



MISSION COUNCIL

13 – 15 MAY 2013



Finance Update

Good News: 2012 Budget

1 Mission Council agreed a budget for 2012 with an anticipated deficit of £958k. This was a major factor in deciding that there needed to be savings in the 2013 budget. In fact the deficit in 2012 was a mere £7k, leaving our reserves virtually intact. The budget figures are shown in the attached table and summarised below.

£000s	2012 Budget	2012 Actual
Income:		
M&M Fund	19,885	20,230
Pensions Support	1,000	1,051
Other	980	988
Total	21,865	22,269
Expenditure:		
Ministerial stipends, pensions, etc	17,317	17,082
Programmes & infrastructure	5,506	5,194
Total	22,823	22,276
Deficit	958	7

2 Unfortunately, an analysis of these figures indicate that the factors that removed the projected 2012 deficit were mainly one-off and so will not help with the 2013 position. Ministry and Mission Fund (M&M) income rose mainly because of transferring to income some accumulated balances previously held on behalf of Synods. Without this effect, the M&M income would have been close to budget and followed the pattern of recent years of a reduction on the previous year. Giving per member has risen again but been more than offset by the 3% fall in membership in 2012.

3 On the expenditure side, the average number of stipends paid was lower than forecast: this is always a difficult number to estimate in advance with precision. The reduction in programme costs largely reflects Assembly Committees reducing their costs down towards the agreed reductions in the budget for 2013.

More Good News: 2012 Accounts

4 The formal consolidated accounts of the Church in the name of the United Reformed Church Trust are in preparation. It is hoped the audit process will be completed in time for these to be tabled at Mission Council.

5 Despite the small deficit described above, the formal accounts will show significant net incoming resources in 2012. This is because the Trust accounts include various elements outside the Assembly budget on which Mission Council normally focuses. The key one for understanding the 2012 accounts is the inclusion of the accounts of Westminster College. Over £2.5m had been banked by the end of December towards the Development Appeal, which temporarily inflates the Church's overall balance sheet. But the Appeal is enough of a success story to deserve its own paragraph.....

Even More Good News: Westminster Appeal

6 The 2010 General Assembly authorised a £7m appeal for the redevelopment of Westminster College and committed £1m from the Church's central funds towards it. Since then money given and promised has risen to over £6.72m. Of this over £2.29m has come from Synods and over £0.50m from local churches and individuals. With this encouragement, it is likely that the contracts will be signed in time for work to begin this June. The target for completion of the work is Summer 2014. Mission Council might want to rejoice.

Resolutions

1 Mission Council notes the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2012.

2 Mission Council gives thanks to God for the progress of the Westminster College Development Appeal and congratulates all those within and beyond the College whose generosity and hard work have made this possible.

John Ellis
Treasurer

23 March 2013