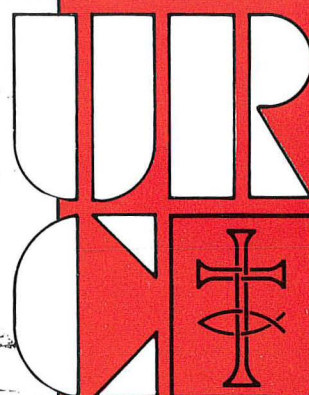
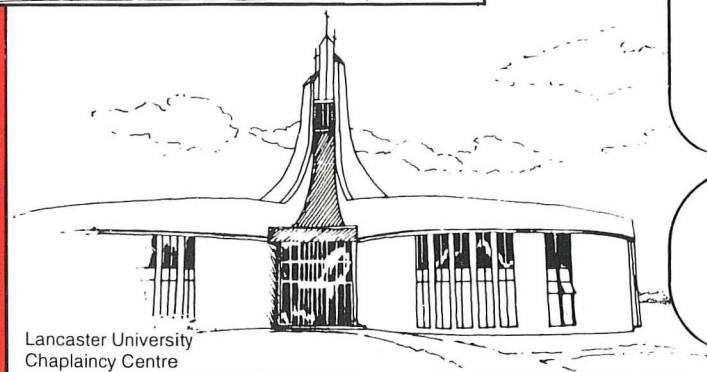
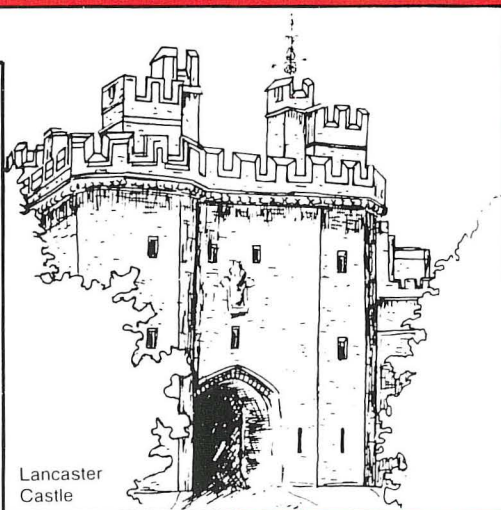
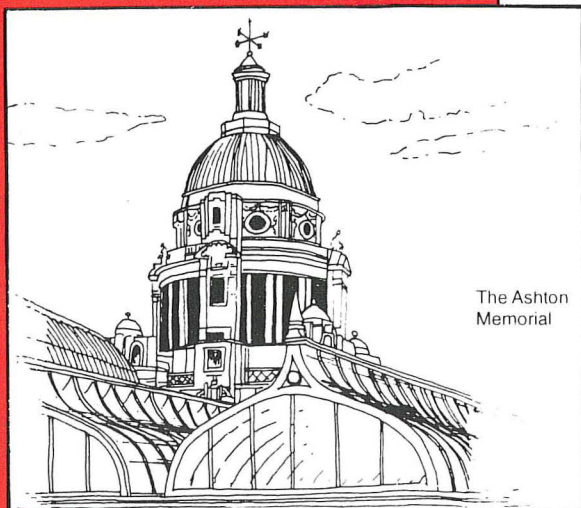


# ASSEMBLY RECORD



The United Reformed Church  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1994**

July 7th ~ 11th  
**Lancaster**

## MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration      \*  
For Action                      x

Reports page	Record page		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
8	16	Moderators of Synods			x
10	14	Membership of Synod			x
10	14	Schedule C		x	
11	19	Number of Ministers			x
13	24	Assembly Moderator - election	*	*	*
13	24	Appointment of Directors of Provincial Trusts			x
105	42	Equal Opportunity	x	x	x
108	44	Charter for the Church	x	x	x
114	46	Student Grants	x	x	x
118	49	URC/Methodist Pastorates		x	
119	50	Stipend Supplements	x	x	x
—	52	Resettlement and Retirement Grants	*	*	*
119	55	Costs of Assembly attendance	*	*	*
—	55	Membership of District and Synod		x	x
120	57	Good Practice	x		
123	59	Amnesty	x	x	
124	60	LMS - 200th Anniversary	x	x	x
—	56	Creche for General Assembly	*	*	*

**Report of an Appeal  
to the General Assembly  
by Toller United Reformed Church  
against a decision  
of the East Midlands Synod  
15 June 1994**

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1. The appeal followed the procedures laid down under The Structure and Rules of Procedure for the Conduct of the United Reformed Church. (Manual pp 28, 34 and 35.)
2. Both the local church and the Synod agreed that the appeal should be heard by a committee of the Assembly and that the findings would be accepted as if they were a decision of the Assembly. In addition, both parties confirmed that they were satisfied with all the arrangements for the meeting.
3. Mission Council in March 1994 agreed on the principles and procedures for choosing the members of a Commission.

The following agreed to serve:-

Revd Donald H Hilton, Moderator of the General Assembly

Mrs Margaret Carrick-Smith, Secretary, Guildford District

Mrs Wilma Frew, Synod Clerk, West Midlands and Convener, Assembly

Arrangements Committee

Revd W K Gathercole, Provincial Moderator, Eastern Synod

Revd Margaret McKay, Convener, Pastoral Oversight Committee,

Cambridge District

In addition, the Clerk of the Assembly was present to advise the Commission and both parties.

The General Secretary was also present to facilitate the process, to record the decision and to prepare the report for the Assembly.

4. Toller United Reformed Church was represented by:  
Miss Eleanor Patrick, Church Secretary  
Mr Alan Thompson  
Mrs Elisabeth Jupp was present in the role of a friend. Mrs Jupp was not permitted to speak.
5. East Midlands Synod was represented by:  
Revd Christopher White, Synod Clerk  
Mr Norman Greville, District Secretary, Derbyshire  
Mrs Ann Ball was present in the role of a friend. Mrs Ball was not permitted to speak.
6. Twenty four papers were presented, all but one being circulated in advance: extracts of minutes had been duly certified..

7. The meeting was arranged to take place at Church House on 15 June 1994. However because there were no trains due to an industrial dispute, the meeting was held at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes. The Commission began work at 1 p.m. and completed its business at 6 p.m..
8. The moderator read the findings to both parties as the final act.
9. The costs of duplicating, travel, hire of room, etc., met from the Assembly budget, amounted to £293. Toller United Reformed Church did not claim the travelling expenses of their representatives.
10. The Background  
 In 1991 the Revd Rowena Francis was called to be the minister of two United Reformed Churches at Toller and Geddington in the Northamptonshire District of the East Midlands province. The District Council decided that the minister should serve for at least five years and work closely with the minister of the two other United Reformed Churches at London Road, Kettering and Brigstock, seeking "ways of bringing the four churches into a close working partnership and if appropriate and acceptable, establishing a joint ministry". In 1992 the minister of London Road and Brigstock retired. In April 1993, following work done within the four churches, the District Council agreed unanimously that the four churches form the group pastorate with two stipendiary ministers. At this stage, it was understood that London Road and Brigstock would need to call the Revd Rowena Francis.
11. A meeting was held in July between the minister and officers of the four churches, at which Toller claims that reference was made to a decision of the District Pastoral Committee that all four churches should vote to call the Revd Rowena Francis. In August, there was a meeting between the elders of the four churches and the provincial moderator to discuss the next steps. (The Commission did not see records of these meetings. It was stated that though a record of the July meeting had been taken, it had not been circulated to the churches until December. A record of the August meeting was also taken but it had been lost before circulation.)
12. One month later, there was a united Church Meeting (23 September 1993) with the interim moderator in the chair. It began with a statement outlining the development of the group and listing seven points agreed by all four churches, including "that when the group is formed, that London Road and Brigstock church meetings put a resolution to call the Revd Rowena Francis as one of the ministers of the group to be inducted alongside the incoming minister ....."
13. The interim moderator then made a statement in which he made it clear that there would now be a vote by all four churches so that "her ministry could be confirmed or negated". (He) pointed out that "each church had a veto ..... if one church vetoed the call, the call would not be called (sic) and that the formation of the group would be called into question".
14. To emphasise the point, the procedure was then presented including the need for Ms Francis to be called by 75% of those present and 60% from each church. The percentages were then worked out in relation to the

numbers present from each church. "The meeting agreed to abide by these figures." The motion put to the meeting was "that the Revd Rowena Francis be called to be a minister of the Kettering Group of United Reformed Churches". When the vote was taken the 75% overall vote in favour was achieved. However Geddington only achieved 3 votes in favour (24%) rather than the required 8 (60%). The interim moderator therefore announced that no call would be given to Ms Francis.

15. Various meetings took place to try to find a way forward, including a special Geddington church meeting called to enable the members of that church to vote again. However this did not achieve the necessary 60% in favour of Ms Francis being called, though there is some uncertainty about the voting. The Toller church in its appeal raised questions about the procedure at this meeting but since the Geddington church was not a party to this appeal, these questions could not be pursued by the Commission.
16. The Provincial Moderator, after consulting the District's Pastoral Committee, produced a paper which was discussed at church meetings held by the four churches during November 1993. These were followed by a Joint Elders' meeting (8 December 1993) at which it was "accepted unanimously that the call (to Ms Francis) had fallen". Three proposals regarding the next steps were agreed. However on each issue a majority of the Toller elders present either voted against or abstained. The Pastoral Committee reported the results of this meeting and the three proposals to the District Council (10 January 1994). The Council resolved that "a) the Provincial Moderator be asked to seek ministry for two vacancies in this group; b) Revd Rowena Francis will remain minister of Toller and Geddington with permission to serve across the four churches until 10 April 1994; c) the Pastoral Committee be asked to appoint an Interim Moderator....."

### The Appeal to the East Midlands Synod

17. Toller appealed to the East Midlands Synod against the decision of the Northamptonshire District Council on 10 January 1994 which confirmed the majority decision of the joint Elder's Meeting on 8 December 1993.
18. Both the Northamptonshire District Council and Toller United Reformed Church agreed that the appeal could be heard by a committee of the Synod. This took place on 2 March 1994.
19. The Committee, acting on behalf of the East Midlands Synod, dismissed the appeal, thereby concurring in the decision of the Joint Elders' Meeting of 8 December 1993 which had been approved by the Northamptonshire District Council.
20. In recording the findings, the synod committee noted that:

"It is clear to us that the decisions on procedures for calling ministers to the Group, made at various meetings by representatives of all four churches and confirmed and followed at the Joint Church Meeting on 23 September 1993, were properly reached. Neither the Pastoral Committee nor the District Council had authority to prevent the vote taking place".

21. The Elders of Toller United Reformed Church then appealed against this decision to the General Assembly.
22. The Revd Rowena Francis was called to a new charge in the West Midlands Province. The Induction will take place in July 1994.

The Commission of the General Assembly's findings:

23. **We begin these findings with a tribute to the goodwill and sincere efforts of all parties for the good of the church and minister concerned. With hindsight it is clear that several meetings could have been better managed and that communications were often inadequate.**
24. **We have taken particular note of the original terms of reference by which the Revd Rowena Francis was appointed for a five year period with the specific task of seeking "ways of bringing the four churches into a close working partnership". This was a task which all parties agree had been pursued effectively.**
25. **Our conclusion is that no procedures should have been initiated for the formation of this group, even with the minister's consent, that put at risk the completion of her five year ministry. Subsequent decisions were invalidated by the failure to observe this point.**
26. **The Commission therefore revokes the decision of the Synod, on the ground that it did not take sufficient account of the original terms of reference in the call to Ms Francis.**
27. **Acknowledging that events have moved on, particularly with the minister's call to a new charge, we urge the Synod and the District Council to assist the four churches to develop their partnership.**
28. In reaching the decision, the Commission was unanimous.
29. The Commission has no remit to deal with the implications of these findings, we nevertheless ask the Mission Council to consider the substance of the following requests made by Toller United Reformed Church in their submission, namely that they "ask the wider church :
  - i. to prepare clearer guidelines for the creation of a group pastorate where there is already a minister in post; and
  - ii. to give guidance as to when a grouping of churches becomes effective to form the group".

# **RECORD of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH in the United Kingdom 7-11 July 1994**

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## **Constitution of Assembly, Thursday, 7 July 1994**

At 2.30 p m members of Assembly met at the University of Lancaster. The Moderator, The Revd Donald H Hilton, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and time having been duly appointed, and the chaplain, the Revd Duncan Wilson, led the worship of the Assembly.

### **Induction of Moderator**

On the motion of the Revd Donald Hilton, the Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey, Moderator-elect, was called to the Chair and inducted as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church. The Moderator signed the Assembly Bible and was presented with an inscribed copy of the Bible by the Revd Donald Hilton.

### **Thanks to the Retiring Moderator**

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to the Revd Donald Hilton and Mrs Ann Hilton.

After a reading from the Bible and an anthem, the Moderator addressed the Assembly.

The immediate past Moderator, the Revd Donald Hilton, presented the Loyal Address to the Throne.

“ July 1994

To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, now meeting within the campus of the University of Lancaster, sends loyal greetings to your Majesty.

As a Church committed to reconciliation across the nations we welcome every opportunity of co-operation amongst the nations of Europe especially since our links with Reformed Churches on the Continent span many centuries.

Our awareness of these links has been sharpened this year both by the commemoration of D-Day, and by the opening of the Channel Tunnel when we shared Your Majesty’s evident pleasure at the fulfilment of this long-planned project.

As we shared in the D-Day Commemoration we were not only reminded of the events of fifty years ago but were also called to pray and work that the sense of community and cohesion which was generated in our nation by the tragic events of the Second World War may be rediscovered in our own time as we face those divisions in our nation created by widespread unemployment,

poverty, and homelessness. Many of our people in their day-by-day ministry are conscious of the increasing burden borne by the most vulnerable members of our society.

We rejoice in the re-emergence of democracy in South Africa for which we have long prayed and striven. We honour the witness and suffering of so many which has brought this about. It was significant that amongst the first acts of the new government was the decision to apply for re-admission to the Commonwealth. We welcome your expressed intention to visit South Africa and believe that this will strengthen the distinctive ties between all the peoples of the Commonwealth.

As we affirm our loyalty so we ask that in the heavy responsibilities that fall on you, you will experience the peace of God, and receive continued strength for your task.

We are

Your faithful and loyal subjects,

Moderator  
Clerk to the Assembly  
General Secretary”

The National Anthem was sung.

**The Roll of Assembly** was placed on the table.

#### **ROLL OF ASSEMBLY**

Moderator:	Revd Dr Robert John McKelvey
Clerk:	The Revd Principal Martin Cressey
Assistant Clerk:	Mrs Sheila Tull
Moderator Elect (1994/5):	
General Secretary:	The Revd Anthony G Burnham
Deputy General Secretary:	The Revd Terry Oakley

#### **Provincial Moderators:**

I	Revd D Jenkins
II	Revd C K Forecast
III	Revd E Allen
IV	Revd D Hilton
V	Revd M G Hanson
VI	Revd J D Waller
VII	Revd W K Gathercole
VIII	Revd M F Hubbard
IX	Revd N W Bainbridge
X	Revd J E Sowerbutts
XI	Revd D Helyar
XII	Revd J L Humphreys

#### **Conveners of Assembly Committees:**

Ministries:	Revd C K Forecast
Faith and Life:	Revd Dr P Morgan
Church & Society:	Professor M Johnson, Mr A Curry
World Church & Mission:	Mrs M Marsden,
Finance:	Mr A Black



**Ministries:**

Vocations:  
 Training: Revd John Sutcliffe  
 Support: Revd Dr D G Cornick

**Faith and Life:**

Doctrine and Worship: Dr D M Thompson  
 Christian Education and  
 Stewardship: Mr Tony Ewens  
 Youth Work: Mrs R Clarke  
 Childrens Work: Revd S Thornton  
 Health and Healing: Revd R R Hine  
 Youth and Children's  
 Work Training Committee: Revd J Oldershaw

**World Church and Mission:**

MEW at Home: Revd M MacKenzie  
 MEW Abroad: Revd C Allen  
 Mission & Other Faiths: Revd William Mahood  
 Personnel: Revd W R P Adams

**Church and Society:**

Additional Representatives: Revd P Woods, Revd J Stranz

**Finance:**

Financial Management: Mr A Black  
 Financial Resources: Mr A Black  
 Maintenance of the Ministry: Mr M Harrison  
 Welfare & Emergencies: Mr R Heritage  
 Retired Ministers' Housing: Revd D R Hannen

**Conveners of Standing Committees:**

Assembly Arrangements: Mrs W Frew  
 Nominations: Revd J Clare  
 Communication & Supplies: Mr C P W Wright  
 Assembly Pastoral  
 Reference Committee: Revd Alasdair Walker  
 Advocacy : Revd J J Macro

**Synod Clerks:**

I Revd P Poulter	II Revd B A Baker	III Revd A W Duncan
IV Mr D Thacker	V Revd A C White	VI Mrs W Frew
VII Mr W McVey	VIII Revd S Lloydlangston	IX Revd G H Thomas
X Revd J Maitland	XI Mrs C Meekison	XII Mr J Rhys

**Additional Synod Representatives:**

I Revd W Nicol, Revd K Harris, Mrs Sheila Flett.  
 II Revd Graham Robson, Mrs Delyth Rees, Mr John Bradbury.  
 III Revd Heather Gabbott, Revd John Oldershaw, Revd David Dean.  
 IV Mrs Valerie Morrison, Revd Duncan Wilson, Mr Stephen Wood.  
 V Revd Margaret Taylor, Mrs Maureen Buxton, Mr Geoff Prestice.  
 VI Revd Dr Margaret Renton, Mr R N Webb, Revd Pat Nimmo.  
 VII Mr P A Wade, Revd D N Tatem, Mrs Elizabeth Gathercole.  
 VIII Mrs J Trippier, Mr A M Johnson, Revd Dr C A Middleton.

- IX Mr D Butler, Mr C H Hansford, Revd P E J McManus.
- X Revd David Jenkins, Mr Richard Alford, Mr David Willetts.
- XI Mr D Buckland, Revd W McCrorie, Mr I Findlay.
- XII Revd Henry Gordon, Revd Nanette Head, Revd David Morgan.

**Synod Treasurers:**

- |                 |                   |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| I Mr B McIntosh | II Mr G R Stelfox | III Mr P Rafells |
| IV Mr D Lethem  | V Mr M Harrison   | VI Mr D Hibberd  |
| VII Mr V Hughff | VIII Mr G Lunt    | IX Mr G Gage     |
| X Mr M Dyson    | XI Mr B M Edwards | XII Mr R Lacey   |

**Theological College Representatives:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Mansfield College:              | Revd A D Tucker, Mr Martin J Smith           |
| Northern College, Manchester:   | Mr P Hanson, Revd David Peel                 |
| Westminster College, Cambridge: | Revd William Mahood,<br>Miss Janet Calderley |

**Youth Representatives:** Mr Andrew Jackson, Ms Hannah Melia

**Council for World Mission:** Mrs Andrea Adams

**Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces stationed in Britain:** Revd J Petrie

**Missionaries on Furlough:** Revd J Derek Jones, Mrs Joan Jones.

**Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:**

Mr B J Hartwell, Revd C JBuckingham, Mrs Gwen Hall, Revd Professor J Eric Fenn, Revd H Burns Jamieson, Revd A S Cooper, Revd N Birnie, Revd A L Macarthur, Revd J E Young, Revd Dr Lesslie Newbigin, Revd Dr R O Latham, Revd J Johansen-Berg, Revd Principal M Cressey, Mrs R Goodfellow, Revd E Gray, Revd D Black, Revd W Georgeson, Revd Dr W G Baker, Revd J E Francis, Revd W F Aiton, Revd J Gray, Revd K C Burdett, Revd R Murray, Revd W Clark, Rev G B Waterton, Revd A B Webster, Revd Dr P D Arthur, Revd G Sharpe, Dr D M Thompson, Revd A V Smith, Revd A J G Walker, Revd Dr P Morgan, Revd D H Dale, Mr R A Heritage, Revd C C Franks, Revd E Banyard, Revd C K Forecast, Revd G J Cook, Revd M G Hanson, Mrs R Clarke, Revd Donald Hilton.

**District Representatives:** (Names appearing with an asterisk were appointed to fill District vacancies (cf. Resolution 10, p21, Assembly Record 1978)

**Province I**

- A: Revd Catherine McIlhagga, Revd A R Richie, Revd John Salisbury, Revd Allan Smith, Miss Doreen Kailofer, Mr W L Luke, Miss Hilga Peacock, Miss S Fairbairn.
- B: Revd A F Jackson, Revd P Welsh, Revd D Rominger, Revd Dr F J Nelson, Revd J Breslin, Mr H J Gowland, Dr A Graham, Miss M Johnson, Mr A Howard\*, Mr M Tailford\*.
- C: Mr A Dodge, Mr J Shipley, Revd J Durell, Revd Peter Gray.
- D: Mr C Parker, Dr M Sutherland, Ms Jane Tomlin, Revd Val Towler, Revd R Hine, Revd Dr A Fraser.
- E: Revd R R Bance, Revd S J Martin, Mr R Kerr, Mr B Jackson.
- F: Revd H H Higton, Mrs C Smith.

## Province II

- A: Revd B Willis, Revd A Gaunt, Mr Raymond Clarke, Dr Roger John, Mr J Wicks, Mrs A Wicks.
- B: Revd P Meek, Revd A Boon, Revd N Uden, Mr E Wrennall, Mrs E Fletcher, Mrs H Hurst.
- C: Revd P S Rand, Revd S Thomas, Revd G K Tolley, Miss D Clutten, Mr AChisholm, Mr D Estill.
- D: Revd R Hambly, Revd R Crofton, Mr B Greenhalgh, Mr Craig Muir, Mr A Cook.
- E: Revd A Batterbee, Revd P M Hunt, Revd D Whitehead, Revd A J Wilkinson, Mrs J Ollerenshaw, Mrs A Bradley, Mr S Peacock, Mrs A J Cockcroft
- F: Revd A Harrison, Revd E Massey, Revd M A Hodgson, Revd H E Ward, Mrs P Ward, Mrs Gill Oldham, Mrs L Goodier, Mr N Burnell, Mr M Palmqvist.
- G: Revd Roger Tomes, Revd P H Taylor, Ms C Nixon, Dr G Jessup.

## Province III

- A: Revd D Lawrence, Revd M Fisher, Revd J W Forster, Revd B Holroyd, Mr R Kuyers, Mr M Leivesley, Mr R Clews, Mr B Lawrence.
- B: Revd E Sambrooks, Revd John Kingsley, Revd N Jarrett, Mr Richard Rigby, Mr W Woodside, Mrs M Hilton.
- C: Revd M Shapland, Revd J L Guthrie, Revd W H Elliott, Miss M Tubic, Mr G Rae, Ms Morna Bridgeland.
- D: Revd H Starr, Revd David Legg, Revd P Roche, Mr E Fairclough, Mrs M Bigmore, Mr S Fidler.
- E: Revd Eddie Boon, Revd Bill Wright, Mr B H George.

## Province IV

- A: Miss Winnie Darcy, Mr B Whattam, Mr Keith Welbourne, Revd M Mewis, Revd D Greenwood, Revd H Dixon.
- B: Mrs C Carrick, Revd G Caswell, Mr D Fermie, Miss E Heaton, Revd Brenda Hill, Revd E Nash, Mr Reg Thornsby, Revd Cecil White.
- C: Revd E Brown, Revd Julie Martin, Mr D Poulter, Miss K Poulter, Mrs P Parkin, Revd Andrew Francis.
- D: Revd G Perrott, Revd M L Dodds, Revd R L Dodds, Miss E C I Stewart, Mr H Ambler, Mr S Ettison.
- E: Revd V Newman, Revd C Hannam, Mrs M Morgan, Mr R Jowitt.
- F: Miss B Buckley, Mr James Horton, Mr J Francis, Revd J Jenkinson, Revd J Williams, Revd W Taylor Revd C Bembridge.

## Province V

- A: Revd G R Maskery, Revd H G Temple, Mr D Richardson, Revd M G Herbert, Revd R E Cole, Mr H K Johnson, Mr E N Grenville, Mr H Graham.
- B: Revd S Crane, Revd Peter Crocker, Mr P Wilson, Revd M Shepherd, Mrs Irene Moore, Mrs I Wren.
- C: Revd C Elliott, Revd M Howard, Revd E McDonald, Mr A P Hughes, Mrs K M Hughes, Mrs P Matthews.
- D: Revd W Young, Mr D Edwards, Miss L McPhee, Miss E Patrick, Revd Tony Bradshaw, Revd Barbara Flood-Page.
- E: Revd Jean Cook, Revd Grenville Fox, Miss M Hodson, Mr David Potts, Mr Norman Thompson.
- F: Revd Ernest Smart, Mrs I Laurie, Revd E Welsh, Mr R Chapman.

## Province VI

- A: Revd D Williams, Revd Wendy Baskett, Revd J Marsh, Revd K Jones, Revd Dr John E Parry, Mrs J Marsh, Mrs E Byrne, Mr Frank Jenkins, Mrs J Shaffery.
- B: Mr D Griffiths, Mrs E Owen, Mr R Owen, Revd Tim Harwood, Revd J Steele, Revd Noel Stancliffe.
- C: Mrs Mary Buchanan, Revd R J Brown, Revd R J Woodhall, Revd R B Woodcock, Mr N Jakobowitz, Dr C H Tompson, Mrs S Wilson.
- D: Revd B Scott, Revd L Jameson, Revd R H Young, Mr E J Radley, Miss J Kingham, Mr A E McCulloch.
- E: Revd P Ward, Revd G Sweeney, Revd S Scott, Revd G Spicer, Dr Iain Frew, Mr R Weaver, Mr Douglas MacDonald, Mr B Harvey
- F: Revd D Wolff, Mrs J McVee, Revd L Giller, Miss C Crutchley, Revd Tim Huc, Ms Steve Powell.

## Province VII

- A: Revd J Clive Sutcliffe, Revd Roy Muttram, Revd D Gleghorn, Mrs M Muttram, Mrs Wendy Gilbert, Miss Claire Montague.
- B: Revd M Dunford, Revd C Knight, Mr A McDonald, Revd R J Mortimer, Revd J A Pugh, Mr A B Royal, Dr R D Jurd.
- C: Revd P Henderson, Revd M Taylor, Revd Ruth Haward, Revd B Shirley, Mr Chris Thorby, Mrs N Menhinick, Mr G Chivas.
- D: Revd D Littlejohns, Revd V G Ridgewell, Revd J Roche, Mrs D Franklin, Mrs E Gear, Mr Ken Woods.
- E: Revd W D Francis, Revd K Overton, Revd D T Woffendon, Revd M D Whitehorn, Mr K D Clarke, Mrs M E Francis, Mr P Richards, Mr R C Taylor.
- F: Revd John Hussey, Mr Barry Moase.

## Province VIII

- A: Mrs Wilkins, Mrs J Brooks, Revd R E Cornish, Revd D F Wilkins.
- B: Revd D A Barber, Revd E Carless, Mrs E Estorffe, Mrs M Edwards.
- C: Revd M D Ambler, Revd A S Brown, Revd R Harrison, Mr E Cordell, Mr G Curl, Miss G Couch.
- D: Revd J J Armistead, Revd B K Stephenson, Miss I Reeves Mr J Lewis.
- E: Mrs D Lee, Mr B Elkington, Revd J Rees, Revd G Harmer.
- F: Revd L Anderson, Revd D Burnett, Revd Dr P Cemlyn-Jones, Revd Susan Henderson, Revd Hazel Martell, Mr D Bass, Mrs C Fraser, Mrs R Herwig, Mrs Brenda Smyth, Mrs E Speirs.
- G: Revd D Mapp, Mr D Walter.
- H: Revd T D MacMeekin, Mrs P Nicholls.
- J: Dr Morys Cemlyn-Jones\*, Revd D Whittal\*

## Province IX

- A: Mr P Gillham, Mrs P Gillham, Revd B Rawling, Mrs Rawling, Revd R F Damer, Revd C Dean, Mrs Dean, Revd R Hall, Miss R Wiseman, Revd J C Evans.
- B: Revd E Browne, Revd Fred Noden, Revd B Russell, Revd G Watt, Mrs C Hardwick, Mrs J Hillier, Mr G Evertt, Mr M Shrubsole.

- C: Mrs T Jones, Miss M Perry, Mrs F Plumbley, Revd D F Jones, Revd D J Williams, Revd S L Williams.
- D: Revd E Beglin, Revd P Hall, Revd C Macauley, Revd D Netherwood, Mrs M Carrick Smith, Mr A Gibb, Mr J Hutson, Mr G McCallum.
- E: Mr P Butler, Mrs P Clamp, Mrs J MacLaren, Mr Simon King, Mr M Healey, Revd T Hinks Revd Dr Neil Messer, Revd D Nuttall, Revd P Peirce, Revd J Wyatt.

### **Province X**

- A: Revd Bert Baker, Revd P Crawhaw, Revd G Davis, Revd M Husselbee, Revd K Swain, Mr T Alderman, Miss Margaret Badcock, Mrs M Stacy, Mr Neil Warland, Mrs M How.
- B: Miss M Crack, Revd A Bosschart, Revd A Ferwanda, Revd D Ferwanda, Miss I Raicher, Mrs R Bullen.
- C: Revd G Bending, Revd A Bulley, Revd J Templeton, Mr G Burwood, Mrs C Johnson, Mrs D Mulcock
- D: Revd M Truscott, Revd J Flawn, Mrs A Norris, Revd T Ruffell, Revd K Havers, Dr Jack Gow, Miss N Winder, Miss S Winder, Revd P Grimshaw, Mrs M Sporle.
- E: Revd L Stone, Revd F Ackroyd, Ms E Boateng, Mr D Martin, Ms D Whitby Reid, Revd B Thorley.
- F: Revd Ian Smith, Revd Ruth Ball, Revd Nancy Heimer, Ms S Fox, Mrs F Woods, Mr M Allard.

### **Province XI**

- A: Revd B Ranford, Revd B Eyles, Revd E Dunn, Revd Richard Landon, Mrs G Ntiamoah, Mr J King, Miss Sara Lane.
- B: Revd J Beeson, Revd C Meachin, Revd D Goldie, Revd Ken Lynch, Dr P Finlayson, Miss S Greenslade, Mrs E Pelling.
- C: Mrs C Winter, Revd J A Key, Revd J Loveitt, Revd R Singh, Revd A P Skelton, Revd B S C Taylor, Mr F Hodgson, Mr A G Sinclair, Miss K Thomas. Mr G Brown.
- D: Revd D L Smyth, Revd Dave Dunster, Revd S Thomas, Revd Tony Groom, Mr R Anderson, Mrs D Bond, Mrs H Coutts, Mr Jon Brown.
- E: Revd G Palmer, Revd R Wood, Revd P Hammond, Mrs J Palmer, Mrs M Wood, Mr D Fernyhough.
- F: Revd O H Owens, Revd M C Playdon, Revd J N E Rogers, Revd R W G Talmey, Mr M Goodger, Mrs V Hill, Mr D Sanders, Mrs M Elliott,.
- G: Revd G McCleave, Revd R Parkington, Revd B Stone, Mr L Popley Mrs N Welch, Mr P West..

### **Province XII**

- A: Revd Simon Walkling, Revd Stella Jones, Revd A Seager, Miss M Jones, Mrs E Charlton, Mr David Clarkson.
- B: Revd J Thomas, Revd David Fox, Revd Russel Gordon, Mr Olthen, Mrs C Olthen, Miss Doris Newnes.
- C: Revd Geoff Ward, Revd Bob Banham, Revd T Glanville Jones, Mrs E McIlveen, Dr Arthur Jones, Mrs Jeanne Jones.
- D: Revd Kevin Watson, Revd P Lewis, Mrs J Davies, Mr Richard Pope.
- E: Revd Tom Owen, Mrs E Morgan, Mrs M Jones, Mr H Morris.
- F: Revd G Rhys, Dr F Liddell, Revd Susan Roberts, Mrs S Hussain, Mrs J Gavin.

## **VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING OTHER CHURCHES**

Church of Scotland:	The Revd John Stevenson
Congregational Federation:	Mrs Andrea Adams
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain:	Mrs Priscilla Desir
Methodist Church:	Mr Geoff Bowstead
Moravian Church in England and Wales:	Mr G G Stewart
Presbyterian Church in Ireland:	The Revd S J Campbell
Presbyterian Church of Wales:	The Revd J E Wynne Davies
Scottish Congregational Church:	Revd John H Wilson
Union of Welsh Independents:	Mr Raymond Richards

### **Reception of Guests**

The Revd C Keith Forecast, Moderator, North Western Province, introduced local representatives of the Christian communities and those present were received by the Moderator:

The Rt Revd J Nicholls	Bishop of Lancaster
The Revd G Michael Wearing	Chairman of the North Lancashire District of the Methodist Church
The Revd Donald Parsons	Lancashire County Ecumenical Secretary

Apologies were received from the representatives of the Salvation Army, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster, the General Superintendent of the North Western Area of the Baptist Union. The Bishop of Lancaster spoke on behalf of the local ecumenical visitors.

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie, Convener, Missionary & Ecumenical Work at Home Committee introduced representatives from other churches at home and those present were received by the Moderator:

The Venerable Frank Weston	Church of England
The Rt Revd James Simpson (accompanied by Mrs Helen Simpson)	Church of Scotland, Moderator 1994/95
The Revd John Stevenson *	Church of Scotland
Mr Michael Burnett	Church of Scotland
Mrs Andrea Adams *	Congregational Federation also representing the Council for World Mission, Moderator
Mrs Priscilla Desir *	International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
The Revd Dr Leslie J Griffiths, Mr Geoff Bowstead *	Methodist Church, President
Mr G G Stewart *	Moravian Church

The Very Revd Dr Andrew R Rodgers (accompanied by Mrs Helen Rodgers)	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
The Revd S J Dixon	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
The Revd S J Campbell *	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
The Revd J E Wynne Davies *	Presbyterian Church of Wales
Mgr Martin Molyneux	Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales
The Revd W S Drummond	Scottish Congregational Church
Revd John H Wilson*	Scottish Congregational Church
Mr Raymond Richards *	Union of Welsh Independents

(\* voting member of Assembly)

The Revd Clabon Allen, Convener, Missionary and Ecumenical Work Abroad Committee, introduced representatives from churches abroad and those present were received by the Moderator:

Revd Dr Hugh Boudin (accompanied by Mme Boudin)	United Protestant Church of Belgium
Professor Dr Henk Weijland (accompanied by Mrs Weijland)	Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor	Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana
The Revd W D Francis	Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

The Moderator greeted these friends and the Rt Revd James Simpson, Professor Dr Weijland and the Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor responded.

Missionaries at home on furlough were introduced by the Revd Raymond Adams, Convener, World Church & Mission Personnel Committee:

The Revd Derek and Mrs Joan Jones, serving with the United  
Congregational Church of Southern Africa, Botswana Synod

Closing Worship was led by the Revd Stephen Brown, Chaplain to the Assembly.

### **Revision of Standing Orders**

At the request of the Moderator the Clerk explained the reasons for revision of the Standing Orders, referring to the version printed on pp.206-212 of the Book of Reports. The Clerk stated that the revisions related almost entirely to the codifying of matters already experimented with by the Assembly. He pointed out some minor amendments to the printed text.

It was proposed that:

- “1. The General Assembly under its function (XII) adopts the Standing Orders printed in the Book of Reports 1994.”**

This was carried.

### **Constitutional Changes**

The General Secretary presented the following resolutions concerned with constitutional change:

- “2. The Assembly ratifies its decision made in July 1993 to amend the URC Structure as follows:**

**2 (4) (c).....the number of such representatives to be, 1-200 members 1 representative; over 200 members 2 representatives.”**

The resolution was carried.

He reported that the revised version of Schedule C had been referred to the Synods, of which one had replied that the resolution should not be proceeded with. However as the other Synods had raised no objection, he proposed:

- “3. The Assembly confirms its approval of the revised version of Schedule C submitted by the Doctrine and Worship Committee as amended by the Assembly in July 1993.”**

This was carried and Schedule C adopted in the following revised form:

### **“Proposal for Schedule C as amended by the Assembly in 1993**

NOTE: The service will also include the reading of the Statement contained in Schedule D, and provision will be made for a statement to be made concerning the circumstances of the call. Ministers may also make a personal statement about their faith and sense of calling.

After the statement has been read the presiding minister shall then ask the following questions:

1. A.B., Do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?  
**I do.**
2. Do you believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people?  
**I do.**
3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world?



Do you believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people?

And will you faithfully proclaim this gospel?

**By the grace of God, this I believe and this I will proclaim.**

4. Do you believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ?

**I do.**

5. Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Holy Spirit and a desire for the salvation of the world, so far as you know your own heart, the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?

**They are.**

6. Do you promise to live a holy life, and to maintain the truth of the gospel, whatever trouble or persecution may arise?

**Relying on the strength of Christ, I do.**

7. Do you promise to fulfil the duties of your charge\* faithfully, to lead the Church in worship, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, to exercise pastoral care and oversight, to take your part in the councils of the Church, and to give leadership to the Church in mission to the world?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

8. Do you promise as a minister of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, purity, and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches, and to endeavour always to build up the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

9. Will you undertake to exercise your ministry in accordance with the statement concerning the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church?

**I will, and all these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The following alternative form of questions and answers is also authorised for use:

1. A.B., will you confess anew your faith?

**I confess anew my faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore,**

**is the gift of God's very self to the world.**

**I believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people.**

**And by the grace of God I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully. I believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ.**

2. What leads you to this ministry?

**So far as I know my own heart,  
I believe that zeal for the glory of God,  
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,  
obedience to the Holy Spirit  
and a desire for the salvation of the world,  
are the chief motives which lead me to enter this ministry.  
Relying on the strength of Christ,  
I promise to live a holy life,  
and to maintain the truth of the gospel,  
whatever trouble or persecution may arise.**

3. Will you faithfully fulfil the duties of your charge?\*

**By the grace of God I promise to lead the Church in worship,  
to preach the word and administer the Sacraments,  
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,  
to take my part in the councils of the Church,  
and to give leadership to the Church in mission to the world.  
As a minister of the United Reformed Church  
I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,  
to cherish love towards all other churches,  
and to endeavour always to build up the one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I undertake to exercise my ministry in accordance with the  
statement concerning the nature, faith and order of the United  
Reformed Church.  
All these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy  
Spirit.**

\* The presiding minister (after appropriate consultation) may modify the wording of question 7 or the answer to question 3 to fit the kind of ministry to which the candidate has been called."

### **Amendment of the Basis and Structure of the United Reformed Church**

The General Secretary explained the need to make it possible to amend rules of appointment for Moderators of Synods without bringing the matter to the Assembly as a constitutional amendment and proposed:

- "4. a) The Assembly resolves to amend the Basis and Structure of the United Reformed Church as follows:**

**Paragraph 2(4) in the note on Moderators of Synods, delete the second sentence. The first sentence shall read: 'There shall be a**

**moderator for each provincial synod being a minister appointed from time to time by the General Assembly according to its rules of procedure and responsible to the General Assembly'."**

This was carried.

Resolution:

**"4. b) The Assembly sets the 31st January 1995 as the date by which synods may inform the General Secretary of objections to this amendment."**

was carried by a large majority.

### **Rules of Procedure**

The Clerk drew the attention of Assembly to an amendment on the Order Paper dated 7 July, over his name and that of the General Secretary:

**"Amendment re: Resolution 5 on Rules of Procedure (p 131, Appendix II)**

**6 (2) (i) Delete: .... (unless the General Assembly in special circumstances determines otherwise) on the first day of September following the Assembly at which the appointment is made ....**  
**substitute: ..... on a date to be determined by the General Assembly ....."**

The amendment was carried.

The General Secretary proposed:

**"5. The Assembly, by its powers under 2 (5) (xii) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church alters the rules for the conduct of its own proceedings in the manner shown in Appendix II."**

The resolution was carried.

### **Introduction to Assembly Business**

The General Secretary introduced the business of the Assembly, noting changes made in 1993 and hoping that this year the Assembly would build on successful changes.

He referred to "1994 : United Nations International Year of the Family" on p.4 of the Book of Reports, which would be considered. The objective this year was for the Assembly to listen and learn.

An innovation was the meeting of Assembly in 50 small groups of about 12 people for discussion of agenda items and for Bible Study.

## **Bible Study**

On Thursday, 7th July at 8.15 pm, the Moderator asked the Chaplain, because of the delayed arrival of Professor Graham Stanton, to introduce the subject of Bible Study on the First Epistle of Peter. When Professor Stanton arrived he continued the exposition. Background information and optional questions had been printed in the Worship and Bible Study booklet for group discussion. Professor Stanton looked forward to receiving insights and questions from the groups and he would bring these together in the Sunday evening session at 8.15 pm.

The Chaplain, the Revd Stephen Brown, as on subsequent days, morning and evenings, led the Assembly in worship, during which the Assembly upheld in prayer David and Hilary Littlejohns whose little daughter had died earlier in the day.

## **Mission Council**

The Revd Donald Hilton gave an account of the work of the Mission Council, indicating the "broad canvas" of activities during the past year. The Council had developed new ways of working through informal groups and formal resolutions as necessary. Synods, Districts and local churches might wish to consider these methods. He quoted a summing up by the Revd Elizabeth Caswell at the March 1994 meeting: "We are not here to supply vision but to discern it and communicate it."

## **The Manual**

In reply to a question from Mrs Gwen Hall, the Clerk agreed that when the next revision is made to the Manual, there would be clarification of the wording on "Moderator of Province" or "Moderator of Provincial Synod".

## **Appeal by Toller URC**

The Moderator reported that in relation to an Appeal by Toller United Reformed Church against a decision of the East Midlands Province, the Mission Council, with the consent of Toller URC and East Midlands Province, had appointed a Commission of Assembly. The report, dated 15 June 1994, was in Assembly members' hands.

## **Financial Resources**

The General Secretary introduced resolution 6, from the Mission Council (p 11 of the Book of Reports):

- "6 The Assembly instructs Ministries in consultation with Synod Moderators, the Patterns of Ministry working party and Finance (and with power to consult more widely) to submit to the General Assembly, or the Mission Council, regulations for stipendiary ministry, including any necessary revision of the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration, which shall:
- a) enable a more accurate estimate of future numbers of ministers available for call,

- b) ensure that (with some possible tolerance for small and temporary variation) there cannot at any time be an excess of ministers and CRCWs to be paid from the Maintenance of the Ministry account over the full time equivalent number used in calculating the current year's budget; and
- c) to consider any other relevant issues not covered by the Patterns of Ministry working party."

He explained that the moratorium was imposed until the date of this Assembly. This resolution seeks to establish a long-term pattern, the moratorium being a short-term 'blunt instrument'.

A full debate ensued.

An amendment was proposed by the Revd Kenneth Lynch:

"After the word 'variation' within the bracket add: 'and with the retention of a scheme for issuing certificates of eligibility to ministers of other churches'".

Dr Finlayson seconded the amendment.

The General Secretary said that he was confident of the views of the Mission Council and could accept this amendment.

The Assembly voted in favour of the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

The General Secretary replied to questions and moved resolution 6:

- "6 The Assembly instructs Ministries in consultation with Synod Moderators, the Patterns of Ministry working party and Finance (and with power to consult more widely) to submit to the General Assembly, or the Mission Council, regulations for stipendiary ministry, including any necessary revision of the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration, which shall:**
- a) **enable a more accurate estimate of future numbers of ministers available for call,**
  - b) **ensure that (with some possible tolerance for small and temporary variation and with the retention of a scheme for issuing certificates of eligibility to ministers of other churches) there cannot at any time be an excess of ministers and CRCWs to be paid from the Maintenance of the Ministry account over the full time equivalent number used in calculating the current year's budget; and**
  - c) **to consider any other relevant issues not covered by the Patterns of Ministry working party."**

The motion was put and passed by a large majority.

The General Secretary moved, and the Revd D H Hilton seconded:

- "51. The Assembly, noting the action taken at the March 1994 Mission Council in halting the transfer of ministers from other denominations into a stipendiary pastorate or CRCW post in the United Reformed**

**Church, and in the light of work being undertaken by Ministries, agrees to extend the period in which transfers are halted from 7 July 1994 to such date as the Mission Council shall decide."**

Dr David Thompson suggested that if the resolution were to be passed, the Minutes should record:

"It was understood that this period would not last longer than to the Assembly of 1995."

The General Secretary replied to questions and comments and accepted Dr Thompson's suggestion. He moved the resolution.

On being put to the vote resolution 51 was carried by a large majority.

### **Committee Structure**

The Moderator asked the General Secretary to introduce resolution 7 concerned with proposed changes to committee structure. The Revd Tony Burnham gave a resume of events leading up to the present proposals. He made reference to Appendix III - Committees of the General Assembly, pages 134-146.

He reported that the Mission Council was in general agreement on the proposals, with the exception of the question whether Doctrine & Worship should be a single committee or two separate committees. On this matter the Assembly would be allowed to decide through the proposed resolution 43 from Dr David Thompson and the Revd Dr Philip Morgan.

Mr Burnham also explained reasons for the proposals for other Committees and for the Task Groups.

He proposed that the Assembly should suspend Standing Orders so that the Assembly could work "in committee".

This was agreed.

It was proposed, and the Assembly agreed, that the Revd Alasdair Walker be invited to take the Chair for this business. Mr Walker explained the procedure.

He invited Mrs Mary Marsden, who had convened the working group on committees, to offer comment. On her suggestion the Assembly agreed to delete the whole sentence in the brackets at 5.6 (p.140) beginning "In order to share the experience .....

### **Doctrine and Prayer and Worship**

Mr Walker then invited Dr David Thompson to present resolution 43.

**"43 Assembly amends the report on Committees of the General Assembly to join the proposed Committee on Doctrine to the proposed Committee on Prayer and Worship."**

Dr Thompson explained the circumstances which led to the bringing of this resolution and suggested a committee possibly comprising twelve persons.

The Revd Dr Philip Morgan seconded the resolution, commenting on the positive and corrective part played in the life of the Church by the Doctrine and Worship Committee.

After a full debate, Dr Thompson replied to some of the points raised.

The amendment was carried by a large majority.

It was proposed by Dr D M Thompson:

**“That the combined Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee consist of 12 members, one of whom is also a member of Youth and Children’s Work.”**

This motion was carried.

### **Retired Ministers’ Housing Society Ltd.**

The Revd David Hannen, Convener of the Retired Ministers’ Housing Committee, proposed an amendment as follows (Resolution 44):-

“Assembly amends the report on Committees of the General Assembly so that membership of the Retired Ministers’ Housing Sub-Committee be the Directors of the URC Retired Ministers’ Housing Society Ltd plus the Conveners and Secretaries of the Finance and Ministries Committees.”

The amendment was formally seconded by the Revd A F Jackson.

Mrs Marsden spoke against the amendment.

The amendment was put to the vote but was lost.

### **The Retired Ministers Housing Sub-Committee**

The Secretary for Finance, Mr Clem Frank, asked that within the bracket after the figure 6, there should be added the words "including the Treasurer and some Directors of the Retired Ministers’ Housing Society Ltd."

This was agreed.

### **YLTO and YCWT Programme**

The Revds John Oldershaw and Terry Oakley asked for changes to the text of 5.5 to delete "the YLTO and YCWT programme" and at 5.8 add "It also gives oversight to the YLTO and YCWT programme".

Mrs Mary Marsden suggested an amendment to the text of 5.5 as follows:

"This committee supports, encourages and promotes work among children and young people, including the policy for the YLTO and YCWT programme. It gives oversight to Pilots and the National Youth Resource Centre at Yardley Hastings, and relates to FURY Council. It also ensures that its concerns are fully taken into account with committees 1, 2 and 3 facilitating the involvement of young people in all the councils of the church."

This was agreed, as was also the addition to the text of 5.8. The reference to "Prayer and Worship" in 5.8 should now read "Doctrine, Prayer and Worship".

### **Ministries Committee**

The Revd Peter Rand proposed an amendment on p.141, para 5.7 which was agreed in the following terms.

After "armed forces and special ministries.", add the sentence: "It will have a concern for the pastoral support of ministers, CRCWs and Lay Preachers, including supervision, appraisal, self evaluation and counselling;"

The proposed change in wording was agreed by the Assembly.

### **Finance Committee**

Mr Steve Powell hoped that the Finance Committee might be able to give advice to local churches, District Councils and Synods. To that end he proposed the deletion of the words "to the Treasurer".

This was carried.

The Revd Roger Tomes raised a question relating to 6.3 on page 142. The Revd Brenda Willis also spoke, as Secretary of the Mission and Other Faiths Committee, in favour of retaining a committee rather than the work being carried on by a Task Group. Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow, Moderator of the CCBI's Other Faiths Commission, pressed the Assembly not to limit itself to a Task Group rather than an Assembly Committee.

Mrs Marsden replied to the debate. It was a risk, but the Committee wanted to take the risk, and the proposal would be reviewed after two years on a report from the Task Group.

The Revd John Johansen-Berg asked a question about the Retired Ministers' Housing Society.

The General Secretary said that there must be a general way for the URC councils to relate to Trusts without losing their own authority. The Convener of the Retired Ministers Housing Society replied to the question.

### **Resolution 7**

The Assembly took up consideration of resolution 7 on p 12 under Committee Structure.

The Revd Dr Philip Morgan spoke critically of the proposals on Committee Structures and expressed the hope that if the proposals were accepted, the officers of the Assembly would permit any necessary amending motions to be brought to the 1995 Assembly despite the three year rule.

The Clerk replied that although it would not be proper to agree in the terms suggested, he could give assurance that flexibility would be possible if changes were necessary within three years.



Dr Thompson asked whether the date for commencement of the Committee Structure might be deferred from 31 December 1994 to the General Assembly 1995.

It was then moved by the Revd Gethin Rhys and seconded by the Revd Margaret Taylor that a decision on the Committee Structure be deferred until the General Assembly of 1995.

The Clerk guided the Assembly on the procedure now being followed and the General Secretary replied that he would resist the proposal for referral back.

The Revd Raymond Adams asked a question on the moving of the deferral motion and the Clerk replied.

A vote was taken and the motion was clearly lost.

The Moderator thanked all those who were concerned in the consideration of the proposed Committee Structure.

The resolution 7 as amended by the Assembly was then put.

**"7 The General Assembly accepts the report of the Mission Council on Committees of the General Assembly as amended by the Assembly and agrees to its implementation by 31 December 1994."**

The resolution was carried by a large majority.

The General Secretary proposed resolution 8 (p.12)

**"8. In Clause 2 (5) (f) of the Structure of the United Reformed Church Assembly resolves to delete 'two representatives of the Church and Society Department' and add 'the convener of each of the following task groups : Advocacy and Stewardship, Mission and Other Faiths and Health and Healing'."**

This was agreed.

The General Secretary proposed resolution 9 (p.12) including the inadvertently omitted words "two representatives of FURY":

**"9. Assembly resolves that membership of the Mission Council will be as follows: Moderator, Moderator-elect, immediate past Moderator, General Secretary, Clerk, Legal Adviser, Deputy General Secretary, conveners of standing committees (except the Pastoral Committee) conveners of the following task groups: Advocacy and Stewardship, Mission and Other Faiths, and Health and Healing, two representatives of FURY, and four representatives of each synod including the provincial moderator."**

This was agreed.

The General Secretary moved resolution 10:

**“10. Assembly instructs Mission Council to consult with synods on the future pattern of provincial and district committees.”**

This was agreed.

The General Secretary proposed resolution 11 (p.13) as follows:

**“11 In exercise of the power conferred by section 7(2) of the United Reformed Church Act 1972, the General Assembly delegates the power of appointing directors of any incorporated association named in schedule 1 to that Act, to the Synod of the Province to which the particular incorporated association relates, provided that for so long as an incorporated association relates to local churches in more than one Province the appointment to that incorporated association shall be made by the Mission Council.**

**For the avoidance of doubt, each incorporated association to which appointments are to be made by a Provincial Synod shall on the first such occasion provide to the General Secretary and the Synod Clerk a statement that it is not the trustee for any local church outside the Province.”**

This resolution was carried.

#### **Assembly Moderator election**

On Sunday, after and separately from the election of the Moderator for 1995-6, the Revd Donald Hilton, on behalf of the Mission Council, proposed resolution:

**“12. Assembly receives the report of Mission Council on guidelines for the election of the Moderator of General Assembly and instructs the General Secretary to implement them.”**

After a discussion critical of this proposal, Mr Andrew Jackson, duly seconded, moved that the resolution be not put.

The Clerk read the Assembly the resolution on this matter taken at the 1993 Assembly:

**“49. This General Assembly, believing that the information given concerning the choice of a General Assembly Moderator is inadequate, requests the Mission Council to review and amend the process to make more information available to the members of General Assembly so that they may make a more informed decision.”**

The Revd Donald Hilton gave reasons why Resolution 12 should be put.

The resolution that it be not put was lost.

Resolution 12 was proposed and was carried by a large majority.

## **Annual Reports of Synods and Committees**

### **Synods**

The Moderator invited the Assembly to consider reports from Synods. In reply to a question on the origin of the reports, the Moderator said that the Mission Council had requested them from Synods.

The Assembly considered the reports of Synods and committees on matters not the subject of resolutions, as set out on pages 16-88. Questions were answered and comments noted by the relevant Synod officers, Conveners and Secretaries for future committee consideration.

After the report on the Retired Ministers' Housing Committee, the Moderator received and thanked on behalf of the Assembly Mr Bob Carruthers, who had been Secretary for the past twelve years. In his reply Mr Carruthers paid tribute to people of vision who had enabled housing for retired ministers to be provided, and to those who had assisted him over the years, especially his wife.

When the Windermere Centre report was under consideration, the Moderator asked that the Assembly should record its heartfelt thanks to the Revd Graham Cook for his ten years' service as Director of the Windermere Centre from its inception and particularly the provision of training courses. Mr Cook, who was unavoidably absent from this session, would be informed of the Assembly's gratitude.

### **Church and Society** (p.32-38)

The Revd John Johansen Berg asked if our Government could move in the direction of benign intervention by a multi-national body. It was easy to slip from peace-keeping into nationalism.

Mr Bruce Harvey raised a particular aspect of the Community Care Act by which house-owners are invited by Care Workers to enter private residential care in the knowledge that their property would be sold at their death to pay for such care.

The Convener replied to the comments.

The Revd Charles Meachin, Croydon District, regretted that the Assembly was unable to lift the boycott on Nestle. He quoted a letter from his local congregational magazine from a missionary formerly in Nigeria.

The Revd Peter Brain replied that it remained the Church and Society view that the boycott should continue.

Mr Michael Healey, Reading & Oxford District, having given due notice of a question, raised an issue not in the report - that of the Criminal Justice Bill.

The Convener replied that it was not a matter on which there was a clear-cut Christian viewpoint. The Committee had prepared a single sheet briefing which could be made available to members of the Assembly.

## **The Revd Dr David Peel**

The Moderator greeted on behalf of the Assembly, the Revd Dr David Peel, his successor as Principal of the Northern College, who addressed the Assembly.

## **Patterns of Ministry**

It was noted under Patterns of Ministry, concerning the timetable on p 79, that the date by which responses to the report from councils, churches and others must be received by the Working Party, had been amended to read 14 December 1994 (instead of 30 November 1994)

After suggestions in discussion that a longer period of discussion in the church was needed, the Moderator took a straw vote on a one year deferral which revealed a large majority in favour of the offered timetable which included not only three months in the autumn but also the two months after publication of Assembly reports.

The Revd Jim Campbell, of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was invited to respond to comments under 5.2 of Missionary and Ecumenical Work Abroad Committee (p.82)

Under the Mission and Other Faiths Committee Report (p.85) the General Secretary reported that although members of the local Buddhist and Muslim communities had been invited to attend the Assembly, none had been able to do so.

The Revd John Johansen-Berg reported difficulties experienced by students from Nigeria, Mr Bernard Nwankwo and Mr Jolly Ekpe in obtaining visas. They were present in the visitors' gallery and were greeted with acclamation. The Moderator asked Mr Ekpe to take greetings to the Presbyterian Church in Nigeria.

The Revd Sheila Maxey spoke of other visa problems.

## **Nominations**

The Revd Jessie Clare, Convener, presented the report of the Nominations Committee on p 80 of the Book of Reports, asking the Assembly to note two minor amendments. She proposed the following resolution:-

**"13. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd David Helyar as Moderator of the Synod of the Southern Province until August 31 1999."**

This was carried unanimously.

**"14. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd David Jenkins as Moderator of the Synod of the Northern Province until August 31 1999."**

The resolution was carried unanimously.

**"15. The Assembly appoints the Revd Barrie Scopes as Convener of the Personnel Committee (WC&M) until 2000 or until such time as the Committee Structures are changed."**

The resolution was carried.

**"45. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd Donald H Hilton as Moderator of the Synod of the Yorkshire Province until August 31 1997."**

The resolution was carried.

The Revd Jessie Clare proposed:

**"54. The Assembly appoints the Revd Peter McIntosh as Director of the Windermere Centre from 1st September 1994 for a period of five years."**

This resolution was carried.

The Moderator called for the supplementary report of Nominations Committee which was presented by the Convener, the Revd Jessie Clare.

## Nominations II

After explaining how the Committee undertook the tasks entrusted to it, and paying tribute to the Secretary, the Revd Anold Harrison, she moved resolution 46:

**46. The Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 94-104 of the Book of Reports subject to the changes detailed below. Where committees are subject to restructuring - the present membership shall continue until 31.12.94 or such time as the new committees come into being.**

This resolution was carried.

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES**

1. The Moderator, the Moderator-elect, the immediate past Moderator and the General Secretary are members ex officio of every Standing Committee.
2. The Departmental Conveners and Secretaries are members ex officio of each Committee within their respective Departments. The Secretary of the Finance Department is a member ex officio of every committee which has funds.
3. Officers and Members appointed since Assembly 1993 are denoted by an asterisk. Assembly is invited to appoint for the first time those denoted by two asterisks.
4. In the light of the review of all committees coming before the Assembly, no nominations are submitted in this report for vacancies which might be affected by such review. If they are required they will be available at the Assembly on a separate paper. If the new committees proposed under the review are approved then the appropriate nominations will be submitted on a separate paper.

## **MINISTRIES**

**Convener:** Revd Keith Forecast - 1996

**Secretary:** The Secretary for Ministries

### **VOCATIONS**

**Acting Convener:** Revd Keith Forecast

**Secretary:** Executive Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Margaret Carrick-Smith  
Mr Sidney Hazelhurst  
Mr Edward Bryson

Revd Dean Tapley  
Mrs Shirley Rawnsley

Revd John Waller  
Revd Jean Forster  
Revd Hazel Martell

### **TRAINING**

**Convener:** Revd John Sutcliffe - 1999

**Secretary:** The Secretary for Ministries

Revd Dr Catherine Middleton  
Revd Dr David Peel  
Revd Jo Williams  
Revd Cannon Dr Schon Goodridge

Revd Nina Mead  
Revd John Proctor  
Mrs Audrey Mitchell

Dr Susan Parson  
Miss Ruth Williams  
Revd Chris Warner  
Mr Roy Smith

together with one stipendiary ministry student (Mr Mark Ambrose).

### **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT BOARD**

**Convener:** Mr Raymond Clarke - 1997

Mrs Pat Peirce\*\*  
Revd Janet Sowerbutts  
Revd Lesley Charlton  
Revd Christine Craven  
Dr Fiona Liddell  
Mr Brian Evans \*  
Revd Barbara Plenderleith\*\*

Mrs Marva Ward\*\*  
Mr Alan Thompson  
Revd Graham Long  
Mr Peter Richards  
Revd Val Howson\*

Revd Cecil White\*\*  
Revd Jean Forster  
Mrs Edith Tolley  
Revd John Humphreys  
Revd Dr Catherine  
Middleton

Revd Leonard Bhagwandin\*

### **Panel for Assessment Conferences - CRCW Sub-Section**

Mrs Daphne Beale  
Revd Vaughan Jones

Revd Peter Loveitt  
Mrs Ann Sutcliffe

Revd Kate McIlhagga

### **Nominations to Teaching Staff (Westminster College)**

**Convener:** Revd John Sutcliffe - 1999

**Secretary:** The Secretary of the Training Committee

Principal, Westminster College  
Professor Graham Stanton

Dr Clyde Binfield  
Revd Robert Way

Miss Ann Phillips  
Revd Dr Ivor Jones  
(Cong. Fed)

### **SUPPORT**

**Convener:** Revd Dr David Cornick - 1996

**Secretary:** Executive Secretary for Ministries

Revd Hazel Addy  
Mrs Doreen Courtney  
Revd John Humphreys

Mrs Barbara Brettell  
Revd Chris White

Mrs Fiona Woods  
Mr Dick Wolfe

## **FAITH AND LIFE**

**Convener:** Revd Dr Philip Morgan - 1995  
**Secretary:** The Secretary for Faith and Life

### **DOCTRINE AND WORSHIP**

**Convener:** Dr David Thompson - 1997  
**Secretary:** Revd Dale Rominger

Revd Elizabeth Brown	Revd Alan Sell	Mr Tony Cheer
Revd Betsy King	Revd Alan Gaunt	Revd Wendy Baskett
Revd Donald Norwood	Revd David Fox	Prof Graham Stanton
Mr Bert Worrell	Miss Fiona Gow*	

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Convener:** Mr Tony Ewens - 1999  
**Secretary:** Mr Carew Satchwell - 1998

Revd Tom Arthur	Revd Harry Undy	Revd Jean Forster
Mr Jim Wilkinson	Revd Tresna Fletcher	Miss Ruth Norton
Mr Dilwyn Byles	Revd Dr Bernard Holt	

### **YOUTH**

**Convener:** Mrs Ruth Clarke - 1995  
**Secretary:** The Youth Secretary, Mr Paul Franklin

CHAPLAIN (National Youth Resource Centre):	Revd Martin Nicholls
FURY Chair:	Mr Andrew Jackson**
FURY Chair Elect:	Mr John Dryburgh**
Two Elected Members of FURY Council:	Ms Shirley Dale**
(25 or under)	Ms Karen Thomas
Two Elected Past Members of FURY Council from 1994:	Mr David Downing**
(25 or under)	Ms Catherine Rook**
Convener, Programme Committee:	Mr David Shapland
Ex Officio: NYCTO	Mrs Eileen Sanderson
Convener, Centre Management Committee:	Revd John Slow

Revd Martin Henninger  
Revd Ian Ring  
Mr Nick Raggett

### **CHILDREN'S WORK**

**Convener:** Revd Stephen Thornton - 1998  
**Secretary:** Mrs Rosemary Johnston - 1998

Mrs Elizabeth Crocker	Mr Richard Johnson	Revd Duncan Wilson
Revd Joan Grindrod	Mrs Patricia Hubbard	Mrs Sheila Flett
Mr Maurice Gardner		

together with the Master Pilot.

### **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK TRAINING**

**Convener:** Revd John Oldershaw - 1996  
**Secretary:** National Youth & Children's Work Training Officer

Revd Ian Ring                      Mr Doug Fletcher

together with the Conveners of the Youth Committee and Children's Work Committee and FURY Chair.

## **HEALTH AND HEALING**

**Convener:** Revd Robin Hine - 1996

**Secretary:** Revd Jim Hollyman - 1998

Mrs Connie Bunker  
Miss Ann MacFarlane  
Mrs Mary Husk  
Revd Brenda Denvir

Dr Eileen Gorrod  
Revd John Jenkinson  
Revd Brian Coward

Revd Eglan Graham  
Dr Allan Carswell  
Revd Kate McIlhagga

## **WINDERMERE POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Convener:** Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow - 1995

**Secretary:** The Director

Representatives of Finance, Revd Wynn Young, Revd Bill Mahood, Revd Dr Stephen Orchard, with the Administrator, the Convener of Programme Committee, the Convener and the Treasurer of the Management Committee, the Convener and Secretary, Faith and Life and a representative of Carver URC, Windermere.

## **WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION**

**Convener:** Vacant

**Secretary:** The Secretary for World Church and Mission

## **MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK AT HOME**

**Convener:** Revd Murdoch MacKenzie - 1996

**Secretary:** The Secretary for World Church and Mission

Revd Peter Arthur  
Revd David Fox  
Revd Rudolph Dixon

Mr Desmond Curry  
Revd Dorothy Spence  
Revd David Yule\*

Mrs Claudette Binns  
Revd Roger Whitehead

together with the Rural Consultant.

## **MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK ABROAD**

**Convener:** Revd Clabon Allen - 1997

**Secretary:** The Secretary for World Church and Mission

Revd Gwen Thomas  
Revd Norman Healey  
Revd Leonard Bhagwandin  
Mr Adrian Widdowson\*

Mrs Marlene Hunter  
Revd Philip Woods  
Ms Alison Harvey

Revd Froukien Smit  
Mr Ernest Dale  
Revd Geraint Edwards\*

## **MISSION AND OTHER FAITHS**

**Convener:** Revd Bill Mahood - 1999\*\*

**Secretary:** Revd Brenda Willis - 1998

Revd Dr David Bowen  
Revd Linda Hopley\*

Mrs Joyce Killick

Revd John Proctor

Consultant:- Revd Ron Lewis

The Revds John Parry, Christopher Lamb and Martin Foreward are co-opted members.

## **PERSONNEL**

**Convener:** Revd Barrie Scopes - 1999\*\*

**Secretary:** The Personnel Secretary

Revd David Helyar  
Revd Ken Graham  
Revd Bernard Collins  
Miss Judy Rogers\*\*

Ms Bethan Galliers  
Mrs Muriel Sleigh  
Principal of St Andrew's Hall  
Revd Linda Elliott\*

Mr Kees Maxey  
Revd Mia Kyte



## **CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

**Convener:** Professor Malcolm Johnson - 1996

**Associate Convener:** Mr Aubrey Curry - 1995

**Secretary:** The Secretary for Church and Society

### **COMMITTEE**

Revd David Morgan  
Mrs Val Morrison

Revd Molly Kenyon  
Revd Raymond Singh

Revd Ermal Kirby

Also attending:- Revd Phillip Woods, Ms Wendy Cooper, Revd Hazel Addy

### **FINANCE**

**Convener:** The Honorary Treasurer

**Secretary:** The Secretary for Finance

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**Convener:** Mr Alistair Black

**Secretary:** The Secretary for Finance

### **Provincial Representatives**

I Dr Peter Clarke

II Mr Reg Stelfox

III Mr Ray Holden

IV Mr Donald Lethem

V Mr Michael Harrison

VI Mr David Hibbard\*\*

VII Mr Philip Wade

VIII Mr Geoff Lunt

IX Mr Jim Richardson

X Mr Maurice Dyson

XI Mr Bernard Edwards

XII Mr Ray Lacey

together with Full voting Members:-

Mr Alistair Black (Treasurer)

Dr Jim Brown (General Assembly Rep)

Mr Eric Chilton (General Assembly Reps)

Mrs Jane Tomlin (General Assembly Rep)

Non voting Member

Revd Julian Macro (Advocacy and Stewardship Convener)

The following are permitted to attend but are not members of the committee.

The Conveners of Ministry, Faith and Life, World Church and Mission, and Church and Society, the Conveners of the Financial Management, Maintenance of the Ministry, the Convener and/or Secretary of the Welfare, Communications and Supplies and Retired Ministers Housing Committees, the Convener and/or Secretary of the Ministerial Training Fund, the Office and Personnel Manager and the Advocacy Secretary.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Convener:** Mr Alistair Black - 1998

**Secretary:** The Secretary for Finance

Mr Gordon Bannerman  
Miss Helen Marson  
Revd James Bolton\*

Ms Edwina Rockey  
Mr Ron Turner  
Revd Roger Woodall\*

Revd Paul Bedford  
Mrs Elizabeth Reeve

together with the Secretary for Church Buildings (Mr Tegid Peregrine - 1998) and a Secretary of the United Reformed Church Trust.

## **MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY**

**Convener:** Mr Michael Harrison - 1999\*\*

**Secretary:** Mr Alan Taylor - 1995

### **Provincial Representatives**

I	Dr Peter Clarke	VII	Mr Philip Wade
II	Mr Ian Livingstone	VIII	Mr Malcolm Johnston
III	Revd Paul Pells	IX	Mr David Taylor
IV	Miss Margaret Atkinson	X	Mr David Mills
V	Mr Jim McGill	XI	Mr David Buckland
VI	Mr Roger Pickering**	XII	Mr Brian Smith **

together with the Convener of the Pensions Sub-Committee (Mr Victor Hugff), the Revds Peter Grimshaw and Roger Cornish and Mrs Jean Ogilvie, a representative of Ministries and the Advocacy Secretary. Revd Bill Gathercole represents the Provincial Moderators.

## **WELFARE AND EMERGENCIES**

**Convener:** Mr Ray Heritage - 1995

**Secretary:** Mrs Judy Stockings

Revd Tom Stiff	Revd Basil Bridge	Mrs Ann Tomlinson
Mrs Jackie Harris	Revd John Williamson	

## **RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING**

**Convener:** Revd David Hannen

**Secretary:** Mr Clive Willis\*

Mr John Gilbey	Mr George Anderson	Revd Michael Hubbard
Mr Geoff Parkinson	Revd George Hooper	Mr Martin Ballard
Mrs Barbara Williams	Mr Brian Vaughan	Mr Brian Gould
Mr Norman Fabb*	Mrs Lewis*	

Note: This Committee shall consist of all the members of the Committee of Management of the URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited with the ex officio officers of the Department.

## **THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTERS PENSION TRUST LTD - BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of URC:	Mrs Gwen Hall	Mr Desmond Davies
	Mr Tom Swan	Mr Geoffrey Lunt
Members of Fund:	Revd Pam Ward**	Revd Tony Spring
	Revd Raymond Royston-Bishop	Revd Dr T Arthur Chadwick

## **OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **MISSION COUNCIL**

**Convener:** The Moderator of the General Assembly

**Secretary:** The General Secretary

### **Provincial Representatives:**

The Moderator and three representatives from each Provincial Synod, together with the Moderator elect, the immediate past Moderator, the Deputy General Secretary, the Clerk, the Legal Adviser, the Conveners of the five departments, the Conveners of the Advocacy, Assembly Arrangements, Communications and Supplies and Nominations Committees.

## **ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS**

**Convener:** Mrs Wilma Frew - 1996

**Secretary:** The Office and Personnel Manager

together with the Moderator-elect, the Clerk and the General Secretary.

## **NOMINATIONS**

**Convener:** Revd Jessie Clare - 1998

**Secretary:** Revd Arnold Harrison - 1998

### **Provincial Representatives**

I Revd David Jenkins

II Mr Monty Helmn

III Mr John Yates

IV Revd Donald Hilton

V Mr Chris White\*\*

VI Revd John Waller

VII Revd Bill Gathercole

VIII Revd Sandra Lloyd-Langston

IX Revd Nelson Bainbridge

X Revd Greta Morgan

XI Mrs Christine Meekison

XII Mrs Eileen McIlveen

together with the immediate past Moderator.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPLIES**

**Convener:** Mr Chris Wright - 1996

**Secretary:** Secretary of Communication and Supplies

Mr David Brain

Mr Doug Fletcher

Revd Peter Moth

Revd John Steele

Mrs Yvonne Thomas

Revd Jim Gould

Mr Alan Pinnell

Mr Chris Thorby\*

Mrs Mirella Moxon

Revd Graham Spicer

Mrs Sue Brooks

## **EDITORIAL AND MANAGEMENT BOARD OF REFORM**

**Convener:** Revd Brian Baker - 1996

Revd Martin Camroux

Revd Miles Parkinson\*

Mr John Rawnsley

Mrs Helen Young

Youth Representative:

Mr Andrew Jackson

## **ASSEMBLY PASTORAL REFERENCE**

**Convener:** Revd Alasdair Walker

**Secretary:** The General Secretary

Revd Nelson Bainbridge

Mrs Sheila Pratt

Revd Daphne Hull

Miss Ruth Archer

The Honorary Treasurer

## **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TRUST**

**Convener:** Mr Desmond Davies\*

**Joint Secretaries:** Mr Tony Lodde and Mr Ian Neilson

Mr Bob Carruthers

Mr Clem Frank

Mr Harold Kempton

Revd Richard Wiggins

Revd John Clague

Mr Robert Hardie

Mr Ron Masser

Revd Tony Burnham

Mr Alistair Black

Mr William McVey

## **ADVOCACY AND STEWARDSHIP GROUP**

**Convener:** Revd Julian Macro - 1996

**Secretary:** Revd Bill Wright - 1999

### **Provincial Representatives**

Revd Stephen Thornton

Mr Stanley Griffiths

Mrs Clare Shepard

Miss Janet Turner

Revd David Netherwood

Mr Keith Webster

Revd Bob Maitland

## **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ON OTHER BODIES**

### **1. OTHER ASSEMBLIES**

Church of Scotland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Scottish Congregational Church

Congregational Federation

Union of Welsh Independents

Presbyterian Church of Wales

Methodist Conference

General Synod of Church of England

Reformed Church of France

Evangelical Church of the Palatinate

Rt Revd Donald Hilton \*

Revd Duncan Wilson\*

Rt Revd Donald Hilton\*

General Secretary\*

Revd Keith Forecast\*

Revd Doris Leysham\*

Mrs Ruth Clarke\*

Revd Sheila Maxey\*

Revd Christine Craven\*

Revd Kenneth Summers\*

Rt. Revd Donald Hilton and

Mrs Ann Hilton

### **2. CHURCH BODIES**

#### **Churches Together in England - Forum**

Revd David Helyar

Revd John Johansen-Berg

Revd Tony Burnham

Revd Sheila Maxey

Revd Roderick Hewitt

Mr David Butler

Revd Barbara Gates

Ms Rachel Ingels\*

Revd Richard Mortimer

Revd Elizabeth Welch

#### **Churches Together in England - Enabling Group**

Revd Tony Burnham with Sheila Maxey as alternate

#### **Council of Churches for Britain & Ireland - Assembly**

Revd Greta Morgan

Revd Murdoch MacKenzie

Revd Tony Burnham

Mr David Butler

Dr Mary Ede

Revd Elizabeth Welch

Mrs Eileen McIlveen

Mrs Ruth Clarke\*

Revd Sheila Maxey

#### **Council of Churches for Britain & Ireland - Church Representatives Meeting**

Revd Tony Burnham

Mrs Ruth Clark\*

**Womens' Inter-Church Council:** Revd Rowena Francis and Mrs Ruth Clarke

#### **Action of Churches Together in Scotland:**

Revd David Taylor \*

Revd Dr Peter Arthur

**CYTUN:** Assembly:

The Provincial Moderator, Mrs Kirsty Lehnert,

Ecumenical Officer, Miss Mary Jones, Revd Peter Trow

Council:

The Provincial Moderator, Synod Clerk,

Revd Michael Gudgeon

Steering Committee:

The Ecumenical Officer

**Free Church Federal Council:**

Revds Peter Beaman, Tony Burnham,  
Norman Healey and Eric Wollaston,  
Sheila Maxey, Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow  
Revds Peter Beaman, Brian Holroyd and  
Daphne Williams\*\*

Chaplaincy Board:

Education Committee:

Mrs Mary Ede, Mr Penry Roberts\*\*  
Dr Stephen Orchard and John Sutcliffe also  
serve as co-opted members

Joint Education Committee:

Dr Mary Ede

Women's Council:

Mrs Ruth Clarke

**Methodist/URC Liaison Committee:**

Revd Susan Henderson, Revd Michael Hubbard,  
Revd Val Towler, Revd Sheila Maxey,  
Miss Betty Vickerton and Mr David Butler

**3. OTHER COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund:

Mr Ken Meekison\* Revd Geoffrey Satchell and  
Mr Laurence Macro (Honorary Treasurer)

Cambridge Federation Examination

in Theology Committee of Management:

Revd Dr Lesley Hüsselbee

Christian Education Movement Council:

Revd Terry Oakley

Churches Commission for Racial Justice:

Mrs Sandra Ackroyd

Churches Community Work Alliance:

Revd Tony Addy (Trustee)

Revd Vaughan Jones (Management Committee)

Churches Main Committee:

Mr Clem Frank, Mr Harley Oldham

Mr Tegrid Peregrine\*\*

Congregational Fund Board:

Revd Cyril Grant, Revd Dorothy Havergal-Shaw

Revd Aubrey Lewis, Revd John Taylor and

Revd Geoffrey Satchell

Joint Liturgical Group:

Revd Susan Durber, Dr Colin Tompson

Methodist Faith and Order Committee:

Revd Kim Fabricius

National Christian Education Council:

Revd Keith Forecast, Revd Terry Oakley

National Council of

Voluntary Organisations:

Revd Peter Brain

National Ecumenical Agency for

Further Education:

Revd Michael Diffey, Revd Kevin Swaine

Scottish World Day of Prayer:

Mrs Molly Glen

Society for the Ministry of Women

in the Church:

Revd Florence Frost-Mee

United Navy, Army and Airforce Board:

Revd Michael Diffey, Revd Dennis Friend,

Revd John Paull, Revd Philip Scofield,

Revd Tony Burnham

United Reformed Church History Society:

Mrs Mary Davies, Revd Peter Jupp,

Mrs Carol Rogers, Revd Eric Wollaston,

(Dr David Thompson also serves)

Mrs Betty Taylor

Wharton Trust:

Widows Fund of the

Three Denominations:

Mr Ken Meekison\*, Revd Geoffrey Satchell

and Mr Laurence Macro

Women's World Day of Prayer:

Mrs Ruth Bowyer

**4. COLLEGE AND SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND COUNCILS**

Aberystwyth (Memorial College):

Revd Dr Glyndwr Harris, Mr Leslie Jones

Bishops Stortford College:

Mrs Margaret McKay

Cambridge Federation of

Theological Colleges:

Convener and Secretary, Training Committee

Caterham School, Board of Governors:

Revd David Helyar and Revd David Flynn

Cheshunt Foundation:

Mr Desmond Davies, Revd Michael Dunford

Eltham College/Walthamstow Hall: Homerton College Trustees:	Mrs Jean Garwood Mr John Chaplin, Revd Bill Gathercole, Margaret McKay, Miss Elizabeth Jupp, Mrs Mary Cornick, Dr David Thompson
Mansfield College, Trustees:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd Peter Jupp, Revd Tony Tucker and Mrs Elaine Kaye**
Milton Mount Foundation, Governors:	Miss Margaret Canning, Mrs Ruth Clarke, Mrs Gwen Hall, Revd Peter Grimshaw and Revd Erica Beglin
Northern College:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee, Revd David Jenkins and Revd Brian O'Neill
Queen's College, Birmingham: St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak:	Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee Revd Ray Adams, Miss Betty Vickerton, Revd Michael Diffey, Revd Tony Coates and Mrs Marieke Arthur
Silcoates School, Governor: Taunton School: Tettenhall College, Governors:	Dr Clyde Binfield Revd Ray Adams** Dr William Blakeley, Mr Roddy McKenzie, Mr R J Whild, Mrs Doris Margetts
Wentworth Milton Mount, Governor: Westhill College Foundation Governor: Westhill College Foundation Trustees:	Revd Eric Lord Dr Richard Jurd Mr J E Payne, Professor Robert Steel and Revd Eric Lord

## **5. COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION**

Revd Tony Burnham	Revd Tony Coates
Revd Mia Kyte	Revd Clabon Allen

## **6. CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST**

Revd Dr Philip Morgan	Mr Alistair Black	Mrs Christine Meekison
Revd Maurice Husselbee	Mr Fred Lodde	Mr Robert Hardie
Revd Geoffrey Satchell	Revd David Hannen	Mr Arthur Smith
Revd John Taylor	Revd Peter Grimshaw	Mr Hartley Oldham

## **7. NEW COLLEGE LONDON FOUNDATION TRUSTEES**

Mr John Smethers	Revd Dr Robert Latham	Revd John Pugh
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## **REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COMMITTEES**

### **MULTI-LATERAL CHURCH CONVERSATION**

#### **IN SCOTLAND:**

Revd Raymond Bade  
Revd James Breslin  
Revd John Paull

### **METHODIST COMMITTEE FOR LOCAL ECUMENICAL**

**DEVELOPMENT:** The adviser for Local Ecumenism (Pro Tem): Mr Desmond Curry

## **OTHER COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

BBC Central Religious Advisory Committee:	Revd Tony Burnham
Church Hymnary Trust:	Mr G R Barr
	Mrs Fiona Smith
Churches' Commission on Overseas Students:	Revd Kevin Swaine

Churches' Consortium on Industrial Mission:  
Churches' Council for Health & Healing:

Churches' Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting::  
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith Relations:  
Council of URC Boys' Brigade Companies:

Funerals, Cremations & Crematoria:  
Guides' Religious Advisory Panel:  
International Bible Reading Association:  
Media Awareness Project:  
Scout & Guide Fellowship (URC):  
Scouts' Religious Advisory Group:

Revd Michael Diffey  
Revd Robin Hine  
Mrs Connie Bunker  
Revd Michael Playdon  
Mrs Carol Rogers  
Revd Brenda Willis  
Revd Michael Rees  
Mr Paul Franklin  
Revd Peter Jupp\*\*  
Revd Gillian Bobbett  
Revd Terry Oakley  
Mrs Carol Rogers  
Mr Paul Franklin  
Mr D Marshall-Jones

Mrs Clare moved resolution 47:

**47. The Assembly approves the nominations of the Conveners for the newly formed Committees as set out below:**

<b>Doctrine, Prayer and Worship</b>	<b>Dr David Thompson</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Church and Society</b>	<b>Professor Malcolm Johnson</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Youth and Children</b>	<b>Revd Stephen Thornton</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Ecumenical</b>	<b>Revd Murdoch MacKenzie</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Overseas Exchange</b>	<b>Revd Barrie Scopes</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Revd Keith Forecast</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Accreditation</b>	<b>Mrs Margaret Carrick-Smith</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Maintenance of Ministry</b>	<b>Mr Michael Harrison</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Training</b>	<b>Revd John Sutcliffe</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Mr Alistair Black</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Communications and Editorial Board</b>	<b>Mr Chris Wright</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Pastoral</b>	<b>Revd Alasdair Walker</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Assembly Arrangements</b>	<b>Mrs Wilma Frew</b>	<b>1998</b>

**NB The Committee does not yet have names for Conveners of Discipleship & Witness, Equal Opportunities and Retired Ministers' Housing.**

After discussion, the Assembly voted in favour of this resolution.

Mrs Clare then moved resolution 48:

**48. Assembly instructs Nominations to bring to Mission Council, for their approval, the names of remaining Conveners and all members of new committees, to fill any mid-term vacancies, and to submit that completed list to the next General Assembly for ratification.**

The resolution was carried.

Mrs Clare moved resolution 49:

**49. Assembly approves the staff roles and titles in line with the new committee structures and responsibilities, as set out below.**

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Committee Link</u>
Tony Burnham	General Secretary	Nominations Pastoral Resources Planning
Terry Oakley	Secretary for Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Deputy General Secretary	Doctrine, Prayer & Worship
Peter Brain	Secretary for Church and Society	Church & Society
Tony Coates	Secretary for International Church Relations	Overseas Exchange
Michael Diffey	Secretary for Ministries	Ministries Accreditation
Clem Frank	Chief Accountant and Secretary for Finance	MOM/Pensions Ret. Ministers Housing



Paul Franklin	Secretary for Youth Work	Youth & Children's Work
Muriel Garrow	Secretary for Discipleship and Witness	Discipleship & Witness
Hilary Gunn	Office and Personnel Manager	Assembly Arrangements
Lesley Husselbee	Secretary for Training	Training
Sheila Maxey	Secretary for Ecumenical Relations	Ecumenical
Carol Rogers	Secretary for Communications	Communications and Editorial

Other members of Staff who are not the 'link person' for a committee, but who will relate to various committees according to their role:

(To be appointed)	Secretary for Children's Work
Michael Cruchley	Rural Consultant
Graham Ghaleb	CRCW Development Worker
Norman Hart	Editor REFORM
Peter McIntosh	Director, Windermere Centre
Martin Nicholls	Chaplain, National Youth Resources Centre
Eileen Sanderson	National Youth & Children's Work Training Officer
Bill Wright	Secretary for Advocacy

The Revd Stephen Thornton, Convener of the Children's Work Committee moved an amendment to replacing the title "Secretary for Children's Work" by "Children's Advocate".

The amendment was passed.

The Revd Terry Oakley expressed anxiety that, should the Assembly approve the staff roles and titles as set out in the resolution, a situation would ensue which made change difficult even before the committees had had an opportunity to meet to discuss their remit. However, he appreciated that if he were to move that the question be not put, it would be impossible for the new committees to function.

The Clerk advised that to avoid this problem it would be possible to amend the resolution.

Acting on his advice, Mr Michael Harrison proposed, and Revd Dr Philip Morgan formally seconded an amendment:

"to replace the word "the" in the first phrase by the word "provisional"

The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion:

**"49. Assembly approves provisional staff roles and titles in line with the new committee structures and responsibilities, as set out below.**

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Committee Link</u>
<b>Tony Burnham</b>	<b>General Secretary</b>	<b>Nominations Pastoral Resources Planning</b>
<b>Terry Oakley</b>	<b>Secretary for Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Deputy General Secretary</b>	<b>Doctrine, Prayer &amp; Worship</b>

<b>Peter Brain</b>	<b>Secretary for Church and Society</b>	<b>Church &amp; Society</b>
<b>Tony Coates</b>	<b>Secretary for International Church Relations</b>	<b>Overseas Exchange</b>
<b>Michael Diffey</b>	<b>Secretary for Ministries</b>	<b>Ministries Accreditation</b>
<b>Clem Frank</b>	<b>Chief Accountant and Secretary for Finance</b>	<b>MOM/Pensions</b>
<b>Paul Franklin</b>	<b>Secretary for Youth Work</b>	<b>Ret. Ministers Housing</b>
<b>Muriel Garrow</b>	<b>Secretary for Discipleship and Witness</b>	<b>Youth &amp; Children's Work</b>
<b>Hilary Gunn</b>	<b>Office and Personnel Manager</b>	<b>Discipleship &amp; Witness</b>
<b>Lesley Husselbee</b>	<b>Secretary for Training</b>	<b>Assembly Arrangements</b>
<b>Sheila Maxey</b>	<b>Secretary for Ecumenical Relations</b>	<b>Training</b>
<b>Carol Rogers</b>	<b>Secretary for Communications</b>	<b>Ecumenical Communications and Editorial</b>

**Other members of Staff who are not the 'link person' for a committee, but who will relate to various committees according to their role:**

<b>(To be appointed)</b>	<b>Children's Advocate</b>
<b>Michael Cruchley</b>	<b>Rural Consultant</b>
<b>Graham Ghaleb</b>	<b>CRCW Development Worker</b>
<b>Norman Hart</b>	<b>Editor REFORM</b>
<b>Peter McIntosh</b>	<b>Director, Windermere Centre</b>
<b>Martin Nicholls</b>	<b>Chaplain, National Youth Resources Centre</b>
<b>Eileen Sanderson</b>	<b>National Youth &amp; Children's Work Training Officer</b>
<b>Bill Wright</b>	<b>Secretary for Advocacy"</b>

Mrs Clare then moved resolutions as follows:

- “55. **The Assembly reappoints the Revd Michael Cruchley as full-time Rural Consultant, for a period of 5 years from 1.1.95.**
56. **The Assembly reappoints**
- **Wallie Warmington as YCWT for West Midlands Province for a period of 5 years from 1.9.94.**
  - **John Quilter as YLTO for Eastern & East Midlands Province for a period of 6 months to 31.1.95.**
  - **Ivan Andrews as YCWT for South Western Province for a period of 5 years from 1.1.95.**
  - **Janet Turner as YLTO for Northern and Yorkshire Provinces on an Interim Contract of 1 year from 1.1.95.**
  - **Colin Capewell as YLTO for Wales Province and Methodist South Wales District on an Interim Contract for 18 months commencing 1.2.95**
57. **Assembly appoints the Revd George Thomas as Convener of Tellers for General Assembly (from Assembly 1995).”**

These resolutions were all carried.

The Moderator thanked Mr Monty Helmn for ten years' service as Convener of Tellers for General Assembly.

Mr Bob Carruthers pointed out changes required in the Retired Ministers' Housing Committee: the Revd Fred Hill had died and Mr Carruthers would be taking his place once his appointment as Secretary ended.

The Moderator thanked the Convener, Secretary and members of the committee for all their work, which had entailed many extra commitments during the past year.

### **Mrs Mary Marsden**

On behalf of the Assembly the Moderator thanked Mrs Marsden for her service as Convener of the World Church & Mission Department and lately also as Convener of the group which proposed the new Committee Structure.

The Moderator received Mrs Marsden and the Revd David Marsden and the Assembly showed appreciation with warm applause.

### **The Revd Dr Leslie J Griffiths**

The Moderator introduced the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Leslie J Griffiths and invited him to address the Assembly. He brought greetings from the Golders Green Circuit and gave insights of his relationships with other churches and with the Jewish community. The Moderator thanked Dr Griffiths and gave the Assembly's good wishes for his year of office.

### **The United Nations International Year of the Family**

The Revd Peter Brain introduced the presentation.

The Revd Erial Kirby, Co-ordinating Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, was greeted. He then addressed the Assembly, explaining how part of his work related to the family, and discerning of God's will for families. Christians do not aspire to be better than others, but to be better than they are. How do we communicate our hope for the family? We start by the interrogative mode of speaking and then by the invitation to share in the process.

The Revd Terry Oakley introduced a poem used in the International Year of the Family at the Service at St Martin's-in-the-Fields.

Professor Malcolm Johnson, Convener of Church & Society, presented a paper on the family, parenthood and children.

The Assembly expressed its thanks to the speakers.

Comments handed in by 32 of the 50 discussion groups were later summarised and presented in printed form for members of the Assembly. The Revd Peter Brain detailed some of the main findings and indicated how, after hearing comments from the floor, it was proposed to carry the work forward in committees.

Many different views of the needs, definition and diverse development of the family were raised.

Mrs Rosemary Johnston, Secretary of the Children's Work Committee, responded to the comments. She asked the Assembly to look at the display material. To help with the task of bringing to local congregations insights learned during the discussions on the family, she suggested that members could choose areas of concern which seemed to be most useful in their own circumstances.

The Revd Terry Oakley suggested that churches might be given assistance in becoming more sensitive - choosing one aspect on which to focus.

The Revd Peter Brain replied to comments. Church & Society was now engaged on a study on values in society.

It was agreed that the summary be circulated with the minutes.

At 9.00 am on Friday, 8 July the Chaplain led the Assembly in worship during which the Moderator inducted the Revd Peter McIntosh to the office of Director of the Windermere Centre.

### **Election of Moderator of the General Assembly 1995-96**

The Assembly, after prayer by the Chaplain, proceeded to the election of the Moderator of the General Assembly for 1995-96. The Moderator thanked Mr Helmn and the Tellers for their assistance.

Later on Friday, the Revd Sandra Lloydlangston, Convener of Tellers, announced that 512 ballot papers were returned of which four were invalid; and that the Revd John P Reardon was elected.

The Moderator received the Revd John Reardon amid the acclamation of the Assembly.

### **Equal Opportunity Policy**

The Revd Keith Forecast proposed a resolution on Equal Opportunity Policy (p.105).

It was agreed that Mr Alan Hart be given permission to speak to these resolutions. He commented that these resolutions should be seen as a step along the path to equal opportunities. Disability is added to policy earlier agreed by the Assembly. He moved the following resolution:

**"16 The Assembly adopts an Equal Opportunity Policy as follows:-**

- a) **The Church affirms in its Basis of Union that 'all ministries shall be open to both men and women'. At Assembly 1987 it adopted a Declaration on Racism and in 1990 adopted a Declaration of Equal Opportunities Policy in relation to ministers.**
- b) **This policy is not a statement of what the Church has already achieved; it is a declaration of the way it intends to move forward at all levels and in all aspects of its life within the limitations of its**

**resources. In particular, it is an aid to appointing the most suitable people to all positions of responsibility within the church disregarding irrelevant considerations; it does not oblige the church as employer or otherwise to make appointments of people other than those most capable of fulfilling the responsibilities.**

**Assembly declares:-**

- i) The Church will behave as an 'equal opportunity organisation' and not discriminate on grounds of race, gender or disability.**
- ii) The Church works to combat racism, sexism and prejudice against people with disabilities and is committed to positive action rather than containing the issues.**
- iii) The Church is aware of possible barriers, for example to women, black people and people with disabilities, within the structures of the Church in ministry and other posts; this has to do with expectations, position, role and status.**
- iv) The Church will therefore establish appropriate methods of monitoring the appointment, call, representation and position of women, black people and people with disabilities in the Church and take appropriate action where necessary."**

Mr John Bradbury asked to add to the statement a fifth point that the Church sees all people as equal in the sight of God and therefore rejects discrimination against any section of society. He asked whether it would be possible for a straw vote to be taken to see if the Assembly found this addition was acceptable.

The Clerk advised the Assembly on possible ways of proceeding with this matter.

The Moderator asked the Assembly to indicate by a straw vote whether it wished to widen the reference of the motion.

The straw vote was lost.

After a full debate in which speakers included the need to provide facilities for the disabled and for the URC to provide for the easier participation of those with disabilities, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr Alan Hart presented the following resolution:

- "17. Assembly resolves to appoint a Standing Committee of people with experience of Equal Opportunities, including two representatives of each category covered by the policy.  
The terms of reference shall be:-**
- a) To develop detailed equal opportunities policies.**
  - b) To have oversight of training programmes in equal opportunities.**
  - c) To monitor the implementation of the equal opportunity policy.**
  - d) To report annually to the General Assembly on the implementation of the policy."**

After debate to which Mr Hart replied, the Assembly voted in favour of this resolution.

The Clerk suggested that the number of members for the Committee and other matters of detail be referred to the Mission Council. This was agreed.

### **Equal Opportunities Monitoring**

The Moderator asked the Revd David Helyar, Moderator of the Southern Province, and the seconder, Mrs Grace Ntiamoah, if they would agree, following the passing of the previous resolution, that this synod proposal be withdrawn:

"Assembly urges that the appropriate monitoring and review process, as pledged by the General Assembly in 1987, be initiated at the earliest opportunity and as far as possible ecumenically."

The Assembly agreed to the withdrawal of the proposed resolution.

### **Charter for the Church**

The Revd Francis Ackroyd, presented a proposed resolution from Southern and Thames North Synods, as follows:

**"19 Assembly welcomes and adopts the document 'Charter for the Church' and encourages those responsible for the appointment or nomination of members of all the councils of the church to become more aware of the issues and to follow its recommendations."**

The proposal was seconded by the Revd Janet Loveitt who saw it as a useful way to tackle the racism which is present in all our churches.

During debate the Revd Jessie Clare assured the Assembly that the Nominations Committee would be presenting a supplementary report with the names of two non-white members of the Panel for Assessment Conferences.

On being put to the vote the resolution was carried.

### **Racism**

Assembly considered a resolution (p.110) from Thames North, presented by the Revd Francis Ackroyd, seconded by Ms Eleanor Boateng, as follows:

**20. a) URC General Assembly calls the URC to prayer and action so that ways are found to listen to people of different cultural backgrounds in our churches."**

This part of this resolution was carried.

### **Dr Rukmini Rao, Director of the Deccan Development Society**

The Moderator invited Dr Rukmini Rao to address the Assembly. She would also be addressing the "fringe meeting" for Church and Society later in the evening.

Dr Rao spoke of her work among the Harijan women of the Deccan area. The Deccan Development Society was able to assist these women to fight their sense of helplessness through individual resistance and collective action.

The Moderator thanked Dr Rao for the very fascinating insight into her work.

### **Racism**

The Revd Francis Ackroyd had already addressed the Assembly on resolution 20(b) and proposed:

"20. b) The URC General Assembly agrees to the allocation of a full-time special multi-racial ministry post with responsibility for monitoring and encouraging the involvement of people from different cultural backgrounds in the structures of the URC."

The Revd Raymond Adams moved an amendment in the following terms:-

#### **"General Assembly instructs the Mission Council**

- (1) to consider the motion from Thames North Synod on the allocation of a special multi-racial ministry;**
- (2) to make proposals to the General Assembly of 1995 in consultation with the new Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities and the Finance Committee as to what post, if any, is needed and how it should be funded."**

The amendment was seconded by Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow.

The Assembly passed the amendment with some votes against.

The amendment having become the substantive motion was carried.

### **Closure of Local Churches**

On behalf of the Mission Council the General Secretary proposed the following resolutions:

**"21. The Assembly receives notice of the closure of local churches listed below and gives thanks to God for their worship, witness and service throughout their history.**

**West Woodburn (Northern)  
Finch Hill, Douglas, IOM (Mersey)  
Ellesmere (West Midlands)  
South Cheriton (South Western)  
Torrington (South Western)  
London Chinese Church meeting at Harlesden  
(Thames North)  
Forest Gate, Ramsey Road (Thames North)  
St John's Wood (Thames North)  
Battersea Bridge Road (Southern)  
Goldcliffe (Wales)  
Penally (Wales)"**

The Revd Clabon Allen pointed out that the London Chinese Church did not leave the URC by any process of secession; its Church Meeting voted for the closure of the Church and the former members subsequently formed themselves into a new independent church elsewhere.

The Revd Dr Philip Morgan gave details of the distinguished history of the former St John's Wood congregation

The motion was agreed.

The Moderator gave thanks for the life and witness over many years of these congregations.

### **Reception of New Churches**

The Revd Keith Forecast proposed and Mrs Ruth Wollaston seconded, that:

**"22. Assembly receives St Peter's Church, Oxford Road, Manchester, as a local church of the United Reformed Church."**

The Assembly gladly accepted this resolution.

The Revd Hazel Martell, District Secretary, seconded by Mr Ray Herwig, proposed that:

**"23. Assembly receives Holy Trinity, Bradley Stoke, Bristol as a local church of the United Reformed Church."**

Assembly gladly accepted this resolution.

The Revd Roger Cornish proposed the following resolution:

**"24. Assembly receives Christ Church, Estover, Plymouth as a local church of the United Reformed Church."**

The proposal was seconded by the Revd Don Wilkins

Assembly gladly accepted this resolution.

It was reported that the Revd Andrew Midian of Papua/New Guinea would be coming to Christ Church, Estover, under the auspices of CWM.

### **Student Grants**

The Revd Elizabeth Brown, on behalf of the Yorkshire and Thames North Provinces, proposed the following resolution, seconded by Mr Richard Alford:

"25.

- a) The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church notes with concern:
- i) the effective reduction of student income in recent years to the present level which is below the official poverty line;
  - ii) the withdrawal of state benefits to almost all students regardless of need;
  - iii) the intention of the Government further to reduce grants to students as outlined in the last budget.



- b) Bearing in mind the Government's intention to widen the availability of Further and Higher Education, the General Assembly
  - i) urges the Government (Secretaries of State for Social Security and for Education):
    - to reconsider the level of student grants and to raise the total available so enabling all students to receive grants above the official poverty level and to cover the costs of necessary books and equipment;
    - to reinstate the benefit entitlement to vulnerable groups;
  - ii) encourages members of local churches, district councils and provincial synods to write to members of Parliament expressing their concern;
  - iii) encourages local churches in areas of student population to seek to provide practical support to students in their locality."

A vigorous debate ensued in which many cases of hardship were exemplified.

Mr David Walter, proposed and Mr Donald Fermie seconded, an amendment:

"To allow students to receive state benefit in line with the rest of society" in place of the phrase "to reinstate the benefit entitlement to vulnerable groups".

The amendment was carried.

The Revd Julian Macro corrected a mis-statement made earlier on the grants made to students for the URC ministry.

It was moved by the Revd Victor Ridgewell that the question be now put:

This was carried.

The Revd Elizabeth Brown exercised her right of reply.

**"25.**

- a) **The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church notes with concern:**
  - i) **the effective reduction of student income in recent years to the present level which is below the official poverty line;**
  - ii) **the withdrawal of state benefits to almost all students regardless of need;**
  - iii) **the intention of the Government further to reduce grants to students as outlined in the last budget.**
- b) **Bearing in mind the Government's intention to widen the availability of Further and Higher Education, the General Assembly**
  - i) **urges the Government (Secretaries of State for Social Security and for Education):**
    - to reconsider the level of student grants and to raise the total available so enabling all students to receive grants above the official poverty level and to cover the costs of necessary books and equipment;**
    - to allow students to receive state benefit in line with the rest of society.**

- ii) encourages members of local churches, district councils and provincial synods to write to members of Parliament expressing their concern;**
- iii) encourages local churches in areas of student population to seek to provide practical support to students in their locality."**

The resolution as amended was passed by a large majority.

### **Ministry**

On behalf of Thames North Province, the Revd David A L Jenkins proposed, and the Revd John Maitland formally seconded the proposal:

"26

- a) The Assembly recognising the desire of all member churches to know who their "pastor" is resolves to provide all member churches with their own "pastor", that is a stipendiary minister, a non-stipendiary minister or lay leader authorised to administer the sacraments."

The Revd John Johansen-Berg spoke against the proposal and said he might suggest that the resolution be not put.

The Convener of the Patterns of Ministry Working Party said that the issues of the proposal were being centrally addressed in the Working Party report. He moved that the resolution be not put.

The Clerk advised that under Standing Orders the proposer had the right to comment.

It was agreed that the resolution be not put.

At the request of the Moderator the Revd D L Jenkins proposed:

- b) The Assembly, recognising the importance of leadership in all churches, resolves to review its selection, recruitment and training procedures to ensure that when they are called to pastoral charge all ordinands have a range of the appropriate leadership skills.

On a point of order from the Revd James Breslin and in the light of the decision that Resolution 26 (a) be not put, the Moderator ruled that 26 (b) was out of order:

(see Standing Order 3 (e) (iii).

### **Closure**

The Chaplain informed the Assembly of the death of Mrs Heather Blows, wife of the Revd Robert Blows and mother of John. The Assembly remembered the family in prayer.

## **Finance**

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Alistair Black, introduced the financial business (pages 147-176) and referred to the changes in methods of presentation of the Accounts. Other changes had been deferred until "Accounting Regulation for Charities" became available.

### **Accounts for 1993**

He proposed the following:

**"27. Assembly adopts the accounts for 1993."**

After questions to which the Financial Secretary replied, the resolution was put to the Assembly. It was carried.

The Treasurer proposed the following:

**"28. Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 1993 to the Ministry and Mission Fund."**

This was carried.

### **Budget 1995**

The Honorary Treasurer presented resolution 29 on the Budget (p.117). The Budget was reliant on the passing of resolutions relating to the moratorium.

**" 29 Assembly approves the budget for 1995 noting that expenditure is expected to be £16,872,000, an increase over 1994 of 5.1% against which commitments have been made by Provinces of £16,122,000, an increase of 3.4% over the 1994 commitments."**

The Assembly voted in favour of this resolution.

On behalf of the Assembly the Moderator expressed thanks to the Honorary Treasurer, the Secretary for Finance and others responsible for the financial management of the URC.

### **Dates of retirement of ministers**

The Revd Michael Harrison, Convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, introduced the following:

**"30 Assembly modifies Resolution 10, passed by Assembly in 1993, by the addition of the words 'save that where ministers are serving in joint URC/Methodist pastorates at the time of retirement, ministers shall retire from full - time stipendiary service not later than the 31st August following the date on which they attain the age of 65.' "**

After a question was raised and answered, the resolution was agreed.

## **Rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund**

Mr Victor Hughff introduced resolution 31 (p.118):

- 31 Assembly amends the Rules of the United Reformed Church Ministers Pension Fund (both the rules applying before Assembly 1993, for those who elected to be dealt with under these rules, and the rules adopted by Assembly 1993), as follows:

Rule 22.3 to read 'Where a member leaves one or more children below the age of eighteen years, a pension of £250, per annum in respect of each child until the child attains the age of eighteen years. This figure of £250 will be reviewed annually.' "

Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by the Revd Robin Hine:

Rule 23 to read:

"Where a member leaves one or more children below the age of 18 years or in continuing full-time education a pension of £250 per annum in respect of each child until the child attains the age of 18 years or ceases to be in full-time education whichever is the later. This figure of £250 will be reviewed annually."

After questions and comments, the proposer of the amendment replied.

The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Several questions were then asked concerning the precise implications of the added clauses.

Dr Thompson moved and it was duly seconded by the Revd Charles Meachin that under Standing Order 5 (a), the question be not put on the ground that further consideration was needed. After an assurance that grants from other sources could be made in the meantime to meet the intention of the original motion, the motion under 5 (a) was carried by a large majority.

### **Payment of Supplements**

Mr Michael Harrison moved resolution:

- "32 Assembly rescinds Resolution 9 passed by Assembly in 1993 as follows:-  
'Assembly agrees to discontinue the payment of supplements through the central payroll from the 1st October 1993, except in exceptional cases that may be agreed by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee' "**

The Clerk explained to the Assembly why it was permitted for this resolution and also 33, to be brought to the Assembly this year.

Resolution 32 was carried.

Mr Harrison also proposed:

**"33 Assembly amends the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration by adding the following paragraph:-**

**6.2.2 Stipend Supplements: General Assembly 1993 passed the following Resolution - "Assembly believes the payment of special stipend supplements by churches is no longer justified and calls upon ministers and churches to bring an end to this payment as soon as possible". Any continuing supplement payments will be required to be paid through the central payroll system, in order to comply with National Insurance regulations. The cost (including, for example, additional National Insurance contributions ) will be an expense of the local church."**

After questions and replies given by the Secretary for Finance, the Clerk explained the effect of the Assembly 1993 resolution as a strong exhortation which was not an absolute prohibition of supplements. National Insurance regulations required that these payments must be paid through the central church.

Mr Harrison responded to the debate.

The motion was agreed.

Mr Harrison spoke to resolution 34 using the wording shown on the supplementary paper that had been circulated to members of Assembly. He argued that pro-rata loans for part-time ministry would be equitable.

"34. Assembly deletes the wording shown in square brackets and adds the wording shown underlined to paragraph 8.2 of the Plan for Partnership:-

'8.2.1 An interest free loan (as shown in Appendix A) is available to ordinands for the [whole-time] stipendiary ministry: where the pastorate to be served is part-time the loan shall be pro-rata according to the proportion of the whole-time stipend; this loan shall be re-payable by deduction from stipend over a period of not more than five years or such other period as the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the central MoM Committee, shall from time to time determine.

8.2.2 A similar loan is available to non-stipendiary ministers who have qualified for the [whole-time] stipendiary ministry, or CRCWs, payable at the time that they take up the [whole-time] stipendiary ministry.' "

The Revds John Maitland and Ian Smith proposed an amendment:

"Assembly amends resolution 34 by the deletion of the words 'and adds the wording shown underlined' and 'where the pastorate to be served is part-time the loan shall be pro-rata according to the proportion of the whole time basic stipend:' from the resolution."

Dr Ritchie asked whether it was out of order as a negative vote motion. The Moderator ruled it was in order.

The amendment was put and was passed and became the substantive motion:

**"34 Assembly agrees that paragraph 8.2 of the Plan for Partnership will now read:-**

**'8.2.1 An interest free loan (as shown in Appendix A) is available to ordinands for the stipendiary ministry: this loan shall be repayable by deduction from stipend over a period of not more than five years or such other period as the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the central MoM Committee, shall from time to time determine'.**

**8.2.2 A similar loan is available to non-stipendiary ministers who have qualified for the stipendiary ministry, or CRCWs, payable at the time they take up the stipendiary ministry. "**

The resolution was passed.

The Revd John Maitland seconded by the Revd Ian Smith moved:  
Resolution 42:

**"42. Assembly amends the Plan for Partnership by the following changes:-**

**a) Delete the words "full-time" (shown in square brackets) from para 8.1.1:-**

**"Every stipendiary minister or CRCW, whether whole time or part-time shall be entitled to a resettlement grant (as per Appendix A) upon settling into his/her first pastorate and each subsequent pastorate or into an [full-time] appointment of the URC and upon final retirement always provided that the settlement involves a change in the place of residence and that such grant shall not be payable more than once in every three years."**

**b) Include the words underlined in para 8.1.2:-**

**"Except at the time of a minister's ordination or a CRCW's initial commissioning, (upon which settlement a full resettlement grant is payable)**

**where the pastorate is part-time the grant shall be pro-rata according to the proportion of whole-time basic stipend in respect of the pastorate to be served. Where a minister's or CRCW's years of service up to normal pension age have not all been whole time the proportion of the resettlement grant on retirement shall be determined by the Central MoM Committee."**

**c) Include the words underlined in paragraph 8.4.1:-**

**"Notwithstanding what is written above in paras 8.1 and 8.3, in a case of husband and wife being ministers or CRCWs, their combined entitlements to resettlement grants and retirement removal grant shall not exceed that of one whole-time minister or CRCW."**

Mr Harrison said that the Finance Committee would not oppose this proposal. On being put to the vote, the resolution was carried.

At 2.30 pm on Saturday, 9th July, when the Assembly reconvened, the Moderator informed the Assembly that one of its members, Miss Gwen Couch had fallen and sustained injuries. However, she was present in the hall and the Moderator wished her a speedy recovery.

### **Reception of Visitors from Other Churches**

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie introduced guests:

Mrs Priscilla Desir	International Missionary Council of Great Britain
The Revd Jim Campbell	Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

He also mentioned that the Very Revd Frank Weston had been present at the Assembly but had left to attend the Synod of the Church of England.

### **Newly Ordained Ministers**

The Moderator greeted newly ordained ministers who were introduced by their Synod Moderator (or in the case of South Western Province, by the Synod Clerk).

#### **Northern Province**

Peter William Grey

Moderator : David Jenkins

Christ Church, Stanley

#### **North Western Province**

Geoff Rogers  
Sally Thomas

Moderator : Keith Forecast

Clitheroe, Barrow and Newton in Bowland  
Pendlewood Group

#### **Mersey Province**

Heather M Gabbott

Moderator : Eric Allen

St Colomba & Hunts Cross with Garston

#### **Yorkshire Province**

Fleur Houston  
Jannine Lawley

Moderator : Donald Hilton

St Andrews Sheffield  
South Leeds Team Ministry

#### **East Midlands Province**

Hamish G F Temple

Moderator : Malcolm Hanson

Sutton in Ashfield and North Erewash  
Valley Group

Ted Landon  
Paul Anthony Burton  
Douglas Watson

Chaplain, Northants Fire and Rescue Service  
Melton Mowbray and Freeby URC  
Burton Joyce URC

#### **West Midlands Province**

John Bassett  
Kevin Jones

Moderator : John Waller

Railway Chaplain  
Longston and Uttoxeter

#### **Eastern Province**

Peter Henderson

Moderator : Bill Gathercole

Braintree Group & Industrial Chaplain to  
Braintree Area

Irene Hinde

Community Minister at Christchurch  
Needham Market

David Littlejohns  
Owen Sidney North

Hockley and Hawkwell  
Stetchworth and Cheveley

**South Western Province**

A Seth Brown  
 Dr Patricia Cemlyn-Jones  
 Rose Harrison  
 David Mapp  
 Dinah Whittall

Moderator : Michael Hubbard  
 Ottery St Mary & Plymtree  
 Redland Park  
 Sidmouth Group  
 Bude  
 Mid Wilts ARea

**Wessex Province**

R F Damer  
 C J Dean  
 Dr Neil G Messer

Moderator : Nelson Bainbridge  
 Radipole  
 Fordingbridge  
 Maidenhead

**Thames North Province**

Ruth Ball  
 Patricia Crawshaw  
 Ian Smith  
 David Skipp  
 Hugh F Graham  
 Anne Stokes

Moderator : Janet Sowerbutts  
 Woodford Ray Lodge  
 Paddington Chapel  
 Upminster, Trinity and Hornchurch, Nelves  
 Romford Western Road  
 Fulham and Hammersmith Broadway  
 Gants Hill

**Southern Province**

John Downing  
 Elaine Dunn  
 Jose Finlayson  
 Adrian Skelton

Moderator : David Helyar  
 Broadfield Christian Fellowship, Crawley  
 Briar Walk, Putney  
 Redhill URC and Croydon District  
 St Marks United Reformed and  
 Methodist Church Greenwich  
 Trinity Church United Reformed and  
 Methodist Church Sutton

Daphne Topples

**Wales Province**

Graham Knights

Moderator : John Humphreys  
 Ystallyfera and Ystradgynlais

The Revd Bill Gathercole informed the Assembly that the Moderator and the Chaplain had written a letter of condolence to the Revd David Littlejohns and his wife, who were receiving pastoral care from their local congregations and from ministers.

**Newly-appointed Missionaries**

The Revd Raymond Adams introduced John and Janni Harris with John and Julia, who were shortly leaving to serve through CWM in Kiribati Protestant Church.

The Moderator addressed the newly ordained ministers and newly appointed missionaries and wished them joy in their calling. He offered prayer for them.

**Ministers celebrating their Jubilees****1944**

Norman CHARLTON  
 Stanley Leon COOK  
 Alun Lloyd DAVIES  
 Granville DAVIES  
 John Emrys DAVIES  
 Edward Philip EASTMAN

**1934**

Henry Burns JAMIESON  
 Kenneth Raymond SAINSBURY  
 Geoffrey WALKER  
 Lawrence Mark WHEELER



Sidney Samuel Thomas EVANS  
George Alexander HARDING  
Stanley Horner HODGSON  
Thomas JONES  
David Richard Christopher MORRIS  
Charles Vernon SPROXTON  
Evan George THOMAS  
Ronald Martin WARD

It was the wish of the Assembly that the Moderator should send greetings and he gladly undertook to do this.

### **Reception of New Churches**

The Moderator welcomed the Revd Geoffrey Barnard and Mrs Angela Bogg, representing St Peter's Church, Oxford Road, Manchester, and Mrs Janet Brooks representing Christ Church, Estover, Plymouth.

An apology for absence of a representative and a message of greetings had been received from Deaconess Jean Duckworth on behalf of Holy Trinity, Bradley Stoke, Bristol.

The Moderator greeted those representing these churches and asked God's blessing on them.

### **Assembly Costs**

The Revd Margaret Taylor proposed, on behalf of East Midlands Province, resolution 35 (p.119)

**"35 Assembly resolves that no member representing district council or synod be required to contribute financially towards the essential costs of their attendance at Assembly; and that the appropriate committee be urged to meet the costs of the General Assembly entirely from central funds."**

The motion was seconded by the Revd Christopher White.

The Honorary Treasurer expressed some anxiety about adding to central church costs.

After discussion the Revd Margaret Taylor replied to the debate.

The Assembly voted in favour of the resolution.

### **Resolution from the Southern Province**

Mrs Christine Meekison presented, on behalf of Southern Province, resolution 50:

**"50. Assembly agrees that the number of members of local churches, normally elders, who may be coopted to a District Council (the Structure of the United Reformed Church 2 (3) (e), Manual p 20) and to the Provincial Synod ( 2 (4) (e), Manual p. 23) be increased from eight to twelve."**

Dr Peter Finlayson seconded the proposal.

The resolution was carried.

### **Resolution 52**

The Revd Gethin Rhys, seconded by the Revd John Humphreys, moved:

"52. Assembly regrets the cancellation of the creche originally planned to run during Assembly 1994 and requests the officers of Assembly to endeavour to ensure that at future meetings of Assembly, creche facilities are available for the children of members and others officially invited, subject to their giving reasonable notice of the need for such facilities."

The Revd Elizabeth Nash proposed an amendment:-

to delete "subject to their giving reasonable notice of the need for such facilities."

The Clerk was asked for advice as to whether this amendment would be in order and the Moderator ruled that it would be.

The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion:

**"52. Assembly regrets the cancellation of the crèche originally planned to run during Assembly 1994 and requests the officers of Assembly to endeavour to ensure that at future meetings of Assembly, crèche facilities are available for the children of members and others officially invited."**

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee explained why this year crèche facilities were not provided. She was in sympathy with the idea and said the Assembly Arrangements Committee would endeavour to do better.

The proposer replied to the debate.

The resolution was carried.

### **Resolution from FURY Assembly**

Mr Andrew Jackson, FURY Chair, by permission of Assembly, introduced the following resolution in revised form:

"Assembly agrees with FURY Assembly and FURY Council that a national cover scheme be developed and implemented to provide first aid cover for certain church events.

Assembly requests that Mission Council investigates with a view to implementing an on-going national first aid cover scheme which ensures that all churches have access to first aiders at events of certain types to be specified by Mission Council.

Assembly also requests that Mission Council ensures that all churches are aware of the need for first aid support whilst also providing a register of trained first aiders using data supplied by local churches."

He put the Assembly to an informal first aid test. The motion was formally seconded by Hannah Melia.

After discussion of possible liaison with existing first aid organisations and a promise by the General Secretary that this would be followed up, it was moved and agreed that the question be not put.

### **"Sounds of FURY"**

The Chair of FURY, Mr Andrew Jackson, presented the Moderator with a copy of the newly published URC book ""Sounds of FURY" which he accepted with gratitude.

### **Good Practice**

Mrs Sheila Flett introduced a resolution on Good Practice. A presentation vividly illustrated what was needed and how first steps could be taken to put it into effect.

**"36. Assembly, recognising the value of the Good Practice pack, urges every local congregation to discuss the material as a matter of urgency and to implement the good practice suggested, as part of the church's obligations to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children and young people involved in its life."**

After a discussion, Mr Thornton exercised his right to speak in seconding the resolution. Mrs Flett responded to the debate.

The resolution was carried.

### **Celebration of Holy Communion**

On Sunday, 10 July, the Assembly met at 8.45 am to prepare for the part of the Service which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4. The Service was led by the Revds Donald Hilton, Duncan Wilson and the Revd Dr Jack McKelvey.

### **Commemoration of Ministers and Missionaries**

The act of worship included the commemoration of the following ministers and missionaries who had died since the last Assembly.

Ministers who have died since Assembly 1993

Richard George ASCOTT  
Archibald Allan BAILLIE  
John Gibson BARBOUR  
Burnard Lawrence BATE  
Lilian BLYTHIN  
Arnold BRADLEY  
James Henry BROOKS  
Marjorie CLAGUE  
George Cyril CLAMP  
James Ian Whimster COPE  
Wallace DUNFORD

Robert William Hugh JONES  
Arthur Leslie KENWORTHY  
Norman Henry KEW  
Peter Aubrey LOVETT-HARGIS  
John Kenneth MAIN  
John MARSH  
David MELVILLE-JONES  
Derek James MORRILL  
Robert PARKER  
David Hugh PARRY-JONES  
Percy Marischal PATON

Ralph Henry ESSEX  
Daniel George Allen EVERSON  
Ian Warden FERRIER  
Samuel GARDINER  
Douglas Vernon GODFREY  
John William GREEN  
Harold Dennis GREENWOOD  
Thomas HAWTHORN  
Harold HOLT  
Hampden Nicholson HORNE  
William HURLSTONE  
Richard Harold JOLLY

Iorwerth Oliver PRITCHARD (1993)  
Frederick Mabor Hodgess ROPER  
George Arthur ROTHERAM  
David Thomas SCOTLAND  
Frank Anthony SHIELD  
Henry Walter John SMITH  
Edward Charles Dudley STANFORD  
Thomas WATSON  
Claude Alfred Edward WESTON  
Hazel M WHITEHEAD  
Norman James WILLIAMS  
Wesley WORKMAN

Missionaries who have died since Assembly 1993

Ann BELLAMY  
Edna Jane CLEWES (nee Baker)  
Audrey CRAIG

Florence HOLLOWAY  
Jean LANSBOROUGH

Nancy LAPWOOD  
The Revd James Clifford McGILVRAY  
Margaret Hope SOMERVELL  
(nee Simpson)  
Geoffrey TURBERVILLE  
Hilary Robey WILSON (nee Fletcher)

### **TRIO Presentation**

The Revd Bill Wright, Secretary of the Advocacy and Stewardship Committee, introduced a presentation of TRIO - The Responsibility Is Ours - using slides for illustration.

A small group described informally their experiences in using TRIO in their congregations. Taking part with the Revd Bill Wright were Mrs Sue Kendal (Carver, Windermere) and the Revds David Lawrence (Over, Winsford) and David Legge (Hamilton Memorial Church).

The Revd Bill Wright responded to questions.

### **Letter to partner Churches in the two republics of Korea**

The General Secretary read the draft of a letter which it was proposed to send to our partner churches in the two republics of Korea, following the death of President Kim, Il-Sung. The Assembly enthusiastically agreed that this letter be sent.

### **Communication and Supplies**

Mr Christopher Wright introduce a dramatic presentation by the Drama Group of Bamford Chapel, Rochdale, "Food for Thought".  
The message of the presentation was received with applause.

### **Church and Society**

Professor Malcolm Johnson spoke about the concerns with which Church & Society have to deal.

Professor Johnson introduced Mr Malcolm Compston, who spoke to the resolution:

“37

- a) **Assembly, noting that 1995 marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations Organisation and of the first use of nuclear weapons, and believing that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), due for renewal in 1995, represents an important step towards the effective international control and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons, therefore calls on the Government to work for this treaty to be reaffirmed and made permanent.**
- b) (i) **Assembly remains concerned over the continuing excessive dependence of British manufacturing industry on the arms trade;**  
(ii) **expresses its growing concern that revelations of possible linkages between the Aid and Trade Provision and arms deals are damaging the reputation of the British aid programme; and**  
(iii) **calls on the Government to publish applications for arms export licences so that, if necessary, there can be Parliamentary and public debate before approval is given.”**

Mr Compston gave an informed exposition of the present situation on the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Members of the Assembly spoke in support of the resolution, but spoke also of the difficulty of transferring armament manufacture into peaceful products. Some doubt was expressed about the practicability of (b) (iii).

Professor Johnson moved the proposed resolution which was carried with one vote against.

### **Amnesty Call by CCBI**

The Revd Peter Brain, Secretary for Church and Society, introduced resolution 38 (p.123) on the Amnesty Call by CCBI.

The Moderator gave permission for Mr Yousouf Gooljary-Wright, a lawyer and a member of the Iona Community, to speak in support of the resolution and welcomed him to the Assembly. He gave as an example of the problems arising from the Deportation Laws the case of Helen Aladesanwe, who was in immediate danger of deportation to Nigeria in spite of her rightful claim to live in the UK and the life-threatening sicklecell disease of her young son. Her reference no. is A431375.

Mr Gooljary-Wright asked members of Assembly to write or fax the Home Office before Tuesday, 12 July.

He spoke as a member of Christian Action for Justice in Immigration Law (CAJIL). on which further information was available.

“38 **Assembly endorses the call of the Church Representatives Meeting (CRM) of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland to the Government to institute a not-to-be repeated amnesty for those who fulfil the following conditions and would otherwise face possible deportation from the United Kingdom:**

- a) **a person who has lived in the UK for at least five years; and either**

- b1) who is the parent of at least one child born here who has lived in the UK for a minimum of two years; or**
  - b2) is self-sufficient in terms of income and housing.**
- AND encourages local churches and District Councils**
- i) to support the petition on this matter prepared by the Churches Commission on Racial Justice; and**
  - ii) to respond favourably to any appeal for help, e.g. towards an appeal, from those who fulfil the above conditions and who are threatened with deportation."**

The Revd Peter Brain replied to the debate and to a question on a "not-to-be repeated amnesty". He did not feel it would inhibit further action against injustice in immigration policy.

The resolution was overwhelmingly carried.

### **Missionary and Ecumenical Work Abroad**

On behalf of the Missionary and Ecumenical Work Abroad, the Revd Clabon Allen introduced resolutions 39, 40 and 41 (p.124), giving some background information of missionary activity leading to the present ethos of the Council for World Mission. In the autumn every local church would receive a pack of information to enable them to take part.

He proposed the three resolutions:

**"39 The General Assembly looks forward with joyful anticipation to the 200th anniversary in 1995 of the foundation of the London Missionary Society."**

**"40 The General Assembly encourages the United Reformed Church as a whole to prepare for the anniversary by learning about the vision of "the glorious gospel of the blessed God" which gave rise to the founding of the London Missionary Society; and challenges the Church to discover how God is calling us today to share in God's mission in Christ's way to strengthen our commitment to the Council for World Mission."**

**"41 The General Assembly encourages every local church to celebrate 16 July 1995 as Council for World Mission Sunday."**

A wide-ranging debate took place, particularly on renewing concern for mission and evangelism..

The Revd Clabon Allen replied to the debate. Mrs Muriel Garrow replied to questions about the timing of the pack of information. She would be pleased to help with further information about the CWM celebrations.

These resolutions were carried unanimously.

## **Professor Graham Stanton**

Professor Stanton, using “feedback” from the group Bible Studies, gave a further exposition of the Epistle of Peter.

The Moderator expressed the Assembly’s warm gratitude to Professor Stanton for his teaching, especially as he had been willing, because of the decision taken by the Assembly Arrangements Committee, to have group Bible Study, to undertake the considerable extra task of collating and evaluating the material received from the groups.

## **Closure**

The Chaplain informed the Assembly of messages received concerning the Revd David and Mrs Littlejohns and of the serious illness of Mrs Christine Key, wife of the Revd John Key, a member of Assembly, and he led the Assembly in an act of worship.

## **Worship**

On Monday, 11 July, the Chaplain led the Assembly in worship with the assistance of Janette Brown, Gina Gibson, the Revd Susan Durber and members of FURY in liturgical dance and song.

## **The Broadcast Service**

The General Secretary said, in response to inquiries received, that it was not possible to provide copies of a tape-recording of the broadcast service, all of which was copyright. If individuals had taped the broadcast at home, they would be in breach of copyright if it was “pirated” to others.

## **Provincial Moderators’ Report**

The Revd Janet Sowerbutts, on behalf of the Provincial Moderators, introduced the report and in a challenging thought-provoking manner, invited the participation of the Assembly in the debate, and thereafter the councils of the Church.

She welcomed the Revds Raymond Adams and Graham Cook. She paid tribute to the Revd Michael Hubbard, who served for seventeen years in the South Western Province, and the Revd Eric Allen, who served for seven years in North Western Province.

The Moderator thanked the Revd Eric and Mrs Joan Allen and wished them well in their retirement. He spoke of Eric’s commitment to the World Church and ecumenism, of his involvement in the studies on gospel and culture and of his work in pastoral reconciliation.

He spoke of the many gifts of the Revd Michael Hubbard, Moderator of the South Western Province, and the service he had given to the URC and the wider church over the past seventeen years. He gave thanks also for the service given by Patricia and wished them both well as Michael responded to a new call to Elmwood, Birmingham. Michael will continue to serve the URC on the Methodist/URC Liaison Committee.

The Assembly responded vigorously to the challenges raised in the report; many speakers reaffirmed the URC's ecumenical commitment and continuing quest for visible unity.

### **Synod Groups**

The Assembly met in groups according to Synod membership to discuss and evaluate the proceedings of the 1994 Assembly.

### **Moderator Elect's Acceptance Speech**

The Moderator-Elect, the Revd John P Reardon, was greeted with applause. He addressed the Assembly.

### **Thanks**

On behalf of the Assembly the Revd Roy Parkington expressed thanks to all who had made and carried out the arrangements for the Assembly.

### **Changing Structures**

The Moderator received and thanked the Revd Dr Philip Morgan, retiring convener of Faith and Life.

He also received the Revds Lesley Husselbee, Peter Brain, Terry Oakley and, including Tony Coates in his absence, commended them as they took up new duties under the changing committee structures.

### **Mr Alan Pollard**

The General Secretary asked the Moderator to receive Mr Alan Pollard, who was shortly to retire after 12 years as the Caretaker of Church House and who has been responsible for loading, transporting and unloading the large amount of necessary equipment for all the Assemblies during that time.

### **Moderator's Thanks**

The Moderator expressed his personal thanks to his Chaplain, the Assembly officers and members of the Assembly.

### **Minutes**

The Clerk, having at earlier sessions obtained approval of the duplicated minutes with verbal amendments, asked the approval of the Assembly for the inclusion in the Assembly minutes of the minutes of the twelfth and thirteenth sessions, subject to their having been scrutinised by the officers of the Assembly. This was agreed.

The General Secretary announced that the Assembly having completed its business now adjourned to meet as agreed at Eastbourne on Monday, 3rd July 1995.

### **Closing Worship**

The Chaplain, the Revd Stephen Brown, led the Assembly in worship.



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