

The United Reformed Church

Minutes of a meeting of Mission Council held on 9 -11 March 2016, at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Wednesday 9 March 2016

Session 1

The meeting of Mission Council began at 2.00 pm.

16/01

Council commenced with worship including the Sacrament of Holy Communion, led by the Moderators and their chaplains, during which Ms Grace Pengelly was commissioned as Secretary for Church and Society.

Mission Council adjourned at 3.30 pm, for a brief break.

Session 2

Mission Council resumed at 4.15 pm.

The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch-Miller welcomed to Mission Council new members, people attending in a new capacity, visitors, and observers.

Those attending for the first time, or returning after a break in service:

Mrs Ruth Dixon	<i>Eastern Synod Representative</i>
Mr Keir Hounsome	<i>Eastern Synod Representative</i>
The Revd Philip Nevard	<i>South Western Synod Representative</i>
Ms Grace Pengelly	<i>Secretary for Church and Society</i>
Mr Bill Potter	<i>West Midlands Synod Representative</i>
Mrs Wilma Frew	<i>Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee Convenor</i>
Mr Dan Morrell	<i>URC Youth Moderator Elect</i>
The Revd Sarah Moore	<i>North Western Synod Representative</i>
Mr Mike Gould	<i>Thames North Synod Representative</i>
The Revd Gwen Collins	<i>Chaplain to Mr Alan Yates</i>
The Revd Mark Robinson	<i>Chaplain to the Revd Kevin Watson</i>
Mr Michael Harvey	<i>URC Youth Representative</i>
Mrs Soo Webster	<i>Convenor of Children's and Youth Work Committee (alternate)</i>

Observers:

The Revd Dr Roger Walton	<i>Methodist Representative (alternate)</i>
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Apologies for absence:

Mr Andrew Evans	<i>West Midlands Synod Representative</i>
Dr James Merrilees	<i>Synod of Scotland Representative</i>
Ms Rachel Lampard	<i>Methodist Representative</i>
Mrs Pamela Dent	<i>North Western Synod Representative</i>
Mr Stephen Ball	<i>URC Youth Representative</i>
Mr Simon Fairnington	<i>Thames North Synod Clerk and Representative</i>
The Revd Timothy Meachin	<i>Children's and Youth Work Committee Convenor</i>
The Rev Professor Neil Messer	<i>Education and Learning Committee Convenor</i>
Mrs Karen Morrison	<i>Head of Children's and Youth Work</i>
Ms Marie Trubic	<i>Joint Public Issues Team Representative</i>
The Revd Dr Andrew Prasad	<i>Thames North Synod Moderator</i>
Mr Lawrence Moore	<i>Director of the Windermere Centre</i>

16/02

The Moderator reminded the Council of the use of consensus cards.

The Moderator advised that supplementary papers were available.

The Moderator advised that paper M4 had already been removed from En Bloc business, because the General Secretary wishes to seek the permission of Mission Council to withdraw resolution 2, as had paper J2. The General Secretary advised the addition of the name of the Revd Dr Tony Haws for appointment as Secretary of the Windermere Centre Management Committee.

In Saturday evening's session, the Moderators of General Assembly will be answering questions, and members were asked to pass questions in advance to the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller.

The General Secretary advised that both evening sessions will close at 9:15pm.

Notice was given of two vacancies for members of the Mission Council Advisory Group (MCAG), which are open to any member of Mission Council. The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith and the Revd John Humphreys leave the group due to completion of terms of service. Nominations were to be returned to the General Secretary before start of session 7, with any election in Session 9.

The Revd John Proctor proposed that the Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor, the Revd Jenny Mills, the Revd Sarah Moore, and the Revd Simon Walking be appointed as members of the Facilitation Group, if one were to be needed. This was agreed.

16/03 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Clerk presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13-15 November 2015.

The Revd Andrew Mills referred to Minute 15/29 querying the numbers of stipendiary ministers available for deployment. While there was a lack of clarity over numbers, the minute was not changed because it was an accurate record of what was said at the meeting.

The Minutes were agreed unanimously and signed by the Moderator.

16/04 Matters Arising

a) Membership of Assembly and church membership: report from LPAG

The Revd Professor David Thompson intimated that discussions with the Faith and Order Committee and with URC Youth were still on-going.

b) The Future of Medium-Term Strategy Group

The General Secretary advised that the group was now working in conjunction with the General Secretariat, and Mission Council was asked to continue the Group in its present form for the time being, and report to Mission Council in May 2017. This was passed by consensus.

c) Withdrawing the Northerly Synods' resolution about the Synod Moderator Process

The General Secretary intimated that the nominations committee had been unable to agree any change, and the proposers now wished to withdraw the resolution. This was passed by consensus.

d) Ministerial Numbers

The Revd Andrew Mills expressed concern about the numbers of stipendiary ministers available for deployment. After discussion, it was noted that the Synod Moderators and the Convener of the Ministries Committee would meet during Mission Council, and might be able make a further report later.

16/05 Paper M1 - Missional Discipleship Paper

The Moderator called upon the Revd Richard Church (Deputy General Secretary (DGS) Discipleship) and Ms Francis Brienens (DGS Mission) to introduce Paper M1.

Mission Council:

a) endorses the report in Paper M1 of March 2016;

b) requests the General Secretariat and the Missional Discipleship Task Group to make an application for funding to CWM;

c) agrees to the establishment of a steering group as proposed in the paper.

During discussion it was pointed out that the accreditation of Lay Preachers is a function of the Ministries Committee, but they had not been consulted. The Secretary for Education and Learning stated that the Education and Learning Committee had not been advised of several matters within their remit.

The Clerk advised that the business was potentially in breach of Standing Order 3.6.2 because the relevant committees have not been consulted. Mission Council resolved unanimously to suspend the relevant Standing Order, to allow the business to proceed.

The Resolution was agreed by Consensus.

16/06 Paper I3 - URC Involvement in Greenbelt Paper

The Moderator called upon Mr Steve Summers (CRCW Development Worker) to speak to the information paper.

16/07 Thinking about Migration

The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar spoke about homelessness and migration.

Ms Grace Pengelly read a letter from National Synod of Syria and Lebanon about help given to refugee children.

16/08 Paper M3 - The Future of General Assembly

The Moderator called upon the General Secretary to introduce the paper. After introduction, Mr Proctor explained that Council would meet in small groups for discussion in the next session.

Mission Council then adjourned at 5:55pm.

Session 3

16/09 Mission Council met in groups at 8.00pm, following which they returned to plenary session for closing devotions led by the Revd Nigel Uden, after which Mission Council adjourned at 9:15pm

Thursday 10 March 2016

Session 4

16/10

Mission Council resumed at 9.15 am. The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair. Worship including Bible study was led by the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller.

The Moderator advised the following papers were also removed from En Bloc, in addition to those previously notified:

Paper A1 - Assembly Arrangements. This is deemed as **URGENT** and will need a decision at this meeting.

Paper P1 - Appeals in the URC

Paper P2 - Report of the Law and Polity Advisory Group (with annexes P2a and P2b)

16/11 Paper F1 - Authorised Elders

The Convener of the Faith and Order Committee, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, and the Revd Professor David Thompson, presented the report.

The Moderator advised that the committee were seeking the advice of Mission Council on how best to present their business to General Assembly, and we were not being asked to make any decisions.

After extensive discussion, The Moderator asked for any further comments to be passed to Ms Welch or Professor Thompson. Ms Welch thanked Mission Council for their help.

Mission Council adjourned at 10:45am.

Session 5

16/12 Mission Council resumed at 11:15am. The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair. The session was opened in prayer.

The Clerk reminded Mission Council about the Standing Order requiring electronic devices to be silent, and noted that the Methodist Church levied a £15 fine for breaches of this rule.

16/13 Papers R1 & R2 - Safeguarding Past Case Review

The new Safeguarding Officer, Ms Cassi Wright, was introduced and welcomed to Mission Council.

The Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), the Revd Richard Church, presented the report.

Mission Council agrees the principles of the design of phase two of the Past Case Review as set out in paper R1 of Mission Council March 2016, and delegates authority to agree the finalised process to a group comprising the Safeguarding Officer, DGS (Discipleship), Legal Advisor, Convenor and Secretary of the Ministries Committee.

Discussion included the merits or otherwise of advertising in the national press. During discussion the resolution was re-worded to remove a suggestion of double delegation, and to refer to paper R2:

Mission Council agrees the principles of the design of phase two of the Past Case Review as set out in papers R1 and R2 of Mission Council March 2016 and instructs the group comprising the Safeguarding Officer, DGS (Discipleship), Legal Advisor, Convenor and Secretary of the Ministries Committee to agree the finalised process.

The amended Resolution was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator asked his Chaplain, the Revd Nigel Uden, to lead prayer.

The Moderator, Revd David Grosch-Miller, took the chair.

16/14 Paper L1 - Update on development plans for Church House

The Moderator invited the Convener of the URC Trust, the Revd Dick Gray, to present the paper and move the resolution.

Discussion revealed concerns about environmental sustainability, the desirability of some parallel offering to the world Church, and how this would all be presented to local churches.

The business was referred to a facilitation group, to be convened by the Revd Sarah Moore.

16/15

The General Secretary reminded members that nominations for the MCAG vacancies needed to be submitted to him by 4.00pm.

The Moderator thanked The Revd John Humphreys, who would be retiring at the end of June, for his many years service, latterly as Moderator of the Synod of Scotland.

Mission Council adjourned at 1:05pm.

Session 6

16/16 Mission Council resumed at 4:30pm with the singing of a hymn. The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, was in the chair.

The General Secretary advised that four nominations had been received for the MCAG vacancies – the Revd Jacky Embrey, the Revd Ruth Whitehead, Mrs Helen Lidgett, and Mrs Rita Griffiths. Members would be asked to vote for two of them tomorrow morning.

16/17 Paper M5 - Resolution 19 from the 2014 General Assembly

The Moderator called upon the Clerk to propose the resolutions:

1. Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, resolves to amend the Structure of the United Reformed Church by deleting the words ‘a committee convener or otherwise entitled to membership of the Assembly’ from Paragraph 2(6)(d).

That sentence would now read:

Where the Moderator of a Synod is an Officer of the Assembly, the Synod concerned shall appoint a substitute as its representative;

The resolution was approved unanimously.

2. Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, resolves to amend paragraph 2(4)(a) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church by adding the words ‘former Moderators of General Assembly and Assembly appointed ministers who are members of a local church in that synod’

This sentence would now read:

The synod being representative of the local churches in that province or nation united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern shall consist of: (a) All ministers, registered pastors (in Scotland) and Church Related Community Workers engaged directly in the service of the United Reformed Church within that synod, former Moderators of General Assembly and Assembly appointed ministers who are members of a local church in that synod

The resolution was approved unanimously.

16/18 Items removed from En Bloc

a) Paper J2 - Nominations

The Convener of the Nominations Committee moved that:

Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council appoints to serve from the General Assembly 2016:

- 4.1 The Revd Russell Furley-Smith as Convenor-Elect of the Ministerial Accreditation Sub-Committee for one year and then as Convenor from July 1st 2017 to June 30th 2021;**
- 4.2 Ms Karen Campbell as a member of the Assessment Board;**
- 4.3 Ms Alex Bediako as a member of the Equalities Committee;**
- 4.4 The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe as a member of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process Commission Panel.**
- 4.5 The Revd Dr Rick Mearkle as Convenor of the Board of Studies of Westminster College, Cambridge.**
- 4.6 The Revd Dr Tony Haws as Secretary of the Windermere Centre Management Committee with immediate effect.**

The Resolution was agreed by a unanimous vote.

b) Paper M4 – Church Census

The Moderator ruled that if Mission Council was unable to reach a decision under consensus procedures, the matter would be ruled urgent, and the Council would move to majority voting, as a decision was needed imminently.

The General Secretary sought the permission of Mission Council to withdraw resolution 2. While the Council was clearly sympathetic to Mr Proctor’s reasoning, there was a wish to debate some of the issues, so the General Secretary withdrew his request to withdraw the resolution.

- 1. Mission Council notes that the URC National Synod of Scotland is involved in the Scottish Church Census 2016;**

The resolution was agreed by consensus.

- 2. Mission Council requests the General Secretariat to involve the URC in the English Church Census 2016;**

After discussion, the resolution was rejected by consensus.

- 3. Mission Council believes that a decision about URC involvement in a Welsh Church Census should be taken in the National Synod of Wales.**

The resolution was agreed by consensus.

c) Paper P1 - Appeals in the URC

The Revd Simon Walking raised concerns over the nature of appeals, rather than mediation. Professor Thompson replied that we already have an Appeals Procedure, but it was currently too vague and the proposals were improving, rather than innovating.

Mission Council resolves to propose to the General Assembly the amendments contained in paper P1 of Mission Council March 2016 to the Structure of the URC and to the Rules of Procedure (the Rules changes to take effect only if the Structure changes are ratified).

After extensive discussion, the resolution was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved the following resolution, which was amended slightly during a brief discussion:

Mission Council instructs the Law and Polity Advisory Group to draft a paragraph on the importance of conciliation and/or mediation, to be proposed for insertion as a new paragraph 5 in the Structure, with subsequent renumbering.

This resolution was agreed by consensus.

c) Paper P2 - Report of the Law and Polity Advisory Group (with annexes P2a and P2b)

The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith expressed concerns over the abilities of the Southern Province Trust Company to put into practice the matters contained Counsel’s Opinion and the subsequent PLATO guidance without taking on extra staff, and asked if there were other solutions to enable existing practice to continue.

Professor Thompson reminded Mission Council that the law had not been changed, and the papers merely stated what the position was and had always been.

16/19

The General Secretary proposed the following items, to be voted upon En Bloc:

a) Papers C1 and C2 - *Reform*: subscriptions and finances

No resolution.

b) Paper D1 - Westminster College

No resolution.

c) Paper G1 – Draft accounts 2015

No resolution.

d) Paper I1 - JPIT and the Church of Scotland

Mission Council accepts the recommendation from the Mission Committee that the Church of Scotland become full partners in the Joint Public Issues Team alongside the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church.

e) Paper I2 - World Council of Churches

Mission Council endorses the support of the Mission Committee for the applications to join the World Council of Churches from the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre Synod of Malawi, and from the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, and instructs the Mission Committee to inform the World Council of Churches accordingly.

f) Paper J1 – Nominations

Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council appoints, from the dates indicated, the names listed below:

Mission Council appoints to serve with immediate effect:

1.1 Mr Robert Buss as a member of the Church House Management Group.

2. And from General Assembly 2016:

2.1 The Revd Dr Alan Spence as Convenor-elect of the Faith and Order Committee, and as Convenor from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2023.

2.2 The Revd Sue McCoan as a member of the Assessment Board.

2.3 Ms Rosie Martin as a member of the Equalities Committee.

2.4 Mr Gordon Wanless as a member of the Finance Committee.

2.5 Mr Neil Mackenzie as Secretary of the Law and Polity Advisory Group.

2.6 Ms Morag McLintock to extend her service as a member of the Law and Polity Advisory Group for a further period of four years.

2.7 The Revd Camilla Veitch as a member of the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee.

2.8 Mrs Val Morrison, the Revd David Sebley, and Mrs Kate Yates as members of the Panel for General Assembly Appointments.

2.9 The Revd David M Miller, Mrs Diane Moverley, and Mrs Janet Virr as members of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process Commission panel.

2.10 The Revd Eric Allen and the Revd Kate Hackett to continue as to serve as representatives of the URC on the Congregational Fund Board, for a further four years.

g) Paper M2 - Standing orders and Rules of Procedure

1. Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council resolves to insert a new Standing Order 12, as specified in paper M2 of Mission Council March 2016, Section D, and re-number subsequent Standing Orders, with immediate effect.

2. Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council resolves to insert the words specified in paper M2 of Mission Council March 2016, section F, into the Rules of Procedure, with immediate effect.

- 3. Acting on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council resolves to amend the Rules of Procedure as specified in paper M2 of Mission Council March 2016, Section I, with immediate effect.**

h) Paper M6 - URC-Methodist Reciprocal Arrangement

No resolution.

i) Paper O1 - Human Resources Advisory Group

No resolution.

j) Paper T1 - Ministerial Incapacity Procedure

On the recommendation of the MIND Advisory Group, and on behalf of General Assembly, Mission Council approves the changes to the Incapacity Procedure as defined in paper T1 of Mission Council March 2016 with immediate effect.

All of the above resolutions were passed by a unanimous vote.

A video from Pilots was played.

16/20 Remaindered Business

The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch –Miller, took the chair.

a) Paper L1 – Church House redevelopment

The Revd Sarah Moore presented the results of the facilitation group.

The original resolution was proposed, alongside further resolutions.

- 1. Mission Council accepts the recommendation of the URC Trust that a budget of up to 2.5 million pounds be set aside in the Church's reserves for development work at Church House.**

This was agreed by consensus.

- 2. Mission Council instructs the General Secretariat to develop a clear statement that shapes and communicates the vision of this project to local churches. This statement should include:**
- the reasons for the redevelopment;**
 - the aspiration that, if possible, Church House will become cost neutral;**
 - foreseen benefits of the redevelopment;**
 - ensure greater accessibility both physical and virtual;**
 - concern for environmental and energy saving issues;**
 - concern for the world church, and our continued engagement with it;**
 - generous welcome and hospitality;**
 - the provisions made to future proof the building;**
 - that the day to day management and use of the building will communicate our mission priorities, and how buildings can be used for mission.**

The resolution was agreed by consensus.

- 3. Mission Council requests that information be included in the next Finance Committee mailing sent to local churches of the funds available for local churches to access in regard to mission projects and building projects.**

The resolution was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator expressed thanks to the facilitation group.

b) Paper A1 - Assembly Arrangements Committee Update

There was extensive discussion of the financial and practical implications of the organisation of Assembly, resulting from the desire of many members for a different style of Assembly from that which they had budgeted for. The business was remaindered.

Mission Council adjourned at 6:45pm.

Session 7

16/21 Mission Council resumed at 8:00pm.

The Moderators, Mr John Ellis and the Revd David Grosch-Miller, responded to questions from members of Mission Council.

16/22 Closing devotions were led by the Revd Nigel Uden, after which Mission Council adjourned at 9:15pm.

Friday 11 March 2016

Session 8

16/23

Mission Council resumed at 9.30 am. The Moderator, the Revd David Grosch-Miller, was in the chair. Worship was led by the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller.

The General Secretary encouraged members to take copies of a *Reform* distributors' leaflet back to synods.

16/24 Election for Vacant Places on Mission Council Advisory Group

The General Secretary advised the process of election, and the Moderator led prayer for the candidates.

After the votes were counted Mr Proctor announced that the Revd Ruth Whitehead and Mrs Helen Lidgett had been elected to the vacant MCAG places.

16/25 Remaindered Business

Paper A1 – Assembly Arrangements Committee

The Convenor read from 1 Kings 17:8-16, and then announced that Synods had agreed to fund the Friday and Sunday evening meals at General Assembly.

The resolution was moved in a slightly amended form:

In receiving the report of the committee, Mission Council accepts the plans made for the 2016 General Assembly.

The resolution was agreed by consensus.

16/26

The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, took the chair.

a) Paper M3 - The Future of General Assembly Paper M3

The Moderator called upon the General Secretary to present the results of the group discussions, who made the following observations:

i) Members were asked what they valued most about Assembly – the decisions it takes, the participation in governance it allows, or its inspirational quality. The greatest number of preferences (but still only about 40% of

the total) were for participation. Evidently we value many aspects of Assembly and do not find it easy to prefer, still less to choose, one over another.

ii) Those who thought the Assembly's decision-making its most important quality were asked what size of Assembly would produce the best decisions. There was no consensus: almost every figure between the present size of Mission Council the present size of Assembly had its advocates.

iii) Those who valued most the participatory quality of Assembly had several reasons for doing so. Most commonly they noted that Assembly is a varied and locally-rooted company; it represents the congregations of our Church, and the wide life and mission of the URC, and not merely people whose main involvement is at synod or assembly committee level.

iv) Those who relish most the inspirational quality of Assembly were asked where the Church's decisions should be taken, if fewer of them could be taken at Assembly. Answers were thoughtful, if not always precise: a number of people thought we might be more selective about what is discussed where. That might help nurture a deeper level of trust in our Church, both of local churches for the work of wider councils and vice versa.

v) Members were asked what they value most about consensus decision-making. The prophetic quality of CDM ranked highest, its capacity and concern to attend to those voices that have too often been thought marginal or have been hesitant to contribute in formal process.

vi) When asked about the relationship between consensus and unanimity, most members said that the key aspect of CDM is the way it promotes listening, and that this listening matters more than an insistence on unanimity.

vii) When asked about feedback from Assembly, the work of the Communications team was praised; the quality of comment and information typically fed back in local churches and synods is often less helpful than it ought to be. ore preparatory and briefing meetings might help to develop a greater awareness of Assembly's work around the denomination.

viii) How might Assembly be made cheaper? A simpler set-up was favoured by many, as was a smaller roll; fewer people wanted a shorter Assembly, and hardly anyone wanted it to meet less often than at present.

The Moderator thanked Mr Proctor for his work in producing the report. Mission Council then offered further comments.

Invited to sum up his reflections, Mr Proctor reminded Mission Council that the Assembly Arrangements Committee had been given an impossible task, and the Council is indebted to them for trying to fulfil that. He requested that they bring to the Assembly the clearest budget possible for Nottingham 2018, including consideration of costed options, such as shortening Assembly by a day.

b) Deployment and Trends in Stipendiary Ministry

The Moderator invited the Convener of the Ministries Committee to make a statement:

As notified to Mission Council on Wednesday, the Synod Moderators met on Thursday with the Treasurer, the Convener and Secretary of Ministries, the CRCW Development Worker, and the Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship). We discussed the draft resolutions regarding deployment being proposed by Ministries to General Assembly 2016, and related matters. As might be expected, this was a wide-ranging discussion, touching on many aspects of the Church's life. We noted that most of the participants will be taking part, with others, in a consultation on future ministry in the URC arranged by Westminster College in April, and that the resolutions from Ministries will provide opportunity for discussion at General Assembly.

It was not for us to anticipate what might happen at Assembly, but we did feel that some of the time at October Mission Council could usefully be spent pursuing these matters. For this time to be used productively, there will need to be good preparation prior to Mission Council, and it was agreed that a small working group drawn from Ministries and Moderators' Meeting might put together a programme for discussion to be shared with MCAG in September in the light of the Assembly discussion.

There was general agreement that issues of deployment cannot be solved by considering numbers and finance alone. Underlying these are issues of faith and church life which cannot be solved by individual Moderators, Synods or Committees, but require all the councils of the Church earnestly to seek the guidance of the Spirit regarding the future of the United Reformed Church. We would urge all members of Mission Council to uphold in your prayers those in each council of the Church who have difficult decisions to make and burdens to bear regarding deployment matters.

16/27 Personalia

The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, advised that the following were now completing their term on Mission Council:

The Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	<i>Chaplain to Moderator</i>
The Revd Nigel Uden	<i>Chaplain to Moderator</i>
The Revd John Humphreys	<i>Synod of Scotland Moderator</i>
The Revd Lis Mullen	<i>Northern Synod Moderator</i>
The Revd Dr David Pickering	<i>Yorkshire Synod Representative (returning as Moderator of the Synod of Scotland)</i>
Mr Andrew Grimwade	<i>Chief Finance Officer</i>
The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar	<i>Immediate Past Moderator</i>
The Revd Timothy Meadows	<i>Mersey Synod Representative</i>
Mrs Joan Colwell	<i>Mersey Synod Representative</i>
Mrs Jenny Poulter	<i>Yorkshire Synod Representative</i>

The Moderator thanked these people for their contribution to Mission Council as well as the Revd Paul Robinson for his music, the Communications Team, those who have helped with the event management due to illness of Krystyna Pullen, the Minute Secretary, the Clerk, and the General Secretary.

The General Secretary gave thanks for the work of the Moderators. Mission Council responded with acclamation.

The business being completed, Mission Council adjourned, to meet again on 19-21 October 2016 at High Leigh, Hoddesdon.

After a brief break, closing worship was led by the Moderators and their chaplains.