

**THE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
1975**

5th — 9th MAY

THE CITY TEMPLE

Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DE

**MINUTES
OF ASSEMBLY**

The United Reformed Church in England & Wales
86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT

ACTION CHECK LIST

The Minutes of Assembly herewith record many decisions which it is important should be taken up by the appropriate Councils of the Church.

This check list may help those responsible to see that they are considered –

	<i>Page No.</i>	<i>By Ministers or Ch. Secs.</i>	<i>By Ch. Meetings &/or Elders Mtg.</i>	<i>By District Councils</i>	<i>By Synods</i>
Christian Stewardship Commission on the Ministry:	11		X	X	X
Deployment of Ministry	11		X	X	X
Provincial Lay Training Officers for In-Service	12			X	X
Radio & TV Techniques	15				X
World Food Crisis Campaign	16		X	X	
World Development	17		X	X	
Northern Ireland Scheme of Union amendments	17		X		
"Reform" Promotion Campaign	18			X	X
Unified Appeal Target and Contribution 1976	23		X		
Community Land Bill	23		X		
New Church Praise	25		X		
Children's Work and Christian Education Secretary	26			X	
"Equipped to Teach"	26			X	
Partners in Learning	26		X		
Needs of Young People	27		X		
District Youth Forums & Appointment of Delegates 1976 Ass. of Youth	27			X	X
"Time for God" Scheme	27		X		
National Youth Project 1975	28		X		
The Healing Ministry	28		X		
Movement of Students, Nurses, etc.	28	X			
Evangelism & Renewal	28		X	X	X
Mission in Rural Areas	29		X	X	X

Minutes of the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
in
England and Wales
1975

FIRST SESSION

At LONDON and within The City Temple, on Monday, the 5th day of May 1975 at 6 o'clock p.m.

Public Worship Members of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, being met together at the time and place appointed by the General Assembly on 10th May 1974, public worship being conducted by the Rt Revd A. L. Macarthur M.A., M.Litt the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

Induction of Moderator On the motion of the Rt Revd A. L. Macarthur, the Moderator-elect, the Revd Principal G. B. Caird, F.B.A., M.A., D.Phil., D.D., was called to the Chair and inducted as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

The Moderator addressed the Assembly.

Roll of Assembly The roll of Assembly made up in accordance with the constitution set out in the Scheme of Union and as authorised by the Executive Committee was laid on the table.

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

Moderator: The Right Revd Principal G. B. Caird, F.B.A., M.A., D.Phil., D.D.

Clerk: The Revd A. L. Macarthur, M.A., M.Litt.

Assistant Clerk: Revd P. S. Chesney, M.A.

Moderator-elect (1975—76): The Revd R. J. Hall.

Provincial Moderators:

- I Revd J. Howard Williams
- II Revd D. G. Stewart
- III Revd J. W. P. Williamson
- IV Revd J. N. Beard
- V Revd J. White
- VI Revd R. W. Hugh Jones
- VII Revd R. E. Taylor
- VIII Revd C. A. Haig
- IX Revd D. A. Smith
- X Revd R. J. Hall
- XI Revd V. N. J. Lewis
- XII Revd W. J. Samuel

Department Chairmen: *Church Life:* Revd Dr K. Slack
Church & Society: Revd J. Johansen-Berg
World Church & Mission: Revd B. M. Pratt
Finance & Administration: Mr L. R. Palmer

Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Applications: Revd H. M. Springbett

Business: Sir Harold Banwell

Nominations: Revd A. J. G. Walker

Church Life:

Ministerial Training: Revd J. I. Evans; *Supplementary Ministeries:* Revd J. W. P. Williamson;

Doctrine & Worship: Revd Dr J. Huxtable; *Christian Education:* Revd C. C. Franks;

Youth Work: Revd K. Cranston; *Children's Work:* Revd D. H. Hilton.

World Church & Mission:

At Home: Revd Prof M. H. Cressey; *Abroad:* Mr J. E. M. Gilbey; *Other Faiths:* Revd

Principal A. G. MacLeod.

Church & Society: Revd J. Johansen-Berg; *additional Reps:* Revd A. Hodgson, E. F. Jones;
Mrs. Carol Nesbitt.

Finance & Administration:

Treasurership: Mr K. W. Thorndyke; *Maintenance of the Ministry:* Revd J. White;

Welfare & Emergencies: Mr R. J. S. Green*; *Unified Appeal:* Mr G. Vaughan Davies*;

Legal & Trust: Mr. K. M. Kirby; *Development in New Areas & Care of Existing Church*

Buildings: Revd R. G. Walker; *Publications & Publicity:* Revd R. T. Brooks.

Synod Clerks:

I Revd H. S. Ross; II Revd A. G. Burnham; III Revd R. G. Walker; IV Revd A. J. G. Walker;
Mr K. W. Thorndyke; VI Mr. R. A. Heritage; VII Revd Dewi Rhys; VIII Revd J. E. Young;
IX Revd Michael Stolton; X Mr T. S. Byatt; XI Revd E. Harries-Rees; XII Revd Windsor Hicks.

Synod Treasurers:

I Mr T. N. Kilby; II Mr. G. Butterworth; III Mr. M. B. S. Emlyn; IV Mr. B. C. Stead; V Mr. F.
Cooper Watson; VI Mr H. E. Greening; VII Mr P. Wade; VIII Mr. W. F. Hunt; XI Mr N. W.
Prattent; X Mr R. S. Martin; XI Mr Alan Chapman; XII Mr T. M. H. Hawkins.

Theological College Representatives:

Memorial College, Swansea: Revd Prof D. L. Trefor Evans*; *Westminster:* Revd Prof R.
Buick Knox; *Cheshunt:* Revd Prof J. E. Newport; *New, London:* Revd William Simpson;
Mansfield, Oxford: Revd Charles Brock; *Congregational, Manchester:* Revd Principal Dr
Edgar Jones.

Missionaries on Furlough:

Revd Dr Frank Balchin; Miss Alvinza Riddoch; Revd Peter J. Storey*; Miss Jose M. Robins;
Mr Clive Perrett*; Miss R. Scott; Miss P. B. Hawkings; Mrs. P. M. Martin; Revd J. W. Muir.

Secretary of Council for World Mission:

Revd B. G. Thorogood.

Senior Chaplain to H. M. Forces stationed in Britain:

Revd K. L. Derbyshire*, R.A.F.

Past Chairmen, Presidents and Moderators:

Revd Dr Nathaniel Micklem*; Revd S. Maurice Watts*; Revd Dr H. F. Lovell Cocks*; Revd
H. S. Stanley; Mr E. Cunningham*; Revd Dr Norman Goodall; Revd Dr W. Gordon Robinson*;

* Attendance at Assembly not registered

Revd Elsie Chamberlain* ; Revd H. Cunliffe-Jones* ; Mr. B. J. Hartwell* ; Revd H. A. Hamilton* ; Revd Dr J. Huxtable ; Revd Dr John Marsh ; Revd M. O. Janes ; Revd C. A. Haig ; Revd R. W. Hugh Jones ; Revd Dr E. R. Routley* ; Revd Dr C. S. Duthie ; Revd C. J. Buckingham* ; Sir Harold Banwell ; Mrs Gwen Hall ; Revd Dr R. D. Whitehorn* ; Revd Dr J. C. Bacon* ; Revd A Prentice* ; Revd D. Conley Eades* ; Revd R. E. Fenn ; Revd K.D.Keay* ; Revd G.T.Bellhouse ; Revd F. P. Copland Simmons ; Revd Prof J. Eric Fenn ; Revd Andrew B. Jamieson ; Revd I. R. N. Miller* ; Revd P. McCall ; Revd F. D. McConnell ; Revd Prof F. G. Healey* ; Revd H. Burns Jamieson ; Revd Principal A. G. MacLeod ; Revd A. S. Cooper ; Revd N. Birnie ; Revd B. M. Pratt ; Revd Dr K. Slack ; Revd A. L. Macarthur.

Youth Representatives:

Mr Philip Baker* ; Miss Moira Kerr.

District Council Representatives:

Province I

- A: The Revds P. M. Paton, J. Schofield, D. W. Dutton, A. R. Forsyth, S. O. Jones ; Mrs Jackson, Miss J. W. M. Shaw, Messrs G. F. Drake, A. T. Piercey, G. Filer.
- B: The Revds M. Thrower, D. R. Hannen, D. Hudston, D. Dennison, J. T. Peters, P. E. McIntosh, D. E. Sutherland, A. P. Dickey, Miss I. Burrel, Miss E. Pearson*, Messrs W. Cowan*, W. Armstrong, W. Cuthbertson, G. Rix*, D. Langley, B. Embleton.
- C: The Revds G. A. Harding, P. Heckles, M. G. C. Jenkins, Mrs. G. Watkins, Mrs. R. Duncan, Miss M. White.
- D: The Revds Dr A. R. Ritchie, M. Dunford, K. Wadsworth, R. R. Bance, Miss L. Blythin, Mrs. N. Wadsworth, Mr N. Thorn, Mr I Smith.
- E: The Revds H. Byers, C. M. McKee, D. H. van Daalan, Miss M. Wandless, Miss Barbara Graham*, Mr Andrew Langford ; Mrs. J. S. Barlow, Mr H. Stead, Mr G. McGowan.

Province II

- A: The Revds V. Leach, J. A. Cumming, C. Davies, Miss C. M. Riley, Messrs W. Tomlinson H. D. Bonnett.
- B: The Revds R. W. Carruthers, A. K. Livesley, D. Wiseman, Miss L. Milner, Messrs H. C. Dawkins, A. Upfold.
- C: The Revds E. M. Williams, A. J. Wilkinson, D. J. Netherwood, G. W. Sirkett, Messrs A. B. Cope, A. Eccles, R. Oldham.
- D: Revds Dudley Blades*, J. W. Evans, Hugh Gibson, J. B. Hawksworth ; Miss A. M. Mortimer, Messrs G. H. Hodgson, W. Sandys, Donald Swift.
- E: The Revds J. K. Ramage, R. A. C. West, A. F. T. Evans, H. Turpie, A. V. J. Nash, Messrs J. Collinge, W. Boyton, Mrs. J. S. Barlow ; Mr. H. Stead, Mr G. McGowan.
- F: Revds F. Noden, D. Ager, J. Houston, Pastor H. Robinson, Miss F. P. Parrish ; Mr A. Maddocks, Mrs. H. Anderson, Mr D. Haughton, Mrs L. Dale.
- G: The Revds W. N. Leak, J. H. E. Hull, T. Russell, Miss M. O. Hambleton, Mrs. R. M. Cowhig, Mr W. S. Kenyon.

Province III

- A: The Revds B. Eyles, R. W. Kidd, J. I. Evans, M. R. Jackson, T. Oakley, Mrs. Pennell, Miss C. Downward, Messrs J. Bryan, H. Isles, Mrs. J. Blumenthal.
- B: The Revds T. Watson, G. Bowerman, W. E. Peters, A. R. Wignall, W. Wright, Miss M. W. Thomson, Messrs Paul Breeze, F. N. Phillips, W. G. Mackay, L. R. Marshall.
- C: The Revds W. S. Evans, P. W. Beaman, F. Glendinning, A. Huyton : Messrs W. A. H. Simm, D. I. Hamilton, C. Maldonado, D. H. Hildige.
- D: The Revds A. J. Bradshaw, A. N. McKean, John Martin, J. Michael Rees, J. D. Salisbury, Mrs J. Heaney, Mrs E. L. Mobbs, Miss D. M. V. Jack, Messrs John Boyd, R. G. Davies*.

* Attendance at Assembly not registered

Province IV

- A: The Revds D. Anderson, K. Brock, A. J. Dawson, D. G. Paterson, Mrs S. W. Third, Messrs J. Cummings, W. Norman, H. N. Hicklenton.
- B: The Revds D. F. Wilkins, J. H. Hoadley, E. C. Marvin, R. Royston-Bishop, L. G. Anderson, Mrs. A. A. Roberts, Mrs A. Parkinson, Mrs J. H. Sowden, Mr C Ireson.
- C: The Revds G. Tillison, H. Coltman, A. Platts, G. Courtney, R. Richards, Miss E. Pirie*, Miss M. Humphreys*, Miss A. McClure, Mr J. M. Dodds, Mr. R. Wigglesworth.
- D: The Revds E. L. Bray, Joan Norman, D. M. Rogers, R. H. McMurray Adam, Mrs L. Pollard, Mrs E. D. Mellor, Messrs H. Murgatroyd, F. W. Twigg.
- E: The Revds A. C. Gardiner, Dr S. H. Russell, A. H. Tebbet, Mrs D. Cartwright, Messrs G. W. Clayton, B. C. H. Freeman.
- F: The Revds R. L. Ackroyd, H. H. B. Neems*, T. P. Brooks, W. J. Taylor, Mrs L. Browning, Mrs P. Ackroyd, Miss M. Atkinson, Mr M. Allinson.

Province V

- A: Revds J. D. Waller, E. C. Jones, C. A. Hobson, W. J. L. Paxton, E. A. Way, W. McGuigan, Miss M. Edwards, Miss M. Dickson*, Messrs W. A. Davies, N. H. Burrows, R. T. Masser, R. Wood, S. Gibbon, S. Myatt*.
- B: Revds R. E. Parker, A. C. White*, Miss A. Cowdell, Revd D. H. Morris, Mrs F. C. Watson, Mrs D. M. Clarke.
- C: Revds N. Haworth, J. Jenkins*, N. C. Fisher, H. S. Mayes, Mrs B. Murray, Messrs H. Jones, E. G. C. Derry, E. G. Leigh-Brown.
- D: Revds N. J. W. Appleton, D. Glyn Evans, G. E. Hooper, M. O'Hara, M. S. Leah, Messrs J. Filsack, E. J. Taylor, D. G. Webb, W. J. Collier, Mrs P. Light.

Province VI

- A: The Revds B. J. Andrews*, C. R. Vruford, J. E. Farrar, M. J. Husselbee, A. F. Jordan, J. A. Key, Mrs A. Dawson, Messrs H. J. Gallear, D. R. Halson, P. D. Lees, T. Maloney, R. Steadman.
- B: Revds E. Appleby, G. Thomas, Eileen Southam*, Mrs Forster*, Mrs R. M. Scott, Mr R. M. Scott.
- C: Revds A. McLellan, G. H. Morgan, F. H. Brown, D. E. Marsden, Miss K. Young, Messrs J. C. Hanks, F. H. Cornwell, G. E. Underhill.
- D: The Revds J. W. McMinn*, D. H. Parry Jones*, P. Loveitt, Mrs Eileen Cottle, Miss E. M. A. Bretherton, Mr R. M. Hardie.
- E: The Revds M. F. Hubbard*, D. M. Howell, E. E. B. Cruchley, D. A. Davis, J. G. Forsyth, Mrs R. Page, Messrs D. L. Williams, B. Flynn, A. John, E. A. Waller.
- F: The Revds W. E. Cheesley*, A. B. Holroyd, J. F. Mackriell, G. C. J. Rees, Messrs T. J. Barber, E. G. Manson, H. Whitehead, J. McEwen*.

Province VII

- A: The Revds F. C. Carpenter, A. S. Fincham, J. E. Newall,* John Simpson, Miss E. Botting, Miss S. Gibbons, Miss E. Lewis, Mr L. L. Tillett*.
- B: The Revds S. J. Whiffen, P. A. T. Tee, L. S. Ivory, C. G. Pearce, O. E. Owen, Messrs T. Harwood*, W. Sandford*, W. King, P. A. Palmer Randle, C. H. B. Fraser.
- C: The Revds F. Dixon, P. Hammond, D. Tapley, Francis Hughes, F. Jones, Mrs G. Page, Messrs L. Cresswell, M. Woolnough, R. Dunster*, Miss I. M. Underhill.
- D: The Revds G. Breeze*, S. Hodges, S. Woodgett, Messrs I. Ashton, C. Raggett, B. Wakefield.
- E: The Revds D. A. Cox, J. C. Hickmore, D. McIlhagga, A. Ruffell, L. Brown, Mrs G. L. Arundel, Mrs M. Bason, Mrs A. Coates*, Miss B. Forscutt, Mr. E. Neil.

Province VIII

- A: The Revds Gillian M. Bobbett, R. H. Norman*, K. F. D. Trunks, Miss K. Austin, Messrs Dennis Gaskin, David Pellow*.

* Attendance at Assembly not registered

- B: The Revds D. P. Collins, H. M. Pullin, R. S. Richards, Miss I. P. Read, Messrs E. J. Phillips, J. Milne*.
- C: The Revds F. G. Wilson Dennett, Margaret Howard, F. Hewis*, Mrs P. Grail*, Messrs A. Holloway, J. Ellis.
- D: The Revds F. Card, N. Jones, B. W. Kirk, S. Atkins, Mrs B. Ware, Messrs C. Bacon*, R. Griffiths, A. Chamings*.
- E: The Revds N. Charlton, B. A. Warren, C. J. Baker, S. Wood*, Miss S. Knutt, Mrs P. Bezer, Messrs D. Hamil, R. Escott.
- F: The Revds W. R. Batt, A. E. Simmonds, C. H. Grant, M. Westerman, W. A. White, K. Hall, Mrs J. Leader, Pastor E. Williamson, Messrs P. Bush, R. M. Herwig, R. McKears, W. F. J. Bowerman.

Province IX

- A: The Revds K. R. Brymer, M. B. Clarke, A. G. Meyer, D. P. Churchward, A. P. Williams, W. F. H. Thorpe, A. Lister-Hetherington, W. Dickinson*, Miss M. Cleal, Miss L. Burns, Major F. W. Filor, Messrs H. Johnson, B. B. Spinney, J. W. Crabb*, R. E. Harding, W. Rowland.
- B: The Revds A. G. Hamilton*, G. D. Gill, D. C. Lewis, A. F. Nagle, Mrs. C. J. Grout, Mrs E. L. Walker, Mr C. W. Carr, Mr C. J. Grout.
- C: The Revds R. C. Lambourne, A. A. Tomlinson, J. T. Riddall*, M. C. Playdon, Miss E. M. Stuart, Messrs S. W. J. Kiddle, W. Duffin, E. L. Horn.
- D: The Revds David A. Welbrock, Colin Baxter, W. C. McCrorie*, N. A. Edsall, Mrs. S. G. Taylor*, Messrs H. J. Eatwell, J. H. Shave*, Leslie Whiteman.
- E: The Revds B. Railton Bax, A. E. Molineaux, A. Porter, C. P. Thompson, L. M. Wheeler, Messrs H. R. Jeffery*, H. W. Ledger, I. O. Macarthur, Dr Claire Shephard, Dr I. P. Williams.

Province X

- A: Revds (Mrs) E. Caswell, M. J. Davies, P. H. Figgis, R. L. Richards, D. E. Russell; Miss M. Nash, Miss K. Nichol, Messrs E. Down, L. L. Goodwin, H. Pinnock.
- B: The Revds J. I. Evans, E. Ward, J. Macro, Miss D. J. Biggs, Messrs A. Nevin, G. Burwood*.
- C: The Revds W. R. Findlay, A. J. Hills, J. Mackelvie, J. R. Shad, Mrs. V. A. Hooper, Mrs A. Wire, Messrs D. J. W. Morgan, G. P. Wilson.
- D: The Revds E. P. Eastman, A. D. Stephen, D. V. Godfrey, H. K. Trice, G. S. Regis, G. Bellamy, Mrs S. Marsden, Mrs K. Gillison, Messrs R. L. Weeks, P. J. Keep, E. Major, R. P. Jordan.
- E: Revds F. J. Pope, D. C. Morgan, C. W. Lucraft, Mrs M. Lewis, Mrs E. Wilson, Mr B. A. Strange.
- F: Revds F. E. Frost-Mee*, D. Geddes, A. Knight*, K. McNichol, R. May, E. Smart, Miss J. Sadler, Messrs J. F. Knight, N. Lightup, Miss M. Callow.

Province XI

- A: The Revds R. P. Bomes, N. K. Fisher, D. E. Lewis, D. F. Piggins, I. T. Rees, A. Whillis, Mrs R. Goodfellow, Mrs P. J. Eard*, Messrs A. Burgess, H. P. Doran, J. Rayner, J. H. Stephenson.
- B: The Revds J. C. Durell, J. E. Garside, D. M. Owen, K. J. Spence*, J. M. Ward, Mrs M. Bibby, Mrs J. Macdonald, Mrs A. Rubash, Messrs R. H. Burgess, R. M. Thomas.
- C: Revds D. Bale, R. J. Frost, A. Pratt, D. Richmond, E. W. Southey, J. H. Taylor*, R. F. J. Wells, Mrs M. Dickinson, Mrs M. Heath, Miss I. Lawrie*, Messrs R. Toy, C. Grimes, H. H. Wiles, Mrs M. Davis.
- D: The Revds M. J. Cruchley, J. Robinson, S. G. Sexton, N. H. Smith, C. H. Teal, Miss G. Burt, Mrs Maltus Smith, Messrs R. Fuller, W. L. Groom, F. Rowland*.
- E: The Revds R. Davis, R. J. Wood, J. Wyatt, Mrs K. Harman, Mr L. A. Scott.
- F: The Revds W. L. Auld, P. G. Filby, F. E. Moore, R. C. Tucker, K. T. Walters, Miss F. J. Rogers, Mrs M. Ryan, Messrs B. R. Gibbons, S. C. Martin, D. Sanders.
- G: The Revds G. E. Beck, C. Charlton, M. R. Forrester, W. Purvis, R. H. Smith, Mrs J. L. Armour, Miss G. M. Davey, Miss D. K. Willmer, Messrs D. R. B. Matthews, C. S. Stephens.

Province XII

- A: The Revds W. Mansel Davies, H. Roy Hughes, D. E. James*, E. M. Jeremiah, Messrs R. H. Ballis, Wallace Wood, A. Garman, D. H. Jones*.
- B: The Revds G. Hewitt, R. G. Diffey, E. Thomas, T. G. O. Thomas, A. Jeffreys, A. E. Williams*, C. Smith-Draper, Mrs. M. Gardner, Miss D. Price, Messrs E. Judd, P. Jones, Dr N. E. Melling.
- C: The Revds Doris Leyshon, Keith Forecast, John Joseph, Alistair Swinford, T. Glyndwr Jones, E. Wyn Parry, Miss Muriel Jones, Mrs Jeanne Jones, Mrs Ann Roberts, Messrs K. Thomas, D. Ll. Walters, N. Shepherd.
- D: Revds J. H. Latham, M. D. Edwards*, J. C. Evans, F. C. Glover, H. John Lewis, John Fletcher, Mrs Fletcher, Miss E. Griffiths, Messrs W. F. John*, W. C. Johns.

Corresponding Members:

From the Church of Scotland:

The Rt Revd David Steel, M.A., B.D., D.D. (Moderator)
The Revd G. I. Macmillan, B.D.
Mr David Steel, M.P.
Mr G. N. Warnock

From the Congregational Union of Scotland:

Mr William L. McVey (President-Elect)

From the Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

The Rt Revd G. T. Lundie, M.A., LL.B., D.D. (Moderator)
The Revd J. C. Faulkner, M.A.
The Revd S. L. S. Fullerton, B.A.
The Revd W. M. Smyth, B.A., B.D.
Mr David Wilson

From the Presbyterian Church of Wales:

The Revd Glaslyn D. Bowen
The Revd T. J. Edwards

From the Union of Welsh Independents:

Mr W. Emrys Evans, F.B.I.

From the Churches of Christ: (Consultant Observer)

Dr David Thompson

Loyal Address The Revd A. L. Macarthur moved the adoption of a Loyal Address to the Throne, which was received by a standing vote:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

We the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church meeting in full Assembly for only the third time since the formation of that Church by the union of Congregationalists and Presbyterians in 1972, send loyal greetings to Your Majesty. We came together to be one Church in the faith that we thereby obeyed God's will to unite His people and in the trust that His grace would be sufficient to overcome the difficulties. In our short life as a united Church we have found our hopes justified by an ever increasing discovery of our oneness in Christ and by a quickened sense of our common mission.

* Attendance at Assembly not registered

Out of that growing unity we express to Your Majesty our sincere gratitude for all your labours and for the example of service in faith which You and your Royal Family set before your people. Our endeavours for the unity of the Church are but part of our vision of the whole human family brought together in peace and mutual trust. We rejoice in the leadership towards this great end which you give amidst the ever growing complexities of our society.

In the name of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church we assure you of the support and prayers of all our churches that God may uphold you in your high and heavy tasks.

We are,

Your Loyal Subjects,

GEORGE B. CAIRD	Moderator
ARTHUR L. MACARTHUR	Clerk

Corresponding Members The Assembly received corresponding members from the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Congregational Union of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of Wales, who were welcomed by the Moderator and their names added to the Roll, as follows:

From the Church of Scotland:

The Rt Revd David Steel, M.A., B.D., D.D. (Moderator)
The Revd G. I. Macmillan, B.D.
Mr David Steel, M.P.
Mr G. N. Warnock

From The Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

The Rt Revd G. T. Lundie, M.A., LL.B., D.D. (Moderator)
The Revd J. C. Faulkner, M.A.
The Revd S. L. S. Fullerton, B.A.
The Revd W. M. Smyth, B.A., B.D.
Mr David Wilson

From The Congregational Union of Scotland:

Mr William L. McVey (President-elect)

From The Presbyterian Church of Wales:

The Revd Glaslyn D. Bowen (Clerk of the English Association)
The Revd T. J. Edwards

The Corresponding Member from the Union of Welsh Independents Mr W. Emrys, F.B.I., was unable to be present until Tuesday.

The Assembly was addressed in the name of the Church of Scotland by the Rt Revd David Steel, M.A., B.D., D.D., Moderator.

Presentation to the Revd Dr John Huxtable, M.A. In the name of the General Assembly the Moderator expressed thanks to Dr Huxtable for his service as Secretary of the Congregational Union of England & Wales from 1964—1966, as Minister Secretary of the Congregational Church in England & Wales from 1966—1972, and as Joint General Secretary of the United Reformed

Church from its inception until the end of 1974, and for his creative part in the development represented by those changes of role. On behalf of local churches and friends throughout the country he presented Dr Huxtable with a cheque and in the name of the Assembly wished him well in his work for all the Churches as the first Executive Officer of the Churches' Unity Commission

Dr Huxtable replied, acknowledging the gift and the warm greetings of the Church.

Reception of Newly Ordained Ministers and Newly Appointed Missionaries The following ministers ordained to the Ministry since the Assembly of 1974 were introduced by their Provincial Moderators and received by the Moderator of the Assembly:

MINISTERS

Peter Heckels	Archibald G. Hamilton
George C. G. Bembridge	Cecil J. Kightley
John A. Pugh	George E. Smart
Ian Cope	Richard F. Davis
Anthony R. Lee	Ian P. White
Arthur E. Circus	Olive D. (Mrs) Symes
Ronald Manley	Rodney J. Wood
Colin B. Baxter	Anita M. (Mrs) Evans
Malcolm B. Clarke	Peter R. Mark

The following newly appointed servant of the World Mission of the Church was received by the Moderator as a missionary of the United Reformed Church:

Mr David King

In the name of the Assembly the Moderator addressed the new ministers and missionary, and commended them to God in the work they had undertaken.

Thanks to the Retiring Moderator On the motion of Revd M. F. Hubbard, the Assembly resolved to record its thanks to the Revd A. L. Macarthur for the service he had rendered to the United Reformed Church as Moderator. This was received with acclamation as was Mr. Macarthur's reply.

Ministerial Jubilees The attention of the Assembly was drawn to the names of those ministers the Jubilee or Diamond Jubilee of whose ordination falls within 1975:

60 years:

Dr J. C. Bacon
James Bennett
W. E. Evans
J. A. Little

50 years:

Norman Armstrong
K. H. Couldrey
H. N. Hanstock
R. Hill
R. A. Hobley
W. Karle
A. N. Mayson
A. R. Meed
S. A. Pullen

Idwal Rees
H. S. Stanley
T. H. Stanley
J. W. Thompson
B. W. Thompson
F. W. Tilley
L. T. Towers
J. S. Whale
H. O. Williams

At the invitation of the Assembly the Moderator undertook to send them the greetings and congratulations of the Church.

The Assembly then adjourned to meet again in the same place at 9.45 a.m. for the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and thereafter for ordinary business and the session was closed with the singing of the Doxology and the Benediction.

TUESDAY, 6th MAY 1975

SECOND SESSION

The General Assembly again convened for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Moderator conducting the service, which included the commemoration of ministers of the United Reformed Church who had died since May 1974. The Moderator was assisted by the Revd David Goodall and the Revd Kathryn Chegwin:

MINISTERS WHO HAVE DIED SINCE MAY 1974

Joseph Hodgson AUSTERFIELD	Cedric Charles Edward MERCER
Peter BUCHAN *	Lemual MORRIS
Leslie Samuel CARTER	Nigel Owen PARRY
Charles William CLARKE	Robert Reginald PARRY
John James CLARREDGE	Allan Macgregor PATERSON
John Islwyn DAVIES	Muriel Olympia PAULDEN
Herbert George DAVIS	Edgar Stephen PERRY
Frank Hugh EARLE	Hubert Arfon PRICE
Levi John EVANS	Cornelius Thomson RAE
Stanley Harcourt DEWDNEY	William Ewart SARGENT
Edward Saggerson GELDARD	George Frederick SEYMOUR
Henry Hames Samuel GUNTRIP	Donald Sinclair SIMMONS
Robert Calwell GILLESPIE	Frederick Joseph SMITH
William Samuel GRIFFITHS	Barnard Robert Horatio SPAULL
William Ernest HAGGETT	Marcus Acheson SPENCER
Sidney John HAGGIS	Lewis James THOMAS
Leslie HALL	Stuart William TOWNLEY
Albert Edward HOSIER	Lewis George TUCKER
John Charles Alec HUCKER	Wilfred WALKER
Myrddin James JONES	Emrys WALTERS
Robert Glyn JONES	Douglas WATT
Thomas JONES-PARRY	Thomas Henry Whatley WHITE
Eric John LAWSON	Edward Henry WILCOX
Gomer LEYSHON	Leonard Oliver WILLIAMS
Walter McCLEERY	Richard Calvert WOOD
Bennison Gales MEDD	

*Died 30.3.74 but not recorded in last year's Minute.

Tellers The report of the Tellers on Ballot for Moderator was submitted by the General Secretary and on his motion it was agreed that the Revd Richard John Hall, M.A., B.D., Moderator of Thames North Province, be duly elected.

Mr. Hall expressed his thanks and something of his hopes in undertaking the office.

Order of Business The Chairman of the Business Committee reported on minor modifications to the Assembly Agenda, and subject to those changes it was agreed that business should proceed in accordance with the printed programme.

Nominations Committee The first report of the Nominations Committee was presented by the Chairman, the Revd A. J. G. Walker, and was received. The following resolutions were then moved and adopted.

1. The Assembly resolves that the date of expiry of the periods of service in the case of Departmental, Associate and Assistant Secretaries shall normally be 31st August of the appropriate year, and agrees that this shall apply to all current and future appointments.

2. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd R. O. Latham as Secretary of the Church Life Department, to serve until 31st August 1980. This was agreed by acclamation.

3. With the addition of the name of Mr J. E. Hooper as Chairman of the Treasurership Committee, the Assembly appoints Chairmen and Secretaries as set out in the report, to serve for the periods stated therein, namely:

Youth Work: Revd J. E. Mather for six years.

Business Committee: Sir Harold Banwell for one final year, Revd J. E. Young to serve from 1976 to be a member of the committee in the meantime.

Treasurership Committee: Mr J. E. Hooper.

Editorial Advisory Board: Revd T. C. Micklem for a final three years.

Board of Studies (Secretary): Revd D. W. Ager for six years.

Executive Committee Report As part of the report made reference to the appointment of the General Secretary, the Revd Dr Norman Goodall was invited to speak to the Assembly on the changes following the appointment of Dr Huxtable as Secretary of the Churches' Unity Commission. Thereafter the Revd A. L. Macarthur presented the report of the Executive Committee. The report was received, and the following resolutions agreed:—

1. The Assembly appoints the Revd A. J. G. Walker as Moderator of the Yorkshire Province for a period of seven years from 1st September 1975.

2. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd Douglas G. Stewart as Moderator of the North Western Province for a further period of five years from 1st September 1975.

3. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd Charles A. Haig as Moderator of the South West Province up to the date of his retirement on 30th September 1977.

4. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd R.W. Hugh Jones as Moderator of the West Midlands Province for a further period of three years from 1st September 1975.

On the motion of the General Secretary, duly seconded, the following resolutions were agreed:—

5. The General Assembly resolves to and hereby appoints the members for the time being of the Executive Committee of the Synod

of the Southern Province of the U.R.C. as the Trustees of the charities known as (1) Trinity Presbyterian Church of England Church, Clapham, and (2) General Funds of the said Church.

6. The Assembly thanks the office-bearers of the City Temple for the invitation to meet in these buildings in 1976, and resolves to accept the invitation and to meet on Monday, 3rd May 1976 at 6 p.m.

Stewardship On the motion of its Chairman, Mr R. S. Martin, duly seconded, the report of the Inter-departmental Group on Christian Stewardship was received. After discussion the following resolutions were agreed :

1. The Assembly commends to Synods, District Councils, Elders and Church Meetings, the study and implementation of *Christian Stewardship* as a means towards the renewal of our churches and a more responsible use of resources of *People Plant and £££'s*, and asks them to report action taken and future plans to the Secretary of the Stewardship Group by November 30th 1975.

2. The Assembly emphasises that the call to *Christian Stewardship* is a call to local congregations and individual members of the Church to re-examine their *Life-Style*, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to plan realistically the use of all resources committed to them, in the light of continuously changing opportunities.

3. The Assembly recalls the positive lead given by the United Reformed Church towards the visible unity of all Christian people; encourages congregations to pursue ecumenical co-operation locally and to examine the call to *Christian Stewardship* in consultation with neighbouring churches of all denominations.

The Moderators' Report was presented by the Revd Howard Williams.

The Moderator received the Revd Norman Beard, retiring as Moderator of the Yorkshire Province, and expressed to him the thanks of the Assembly.

The sitting was then suspended.

The Assembly resumed its business at 3 p.m.

The Moderator asked for any questions or discussion upon the Moderators' Report; none being forthcoming, the Assembly took note of the Report.

Minutes The Minutes of the First Session were submitted, amended, and approved.

Commission on the Ministry In the absence through illness of the Chairman (Prof W. R. Niblett) the reception of the Report was formally moved by the Clerk, seconded by Dr John Marsh and, upon this being agreed, the Moderator invited the Revd R. O. Latham to present the business. The following resolutions were then adopted :

1. The Assembly welcomes the report of the Commission on the Ministry, accepts its general principles as guidelines for future planning, and requests that the report be considered by the appropriate Assembly Committees, and also by Synods, Districts, Elders and Church Meetings.

On the motion that

The Assembly refers to the Supplementary Ministries Committee of the Church Life Department the recommendation that the ministry of a Diaconate be revived and requests it to prepare plans for the recruitment, training, remuneration and deployment of such a ministry for submission to the next Assembly

Dr N. Goodall, seconded by Dr J. Huxtable moved the deletion of the words after "revived" and the substitution of: "for further consideration in the light of other proposals before the Church". This being carried, the resolution was passed in the following form:

2. The Assembly refers to the Supplementary Ministries Committee of the Church Life Department the recommendation that the ministry of a Diaconate be revived for further consideration in the light of other proposals before the Church.

It was then moved that the Assembly encourages Synods and Districts as they consider the proper deployment of the ministry to develop Team and Group Ministries as defined in the report and to be ready to do this on an ecumenical basis wherever this is possible.

The Revd A. J. Wilkinson, seconded by the Revd M. R. Jackson, moved the substitution of "to" for "as they" in line 1, and the deletion of the words "to develop Team and Group Ministries as defined in the report and". This amendment was lost.

A further amendment moved by the Revd George Hooper to substitute "outlined" for "defined" was accepted by Mr Latham, and agreed. The resolution was then passed as follows:

3. The Assembly encourages Synods and Districts as they consider the proper deployment of the ministry to develop Team and Group Ministries as outlined in the report and to be ready to do this on an ecumenical basis wherever this is possible.

The following resolutions were then put to the Assembly and carried:

4. The Assembly gives general approval to the types of training set out in the report and calls upon the Ministerial Training Committee in consultation with the Colleges to keep curricula under review so that these courses can be constantly adapted to equip men and women for the service of the Church and society, and asks that special attention be given to the detailed implementation of Course 3 which is intended to replace the existing Roll of Ministers course. It also recommends the Ministerial Training Committee to set up a working party to study experimental methods of training in use throughout the world.

5. The Assembly acknowledges the decision of the Governors of New College as a courageous and realistic act, expresses its gratitude for all that the College has contributed to the life of the churches and expresses the hope that as many as possible of the resources arising from the closure may be made available to support the training of students for the ministry of the U.R.C.

6. The Assembly continues to recognise the courses provided at Queen's, Birmingham, Swansea and Bala Bangor for the training of U.R.C. ministers and asks that provision be made through the Unified Appeal to finance students taking such courses where grants or other support is not available or adequate.

7. The Assembly gladly notes that the contribution of Mansfield College, Oxford to the training facilities of the U.R.C. will remain open to suitable graduate candidates.

The remanent resolutions were deferred to Wednesday morning.

The sitting resumed at 6 p.m.

Missionaries on Furlough and Deputies from Other Churches were introduced to the Moderator by the Revd B. M. Pratt, Chairman of the World Church & Mission Department:

Churches of Christ: The Revd David Thompson

Other Churches: The Revd & Mrs Fred Kaan—W.A.R.C.
The Revd & Mrs Lars Lindberg—Swedish Mission Covenant Church
M. le Pasteur & Mm. Robert Steward—Reformed Church of France
The Revd R. S. Roxburgh—Presbyterian Church of New Zealand
The Revd Elias Mashava—Tsonga Presbyterian Church
The Revd Ernest Dawe—Church of the Palatinate

Missionaries on leave: The Revd Frank Balchin—Singapore
Miss Pat Martin—Botswana
The Revd & Mrs John Muir—Zambia
Miss Alvinza Riddoch—Taiwan
Miss Jose Robins—North India

The Moderator welcomed them in the name of the Assembly.

Thereafter the Assembly was led in worship by the Moderator who then re-commissioned to further periods of service The Revd A. L. Macarthur as General Secretary (until 1979); the Revd R. O. Latham as Secretary of the Church Life Department (for 5 years); the Revd D. G. Stewart as Moderator of the North West Province (for 5 years); The Revd R. W. Hugh Jones as Moderator of the West Midland Province (for 3 years); and the Revd C. A. Haig as Moderator of the South West Province (for 2 years to his retirement on 30th September 1977).

Corresponding Members At the invitation of the Moderator, the Assembly was addressed by The Rt Revd G. T. Lundie, M.A., LL.B., D.D., Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Mr William L. McVey, President-Elect of The Congregational Union of Scotland; The Revd Glaslyn D. Bowen, Clerk of the English Association, The Presbyterian Church of Wales; and Mr W. Emrys Evans, The Union of Welsh Independents.

At the invitation of the Assembly, Mr Peter Cutts and the Revd Caryl Micklem introduced to the Assembly *NEW CHURCH PRAISE*, and on behalf of the Committee presented a copy of the new hymnbook to the Moderator. Led by a Choir, the Assembly joined in singing hymns from the collection.

At the conclusion the Moderator thanked those who had compiled the book and those who had introduced its contents to the Assembly.

The session of the Assembly was closed with the **Benediction**.

WEDNESDAY, 7th MAY 1975

THIRD SESSION

The General Assembly again convened and was led in worship by the Revd K. Chegwin.

Commission on the Ministry The Assembly then resumed consideration of the resolutions of the Commission on the Ministry. The following resolutions were adopted:

8. The Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Commission that the Congregational College, Manchester, and Westminster/Cheshunt continue as major training centres for the U.R.C.

9. The Assembly asks that the relationship between the U.R.C. and the governors of the Congregational College, Manchester, in control, staffing and curriculum be considered, on the initiative of the Ministerial Training Committee with a view to a closer involvement of the Church in these matters.

10. The Assembly welcomes the proposal that the staff and facilities of Westminster/Cheshunt be used to co-ordinate the In-Service and Lay Training work of the Church as a whole and asks that the Church Life Department should consult with the Joint Teaching Staff in the development of an overall programme, the Department to report progress to the next Assembly.

11. The Assembly resolves that, subject to these considerations and save for some financial crisis, this arrangement regarding the two Colleges shall remain undisturbed for a period of 5 years but that in 1980 the Assembly shall arrange for a special review of its working and for a report to the Assembly of 1981.

12. The Assembly refers to the Churches' Unity Commission the recommendation that consideration be given to the planning for ecumenical theological education in England and Wales.

It was then moved that the Assembly supports the Commission in its view that the U.R.C. will require and should endeavour to maintain up to 1,000 ministers and urges the Church at all levels and through its total membership to commend the ministry as a vocation to all fit persons willing and able to offer themselves for it.

An amendment moved by the Revd D. A. Pratt and seconded by the Revd D. McIlhagga was carried, and the substantive motion adopted as follows:

13. The Assembly supports the Commission in its view that the U.R.C. will require and should endeavour to maintain up to 1,000 ministers, and to this end asks the appropriate Committee to mount a recruitment campaign which will advise the Church at all levels on ways of commending the ministry as a vocation to all fit persons willing and able to offer themselves for it.

The following resolutions were then adopted :

14. The Assembly urges the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to make greater provision within its total budget for the payment of ministers engaged on behalf of the U.R.C. in chaplaincies, ecumenical experiments and other situations where there is at first no local church to support them.

15. The Assembly requests that each Province appoint an officer for In-Service Training and another for Lay Training.

16. The Assembly, whilst recognizing the financial problems facing the Church, requests the Unified Appeal Committee to consider increasing its appeal to the churches to include provision for a Central Training Fund.

17. The Assembly welcomes the proposals regarding Theological Teachers, that provision should be made for them to have sabbatical leave from time to time to attend academic consultations and where essential for help with the publication of their writings. The Assembly refers these proposals to the Ministerial Training Committee for consideration and report.

18. The Assembly discharges the Commission with thanks and lays upon the continuing committees of the Church the further application and exploration of the proposals and considerations set out in the report.

The Moderator thanked the Revd R. O. Latham for speaking to the Report and resolutions.

Church and Society Department The Assembly then proceeded to the consideration of the Report of the Church and Society Department, which was presented by the Chairman the Revd J. Johansen-Berg. On his motion, seconded by the Revd E. Francis Jones, the report was received.

At the invitation of the Moderator the Secretary of the Department, the Revd John Reardon, addressed the Assembly on the current world background of the Foodshare Campaign and on the 1% Appeal.

After general discussion of matters in the Report, the Chairman replied, and the following resolution was adopted :

1. The Assembly recommends congregations and District to play their part in the development and use of local radio stations and draws to the attention of congregations the availability of study boxes to aid training in radio and television techniques.

The Revd J. Johansen-Berg then moved a further resolution to which the Revd Margaret Forrester, on behalf of the Southern Synod, moved an addendum which was duly seconded and accepted by the Assembly, the resolution was then passed as follows :

2. The Assembly, in the light of the present world food crisis, calls on:

- (i) **all congregations and Districts to give urgent attention to the crisis by supporting the Foodshare Campaign, through study and practical and political action;**
- (ii) **all citizens to examine their life-style in the context of a world in which there are gross inequalities between rich and poor;**
- (iii) **Her Majesty's Government to implement the proposals set out in the Foodshare Manifesto;**
- (iv) **the Church & Society Committee to consult with appropriate bodies in the other Churches with a view to the organisation of a National Day of Prayer and Fasting as one response to the World Food Crisis.**

3. The Assembly asks that all churches will study the consultative document on world development to be circulated in the June Information Service with a view to sending comments to the Church and Society Department by the end of October 1975.

The Chairman then moved resolution 4 as follows:

The Assembly records its gratitude to those church leaders whose initiative led to a ceasefire in Ireland and prays that this may pave the way for negotiations which result in a lasting peace through just solutions.

The Revd M. Hubbard, seconded by Dr John Marsh, moved as an amendment the deletion of all words after "Ireland" and substitution of the following:

". . . , trusts that the Constitutional Convention now assembling may be able to offer a way forward for all the people of Northern Ireland, and commends to the U.R.C. the report of the Consultation recently held between the representatives of the member Churches of the ICC-BCC.

The Assembly asks all local churches and all members of the U.R.C. to continue in prayer for the Churches and people of Ireland."

This was agreed, and the resolution was adopted as follows:

4. The Assembly records its gratitude to those church leaders whose initiative led to a ceasefire in Ireland, trusts that the Constitutional Convention now assembling may be able to offer a way forward for all the people of Northern Ireland, and commends to the U.R.C. the report of the Consultation recently held between the representatives of the member Churches of the ICC—BCC.

The Assembly asks all local churches and all members of the U.R.C. to continue in prayer for the Churches and people of Ireland.

The following resolutions were then moved by the Chairman and agreed:

5. The Assembly expresses its prayers and concern for fellow Christians in South Korea, commends the courage of the 59th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of South Korea in its prophetic Declaration, and hopes that there may be a speedy

restoration of human rights in South Korea, including the release of imprisoned church workers and others.

6. The Assembly urges H.M. Government to intercede with the Government of the Republic of South Korea on behalf of imprisoned church workers.

Mrs. R. Cowhig then moved the following resolution :

This Assembly, seeing the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa as one of the great forward movements of our time, urges all Christian people

(1) to do everything possible to support efforts to make sanctions against Rhodesia effective, including financial support for African nations who will suffer economically ;

(2) to continue efforts to increase people's awareness of the continued imprisonment of the African leaders in S.Africa, and to press for white emigration thereto to be actively discouraged.

The motion was duly seconded. On the grounds that the Assembly had had insufficient notice, the Revd Dr K. Slack moved that "The question be not put". This was seconded by the Revd N. Birnie and on being put to the vote this motion was carried, and the Assembly passed from the matter.

Assembly Membership and Related Matters The Assembly proceeded to consideration of the Report of the Special Committee on Assembly Membership and Related Matters.

On the motion of Sir Harold Banwell, Chairman, the report was received and the following resolutions adopted :

1. The Assembly confirms its decision of 1974 and amends the Scheme of Union as follows:

- (i) "9 (3) (a) All ministers, deaconesses, registered local pastors engaged directly in the service of the U.R.C. within that District."
- (ii) "9 (3) (e) Such members of local churches normally elders not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the District Council.
- (iii) "9 (4) (a) All ministers, deaconesses, registered local pastors being members of District Councils within the Province.
- (iv) "9 (4) (f) Such members of local churches normally elders not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the Synod.
- (v) It further agrees that Clause 9 (4) (e) shall be deleted.

2. The Assembly authorises the submission of the amendments to the Scheme of Union set out in para. 11 of the report of the committee to District Councils and Provincial Synods with a view to their subsequent adoption by the Assembly.

3. The Assembly encourages Synods, pending the further discussion of these, to exercise their powers under Para. 9 (4) (xiv) in the light of these proposals.

4. The Assembly in discharging the Committee authorises Sir Harold Banwell in consultation with the General Secretary to complete the preparation of the revisions to the Manual so far required, and to arrange for their issue in a convenient form.

Applications The Assembly then agreed to give consideration to the Report of the Applications Committee, which was submitted by the Revd Harold Springbett. On his motion, seconded by Prof J. E. Fenn, the report was received and the following resolutions adopted:

1. The Assembly receives Cold East, Devon; Yarm Road Memorial Church, Stockton; Panshanger United Church, Welwyn Garden City, and Brill, Buckinghamshire, as local churches of the United Reformed Church.

2. The Assembly grants the application of the church at Bishops Itchington to secede from the United Reformed Church, and agrees to support an application to the Charity Commissioners for a scheme to administer the property thereof for the benefit of the local church.

3. The Assembly approves the terms of the proposed Mutual Eligibility Agreement between the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, and subject to its acceptance by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland undertakes to regulate the transfer of ministers in accordance with it.

Ministers Emeriti Assembly then took up consideration of the resolution from the Synod of Merseyside Province which was moved by the Revd Brian Eyles, as follows:

The Assembly refers the proposal to give full voting rights to Ministers Emeriti to the Executive Committee, authorising it, if it deems fit, to proceed towards the consequent necessary alteration to the Scheme of Union.

It was moved as an amendment by the Revd J. K. Ramage, seconded by Dr John Marsh, that the reference to the Executive be deleted. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost. The original motion was then put to the vote and carried.

The Assembly then adjourned.

The Assembly resumed its business at 3 p.m.

The minutes of the Second Session were amended and approved.

At this point the Revd Dr K. Slack, with the permission of the Moderator, moved:

"The Assembly directs that only documents authorised by the Clerk of the Assembly be distributed within the Assembly meeting place."

This was seconded and agreed.

Finance & Administration Department The report of the Finance & Administration Department was presented by the Chairman, Mr L. R. Palmer. On his motion, seconded by the Revd John White, the report was received.

The Revd John White moved the following resolution:

1. The Assembly resolves:

that with effect from 1st July 1975 the minimum rate of stipend payable to a minister in full charge shall be:

£1,750 per annum for the first ten years of service;

£1,800 per annum for the next ten years;

£1,850 per annum after twenty years.

The Revd P. E. McIntosh, seconded by the Revd M. Playdon moved as an amendment:

The Assembly resolves that with effect from 1st July 1975 the minimum rate of stipend payable to a minister in full charge *and Scope (W) pastorate* shall be increased by 10% from the figures payable as from 1st January 1975.

After discussion the Revd Charles Haig moved that "the Question be now put; this was carried. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost, and the resolution adopted.

The following resolution, duly moved and seconded, was agreed:

2. The Assembly resolves:

(i) that Rule 2 (1) of the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund be amended accordingly:

(ii) that with effect from 1st July 1975 an additional contribution be required from each congregation or joint pastorate belonging to the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund. This contribution will be based on the congregational income for the penultimate year—from which income shall be excluded for the purpose of such calculation amounts received as legacies, gifts in lieu of legacies, amounts spent on repairs and redecoration of church, church hall and manse, and contributions to the Fund in excess of the highest basic stipend. In the six months from 1st July 1975—31st December 1975 this additional contribution shall be 2p per pound of such congregational income, payable in two instalments along with the quarterly assessment due as at 30th September 1975 and 31st December 1975.

(iii) that with effect from 1st January 1976, in any period before the introduction of the new Unified Scheme of Ministerial Remuneration, there shall be an additional contribution from each congregation or joint pastorate belonging to the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund, this additional contribution being at the rate of 0.5p per pound of such congregational income per month for each month from 1st January 1976 until the Unified Scheme is brought into operation.

By permission of the Assembly, the figure for Scope OV maximum was amended from that of £1,000 in the printed report to £1,250 and the resolution adopted as follows:

3. The Assembly resolves:

that with effect from 1st July 1975 the minimum rates of stipend payable to a minister in a Scope (W) pastorate shall be:

£1,650 per annum during the first ten years of ministerial service;

£1,700 per annum during the next ten years of ministerial service;

£1,750 per annum after twenty years of ministerial service.

and the Scope OV maximum shall be £1,250 per annum from 1st July 1975.

The Revd J. White, Chairman of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, then moved the following resolutions which were agreed:

4. The Assembly resolves that with effect from 1st July 1975 the salary scale for deaconesses shall be:

during the first 10 years of service £1,500

during the second 10 years £1,550

after 20 years £1,600

5. The Assembly resolves that grants from the fund of the former Congregational Church to retired list B Evangelists shall be paid at the same rates which apply to grants from the Pastors' Super-annuation Fund, and gifts from the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund of the former Congregational Church to widows of list B Evangelists shall be paid at the rates which apply to grants from the Pastors' Widows' Fund.

6. The Assembly resolves that for the year 1st July 1975—30th June 1976 the scale of Children's Allowances and the regulations of the Congregational Maintenance of Ministry Scheme as regards 'Other Earnings Deductable', definitions of 'scope' and 'pastoral expenses' and 'car Schemes in Group Pastorates' shall remain as for the year 1st July 1974—30th June 1975.

7. The Assembly resolves that in the year 1st July 1975 to 30th June 1976 the allocation from the Congregational Maintenance of the Ministry Fund to the support of the ministry in Other Situations be £8,000.

8. The Assembly resolves that in each specialised ministry assisted by the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund of the former Congregational Church, the maximum initial charge on the Fund shall not normally exceed one half of the basic minimum stipend for up to ten years of service.

9. The Assembly resolves that for the purposes of the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund the basic minimum stipend for the year 1975—1976 shall be £1,750.

10. The Assembly resolves that in regard to

- (i) the Congregational Pastors' Superannuation Fund, for the year beginning 1st July 1975 the income limit shall be £1,215.00**
- (ii) the Congregational Pastors' Widows' Fund, for the year beginning 1st July 1975 the income limit shall be £792.50.**

The Chairman then moved the following resolution:

11. The Assembly approves the Unified Scheme of Ministerial Remuneration (as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report) and instructs the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to bring it into operation as soon as possible.

After general discussion of the Unified Scheme, the Revd C. Haig, seconded by Mr W. F. Hunt, moved the addition of the following words to Section 4 (c) of Appendix 1 : Unified Scheme for Ministerial Remuneration ; as referred to in the resolution :

“which shall be reimbursed by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee. The amount payable as stipend shall be reduced accordingly”.

On assurances given by the Secretary of the F. & A. Department, the amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Revd A. J. G. Walker then moved the following amendment in the name of the Yorkshire Synod :

The Assembly receives the Unified Scheme of Ministerial Remuneration (as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report) and gives general approval. It sends the Scheme to Synods, District Councils and local churches for discussion and report before 1st January 1976.

The Assembly authorizes the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to bring the Scheme into operation as soon as possible thereafter, provided that a majority of Synods and District Councils are in favour.

The Assembly instructs District Councils to seek the views of the local churches within the District before reaching their judgement.

The amendment was seconded by the Revd G. Tillison.

The Assembly then adjourned for an hour.

On resuming, the Clerk gave a summary of the business of the Report and Resolutions to this point in the Agenda.

After further discussion, the amendment was defeated, and the original resolution was put and carried by a substantial majority.

The following resolution was then moved and seconded, and agreed :

12. The Assembly authorises the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to obtain all necessary statistics, financial details and information required from local churches, group pastorates and other situations to be included in the Unified Scheme.

By leave of Assembly the order of presentation of the remaining resolutions was altered.

The Revd R. T. Brooks, Chairman of the Publications and Publicity Committee then moved the following resolution, which was agreed :

- 13. The Assembly agrees that the continuation of Reform is important to the life and witness of the United Reformed Church and commends the promotion campaign to help to ensure its continuance and urges all local churches and members to support it.**

The Chairman of the Unified Appeal Committee, Mr G. Vaughan Davies, moved the following resolution :

- 14. The Assembly (in view of the anticipated shortfall in 1975 owing to the even higher level of continuing inflation) appeals to local churches to make every effort to improve, if possible, on the 1975 targets, and suggests as a guideline a 10% increase.**

This was agreed

On the motion of Mr L. R. Palmer the following resolution was adopted :

- 15. The Assembly approves the estimate of expenditure for 1976 submitted by the Finance & Administration Department and asks the churches to base their contributions to the Unified Appeal on a 20% increase over the targets set for 1974.**

On the motion of Mr M. Kirby, Chairman of the Legal & Trust Committee, the Assembly resolved :

- 16. that the Legal and Trust Committee be dissolved and be replaced by a Legal Advisory Panel to be convened by the General Secretary as and when occasion should require and to comprise in the first instance such of the present members of the Committee as are willing to serve.**

Mr. L. R. Palmer then moved as an additional resolution :

- 17. The Assembly notes the position in regard to the Housing of ministers in retirement and of ministers' widows, and in particular of the place of Fen Place within that general scheme, and authorises the Executive Committee, on the advice of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, to take such action as shall be deemed appropriate for the continuance or disposal of Fen Place as may be in the best interests of those retired ministers (and widows of ministers) concerned, and in the working out of that overall policy.**

This was spoken to by the Revd E. W. Todd, Secretary of the Department, and on being put to the vote, was agreed by the Assembly.

The Chairman of the Department then presented the following report of the Chief Accountant, Mr P. A. Thorne, together with the consequent resolution :

It is much regretted that due mainly to staffing difficulties it has not been possible to complete the preparation of the Accounts of all the Funds of the United Reformed Church for 1974 in time for presentation to the General Assembly.

The preparation of the accounts and the identification of movements between all Funds is a complex matter and involves much detailed work. However, this is now nearing finality and the annual audit has been progressing alongside the preparation of the accounts.

Members may be assured that the accountability of the funds is in no way in question and we are in a position to say that Income and Expenditure conform reasonably to expectations.

The 1974 Unified Appeal budgeted target of £474,500 has been achieved, including the target of £284,000 for Overseas Missions.

The Maintenance of the Ministry Fund will show a surplus of Income to be carried forward.

All Dividends, Interest and Grant receipts were up to expectations but, as expected, budgeted activity costs will show an approximate increase of 10% due solely to the effects of inflation.

The accounts of all Funds will be completed and certified in time to be printed with the Minutes of Assembly and in time for consideration at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 5th June 1975.

This statement has been prepared in consultation and agreement with the auditors.

P. A. Thorne
Chief Accountant.

Resolution :

- 18. The Assembly notes the statement made by the Chief Accountant about the accounts for 1974 and authorises the Executive Committee to receive and adopt the Accounts on its behalf.**

The resolution was carried.

- 19. The Assembly, upon the motion of Mr Palmer, placed on record its appreciation to Mr K. W. Thorndyke for the services he has rendered as Chairman of the Treasurership Committee since 5th October 1972.**

Consideration of the remaining resolutions of the F. & A. Department was deferred to the following session.

The Assembly then adjourned to meet again in the same place at 9.45 a.m. the next morning for ordinary business, and the session was closed with the Benediction.

THURSDAY, 8th MAY 1975

FOURTH SESSION

The General Assembly again convened and was led in worship by the Revd K. Chegwin, Moderator's Chaplain.

Finance & Administration Department The Assembly resumed consideration of the remanent business of the F. & A. Department.

On the motion of the Chairman of the Department, seconded by the Revd A. L. Macarthur, the following resolution was carried :

20. **The Assembly, in pursuance of the policy already approved in regard to investment in South Africa, resolved and agreed that the United Reformed Church shall as an experiment work in this regard through "Christian Concern for Southern Africa", and authorised the expenditure of not more than £400 in the course of the ensuing twelve months, and asks for a report on its operation to be given to the next Assembly.**

On the motion of the Revd R. G. Walker, the following resolutions were carried :

21. **The Assembly noted with pleasure the appointment of the Property Consultant on the lines set out in Appendix 3 to the Report.**
22. **The Assembly placed on record its appreciation to Mr W. G. Nutley for the service he has rendered as Secretary of the Committee since 5th October 1972.**

The Revd C. A. Haig, seconded by the Revd J. W. P. Williamson, moved the following resolution :

23. (a) **The Assembly welcomes H.M. Government's intention to end speculation in land values by the introduction of the Community Land Bill, but points out that the formula of "current use value" when applied to church buildings used for religious, educational and social purposes, would make it impossible for the churches to realize their redundant properties in such manner as to enable them to continue their contribution to the religious and social life of the community in new towns, housing estates and re-developed urban areas, and therefore the Assembly calls upon H.M. Government to amend the Bill to take into account the special responsibilities of the churches.**

The Assembly authorised the Clerk to send this resolution to the Prime Minister and other appropriate Ministers and to draw it to the attention of members of both Houses who have connections with the U.R. Church.

(b) **The Assembly calls upon all church members to study the implications of the Bill and urges them to represent to their M.Ps. and to the general public the serious consequences for all the Churches if the Bill becomes law in its present form.**

It was moved by the Clerk, seconded by the Revd P. S. Chesney, that, in view of pressing needs of the Assembly timetable, the question be now put. This was agreed. The resolution of Mr Haig and Mr Williamson was therefore put to the vote, and was agreed.

Church Life Department The Assembly called for the Report of the Church Life Department which was submitted by the Chairman, the Revd Dr Kenneth Slack.

The Chairman drew attention to the correction, printed on page 5 of the Daily Proceedings, to clause 5 on page 54 of the printed Reports, namely :

- “5. Candidates shall be required during their course to spend a total of at least three months working under the supervision of a minister in a local church as requested by the appropriate committee of the Synod, and further that the candidate shall attend an appropriate short course arranged by one of the Theological Colleges, or by the secretary of the Ministerial Training Committee.

It is also strongly recommended that candidates shall spend one term in residence at one of the recognized theological colleges either during the course, or on the completion of it, preferably prior to ordination”.

On his motion the Report was received.

The following resolutions were adopted :

- 1. The Assembly welcomes the publication of New Church Praise and commends it for use throughout the Church.**
- 2. The Assembly sets on record its appreciation of the industry and consecrated skill of the members of the New Church Praise Committee, congratulates them on the results of their work and discharges the Committee with thanks for its completed labours. This was passed by acclamation.**
- 3. The Assembly requests every District Council to appoint a children’s work and a Christian education secretary (or a secretary combining the functions of both), and to ensure that the work of the secretary(ies) is facilitated and supported by the Council.**
- 4. The Assembly requests District Councils to commend “Equipped to Teach” to the churches and to make the equipping of leaders and helpers in children’s groups a high priority activity.**

The Chairman then moved the following resolution :

- 5. The Assembly agrees to welcome the publication of the first year’s volumes of the new Partners in Learning courses, recommends the principles on which they are based and encourages their advocacy in the churches.**

At his request the Revd Donald Hilton introduced the resolution. After discussion the Assembly agreed to adopt the resolution.

Thereafter, on the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was carried :

- 6. The Assembly affirmed its support for the Christian Education Movement and sends its good wishes to the Movement at the beginning of its second decade of service.**

The Revd K. Cranston, retiring Chairman of the Youth Committee, was invited to address the Assembly. On behalf of the Assembly the Moderator then received him and expressed thanks for his service to the Youth of the Church.

The Chairman then moved the following resolution, which was agreed:

- 7. The Assembly notes the concern of the Assembly of Youth that all local churches should recognise their responsibility to cater for the needs of young people in their neighbourhood and asks that Church Meetings will give consideration to this matter in the near future.**

At this point Miss Kay Salvage, newly commissioned Deaconess, was received by the Moderator.

The Assembly then adjourned.

The Assembly resumed its business at 3 p.m.

Church Life Department (Continued)

The Chairman moved the following resolution:

The Assembly agrees that District Councils be asked to consider the activities available for young people in their District, to encourage the setting up of one or more District Youth Forums and the appointment of delegates to the Assembly of Youth, January 23—24, 1976.

An amendment standing in the names of Mr P. J. Bush and Paul Breeze was accepted by the Chairman on behalf of the Department, and by the Assembly, and the resolution adopted in the following terms:

- 8. The Assembly agrees that District Councils and Provincial Synods be asked to consider as a matter of vital urgency the activities available for young people in their district to encourage the setting up of one or more District Youth Forums and the appointment of Delegates to the Assembly of Youth, January 23-24, 1976.**

At the request of the Chairman, Mr Phil Baker was invited to address the Assembly on the "Time for God" scheme.

Thereafter, on the motion of Dr Kenneth Slack, the Assembly noted with pleasure the development of the "Time for God" scheme and asks churches in suitable situations to consider offering placement opportunities to volunteers under the scheme.

Dr Slack moved a further resolution prefaced with the words 'The Assembly noted with interest.'

On the motion of Richard Wells, duly seconded, this preface was amended and the resolution adopted thus:

- 9. The Assembly enthusiastically welcomed the Assembly of Youth's desire for the provision of opportunities for the deepening of spiritual life and for spiritual renewal in the Church and authorises the Youth Committee to consult with other appropriate Committees in its attempt to respond to this request.**

This resolution was passed with acclamation.

The Chairman then moved the following resolutions which were adopted :

10. **The Assembly welcomed the proposal to have a national youth project commencing in the autumn of 1975 on the theme "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites", encourages District Youth Forums and Youth Committees to set up Youth Worship Teams to lead worship based on this theme and asks local churches to invite them to conduct services.**
11. **The Assembly agrees that the regulations governing the Roll of Ministers examinations be approved.**
12. **The Assembly agrees that Bala Bangor College be one of the recognised Colleges for the training of ministers for the United Reformed Church.**
13. **The Assembly urges local churches to inform themselves more fully about the healing ministry of the Church and consider how they may better exercise this ministry.**
14. **The Assembly agrees that Ministers and Church Secretaries be urged to forward to the Church Life Department the name and college addresses (or, if not known, details of the college, course and home address) of students, nurses, etc. commencing studies at any Higher Education Establishment, by September 15th each year.**
15. **The Assembly agrees that four representatives of the United Reformed Church and of the Cheshunt College Governors should continue to be elected annually by each of those bodies to form a Joint Committee, to be available to negotiate as and when necessary any matters concerning the future relationships of the colleges, and the resolution of any problems or difficulties which may arise.**

There followed general questions and discussion on matters in the Report not specifically covered by any resolution. The Moderator thanked the Chairman and staff of the Department for the preparation and presentation of the Report.

Minutes The minutes of the Third Session were approved.

World Church and Mission Department The Assembly then called for the Report of the World Church and Mission Department, which was submitted by the Chairman of the Department, the Revd B. M. Pratt. On his motion, seconded by the Revd Professor Martin H. Cressey, the report was received.

The Chairman then moved the following resolution, which was carried :

1. **The Assembly urges Synods, District Councils and local churches to consider the preconditions for effective evangelism, to experiment, together with those of other churches, in seeking ways of renewal along the lines suggested in the report of the Missionary and Ecumenical Work At Home Committee, and to communicate to the Committee questions and insights on which Assembly guidance might be helpful.**

The Assembly adjourned until 6 p.m.

On resumption, the following resolutions were moved by the Chairman and adopted :

- 2. The Assembly authorises the World Church and Mission Department to invite the other Departments to appoint representatives to work with the Missionary and Ecumenical Work at Home Committee in its further study of evangelism.**
- 3. The Assembly commends to Synods, District Councils and local churches and to appropriate Assembly Committees the Theses for discussion on Mission in Rural Areas presented by the Missionary and Ecumenical Work At Home Committee, and the report, when published, of the inter-church working party on ecumenical work in rural areas.**
- 4. The Assembly, expressing its continuing support of the Conference of European Churches, sends greetings and good wishes to the General Secretary, the Revd Glen Garfield Williams and commends the work of the Conference to the interest and prayers of its councils and churches.**

The Chairman then presented to the Moderator the Revd Harry Daniel, Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia. At the Moderator's invitation Mr Daniel, and thereafter the Revd Bernard Thorogood and the Revd Boris Anderson each addressed the Assembly.

The Chairman then moved on behalf of the Department.

- 5. The Assembly welcomes the steps taken by the CWM Board to consider proposals put forward at the Singapore Consultation regarding the future form and scope of CWM. The Assembly supports the five principles agreed by the Board as a basis for future developments:—**
 - (i) to enable the associated churches which so desire to share fully and responsibly in the work of the Council**
 - (ii) to assist the United Kingdom churches to see themselves more clearly as within a mission situation where others can help**
 - (iii) to maintain the links of affection and respect that have been created through the missionary movement**
 - (iv) to encourage regional decision making, and**
 - (v) to continue the one great missionary purpose of CWM and its predecessors.**

The Assembly notes that it is hoped to have firm proposals ready by the end of 1975 for discussion by the Constituent Bodies.

After full discussion the resolution was carried without any contrary vote.

On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolutions were adopted :

- 6. The Assembly agrees that the Revd R. H. Lewis continue as the Church's consultant on Jewish affairs for a further three year period, June 1975 to June 1978.**

The Assembly adjourned, to meet again in the same place at 9.45 a.m. next morning, and the Session closed with the singing of a hymn and the Benediction.

FRIDAY, 9th MAY 1975

FIFTH SESSION

The General Assembly again convened with worship conducted by the Moderator's Chaplain.

Thereafter, at the invitation of the Moderator, the Rt Revd G. A. Wood, Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, brought to the Assembly the greetings of his Church.

Churches of Christ The Assembly called for the report of the Joint Committee for negotiations between Churches of Christ and the United Reformed Church, which was submitted by the Revd Dr Norman Goodall. On his motion, seconded by the Revd Dr John Huxtable, the report was received and the following resolutions adopted:

- 1. The Assembly records its satisfaction that the reports received from the Provinces and Districts concerning the future relationships of the United Reformed Church and the Churches of Christ, while making it clear that several issues require to be further resolved before a decision to unite can be taken, indicate a clear will to proceed towards such a union and a present will to seek closer relationships. It therefore requests its constituent Councils, local churches, officers and committees to seek to build up such relationships in every way possible. It invites the appropriate bodies of the Churches of Christ/United Reformed Church to consider with them how such a progress of closer work can be achieved over the period while formal discussion of steps to union is going forward, and authorises the Executive Committee to consider, and, if so advised, to implement proposals to this end.**
- 2. The Assembly welcomes the further elucidation of the proposals for the coming together of the Churches of Christ and the United Reformed Church provided by the Interim Report for 1975, and invites comments from Provinces and Districts and the Doctrine & Worship Committee on the issues raised. It also encourages the Joint Committee to prepare in detail the revisions of the URC Scheme of Union which such coming together would require, in the light of the responses to this Report. It hopes such a Revised Scheme of Union, together with an outline of the process to be followed, may be ready for submission to the Assembly and Conference of 1976, so that if they prove acceptable they might subsequently be considered by the appropriate councils of the two Churches.**

In the course of discussion it was urged that District Councils should ensure that discussion of the issues should take place in local churches and that their comments should be incorporated in the reports of the District Councils to the Joint Committee.

Nominations On the motion of the Revd A. J. G. Walker, Chairman, the Assembly received the report of the Nominations Committee and made the appointments for the year 1975–76 as set out in Appendix I.

The following resolutions were also adopted :

- 1. The Assembly asks District Councils and Synods to submit, through the Provincial Moderators, the names of members of the United Reformed Church who might be invited to serve on Committees of the Assembly.**
- 2. The Assembly notes that the present term of service of the Moderator of the Thames North Province is due to expire in 1976 and authorises the Nominations Committee to appoint ten members of the Executive Committee to form, with ten persons appointed on behalf of the Thames North Province, a committee to review the appointment.**

Synod Resolutions The Assembly turned to the consideration of resolutions from Synods. The Revd A. J. G. Walker, Synod Clerk, moved on behalf of the Yorkshire Synod :

The Assembly notes that, prior to the formation of the United Reformed Church, churches belonging to its two constituent traditions followed differing practices with regard to the selection of ministers to fill vacant pastorates. The Assembly also notes that the absence of any clear, agreed statement of procedure in this matter in the United Reformed Church is leading to uncertainty and confusion, and instructs the Executive Committee to submit for the judgment of the next General Assembly a statement of the methods and procedures which shall be available to pastorates seeking a minister.

On being seconded and put to the vote this was carried.

On behalf of the West Midlands Province, the Revd Frank Brown, duly seconded, moved as follows :

The Assembly asks the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to consider the establishment of a procedure by which on the initiation of a District Council or a Provincial Moderator, and with the approval of the Provincial Synod, the Committee may allow the placing of a minister on full minimum stipend in a place not normally regarded as full time provided there are suitable safeguards.

On being put to the vote this was lost.

Mr R. A. Heritage, Synod Clerk, moved, and it was seconded, that :

The Assembly instructs the appropriate Committee to consider the statement made at Inductions and Ordinations, Schedule D, with a view to producing a shorter and clearer statement.

This motion was defeated.

On behalf of the Eastern Synod the Revd E. F. Jones, seconded by the Revd Frank Jones, moved :

"In the light of great changes in the economic climate during the last two years, of the possible reduction in the number of ministers and of the considerable expenditure in time and money operating both District Councils and Synods, the General Assembly take steps to examine the present Scheme of Union in the light of experience with a view to promoting greater economy, efficiency and spiritual effectiveness".

This was carried and on the motion of the Clerk it was agreed that it be remitted to the Executive Committee to appoint a suitable group to carry out this examination and to report to a subsequent Assembly.

The Revd A. G. Burnham moved, and Dr Hunter seconded, a motion on behalf of the North Western Synod :

"Recognising the importance of a strong vigorous and efficient central administration for our denomination, nonetheless in order to exercise a proper stewardship of our present resources, and in view of the present financial situation, the General Assembly appoints an appropriate body to examine the work being done by the Central Departments of the United Reformed Church to see if reduction in expenditure can be beneficially effected".

It having been pointed out that such a review was already in process the motion was put to the vote, and was lost.

Thanks The Revd A. J. G. Walker moved a resolution of thanks in the following terms :

The Assembly records its thanks to all who have contributed to its harmonious and efficient working. It expresses its particular thanks to the elders and members of the City Temple for the use of these buildings, to those who have provided hospitality for members of the Assembly, to Mrs Gwynne Jones and all who have helped to cater for the Assembly's refreshment. The Assembly thanks the Chairman and Secretary of the Business Committee and the office staff for the arrangements made to assist its work, the organists, the Moderator's Chaplain, and the Moderator, Clerk, and Assistant Clerk, for the helpful manner in which they have discharged their duties.

This was passed with acclamation.

Minutes The minutes of the previous day's session, together with those of this session were submitted and approved.

Closure The Assembly having thus in the good providence of God brought its business to completion, and having agreed to meet again at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 3rd 1976, in the City Temple, or at such other time and place as may be duly agreed, it was closed by an act of worship led by the Revd K. Chegwin, Moderator's Chaplain.

George B. Caird Moderator

Arthur L. Macarthur Clerk

APPENDIX I

DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES

Tellers for the Election of Moderator of the General Assembly 1977–1978.

Mr T. S. Byatt, Mrs E. Speedyman, Mr K. W. Thorndyke

NOTE: The Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretaries are members ex officio of every Standing Committee. The Departmental Chairmen and Secretaries are members ex officio of each Committee within their respective Departments. The Secretary of the Finance and Administration Department is a member ex officio of every Committee which has funds.

CHURCH LIFE DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Revd Dr K. Slack—1980

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Provincial Representatives:

I	Revd D. W. Elliott	VII	Revd N. Hall
II	Revd R. W. Courtney	VIII	Revd S. Atkins
III	Mrs A. Cooper	IX	Revd J. G. Thornton
IV	Revd G. Tillison	X	Miss S. Fairbairn
V	Mr E. G. Leigh Brown	XI	Revd R. F. Clark
VI	Revd J. E. Fenn	XII	Revd C. K. Forecast

together with the Chairmen of the Committees within the Department, Mrs R. Goodfellow and the Revds Dr L. C. Green and R. E. Taylor.

Members under 25: Mr B. Acty and Mr I. Ring.

The President and the Treasurer of the former Presbyterian Women's Home Church Association serve as consultants for three years from the date of union.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING

Chairman: Revd J. I. Evans—1977

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

Mrs J. Boulind	Revd P. C. Jupp	Revd B. G. Thorogood
Revd C. J. Buckingham	Mr H. H. Morris	Revd F. R. Tomes
Revd R. J. Hall	Revd J. E. Newport	Professor J. R. Wilkie
Revd K. M. Hendry	Revd Margaret Taylor	

together with the Principals of the recognised Colleges in Bangor, Cambridge, London, Manchester, Oxford and Swansea.

Panel for Assessment Conferences

Mrs Margaret Chesney	Revd Prof J. H. E. Hull	Mr J. Simmonds
Mrs Ruth Clarke	Revd H. A. Jacquet	Mrs E. M. Steel
Revd G. J. Cook	Revd D. McIlhagga	Dr D. A. Sykes
Revd J. I. Evans	Revd Barbara Meachin	Revd I. Thomas
Revd A. Frost	Revd J. E. Newport	Revd E. W. Todd
Mrs R. Goodfellow	Mr R. Norris	Revd G. Williams
Mrs Gwen Hall	Mrs Beti Onions	Revd T. R. Willis
Revd Kathleen Hendry	Mr. C. Porteous	Revd C. Wilton
Mrs Mary Herbert	Revd K. Sainsbury	Mr D. Thacker
Revd M. F. Hubbard	Revd R. K. Scopes	Mrs P. E. P. Sessions

together with the General Secretary and the Provincial Moderators.

Westminster/Cheshunt Committee

Revd Professor R. Buick Knox	Revd Principal A. G. MacLeod
Revd A. L. Macarthur	Revd J. I. Evans

together with four appointed by the Governors of Cheshunt College

Board of Studies (Westminster/Cheshunt)

Revd D. W. Ager (Sec—1981)	Mr J. M. Ross	Dr D. A. Sykes
Revd J. E. Fenn	Dr Graham Stanton	Revd D. Holt Roberts
Revd W. N. Leak	Revd H. M. Springbett	(Chairman—1979)

together with the College Staff and four appointed by the Governors of Cheshunt College.

Nominations to Teaching Staff (Westminster/Cheshunt)

Chairman: Revd J. I. Evans

Secretary: Revd R. O. Latham

Principal, Westminster College (Revd A. G. MacLeod)
President, Cheshunt College (Revd J. E. Newport)
The Rt Revd Principal G. B. Caird
Professor J. R. Wilkie
Revd K. M. Hendry

SUPPLEMENTARY MINISTRIES

Chairman: Revd J. W. P. Williamson—1979

Secretary: Revd F. R. Tomes—1977

Mr W. Atherton	Revd B. W. Kirk
Revd M. G. Dunford	Miss A. M. Mortimer
Mr Philip Jones	Revd R. Royston-Bishop
Dr R. D. Jurd	Mrs O. Russell

DOCTRINE AND WORSHIP

Chairman: Revd Dr J. Huxtable—1980

Secretary: Revd D. McIlhagga—1977

Revd D. C. M. Gardner	Mr J. M. Ross	Revd Janet Webber
Revd T. C. Micklem	Revd Dr S. H. Russell	Revd Professor W. A.
Revd Dr J. Ivor Morgans	Revd H. M. Springbett	Whitehouse
Revd Joan Peters	Revd Dr J. Heywood	Revd Dr B. A. Wren
	Thomas	2 vacancies

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chairman: Revd C. C. Franks—1979

Secretary: The Christian Education Consultant

Mrs R. Goodfellow	Revd J. E. Mather	Revd A. D. Trinder
Miss N. A. E. Hibbert	Revd Dr S. H. Mayor	Revd R. J. Way
Revd D. Jenkins	Mrs B. Onions	Revd M. D. Whitehorn

YOUTH WORK

Chairman Revd J. E. Mather—1981

Secretary: The Youth Secretary

Revd Gillian Bobbett	Revd C. K. Forecast	Revd W. J. Taylor
Mr W. E. Burton	Mrs D. McIlhagga	Miss R. V. Tully
Revd E. F. Cattermole	Revd A. K. McNicol	Revd Duncan Wilson
Mr B. Cox	Miss K. Pugh	

Members under 25

Mr B. Acty	Mr M. Evans	Mr I. Ring
Mr K. Armstrong	Mr P. Lambdin	Miss S. Stevenson
Mr P. Baker	Mr D. Latham	Mr B. Vardy
Miss C. DuFresnoy	Mr H. Lowry	Miss N. W. Williams

CHILDREN'S WORK

Chairman: Revd D. H. Hilton—1977

Secretary: The Christian Education Consultant

Miss M. Burnie	Revd P. E. McIntosh	Revd J. D. Waller
Miss M. Goodwin	Revd D. A. Pratt	Mr C. Webb
Miss D. K. Jones	Mrs M. Richmond	Mrs D. Wilton

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Revd B. M. Pratt—1979

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Provincial Representatives:

I Revd R. R. Bance	VII Miss E. Paterson
II Revd T. A. Chadwick	VIII Revd Jessie Halfpenny
III Mrs R. M. Smith	IX Revd R. D. C. Cole
IV Revd D. M. Main	X Miss D. J. Biggs
V Mrs J. Webb	XI Mrs H. W. P. Richards
VI Revd E. E. B. Cruchley	XII Revd T. Glyndwr Jones

together with the Chairmen of Committees within the Department and the Revd Dr N. Goodall, Mrs A. G. MacLeod, Mr N. W. Pratten and Mrs E. Steel.

The President and the Treasurer of the former Presbyterian Women's Missionary Association serve as consultants for 3 years from the date of union.

MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK AT HOME

Chairman: Revd Professor M. H. Cressey—1978

Secretary: The General Secretary

Revd D. J. D. Baker	Mr C. W. Hamilton	Miss P. F. Parrish
Revd G. E. Beck	Revd S. B. Harris	Mrs E. M. Steel
Revd P. S. Chesney	Revd G. Hewitt	Revd R. Whitehead
Revd D. P. C. Geddes	Revd Dr J. Huxtable	

MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK ABROAD

Chairman: Mr J. E. M. Gilbey—1979

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

Revd R. R. Bance
Mrs M. O. Berridge
Miss D. J. Biggs
Miss V. A. Collins

Revd T. Glyndwr Jones
Revd Doris Leyshon
Mr F. P. Long
Revd A. Porter

Revd B. Tettey
Revd S. M. Thornton
Revd S. Wilton

MISSION AND OTHER FAITHS

Chairman: Revd Principal A. G. MacLeod—1977

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

Revd F. H. Brown
Mrs O. Darke
Mr B. Evans

Revd Florence Frost-Mee
Revd Professor J. H. Hick
Revd H. A. Jacquet

Revd R. H. Lewis
Revd R. L. Richards
Revd Iorwerth Thomas

with power to co-opt.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Revd J. Johansen-Berg—1979

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Provincial Representatives:

I Revd R. G. Bell
II Revd A. Hodgson
III Revd H. Gordon
IV Revd A. J. Addy
V Revd M. S. Leah
VI Mrs J. Loveitt

VII Mr C. George
VIII Revd N. Charlton
IX Revd A. A. Tomlinson
X Revd D. E. Phipps Jones
XI Revd D. Forrester
XII Revd J. C. Evans

together with Mr P. J. Bunker, Mr R. Clark, the Revd D. V. Clarke, Mr Robin Hine, the Revd E. F. Jones, Dr Alwin Latham, Professor R. W. Steel, Revd R. F. Taylor, and the Revd Dr B. A. Wren.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Mr L. R. Palmer—1979 (Honorary Treasurer of the Church)

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Provincial Representatives:

I Mrs M. L. Franks
II Mr G. Butterworth
III Mr R. L. Twemlow
IV Mr J. E. M. Gilbey
V Mr F. Cooper Watson
VI Mr H. E. Greening

VII Mr M. Foster Taylor
VIII Mr W. F. Hunt
IX Mr R. E. Harding
X Mr R. S. Martin
XI Mrs C. M. Dickerson
XII Miss M. Jones

together with the Chairmen of the Committees within the Department and Sir Sydney Caffyn.

TREASURERSHIP

Chairman: Mr J. E. Hooper—1981

Secretary: Mr P. A. Thorne

Mr F. H. Bennett	Mr J. A. Cumming	Mr L. Macro
Mr F. H. Brooman	Mrs M. Dickerson	Mr K. W. Thorndyke
Mr G. Burwood	Mr J. D. Green	Sir Alan Wilson
Sir Sydney Caffyn	Mr T. W. Macdonald	

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY

Chairman: Revd J. White—1977

Secretary: The Departmental Secretary

Mr F. H. Bennett	Mr J. R. Gow	Revd D. U. Pattinson
Miss D. J. Biggs	Mr K. L. G. Hales	Revd T. Russell
Mr A. S. Chapman	Revd V. N. Lewis	Revd W. J. Samuel
Mrs G. Evans	Mr G. McOnie	Mr A. D. Thomas
Mr J. E. M. Gilbey	Revd R. Parker	1 vacancy

WELFARE AND EMERGENCIES

Chairman: Mr R. J. S. Green—1977

Secretary: The General Secretary

Revd J. Hislop	Mrs J. Selwyn Roberts	Mr G. H. Taylor
Mr K. E. G. Paddon	Revd B. Reita Searle	

UNIFIED APPEAL

Chairman: Mr G. Vaughan Davies—1979

Secretary: Mr J. W. Paterson—1977

Mrs M. Byatt	Revd L. A. Fleming	Revd W. S. Minnis
Mr A. S. Chapman	Mr R. E. Harding	Mrs E. Speedyman
Revd F. G. Wilson Dennett	Revd S. O. Jones	Mrs M. Wildgoose
Mr M. B. S. Emlyn		

DEVELOPMENT IN NEW AREAS AND CARE OF EXISTING CHURCH BUILDINGS

Chairman: Revd R. G. Walker—1979

Secretary:

Revd R. Andrews	Revd W. Hicks	Mr M. Foster Taylor
Revd J. L. Armour	Mr R. N. Houston	Revd H. Wickham
Mr F. Cooper-Watson	Mrs J. Johansen-Berg	Revd J. H. Williams
	Revd A. C. Mellor	

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

Chairman: Revd R. T. Brooks—1977

Secretary: Mr Percy W. Bush

Revd D. W. Ager	Revd Dr Robert Duce	Mr A. Scholey
Revd E. A. Banyard	Revd T. C. Micklem	Mr T. Ian M. Smith
Mr R. Caffyn	Mrs P. Pavitt	Revd D. Wensley
Revd T. A. Chadwick	Mrs M. Schofield	

together with the Departmental Secretaries of the four Departments ex officiiis.

Editorial Advisory Board

Revd W. N. Leak and Mr Christopher Driver—1976
Revd Daphne Hull and Revd E. A. Banyard—1977
Revd T. C. Micklem (Chairman) and Miss D. J. Biggs—1978

OTHER COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE

Chairman: The Moderator of the General Assembly

Four representatives from each Province, including the Moderators, and two persons appointed by each of the four Departments (other than the Chairmen and Secretaries).

Members ex officio. The Moderator of the Assembly, the Moderator-Elect, the immediate past Moderator, the Clerk and General Secretary, the Assistant Clerk, the Treasurer, the Legal Advisers, the Chairmen of the Business, Applications and Nominations Committees, the Chairmen and Secretaries of the four Departments, the Secretary of the Nominations and Business Committees.

BUSINESS

Chairman: Sir Harold Banwell—1976 *Chairman-elect:* Revd J. E. Young

Secretary: The Administrative Secretary

together with the Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the immediate past Moderator, the Clerk and General Secretary, the Assistant Clerk, the Treasurer, the Chairmen of the four Departments and the Chairmen of the Nominations and Applications Committees.

APPLICATIONS

Chairman: Revd H. M. Springbett—1979

Secretary: The General Secretary

together with the Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the immediate past Moderator, the Legal Advisers, and the Chairman of the Applications Committee of each Province (or his deputy).

NOMINATIONS

Chairman: Revd A. J. G. Walker—1979

Secretary: The Administrative Secretary

together with the Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the immediate past Moderator, the Clerk and General Secretary, the Chairmen of the four Departments, and the Provincial Moderators and one other representative from each Synod.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Revd Dr N. Goodall

Revd Dr J. Huxtable

Revd A. L. Macarthur

Revd Prof M. H. Cressey

Revd B. M. Pratt

Revd Dr K. Slack

Revd Dorothy Havergal-Shaw

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ON OTHER BODIES

I. CHURCH BODIES

British Council of Churches

Dr C. Binfield, The Revds Professor M. H. Cressey, D. P. C. Geddes, Dr J. Huxtable, B. M. Pratt and J. P. Reardon (The Revd A. L. Macarthur is a member *ex officio*)

Social Responsibility Industrial Advisory Group: The Revds J. P. Reardon, R. F. Taylor
Community and Race Relations Unit—Churches Consultative Group: The Revd J. P. Reardon
British Churches Housing Trust: Mr M. Foster Taylor, Mr C. Bacon
Churches' Group on Ministry to Children: The Revds J. M. Sutcliffe, D. A. Pratt
Theological Advisory Group: The Revd P. Lee-Woolf
Interchange Committee: The Revd S. S. T. Evans, Miss D. J. Biggs
Christian Aid Scholarships Committee: The Revd P. C. Jupp
Women's Inter-Church Consultative Committee: Mrs B. M. Pratt, Mrs. P. S. Chesney
Consultative Committee for Local Ecumenical Projects in England: The Revds P. S. Chesney,
Rt Revd A. L. Macarthur

(Appointed by the British Council of Churches on the nomination of the U.R.C.):

Divisions:

Ecumenical Affairs: The Revds Professor M. H. Cressey, M. J. Davies, A. L. Macarthur
Community Affairs: The Revd J. Johansen-Berg, Mr. Raymond Clarke, Dr C. Binfield
International Affairs: The Revds B. Anderson, J. P. Reardon)

Free Church Federal Council

The representatives to the British Council of Churches (above) together with the Revd P. S. Chesney, Mrs R. Goodfellow, the Revd A. L. Macarthur, Mrs J. T. Morgan, the Revd R. H. Norman, Mrs M. Webb

Chaplaincy Board: The Revds H. A. Jacquet, L. A. Stringer
Education Committee: The Revds Aubrey D. Lewis and J. M. Sutcliffe
Joint Education Policy Committee: The Revd M. D. Whitehorn
Committee on Ecumenical Experiments: The Revds Dr J. Huxtable and John White

Churches' Unity Commission

Revds Prof M. H. Cressey, C. A. Haig, A. L. Macarthur, Dr K. Slack, Mrs E. M. Steel

World Alliance of Reformed Churches—British Churches Committee

Mrs M. O. Berridge, the Revd Professor M. H. Cressey, the Revds D. P. C. Geddes, R. Whitehead
(Alternates: The Revd B. Anderson, the Revd A. L. Macarthur, the Revd Principal A. G. MacLeod)

World Council of Churches—Faith and Order Commission

The Revd P. Lee-Woolf and Mr. J. M. Ross

II. OTHER COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund: Mr F. J. Braybrooks (Trustee); Mr L. Macro (Hon. Treasurer);
the Revd F. W. Bell, Mrs E. Salisbury
Boys Brigade URC Council of Companies: Revd M. J. Davies (1 vacancy)
British Lessons Council: The Revds E. S. Allen, D. H. Hilton, D. A. Pratt, J. M. Sutcliffe
Church Hymnary Trust: Mr J. McVitie, Mr. A. G. Wilson
Churches Council on Gambling: The Revds J. P. Reardon, A. Whillis
Churches' Main Committee: Mr P. A. Simpson, Mr M. Foster Taylor, the Revd E. W. Todd
Churches' Advisory Panel of the Boys' Brigade: The Revd M. J. Davies
Churches' Council for Health and Healing: The Revds S. V. Evans, A. Whillis
Girl Guides' Religious Advisory Panel: The Revd Gillian Bobbett
Inter-Church Drama Consultative Group—"Radius": Miss S. Fairbairn
International Consultation on English Texts: The Revd D. McIlhagga

Joint Committee on the New English Bible: The Revd Professor J. C. O'Neill (Alternate: The Revd R. K. Scopes)

Joint Editorial Board "Partners in Learning": The Revd J. M. Sutcliffe

Joint Liturgical Group: The Revds R. A. Davies, D. McIlhagga

National Christian Education Council: The Revds D. H. Hilton, J. M. Sutcliffe

National Council of Social Service: The Revd J. P. Reardon

Scouts' Religious Advisory Board: The Revd K. Faulkner, Mr D. M. Jones

Scout and Guide Fellowship (U.R.C.): The Revd M. J. Davies

Society for the Ministry of Women: The Revd Barbara Meachin

Temperance Council of the Christian Churches: The Revds M. D. Whitehorn, J. P. Reardon, Dr S. C. Orchard, H. A. Jacquet

Union of Welsh Independents Council: The Revds T. Glyndwr Jones, W. G. Hughes-Edwards

United Navy, Army and Air Force Board: The Revds L. K. Darbyshire, Dr J. Huxtable, E. W. Todd, J. H. Manson

United Reformed Church History Society: The Revds A. L. Macarthur, J. E. Newport, E. W. Todd, R. Tomes

Wharton Trust: Mr A. G. Esslemont, the Revd R. Tomes

Widows' Fund of the Three Denominations: The Revd R. J. Hall, Mr L. Macro, The Revds L. A. Stringer, E. W. Todd

Women's World Day of Prayer Committee: Mrs A. Whillis

III. COLLEGE AND SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND COUNCILS

Bala, Bangor:

Bishop's Stortford College: Mr. D. A. Lundie

Caterham School, Board of Governors: The Revd T. Perry, Mr G. R. Mallett (Hon Treasurer)

Cheshunt College, Cambridge: The Revd C. J. Buckingham, Mr S. H. Burns

Congregational College, Manchester: The Revd R. O. Latham, The Revd W. N. Leak

Homerton College, Cambridge, Trustees: Mrs J. Boulind, the Revd C. J. Buckingham, The Revd A. J. Coates, Mr F. F. C. Edmonds, The Revd J. E. Newport, Mrs H. S. Stanley, The Revd R. E. Taylor, Dr R. Watson

Mansfield College, Oxford: Mr J. Cumber, The Revd Dr N. Goodall, Dr D. Harrison, The Revds R. W. H. Jones, J. P. Lee-Woolf, Mr P. Spicer

Milton Mount College (5 Governors): Mr P. J. Bunker, Mr J. D. Green, Mrs O. K. Stanley, Mr G. H. Taylor, Miss Ruth Thompson

Queen's College, Birmingham: The Revd Dr N. Goodall (Governor), The Revd R. O. Latham (Governor and member of Council)

St. Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak: The Revd B. Anderson, Miss V. A. Collins, The Revd F. R. Tomes

Silcoates School, Governor: Professor J. R. Wilkie

Springhill College Endowment (Mansfield College): Mr F. H. Bennett, The Revd W. W. Biggs, Mr K. Corley, Mr R. A. Heritage, The Revd M. F. Hubbard, The Revd R. W. H. Jones

Swansea College: Mrs J. T. Morgan

Tettenhall College, Governors: Mr F. H. Bennett, Revd J. C. Campbell, Dr J. F. Galloway, Mr A. Stephens

Westhill College of Education Council: The Revd W. J. Coggan (Governor), Mr J. Payne (Governor and Trustee), The Revd Professor J. E. Fenn (Governor), The Revd K. Cranston (Governor and Trustee)

IV. COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

Revd R. H. McMurray Adam
Revd B. Anderson
Revd R. R. Bance
Revd E. A. Banyard
Revd J. N. Beard
Revd R. A. H. Bocking
Revd G. P. Breeze
Mr R. L. Broughton
Mr T. B. Chirside
Revd A. J. Coates
Revd R. D. Cole
Miss V. A. Collins
Mrs R. Cowhig
Mr A. J. Curry
Revd B. Dawson
Mrs R. E. Fenn
Mr J. E. M. Gilbey
Revd A. F. Griffiths
Mr P. C. Grimble
Revd C. A. Haig
Revd Jessie Halfpenny
Revd R. J. Hall
Mr R. E. Harding
Mrs J. Houston

Revd Dr J. Huxtable
Mrs J. Irvine
Revd E. M. Jeremiah
Mrs Alison Johnson
Revd T. Glyndwr Jones
Revd P. S. King
Revd R. O. Latham
Revd Doris Leyshon
Mr P. Long
Mrs C. Lewis
Mrs M. MacLeod
Revd C. K. Meachin
Revd D. C. Morgan
Revd B. M. Pratt
Revd W. E. Peters
Revd C. E. C. Richards
Revd J. R. Shad
Mrs E. M. Steel
Revd E. W. Todd
Mrs J. Webb
Mrs M. Wildgoose
Revd D. Wiseman
Revd R. Williams
2 vacancies

APPENDIX II

The United Reformed Church

Minutes of the Executive Committee

At LONDON and within 86 Tavistock Place WC1H9RT on 6th March 1975 the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted with prayer; the Moderator, the Rt. Revd. A. L. Macarthur, presiding.

Sederunt There were also 38 members present.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 21 members.

Minutes Minutes of the meeting on 16th January 1975 being in the hands of members were confirmed and signed (with the addition to item (iii) – Moderator's Advisory Committee, of the following :

"It was further agreed that with new appointments the new Moderator should be inducted to office by a Commission of Assembly in his own Province").

The Clerk intimated that attention had been drawn to an omission from the Minutes of October 1974 relating to appointments "Chairman of Doctrine & Worship Committee – Dr. John Huxtable", and it was agreed to incorporate this in the minutes of the present meeting.

ASSEMBLY MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- (a) The Moderator reported that Miss Una Brown and Dr K. B. Everard had spent more time in the office but wished still to interview him. They had indicated the lines of the report and it was agreed that this should when received be presented to the Moderator's Advisory Committee and discussed with members of the staff. Our gratitude must be recorded to Miss Brown and Dr Everard for their labours on our behalf.
- (b) Assembly 1976: In regard to the venue of the 1976 Assembly, while no definite invitation had been received, two Provinces were examining the possibility; it was agreed to remit consideration of the matter to the Business Committee so that a recommendation might be brought to the Assembly.
- (c) Stewardship Group: The Revd C. K. Meachin reported that the revised report of the Stewardship Group would be incorporated in the book of reports for presentation to the Assembly.
- (d) Executive Economies: The Committee had had under consideration the need for effecting economies, but felt that it would be undesirable to reduce the size of the Executive Committee. It recommended, however, that only three meetings in the year be held, in (say) July and November 1975 and February 1976; this was agreed, and it was left to the officers of the Assembly to fix the exact dates in consultation with the Provincial Moderators and any other people who might be affected. The dates previously agreed were therefore cancelled (see Minutes of June 1974).

SYNOD MATTERS

Northern Province. On the motion of the Clerk it was agreed to grant the request of the Northern Synod that the name of the Teesside and North Riding District Council be changed to the Teesside District Council.

Durham and Northumberland County Union Inc. It was further agreed on the motion of the Clerk to appoint four additional directors for the Durham and Northumberland County Union Incorporated, viz: Messrs D. Aynsley, T. Ellison and W. Robertson, and Mrs J. Tomlin, in terms of Clause 7 (2) of the United Reformed Church Act 1972.

Warwickshire Congregational Union Inc. It was also agreed, on the motion of the Clerk, in terms of the above mentioned Clause, to appoint additional directors for the Warwickshire Congregational Union Incorporated as follows: Messrs T. J. Barbour, F. A. Chant, H. Greening and D. Simister, and the Revd Donald Howell.

It was further agreed, on the request of the Province of Wales and on the motion of the Clerk that there should be twelve directors for each of the following: the South Wales Congregational Trust, the Monmouthshire Congregational Trust, and the English Congregational Union of North Wales Incorporated; and that they should be in each case: the Revds W. J. Samuel and Windsor Hicks, Mr T. M. H. Hawkins, the Revd C. Smith Draper, Mr J. Ernest Judd, the Revd H. John Lewis, Mr J. Howard Jenkins, the Revd W. Mansel Davies, Mr Norman Baker, the Revd Alan D. Trinder and Mr Leslie Taylor – with at present one vacancy.

Finally, on behalf of the East Midland Province, Mr K. W. Thorndyke moved that in view of the nature and size of the new city being developed at Milton Keynes, the Executive Committee asks the Committees on Development in New Areas & Care of Existing Church Buildings and on Missionary & Ecumenical Work At Home (or, in the case of urgency, their officers) each to appoint two representatives to consult with representatives of the East Midlands Province regarding the appropriate participation of the United Reformed Church in this development, and this was agreed.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Finance and Administration Department On behalf of the Finance & Administration Department the Revd E. W. Todd intimated for the information of members that a proposal was being taken to the Central Committee that the allowance in respect of travel during the Assembly from the place where a member stays to the City Temple and back should be increased from £1 per night to £1.20p.

He further outlined the proposals in the Government White Paper "Land" and pointed out the very serious consequences for the Churches, as the 'use value' of a church is negligible. He informed the Committee of the action already taken by the Churches Main Committee and of further action proposed. It was essential that Churches should make their protest to local Members of Parliament and in any other possible way. After questions and discussion it was moved, seconded and agreed that this Executive welcomes the action already taken through the Churches Main Committee, supports the further action proposed and resolves to

further that action within the URC by communicating with all our churches informing them of the effect of existing and impending legislation, unless changes are made, upon the resources of the Church as a whole, as represented by church buildings and premises which may no longer be required in their present position, and the limiting effects such legislation may have upon the ability of the Church to meet changing demands at local level, and urging the churches to communicate with their Members of Parliament and express concern at the possible effect of the legislation.

Mr Todd also intimated the latest developments in regard to Ministers of Religion and the Social Security Benefits and Contributions.

Mr Percy Bush spoke concerning a paper circulated to members regarding the promotion of "Reform" as an important source of information about and means of involvement in the life of the Church and its work at home and overseas. Full discussion followed, not only in regard to sales promotion but also as to the content of "Reform". It appeared that members in general supported the paper; it was felt that it would be useful to consider the whole question of communicating with members of the churches at a later meeting.

Irish Consultation The Clerk spoke concerning a proposed consultation to take place in Northern Ireland in April – a consultation between member churches of the BCC and the Irish Council. We were invited to send two representatives, and owing to the generous responses from Charitable Trusts, the cost had been reduced to £60 per head. On his motion it was agreed to appoint two representatives, and to ask the Nominations Committee to bring forward names.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Nominations Committee the Revd A. J. G. Walker moved that the two representatives to the Irish Consultation be the Rt Revd A. L. Macarthur and the Revd Dr Kenneth Slack, and this was agreed. Mr Walker further moved:

1. That the Commission of Assembly for the induction of a new Provincial Moderator consist of not less than three persons, the Moderator of Assembly to preside (whom failing a past Moderator of Assembly), together with another minister and a lay person. This was agreed.
2. Commission for the Induction of the Yorkshire Moderator: The Moderator of Assembly, the Revd A. L. Macarthur, Mrs S. M. Tull (alternate: the Revd R. W. Hugh Jones). Agreed.
3. Sundry Vacancies (subject to consent) –
 - (a) *Ministerial Training Committee*: The Revd P. C. Jupp, in place of the Revd N. W. Cornford.
 - (b) *Missionary & Ecumenical Work At Home Committee*: The Revd Dr J. Huxtable, in place of the Revd Rachel Storr.
 - (c) *Missionary & Ecumenical Work Abroad Committee*: Miss D. J. Biggs, the Revds B. Tettey and S. Wilton in place of the Revds B. Dawson, Glynmor John and Elfan Rees.
 - (d) *Publications and Publicity Committee*: The Revd T. C. Micklem, in place of the Revd M. F. Hubbard.
 - (e) *CWM Board*: Mrs A. Johnson, in place of the late Revd R. C. Wood.

- (f) *Joint Liturgical Group*: The Revds D. C. M. Gardner and D. McIlhagga, in place of the Revds J. M. Todd and R. A. Davies.
- (g) *International Consultation on English Texts*: The Revds D. McIlhagga, in place of the Revd J. M. Todd.
- Agreed.

4. The Executive Committee resolves that the Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly shall be ex officio a member of the Executive and Business Committees.

Agreed.

In connection with item 1, the Revd R. O. Latham asked whether it would be desirable for the Doctrine & Worship Committee to look at the question of an "Order of Service for the Induction of a Provincial Moderator" or at least certain parts of it, and it was agreed to remit this matter to that Committee.

Kings Weigh House Trustee The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the Kings Weigh House Trustees that the Revd A. L. Macarthur be appointed a Trustee, and on his motion this was agreed.

Report to Assembly It was agreed that the report to the Assembly would consist of the minutes of the Executive, and that in future years it might be desirable to produce a report cutting out non-essential matter.

Next Meeting The date of the next meeting to be notified to members of the Committee at a later date.

Close There being no further business the meeting was closed with the saying of the Grace.

G. H. Banwell, Chairman
A. L. MACARTHUR, Clerk.

APPENDIX III

THE COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Commission was set up at the 1973 Assembly of the United Reformed Church with the following terms of reference:

The Assembly appoints a Commission to explore the forms of ministry needed in the U.R.C. in the foreseeable future; to estimate the number of full time, fully trained ministers required; to suggest the scope and content of the training desired; and in the light of this examination to recommend a policy for the whole Church concerning the use of the existing Colleges and the available financial resources for ministerial training;

—instructs that each of the recognised Colleges be represented on the Commission together with representatives of the Moderators, the four departments, and such others as the Nominations Committee deems necessary;

—authorises the Church Life Department to discuss with the Finance and Administration Department the provision of the necessary funds to be made available to enable the Commission to work speedily and effectively.

The Assembly resolves that the remit of the Commission appointed to explore the forms of ministry needed in the U.R.C. in the foreseeable future shall include all matters related to ministerial remuneration and provision for retirement.

THE COMMISSION

The following members were appointed to serve on the Commission:

Professor W. R. Niblett (Chairman)
Revd R. O. Latham (Secretary)
Revd R. W. S. Kemble

Miss Alison Shrubsole
Mr L. R. Palmer
Mr Mark Williams

College representatives

Revd J. E. Newport
Revd Dr Edgar Jones
Revd Dr G. B. Caird

Revd Dr C. S. Duthie
Prof D. L. Trefer Evans
Revd A. G. MacLeod

Provincial Moderators

Revd V. N. Lewis

Revd W. J. Samuel

Department Representatives

Mrs Gwen Hall
Revd J. I. Evans
Revd E. W. Todd
Revd John White

Revd R. F. Taylor
Prof G. Dimbleby
Revd T. Glyndwr Jones
Revd R. R. Bance

Officers

Revd Dr Kenneth Slack
Revd Arthur Macarthur

Revd Dr John Huxtable

Co-options

Revd B. G. Thorogood (Council for
World Mission)
Revd F. R. Tomes (Supplementary
Ministries)

Mr David Miller
Miss Adrienne Savage

(Theological
Students)

Resolutions

The Assembly passed the following resolutions—

The Assembly:

1. welcomes the report of the Commission on the Ministry, accepts its general principles as guidelines for future planning, and requests that the report be considered by the appropriate Assembly committee, and also by Synods, Districts, Elders and Church Meetings. (Para 1)
2. refers to the Supplementary Ministries Committee of the Church Life Department the recommendation that the ministry of a Diaconate be revived, for further consideration in the light of other proposals before the Church. (Para 20)
3. encourages Synods and Districts as they consider the proper deployment of the ministry to develop Team and Group ministries as outlined in the report and to be ready to do this on an ecumenical basis wherever this is possible. (Para 25)
4. gives general approval to the types of training set out in the report and calls upon the Ministerial Training Committee in consultation with the Colleges to keep curricula under review so that these courses can be constantly adapted to equip men for the service of the Church and society, and asks that special attention be given to the detailed implementation of Course 3 which is intended to replace the existing Roll of Ministers course. It also recommends the Ministerial Training Committee to set up a working party to study experiential methods of training in use throughout the world. (Para 35)
5. acknowledges the decision of the Governors of New College as a courageous and realistic act, expresses its gratitude for all that the College has contributed to the life of the churches and expresses the hope that as many as possible of the resources arising from the closure may be made available to support the training of students for the ministry of the U.R.C. (Para 47)
6. continues to recognise the courses provided at Queen's, Birmingham, Swansea and Bala Bangor for the training of U.R.C. ministers and asks that provision be made through the Unified Appeal to finance students taking such courses where grants or other support is not available or adequate. (Para 48)
7. gladly notes that the contribution of Mansfield College, Oxford to the training facilities of the U.R.C. will remain open to suitable graduate candidates. (Para 48)
8. accepts the recommendation of the Commission that the Congregational College, Manchester and Westminster/Cheshunt continue as major training centres for the U.R.C.
9. asks that the relationship between the U.R.C. and the governors of the Congregational College, Manchester in control, staffing and curriculum be considered, on the initiative of the Ministerial Training Committee with a view to a closer involvement of the Church in these matters. (Para 50)
10. welcomes the proposal that the staff and facilities of Westminster/Cheshunt be used to co-ordinate the In-Service and Lay Training work of the Church as a whole and asks that the Church Life Department should consult with the Joint Teaching Staff in the development of an overall programme, the Department to report progress to the next Assembly. (Para 55)
11. resolves that, subject to these considerations and save for some financial crisis, this arrangement regarding the two Colleges shall remain undisturbed for a period of 5 years but that in 1980 the Assembly shall arrange for a special review of its working and for a report to the Assembly of 1981. (Para 49)
12. refers to the Churches' Unity Commission the recommendation that consideration be given to the planning for ecumenical theological education in England and Wales. (Para 43)

13. supports the Commission in its view that the U.R.C. will require and should endeavour to maintain up to 1,000 ministers and to this end asks the appropriate committee to mount a recruitment campaign which will advise the Church at all levels and through its total membership to commend the ministry as a vocation to all fit persons willing and able to offer themselves for it.
(Para 29 & 63)
14. urges the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to make greater provision within its total budget for the payment of ministers engaged on behalf of the U.R.C. in chaplaincies, ecumenical experiments and other situations where there is at first no local church to support them. (Para 66)
15. requests that each Province appoint an officer for In-Service Training and another for Lay Training. (Para 58)
16. whilst recognising the financial problems facing the Church, requests the Unified Appeal Committee to consider increasing its appeal to the churches to include provision for a Central Training Fund. (Para 59)
17. welcomes the proposals regarding Theological Teachers, that provision should be made for them to have sabbatical leave from time to time, to attend academic consultations, and where essential for help with the publication of their writings. The Assembly refers these proposals to the Ministerial Training Committee for consideration and report. (Para 56)
18. discharges the Commission with thanks and lays upon the continuing committees of the Church the further application and exploration of the proposals and considerations set out in the report.

THE COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

PRELIMINARY

1. We submitted our Interim Report to the Assembly of the United Reformed Church in May 1974 for consideration by the various councils of the Church. We have received many replies and we are grateful for the interest, concern and critical thought given to the matter. We hope that in this Final Report it will be seen that we have taken note of the contributions received and have benefited from them. *(Resolution No. 1)*
2. Our Interim Report was deliberately brief, but it was apparently in parts too short for a proper understanding of some of the issues we sought to raise. In this Final Report, therefore, if we are not so brief, it will be in the attempt to spell out clearly what we have to say to the Church.

Methods of Working

3. The Commission has endeavoured to keep abreast of thought about the nature of the ministry as it has been expressed in reports issued by other churches and is grateful for the help it has received from those responsible for ministerial training in these churches. By correspondence and consultation it has been able to inform itself about the more radical attitudes being adopted in other countries and was especially helped by a visit from the Director of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches.

Some meetings of the Commission have been held in the Theological Colleges and in addition groups have visited each of them to gain direct knowledge of their situation and method of work.

Awareness of the fact that the world is changing in radical ways has been constant and papers on the changing social, international and theological context in which ministry has to be exercised have been carefully studied.

Constraints

4. The Commission has worked under the difficulty and with the opportunity that is the inescapable result of being part of a newly united Church. Because the U.R.C. is busy putting its house in order we have found our concerns overlapping with those of other groups, notably the planning work of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee and the conversations proceeding with the Churches of Christ. In view of the time factors involved it has not been possible to wait until the proposals of these groups could be assimilated. But the Commission has tried to be sensitive to their thinking and we hope that the results of the work of each will make it possible for the Church to make coherent decisions.

The Commission has had to try to look through darkened glass at the economic future and to plan in the face of seemingly unpredictable rates of inflation. It has also been aware that the rapid changes in Universities and other Institutions of Higher Education will affect ministerial training in ways that cannot easily be foreseen.

The direction and rate of progress in ecumenical thought is another of the immeasurables but the Commission has taken very seriously the declaration made by the U.R.C. from its inception that it is in deliberate search for the fuller unity of the Church of God. This must affect the ministry both as regards training and deployment.

Approach

5. The Commission has understood its task as that of reviewing the ministry as it is in the United Reformed Church today, reflecting upon its future and making suggestions about the changes that are required so that the Church may be equipped for its essential mission. Some radical writing might seem to suggest that there will be no ministry before very long. The Commission assumes that the Church gave it this task in the faith that Christ will continue His ministry in and through His Church and the Commission has affirmed this conviction. We have, however, worked with a liberty of understanding about what ministry has been in the long and varied story of the Church and in acute awareness of factors in the present situation of the Church and of the world that require new patterns. We believe that the primary and continuing task of ministry in whatever form is to bring

the Gospel to the Church and to the world. It therefore depends upon God and upon God's activity. Despite the doubts and questions to which every alert mind has been subject in recent years the Commission testifies to its faith in the good news about God which was made known in Jesus Christ and to its conviction that God will find means to make himself known today and tomorrow. All the varieties of ministry which the Church has known have been used and sustained by God for his purpose. We believe that ministry in this wide sense will continue and that the need for it will not grow less.

It would however be a fatal blindness to think that any one type is the once for all and essentially given pattern of the ministry. The ministry as known in the Free Churches of the 19th and early 20th centuries had sociological elements in its character that were appropriate to those times but the nature of life, so far as we can foresee it for the rest of this century, clearly requires new forms of ministry and new modes of church life if modern man is to "hear the Gospel".

Profound changes have already taken place as ministers and churches have reacted to circumstance. We are grateful for the opportunity to reflect more consciously upon the directions of change and while what follows may seem to some unduly conservative we hope it will open up new avenues for exploration by the Church so that it can be the realistic and hopeful servant of God.

Contents

6. The report that follows begins with some assessment of the background against which men and women will minister in years to come, and then in three sections attempts to say what this implies for (a) the general exercise of the ministry in and through the life of the Church; (b) the training of ministers both as regards contents and facilities; (c) the use of our resources both of money and manpower.

Where it is clear that the Church should now decide we submit proposals on which we hope the Assembly will deliberate and come to a conclusion. Where it is apparent that issues need more prolonged discussion, we set these out as more general recommendations, suggesting where that discussion should be carried on and offering such consideration and opinions as we have reached.

7. In the course of our work we have tried to reach as clear and comprehensive an understanding as we can of the situation in which the ministry of the Church has to be exercised. We begin therefore with a description of the situation as we see it, as it affects both the pastoral care of congregations and the influence of the Church on a wider society. At the same time we are conscious that in the United Reformed Church we are committed to certain convictions about the ministry, to which we must continue to bear witness, whatever changes there may be. In the second part of this section of our Report we accordingly draw attention to the important paragraphs on ministry in the Basis of Union (cf: 19-26). We hope that the proposals we go on to make will help the United Reformed Church both to be alive to the present opportunities and to be loyal to its own convictions.

SECTION ONE. THE MINISTRY

The Situation

8. Today is an exceptionally difficult time in which to plan for the future. Uncertainties of all kinds abound. Recent years have seen a marked decline in church membership. Looked at from one point of view this is only part of a massive cultural change in our society. People have moved and continue to move to new areas. Leisure habits have changed. A great variety of cultures and religions are now represented in our society. But the decline is also due to an erosion of faith. People who were formerly nominal Christians no longer have any church allegiance, and no longer recognise a Christian basis to life. The fact, however, that this erosion of faith has been within the church as well as without means that Christians must not take it for granted that they will easily be able to satisfy a new hunger, even if there is again some form of turning to God. The Church's social concern is much more in evidence now than its grappling with questions of faith, and yet such grappling (especially in the form we describe in para 14 below) is indispensable to the Church's witness.

There are also more practical reasons why the churches cannot remain unaffected by change. Inflation already calls for considerably quicker responses to the financial needs of the churches, both national and local, than congregations are used to making. Inflation could become a serious threat to the existence of church buildings and a paid ministry if it leads to serious unemployment and a drop in real incomes. The churches are also among those who need to re-examine their use of scarce resources, particularly in the maintenance of large buildings reserved for worship on one day of the week. Yet the expectation that the sale or redevelopment of sites would release large sums for other purposes can no longer be entertained.

9. Some comments have suggested that we should not undertake any planning until we know the answers to all these questions. We agree that our planning should be sufficiently flexible to allow us to make a quick response to new circumstances, but we cannot agree that we should simply let events take their course without aiming at any goals at all. We see our plans as an attempt to discern what God is doing in our life today and to be obedient to him.
10. Our immediate concern is with the ministry of the Church and particularly with those whom we generally term 'ministers'. (To give an exact definition of a 'minister' we have found to be difficult, for reasons which are given below.) The uncertainties which surround the Church affect ministers especially, because their work and livelihood are so closely bound up with the Church organisation. Any proposals we make and any decisions the Church takes about their recruitment, training, deployment and payment must be seen as attempts to make it possible for them to testify effectively to the 'things which cannot be shaken' in a constantly changing world.
11. The job of a minister would once have been defined as the full time pastoral care of a local congregation, and he would have been wholly supported by the Church (whether locally or nationally). Many of the comments we have received testify to the value that is still seen in this kind of pastoral ministry, and this can be maintained only if men and women are still supported primarily for this task. Nevertheless the definition would now have to be qualified in the light of trends which have become marked since the 1950's. Fewer churches on their own can now offer a minister a satisfying full time job either in their internal life or as a base for mission. In most churches there are fewer services, fewer flourishing organisations, fewer members to visit, and the Church is in touch with a smaller segment of society, so that the Church seems marginal to the life of the community. Some ministers are in charge of more than one church. This gives them more work to do, but it sometimes means a frustrating increase in administrative and other chores. Other ministers spend part of their time in work outside their pastorates. Those who have taken up teaching, welfare work, hospital or industrial chaplaincies have often done this out of a sense of vocation, and they may in this way both keep open their own links with the community and lead their congregations in new kinds of service. Sometimes they have done this to augment an inadequate income. But the kind of oversight which a minister who draws a salary from outside the Church can give, often limited to conducting services on Sunday, is no real substitute for full time pastoral ministry. The Church needs this form of ministry, and as ministers feel that they have been called to it and trained for it, and it is also clear that such a pattern of ministerial service still evokes response among those now offering for the ministry, the Commission believes that the Church must continue to ensure that there is still adequate scope for it and an adequate stipend.
12. We referred to the importance of ecumenical relations in our Interim Report. The replies we have received have encouraged us to think that our Provincial Synods and District Councils want to include the sharing of ministries across denominational boundaries as a major possibility in any redeployment. Inherited denominational divisions have become less and less relevant as the churches have shared in movements of renewal and have confronted opposition and indifference to religion in all its institutional forms. It is not only the proximity of another church of the same denomination that can make a church redundant, but also that of another church of a different denomination. There is rarely a case for building churches in new areas for the use of a single denomination (except where there is a clear agreement with the others), but there is usually a case for ecumenical initiative. Local situations are very varied, but it will often be wiser to form some kind of

ecumenical partnership in a compassable district than to attempt to provide ministry for a scattered URC group. The provisions for designating 'areas of ecumenical experiment' and the Sharing of Church Buildings Act have removed many of the obstacles. Any progress towards further union nationally will only reinforce the need to consider sharing of ministries across denominational boundaries.

13. Decisions about the deployment and training of ministers must not, however, be based only on considerations of support for the local churches but also on the needs of a varied and changing society. The Church is needed to help rekindle a sense of confidence and integrity in social life, which will be a firm base for the making of decisions and the conduct of affairs day by day. To do this it must be much more outgoing than it is at present. It needs on the one hand to be warm and understanding towards the individual, who increasingly feels threatened, and on the other to be sensitive toward the problems and aspirations of the many different groupings in society. As most people are not now within church life, Christians will find more and more that their opportunities of service are away from 'home ground' in their churches. They will be chiefly the opportunities that meet Christians in their secular vocations, but the readiness of lay members to make good use of them will depend very much on the attitude of ministers. We do not favour the idea that the minister looks after the church while lay people witness in the outside world: the minister's priorities have a great influence on those of the congregation. Rather the minister should share in leading the congregation in its corporate witness to society and experiment with his own role as a missionary in the community. This is part of his job.
14. We believe that such engagement in the life of society outside the Church demands a rethinking of the preaching and teaching work that the minister does. It is not enough to expound the Bible or Christian doctrine as if their application were obvious. It is necessary to begin sometimes with the secular issues and try to form a Christian interpretation of them. This in turn calls for a change of emphasis in training, so that the 'systematic' (this is what Christians believe) is supplemented by the 'contextual' (this is what Christianity means in this situation). It will be helpful if the minister has experience of another area of work or training in a discipline other than theology, which will provide breadth of background and help him to interpret a situation. This work of interpretation should preferably be a group process, in which people with different kinds of experience, including some not committed to Christianity, share their knowledge and think things out together. The minister will need to be competent in theological exploration, but he will also need to be able to foster this kind of creative exchange, realising that members of the congregation can make more significant contributions than he can in certain respects, convincing the experts that they have something to learn, and encouraging every member to make his contribution.

Our convictions

15. The proposals which this Commission seeks to put forward should, however, not only show awareness of the present situation in which ministers have to do their work but also be true to our Church's convictions about the nature and purpose of the ministry. Since these have quite recently been expressed in the Scheme of Union, we need to do no more than draw attention to what is said there and make some comments upon it.
16. The ministry with which we are concerned is essentially that which 'the Lord Jesus Christ continues in and through the Church.' Its goals are those which he set by his life and teaching, and are often attained only through sharing in his sufferings. The love of God for the world which his ministry expressed during his lifetime must also be seen in any authentic Christian ministry. Church organisation must serve these ends: it cannot diversify its functions away from them simply to stay in existence, though it must always exercise them in ways relevant to its situation in the world today.
17. The ministry in this sense is not the work of an order set apart in the Church. It must be the work of 'the whole people of God, called and committed to his service and equipped by him for it.' This ministry is of course better known by other names such as 'discipleship' or 'Christian service' and more easily recognised by its component parts ('worship, prayer, proclamation of the Gospel and Christian witness mutual and outgoing care and responsibilityobedient discipleship in the whole of daily life') than in its totality.

Nevertheless it is important that the term 'ministry' should be claimed for the contribution of every member, individually and corporately, and not be regarded as the preserve of either a succession of the ordained or a professional class. This conception that all Christians are 'ministers', and indeed 'priests', is there in the New Testament, was powerfully revived at the Reformation, particularly by Luther, and has never been allowed to be completely forgotten. But it has had to struggle, in Protestantism as well as in Catholicism, against a mystique of the ministry as a class apart, a body of special persons within the Church. We feel that all Christians should realise their responsibility for ministry, and that ministers traditionally so called should know that their proper place is within the total ministry of the Church.

18. The Basis of Union however recognises that there are 'particular ministries' within this total ministry. We might speak of a ministry to the Church as well as of a ministry of the Church. 'The United Reformed Church recognises that Christ gives himself to the Church through Word and Sacrament and through the total caring oversight by which his people grow in faith and love'. While such a ministry is in a measure exercised by congregations corporately, and by all members towards their fellow members, we believe that 'the Lord Jesus Christ calls some of his servants to exercise (particular ministries) in offices duly recognised within His Church.' The Basis of Union singles out as fundamental the offices of minister and elder. The fact that these are mentioned together and that both are set apart by ordination shows that these orders of ministry are not differentiated from 'the whole people of God' by professional qualifications or conditions of service. Whether a person serves full time or not, is supported financially by the Church or not, and is entitled to wear a clerical collar and be called 'Reverend' or not—these are quite secondary matters. God's gifts and calling do not necessarily respect these divisions. And although ministers and elders are called by the Church which recognizes their 'spiritual gifts' to exercise certain broadly defined functions, it does not follow that they will be the only persons to perform those functions. Some of the functions of ministers of the Word and Sacraments are exercised by deaconesses, local pastors, lay preachers, and others appointed to preside at the sacraments. Ministers and elders, however, are called by the Church to 'total caring oversight'. This means that they are given an authority in the Church which others are not given, and that they are under authority in the Church in a way that others are not. The different spheres in which they are called to exercise oversight are what chiefly distinguish them from each other.
19. We hope that the Church's conviction about the role of 'the whole people of God' in ministry will prevent us from entertaining too rigid a notion of the form particular ministries should take. There is nothing in the Scheme of Union which demands that a minister should be in the full time pastoral charge of one church; there is on the other hand a clear recognition that the services of ministers should be available to every local church. The church believes that those who preach regularly in our churches and preside at the sacraments should be people who have been given authority through the District Council; but this does not mean that we are to quench the Spirit when he calls men and women to exercise ministries outside our usual pattern. Above all, the Church should welcome any disturbance of our pattern which leads to a ministry more ecumenical, more open to society and more missionary in outlook.

The Diaconate

20. One particular ministry which requires thought and decision on the part of the Church at the present time is that of the deaconess. At the time of Union, there were eight deaconesses serving, but now there are only six and this number will shortly be reduced to five. The Commission agrees with the Supplementary Ministries Committee that this ministry should not be lost to the Church. Deaconesses are recruited and trained for full time work in leading churches in Christian service to the community rather than in exercising the ministry of Word and Sacraments. They specialise in such work as teacher training, club leadership, community service, community development, or in pioneering new work in unchurched areas, often where there are no buildings. They are appointed for limited periods of service to situations where their work is needed, irrespective of local resources, since they are a charge on the Unified Appeal. Their remuneration is related to that of

ministers. They therefore form a valuable nucleus of people available to serve in the team ministries which we think will be an important element in the future pattern of ministry.

This form of strategic ministry ought not in our judgment to be confined to women. We are in favour of recruiting and training both men and women, of reviving the name 'deacon' to designate all those so appointed. The office would be that of the "diaconate".
(Resolution 2)

Deployment of the Ministry

21. The Basis of Union provides that 'the United Reformed Church shall take steps to ensure that so far as possible ordained ministers of the Word and Sacraments are readily available to every local church.' We believe that this means that there should be a sharing of the ministerial resources available among the Provinces and Districts as well as within Districts.
22. At the 1974 General Assembly, the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee introduced an outline scheme for ministerial remuneration. That scheme also demanded a fairer sharing of the services of ministers in full pastoral charge. All churches which contribute towards the support of the ministry are entitled to share in the services of that ministry.
23. The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee has now put forward the idea of a Deployment Committee appointed by and responsible to the General Assembly, which would in consultations with the Provinces agree on a quota of ministers for each Province. After allowing for the needs of new towns, full time chaplaincies, etc. the Deployment Committee would take into account the other factors relating to the area, e.g. spread of population, ministerial strength of other denominations, lay leadership available.
The Commission welcomes these proposals as an important step towards the fairer sharing of the services of our ministers.
24. The Joint Committee for Negotiations between the Churches of Christ and the United Reformed Church has envisaged a 'general ministry' coupled with a 'local presbyterate'. If the Assembly decides to accept this kind of pattern in principle, whether as part of a union with the Churches of Christ or as desirable in its own right, the Maintenance of the Ministry's scheme would need to be reviewed. But as agreement and implementation would together take a number of years we believe that the present proposals of the Maintenance of the Ministry committee should be implemented without delay.
25. These proposals of the Maintenance of the Ministry committee underline the responsibility of the District Council in its oversight of ministers and local churches, already set out in the Scheme of Union. We do not envisage that any one pattern will become a norm to be slavishly followed in every situation. There will be a great variety of situations to be met and people of very varied gifts to meet them.

We suggest that District Councils consider the following possibilities, which are not mutually exclusive:

- (i) **Ecumenical partnership.** The case for this has already been given in para 12 with some indication of the situations in which it is most appropriate. The possibility should always be considered that some form of ecumenical partnership in an area is best for the Christian witness to the people there. But it is important to have schemes fully agreed between the appropriate denominational authorities concerned so that there are no unnecessary misunderstandings when changes of personnel occur. We welcome the consultations now proceeding within local areas regarding ecumenical experiment, and note that the Churches' Unity Commission is working on the problems which arise in such ecumenical ventures.
- (ii) **Team Ministries.** Team ministries take a great variety of forms, but the common factor is the emphasis on bringing ministers, or ministers and other workers, together because of their complementary gifts. In exceptional cases they might work outside the local church situation altogether. But generally the aim will be, working from a base in one or more local churches, to take or create opportunities for ministers and churches to witness and serve in society. (Examples have been collected in a paper 'Team Ministries' which is available separately). Members of the teams should include those whose responsibility is ministry to the local church, these may be

ministers, local pastors, lay preachers, elders able to exercise oversight over a whole congregation. Lay workers with professional skills may and often should be employed in such teams with support from local authority and urban aid grants (see Appendix E). Deaconesses (Deacons) serving in the U.R.C. have been recruited and trained precisely for such teamwork, and we have already suggested that the Church should recruit and train more people, both men and women, for this type of service.

Such teams derive their strength from the mutual support and continuity of ministry which they make possible. There is a single task and the members of the team need to meet frequently to take decisions and assign individual duties. But one aspect of these advantages is the danger that the team members may become separated from other members of the local churches, a danger which both must recognise and overcome. In particular, the situation created by a vacancy provides the team and the churches with the opportunity to reach a common mind on aims and methods before they issue a call to a new member.

- (iii) **Group Pastorates.** Here a number of local churches are served by one or more ministers. In the paragraphs (i) and (ii) above the emphasis is on bringing together a number of 'people', in this paragraph the emphasis is on bringing together a number of 'churches'. In a 'group pastorate' a number of local churches is served by one or more ministers. Such a pastorate may well exercise a great ministry to the community, but they will be formed in the first instance to provide the churches with ministerial service. The churches concerned need to call others to serve with the ministers, e.g. ministers earning their living in another occupation, local pastors, lay preachers and elders able to exercise oversight over a whole congregation, and to make sure that there is regular consultation among those so called. This is the type of situation for which the Joint U.R.C./Churches of Christ Committee recommends its pattern of 'general' and 'local' ministry.

Wherever possible the churches in a group pastorate should have a unified membership, treasurership and eldership. This not only lessens the administrative burden, but also provides for a mutual confidence and support for both members and ministers.

In some areas of the country the difficulties of transport make group pastorates impracticable. Here Joint pastorates may be the solution, whereby two or more churches share the services of one minister. Again the suggestion of ordaining a 'local' minister for each congregation, who will be supported by a 'general' minister would seem to be a creative modification of the present practice.

- (iv) **Single Pastorates** in which one minister has pastoral charge of one local church. Since the Commission envisages no single norm or pattern of ministry in future, it believes that a local church will have to show special justification for maintaining a single pastorate situation. The justification for retaining this pattern would not be numerical or financial strength alone, but the District Council's conviction of the strategic importance of the particular situation.

(Resolution 3)

Ordination and the Styles of Ministry

26. It is clear that we envisage a varied pattern of ministry within the U.R.C. We would spell this out further. There will be
- full stipendary ministers in charge of a church or churches;
 - part stipendary ministers in part time secular employment and a part time team or group ministry, and
 - non-stipendary ministers in secular employment sharing spare time in a team or group ministry. Should the U.R.C. and the Churches of Christ decide to unite there would be another type of ministry, which would be spare-time, 'local', and not 'general', and non-stipendary.

A variegated ministry will be necessary in order that congregations in many parts of the

country may receive an appropriate nurture to build up their character and faith. The varied styles of preparation for the ministry should not define the category of service whether full time, part-time or spare-time, possible on completion.

27. As regards Ordination, we expect that men and women in all the above categories will be ordained, i.e. called and authorised by the Church to serve the Gospel through the Church in word and sacrament, pastoral care and service.

Recruitment

28. The Church, and each local church, must continually interpret the 'call to the ministry' to each succeeding generation of church members. The leadership of the Church at every level requires a considerable increase in the numbers of theologically trained men and women. It must be taken for granted that some will declare from the beginning their firm intention of earning their living in secular employment, and others will wish to share in a ministry other than that traditionally described as of Word and Sacraments.

The statistics in the table (Appendix B) indicate that in the next ten years if the level of recruitment remains as at present, and retirements, resignations, etc. also remain as at present, there will be an annual loss of about 30 ministers a year. If therefore the U.R.C. is to anticipate maintaining a full time stipendary ministerial complement of about 1,000 ministers, the number of candidates for the ministry must be considerably increased – in fact double that of recent years.

29. We wish to propose a recruitment policy for the U.R.C., based both on the needs and opportunities discussed above in Section One. In view of the low level of recruiting in recent years, it is essential to examine some of the factors which have a strong influence on decisions.

The Commission is aware that many young people are not settled in their personal beliefs and commitment at the time when they have to make choices about a career. This is a significant cause of the reduction in the number of young people under thirty who are coming forward for ordination. The sense of uncertainty about the function of the institutional Church in society, and about the role of the minister, has led to a reluctance on the part of ministers and committed Church members to challenge young people with the prospect of full-time Church service. But uncertainty can mean challenge and excitement which, if effectively communicated, can enthuse young people. The form of the Church of the future will change and to consider entering the ministry in these conditions can only be a commitment to sharing the fundamental struggle for the renewal of the Church for all mankind.

There are of course obvious opportunities today for fulfilling a Christian vocation, broad in vision and service, other than in the ordained ministry. On the other hand, there are few ways of life which are based on such a total demand and response, and we need have no reservations about speaking clearly and personally of the unique vocation provided by the ordained ministry in our times.

Recruitment policy follows from these positive achievement opportunities, and has to be worked out in relation not only to young people but to men and women of all adult age groups. At the same time, however, the crisis of remuneration has to be recognised as a powerful disincentive. In recent years ministerial pay has been at such a low level that there is a proper hesitation on the part of potential candidates, their advisers, families and friends, about the viability of a style of life dependent on minimum stipends. We are now in 1975 in a position to see more clearly than before that the pay of ministers has to be based on a Christian scale of values related to personal needs rather than to a secular scale of rewards for responsibility, qualifications and success. Hence we wish the payment system for ministers to continue on the stipendiary rather than the salaried principle. This, however, has important implications for the way in which individual stipends are calculated in relation to family commitments, housing needs, retirement provisions, personal transport and proper facilities to do the job.

(Resolution 12)

30. The number of University students taking theological and biblical courses, has increased in recent years. There is a strong case to be made out for encouraging those who intend to serve the Church, but have no calling to the pastoral ministry, to take as full a theological

course as possible. In the next two decades the need for far more such theologically aware and articulate lay men and women may well become crucial, both for their own life and vocation and for the witness of the Church to the world.

SECTION TWO

THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES AND THE EDUCATION OF MINISTERS

31. More perhaps than ever before, a theological college must, in the last quarter of the twentieth century, both keep in touch with the outside world and be a powerful spiritual community itself. Its very *raison d'être* is to be a centre of theological study, thought and research. But it needs for the achievement of this aim to be closely associated with a place of learning, normally a university, at which many subjects are studied and – inevitably in our time – studied in a secular and objective way.
32. As all our Colleges are related to Universities they cannot fail to be influenced by trends widespread in higher education generally – trends towards a greater measure of student participation in college government, towards the unit construction of courses, (for example as in the Open University), towards a greater element of inter-disciplinary study and towards mixed halls of residence. They will be more aware of the special problem in our time of communicating one's knowledge, faith and beliefs.
33. If the general direction taken by our Report is a right and acceptable one, the colleges are likely to come to feel more acutely than ever a responsibility for playing their full part in the theological education and preparation of laymen through short courses as well as longer ones.

Qualifications for Admission to Training

34. The Assessment Conference and Provincial Synods of the U.R.C. will continue to be the bodies to approve a ministerial candidate and to make a general judgement about his or her suitability for a course of training of a particular type. The Colleges will continue to determine for each candidate the length, content and level of the course to be taken.

Types of Course

35. The types of course available should include:

Course 1: For those with a degree or diploma in any subject or combination of subjects from a recognised university or polytechnic (or the equivalent of such an award in the form of a professional qualification):
three years of residential study in a theological college, which for many will include study for a theological degree.

Course 2: For those without a diploma or degree, (a) whose age is not less than 21; (b) who have either a qualification for university entrance or can present evidence of ability to cope with sustained study, e.g. through an Open University course, and (c) have not less than three years of full-time employment in a responsible sphere of work;
four years of residential study in a theological college, which for many will include a first theological degree.

Course 3: For those without a diploma or degree (a) whose age is not less than 30; and (b) who have either a minimum of 5 G.C.E. "O" levels passed at sufficient grades or can show evidence of ability to cope with sustained study well beyond "O" level standard:
a College-based course, largely non-residential, which is intended to replace the existing Roll of Ministers course. It should normally consist of four years of study, directed by members of a college staff and would include a residential period in college, preferably one academic year. Candidates who have been awarded the Lay Preachers' Certificate should be credited with one year's study. Due regard to content would be paid to avoid duplication of work already done. The standard of work required in this course would be brought as close as possible to that in Courses 1 and 2.

Course 4: Candidates over the age of 55 would be considered individually but would normally be expected to complete a special extra-mural course, including one year's residence in College.

(Resolution 4)

36. (i) The possibility should be explored by which a number of colleges could be associated with others, not all of them theological colleges, and should enter suitable students for a 2-year Diploma of Higher Education course validated by a University or the C.N.A.A. (Council for National Academic Awards). Such students would need an entry qualification of two 'A' levels or its equivalent. In the Diploma a variety of subjects would be available from which the student would choose three or four, not all taken to the same standard. Those offered might include Religious Studies, Ethics, Philosophy, Ancient Languages, Modern Languages, Psychology, Sociology, Social Studies, Urban Studies, The Third World. The Colleges associated together for this purpose could include both local colleges, theological and non-theological, and theological colleges in the other parts of the country. Students, after taking the Diploma of Higher Education (for which of course mandatory grant aid is available) might leave, but most would thereafter pursue a course of one or two years designed specifically to prepare themselves to be ministers.
- (ii) In the view of the Commission there is scope for reducing the cost to the Church of supporting students by optimising the extent to which students receive grants from their local Education Authorities. Wherever possible the financing of students should be through LEA grants, supplemented where necessary by college bursaries and grants from various trusts. Students at Colleges for whom LEA grants are not available should be eligible for a grant from a central fund within the Unified Appeal. The sum of £6,000 expended in 1974 by the Westminster and Cheshunt Grants Committee would need to be increased to some £10,000 at 1974 prices to provide for students at other Colleges.

The Curriculum in the Colleges

37. A course of theological training should aim at helping a student to grow in understanding of God, of himself, of other people and of our developing society. It should aim to produce a continuing learner open to receive and to profit from an enquiring study of the Bible and of life. Ministry in the future must enable the Church to be more open to the world and the forces at work within its structures and to offer a Gospel that is relevant to the whole of man's life.
38. While curricula may vary and while each ought to be receptive to useful change, a strong and balanced curriculum ought to contain the following elements, due regard being paid to the danger of overloading.
- (a) The Biblical foundation of the Christian faith.
 - (b) The Church – its life, thought and mission, past and especially present.
 - (c) Systematic Theology, including Christian Ethics.
 - (d) Practical Theology as a subject fully on a par with other theological disciplines, including such areas as worship, preaching, communication, evangelism, Christian education and pastoral counselling, and drawing on the experience of those in industry, economics, politics, medicine, etc.
 - (e) World Religions, especially the religious faiths of the immigrant communities now living in Britain.
 - (f) The forces, pressures and conflicts facing the individual and society in the modern world.

As the future minister will in due course be a teacher as well as a preacher it is vital that during his course he should experience and study the learning process itself, in considerable variety. In the Colleges in addition to some use of the lecture, small groups, role playing and tutorial methods as well as audio-visual techniques can be usefully employed. Good personal relationships and teamwork within the College community are essential to the understanding of learning and communication and basic elements in these should be consciously studied.

39. The College is not only a place of study but a worshipping community—a place of Christian fellowship. Within the disciplines of its corporate life the student ought to grow in the

understanding of worship, discover the heritage of spirituality that belongs to the Church and learn its practice for his own life.

40. As well as academic studies, the theological course must contain opportunities for practical work in local churches, hospitals, factories, schools and elsewhere outside the College.

In-Service Training

41. This has been, and should continue to be, of wide range and scope and needs to be provided in many centres. In addition to the courses offered by universities and by other churches there is a need for increased in-service training by the U.R.C. itself of its whole ministry. For there is a genuine requirement to stimulate the thinking and re-thinking of our theological pre-suppositions as we meet fresh aspects of our strange human environment. The difficulties in the way of any universal scheme are chiefly economic and practical.

The 'in-service' training which the U.R.C. has attempted to provide has attracted only a minority of our ministers. There is need for a co-ordinated plan which will include the programmes of the Provincial Summer Schools, the theological reading parties and retreats, and the special courses made available by our Colleges and other institutions. Finance will be needed, ministers urged to avail themselves of the opportunities provided, and churches actively encouraged to release their ministers for such courses.

42. We also commend the practice of granting sabbatical terms for ministers to be spent in appropriate courses at our Colleges or any other institution.

Ecumenical Dimension of Training

43. The theological emphasis on doing our work with other churches is today strongly reinforced by economics. All our present colleges have links – often close – with the colleges of other churches. This is to the benefit of all concerned. It permits a lively interplay of traditions, a sharing of scarce teaching resources and also a broadening of student fellowship which helps the growth of local ecumenism. We recommend that the overall planning of theological education in this country be done ecumenically and we therefore ask that the U.R.C. request an ecumenical working party on this subject to be organised by the Churches' Unity Commission. But this longer term planning does not release us from making interim decisions for the U.R.C. itself.

(Resolution 11)

Number and Siting of Colleges

44. (i) The United Reformed Church has a rich inheritance in the provision of centres of theological training. The ex-Congregational Colleges (Mansfield, Manchester and New College, Swansea and Bala Bangor) are all independent Colleges with their own constitutions and trust funds. They are all recognised by the U.R.C. which means that their leaving certificates are acceptable as the academic qualification for ordination.
- (ii) Queen's College, Birmingham, which is an ecumenical foundation, primarily Anglican and Methodist, is also recognised by the United Reformed Church.
- (iii) The ex-Presbyterian College, Westminster College, Cambridge is not an independent College, but is under the direct authority of the General Assembly through the Ministerial Training Committee. All its members of staff are appointed by Assembly, as are eight members of the Joint Board of Studies (Cheshunt College appointing the other four). The finances of the College are the responsibility of the U.R.C. Assembly.
45. The Commission knew from the start and became increasingly aware that each of the Colleges is held in great esteem and affection, and that any decision involving future patterns of training will require a generosity and vision transcending local and sectional loyalties. At the same time the Commission was unanimous in its belief that a continuation of the present situation could not be recommended.
46. The Commission noted that the present number of students could be accommodated in

one College. Ideally it should be a new foundation, located near a University and other theological Colleges. But this ideal of a new foundation is financially unattainable, and the restriction to one College appears in the opinion of most of those who have corresponded with the Commission to be undesirable.

47. As the Commission faced this its most difficult choice it was alerted to the decision of the Governors of New College that that College would not continue as a Theological College beyond 1977. The legal processes and the administrative decisions which must follow are necessarily of a protracted character and the Commission was unable to examine its probable consequences for the redistribution of the resources of New College. Knowledge of these consequences will not be available for some time but it is hoped that some of these resources will become available for ministerial training within the U.R.C.

(Resolution 5)

48. The Commission therefore recommends:

(a) that recognition should continue to be given to the training provided by the Welsh Colleges, Swansea and Bala Bangor, and also Queen's College, Birmingham, recognising that the number of U.R.C. students in them is likely to be small.

(Resolution No. 6)

(b) that Mansfield College continue to be regarded as a graduate school training U.R.C. graduate candidates for the pastoral ministry. The fact that Mansfield is not dependent for its continued existence upon the U.R.C. nor upon a supply of U.R.C. theological candidates, is at this time a factor to be borne in mind. The time may come, and we hope that it will, when a greater proportion of its places will again be occupied by U.R.C. ministerial candidates.

(Resolution No. 7)

49. It is in the light of that radical but as yet indefinite change in circumstances that the Commission makes its recommendation that Westminster and Manchester should for the present be retained.

Since Westminster is engaged in the conversations proceeding in Cambridge towards an ecumenical association of the Theological Colleges there and Manchester is also in process of discussions of a somewhat similar character we believe it wise to retain both facilities and thus to leave options open for the best deployment of our resources. The Commission arrived at this conclusion having considered the clearly expressed wish of the Synods and Districts that there should be a College in the North and one in the South. Premature decisions to restrict our teaching resource still further when there are so many uncertainties and when the whole field of in-service and lay-training needs further exploration might well lead to a position which would be irretrievable and greatly regretted in a few years time. If hopes in regard to New College and its resources are fulfilled it seems possible that the cost of ministerial training can be contained within the present church budget for the next few years. However, some time limit must be given both for re-consideration and to re-assure the Colleges concerned of their standing in the immediate future. We make a definite proposal about such a time-table and set out in the following paragraphs our proposals for the period in question.

(Resolution No. 10)

Manchester Congregational College

50. The Commission recommends that Manchester Congregational College be invited to consider entering into a relationship with the General Assembly similar to that of Westminster. This will require due consultation with the Board of Governors of Manchester, and would include the Assembly assuming some financial responsibility both for the College and for the support of students in training who were not in receipt of grants. It will also mean that future staff appointments would be made in consultation with the Ministerial Training Committee and be approved by the General Assembly. *(Resolution No. 8)*
51. The Commission hopes that the plans now in being for building flats within its grounds for married students can be carried out and that the provision of study bedrooms will enable more intensive use to be made of the building. The programme of lay training undertaken by the College staff is noted with approval but it should be part of a planned programme in each Province for which adequate staffing provision should be made.

52. The Commission warmly encourages Manchester College to strengthen its joint training programme with the other theological colleges in the city.

Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges

53. The Commission in recommending the continuation of Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges re-iterates the request that the Colleges should seek and actively develop their links with the Anglican and Methodist Colleges in Cambridge, with a view to achieving one teaching Faculty, one Board of Studies, and one student body. Further negotiations with the relevant Church authorities should be undertaken without delay. The Commission has been assured of the goodwill of the Cambridge Colleges concerned.

Cheshunt College, Cambridge

54. The buildings of Cheshunt College, Cambridge, were sold in 1967, and the College continued its work jointly with Westminster College in the buildings of the latter, with a Joint Board of Studies and one student body. The two Cheshunt members of staff joined the Westminster Professors as the joint teaching staff of Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges. Cheshunt College, as a charitable foundation, remains an independent body. It seeks to serve both the U.R.C. and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion. The Council for World Mission, and the continuing Congregational Churches also have an interest in the foundation. As well as providing for members of the teaching staff, the foundation makes available grants to students in training, to Roll of Ministers candidates to enable them to study for one term in residence at Cambridge, and to ministers for a "sabbatical leave" term in Cambridge. It also contributes to lay training through its Director of Field Studies and Lay Training.
55. The Commission has considered the close relationship of Cheshunt College to Westminster College, as well as the valuable contribution which Cheshunt College through its two members of staff, and its disbursement of grants, is making to the training of theological students, Roll of Ministers candidates, ministerial sabbatical terms, and lay-training. The continuance of this close relationship and the development of ecumenical theological training in Cambridge, ought to make possible a significant reduction in the number of theological teachers required. The provision of 6 members of staff (4 Westminster 2 Cheshunt) can only be justified if the members of the College staff undertake responsibility on behalf of the whole church for both in-service training and lay training. This would mean a very considerable expansion of the services already being given by the Colleges. We would also recommend that officers will be appointed in each of the Provinces through whom the staff could operate. *(Resolution No. 9)*

Theological Teachers

56. The staff in our theological Colleges have made many considerable and distinguished contributions to theological thought and biblical scholarship over the years. Their participation in University teaching and examining is widely appreciated. The Commission sees a continuation of these activities as important to the future mission of the Church. To further this connection we make two specific recommendations:
- (1) that each College should provide for each member of staff to take a period of sabbatical leave from time to time, e.g. one term every seven years. This is a widespread practice in other countries, and in many of our Universities, and it is time that our own teachers were given this opportunity and the means for research and travel.
 - (2) that provision should be made in College annual budgets for members of staff to attend academic consultations in their own special subjects, and also, where essential, to assist in the publication of their writings.

Lay Training

57. As will be clear from what has been said in paras 17, 18 and 33, we regard it as vital that opportunities for lay training courses be increased, as we look forward to increasing participation by laymen in the witness of the Church. In some places universities are ready to help with extension courses on religious and theological subjects where these are requested. But we believe that the resources of our theological colleges should be more fully used for

lay training, and that some central financial provision be made to underwrite residential courses.

58. If the recommendation is accepted that the staff of Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges co-ordinate this activity throughout the Church, then finance will have to be found, and we would recommend, in addition, that each Province appoints an officer for Lay Training and another for In-Service training through whom the College staff can operate.

(Resolution No. 14)

Central Training Fund

59. The Commission has referred to the financial obligation to Westminster College, and has recommended some similar obligation towards Manchester, and the underwriting of ministerial students where necessary in whatever College they are training. In addition we have suggested that resources should be made available for a Lay Training Programme.

In order to implement these proposals it will be necessary to create a Central Training Fund. We hope that some capital resources may become available, and that special contributions will be made, but in order to initiate the training programme we recommend that the Unified Appeal Committee be asked to include an additional item in their budget for a Central Training Fund.

(Resolution No. 15)

SECTION THREE: RESOURCES – SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Maintenance of the Ministry

60. The concerns of the Commission set out in its terms of reference must take cognisance of the plans and proposals of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee. The basic source of financing the work of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee is the local church. Both the current Maintenance of Ministry schemes of the former Congregational and Presbyterian churches work on the principle of stronger churches helping the weaker, the main source of finance being derived from the local churches.

61. The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee has proposed a substantial increase in basic ministerial stipends from 1st July next and it is hoped that in 1976 its new scheme will come into operation. This provides for each church to make regular monthly payments (assessed on membership and income) to a Central fund which will be responsible for paying the basic stipend to all ministers. The payment of supplements by local churches is not excluded.

62. As previously stated (paras 21–24) a Deployment Committee is envisaged which in consultation with each Province would determine a quota of ministers per Province; this would be broken down into Districts and each would in consultation with the Moderator and the Synod implement such quotas and thereafter the normal procedures laid down in the Scheme of Union would be followed.

63. The Commission has examined statistics about trends in numbers of ministers, church members and churches. It seems unlikely that the ratio between ministers and members, currently around: 176, will change materially before 1980. The actual number of ministers will probably fall to 1,000 around 1977/78 and after 1980 the number of retirements will accelerate. We have not attempted to estimate the rate of recruitment of ministers from 1980 onwards, nor the trend in membership, but we consider we should aim at maintaining our full time ministerial strength at about 1,000.

(Resolution No. 12)

The Commission has thus considered the theoretic viability of an "average" church, or group of churches, with 176 members and has concluded that a church of this size could pay its way providing its income was regularly increased to keep pace with inflation. There seems therefore no reason at this stage for artificially stimulating retirement in order to reduce the total bill for stipends.

64. The Commission has also studied statistics showing the distribution of members, churches and ministers between the provinces (see Appendix D). It believes that the Deployment Committee, the Province and Districts, can use these figures with a view to a better and more effective distribution of ministers.

65. At the present time the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee makes available some £11,000 a year towards the cost of ministers in "other situations", e.g. chaplains and those engaged in ecumenical enterprises.
66. In the longer term, the activities of the proposed Deployment Committee and corresponding bodies in provinces and districts should ensure that the resources of the church are more adequately and more effectively used. Meanwhile the Commission recommends that the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee should be asked to consider a substantial increase in the sum made available for this purpose. *(Resolution No. 13)*

Provision for Retirement

67. The Commission has been informed that a special committee has been set up to consider retirement housing and pensions, and therefore to avoid further duplication of effort, has refrained from probing this sensitive area of need. In so doing the Commission hopes it has not hindered the urgent consideration of this matter by Assembly.

APPENDICES

- A. Theological Colleges
- B. Admissions and deletions to Roll of Ministers
- C. Students and Colleges
- D. Provincial Statistics relating to Deployment of Ministry
- E. Resources available
- F. Number of Ministers up to 1974
- G. Team Ministries (to be available on request)

APPENDIX A

Theological Colleges

General Notes and Statistical Data

1. THE CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE, MANCHESTER

Four Congregational Colleges (Lancashire, Yorkshire, Western and Paton), have in the past few years amalgamated to form out Manchester College, on the site of Lancashire College, built in 1843. Since 1921 the College has served as a Hall of Residence for students of all Faculties of Manchester University. Twenty-seven students are preparing for the U.R.C. Ministry, two to become Moravian ministers, and over sixty are hostel-students. The two full-time members of Staff also lecture at the University; there are three part-time tutors. Courses are varied in length, three to six years, and are ecumenically arranged. All students attend lectures at the University, which offers certificate courses, several first degrees in theology, the B.D. as a second degree and facilities for research. Practical work throughout training is supervised by two local ministers who are part-time members of staff. Most students take the final year practical course, arranged by all the theological Colleges in Manchester.

Total Income: £45,861. Total Expenditure: £46,645. Expenditure on Academic Staff: £8,116 (incl. £1061 for university fees) (for the year ended March 1974).

Comment: Deficit has been liquidated by application of legacies. Over half the income is from "customers", directly or indirectly. About £14,000 is from investments and about £6,900 from subscriptions and donations (mostly churches). About three-quarters of the expenditure is on the domestic side. Prima facia, the students (mostly non-theological) are not paying the full cost of board and lodging, including overheads. But the College is bound by the rules for charges laid down by the University.

2. WESTMINSTER AND CHESHUNT COLLEGES

Westminster College, originally Presbyterian, now belonging to the U.R.C., and Cheshunt College, an independent foundation mainly serving the U.R.C. work together in the Westminster College building. The present number of theological students is 21, of whom 11 are U.R.C. ordinands. The yearly average over the period of 1969-74 was 23 theological

students, of which 15 were for the U.R.C. The College has 50 single rooms, and there is accommodation for five married students. In the year 1974/5 rooms were let to 20 non-theological students from other Colleges in the University.

Normal entrance requirements are a University degree or other professional training. The full course requires three years. Courses are varied, and can include the University Tripos in Theology, or the Cambridge Theological Colleges' Certificate in Pastoral Theology.

The combined Westminster and Cheshunt staff is six. The Colleges' resources (especially the Library) are used by a number of research students and theological teachers from Reformed Churches overseas. One staff member has special responsibility for one-term students (including Roll of Ministers examination candidates and U.R.C. ministers on study leave), and for courses for elders and other lay people.

3. WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

(year ended December 1973)

Total Income: £36,176. Total Expenditure: £40,925. Cost of Academic Staff (4) £8,960. (The other two members of staff are paid from Cheshunt College, Cambridge).

Comment: The deficit of £4,740 is in addition to the contributions from central funds of £8,789.

It is not readily apparent from the accounts the extent to which receipts from students cover the full cost of board or lodging.

By 1976 the contribution required from the Unified Appeal is likely to exceed £20,000 per annum if deficits are to be avoided, as opposed to the provision in the 1975 Budget of £10,000.

4. CHESHUNT COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

(year ended June 1974)

Total Income: £16,674. Total Expenditure: £13,923. Expenditure on Academic Staff: £6,000 (approx.) (incl. upkeep of staff houses).

Comment: Cheshunt no longer operates as a college in the usual sense. Its income is almost entirely from investments. The contribution of the academic staff is in large part directed towards work within the joint Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges. A substantial part of the residual income (around £6,000) is disbursed on grants for various forms of ministerial and lay training, largely within Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges. Grants are not restricted to the work of the U.R.C.

5. NEW COLLEGE

New College traces its beginning to 1700 and is the result of several mergers of dissenting academies. As a School of Divinity of the University of London it co-operates with King's College and Heythrop College. Three members of its staff are Recognised Teachers and members of the Board of Studies in Theology. There are 21 theological students, of whom one is already a minister doing the B.D. course; 8 are preparing for the ministry of the U.R.C. seven taking the B.D. with a possible view to teaching and five studying for advanced degrees. There are over 60 non-theological hostel-students. In the practical programmes extensive use is made of the various resources available in London. The valuable library is specially rich in 17th-century material.

Total income: £49,500. Total Expenditure: £50,749. Expenditure on Academic Staff: £8,400.

(for the year ended September 1974).

Comment: Rather more than half the income is derived by payments by or on behalf of students. Income from investments exceeds £12,000, from various trusts £4,000, and from subscriptions and donations (mostly churches), £2,000. As at Manchester, students are not paying the full costs of board and lodging. There is no indication of the current value of property, including the college itself.

6. MANSFIELD COLLEGE, OXFORD

Mansfield College, formerly a theological college of the Congregational Church, which

moved from Spring Hill, Birmingham in 1886, is now one of the societies of Oxford University, with a primary concern for Theology and ministerial training, but with staff and students in other subjects also. Among the staff of twelve are four teachers of Theology, but the College also contributes to and draws upon the teaching resources of the university. Only graduates are admitted to the ordination course, and they are normally expected to read for a degree in Theology. Other aspects of ordination training, including opportunities for "field work", are provided by a Certificate of Theology administered by the College in conjunction with eight other Oxford Colleges.

Total Income: £101,154. Total Expenditure: £109,154. Expenditure on Academic Staff: £31,131, (for the year ended July 1974).

No. of Theological Students: 15 (incl. 4 U.R.C. ordinands). No. of Non-Theological Students: 72.

Comment: Over three quarters of the income is derived from payments made by or on behalf of the Students; even so, these cover only about 80% of their share of maintenance costs. The net income from endowments is about 20% of the total.

7. THE WELSH COLLEGES

Memorial College, Swansea, and Bala Bangor College have in the past served the former Congregational Church in England and Wales, and the Union of Welsh Independents. Candidates for the ministry of the latter will continue to be trained in these Colleges. Both Colleges have been "recognised" by the United Reformed Church even though the number of students for its ministry trained there will probably continue to be small. The fellowship between those training for the ministries of the two churches has been and will be of mutual benefit.

The Colleges make no call on the funds of the U.R.C. but are supported from their own Trust Funds and voluntary contributions from the churches in Wales.

8. ST. ANDREW'S HALL, BIRMINGHAM

This missionary training College in the Selly Oak complex is owned as to 2/5ths by the Baptist Missionary Society; 2/5ths by the Council for World Mission; and 1/5th by the United Reformed Church. Its future role is under discussion as a centre for mission training in this country as well as overseas. The U.R.C. is also using its courses as in-service training for ministers in the various forms of mission.

9. OVERDALE COLLEGE

The theological college of the Churches of Christ, one of the Selly Oak group in Birmingham.

Negotiations are in hand (March 1975) for the training of Ministers for Churches of Christ in our Manchester College instead of in Overdale. It is hoped that this can be agreed by the various authorities concerned by the start of the 1975/6 session. For the present the Overdale building will continue to be used for the lay-training, publication, committee and other work of the Churches of Christ. The College Council has the possible union of the United Reformed Church and the Churches of Christ very much in mind as it considers policy changes. If the union takes place then the College and its resources will become the concern of the Ministerial Training Committee.

(Note: The course at Queen's College, Birmingham has been "recognised" by the U.R.C. for students for whom good reasons exist for training in this ecumenical setting and for whom adequate financial provision can be assured).

APPENDIX B

Admissions and deletions to Roll of Ministers

Year	Number entered Ministry			Ministers who resigned, or died in service			NETT LOSS or GAIN
	C.C.E.W.	P.C.E.	TOTAL	C.C.E.W.	P.C.E.	TOTAL	
1969	26	2	28	31	13	44	-16
1970	18	6	24	35	20	55	-31
1971	14	5	19	35	10	45	-26
1972	19	2	21	45	7	52	-31
1973			34			66	-32
1974			47			45	+ 2
Annual Average			29	51			-22

Comment:

The present number of ministers in full-time church service is 1163. The number who retire resign, or die is 51 a year on the basis of figures available for 1969-74. Further figures indicate that the number of those reaching retirement age in the next five years will not greatly differ from the last few years, but that by 1980 the number will increase.

Bearing in mind the number of students and transfers from other churches in the next few years, it would seem that the nett loss will be in the region of 22 ministers a year. In five years time the number of full-time ministers in the service of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales will be 1000 (in round figures).

If therefore the U.R.C. is to anticipate maintaining for the foreseeable future a full time ministerial staff of about 1000, then the number of candidates for the ministry will need to be substantially increased - in fact double that of recent years. (cf. Table C - College Statistics).

APPENDIX C

STUDENTS AND COLLEGES

Table of those in training for the ministry

College Statistics

College	Total No. in Training for URC Ministry in 1973 Oct. 1973	Actual No. Entered URC	Estimated No. to enter Ministry of URC.			Total No. of Ministerial Students (incl. Post-Grads.)	Total No. of places available for Theological Students.
			1974	1975	1976		
Westminster/							
Cheshunt	11	8	3	7	1	23	50
New	14	3	5	5	3	15	78
Manchester	20	3	3	6	5	26	78
Mansfield	4	3	0	1	3	16	35
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	14	40
Queen's	1	1			1	—	—
Roll of Ministers	11	9	5	1	5		
TOTALS	61	27	16	20	18	94	281

Province	(1)	(1a)	(2)	(2a)	(3)	(4)	(3+4)		(6)	(7)	(7a)	Weighting Factors				
							(5)	(5a)				(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
I Northern	18,507	9.8	148	7.0	85	5	90	7.2	60.8	8.0	86	3.5				
II North Western	19,198	10.5	195	9.2	98	12	110	8.8	56.4	9.5	102	4.0				
III Mersey	13,281	6.9	117	5.5	70	7	77	6.2	65.8	6.2	67	3.0				
IV Yorkshire	14,392	7.4	170	8.0	90	2	92	7.4	54.1	7.6	82	5.0				
V E. Midland	10,902	5.8	152	7.2	64	3	67	5.4	44.0	6.1	67	3.5				
VI W. Midland	14,774	8.0	193	9.1	87	9	96	7.7	49.7	8.3	89	5.5				
VII Eastern	12,329	6.4	189	8.9	90	10	100	8.0	52.9	7.8	85	2.0				
VIII South West	11,582	6.4	187	8.8	65	30	95	7.7	50.7	7.6	83	3.0				
IX Wessex	15,590	8.2	188	9.0	106	11	117	9.4	62.2	8.9	96	5.5				
X Thames North	18,609	10.5	177	8.4	120	27	147	11.8	66.6	10.2	111	6.5				
XI Southern	24,966	13.3	230	10.9	142	35	177	14.3	62.2	12.8	139	6.0				
XII Wales	12,179	6.4	171	8.0	57	11	68	5.5	39.7	6.3	68	2.5				
TOTALS	187,408		2117*		1074	162	1236				1074	50				

(1) Membership 1974 Returns

(1a) % of total membership

(2) Local churches

(2a) % of total churches

(3) URC Ministers in pastoral charge

(4) Others giving pastoral oversight (inc. Ministers of other churches, part-time "Ov", Deaconesses, Local Pastors)

(5) Total of (3) + (4)

(5a) % of total ministry

(6) % of ministers/churches (5 as % of (2))

(7) Mean of (1a) (2a) (5a)

(7a) Possible redistribution of ministers

(8) Population of province (in millions)

(9) Churches of other denominations

(10) Special situations (New areas, etc.)

(11) Socially deprived areas (including rural situations)

* With groupings etc. this total is probably reduced to about 1700 "pastorates".

APPENDIX E

Resources Available for "Outgoing" Mission

Where churches have undertaken community service they have been able to secure help from statutory or general charitable funds. Such help is normally not available for the "inner" mission of the church. Acceptance of such help requires some commitment to a partnership with the national and local community services and should only be sought where that is understood. It is often in Team or Group situations that this is possible. The help available is varied and substantial and in some cases has exceeded £50,000.

The following is a summary of information provided by local churches of help actually received:

- I Capital Buildings costs – where the buildings are for specified community purposes.
- II Running costs, including caretaking and cleaning, relating to Youth and Community work (up to 90% of specified costs).
- III Rental for the use of the Buildings on a co-operative basis, i.e. voluntarily serviced but Community sponsored.
- IV Full-time or part-time youth and community workers (the grants can be 100% for these purposes and can include Play Group and Housebound Club Supervisors – family case worker and Amenity workers caring for Car Parks and paths and gardens – they can include salaries for suitably qualified ordained ministers doing specified community work in a team)
- V Substantial provision of facilities for Meals on Wheels where the Church provides the voluntary staff.

Help has been forthcoming from:

Government	Neighbourhood Organisations Committee
Urban Aid Grants	Age Concern
Local Authorities	Anglican Diocesan Boards (for family case worker)
Local Education Authorities	Private Charities
Students Rag	National Christian Education Council

Help has been available for:

All manner of old people's work – notably luncheon clubs	
youth work	
Holiday Play Projects	Race Relations work
Citizens Advice Bureaux	Meals on Wheels

APPENDIX F

Year	C.C.E.W. In Charge	Number of Ministers up to 1974			
		Retired	In other work	P.C.E. Sanctioned Charges	Vacancies
1968	1192	357	131	307	23
1969	1165	357	155	309	27
1970	1133	370	146	308	35
1971	1099	374	154	303	29
1972	1090	378	138		
1973 (URC)	1088	453	159		
1974	1163	500	174		

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