

**Minutes of a meeting of the United Reformed Church General Assembly
on
Friday 9th July 2021
by video conference.**

Friday 9th July 2021

Session One

The General Secretary, the Revd Dr John Bradbury, welcomed members, laid the Roll of Assembly on the table and invited the Moderator to constitute the Assembly with prayer. The Moderator, Mr Peter Pay, duly constituted Assembly.

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY 2021

Moderators

1. The Revd Clare Downing
2. Mr Peter Pay

Clerk

Hopkins

3. The Revd Michael

Assistant Clerk

4. The Revd Sarah Moore

General Secretary

Bradbury

5. The Revd Dr John

Deputy General Secretary (Administration and Resources)

6. Mrs Jane Baird

Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

7. *Vacant*

Deputy General Secretary (Mission)

8. Ms Francis Brienen

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees, except the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee

9. Business Committee – The Revd Adrian Bulley
10. Children's and Youth Work – The Revd Paul Robinson
11. Communications – the Revd Dr Peter Stevenson
12. Education and Learning – Mr Alan Yates
13. Equalities - The Revd Anne Lewitt
14. Faith and Order - The Revd Dr Robert Pope
15. Finance – Mr Ian Hardie (Treasurer)
16. The Deputy Treasurer - The Revd John Piper
17. Ministries – The Revd Paul Whittle
18. Mission – Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte
19. Nominations – The Revd Ray Adams

Convener of the United Reformed Church Trust

20. Mrs Val Morrison

Immediate past Moderators

21. Mr Derek Estill
22. The Revd Nigel Uden

Former Moderators (2 places)

23. The Revd John Marsh
24. The Revd Professor David Thompson

Resource Centres for Learning

25. Northern College staff - The Revd Alison Davis
26. Northern College Student - Ms Felicity (Fliss) Tunnard
27. Scottish College Staff – The Revd Lindsey Sanderson
28. Scottish College Student – Mrs Louise Sanders
29. Westminster College Staff – The Revd Samantha White
30. Westminster College student - Mrs Ruth Dewis

United Reformed Church Youth (3 places)

31. Mr Reuben Watt
32. Miss Jo Harris
33. Miss Victoria Turner

United Reformed Church Chaplain to HM Forces (1 place)

34. *Vacant*

Northern Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

35. The Synod Moderator – The Revd Dave Herbert
36. The Synod Clerk - Mrs Melanie Campbell
37. Mr Andrew Atkinson
38. The Revd Stuart Brock
39. Mrs Daphne Clarke
40. Dr Peter Clarke
41. Mrs Alison Dalton
42. The Revd Joan Grindod-Helm
43. The Revd Marcus Hargis
44. Mrs Margaret Humberston
45. The Revd Trevor Jamison
46. Dr Donna Moore
47. Mrs Maureen Shepherd
48. *Vacant*
49. *Vacant*
50. *Vacant*

North Western Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

51. The Synod Clerk - Tim Hopley
52. The Revd Martin Whiffen
53. The Revd Martyn Coe
54. The Revd Jacky Embrey
55. The Revd Dr Rosalind Selby
56. The Revd Mike Walsh
57. Mr Mal Breeze
58. Mr Mike Hart
59. Mrs Marilyn Piper
60. Mr Lawence Moore
61. Miss Denise Fitzpatrick
62. Ms Pauline Taylor
63. Miss Holly Clancy*
64. The Revd Ruth Watson
65. *Vacant*
66. *Vacant*

Mersey Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

67. The Synod Clerk - Mrs Rita Griffiths
68. Mr Paul Franklin
69. The Revd Dr Nick Jones
70. The Revd Ceri Gardner
71. The Revd Jenny Travis
72. The Revd Cath Atkinson
73. The Revd Ruth Wilson
74. The Revd Catherine McFie
75. Ms Emily Dudley*
76. Ms Megan Wilson*
77. Mrs Barbara Ellis
78. Mrs Doris Rimmer
79. Mr Keith Reading
80. Ms Jenny Lamb
81. Mrs Lisa Spencer
82. Professor Bill Gould

Yorkshire Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

83. The Synod Moderator - The Revd Jamie Kissack
84. The Synod Clerk - Mr Tim Crossley
85. The Revd Fran Kissack
86. The Revd Alex Clare-Young
87. The Revd Jo Clare-Young
88. The Revd Clare Davison
89. Mrs Terasa (Terri) Raddings
90. Miss Lydia Raddings*
91. Mr Alex Walker
92. Mr Jacob Lowe*
93. Mr Modercai Weynberg*
94. Miss Megan Westgarth*
95. Mr Aaron Wood*
96. Mr Dan Morrell*
97. Mrs Jane Bunyan-Murray
98. The Revd Sarah Fitton

East Midlands Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

99. The Synod Moderator The Revd Geoffrey Clarke
100. The Synod Clerk - The Revd Camilla Veitch
101. The Synod Treasurer - Mr David Greatorex
102. The Revd Amanda Linney
103. The Revd Andrew Mudharara
104. The Revd Colin Bones
105. The Revd Matt Rigden
106. The Revd Jane Wade
107. The Revd Graham Maskery
108. Mr Sam Goodman
109. Mrs Lindsey Cole
110. Mr Derek Graham
111. Mrs Barbara Turner
112. Miss Eleanor Rice
113. Miss Ella Lemon*
114. Mr Charles Leggat*

West Midlands Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

115. The Synod Moderator - The Revd Steve Faber
116. The Synod Clerk - Mr Richard Lockley
117. The Synod Treasurer - Mr Steve Powell
118. The Revd Fiona Elvins
119. The Revd Elaine Hutchinson
120. The Revd Carole Marsden
121. Ms Kirsty Mabott
122. Miss Elinor Davies
123. Mrs Clare Nutbrown-Hughes
124. Dr Peter Horrocks
125. Mr Johnny O’Hanlon
126. Mr Edward Lyne
127. The Revd Graham Sweeney
128. Mr Mervyn Davies
129. Revd James Hamilton
130. *Vacant*

Eastern Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

131. The Synod Moderator (*Vacant*)
132. The Synod Clerk (Mr Keir Hounsome)
133. The Revd Dr Catherine Ball
134. Mr Shannon Craig
135. Mrs Ruth Dixon
136. The Revd Paul Ellis
137. Ms Helen Glasse*
138. Mr Gil Heathcote
139. Ms Lindsey Brown
140. Ms Maria Lee
141. The Revd Barnabas Shin
142. Mr Brandon Stein*
143. The Revd Paul Stein
144. The Revd Gillian Thomson
145. The Revd Naomi Young-Rodas
146. The Revd Charles Mather
147. Ms Jo Patel

South Western Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

148. The Synod Moderator - The Revd Ruth Whitehead
149. The Synod Treasurer - The Revd Richard Gray
150. The Synod Clerk - Mrs Gwen Jennings
151. The Revd Sue Cossey
152. The Revd Tracey Lewis
153. The Revd Gerald England
154. The Revd Robert Jordan
155. The Revd Mark Woodhouse
156. Dr Charles Stockley
157. Mrs Beverley Stockley
158. Mrs Beverley Wride
159. The Revd Lythan Nevard
160. Mrs Maria Mills
161. Truida Mutare
162. Ms Mollie Wells*
163. *Vacant*

Wessex Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

164. The Synod Clerk - Miss Karen Bell
165. Mr Scott Wheeler
166. Mr Edward Burr
167. Mr Andrew Gibb
168. Ms Becca Lees
169. Mr Clive Snashall
170. Mrs Louise Shroubsole
171. The Revd Brian Harley
172. The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson
173. The Revd Graham Hoslett
174. The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem
175. The Revd Mary Thomas
176. The Revd David Downing
177. The Revd Josh Thomas
178. Miss Laura Everard*
179. Miss Naomi Baldwin*

Thames North Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 180. The Synod Moderator - The Revd George Watt
- 181. The Synod Clerk - Mr Simon Fairnington
- 182. The Synod Treasurer - Mr Anthony Obi-Ezekpazu
- 183. The Revd June Colley
- 184. The Revd Sue McCoan
- 185. The Revd Andrew McLuskey
- 186. Mr John Mitchell
- 187. Mrs Heather Puglsey
- 188. Mrs Olaoluwa (Ola) Omolayo Lawal
- 189. Ms Philippa Osei*
- 190. The Revd Sally Thomas
- 191. Mr Nick Booth*
- 192. Mrs Kate Yates
- 193. Mr Martyn Macphee
- 194. Mr Tony Corfe
- 195. Mrs Bim (Yetunde) Oniwinde

Southern Synod

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for represenatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 196. The Synod Moderator - The Revd Bridget Banks
- 197. The Synod Clerk - The Revd Russell Furley-Smith
- 198. The Synod Treasurer - Mr John Denison
- 199. The Revd Jacob Bali
- 200. The Revd Prince Brown-Engmann
- 201. Mrs Marie Jackson
- 202. The Revd Terry (Yeong-Jong) Jin
- 203. Mr Alan Kirby
- 204. The Revd Hilary Nabarro
- 205. The Revd Kim Plumpton
- 206. Mrs Sue Knight
- 207. Mr Mark Rigby
- 208. Ms Hannah Jones*
- 209. The Revd Wendy Swan
- 210. Ms Pam Tolhurst
- 211. Mr Zeerak Shahbaz*

National Synod of Wales

(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)

- 212. The Synod Moderator - The Revd Simon Walkling
- 213. The Synod Treasurer - Mr Chris Atherton
- 214. The Revd Dr. Jason Askew
- 215. The Revd Julia Bartholomew
- 216. Ms Tia Breese*
- 217. Mrs Judy Harris
- 218. The Revd Julie Kirby
- 219. The Revd Martha McInnes
- 220. The Revd Dr Kathryn Price
- 221. Mrs Adella Pritchard
- 222. Mr Korey Randall*
- 223. Mr David Turner*
- 224. Mr Ben Walkling*
- 225. The Revd Dr Phil Wall
- 226. Mrs Kate Wolsey
- 227. Miss Sandra Wallace

National Synod of Scotland *(16 places – at least 5 of which shall be Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Church Related Community Workers, and at least 5 of which shall be Elders or “lay”. Any 2 within thin the 16 places are reserved for representatives aged under 26 at the time of appointment)*

- 228. The Synod Moderator - The Revd Paul Whittle
- 229. The Synod Clerk - Mr William Robson
- 230. The Revd Andy Braunston
- 231. The Revd Steven Manders
- 232. The Revd John Sanderson
- 233. The Revd Susan Henderson
- 234. The Revd Fiona Bennett
- 235. Ms Morag Donaldson
- 236. Ms Myra Rose
- 237. Ms Rose Kumbanga
- 238. The Revd Sue Kirkbride
- 239. Mr Mark Kirkbride
- 240. Miss Hannah Sanderson*
- 241. Miss Morven Sanderson*
- 242. Mr Bob Christie
- 243. Ms Marie Trubic

British and Irish Ecumenical representatives (5 places)

- 244. The Right Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness *(Church of Scotland)*
- 245. The Revd Dr David Chapman *(Methodist Church of Great Britain)*

246. The Venerable Vernon Ross (*Church of England*)
 247. Father Dominic Robinson (*Roman Catholic Church*)
 248. Major David Evans (*Salvation Army*)

International Ecumenical representatives (5 places)

249. The Revd. Najla Kassab - *National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches*
 250. The Revd. Lydia Neshangwe - *Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) - Moderator of the Council for World Mission (CWM)*
 251. Pfarrer Martin Henninger, *Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz*
 252. The Revd Dr Munther Isaac, *Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem*
 253. *Vacant*

Council for World Mission (1 place)

254. *Vacant*

**indicates those Synod representatives aged 25 or under at the time of their appointment.
 +indicates those appointed to a vacant place from another Synod under Rule 1.5.*

Worship

Opening worship was led by the Moderators' Chaplain, the Revd Helen Everard, and included Bible Study led the by the Revd Barrie Cheetham, and an Act of Commemoration for ministers, missionaries, Church Related Community Workers, former Moderators and Clerks who have died since the last Assembly:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amanda Julie Harper | Derrick Parkinson |
| Ann Maureen Cole | Edward Walton |
| Anne Hunt | Egland Graham |
| Anthony R Ashcroft | Frank Robert Cochrane |
| Anthony John Bradshaw | Glyn Eatock |
| Antony Richard Cottam | Graham Ellis Henry Long |
| Anthony James Wilkinson | Graham John Spicer |
| Barrie Wilson Saunders | Hazel Day |
| Betty Florence Williams | James Garrow |
| Bernard Grimsey | Jeffrey James Armitstead |
| Brian Hudson Bailey OBE | Jennifer Marsh |
| Brian John Stops | John Derek Salsbury |
| David Armstrong Brown | Kathleen Bennett |
| David Charles Macara Gardner | Kenneth Hall |
| David James Hudston | Kenneth Newborough |
| David Mather | Malcolm Alan William Deacon |
| David John Wilkinson | Michael John Pevy |
| Denis Harold Newman | Michael John Davies |
| Derek Nuttall | Noel Stancliff |

Norman Edsall
Peter Russell MacKenzie
Peter Henry Newell
Ralph Leonard Eveleigh
Rhona Mitchell Jones
Richard Vivian Buddle
Robert Waters
Ronald Reginald Prestoe Smith

Rosemary Dorothy Humphrey
Ruth Kathleen Clarke
M Ruth Hendry Roy Arthur James Eames
Sidney Bindemann
Samuel Eric Rogers
Thomas Edward Charles Bush
Thomas Ellison
Tom Patrick Grant
William Arthur Spurling

Greeting of Ecumenical and International Guests

Ecumenical and International guests were welcomed, and Assembly was addressed, via pre-recorded video, by Father Dominic Robinson (*Roman Catholic Church*), and the Revd Dr Munther Isaac, (*Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem*).

En bloc Resolutions

Following notices and technical advice given by the General Secretary, the Assembly Clerk, the Revd Michael Hopkins, presented the following papers with their Resolutions *En bloc*:

A1 Mission Council Advisory Groups (resolution 06)

Resolution 06

General Assembly resolves that from the close of General Assembly 2021, all Mission Council Advisory Groups shall become Advisory Groups of the General Assembly, and instructs the Business Committee to reflect further on whether further work and / or greater clarity is needed on the differences between Standing Committees and Advisory Groups.

D1 Education and Learning: new URC Learning Hub

D2 Education and Learning: The Way Forward - one year on

D-H1 E&L/Ministries: Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders

H1 Ministries Committee Report

H4 Ministries: Changes to Schedule E (resolution 25)

Resolution 25

General Assembly makes the changes to Schedule E as outlined in Appendix 1 of this paper.

J1 Nominations: General Report (resolution 37)

Resolution 37

General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out on page 175 of the Book of Reports, subject to the additions and corrections contained in the supplementary report to Assembly.

J3 Nominations: Supplementary Report

K1 Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee Report

T1 Safeguarding Advisory Group: Annual Safeguarding Report

T5 Safeguarding: Safeguarding Training Framework (resolution 48)

Resolution 48

a) General Assembly adopts the Safeguarding Training Framework for use across the United Reformed Church.

b) General Assembly instructs synods to oversee the implementation of the framework.

T6 Safeguarding: URC roles eligible for Criminal Records Bureau checks (resolution 49)

Resolution 49

General Assembly approves the updated matrix of roles eligible for a criminal record check (as outlined on pages 255 and 256)

Assembly agreed.

Mission Council

The Assembly Clerk moved Resolutions 1 and 2, remaindered from the General Assembly of 2020, and responded to a number of questions.

Resolution 01

General Assembly gives final approval to the proposal that: There shall be one Moderator of General Assembly, serving for one year. This Moderator may be a minister (of word and sacraments or CRCW) or an elder. Each synod may nominate one minister and one elder each year, but only one Moderator will be elected.

Assembly agreed.

Resolution 02

General Assembly gives final approval to the proposal that: The name of Mission Council shall be changed to Assembly Executive.

Assembly agreed.

Church Life Review

The General Secretary reported on the initial work of the Church Life Review Group. He presented statistics relating to trends in membership and ministry, and reflected upon the finances of the URC.

Assembly was invited to meet in groups to discuss the issues raised in the presentation.

Assembly adjourned.

Assembly resumed at 1330. The Moderator, Mr Peter Pay, was in the Chair.

Finance Committee

The Treasurer, Mr Ian Hardie, presented the report of the Finance Committee.

The Deputy Treasurer, the Revd John Piper, outlined the challenges facing the URC pension schemes, and moved adoption of Resolution 19.

Following discussion, Resolution 19 was put:

Resolution 19

The General Assembly, being representative of Local Churches, Synods and the whole Church, confirms the Church's commitment to the pensions promises already made, and wishes any consideration of future pension arrangements for the Church's Ministers of Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers, missionaries and staff to keep clearly in mind:

- a) The Church's warm gratitude for the commitment, gifts and service of those who work among us and serve in our name**
- b) The Church's desire to deal with these people honourably in their retirement**
- c) The Church's desire to act as a responsible employer, for the people we employ and for our stipendiary office-holders.**

Assembly agreed.

Mr Piper described possible future options for URC pension provision, which Assembly met in groups to discuss.

Matters reported from groups included:

- Potential unintended discrimination against financially vulnerable groups.
- The necessity for independent financial advice to be available for members.

Mr Piper responded to a number of questions, and proposed Resolutions 20 and 21:

Resolution 20

General Assembly, recognising that the significant changes to the legal and regulatory framework for defined benefit pension schemes are making the two current URC pension schemes disproportionately expensive for the benefits they deliver, agrees in principle to the closure to future accruals of both the Ministers' Pension Fund and the Final Salary Pension Scheme.

Resolution 21

General Assembly acknowledges the careful work that has already been done on these complex and sensitive matters, authorises further work to be done on developing new pensions arrangements for office holders and staff, with the aim of presenting detailed options to Assembly Executive in November 2021, and then final proposals to General Assembly 2022, for implementation no sooner than January 2023.

The Revd Alex Alex Clare-Young proposed an amendment to Resolution 21:

General Assembly acknowledges the careful work that has already been done on these complex and sensitive matters, authorises further work to be done on developing new pensions arrangements for office holders and staff, and requests that, as a part of this work, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) specialists are consulted, with the aim of presenting detailed options to Assembly Executive in November 2021, and then final proposals to General Assembly 2022, for implementation no sooner than January 2023.

The proposer indicated his willingness to accept the amendment.

The amendment was *carried*.

Because of time constraint, the Moderator suspended discussion on this matter until a later time.

Assembly adjourned.

Assembly resumed at 1530. The immediate past Moderator, the Revd Nigel Uden, was in the Chair.

Election of Moderator of General Assembly 2022-2023

On behalf of the Business Committee, the Assembly Clerk moved adoption of the Resolution:

General Assembly appoints the Revd Adrian Bulley and the Revd Michael Hopkins as tellers for the election of the Moderator of General Assembly at this meeting.

Assembly agreed.

Each of the candidates briefly addressed Assembly, and responded to a question put by the Moderator.

The Clerk explained the procedure for the election.

The Moderator led Assembly in prayer.

The Moderator, the Revd Clare Downing took the chair.

Mission Committee

The Convener, of the Mission Committee, Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte, presented the report of the Mission Committee.

Israel-Palestine Report

There being no discussion on the report, Mrs Lane Cawte presented the Israel-Palestine Report, and moved adoption of Resolutions 26-35.

Resolution 26

General Assembly instructs the Mission Committee to raise awareness about Holy Land pilgrimage amongst synods, local churches, ecumenical partners and individuals, underlining the importance of taking time to engage with Christian Palestinian communities and members of the local Christian churches in Israel and Palestine.

Following questions and discussion, the Resolution was put:

Assembly agreed

Resolution 27

General Assembly affirms that Israel is a country which is recognised within the international community of States, with all the rights and responsibilities attendant on that status.

Assembly agreed.

Resolution 28

General Assembly affirms the United Nations commitment to a State of Palestine which is recognised within the international community of States, with all the rights and responsibilities attendant on that status.

Following questions and discussion, the Resolution was put:

Assembly agreed.

Resolution 29

General Assembly condemns all acts of violence in the region of Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Assembly agreed.

Resolution 30

General Assembly expresses its deep concern over the worsening situation for the Palestinian people since Resolution 37 was passed in 2016, as evidenced by the subsequent work undertaken by the URC in response to that resolution. All Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, forced house demolitions and the acquisition of land by coercion, are breaches of international law. General Assembly, therefore, urges the Israeli Government to abide by international law and reverse its de facto annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Following questions, the Resolution was put:

Assembly agreed.

Resolution 31

General Assembly requests local churches and members to contact their constituency MPs to express concerns about the actions of the Israeli Government with respect to settlement expansion and house demolitions, and to ask what the UK is doing in response.

Following questions, the Resolution was put:

Assembly agreed.

Resolution 32

General Assembly recognises the ethical principles-based approach of the URC Trusts and Pension Funds to investing and commends them in this long-established commitment, so that they can continue to avoid investing in any international company which facilitates the following activities in the occupied Palestinian territories:

- **construction, production and services for the illegal settlements**
- **the economic exploitation of labour and the captive Palestinian market**
- **the illegal extraction and procurement of natural resources**
- **population control through private security and surveillance where it contravenes international law**
- **provision of specialised equipment for the forced demolition of Palestinian homes and structures**
- **building and servicing of the separation wall / barrier and its checkpoints on Palestinian land**
- **and any other breaches of international law.**

Following questions and discussion, the Resolution was put:

Assembly *agreed*.

The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem proposed an amendment to resolution 33, and a number of members of Assembly indicated their willingness to second the amendment:

Replace 'requests them to ensure that they do not invest in' with 'requests them to avoid knowingly investing directly in...'

The proposer indicated willingness to accept the amendment:

Resolution 33

General Assembly affirms the ethical values of URC Synod Trusts and in this principled commitment requests them to avoid knowingly investing directly in any international company which facilitates the following activities in the occupied Palestinian territories:

- **construction, production and services for the illegal settlements**
- **the economic exploitation of labour and the captive Palestinian market**
- **the illegal extraction and procurement of natural resources**
- **population control through private security and surveillance where it contravenes international law**
- **provision of specialised equipment for the forced demolition of Palestinian homes and structures**
- **building and servicing of the separation wall / barrier and its checkpoints on Palestinian land**
- **and any other breaches of international law as researched and listed by respected agencies such as the United Nations, the Who Profits Research Center (Israel), Investigate (The American Friends Service Committee).**

Assembly *agreed*.

Resolution 34

General Assembly requests local churches and members to be aware of EU guidelines on the labelling of products produced in Israeli settlements, and to consider not purchasing these from UK retailers.

The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem proposed an amendment to include the word 'illegal' before 'Israeli settlements'. During discussion, the Revd Steve Faber suggested that the words 'in the occupied Palestinian territories' might be appropriate. Dr Micklem agreed and the amendment was put:

The amendment was *carried*.

Because of time constraint, the Moderator suspended discussion, before the substantive resolution was put to the vote, until a later time.

The session was closed with worship led by the Chaplain.