



MINUTES

Minutes of the Mission Council, held at Central Church, Derby on Saturday 20 January 1996. The meeting was constituted by the Moderator, the Revd John Reardon, who presided. Worship was led by the Revd Elizabeth Welch and reflected the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The opening worship included the induction of the Revd John Waller as Deputy General Secretary.

96/1 WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed members to the meeting, in particular those attending for the first time: FURY representative James Horton; Provincial representatives - the Revd John Edwards (Thames North), the Revd Peter Roche (Mersey); Mr Graham Stacy (Treasurer) & the Revd John Waller (Deputy General Secretary).

96/2 ATTENDANCE

There were 58 members present with 11 staff members in attendance, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, Chaplain and Mrs Christine Hardwick, Minute Secretary. Apologies for absence were received from the Revds Donald Hilton, Wilma Frew, Jessie Clare, (alternate Arnold Harrison), John Sutcliffe, Murdoch MacKenzie, Ann Jackson, Bill Wright, Bill Gathercole.

96/3 AGENDA

The Deputy General Secretary said that he should be the first contact for Mission Council business and if he was not available then it would be the General Secretary.

96/4 MINUTES OF MISSION COUNCIL 29 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 1995

The Minutes of the Mission Council held on 29 September to 1 October 1995, which had been circulated, were approved and signed with the following corrections.

p.118 95/83 delete 'Sheila Maxey' and continue: 'Muriel Garrow would represent the URC on the Group. In view of considerable reservations expressed about some of the co-ordinating group's ideas, the Discipleship &

Witness Committee would come back with proposals to a subsequent Mission Council.'

p.121 95/93 line 3, add after "submitted", "by the Equal Opportunities Committee": line 7, last sentence to be altered to "It was agreed that this could proceed to the extent possible within the Equal Opportunities Committee budget."

96/5 MATTERS ARISING

RESOURCE SHARING TASK GROUP (95/96)- The Revd Tony Burnham was proposed as Convener by the Revd John Waller, seconded by Revd Julian Macro. **This was agreed.**

DISPUTE ON MATTERS SUBMITTED BY MRS J F M MAYLOR (95/86) - The Clerk had received two letters from Mrs Maylor. She has accepted that the procedures involving Mission Council have come to an end but has not accepted the content of the decision. She wants information about the procedures involved and the Clerk would provide this. All involved have been advised to make no further comment.

96/6 ADVISORY GROUP ON GRANTS AND LOANS (AGOGAL)

The paper was introduced by the Secretary, Revd Roger Whitehead, who emphasised the importance of co-ordinating grant applications. The headings under which grants are made will be retained, while allowing flexibility between them. **It was agreed that:**

1. **AGOGAL should be retained as an advisory group to Mission Council**
2. **Inter-denominational grants would become Central Church grants and would be reported to Mission Council each year.**
3. **The membership would be a Convener, Secretary, the General Secretary and the staff persons responsible for Church & Society, CRCW's, Discipleship & Witness, Ecumenical Relations, International Church Relations and Ministries.**
4. **The Convener and Secretary should not be staff members but one of them should already be a member of Mission Council. Ivan Andrews proposed that there should be a representative of Youth & Children's Work included. This was agreed.**

96/7 MULTI-RACIAL DEVELOPMENT POST

Rev John Waller outlined the discussions to date and asked the Groups to look at the stated objectives and discuss ways of achieving them. At a plenary session later in the agenda the feed back did not produce a consensus and the

matter was referred to the next meeting. About half the groups thought that there should be a full-time post but others felt that no new money could be raised to pay for it. The possibility of some CWM money or a Special Ministry were suggested as ways of financing it. The benefits to the church in terms of what the newly empowered members would have to offer were emphasised by Mrs Grace Ntiamoah.

96/8 WORKING PARTY ON MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE

Revd Keith Forcast introduced the report which was in two parts. The first part concerned the present Pastoral Measure. **Mission Council approved the publication of Guidelines, adjusted in the light of Mission Council's debate, offered by the Working Party on Ministerial Discipline, for the guidance of those operating the present Pastoral Measure and agreed that they shall apply from 20 January 1996, until such time as the Measure is revised or rescinded by the General Assembly.**

The second part of the report concerned future processes for which changes in the Basis of Union would be needed. The proposed changes would not take away the responsibility of the District Council to undertake the first investigation into any complaint. **It was agreed to recommend to General Assembly the seven draft resolutions set out in the paper.** These cover a new Schedule on the role of ministers, the disciplinary process, and changes in the role of District Council, Synod and General Assembly; the process would be set out in the Manual as Section B paragraph 6. The Revd Bernie Collins raised the question of the removability of ordination, because he was anxious about persons not on the Roll of Ministers using the title "Reverend". The Clerk stated that the title 'Reverend' is honorific and not tied to the basic fact of ordination. A minister deleted from the Roll on disciplinary grounds could not appropriately use the title.

96/9 RESOURCE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Additional Member of Staff for Yardley Hastings - There is an immediate need for an extra member of service staff because of the increasing success of the Centre. The Treasurer had agreed to an overspend for this year of up to £20,000 to fund this and the Youth & Children's Work Committee sought the inclusion of £25,000 in the budget for 1997. RPAC advised the acceptance of this request. It was confirmed that this is not an Assembly appointment. **The expenditure and budget item were agreed.**

Pension Fund Subvention - **It was agreed that the subvention should be re-based at £1.13M in 1997, rising thereafter at the rate of increase in ministers' stipends for the duration of the plan period, after reassurances had been given that this would meet our obligations.**

Number of Ministers - After a discussion to decide which of the four options offered should be recommended, **it was agreed that the question be not put** and the committee be asked to produce new proposals in the light of changed circumstances.

96/10 ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

In the absence of Mrs Wilma Frew, the report was presented by the General Secretary.

Hospitality to newly ordained ministers - **It was agreed that for Assembly 1996 the present policy of offering hospitality only for one night should be endorsed, and Districts should be encouraged to include such ministers as one of their representatives.**

96/11 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

In the absence of Revd Jessie Clare, Revd Arnold Harrison presented the report. Mission Council received the following nominations:

Joint Liturgical Group	Revd Fleur Houston
National Funeral College	Revd Sally Thomas
Caterham School trustee	Revd David Helyar
Women's World Day of Prayer	Mrs Josie Owen
Memorial Hall Trustees	Mr Graham Stacy

Mission Council noted the appointments of:

YCWT's	Wendy Walker (Southern)	1.5.96-30.4.97
	Colin Capewell (Wales)	1.2.95-31.7.99

Staff vacancies - Appointment Groups

Secretary to Ministries - this is complete

Secretary to International Church Relations - replies awaited.

Task Group on the Role of Moderators (95/85)

Convener - reply awaited

Secretary - Revd Roberta Rominger

1. Revd Bill Gathercole - Provincial Moderator

2. Mr Geoffrey Lawrence - Yorkshire District Secretary

3. Revd Gethin Abraham-Williams - Penarth, Wales Secretary ENFYS, Covenanting Churches in Wales

96/12 MISSION COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUP

- ♦ Model local constitution. **It was agreed that, on balance, it would be useful at least to have guidelines for producing one.**

- ♦ Theological Reflector - **It was agreed to continue to have one but to ask for a written report after the meeting.**
- ♦ West Midland Moderator - **It was agreed to appoint Revd Elizabeth Welch to serve from 8 April 1996 to 31 August 2003.**
- ♦ 25th anniversary of the URC - there would be no major national celebration, but celebratory material will be produced. Rev David Jenkins is convening a group to report to the next Mission Council.
- ♦ Title of Assembly Moderator - **It was agreed that there should be no distinctive title for the Moderator of the General Assembly. The use of the title 'Right Reverend' will be discontinued from 1997 onwards.** The Clerk explained that the title was a recognition of the office not the individual.
- ♦ YCWT for East Midlands - A decision is waiting for the report of the Training Review which has nearly finished its work.
- ♦ Dates and venues for 1997 - the following were **agreed:**

January 18	Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwicks
March 14-16	Ushaw College, Durham
Sept 30-Oct 2	High Leigh, Hoddesdon

96/13 STAFFING ADVISORY GROUP

The report was introduced by Mr Geoff Lunt, the Convener.

Secretary for Ministries - **it was agreed that the post should continue for a further 5 years.**

Secretary for International Church Relations - **it was agreed the post should be continued for a further 5 years with a changed Job Description,** and the Ecumenical Committee should explore how the benefits gained could be earthed within the local church.

Westminster College Principal - Revd Tony Burnham proposed that **'Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, appoints the Revd Dr David Cornick as Principal of Westminster College from 1st September 1996 until 31st August 2001'. This was agreed.** Consequent upon this appointment, the following was also **agreed** on the recommendation of MCSAG: **"that, in the light of the choice of the new Principal, appointments be made for five years from 1 September 1996 of a Director of Studies in Systematic Theology and a Director of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College; and further that the Training Committee be urged to encourage the College to explore with the Cambridge Theological Federation a fully integrated teaching staff so that some economies might be achieved."**

96/14 EUROPE TASK GROUP

The report was introduced by William McVey who emphasised that Europe is the immediate context for our life and work and so contacts are of great importance. Their first recommendation was that Provinces should be the main level for encouraging contacts. Comments on any of the recommendations should be sent to the Ecumenical Committee.

96/15 MODERATOR'S VISIT TO INDIA

John Reardon spoke of his visit to the Church of North India and the Church of South India which involved a gruelling schedule. It included visits to projects for orphan children and fishermen. He spoke of the 'Raising the roof' project which enables churches to be given half the cost of the roof for a new church and also of support for Tamil refugees. He had also spoken at the 50th anniversary synod of the Church of South India.

96/16 THANKS

Thanks were expressed to the church for their excellent hospitality.

96/17 CLOSING WORSHIP

This was conducted by the Revd Elizabeth Welch

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Moderator

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Date