the reference in the text from 'Paragraph 5(3)' to 'Paragraph 6'.

Resolved by majority vote.

The General Secretary moved that this be referred to synods with dissent to be communicated to her by 31 March 2011.
This was agreed.

Monday, 5 July

Ministries and Youth and Children's Work

In light of recent government announcements the committee sought and received permission to withdraw and replace resolution 21, Ministries and Youth and Children's Work: Vetting and barring.

The Revd Rob Weston (pictured right) introduced the replacement resolution and moved its adoption. He responded to questions.



The United Reformed Church has committed itself to being a Safe Church. General Assembly therefore encourages local churches to make themselves aware of the implications of the introduction of the Vetting and Barring scheme (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), to follow guidance on safer recruiting when appointing people to work with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults, and others working on behalf of the denomination who will be undertaking 'regulated activity', to be ISA registered and, following the principles of safer recruiting, to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

The replacement resolution reads:

Resolution 21

Safeguarding

The United Reformed Church has committed itself to being a Safe Church. General Assembly has stated that local churches must follow best practice when appointing people to work with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults and to this end commends 'Recruiting Safely' produced by the Children's Workforce Development Council to provide guidance in addition to the United Reformed Church's Good Practice pack. General Assembly reasserts the need for those Assembly Appointees and others working on behalf of the denomination to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure when their role can involve work with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.

Resolved by consensus.

The Clerk moved resolution 26.

Resolution 26, Changes to the Structure (section B of the Manual): the 'Two Assemblies' rule

General Assembly resolves to amend paragraph 3 of the Structure of the United Reformed Church to read:

3.(1) No exercise of the function of constitutional amendment contained in 2.5.xi shall have effect unless the following procedure has been followed:

- (a) The proposal for the amendment shall be made in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.

- (b) Either The General Assembly or, in years when the General Assembly does not meet, the Mission Council shall vote on a motion to approve the proposal which shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass.
- (c) If such motion to approve the proposal is passed the General Assembly or the Mission Council, as the case may be, shall refer the proposal to synods and may, if it deems appropriate, in exceptional cases also to local churches.
- (d) If the proposal has been agreed by the General Assembly it shall set a final date for responses to be made, which shall normally be at an appropriate time before a meeting of the Mission Council not less than nine months after the meeting of the General Assembly at which the proposal was agreed.
- (e) If the proposal has been agreed by the Mission Council it shall set a final date for responses to be made which shall normally be at an appropriate date before the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
- (f) If by such date notice has been received by the General Secretary from more than one third of synods (or, if it has been so referred, more than one third of local churches) that a motion 'that the proposal be not proceeded with' has been passed by a majority of members present and voting at a duly convened meeting of such body, then the Assembly or the Mission Council, as the case may be, in its concern for the unity of the church shall not proceed to ratify the proposal.
- (g) If by such date such notice has not been received, a motion to agree the proposed amendment shall come before the General Assembly at its next meeting or before the Mission Council at a meeting specified by the General Assembly. Such a motion shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass. In its concern for mutual understanding within the life of the church, before voting on such a motion the General Assembly or Mission Council shall invite a representative of any synod from which the General Secretary has duly received notification under 3(1)(e) to present the main reasons for its objection.
- (h) If such a motion is passed by such a majority the amendment shall have effect.
- (i) For the purposes of this paragraph 3(1), only synods and local churches in existence on the date set for responses to be made shall be counted in the calculations.

3.(2) In the case of motions which would have the effect of terminating the separate existence of the United Reformed Church, or of a synod within it, by union with other churches, the voting process to be used shall be not less stringent than in 3 (1) and that process shall be determined by a single vote of the General Assembly which shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass. In the case of a proposed union affecting only Scotland or Wales no action will be taken by the General Assembly until a decision in favour of union has been taken by the relevant synod.

An amendment was moved by Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith, Seconder David Grosch-Miller.

In the proposed revised wording of paragraph 3.(1) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church and in sub-paragraph (g) remove the sentence **'Such a motion shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass'** and replace it with: **'If such a motion is before the General Assembly it shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass. If the motion is before the Mission Council it shall require a simple majority of the members present and voting to pass.'**

This was agreed.

The amended resolution 26 was then voted upon.

Resolution 26

Changes to the Structure

(section B of the Manual): the 'Two Assemblies' rule

General Assembly resolves to amend paragraph 3 of the Structure of the United to read:

3.(1) No exercise of the function of constitutional amendment contained in 2.5.xi shall have effect unless the following procedure has been followed:

- (a) The proposal for the amendment shall be made in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.
- (b) Either The General Assembly or, in years when the General Assembly does not meet, the Mission Council shall vote on a motion to approve the proposal which shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass.
- (c) If such motion to approve the proposal is passed the General Assembly or the Mission Council, as the case may be, shall refer the proposal to synods and may, if it deems appropriate, in exceptional cases also to local churches.
- (d) If the proposal has been agreed by the General Assembly it shall set a final date for responses to be made, which shall normally be at an appropriate time before a meeting of the Mission Council not less than nine months after the meeting of the General Assembly at which the proposal was agreed.
- (e) If the proposal has been agreed by the Mission Council it shall set a final date for responses to be made which shall normally be at an appropriate date before the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
- (f) If by such date notice has been received by the General Secretary from more than one third of synods (or, if it has been so referred, more than one third of local churches) that a motion 'that the proposal be not proceeded with' has been passed by a majority of members present and voting at a duly convened meeting of such body, then the Assembly or the Mission Council, as the case may be, in its concern for the unity of the church shall not proceed to ratify the proposal.
- (g) If by such date such notice has not been received, a motion to agree the proposed amendment shall come before the General Assembly at its next meeting or before the Mission Council at a meeting specified by the General Assembly, If such a motion is before the General Assembly it shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass. If the motion is before the Mission Council it shall require a simple majority of the members present and voting to pass. In its concern for mutual understanding within the life of the church, before voting on such a motion the General Assembly or Mission Council shall invite a representative of any synod from which the General Secretary has duly received notification under 3(1)(e) to present the main reasons for its objection.
- (h) If such a motion is passed by such a majority the amendment shall have effect.
- (i) For the purposes of this paragraph 3(1), only synods and local churches in existence on the date set for responses to be made shall be counted in the calculations.

3.(2) In the case of motions which would have the effect of terminating the separate existence of the United Reformed Church, or of a synod within it, by union with other churches, the voting process to be used shall be not less stringent than in 3 (1) and that process shall be determined by a single vote of the General Assembly which shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass. In the case of a proposed union affecting only Scotland or Wales no action will be taken by the General Assembly until a decision in favour of union has been taken by the relevant synod.

This was agreed.

The General Secretary moved that this be referred to synods with dissent to be communicated to her by 31 March 2011.
This was agreed.



Address to the Throne

The past Moderator, the Revd John Marsh presented the address to the throne from the General Assembly.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord! The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, meeting in Loughborough, sends greetings in this the 59th year of Your Majesty's reign!

We give thanks to God for Your Majesty's continued good health and strength and look forward with anticipation to celebrating your Diamond Jubilee during the first week of June 2012. This will take place shortly before the London Olympic Games and we look forward to celebrating a season of goodwill and comradeship with representatives from the Commonwealth and the rest of the world over this period. As churches, we are participating in the *More Than Gold* campaign to reach out to visitors with love and hospitality and to mobilise our members to engage in a range of volunteer activities from welcoming the Torch, to providing chaplaincy services to athletes and officials, and responding to issues of social concern surrounding the games.

As we look forward with anticipation to these events, it is also important for us to reflect on the past two years (since our General Assembly in Edinburgh), and to highlight current challenges to Church and Society in the UK. The past two years have been dominated by the global financial crisis and ensuing economic recession, and the political crisis surrounding the MPs' expenses scandal. These two crises have served to seriously erode public trust in financial and political institutions which will take considerable time to rebuild. We are concerned at the underlying moral dimension to these crises as institutions created to serve the public – Banks and Parliament – assumed the role of leaders in pursuit of ever greater profits with high risk products in the case of the financial services sector, and developed a culture of graft and unaccountability in the case of some Members of Parliament.

We are grateful for the decisive action by leaders of the main political parties to clean-up politics in response to the MPs' expense scandal and for the prompt action taken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in producing a report on MPs' expenses and allowances. We are particularly supportive of the principles of public life outlined in this report – especially those of selflessness, integrity and accountability – and will continue to hold the newly elected MPs' and Your Majesty's Coalition Government in our prayers as they embark on a formidably challenging term of Parliamentary office. Great wisdom, courage and resolve will be required in the months and years ahead as they seek to respond to the multiple challenges of reducing the budget deficit while defending frontline services and ensuring the principles of freedom, fairness and responsibility are maintained in implementing the decisive cuts that are necessary.

We are less enamoured with the response by the financial services sector to the financial crisis caused by their blatant disregard for principles of accountability, sustainability, transparency, and honesty in their business practices. Despite the massive bailouts of banks with taxpayers' money and the stringent warnings and tax penalties for paying huge bonuses, the financial sector appears intent on returning to 'business as usual' with the return to profit they have experienced over the past year. This has been achieved at the expense of the livelihoods of millions of people across the world and in the UK who have lost their jobs or earning ability as a result of the global economic recession caused by the financial

crisis. We believe that it is patently unjust and immoral for those who were least responsible for this crisis to now be required to pay the greatest price in terms of spending cuts whilst those who were responsible are once more pocketing huge salaries and bonuses.

For this reason, the United Reformed Church passed a motion at their Mission Council in November last year supporting the call for the introduction of a global financial transaction tax to be levied against the financial institutions as a means of curbing their excessive behaviour and as an innovative means of raising finance for good causes. This call has evolved into an international campaign supported by trade unions and agencies working on international development, climate change, the environment, health related issues such as HIV and AIDS, domestic poverty, and faith groups. Now known as the Robin Hood Tax campaign in the UK, we believe that a small tax of around 0.05% on all financial transactions could raise billions of pounds which would make a significant contribution to helping reduce the public deficit, prevent cuts in public services, tackle climate change and reduce global poverty.

Other pressing issues announced in Your Majesty's speech at the opening of Parliament on the 25th May will need to be carefully monitored and special mention is made here of the treatment of migrants and asylum seekers in the UK. We are grateful to hear that the detention of children is due to stop and would like to see this implemented as soon as possible. We have made submissions to the Home Office calling for this ruling to be expedited and urging officials not to split families as this adds to the stress and trauma of children at a particularly vulnerable time of their lives. Britain has a long and proud tradition of offering sanctuary to people uprooted by political, religious or sectarian violence and we are concerned that this tradition will be compromised by the changes to migration law which is creating a fortress mentality in Europe and the UK. In response to this concern, the United Reformed Church is participating in the programme of European Churches responding to migration in 2010. During this year, the programmes of churches in Europe with and for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority people shall be made visible, and churches shall be encouraged to share their work and experience with each other.

Finally, we trust that Your Majesty and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Canada and Your Majesty's address to the UN General Assembly on the 6th July 2010 went well and that the outstanding UN resolutions pertaining to Israel and Palestine will be speedily implemented as the first step towards creating a sustainable peace in the Holy Land!

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement strengthen and sustain Your Majesty in the coming years!

Resolved by a majority vote.

Saturday, 3 July

Moderators acceptance speeches

Mr Lawrence Moore and the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar addressed the Assembly.



Mr Lawrence Moore



Revd Dr Michael Jagessar

Thanks

Dr David Robinson thanked the staff of the University of Loughborough for the care and attention they had shown.

The Moderator of Mersey Synod thanked the host synod, East Midlands, for the local arrangements; Daphne Beale and the local stewards; the communications team; Tony Pendlebury and his technical team; Grace and Linda the British Sign Language interpreters; the Chaplains; the consensus facilitation group; the band; Ann Barton and the office staff group. He welcomed General Assembly in advance to the next meeting in Southport.

A presentation of flowers was made to Mrs Ann Barton, Secretary of the Assembly Arrangements Committee and Assembly Office Manager.

The General Secretary offered the thanks of Assembly to the two Moderators for their teamwork in their preparation for and presentation of Assembly.

The General Secretary announced:

“Moderator, the General Assembly has completed its business and now adjourns to meet at Southport on Friday 6 July 2012, or in such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.”

Closing prayers were led by the Chaplains.

Nominations Committee List of Assembly Committees and other appointments

Notes:

1. The Moderators, the immediate past Moderator and the General Secretary are members ex officio of every standing committee.
2. Symbols have been used as follows:
 * denotes those appointed since the 2009 Mission Council report;
 ** denotes those whom General Assembly is invited to appoint for the first time;
 † denotes those who have been invited to extend their periods of service;
 # denotes a Convener-elect who will become Convener in 2011;
 / the name after the slash is the alternate for the one before it.
3. The number in round brackets following the name indicates the member's synod: Northern (1), North Western (2), Mersey (3), Yorkshire (4), East Midlands (5), West Midlands (6), Eastern (7), South Western (8), Wessex (9), Thames North (10), Southern (11), Wales (12), Scotland (13). This numbering is not shown where it is not relevant.
4. When a member of a committee is there as a representative of another body or a particular category this is indicated in round brackets following the name.
5. Committee membership is normally for a period of four years, though this may sometimes exceptionally be renewable. Committee Conveners serve an additional preliminary year as Convener-elect. In sections 1-4 of the report, appointments with a different term are noted.
6. The date in square brackets following the name indicates the date of retirement, assuming a full term.
7. In accordance with the decision of General Assembly 2000 some nominations are made directly by the National Synods of Wales and Scotland.
8. In years when General Assembly meets, new committee members normally take up their roles at the conclusion of Assembly. In years when General Assembly does not meet, they normally begin on 1st July.

1 Mission Council

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

(Synods appoint and decide terms for their representatives)

Northern Synod	Revd John Durell, Miss Elaine Colechin, Mr Justice Semuli
North Western Synod	Mr Geoffrey Clarke, Mr George Grime, Revd Sally Thomas
Mersey Synod	Mr Arthur Swift, Miss Emma Pugh, Revd Gordon Smith
Yorkshire Synod	Mr Chris Reed, Revd Kay Alberg, Mrs Jenny Poulter
East Midlands Synod	Mr Duncan Smith, Mrs Jill Turner, Revd Jane Campbell
West Midlands Synod	Mr Bill Robson, Mrs Adella Pritchard, Mrs Val Phillips
Eastern Synod	Revd Catherine Ball, Mrs Linda Harrison, Mr Clifford Patten
South Western Synod	Revd Roz Harrison, Revd Stephen Newell, Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte
Wessex Synod	Mr Peter Pay, Mrs Margaret Telfer, Revd Mary Thomas
Thames North Synod	Mr Simon Fairnington, Revd Maggie Hindley, Revd David Lawrence
Southern Synod	Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor, Revd Christopher Parker, Revd Zamantha Walker
National Synod of Wales	Revd Shelagh Pollard, Revd Peter Cruchley-Jones, Miss Iris Williams
National Synod of Scotland	Mrs Barbara Bruce, Miss Irene Hudson, Revd John Sanderson

Appendix 1

1.1 Mission Council Advisory Group

Convener: Moderator of General Assembly

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Revd David Grosch-Miller (2011)

Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor (2014)

Revd Elizabeth Nash (2014)

Moderator-elect of General Assembly

[*ex officio*: General Secretary

Honorary Treasurer]

1.2 Staffing Advisory Group

Convener: Revd Rowena Francis

Secretary: General Secretary

Revd Ann Jack

Mr Peter Pay

Mr Keith Webster

Head of Human Resources

1.3 Law and Polity Advisory Group

Convener: Revd Prof David Thompson (2012)

Secretary: Dr Auger Pearce

Mr David Eldridge (2012)

Ms Morag McLintock (2012)

Revd John Durell (Synod Clerk)

Mr Donald Swift

[*ex officio*: Clerk to General Assembly, Legal Adviser]

1.4 Listed Buildings Advisory Group

Convener: Mr Hartley Oldham

Secretary: Mr David Figures

Correspondent for each synod

1.5 Ethical Investment Advisory Group

Convener: Revd Raymond Singh

Secretary: Secretary for Church and Society

Mr Mark Chaloner

Mr Richard Nunn (Investment Committee)

Mr Simon Loveitt

Mr Simon Peters

Chief Finance Officer

Deputy General Secretary

[*ex officio*: Honorary Treasurer]

1.6 Sexual Ethics Advisory Group

Convener: Revd David A L Jenkins** [2014]

Revd Rowena Francis (Synod Moderator)

Revd Elizabeth Gray-King (Education and Learning)

Revd David Skitt

[*ex officio*: Deputy General Secretary, Coordinator Pastoral Response Team]

1.7 MIND (Ministerial Incapacity and Discipline) Advisory Group

Convener: Revd Julian Macro

Secretary: Vacancy

Mrs Kathleen Cross

Revd Alison Davis

Mrs Wilma Frew

Revd Heather Kent

Mr Hartley Oldham

Revd David Skitt

Clerk to General Assembly

Secretary for Ministries

Legal Adviser

1.8 Resource Sharing Task Group

Convener: Revd David Grosch-Miller

Secretary: Mr John Rea

Treasurer: Revd Dick Gray

Miss Margaret Atkinson

Mr Richard Turnbull

Mrs Rachel Wakeman

[*ex officio*: Honorary Treasurer]

1.9 Human Sexuality Task Group (2008)

Convener: Revd John Waller

Secretary: Revd Lucy Brierley

Revd Dr John Bradbury

Revd Richard Church

Ms Doreen Daley

Sr M Cecily Boulding OP

Revd Claire Gouldthorp

Mrs Val Morrison

1.10 London Synod Task Group

Convener: Revd Bill Mahood

Secretary: Mrs Sheila Brain

Revd Nicola Furley-Smith (11)

Revd David Varco (10)

Revd Raymond Singh (11)

Mr Keith Webster (10)

2 Mission department**2.1 Mission Committee**

Convener: Revd Ed Cox [2012]

Deputy Convener: Mr Peter Pay** [2012]

Mrs Chris Eddowes (1) [2011]

Revd Andrew Willett† (3) [2014]

Revd Clare Downing (5) [2012]

Revd Nicola Furley-Smith** (11) [2012]

Revd Tracey Lewis (8) [2012]

Revd John Macaulay* (10) [2011]

Revd Lindsey Sanderson* (13) [2011]

Revd Michael Walsh (2) [2012]

Mrs Anne Parker (4) [2011]

Revd Louise Franklin† (6) [2014]

Revd Peter Ball (7) [2011]

Revd Peter Hurter** (9) [2014]

Vacancy (12) [2014]

2.1.1 International Exchange Reference Group

Convener: Revd Linda Elliott [2011]

#Mr Chris Wright** [2015]

Secretary: Secretary for World Church Relations

Members: Revd Andrew Prasad ** (Synod Moderator) [2014]

Miss Angela Quinn** (13) [2014]

2.1.2 Commitment for Life Reference Group

Convener: Mrs Helen Lidgett [2012]

2.1.3 Methodist/URC Interfaith Reference Group*(Members normally serve for six years – in parallel with Methodist terms)*

Co-convener: Revd Peter Brain [2013]

Revd Clare Downing (5) [2013]

Mr David Jonathan (10) [2014]

Revd Bill Burgess (3) [2015]

Revd Tim Clarke (10) [2015]

2.1.4 Joint Public Issues Team Strategy and Policy Group

Mr Simon Loveitt (Spokesperson on Public Issues for the URC)

*(Other members appointed by the Methodist Church and the Baptist Union of Great Britain.)***2.1.5 Rural Strategy Group (URC/Methodist)**

Revd Peter Noble (Co-Chair)

Revd Elizabeth Caswell

Revd David Herbert

2.1.6 Vision4Life Steering Group

Revd Dr John Hall (Co-Chair)

Revd Roberta Rominger (Co-Chair)

Ms Francis Brien (Secretary)

Revd Dr Janet Lees (Coordinator)

Revd Ray Adams

Mr John Brown

Ms Denese Chikwendu

Revd Robert Day

Revd Dr Susan Durber

Revd Brian Harley

Revd Dr Michael Jagessar

Mr Lawrence Moore

Revd Paul Snell

Mr Steve Summers

Revd Michael Walsh

Revd Sally Willett

2.1.7 Marketing Campaign Steering Group

Revd Roberta Rominger (Co-Chair)

Mr Laurence Moore (Co-Chair)

Ms Lucy Berry (10)

Ms Denese Chikwendu

Ms Francis Brien

Revd Martin Hazell

Mr Graham Law (6)

Revd Peter Noble (12)

Miss Victoria Paulding (7)

Mr Simon Peters (13)

Revd Michael Walsh (2)

3 Ministries of the Church department

3.1 Ministries Committee

Convener: Revd Ruth Whitehead [2014]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Helen Renner (3) [2011] Revd Yolande Burns (2) [2012]

Ms Brenda Jesse (8) [2013] Revd David Skitt (11) [2013]

Revd John Cox** (7) [2014] Mr Andy Buxton** (12) [2014]

Convener, Assessment Board

3.1.1 Ministries – Accreditation Sub-committee

Convener: Revd Geoffrey Townsend [2013]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Revd Sue Henderson (11) [2011] Revd Malcolm Fife (5) [2013]

Revd Terry Oakley (Synod Moderator) [2011] Mrs Tessa Henry-Robinson (7) [2013]

Mr Jim Murison** (4) [2014]

3.1.2 Ministries – CRCW Programme Sub-committee

Convener: Revd Paul Whittle [2012]

Secretaries: CRCW Development Workers

Ms Janine Atkinson (CRCW) [2012] Revd Susan Macbeth (4) [2012]

Ms Cristine Smalligan (10) [2012] Prof John Mellor (9) [2013]

Ms Marie Trubic**(CRCW) [2014]

3.1.3 Ministries – Leadership in Worship Sub-committee

Convener and Assembly Lay Preaching Advocate: Mrs Jan Harper [2011]

Mrs Judith Johnson** (1) [2015]

Mr Ed Strachan (2) [2011] Revd Gwynfor Evans (3) [2011]

Mr Alan Cotgreave (6) [2011]

3.1.4 Ministries – Maintenance of Ministry Sub-committee

Convener: Revd Dr Anthony Haws [2013]

Mrs Jane Mackerness (12) [2011] Miss Margaret Atkinson (4) [2012]

Revd Catey Morrison (1) [2012] Mr Andrew Martlew** (3) [2014]

Revd Alison Hall** (3) [2014]

[*ex officio*: Honorary Treasurer, Convener, Pensions Executive]

3.1.5 Ministries – Retired Ministers' Housing Sub-committee

(In future, members will normally serve for four years but appointments may be extended for a further two years.)

Convener: Revd David Bedford [2015]

Secretary: Secretary, Retired Ministers Housing Society Ltd

Revd Michael Spencer (6) [2011] Revd Nanette Lewis-Head (12) [2012]

Revd Anne Bedford (3) [2015] Revd John Humphreys (Synod Moderator) [2013]

[*ex officio*: Honorary Treasurer]

(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.)

3.1.6 Assessment Board

(Members normally serve for five years as training is required.)

Convener: Dr Graham Campling [2014]

Retiring 2011 Revd Jan Adamson (13), Revd Sian Collins (12), Mrs Wendy Smith (2)

Retiring 2012 Mr Geoffrey Harrison (3), Mr James Horton (4), Mrs Margaret Jenkins (3),
Revd Janet Maxwell (1), Revd William Young (6)

Retiring 2013 Mrs Irene Wren (5), Revd Lis Mullen (2), Revd Gary McGowan (3),
Revd Val Towler (1)

Retiring 2014 Mr Mark Hayes (7), Mr Robin Pencavel (8), Revd Jamie Kissack (4),
Revd Paul Floe (12)

Retiring 2015 Mrs Judith Garthwaite** (4), Mr Rod Morrison** (4),
Ms Mercy Nimako** (11), Mrs Maureen Campbell** (10)

3.2 Education and Learning Committee

Convener: Professor Malcolm Johnson [2011]
 Secretary: Secretary for Education and Learning
 Revd Dr Robert Pope (12) [2011]
 Revd Dr James Coleman (4) [2012]
 Revd Dr Susan Durber (Resource Centre) [2013]
 Mr Celvon Binns** (6) [2014]
 Ms Sue Matthews** (6) [2014]

#Revd John Smith** [2015]

Revd Jennifer Snashall (11) [2012]
 Mrs Fiona Weighton-Smith (4) [2012]
 Revd Dr David Whiting (1) [2013]
 Mrs Lindsey Cole** (5) [2014]

3.2.1 Windermere Management Committee

Convener: Revd Howard Sharp* [2013]
 Minute Secretary: Mrs Jenny Poulter ** (4) [2013]
 Dr Peter Clarke (1) [2011]
 Mr Graham Law (6) [2013]
 Secretary for Education and Learning

Mr Nick Andrews (1) [2011]

Mrs Joan Stocker (representative of Carver URC)

(The number of members may change in the light of future experience.)

3.2.2 Education for Ministry Phase 2 and 3 (EM2/3) Sub-committee

Convener: Dr Ian Morrison
 Minute Secretary: Revd Elizabeth Gray-King (EM2/3 Officer)
 Revd David Poulton (EM3 Minister)
 Revd Zam Walker (EM2 Minister)
 Ms Pat Oliver (CRCW)
 Revd Stephen Collinson (Training and Development Officer)
 Ms Sandra Wellington (Training and Development Officer)
 Vacancy (Resource Centre) Secretary for Education and Learning
 [*ex officio*: Convener, Education and Learning Committee Secretary for Ministries]

3.2.3 Education and Learning Finance Sub-committee

Convener: Mr Mike Downing
 Minute Secretary: Secretary for Education and Learning
 Professor Malcolm Johnson (Convener, Education and Learning Committee)
 Mr Graham Law
 [*ex officio*: Honorary Treasurer; *in attendance*: Chief Finance Officer]

3.3 Youth and Children's Work Committee

Convener: Revd Robert Weston [2013]
 Secretary: Children's Work Development Officer
 Mrs Anthea Coates (8) [2011]
 Mr Matthew Franks (8) [2011]
 Revd Stuart Radcliffe (2) [2012]
 Revd Shirley Knibbs (4) [2013]
 Miss Tamara Oates (5) [2013]
 FURY Chair

Mr Chris Gill (11) [2011]

Mrs Memona Shahbaz (10) [2012]

Mr Phillip Timson (5) [2013]

Revd Meg Robb (1) [2013]

Ms Angela Such** (10) [2014]

FURY Council Member

3.3.1 Pilots Management Sub-committee

Convener: Revd David Downing [2011] #Mrs Soo Webster ** [2015]
 Member: Vacancy [2014]

(Other members of the sub-committee are appointed by the Youth and Children's Work Committee. The Congregational Federation also has two representatives.)

4 Administration and resources department

4.1 Assembly Arrangements Committee

Convener: Dr David Robinson [2012]
 Secretary: Facilities Manager
 Moderator, Moderators-elect, General Secretary, Clerk to General Assembly,
 Convener, Local Arrangements Committee

Appendix 1

4.1.1 Tellers at Assembly 2010 for the election of the General Assembly Moderators 2010-2014

Dr Jim Merrilees (Convener) Mr Simon Fairnington Mr Duncan Smith
(These are all synod Clerks who are appointed in rotation.)

4.2 Communications and Editorial Committee

Convener: Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe [2011] #Revd Richard Bittleston** [2015]

Secretary: Director of Communications

Mrs Esther Searle (8) [2011] Ms Lucy Berry (10) [2012]
Mr Andy Littlejohns (11) [2012] Mr Justin Brierley (11) [2012]
Mr Stanley Hazell (8) [2012] Revd Peter Lyth (3) [2013]
Mr Peter Ranscombe (13) [2013] Mr Orin Stephens (10) [2013]
Mrs Helen Jones (6) [2013]

4.3 Equal Opportunities Committee

Convener: Revd Elizabeth Nash [2014]

Secretary: Mr Andrew Jack (10) [2013]

Ms Mary Jeremiah (12) [2012] Revd Barbara Exley (11) [2012]
Mrs Gwynneth Tilley (7) [2013] Mrs Tina Ashitey (10) [2013]
Revd Tom Arthur (12) [2013] Mr Tunde Biyi** (7) [2014]

4.4 Faith and Order Reference Group

(Members normally serve for six years.)

Convener: Revd Dr Robert Pope [2012]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Revd Dr John Bradbury [2012] Revd Dr Susan Durber [2012]
Revd Fleur Houston [2012] Revd Dr Michael Jagessar [2014]
Revd Dr Sarah Hall [2014] Revd Dr Neil Messer [2014]

4.5 Finance Committee

Convener: Honorary Treasurer

Chief Finance Officer

Mrs Jane Humphreys (7) [2011] Mr Brian Hosier (10) [2011]
Revd David Walton (13) [2012] Mr Angus Massie (10) [2012]
Dr Harry Potter OBE (3) [2013] Mr Richard Dewar (9) [2013]
Mr David Aplin (10) [2013] Revd Edward Sanniez** (10) [2014]
Chairman of the Trustees

4.5.1 Stewardship Sub-committee

Convener: Mrs Faith Paulding [2013]

Vacancy [2011]

Revd Dick Gray (8) [2013] Mr Keith Berry (10) [2012]
Revd Leslie Morrison** (13) [2014]

(The members of this sub-committee are appointed by the Finance Committee.)

4.6 Nominations Committee

(Synods appoint and decide terms for their representative.)

Convener: Revd John Durell [2014]

Secretary: Miss Sarah Dodds [2013]

Synod Representatives:

Revd Val Towler (1) Revd Chris Weddle (2) Revd John Oldershaw* (3)
Mr Chris Reed* (4) Mr Duncan Smith (5) Mrs Margaret Marshall* (6)
Mr Mick Barnes (7) Revd Roz Harrison (8) Mr Peter Pay (9)
Mr Simon Fairnington (10) Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor (11)
Dr Jean Silvan-Evans (12) Miss Myra Rose** (13)

with the Immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretary.

4.6.1 Panel for General Assembly appointments

(Members normally serve for five years as training is required.)

- Retiring 2011 Dr Graham Campling (11), Mrs Janet Gray (8), Revd Cecil White (7),
Revd Mary Buchanan (13), Mrs Helen Brown (3),
Revd Nanette Lewis-Head (12)
- Retiring 2012 Revd Raymond Singh (11), Revd Lesley Charlton (11),
Mrs Sally Abbott (10), Mr Simon Rowntree (6), Dr Jean Silvan Evans (12),
Mr Alun Jones (4)
- Retiring 2013 Revd John Durell (1), Revd Roz Harrison (8), Revd John Oldershaw (3),
Revd Deborah McVey (7), Revd Robert Street (9), Mrs Susan Wilkinson (2),
Mrs Carol Dixon (1), Revd John Young (13),
- Retiring 2015 Revd Terry Hinks** (9), Mr Chris Maple** (3), Mr Duncan Smith** (5),
Ms Helen Stenson** (13)

4.7 Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee

- Convener: Revd Alasdair Pratt [2011] #Revd Sheila Maxey ** [2015]
Secretary: Deputy General Secretary
Mrs Delyth Rees (12) [2011] Revd Adrian Bulley (Synod Moderator) [2011]
Revd Birgit Ewald (7) [2012] Dr Paul Ashitey (10) [2013]
[ex officio: Honorary Treasurer General Secretary Secretary for Welfare]

4.8 Disciplinary Process – Commission Panel

(Members serve for five years as regular training is required. They may be invited to continue serving beyond this as experience is especially valuable on this panel. Members may not serve beyond the age of 70 for legal reasons.)

- Convener: Miss Kathleen Cross [2014]
Deputy Convener: Revd Christine Craven [2014]
Secretary: Mrs Wilma Frew [2011]
Secretary-elect: Vacancy [2016]
Members:
- Retiring 2011 Mr Geoffrey Milnes (5), Revd David Pattie (13), Mr Neil Robinson (4),
Revd Yvonne Stone (6)
- Retiring 2012 Revd Nicholas Adlem (8), Revd Kay Cattell (5),
Revd Kenneth Chippindale (6), Revd Alison Davis (7),
Revd John Du Bois (11), Revd Joan Grindrod-Helm (1),
Miss Judith Haughton (2), Miss Elizabeth Lawson QC (10),
Revd Julian Macro (9), Dr Jim Merrilees† (13), Revd Colin Offor (1),
Mr Nicholas Pye (3), Revd Raymond Singh (11), Revd Carolyn Smyth (13),
Revd Prof David Thompson (7), Mr David Westwood (4)
- Retiring 2013 Revd Pauline Calderwood (4), Revd Bill Bowman (11),
Dr Peter Campbell Smith (11), Mr Roger Tucker (9)
- Retiring 2014 Revd Hazel Allen (8), Mr Mick Barnes (7), Revd James Brown (6),
Revd Mary Burgess (8), Miss Kathleen Cross (2), Mrs Mary Cummings (6),
Mr Peter Etwell (1), Revd Christine Fowler (8), Mrs Barbara Groom (8),
Mr Andrew Harvey (8), Revd Naison Hove (10), Mr Peter Jolly (9),
Mrs Barbara Lancaster (2), Mrs Barbara Madge (8), Revd Nicholas Mark (5),
Mrs Pat Poinen (1), Revd Shelagh Pollard (12), Mrs Lynne Upsdell (12),
Ms Elizabeth Whitten (7)
- Retiring 2015 Revd Meryl Court† (10), Mrs Pat Crozier** (3), Dr Fiona Liddell† (12),
Mr Colin Macbean** (9), Mrs Pamela Sharp† (3), Mr Patrick Smyth† (13)

4.9 Standing Panel for the Incapacity Procedure

(This panel is normally convened by the member with legal experience.)

- Secretary: Revd Heather Kent [2012]
Revd Bill Mahood (Past Moderator of General Assembly) [2012]
Revd Rowena Francis (Synod Moderator) [2013]
Mr Donald Swift (Legal experience) [2013]
Dr Gillian Patterson (GP) [2013]

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4.10 Criminal Records Bureau (Churches' Agency for Safeguarding) Advisory Group

Revd Adrian Bulley (Synod Moderator) Ms Liz Crocker (Child Care Specialist)
Mrs Wilma Frew (Magistrate) Youth Work Development Officer
Children's Work Development Officer Deputy General Secretary

4.11 United Reformed Church Trust

(Directors normally serve for six years. The Directors of the trust elect the chair from among their own number and appoint a Secretary and Deputy Secretary.)

Chair: Mr Alan Small

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Deputy Secretary: Mr Tony Bayley

Directors:

Group 1

Mr Alan Small (3) [2012]

Dr David Robinson (4) [2014]

Mr Andrew Atkinson** (1) [2016]

Group 2

Dr Augur Pearce (12) [2012]

Mrs Rachel Wakeman (6) [2014]

Revd Richard Gray** (8) [2016]

Group 3

Revd Prof David Thompson (7) [2012]

Mr John Woodman (7) [2014]

Revd Michael Davies** (11) [2014]

Mission Council nominated Directors:

Mrs Claudette Binns [2014]

Mr Andy Littlejohns** [2016]

Coopted Directors:

Miss Joyce Bain† [2014]

Mr Brian Woodhall† [2014]

[*ex officio*: Moderator(s) of General Assembly

General Secretary

Deputy General Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Clerk to General Assembly

In attendance: Convener, Investment Committee]

4.11.1 Church House Management Group

Convener: Mr Donald Swift

Revd Meryl Court

Mr Mike Gould

Mr John Woodman

Head of Human Resources

[*ex officio*: General Secretary

Chief Finance Officer

Director of Communications]

4.11.2 Remuneration Sub-committee

Convener: Deputy General Secretary

Secretary: Head of Human Resources

Ms Carmila Legarde (Methodist HR)

Mr William McVey (URC Elder)

Mrs Mary Steele (Church House Staff representative)

Honorary Treasurer

Chief Finance Officer

4.12 The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Ltd Board Members

(Members normally serve for six years. Terms run until the AGM in September. The board members elect the Chair from among their own number and appoint the company Secretary.)

Chair: Revd Rowena Francis [2014]

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Members of URC: Mr Andrew Perkins [2011]

Revd Dr John Dyce [2014]

Revd Rowena Francis [2014]

Revd Roger Woodall** [2016]

Members of Fund: Revd Kate Gartside* [2015]

Revd Duncan Wilson [2012]

Revd David Bedford [2012]

Revd Jacky Embrey [2014]

[*ex officio*: Honorary Treasurer

Convener, Investment Committee

Convener, Maintenance of Ministry Sub-committee

Convener, Pensions Executive]

4.13 Pensions Executive

Convener: Mr Maurice Dyson [2012]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings

Members: Revd Kathryn Taylor [2012] Revd Roger Woodall* [2013]

[*ex officio*: Convener, Maintenance of Ministry Sub-committee Honorary Treasurer]
(*The Pensions Executive reports to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pensions Trust Board, the Maintenance of Ministry Sub-committee and to the Finance Committee.*)

4.14 Investment Committee

Convener: Mr Richard Nunn [2012]

Secretary: Ms Sandi Hallam-Jones

Members:

Mr Michael Goldsmith [2011]

Dr Brian Woodhall [2012]

Mr Malcolm Littlefair [2013]

Mr Andrew Perkins [2013]

5 Representatives to meetings of sister Churches**5.1 Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Mrs Val Morrison [2011]

Revd Dr James Coleman [2011]

5.2 General Synod of Church of England

Revd Graham Maskery [2013]

5.3 Methodist Conference

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

5.4 Congregational Federation

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

5.5 General Assembly of Church of Scotland [note 7]

Mrs Val Morrison [2011]

Revd Dr James Coleman [2011]

Revd Mitchell Bunting [2011]

5.6 United Free Church of Scotland [note 7] Revd John Humphreys**5.7 Scottish Assembly of the Congregational Federation** [note 7]

Revd John Humphreys

5.8 Scottish Episcopal Church [note 7]

Revd Mitchell Bunting

5.9 Methodist Church in Scotland [note 7]

Revd J Ross McLaren

5.10 Baptist Union of Scotland [note 7]

Revd John Humphreys

5.11 Presbyterian Church of Wales [note 7]

Revd Peter Noble/Revd Peter Trow

5.12 Union of Welsh Independents [note 7]

Revd Peter Noble/Revd Peter Trow

5.13 Church in Wales Governing Board [note 7]

Revd Peter Noble/Revd Peter Trow

5.14 Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church To be decided**6 Representatives on ecumenical Church bodies**

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

6.1 Council for World Mission (CWM) from Assembly 2008-11

Revd Dr John Parry, Ms Patricia Akoli, Revd John Sanderson, Secretary for World Church Relations

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6.1.1 CWM European Region Meeting 2008-11

Revd Dr John Parry, Ms Patricia Akoli, Revd John Sanderson, Secretary for World Church Relations, Secretary for Mission

6.2 World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) General Council

Revd Dr Sarah Hall, Ms Emma Pugh, Revd Dr David Pickering, Secretary for World Church Relations, General Secretary

6.3 World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee

Represented indirectly

6.4 WCC Faith and Order Commission

Represented indirectly

6.5 Conference of European Churches Assembly

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

6.6 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) Church Leaders' Meeting

General Secretary

6.6.1 CTBI Senior Representatives' Forum

General Secretary, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

6.6.2 CTBI Environmental Issues Network

Revd David Coaker, Revd Dr David Pickering

6.6.3 CTBI Church and Public Issues Network

Mr Simon Loveitt, Secretary for Church and Society

6.6.4 CTBI Churches' Criminal Justice Forum

Mrs Wilma Frew

6.6.5 CTBI Stewardship Network

Mrs Faith Paulding

6.6.6 CTBI Churches' International Students' Network

Ms Eleri Evans** (12) [2014]

6.6.7 CTBI Consultative Group on Ministry amongst Children (CGMC)

Mrs Karen Bulley-Morrison, Ms Jo Williams

6.6.8 CTBI Inter-Religious Network

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

6.6.9 CTBI Racial Justice Network

Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry

6.6.10 CTBI Churches' Network for Mission

Secretary for Mission

6.6.11 CTBI China Forum

Revd Dr Walter Houston

6.7 Churches Together in England (CTE) – from Forum 2009-12

Mrs Val Morrison, Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe, Revd Bernie Collins, Revd Ian Smith, Revd Stephen Wilkins, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, Secretary for Ministries, Secretary for Mission, Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

- 6.7.1 CTE – Enabling Group**
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations
- 6.7.2 CTE – Coordinating Group for Local Unity**
Revd Terry Oakley, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations
- 6.7.3 CTE – Churches Together for Healing**
Revd Deborah McVey, Vacancy
- 6.7.4 CTE – Churches’ Joint Education Policy Committee**
Mr Graham Handscomb
- 6.7.5 CTE Churches’ Theology and Unity Group**
Secretary for Ecumenical Relations
- 6.7.6 CTE – Group for Evangelisation**
Secretary for Mission
- 6.7.7 CTE – Spirituality Coordinating Group**
Revd Sue Henderson
- 6.7.8 CTE – Churches’ Rural Group**
Revd David Herbert
- 6.7.9 CTE – Minority Ethnic Affairs Group**
Revd John Danso, Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry
- 6.7.10 CTE Youth Work Matters Group**
Secretary for Youth Work
- 6.8 Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) Members Meeting**
[see note 7] Revd John Humphreys, Revd Mitchell Bunting/Revd Sue Kirkbride
- 6.9 National Sponsoring Body for Scotland** [see note 7]
Revd John Humphreys, Revd Mitchell Bunting
- 6.10 Churches Together in Wales (CYTUN)** [see note 7]
Revd Peter Noble/Revd Peter Trow
- 6.11 Commission of Covenanted Churches** [see note 7]
Revd Peter Noble/ Revd Peter Trow
- 6.12 Joint Liturgical Group**
Secretary for Mission
- 6.13 Free Church Education Committee**
Mr Graham Handscomb, Mrs Gillian Kingston
- 6.14 European Churches’ Environmental Network**
Revd David Coaker
- 6.15 Churches’ Refugee Network**
Mr Geoff Duncan, Revd Fleur Houston
- 6.16 Churches’ Committee on Funerals and Crematoria**
Revd Sally Thomas, Revd Kate Hackett** [2014]
- 6.17 Churches’ Agency for Safeguarding**
Secretary for Youth Work

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6.18 Churches' Forum for Safeguarding

Secretary for Youth Work

6.19 Churches' Network for Non-Violence

Secretary for Youth Work

6.20 Fresh Expressions

(Still under discussion)

7 Representatives on formal bi-lateral and multi-lateral committees

7.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church Liaison Committee

Co-convenor: Revd Terry Oakley (Synod Moderator)

Revd Kay Alberg, Miss Emma Pugh, Vacancy, Vacancy, Revd Peter Rand (co-opted)

Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

7.2 Roman Catholic – United Reformed Church Bilateral Dialogue

Revd Prof David Thompson, Revd Dr John Bradbury, Revd Dr Sarah Hall,

Mrs Ann Shillaker, Mr Malcolm Townsend

Staff Secretary responsible to be decided.

7.3 Church of England – United Reformed Church Bilateral Dialogue (‘God’s Reign and our Unity’)

Revd Elizabeth Welch, Revd Dr David Peel, Deputy General Secretary

7.4 Partnership Conversations of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church and the National Synod of the United Reformed Church

Revd John Humphreys, Revd Mary Buchanan, Revd John Young

8 URC Representatives on Governing Bodies of Theological Colleges, etc

8.1 Northern College

Miss Margaret Atkinson (4) [2011]

Revd Dr Robert Pope [2011]

Mr Steve Wood [2013]

Mrs Helen Brown [2011]

Revd David Jenkins [2013]

Secretary for Education and Learning

8.1.1 Luther King House Educational Trust

Secretary for Education and Learning

8.2 Westminster College: Board of Governors

Convener: Professor Sir Anthony Bottoms [2014]

Clerk: Revd Cecil White [2012]

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Anthony Williams** [2016]

Members: Dr Jean Stevenson [2013]

Revd Nigel Appleton [2015]

Revd Kristin Ofstad** [2016]

Revd Craig Muir [2015]

Mr Brian Long †[2016]

Secretary for Education and Learning

8.2.1 Cheshunt Foundation

Mr Guy Morphett** [2013]

Revd Craig Muir [2011]

8.2.2 Cambridge Theological Federation

Convener, Westminster College Governors

8.3 The Queen’s Foundation

Revd Roy Lowes

Mr Simon Rowntree

[In attendance: Secretary for Education and Learning]

9 Governors of colleges and schools with which the URC is associated

9.1 Caterham School Revd Nigel Uden [2011]

9.2 Eltham College Revd Terry Sparks [2011]

9.3 Walthamstow Hall Mrs Isabel Heald [2011]

9.4 Milton Mount Foundation

Mr Graham Rolfe [2011] Mr Brian West [2011] Revd Nicola Furley-Smith [2011]
Ms Hilary Miles† [2013] Revd David Cuckson† [2013]

9.5 Silcoates School

Prof Clyde Binfield [2011] Mrs Valerie Jenkins [2011] Dr Peter Clarke [2013]
Dr Moira Gallagher [2013] Revd Janet Lees [2013] Revd Steven Knapton** [2014]

9.6 Taunton School

Revd David Grosch-Miller (Moderator, South Western Synod)

9.7 Wentworth College Revd Martin Ambler [2011]

9.8 Bishops Stortford College Mr Anthony Trigg [2011]

10 Miscellaneous

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

10.1 Arthur Rank Centre Revd David Herbert [April 2011]

10.2 Churches Legislation Advisory Service

Mrs Sheila Duncan General Secretary Deputy General Secretary

10.3 Congregational Fund Board

Revd Margaret Taylor [2012] Revd Eric Allen [2012]
Mr Anthony Bayley [2011] Revd Geoffrey Roper [2011]
Mrs Jackie Haws [2013]

10.4 Congregational Memorial Hall Trust

Mr Hartley Oldham [from before 1999] Mr Graham Stacy [from before 1999]
Dr John Thompson [from 2004] Dr Brian Woodhall [from 2006]
Revd Derek Wales [2011] Mrs Margaret Thompson** [2014]

10.5 Discipleship and Witness Board of Trustees

Mrs Patricia Hubbard [from before 1999]

10.5.1 Publications Development Group

Ms Jo Williams [from 2008]

10.6 English Heritage's Places of Worship Forum

Mr Hartley Oldham (Convener of the Listed Buildings Advisory Group)

10.7 Guides' Religious Advisory Panel

Mrs Susan Walker [from before 1999]

10.8 Lord Wharton's Charity

Dr John Thompson [2013]

10.9 Retired Ministers' and Widows' Fund

Mr Ken Meekison [from before 1999] Mrs Jill Strong [from 1999]
Revd Julian Macro [from 2004]

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10.10 Samuel Robinson's Charities

Mr Tony Alderman [from 2004]

10.11 Scouts' Religious Advisory Group

Revd David Marshall-Jones [from before 1999]

10.12 United Reformed Church History Society Council

Revd Michael Hopkins [2012]

Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe [2013]

Dr David Robinson [2011]

Revd Fleur Houston** [2014]

Revd Prof David Thompson† [2014]

10.13 United Reformed Church Scout and Guide Fellowship

Revd David Marshall-Jones

10.14 Westhill Endowment Fund

Mr Howard Bridge

Revd Dr Stephen Orchard

Revd Elizabeth Welch (co-opted)

Methodist Faith and Order Committee

Revd Anne Sardeson*** [2014]

Consensus Advisor

Revd Pauline Barnes** [2014]



The following report was omitted in error from the list of closed churches contained in the Reports to the Assembly.

Tabernacle URC, Narberth, Pembrokeshire

The original chapel was built in 1813 to hold 400 people. An increase in the number of members called for a larger chapel to be built and so it was that in 1858 the existing chapel was built to accommodate 600. The old chapel from 1858 was to become 'The Schoolroom' and served the local community whilst also being used for concerts and as a dining room for pupils from a nearby school.

It is an interesting fact that the collection taken on the day the new chapel was opened was sufficient for the chapel to be declared 'free from debt'. It is also interesting to note that the chapel members were ordinary, hard working local men and women. It is a tribute to their faith that the chapel was built.

An entry in the Register of Deaths for 1861, reads '.....He troubled himself much with the theory of perpetual motion...'. The entry in the next column reads, simply 'dead'. Both entries conjure up thoughts of just what was it the deceased had been doing in his lifetime.

Other interesting facts include that in 1899 a pipe organ was bought and a heating 'apparatus' installed. In 1923 a new memorial organ costing £750 was installed. The organ was dedicated to the 15 men from Tabernacle who had been killed in the Great War. Their names are displayed on a brass plaque fixed to the front of the organ.

In 1959 the BBC broadcast 'Sunday Half Hour' from Tabernacle. It was, as it is today, a programme of community hymn singing. Local chapels were invited to attend the rehearsals which took place over several weeks prior to the broadcast. The chapel's acoustics together with the very high standard of singing delivered a sound described later as "majestic".

Tabernacle has been pivotal over the years in providing not just a place of worship but also as a refuge for those seeking solace from the rigours of poverty, the carnage of wars and the challenges of daily life.

Sadly Tabernacle held its last service on 23rd September 2008. The deterioration in the fabric of the building together with dwindling numbers attending, brought about its demise in its anniversary of 150 years in the service to God. With its closure a void has appeared in the lives of many, but, who knows? God moves in a mysterious way. We ask for your prayers.







