

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*St* Andrews 2002

July 4th - 8th

## Assembly Record



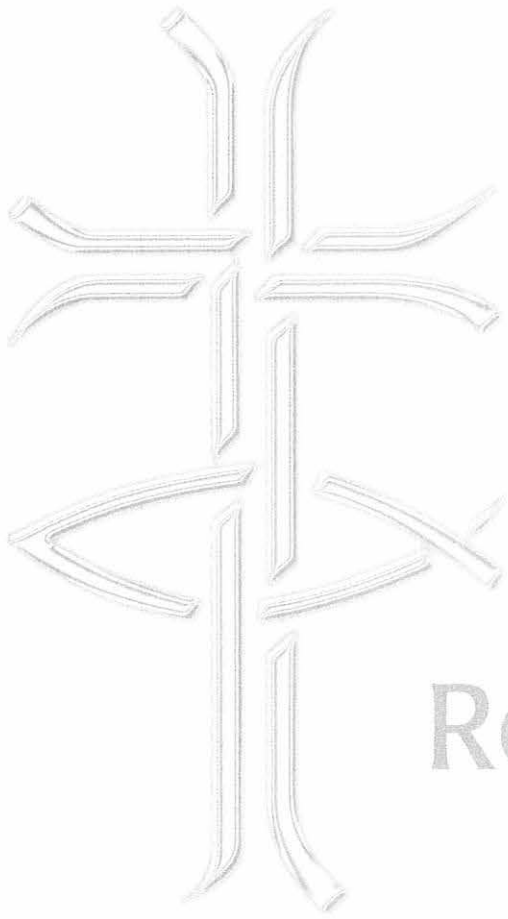
The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



## MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

For Consideration     \*  
For Action                 X

Resolution Number	Annual Reports	Assembly Record		Local Churches	District Councils	Synods
32	63	24	Future Patterns of Ministry	*	*	*
34	65	27	Church Related Community Workers			*
35	68	30	Lay Preaching Strategy Proposal	X	X	
43	101	31	Youth & Children's Review		X	X
50	104	36	Conversations on the way to Unity	X	X	X
4	11	38	Ecumenical Bishop in Wales			*
19	37		Grouping of Churches	X	X	X
6	12		Inter-Synod Sharing			*
	49		Equal Opportunities		X	X
	34		Policy for mission grants & building grants			*
	42		Budget			*



*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



## Minutes of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

### 2002

**Thursday, 4 July 2002**

**First Session**

### **Constitution of Assembly**

At 5.30 pm. members of Assembly met in the Younger Hall at the University of St Andrews. The Moderator, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, constituted the Assembly with prayer, the place and the time having been duly appointed.

### **Induction of Moderator**

The Revd John Waller, Moderator-elect, was 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 retiring Moderator of Assembly.

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

The thanks of the Church were expressed by the Moderator to the Revd Elizabeth Welch and her husband, Mr Peter Skerratt. The Chaplain, the Revd Lesley Charlton, led the worship of the Assembly and the Moderator addressed the Assembly.

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

Moderator:	Revd John Waller
Clerk:	Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith
General Secretary:	Revd Dr David Cornick
Deputy General Secretary:	Revd John Waller

### **Moderators of Synods:**

I	Revd Peter Poulter
II	Revd Peter Brain
III	Revd Graham Cook
IV	Revd Arnold Harrison
V	Revd Malcolm Hanson
VI	Revd Elizabeth Welch
VII	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
VIII	Revd Raymond Adams
IX	Revd Adrian Bulley
X	Revd Roberta Rominger
XI	Revd Nigel Uden
XII	Revd Peter Noble
XIII	Revd John Arthur



**Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees:**

Assembly Arrangements:	Revd Alasdair Pratt
Church and Society:	Revd Martin Camroux
Communications and Editorial:	Revd Graham Cook
Doctrine, Prayer & Worship:	Revd John Young
Ecumenical:	Revd John Rees
Equal Opportunities:	Revd Nanette Lewis Head
Finance:	Mr Graham Stacy
Inter Faith Relations:	Mrs Daphne Beale
Life and Witness:	Revd Brian Jolly
Ministries:	Revd Graham Long
Nominations:	Revd Glyn Jenkins
Pastoral Reference:	Revd David Jenkins
Racial Justice:	Revd Raymond Singh
Training:	Revd John Proctor
Youth & Children's Work:	Revd Kathryn Price

**Synod Clerks:**

I	Dr Peter Clarke
II	Mr George Morton
III	Mr Donald Swift
IV	Mr John Seager
V	Mrs Irene Wren
VI	Mr Simon Rowntree
VII	Mr Kenneth Woods
VIII	Revd Rosalind Harrison
IX	Mr Graham Rolfe
X	Revd Kathryn Louch
XI	Mrs Christine Meekison
XII	Mrs Pamela Marshall-Jones
XIII	Revd Kenneth Forbes

**Additional Synod Representatives:**

I	Mr Andrew Atkinson, Mrs Pat Gurr, Mrs Yvonne Poulter
II	Revd Susan Armitage, Revd Gary Gotham, Revd Martin Truscott
III	Mr John Brown, Ms Linda Granville, Ms Sandra Wellington
IV	Mrs Doreen Courtney, Mrs Muriel Harrison, Mrs Gwen Smithies
V	Mrs Ann Ball, Revd Graham Maskery, Mrs Barbara Turner
VI	Revd Sam Ansa-Addo, Mr Philip Ferdinand, Mrs Anne Sheldon
VII	Dr Pamela Cressey, Revd Deborah McVey, Mr Philip Wade
VIII	Mrs Mandy Adams, Mrs Julie Kirby, Mr Malcolm Summers
IX	Mr Gerry Prosser, Mrs Veronica Taylor, Revd Stephen Thornton
X	Mr John Hornby, Mr Christopher Lawrence, Mr Shaheen Zar
XI	Mr Desmond Colechin, Mr Desmond Curry, Mr Ken Meekison
XII	Mrs Brenda Cheer, Revd Stuart Jackson, Revd Shelagh Pollard
XIII	Mr Barclay Bannister, Revd Dr John Clark, Mrs Margaret Gillan, Revd John Humphreys Miss Marjory King, Revd Susan Kirkbride, Ms Helen Mee, Dr Jim Merrilees, Revd David Taylor

**Synod Treasurers:**

I	Mr Malcolm Holloway
II	Dr Brian Woodhall
III	Mr Andrew Martlew
IV	Miss Margaret Atkinson
V	Mr Donald Buxton
VI	Mr D Hibbard
VII	Mr Clifford Patten
VIII	Mr Gordon Latham
IX	Mr Graham Gage
X	Miss Valerie Ham
XI	Mr Brian West
XII	Mr Patrick Hickey
XIII	Mr James Maguire

**Theological College Representatives:**

Mansfield College

Revd Dr Walter Houston,  
Miss Leoni Betts

Northern College

Revd Dr Lesley Husselbee,  
Mr Keith Morrison

Queens Foundation

Revd Dr Michael Jagessar,  
Mr Peter Lyth

Scottish United Reformed &amp; Congregational College

Revd Jack Dyce,  
Ms Sarah Hall

Westminster College

Revd Prof Stephen Orchard,  
Miss Sarah Moore**Youth representatives:**Miss Emma Pugh,  
Miss Amanda Wade**Assembly Members from Other Churches in the United Kingdom:**

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Revd Michael Smith

International Ministerial Council of Great Britain

Mrs Agatha Baptiste

Moravian Church

Revd Jan Mullin

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Revd Colin McClure

Presbyterian Church of Wales

Revd Neil Kirkham

Scottish Episcopal Church

Mrs Jean Forbes

The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland

The Rt Revd Mgr Henry Docherty

The Church of England

The Rt Revd David Hawtin

The Church of Scotland

Mrs Christine Tait

The Congregational Federation

Revd Barry Osborne

Union of Welsh Independents

Revd Kevin Davies

United Free Church of Scotland

Revd Iain McFie

**Assembly Members from Churches outside of Britain and Ireland:**

Churches of Christ in Malawi

Revd Nixon Chiwala

Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China

Revd Luk Fai

Iglesia Presiteriana Reformada en Cuba

Revd Dora Arce-Valentin

Igreja Evangelica Reformada d'Angola

Revd Jeronimo Panda

Leuenberg Church Fellowship

Revd Fleur Houston

Presbyterian Church of India Mizoram Synod

Revd Vanlalfaka

Reformed Church in Sub-Carpatho Ukraine

Bishop Laszlo Horkay

United Church of Christ in the U.S.A.

Mr Peter Makari

**Chaplain (URC) to HM Forces in Britain:**

no representation

**Council for World Mission:**

Revd Andrew Williams

**Past Presidents, Chairmen and Moderators:**

Ms Gwen Hall, Revd Norman Birnie, Revd Arthur Macarthur, Revd Dr Robert Latham, Revd John Johansen-Berg, Revd Principal Martin Cressey, Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow, Revd Wilfred Georgeson, Revd John Francis, Revd Karl Burdett, Revd Richard Murray, Revd Bernard Waterton, Revd Bentley Webster, Revd Dr Peter Arthur, Revd George Sharpe, Revd Dr David Thompson, Revd Victor Smith, Revd Alasdair Walker, Revd Dr Philip Morgan, Revd David Dale, Mr Ray Heritage, Revd Cyril Franks, Revd Edmund Banyard, Revd Keith Forecast, Revd Graham Cook, Revd Malcolm Hanson, Mrs Ruth Clarke, Revd Donald Hilton, Revd Dr Jack McKelvey, Revd John Reardon, Revd Dr David Thompson, Revd David Jenkins, Mrs Wilma Frew, Revd Peter McIntosh, Revd William Mahood, Revd Elizabeth Welch

**District Representatives:** (Names appearing with an asterisk were appointed to fill District vacancies cf. Resolution 10 pg. 21 Assembly Record 1978)

**Synod I**

A: Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn, Revd Peter Rand, Revd Pamela Ward, Mrs Kirsteen Hanvey\*,  
Mr Monty Helmn, Mrs Susan Rand

B: Revd Stuart Brock, Revd Siân Collins, Revd Ian Croft, Revd Janet Flawn, Revd Douglas McFarlane  
Mr Timothy Bellis, Miss Sara Goodfellow, Dr Ann Graham, Ms Hannah Middleton, Mr Malcolm Porter

C: Revd Raymond Anglesea, Revd Ruth Crofton, Revd Norma Leveridge, Revd Valerie Towler  
Mrs Daphne Clarke, Mr Peter Etwell, Mrs Margaret Humberston, Mr Simon Loveitt

E: Revd Dr Geoffrey Davis, Revd Terry Oakley, Mrs Olive Bell, Mr Wilbur Hanvey

### Synod II

- A: Revd Robert Canham, Revd Lis Mullen, Revd Sally Thomas, Mr Raymond Clarke, Mr John Hindle, Dr Roger John
- B: Revd Shirley Farrier, Revd Peter Grey, Revd John Mackereth, Miss Fiona Martin, Mr Hamish Martin, Mr Richard Smith
- C: Revd Eric Kirkman, Revd Tamas Sugar, Revd Geoffrey Townsend, Mr Alan Barnes, Mr E Ledger, Mrs Moira Ormerod
- D: Revd David Allen, Revd Brenda Moore, Revd Michael Perrott, Mrs Margaret Allen, Mrs Sheila Brain, Mr John Rea
- E: Revd Craig Muir, Revd Barbara Plenderleith, Revd Jack Roche, Mrs Dorothy Broadhurst, Mr Donald Nuttall, Mrs Janet Simpson
- F: Revd Jane Barron, Revd Carole Gotham, Revd Peter Sharp, Revd Tony Wilkinson, Mrs Barbara Aspinall, Miss Sarah Aspinall, Mr Eric Chilton, Mrs Sue Wilkinson
- G: Revd Rosemary Tusting, Revd Chris Vermeulen, Mrs Jessie Davies, Mrs Kath Lacy

### Synod III

- A: Revd Ruth Allen, Revd Martin Smith, Mrs Sheila Davies, Mr Graeme Lee, Mr Robert Pritchard, Mr David Welsh
- B: Revd Linda Elliott, Revd Kenneth Summers, Revd Gwyneth Thomas, Mr Alan Ireland, Mr Neil Mackenzie, Mrs Sylvia Swift
- C: Revd John Fielding, Revd Alison Hall, Revd Jon Morgan, Mrs Aline Cannell, Dr Berta Doodson, Miss S Fellows
- D: Revd Barbara Exley, Revd Gary McGowan, Revd Malcolm Shapland, Mrs Eileen Brown, Mr Derek Craig, Mrs Helen Renner

### Synod IV

- A: Revd Helen Drummond, Revd Max Moore, Revd Michael Wear, Mrs Kathleen Foreman, Mrs Pauline Mewis, Mr James Murison
- B: Revd Janet Lees, Revd Pauline Loosemore, Revd Jane Rowell, Mr Philip Baiden, Mrs Selem Fagan, Miss Norma Pugh
- C: Revd Paul Allen, Revd Gwen Collins, Revd Barry Parker, Mr Paul Robinson, Mr Edward Sheldrake, Mr Ron Sweeney
- D: Revd William Frame, Revd Paul Frampton, Revd Nick Nicholas, Revd Heather Pollard, Mrs Maureen McLean, Mrs Marguerite Sobol
- E: Revd Bernie Collins\*, Revd Alistair Smeaton\*, Miss Ina Barker, Mr Bennett Brook
- F: Revd George Courtney, Mrs Averil Jowett, Mr Alan Lowe\*, Mrs Eileen Whitehead

### Synod V

- A: Revd Paul Breeze, Revd David Holley, Revd Duncan Tuck, Mr Daniel Cunningham, Mr Norman Greville, Mrs Margaret Wadsley
- B: Revd Andrew Berry, Revd Clare Downing, Revd Michael Forster, Mrs Muriel Garrow, Mr Geoff Milnes, Mr David Smith
- C: Revd Yolande Burns, Revd Chris Ray, Revd Aileen Walker, Mrs Jane Campbell, Mr Michael Harrison
- D: Revd Ann Jack, Revd Ian Smith, Revd Yvonne Stone, Mrs Mary Barrett, Mr Ray Chambers, Mr John Payne
- E: Revd John Filsak, Revd Derek Hopkins, Revd Hamish Temple, Mrs Dorothy Bell, Mrs Ruth Koranteng, Ms Nikki Wood
- F: Revd Neil Eldridge, Revd Murdoch Mackenzie, Mrs Elaine Eldridge, Mrs Ann MacKenzie

### Synod VI

- A: Revd Lynda Coates, Revd Diana Cullum-Hall, Revd Angela Gemmer-Snell, Revd Christopher Parker, Mr Geoff Harrison, Mrs Dorothy Hewitson, Mr Jim Hewitson, Miss Rosemary Simmons
- B: Revd David Cassidy, Revd Shirley Mountcastle, Mrs Brenda Cassidy, Mrs Isabel Jacob
- C: Revd Mary Buchanan, Revd Gerald England, Revd Roger Woodall, Mr Michael Allman, Mr Bill Robson, Miss Mary Whittall
- D: Revd Harry Goodchild, Revd Dr John Sutcliffe, Mrs Diana Goodchild, Mrs Sheila Jenkins, Miss Becky Pain-Tolin, Mrs Ann Sutcliffe
- E: Revd John Burgess, Revd Dr John Campbell, Revd David Dean, Revd Paul Whittle, Mrs Audrey Cameron, Mrs Mamie Gibson, Mrs Rita Routley, Miss Hannah Smith
- F: Revd Rowena Francis, Mrs Kathleen Paxton, Revd Graham Spicer, Revd William Young, Mrs Margaret Marshall, Mr John Paxton



### Synod VII

- A: Revd Ian Fosten, Revd David Littlejohns, Revd Daphne Lloyd  
Dr Sue Brisley, Mr Paul Davis\*, Miss Gillian Hall
- B: Revd Mark Ambrose, Revd Jim Dalgleish, Revd Marc Kenton, Revd John Pugh  
Mrs Margaret Evans, Mrs Joyce Gronow, Mr Derek Pope, Mr Peter Richards\*
- C: Revd Michael Rigney, Revd Nigel Rogers, Revd Nigel Warner  
Mrs Rena Bannister\*, Mr Gordon Heald\*, Mrs Elizabeth Whitten
- D: Revd John Hickmore, Revd Derek Kingston, Revd Martin Kitchener  
Mrs Jeanne Armour\*, Mr Roger Brett, Mr Clive Goodhew
- E: Revd Alex Jacob, Revd Stuart Nixon, Revd Derek Redfern, Revd Keith Rigin  
Mrs Jill Davis, Mr Roger Human, Mr Angus Sacree, Mr Stephen Thompson
- F: Revd Thomas MacMeekin, Mr John Bannister

### Synod VIII

- A: Revd Arthur Climpson, Revd Paul Snell, Mrs Jean Rowe, Mrs Linda Snell
- B: Revd Robert Jennings, Revd Christopher Searle, Mrs Jean Baker, Mr Rychard Winslade
- C: Revd Nick Adlem, Revd Dr Kenneth Hibberd, Revd Philip Wagstaff  
Mr Ivan Andrews, Mr Brian Knight, Miss Krystal Smith
- D: Revd Evelyn Ridout, Revd Michael Whitfield, Mr George Faris, Mrs Doreen Watson
- E: Revd Michael Hodgson, Revd Jill Thornton, Mrs Sheila Elliss, Mrs Alison Lowe
- F: Revd Douglas Burnett, Revd Ian Kirby, Revd Helena McKinnon, Revd Kenneth Thom  
Mrs Ruth Browning, Mrs Anne Fletcher, Mrs Roma Hibberd, Mrs Dawn Souter
- G: Revd Michael Bond, Mrs Peggy Bond
- H: Revd Hazel Allen, Mrs Janet Clark
- J: Revd Jennifer Davies, Mr Harold Blakeley

### Synod IX

- A: Revd Colin Bones, Revd Jeffrey Evans, Revd Clive Sutcliffe, Revd Michael Thomas\*  
Miss Nicola Andrews, Miss Sarah Lever, Mrs Gwen Martindale, Mrs Brenda McCarron  
Mrs Joyce Sutcliffe, Mr Brian Wilkins
- B: Revd Clifford Bembridge, Revd Frederick Noden, Revd Edward Symmons, Revd Simon Thomas  
Mr Colin Hall, Mrs Christine Hardwick, Mr Graham Thatcher, Mrs Sheila Thatcher
- C: Revd David Jones, Revd Peter Norris, Revd David Williams, Mr Keith Burroughs,  
Miss Iona Hine, Mr John Mason
- D: Revd Donald Macalister, Revd Cecil Macaulay, Revd David Price, Revd Rosemary Pullen  
Mr John Harris, Miss Alison Marshall, Mr Philip Stanley, Mr David Taylor\*
- E: Revd Ruth Ball, Revd Dr Susan Durber, Revd Andrew Lonsdale, Revd Monica Mills, Revd John Wilkinson  
Mr Colin Ferguson, Mrs Sandy Godfrey, Miss Daphne Hill, Dr Faye Mitchell, Mr David Rooke

### Synod X

- A: Revd Jonathan Dean, Revd Maggie Hindley, Revd Philip Stewart, Revd David Trafford  
Miss Elizabeth Ameyaw, Mr Elyot Rowland, Mrs Susan Russell, Mr O Sogbodjor
- B: Revd Richard Landon, Revd Dr Alan Spence, Mr Leonard Tant, Mr Wylie White
- C: Revd Andrew Busby, Revd Alan Kirkcaldy, Revd Bridget Powell  
Mr Ian Buchanan, Mr Steve Burton, Mrs Heather Gleeson
- D: Revd Susan Chapman, Revd John Mackerness, Revd Anthony Ruffell, Revd Brian Woodcock  
Dr James Anderson, Mrs Mauraid Anderson, Mrs Gill Hughes
- E: Revd Bruce Allinson, Revd Ann McNair, Revd Chris Willis, Ms Gloria Bujan,  
Miss Caroline Cross, Mr R Willis
- F: Revd Louise Franklin, Revd Philip Nevard, Mr Paul Franklin, Mr Michael Gould, Mr Christopher Miller,  
Mr Gale Salmon

### Synod XI

- A: Revd Dr Richard Goldring, Revd Gerald Moule, Revd Terry Sparks, Mr Ian Chalmers,  
Mrs Jeanette Chamberlain, Mr David Howell, Mr Jabu Siphika, Mrs Jenny Snashall
- B: Revd John Bremner, Revd Phillip Jones, Revd John Joseph, Revd George Watt, Revd Kathy White  
Mr Alan Fox, Mrs Brenda Jesse, Miss Nan Mark
- C: Revd Ian Bird, Revd Jim Gould, Revd Cecil Heatley, Revd Julian Thomas  
Mr Norman Fabb, Mrs Hilary Miles, Mr Peter Richardson, Mrs Susan Robertson
- D: Revd George Gibson, Revd Peter Southcombe, Revd Alan Wharton  
Mr Alex Cameron, Mr John Ellis, Miss Helen Honess

- E: Revd Norman Setchell, Revd Robert Woods, Mrs Ellen Burt, Mr Peter Burt, Mr John Ellis, Mr Matthew Prevett\*
- F: Revd Michael Davies, Revd Malcolm Fife, Revd Dawn Mather, Revd Leslie Mather, Miss Rosalie Bungard, Mr John Harris, Mrs Sheila Pratt, Mrs C Robertson
- G: Revd Graeme Allan, Revd Philip Burroughs, Revd Charles Martin, Miss Naomi Lynch, Mrs Nancy Welch

### **Synod XII**

- A: Revd Henry Gordon, Revd Peter Nunn, Revd Dr Robert Pope, Mrs Maureen Jones, Mrs Eliza Pritchard
- B: Revd David Marshall-Jones, Revd Shem Morgan, Mrs Margery Davies, Mr Gareth Marshall-Jones
- C: Revd Alison Davis, Mrs Moira Davies, Mr Russell Davies, Mr Andrew Grand, Ms Bethan Noble
- D: Revd Nicholas Stanyon, Mr Stuart Jones, Mr Jonathan Price, Mrs Delyth Rees
- E: Revd Russell Gordon, Revd Linda Woollacott, Mrs Christine Phillips, Mr David Phillips
- F: Revd Michael Cruchley, Revd Myfanwy Davies, Revd Alan Willcocks, Mr Brynmor Griffiths\*, Mrs Miriam Griffiths, Mrs Liz Tadd

### **Synod XIII**

- A: Revd Janet Adamson, Revd Mary Taylor, Revd John Wylie, Mrs Deborah Anderson, Mr Ronald Anderson, Mrs Molly Millan
- B: Revd William Drummond, Revd Carolyn Smyth, Mrs P E Macdonald, Ms Morag McLintock
- C: Revd Alan Paterson, Mrs Jean Arthur, Miss Elizabeth King, Mr Ronald McKillop
- D: Revd Ross McLaren, Mr Richard Bolton, Miss Elayne Innes, Ms Lynsey Smerdon
- E: Revd Eliza Armstrong, Revd John Clark, Mrs Barbara Bruce, Mrs Nan Clark
- F: Revd Haydn Higton, Mr Frank Bell

### **RECEPTION OF VISITORS AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

Local Visitors were introduced by the Revd John Arthur, Moderator, Synod of Scotland. Visitors and Assembly members from Churches in the United Kingdom and overseas were introduced by the Revd John Rees, Convener, Ecumenical Committee. Those present were received by the Moderator:

Church of Scotland	Revd Jennifer Macrae Revd Dr Finlay McDonald and Mrs Elma McDonald Mrs Christine Tait
Roman Catholic Church in Scotland	Rt Revd Mgr. Henry Docherty
Scottish Episcopal Church	Mrs Jean Forbes
United Free Church of Scotland	Revd Iain McFie and Mrs Ann McFie
Action of Churches Together in Scotland	Sr Maire Gallagher SND
Baptist Union of Great Britain	Revd Michael Smith
Church of England	Rt Revd David Hawtin
Congregational Federation	Revd Barry Osborne
The Methodist Church	Revd Peter Sulston
Moravian Church	Revd Jan Mullin
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain	Mrs Agatha Baptiste
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Very Revd Dr Alastair Dunlop and Mrs Anne Dunlop Revd Colin McClure
Presbyterian Church of Wales	Revd Neil Kirkham
Union of Welsh Independents	Revd Kevin Davies
Churches Together in Wales	Mr Alan Sage
Churches of Christ in Malawi	Revd Nixon Chiwala
Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China	Revd Luk Fai
Iglesia Presiteriana Reformada en Cuba	Revd Dora Arce-Valentin
Igreja Evangelica Reformada d'Angola	Revd Jeronimo Panda
Leuenberg Church Fellowship	Revd Fleur Houston
Presbyterian Church of India Mizoram Synod	Revd Vanlalfaka
Reformed Church in Sub-Carpatho Ukraine	Bishop Laszlo Horkay
United Church of Christ in the U.S.A.	Mr Peter Makari
Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana	Revd Francis Amenu
Church of North India	Mr David Jonathan
Church of South India	Ms Jasmine Jebakani
World Convention of the Churches of Christ	Mrs Lorraine Jacobs

The Rt Revd David Hawtin responded to the welcome on behalf of the United Kingdom Ecumenical visitors and the Revd Luk Fai on behalf of the Overseas Visitors.

The Assembly adjourned.

## Friday, 5 July 2002

## First Session

---

The Chaplain conducted opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd Glyn Jenkins.

The Moderator welcomed Councillor Andrew Paterson JP, Depute Convener of Fife Council, and invited him to address the Assembly.

The Moderator welcomed those who were attending Assembly for the first time and introduced the people on the platform.

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, the Revd Alasdair Pratt, presented the Order of Business and drew attention to the list of errors and omissions in the Book of Reports and additional items of business which had been included in the Order Paper.

### **'The Agenda Before Us'**

The General Secretary addressed the Assembly, reviewing changes which had taken place in church and society over the 30-year history of the United Reformed Church. He highlighted several items on Assembly's agenda, relating them to the current needs of the church and its mission.

### **Racial Justice**

The Moderator invited the Revd Raymond Singh to present the report of the Racial Justice Committee. Along with the Revd John Campbell and Mrs Katalina Tahaafe-Williams, Mr Singh described the committee's first year of work, and outlined its priorities for the future.

The Assembly expressed appreciation for the report.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The Moderator invited the Revd Nanette Head to present the report of the Equal Opportunities Committee. Members of the Committee presented a conversation in which challenges facing the church were highlighted.

Mrs Head responded to questions, noting in response to one that consideration would be given to the possibility of providing signing during a future Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Head for her hard work and commitment as she retired as Convener of the Equal Opportunities Committee.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the chair.

### **Church and Society**

On behalf of the Church and Society Committee, the Revd Martin Camroux, Convener, moved adoption of Resolution 49:

#### **Resolution 49**

#### **End of Life Issues**

**General Assembly, noting that the work of the group set up to look at issues relating to the end of life in response to the resolution of Assembly 2000 has completed its work, welcomes the material it has produced for use in the churches.**

Mr Camroux responded to a number of questions, after which the Assembly voted.

**Resolution 49 was carried.**



## Synod Resolutions

The Revd Murdoch MacKenzie, on behalf of East Midlands Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 1:

### Resolution 1

### Voluntary religious service and employment

General Assembly calls upon Her Majesty's Government to encourage employers to allow their employees working for faith communities in a voluntary capacity to be permitted paid leave on those occasions when those responsibilities fall within working time.

The resolution was formally seconded by Mrs Irene Wren.

The Revd Bill Young moved an amendment:

**'Delete all words after "employers to" and substitute with the following:**

**"recognise that some of their employees may undertake pastoral work for faith communities in a voluntary capacity, and to allow these employees to work flexibly and without loss of earnings on the occasions when those responsibilities unavoidably fall within working time."**

The amendment was seconded by Mrs Ann Sheldon.

Following discussion and reply by Mr Young, the amendment was carried, and debate resumed on the substantive resolution:

"General Assembly calls upon Her Majesty's Government to encourage employers to recognise that some of their employees may undertake pastoral work for faith communities in a voluntary capacity, and to allow these employees to work flexibly and without loss of earnings on the occasions when those responsibilities unavoidably fall within working time."

Having heard the debate, Mr MacKenzie sought the Assembly's permission to withdraw the resolution so that further thought could be given to the matter in the light of comments made. He expressed his intention to bring a further resolution on the issue to a future meeting of the Assembly.

**The Assembly agreed that the resolution be withdrawn.**

The Revd David Williams, on behalf of Wessex Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 5:

### **Resolution 5**

### **Remand Prisoners**

**General Assembly asks Her Majesty's Government to ensure that all prisoners found not guilty of the charges against them or who are found to have no case to answer should receive pro-rata compensation for their period on remand regardless of any previous convictions.**

The Resolution was formally seconded by the Revd D Michael Thomas.

Mr Williams responded to a number of questions, and **Resolution 5 was carried.**

The Revd John Waller resumed the chair.

## Finance Committee

The Moderator invited Mr Graham Stacy, Convener, to present the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr Stacy presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2001, and moved adoption of Resolution 29:

**General Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2001.**

In reply to a question Mr Stacy reported that the Auditors of the accounts were RSM Robson Rhodes and apologised for the fact that this information had been omitted from the Independent Auditors' Report on page 129 of the Book of Reports. Mr Stacy having responded to a number of further questions the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 29 was carried.**

Mr Stacy moved adoption of Resolution 30:

**Resolution 30**

**Ministry and Mission Fund**

General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2001 to the Ministry and Mission Fund.

Mr Stacy stressed the importance to the church of the giving to the Fund. He referred to a question which had been raised at the Assembly in 2001 concerning the distribution of contributions among the synods. A group had been set up to examine the matter. It had reported to a consultation of district treasurers in February that "the present sharing among synods is reasonable and no formula would achieve a fairer result". The treasurers had accepted this conclusion.

Mr George Faris proposed the following amendment:

**"add the words:  
and the work of local church, district and synod treasurers."**

The amendment was seconded by Mrs Doreen Watson.

The Convener indicated his willingness to accept the amendment. The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote and **the amendment was carried.**

Mr Stacy responded to a number of questions, and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the substantive resolution:

**General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2001 to the Ministry and Mission Fund and the work of local church, district and synod treasurers.**

**Resolution 30, as amended, was carried.**

**Mission Council**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 19:

**Resolution 19**

**Changes to the Structure: Grouping**

**General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 2001 to make the following changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church;**

**Paragraph 1(1)**

**Number the present paragraph from the second sentence to the end as paragraph 1(1)(a) and add the following two paragraphs:**

**1(1)(b) Where two or more local churches together, and in consultation with the district council, decide that their mission will be more effective if they share resources and ordained ministry, they may, on the recommendation of the district council and the decision of the synod, form an association known as a group of churches with a**

structured relationship and a constitution governing the way in which they relate to one another as to the sharing of both resources and the ordained ministry. Each church within the group shall retain its own identity, and its church meeting and elders' meeting shall continue to exercise all their functions in relation to that church, save that, so long as the constitution shall so declare, decisions relating to the calling of a minister (see paragraph 2(1)(vii)) may be taken by a single group church meeting at which all the members of each of the constituent churches in the group shall be eligible to attend and vote.

1(1)(c) Where two or more local churches together, and in consultation with the district council, decide that their mission will be more effective if they share ordained ministry (but not other resources), they may, on the recommendation of the district council and the decision of the synod, form an association known as a joint pastorate, with a structured relationship with respect to the provision of ordained ministry only and a statement of intent governing the way in which they relate to one another in relation to the sharing of ordained ministry. Each church within the joint pastorate shall retain its own identity, and its church meeting and elders' meeting shall continue to exercise all their functions in relation to that church, save that, so long as the statement of intent shall so declare, decisions relating to the calling of a minister (see paragraph 2(1)(vii)) may be taken by a single joint pastorate church meeting at which all the members of each of the constituent churches in the joint pastorate shall be eligible to attend and vote.

**Paragraph 2(1)(vii)**

Add the following:

(Where two or more churches have formed a group or joint pastorate in accordance with paragraph 1(1)(b) or (c) above on the decision of synod under its function 2(4)(A)(iv), the church meetings of each church may, with the agreement of the synod on the advice of the district council and so long as the group constitution or the statement of intent as appropriate shall so provide, join together as a group or joint pastorate church meeting for the purpose of calling a minister, in which case this function shall be exercised by the group or joint pastorate church meeting.)

**Paragraph 2(3)(c)**

Change the words in brackets by amending "the second sentence of para.1(1)" so that it reads "para. 1(1)(a)".

**Paragraph 2(3)(A)(ii)**

Change the second word "church" to "church(es)".

**Paragraph 2(3)(A)(iv)**

Change the word "church" to "church(es)".

**Paragraph 2(4)(c)**

Change the words in brackets by amending "the second sentence of para.1(1)" so that it reads "para. 1(1)(a)".

There being no debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 19 was carried.**



The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 21:

### **Resolution 21**

### **Ratification of Section O changes**

**General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 2001 to make the changes to Part I of the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline which are contained in Part I of Appendix 3 to these Reports.**

There being no debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 21 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 22:

### **Resolution 22**

### **Changes to Part II of Section O**

**General Assembly agrees to make the changes to Part II of the Section O Process which are contained in Part II of Appendix 3 to these Reports.**

There being no debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 22 was carried.**

The General Secretary reported that those responsible for the oversight of the Section O Process had agreed that their secretary, Mr Hartley Oldham, should seek to meet with all Assembly Commissions and Appeals Commissions once their composition was known, in order to go through the procedures with them. Mr Oldham would not discuss any aspects of the case under consideration; indeed he would not even know the name of the minister concerned. The General Secretary also reported that a training session for members of the Commission Panel had been arranged for November 2002.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 23:

### **Resolution 23**

### **Section O oversight**

**Assembly agrees that responsibility for the continued oversight of the Section O process shall be given to Mission Council, working through a Section O oversight group.**

The Revd Dr David Thompson asked that the group consider whether Church Related Community Workers, ministers of other churches engaged in the service of the United Reformed Church, and lay people occupying offices comparable to ministers, could or should be subject to the Section O Process. The General Secretary indicated that the group would consider these questions. The Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 23 was carried.**

## **Election of Moderator of Assembly 2003-2004**

The Clerk explained the voting procedure.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer and the vote was taken.

Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer.

The Clerk presented the minutes of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The Assembly approved the minutes subject to minor corrections.

The Moderator invited the **Synod of Scotland** to make its presentation.

## Mission Council

The Moderator invited the Revd Elizabeth Welch, immediate past Moderator, to present the report of Mission Council. Comments and questions on the report were taken, except that matters concerning the ethical investment policy (paragraph 2.3) were deferred to a later session when a resolution on that subject of which notice had been given would also be taken.

Under Standing Order 4b the Moderator indicated that all speeches during the debate on Resolutions 10 to 18 would be limited to three minutes.

The Convener of the Task Group on Authority, the Revd Adrian Bulley, moved adoption of Resolution 10:

### Resolution 10

### Task Group on Authority

**General Assembly reaffirms that:**

- i) Decisions about candidates' suitability for ministry remain within the councils of the church. (3.1.2)**
- ii) Decisions on academic and formational matters fall within the remit of colleges and courses. (3.1.3/4)**

The Revd John Bremner proposed the following amendment:

After the word 'remain' insert 'solely' and after 'within the' insert 'competence of the'.

The amendment was seconded by the Revd George Gibson.

After discussion, and on a vote, the amendment was not carried.

After further debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote:

**Resolution 10 was carried.**

Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 11:

### Resolution 11

### Task Group on Authority

**General Assembly encourages the Training and Ministries Committees to continue their consideration of the procedures for the selection, training, call and ordination of ministers. (3.2.1)**

After brief discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 11 was carried.**

Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 12:

## **Resolution 12**

## **Task Group on Authority**

**General Assembly affirms that task groups, regardless of their purpose, should be given very clear remits and there should be equal clarity about to which council or committee of the church the group will report. (3.3)**

There being no discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 12 was carried.**

Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 13:

## **Resolution 13**

## **Task Group on Authority**

**General Assembly affirms the present practice (function 2(5)(A)(ix)), namely that, where it deems right, the General Assembly remits questions, with clear guidelines as to the process, to other councils of the church and, having considered the responses, makes decisions following debate. (3.4.6)**

Mr Bulley responded to questions, and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 13 was carried.**

Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 14:

## **Resolution 14**

## **Task Group on Authority**

i) **In order to promote clearer communication and share good practice between the councils of the church, and to ensure a greater sense of relevance between the councils of the church, the General Assembly urges local churches, district/area councils and synods to consider the suggestions in 3.5A of the report and take appropriate action. (3.5A)**

ii) **General Assembly asks Mission Council to issue guidelines:**

a) **to advise district/area councils on ways of appointing representatives to General Assembly which both offer continuity and respect the church's policy on equal opportunities; and**

b) **on the more effective sharing of reports and decisions with district/area councils and church meetings. (3.5A)**

iii) **General Assembly agrees that the proposals for a radical review of the church's structure should be remitted to Mission Council, though consideration should not be given to this until after the Task Group on Personal and Conciliar Leadership has completed its work, so that such consideration may be given in the light of the theological work on episcopate which will be contained in its report.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 14 was carried.**

Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 15:

### **Resolution 15**

### **Task Group on Authority**

**General Assembly asks the Training Committee to evaluate training materials already available within the church, and to review them with a view to producing materials that could be more widely used to assist representatives to understand their roles within the various councils of the church. (3.6)**

After brief discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 15 was carried.**

Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 16:

### **Resolution 16**

### **Task Group on Authority**

**General Assembly reaffirms the use of existing function 2(5)(A)(ix) to cover contentious issues rather than the procedure suggested by the Working Group on the Authority of General Assembly and Other Councils in the Human Sexuality Report 1999. (3.8)**

There being no comments or questions, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 16 was carried.**

Consideration of Resolution 17 was deferred to a later session. With the permission of the Assembly Mr Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 18 in the following slightly amended form:

### **Resolution 18**

### **Task Group on Authority**

**General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Standing Orders of the Assembly with effect from the close of the annual meeting of the Assembly in 2002:**

**Add the following to Standing Order 3f:**

**“The Moderator may rule that a proposed amendment should be treated as an alternative motion under Standing Order 3k.”**

**Add new Standing Order 3k:**

**“Alternative (but not directly negative) motions may be moved and seconded in competition with a motion before the Assembly. After any amendments duly moved under Standing Orders 3f, 3g and 3h have been dealt with and debate on the alternative motions has ended, the movers shall reply to the debate in reverse order to that in which they spoke initially. The first vote shall be a vote in favour of each of the motions, put in the order in which they were proposed, the result not being announced for one until it is announced for all. If any of them obtains a majority of those voting, it becomes the sole motion before the Assembly. If none of them does so, the motion having the fewest votes is discarded. Should the lowest two be equal, the Moderator gives a casting vote. The voting process is repeated until one motion achieves a majority of those voting. Once a sole motion remains, votes for and against that motion shall be taken in the normal way and in accordance with Standing Order 6. (3.9.2b)**

Mr Bulley, assisted by members of Assembly, demonstrated how this could be applied in a meeting of Assembly.

After discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 18 was carried.**



## Communications and Editorial Committee

The Moderator invited the Convener, the Revd Graham Cook, to present the report of the Communications and Editorial Committee.

Mr Cook responded to a number of questions.

Mr Cook moved adoption of Resolution 28 and with permission Dr David Goodbourn of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland spoke, introducing ROOTS.

### Resolution 28

### ROOTS

**General Assembly commends ROOTS, the new lectionary-based resource programme to support the worship and learning of the whole church community, to all local churches.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 28 was carried.**

## Reception of Inter-Faith Guest

The Convener of the Inter-Faith Relations Committee, Mrs Daphne Beale, introduced a member of the Scottish Inter-Faith Council, Mrs Sharon Schlesinger from the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. The Moderator greeted Mrs Schlesinger who then addressed the Assembly.

Following a break, the Revd David Thompson took the chair.

## Ruiton Secession Request

The Moderator outlined the procedures for dealing with petitions to secede. The General Secretary reported that the local church at Ruiton had declined to send representatives to the Assembly.

On behalf of Mission Council, the Revd Keith Forecast moved adoption of Resolution 26. In doing so, he reported on the work of the Mission Council Commission appointed to investigate the request.

### Resolution 26

### Secession

General Assembly does not agree to the secession of the local church at Ruiton (West Midlands Synod) and requests the congregation, district council and synod patiently to seek ways of restoring fellowship.

After considerable debate during which it was made clear that the Ruiton church had been informed that attendance of their representatives would have been at the Assembly's expense, the Moderator led the Assembly in prayer and invited the Assembly to vote. The Moderator called for tellers to count the votes indicated by show of hands. 210 votes were cast in favour of the resolution and 254 against.

Resolution 26 was not carried.

The Revd Richard Langdon proposed and the Revd Phillip Jones seconded the following resolution:

**General Assembly agrees that the local church at Ruiton (West Midlands Synod) be permitted to secede from the United Reformed Church.**

There was no debate and **the resolution was carried.**

The Revd John Waller resumed the chair.

## Moderator 2003-2004

Mr John Seager, Convener of Tellers for the election of the Moderator of Assembly, reported that 498 ballot papers had been received, three of which had been spoilt. He announced that the Revd D Alasdair Pratt had been duly elected as Moderator of Assembly for 2003-2004. The Moderator greeted Mr Pratt on Assembly's behalf.

After worship led by the Chaplain, Assembly adjourned.

## Saturday 6 July 2002

## First Session

The Chaplain led opening worship; Bible study was led by the Revd Glyn Jenkins.

### Reception of Ecumenical Guests

The Moderator greeted the Rt Revd Dr Finlay McDonald, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, with Mrs McDonald, the Very Revd Dr Alastair Dunlop, immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, with Mrs Dunlop and the Revd Kevin Davies of the Union of Welsh Independents.

### Order of Business

The Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee moved that Assembly meet for the following session thirty minutes before the appointed time in order to deal with remaindered business. This was agreed.

### Church Changes

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 9:

#### Resolution 9

#### Closure of Local Churches

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

Bucklow Hill	<i>North Western</i>
Park	<i>North Western</i>
Walton Trinity	<i>Mersey</i>
Rankin	<i>Mersey</i>
Armitage	<i>West Midlands</i>
Hundon Chapel	<i>Eastern</i>
Marldon (Chapel on the Hill)	<i>South Western</i>
Wylfe	<i>Wessex</i>
Trinity Church, Yateley	<i>Wessex</i>
Maplehurst	<i>Southern</i>
Mount Pisgah, Parkmill	<i>Wales</i>
Pontycymmer	<i>Wales</i>

**Resolution 9 was carried**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 8:

## Resolution 8

## New Churches

**General Assembly receives the churches listed below as local churches and mission projects of the United Reformed Church.**

St John's, Fagley, Bradford	<i>Yorkshire</i>
Elvetham Heath Local Ecumenical Partnership	<i>Wessex</i>
St Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime	<i>Southern</i>

### **Resolution 8 was carried.**

The Moderator received representatives of the new churches:

St John's, Fagley, Bradford	Mrs Dorothy Perrot
Elvetham Heath Local Ecumenical Partnership	Revd David Price
St Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime	Mrs Tricia Gibson

The Moderator invited Synod Moderators to introduce the ministers and Church Related Community Workers (CRCW) who had been ordained or newly-commissioned since the previous meeting of the Assembly. Each of those present was greeted in turn and the Assembly welcomed them with applause:

### **Northern Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Poulter)**

Revd Siân Collins	Kenton and Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne
-------------------	---

### **North Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Brain)**

Revd Carole Gotham	Stockport East Pastorate
Revd Gary Gotham	Stockport East Pastorate
Revd Elizabeth Mullen	Carver, Windermere

### **Mersey Synod (Moderator: Revd Graham Cook)**

Ms Linda Granville	CRCW – South Wallasey Ecumenical Group
Revd Jon Morgan	Blundellsands, Liverpool District

### **Yorkshire Synod (Moderator: Revd. Arnold Harrison)**

Revd Heather Pollard	Denholme Edge, Riddlesden and Trinity, Keighley
Revd Jane Rowell	Sheffield South Group
Mrs Gwen Smithies	CRCW – Shiregreen and St. James, South Yorkshire

### **East Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Malcolm Hanson)**

Revd Andrew Berry	Melton Mowbray with Freeby, Leics
Revd Yolande Burns	Wisbech and Long Sutton
Revd Neil Eldridge	Watling Valley LEP, Milton Keynes
Revd Ann Jack	Duston and Creaton, Northants
Revd Trisha Lloyd	Nottingham District Health & Healing Advisor (unable to be present)
Revd Chris Ray	Eastgate Union, Louth
Revd Yvonne Stone	Long Buckby, Weedon and Flore

### **West Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Welch)**

Revd Bob Ash	Pype Hayes and Coleshill (unable to be present)
Mrs Maureen Thompson	CRCW – South Aston Church Centre, Birmingham

**Eastern Synod (Moderator: Revd Elizabeth Caswell)**

Revd Lyn Fowkes	Brentwood and Ingatestone
Revd Stuart Nixon	Emmanuel, Chatteris UBM
Revd. Carole Pearl	Bassingbourn, Buntingford, Fowlmere & Thriplow, Great Chishill and Melbourn (unable to be present)
Revd Nigel Warner	Christ Church, Braintree UM and Wethersfield
Revd Trevor Williams	Southend District
Revd Geoff Wright	Bridgewater Drive & St Cedd's LEP

**South Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Ray Adams)**

Revd. Nick Adlem	Tiverton Group, Devon East
Revd Hazel Allen	Corsham and Melksham, Mid-Wilts United Area
Revd Jill Thornton	Cricklade, Wootton Bassett, Highworth, North-East Wilts

**Thames North Synod (Moderator: Revd Roberta Rominger)**

Revd Bruce Allinson	Stepney Meeting House & St. Paul's, Cubitt Town, Lea Valley
Revd Sue Chapman	Luton & Dunstable Team Ministry
Mr Chris Miller	CRCW – Heaton Way, Romford
Revd Erna Stevenson	Chaplain to Ordinands, Mansfield College Oxford (unable to be present)
Revd Martin Wheadon	Western Road, Romford & Heaton Way Romford, Roding District

**Southern Synod (Moderator: Revd Nigel Uden)**

Revd Les Mather	St Andrew's URC & Willington UB, Eastbourne
Revd Leena Knowles	South Norwood, Croydon District (unable to be present)
Revd Kathy White	The Moat, East Grinstead

**Wales Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Noble)**

Revd Peter Barclay Nunn	Wrexham Group
-------------------------	---------------

**Synod of Scotland (Moderator: Revd. John Arthur)**

Revd Janet Adamson	Dunfermline and Coaltown
--------------------	--------------------------

The Moderator greeted the new ministers and CRCW's, and invited the Chaplain to lead the Assembly in prayer.

The General Secretary named those ministers who were celebrating ministerial jubilees during the year:

Ordained in 1942

Richard John Massie COLLINS  
Stanley HODGES  
Wilfred HOUGH  
Robert Buick KNOX  
Robert Owen LATHAM  
John Norgan MURRAY  
Douglas Galloway STEWART  
Richard George WALKER  
George John WILLIAMS

Ordained in 1952

Eric CARLESS  
Robert William CARRUTHERS  
John Peter CATON  
Norman CLARKE  
Glyn EDWARDS-BENYON  
Emyr EVANS  
Colin Roy GARWOOD  
Albert GREASLEY  
Leslie Craven GREEN  
Paul GREEN  
Kenneth John Henry HIBBERD  
Joseph HISLOP  
Cyril Allsebrook HOBSON  
Hubert Roy HUGHES  
Ernest Norman KINGSLEY-SMITH  
Eric LORD



Thomas Caryl MICKLEM  
Thomas Howard OWEN  
William Trevor PARR  
Donald SCHOFIELD  
Joseph Ian Young SHARPE  
Richard Charles TUCKER  
Thomas WIGLEY

The Revd Kenneth J H Hibberd and the Revd Leslie C Green who were present were greeted by the Moderator. The Assembly applauded them warmly and agreed that the Moderator should write to those not present to convey its greetings.

## **Synod Presentation**

The Moderator invited the **South Western Synod** to make its presentation.

## **South Western Synod Moderator**

The Moderator greeted the Revd David Miller, Moderator of the South Western Synod from September 2002.

## **Youth and Children's Work Committee**

The Moderator explained the way in which the business of the committee would be taken, and ruled that all speeches during the debate on Resolutions 41 to 48 would be limited to three minutes. The Assembly agreed that Resolution 41 be taken in two parts, with part (b) to be taken after all the other resolutions relating to the Review. The Moderator then invited the Revd Kathryn Price, Convener, to present the report of the Youth and Children's Work Committee. In presenting the report, Ms Price thanked her predecessor, the Revd Derek Lindfield, for his support and encouragement. Ms Price asked the Assembly to note that there was regular ecumenical representation on the committee, and that it also included a representative of the Youth and Children's Work Trainers (YCWT).

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell, convener of the Review Group, introduced the Review of Youth and Children's Work in the United Reformed Church and moved adoption of Resolution 41(a):

### **Resolution 41(a)**

### **Policy for youth and children's work**

General Assembly recognises that the prime venue for work with children and young people is the local church.

After considerable debate the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar proposed an amendment as follows:

**Insert the words 'in community' after 'local church'.**

The amendment was seconded by the Revd Dr Walter Houston.

Mr John Ellis proposed that the amendment be not put. This was seconded by the Revd Dr David Thompson. On a vote this was lost.

Mrs Caswell indicated that she would be willing to accept the amendment, and the Assembly agreed. The substantive resolution was therefore before the Assembly.

The Revd Bill Mahood proposed and the Revd Michael Hodgson seconded that the resolution be now put.

The Moderator ruled that it would be unfair to take this motion because notice had been given of an amendment.

The Revd Malcolm Hanson then proposed the following amendment:

**Add at the end: "within the context of a national strategy and the provision of supportive resources."**

The amendment was formally seconded by the Revd Graham Maskery.

After debate, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the amendment.

**The amendment was carried.**

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on Resolution 41(a) as amended:

**General Assembly recognises that the prime venue for work with children and young people is the local church in community, within the context of a national strategy and the provision of supportive resources.**

**The Resolution as amended was carried.**

Ms Price moved adoption of Resolution 45:

**Resolution 45**

**National Youth Resource Centre, Yardley Hastings**

General Assembly asks the Youth and Children's Work Committee to work with the Centre Management Committee, the local church and the Northamptonshire District Council to implement the recommendations in the review report regarding Yardley Hastings, seeking help as necessary from Mission Council.

After considerable debate, Mr John Brown moved the following amendment:

**Delete "asks" and replace with "agrees to set up a task group"; move "the Youth and Children's Work Committee" to after the words "to work with"; replace the word "implement" with the words "appraise the National Youth Resource Centre and explore the future role of Yardley Hastings in the light of"; delete the words "regarding Yardley Hastings"; and add at the end "and to bring proposals for decision to the next meeting of General Assembly"**

The amendment was formally seconded by Mr Andrew Grand.

After debate the Revd Kenneth Summers proposed that the amendment **be now put**. This was seconded by the Revd Michael Harrison.

On a vote **this was agreed**.

The Assembly then voted on the amendment and **the amendment was carried**.

Debate resumed on the substantive resolution. The Revd Phillip Nevard proposed the following amendment:

"Delete 'next', and replace with '2004'."

This was seconded by Mr Paul Franklin.

After discussion the amendment was not carried.

After further debate Mr Tim Bellis proposed and Miss Amanda Wade seconded that the resolution **be now put**. This was agreed.

Ms Price replied to the debate, and the Assembly voted on the substantive Resolution 45:

**"General Assembly agrees to set up a task group to work with the Youth and Children's Work Committee, the Centre Management Committee, the local church and the Northamptonshire District Council to appraise the National Youth Resource Centre and explore the future role of Yardley Hastings in the light of the recommendations in the review report, seeking help as necessary from Mission Council, and to bring proposals for decision to the next meeting of the General Assembly."**

**Resolution 45 as amended was carried.**

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer, and the Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain led the Assembly in prayer.

The Clerk presented the minutes of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The Assembly approved the minutes subject to minor corrections.

## Training Committee

The Moderator invited the Revd John Proctor, Convener, to present the report of the Training Committee. In doing so, Mr Proctor welcomed the Revd Roy Lowes, Secretary for Training, and thanked the Revd Lesley Husselbee and the Revd Jean Black for their contribution to the Committee's work.

Mr Proctor responded to a number of questions.

With the permission of the Assembly the Revd Dr David Thompson moved adoption of Resolution 52 in the following slightly amended form:

### Resolution 52

### Training Committee

**General Assembly reappoints the Revd John Proctor to the Dunn Chair of New Testament Language, Literature and Theology at Westminster College for seven years from 1 September 2003.**

The Revd Ruth Ball seconded the Resolution.

**Resolution 52 was carried** and the Moderator greeted Mr Proctor.

## Ministries Committee

The Moderator ruled that all speeches during debates on the business of the Ministries Committee would be limited to three minutes.

The Moderator invited the Revd Graham Long to present the report of the Ministries Committee.

Having responded to a number of questions and comments on the report, Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 31:

### Resolution 31

### Assembly Welcome for Ministerial Transfers

**Assembly agrees that from General Assembly 2003 it will receive and welcome alongside all newly ordained ministers of Word and Sacraments and newly commissioned church related community workers all those ministers from other churches who have been received onto the roll of ministers of the United Reformed Church.**

After brief debate, Mr Long responded and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote:

**Resolution 31 was carried.**

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 32:

## **Resolution 32**

## **Future Patterns of Ministries**

### **General Assembly**

- 1 welcomes the interim report of the Future Patterns of Ministries Working Party of Ministries Committee (Appendix 6)**
- 2 remits it to local churches, districts and synods for consideration and response by the end of April 2003**
- 3 requests Ministries Committee to present a further report to General Assembly in 2004 in the light of the responses received and the additional work to be done on outstanding issues.**

Mr Long responded to a number of points raised in debate, and the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 32 was carried.**

With the permission of the Assembly Mr Long moved Resolution 33 in the following corrected form:

## **Resolution 33**

## **Certificates of Limited Eligibility**

**General Assembly authorises the Ministries Committee, through the Accreditation Sub-Committee, to grant Certificates of Limited Eligibility to ministers of other churches in order that they might serve local pastorates and posts in the United Reformed Church and receive a stipend from the Maintenance of the Ministry fund, on the following terms:**

- a) Before granting a Certificate of Limited Eligibility the Accreditation Sub-Committee must be satisfied that the minister:**
  - is from a member church of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, or a church overseas which is a member church of the Council for World Mission, the Disciples' Ecumenical Consultative Council or the World Alliance of Reformed Churches**
  - will subscribe to the Basis of Union of the United Reformed Church**
  - is in good standing with their own denomination.**
  - has the appropriate training and experience or gifts to enable them to serve the United Reformed Church.**
- b) Such Certificates shall relate to a particular appointment and be valid for a limited period not exceeding twelve months.**
- c) A Certificate of Limited Eligibility will be endorsed with the name of the pastorate or post to which an appointment has been made as soon as it is known. It is valid for no other appointment. It also bears the date when the Certificate ceases to be valid.**

With permission, the Revd Christine Craven, Secretary for Ministries, replied to comments. She indicated that it would be possible, on an individual basis, for appointments to be renewed at the end of the twelve month period.

**Resolution 33 was carried.**



Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 34

Resolution 34

Church Related Community Workers

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Basis of Union:

- a) Add to the sentence at the end of paragraph 20:  
"and in the case of church related community workers be termed commissioning."
- b) Insert the following paragraph after paragraph 21 and renumber the existing paragraphs 22-25 as 23-26:  

22. Some are called to the ministry of church related community work. After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be church related community workers in a post approved by the United Reformed Church, and are then commissioned and inducted to their office to serve for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with Schedules D & F.  
Church related community workers are commissioned to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the well-being of the community, and to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world.
- c) In the footnote to the paragraph currently numbered 24, which will become paragraph 25, replace "*The provisions of paragraph 24*" with "*The provisions of paragraph 25*".
- d) In the note at the start of Schedule B, replace "22" with "23".
- e) Add a new Schedule F as follows:  
SCHEDULE F (see clause 22 in the Basis of Union)

Affirmations to be made by church related community workers at commissioning and induction.

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. Church related community workers 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 one of the following sets of questions:

Either: VERSION I

- 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 care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the wellbeing of the community?  
Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church and to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world?

By the grace of God, I do.

8. Do you promise as a church related community worker 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.

Or: VERSION II

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 care for, to challenge and to pray for the community,  
to discern with others God's will for the wellbeing of the community.

I promise to take my part in the councils of the Church and to endeavour to enable the church to live  
out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and  
community for peace and justice in the world.

As a church related community worker of the United Reformed Church

I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,  
to cherish love towards all other churches,  
and 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.

Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith moved an amendment, that **the word 'endeavour' be inserted into Response 7, Version I, and Response 3, Version II before the words "enable the church" in each case.**

The amendment was seconded by the Revd Dr David Thompson.

Mr Long indicated willingness to accept the amendment, and further proposed the insertion of the word 'endeavour' before 'to enable' in paragraph 22. **The Assembly agreed.**

Following discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the substantive motion:

## **Resolution 34**

## **Church Related Community Workers**

**General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Basis of Union:**

**a) Add to the sentence at the end of paragraph 20:**

**"and in the case of church related community workers be termed commissioning."**

**b) Insert the following paragraph after paragraph 21 and renumber the existing paragraphs 22-25 as 23-26:**

**22. Some are called to the ministry of church related community work. After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be church related community workers in a post approved by the United Reformed Church, and are then commissioned and inducted to their office to serve for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with Schedules D & F. Church related community workers are commissioned to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the well-being of the community, and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world.**

**c) In the footnote to the paragraph currently numbered 24, which will become paragraph 25, replace "The provisions of paragraph 24" with "The provisions of paragraph 25".**

**d) In the note at the start of Schedule B, replace "22" with "23".**

- e) Add a new Schedule F as follows:  
**SCHEDULE F** (see clause 22 in the Basis of Union)

Affirmations to be made by church related community workers at commissioning and induction.

**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. Church related community workers 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 one of the following sets of questions:

Either: **VERSION I**

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 care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the wellbeing of the community? Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world?**  
  
By the grace of God, I do.



8. Do you promise as a church related community worker 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.

Or: **VERSION II**

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 care for, to challenge and to pray for the community, to discern with others God's will for the wellbeing of the community.

I promise to take my part in the councils of the Church and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim the love and mercy of God through working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world.

As a church related community worker of the United Reformed Church

I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,  
to cherish love towards all other churches,  
and always to endeavour 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.

**Resolution 34 in its amended form was carried with the necessary two thirds majority.**

The General Secretary proposed that “In accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 34 be referred to synods with the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2003 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.” This was agreed.

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 35:

### **Resolution 35**

### **Lay Preaching Strategy Proposal**

**General Assembly commends the Strategy Proposal of the Lay Preaching Support Committee to District and Area Councils and local churches and urges them to implement the strategy proposal as soon as may be practicable.**

After brief debate, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 35 was carried.**

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 36:

### **Resolution 36**

### **Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration**

**General Assembly approves and adopts the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration as set out in Appendix 5.**

With permission Mr Geoffrey Wood, Convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Sub-Committee, responded to a number of questions and comments. Mr Wood assured the Assembly that the Plan was under constant review, and that all the comments made would be considered. Some were already on the Sub-Committee’s agenda. The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 36 was carried.**

Consideration of Resolution 37 was deferred to a later session.

Mr Long moved adoption of Resolution 38:

### **Resolution 38**

### **Ministers’ Pension Fund**

**General Assembly gives its consent for the additional pensions of members of the URC Ministers’ Pension Fund to be augmented under Rule 44, on condition that there are no adverse funding implications.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 38 was carried.**

## **Synod Presentation**

The Moderator invited the Northern Synod to make its presentation.

## **Youth and Children's Work Committee (continued)**

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell moved adoption of Resolution 42:

### **Resolution 42**

### **Training for ministers**

**General Assembly asks the Training Committee to consider and implement the recommendations in the review report which relate to initial ministerial training and the need to provide ongoing CME training opportunities in all aspects of work with children and young people, including contemporary youth culture.**

After brief discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 42 was carried.**

Mrs Caswell moved adoption of Resolution 43:

### **Resolution 43**

### **District/Area Councils and Synods**

**General Assembly asks Synods and District/Area Councils to consider and, as necessary, to implement the recommendation in the review report regarding their work and to report back to Mission Council in March 2003.**

After discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 43 was carried.**

The Revd Kathryn Price moved adoption of Resolution 44:

### **Resolution 44**

### **Committee structure**

**General Assembly agrees to change part of the committee structure agreed in 1994 so that Youth and Children's Work Committee is no longer required to send representatives to the Church & Society, Doctrine, Prayer & Worship and Life & Witness Committees.**

After brief discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 44 was carried.**

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell moved adoption of Resolution 46:

### **Resolutions 46**

### **Pilots**

**General Assembly celebrates the success of the relaunch of Pilots and commends the programme to those churches not yet on board.**

After brief discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 46 was carried.**

Ms Price moved adoption of Resolution 47:

## **Resolution 47**

**FURY**

**General Assembly asks the Youth and Children's Work Committee to work with FURY Council to implement the recommendations in the review report regarding FURY, in particular the proposal to build an effective network through District/Area Councils and Synods.**

After discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 47 was carried.**

After worship led by the Chaplain, Assembly adjourned.

## **Sunday 7 July 2002**

## **First Session**

### **Assembly Service including Holy Communion**

Assisted by the Chaplain and the General Secretary, the Moderator presided as the Assembly celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Sermon was delivered by the Revd Elizabeth Welch, immediate past-Moderator.

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

The act of worship included the commemoration of the following ministers and missionaries of the United Reformed Church who have died since the last Assembly:

### **Ministers who have served at home and as missionaries overseas And have died since Assembly 2001**

Benjamin John ANGELL  
William Fulton AITON  
Harry Michael ARGUILE  
Frederick John BATES  
Joyce BENFIELD  
David BLACK  
Denis BROWN  
Robert Edward BRISTOW  
Wilfred Joseph Leonard CARTWRIGHT  
Norman CHARLTON  
Hewlett Elliott COLTMAN  
William Arthur DAVIS  
William Charles DOWLING  
Ronald EDWARDS  
Edwin Kenneth FOX  
Thomas Anthony GREENSLADE  
Nancy HASLAM  
Denis Slade HEGINBOTHAM  
Derek John ILINES  
Stuart Brooke JACKMAN  
Daniel Thomas JENKINS  
John KYLE  
David John LEWIS

James Campbell MACLAUHLAN  
Catharine Anne MCILHAGGA  
David Richard Christopher MORRIS  
Robert Warren MURRAY  
Ronald Eric George NORRIS  
Thomas Albert ORMANDY  
Norman RILEY  
Philip Elijah SCHOFIELD  
Cecil Edward SEAGER  
Geoffrey William SIRKETT  
Eileen SOUTHAM  
Ernest STEVENSON  
Horace STEVENSON  
Cecil Ernest STEWART  
Leslie Alfred STRINGER  
James Sydney WILKINSON  
John Owen WILSTEAD  
Mary Isobel WYATT

## **Missionaries**

Ivy Emily BALCHIN  
Gwyneth BAXTER  
Elizabeth (Betty) Redcliffe BREWER  
Elizabeth Annie (Nancy) CATER  
John Edward Mortimer GILBEY  
Frank LEGG  
Wilfred Gordon McDonald PARTIDGE  
Gordon Robert RILEY  
Charles SCARBOROUGH  
Robert S H G THOMPSON  
Francis (Frank) William WHYTE  
Hilda WOOD

## **Synod Presentation**

Following a break, the Moderator called upon the Southern Synod to make its presentation.

## **Mission Council Resolutions**

The General Secretary moved the adoption of Resolution 24:

### **Resolution 24**

### **Ending of full-time stipendiary service**

**Assembly agrees that full-time stipendiary service for ministers and CRCWs will cease at the end of the month in which a person reaches her/his 65th birthday unless**

**a) a commitment to extend had been agreed through current procedures before 4 July 2002;**

**or b) a case has been accepted by the Accreditation Sub-Committee that there are exceptional reasons why the particular piece of stipendiary service should be extended for a limited time.**

After debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 24 was carried.**



Mr Graham Stacy, Convener of the Finance Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 25:

## **Resolution 25**

## **Budget for the year 2003**

**General Assembly accepts the budget for the year 2003 set out in Appendix 1 to the Book of Reports.**

After debate, the Revd Ray Adams proposed that the resolution **be now put**.

This was seconded by Mrs Ruth Clarke.

Assembly agreed.

Mr Stacy responded to questions, and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 25 was carried.**

The Moderator called upon the Revd D Alasdair Pratt to present the report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee.

After discussion, Mr Pratt responded and the Assembly received the report.

Mr Pratt moved adoption of Resolution 27:

## **Resolution 27**

## **General Assembly 2004**

**General Assembly agrees that General Assembly in 2004 will meet at the University of Glamorgan from July 3rd – 6th.**

There being no debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 27 was carried.**

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, thanked the Revd D Alasdair Pratt for his service as Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee.

Assembly adjourned.

## **Sunday 7 July 2002**

## **Second Session**

### **Synod Resolutions**

The Revd Michael Davies, on behalf of the Southern Synod, moved the adoption of Resolution 3:

#### Resolution 3

#### Advocacy for Christian Stewardship

General Assembly, mindful of the United Reformed Church's need to complement spending cuts with increased giving, instructs the Life and Witness Committee to give priority to the development and promotion of stewardship, and, subject to the availability of funds additional to the 2003 Budget, to proceed as soon as possible with the appointment of one or more advocates for this work; and resolves that from 2004 onwards the post(s) shall be included in the United Reformed Church budget.

The Resolution was seconded by Mr Ian Chalmers.

After debate, Mr Hamish Martin proposed the following amendment:

Delete from 'stewardship' and insert, 'and invites each synod to proceed as soon as possible with the appointment of an advocate to proceed with this work from within their existing resources.'

This was seconded by the Revd John Johansen-Berg

After debate, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote on the amendment

The amendment was not carried.

The Revd Ruth Crofton proposed that the Resolution be **now put**.

This was seconded by Mr Matthew Prevett.

The Assembly agreed and on being put to a vote, Resolution 3 was not carried.

The Revd Adrian Bulley, on behalf of the Wessex Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 6:

## **Resolution 6**

## **Inter-Synod Sharing**

**Assembly gives thanks for the new spirit of sharing which has arisen in the life of the United Reformed Church from the consultation between the synods. It asks the Resource Sharing Task Group to initiate a consultation between the synods on the advisability and possibility of a more complete sharing of the financial resources of the synods, with a view to a more radical and equitable distribution of such resources across the whole church.**

The Resolution was seconded by Mr Graham Rolfe.

After brief discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 6 was carried.**

Mr John Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 56.

## **Resolution 56**

## **Ethical Investment**

**General Assembly agrees with Mission Council that the present URC guidelines on ethical investment cannot be a "final position" and welcomes the commitment of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to take the lead in further work.**

**Assembly requests the Ethical Investment Advisory Group:**

- (i) to give regular attention to:**
  - (a) the more detailed research and policies of some sister churches;**
  - (b) the scope for greater URC participation in relevant ecumenical bodies;**
  - (c) the option of the day-to-day investment decisions being give to managers explicitly committed to a Christian ethos;**

**and**

- (ii) to bring recommendations to the 2003 meeting of the General Assembly through Mission Council.**

The Resolution was seconded by the Revd Martin Camroux.

After debate, Mr Graham Stacy proposed that the Resolution be not put.

This was seconded by the Revd Bentley Webster.

The Moderator declined to accept this Resolution.

Thereafter, the Revd Dr Alan Spence proposed that the Resolution **be now put**.

This was seconded by the Revd Dr Richard Goldring.

Assembly agreed.

Mr Ellis responded, and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 56 was carried.**

## **Reception of Ecumenical Guests**

The Moderator greeted a further ecumenical visitor:

The Revd Peter Sulston Co-ordinating Secretary for Inter-Church and Other Relations, the Methodist Church

## **Reception of World Exchange Programme Students**

The Moderator welcomed six overseas students:

Pedro César Miyares Pompa (Cuba)

Glenroy Clarke (Jamaica)

James Gibbs (Jamaica)

Donovan McPherson (Jamaica)

Tamara Smith (Jamaica)

Naggie Sterling (Jamaica)

## **Ecumenical Committee**

The Revd John Rees, on behalf of the Ecumenical Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 50:

### **Resolution 50**

### **Conversations on the Way to Unity**

**General Assembly receives with gratitude Conversations on the Way to Unity, the report of the informal conversations between the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church and commends it for study throughout the Church in conjunction with the study of an Anglican-Methodist Covenant. General Assembly invites synods, district councils and local congregations to send comments to the Secretary for Ecumenical Relations by 31 March 2003.**

After debate, Miss Iona Hine moved that the Resolution **be now put**.

This was seconded by Mr Tim Bellis.

The Assembly agreed

Mr Rees responded to questions and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 50 was carried.**

The Revd John Rees on behalf of the Ecumenical Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 53:

### **Resolution 53**

### **Anglican-Methodist Covenant**

**The General Assembly welcomes the request from both the Methodist Conference and the Church of England General Synod to study and comment on *An Anglican-Methodist Covenant* and instructs the Ecumenical Committee to arrange for wide consultation and to bring proposals for a United Reformed Church response to the General Assembly of 2003.**

After brief debate, during which the Rt Revd David Hawtin and the Revd Peter Sulston outlined the background of the *Covenant*, Mr Rees responded to questions and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 53 was carried.**

## **Synod Resolutions**

The Revd Murdoch McKenzie, on behalf of East Midlands Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 2:

### **Resolution 2**

### **Standardising the administration of LEPs**

**General Assembly, concerned that, while unity at local level is enabling mission, the lack of co-ordination between denominations at national level is making it more difficult, calls upon the Ecumenical Committee to work with our ecumenical partners to establish:**

- a) **a single point of contact for national approval of constitutions for new LEPs and amendments to constitutions of existing LEPs, and**
- b) **a single form which satisfies all denominations' needs for statistical information.**

The resolution was seconded by Mrs Irene Wren.

After debate, the Revd Peter Brain proposed that the Resolution **be now put**.

This was seconded by Mr Peter Lyth.

Assembly agreed.

Mr McKenzie responded to questions, and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 2 was carried.**

## **Synod Presentation**

The Moderator called upon Wessex Synod to make its presentation.

The Assembly adjourned.

The Moderator invited the Clerk to present the minutes of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The Assembly approved the minutes subject to minor corrections.

The Assembly Clerk explained the procedures to be followed in regard to Resolution 4. This resolution being covered by Standing Order 6a would require a 2/3rds majority in this Assembly and to be referred to the Synods before a final vote by the assembly of 2003.

The Revd Stuart Jackson, on behalf of the Synod of Wales, moved adoption of Resolution 4:

## Resolution 4

## Ecumenical Bishop in Wales

**General Assembly endorses the resolution which has been passed by the Synod of Wales agreeing to “take steps appropriate to our polity to bring into being an Ecumenical Bishop in Wales who shall be in full communion with us as with all other parties to the scheme” and accepts fully the Proposal for the Appointment of an Ecumenical Bishop for Cardiff East (The Common Document).**

The Resolution was seconded by the Revd Alison Davis.

After discussion, Mr Alan Ireland proposed that the Resolution be not put.

This was seconded by Miss Rebecca Paine.

The Moderator declined to accept this resolution.

After further discussion, Mr Jackson responded to questions, and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 4 was carried.**

The General Secretary proposed that, **in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 4 be referred to synods with the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2003 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this variation in polity be proceeded with.** This was agreed.

## Synod Moderators' Report

The Revd Arnold Harrison presented the report of the Synod Moderators.

The Moderator stated that the Assembly received this report with gratitude



## Ecumenical Committee Resolution

The Revd John Rees, on behalf of the Ecumenical Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 51:

### Resolution 51

### International Situation

#### General Assembly

- (a) Welcomes the actions taken by Mission Council and others in responding to world events since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001;
- (b) affirms the United Reformed Church's solidarity with partner churches and agencies around the world and our commitment to work with people of other faith communities for peace and justice in the world;
- (c) expresses its concern at the way in which the logic of the 'war on terrorism' has aggravated already difficult situations in the Middle East (Israel-Palestine and Iraq) and around the world in countries and situations as diverse as Colombia, Kashmir, Algeria, China and Chechnya;
- (d) calls upon its representatives to the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland International Affairs Liaison Group to request that work be undertaken ecumenically to examine the logic of a 'war on terrorism';
- (e) affirms its support for the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence and our commitment to the pursuit of non-violent solutions to conflict;
- (f) encourages the Committee for Inter-Faith Relations to produce educational material which will be of assistance to congregations and individuals seeking to understand Islam and in particular what the Qur'an says about jihad and martyrdom;
- (g) welcomes and encourages all initiatives by local congregations to build bridges with other faith communities which create space for understanding international events in a local cross-cultural context.

After brief discussion, Mr Gareth Marshall Jones proposed an amendment that:

'in (f), delete from 'understand' and insert, 'other faiths , their cultures and traditions.'

This was seconded by Mrs Brenda Cheer

After a brief debate the General Secretary proposed that the amendment be **now put**.

This was seconded by the Revd Peter Brain

The Assembly agreed.

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the amendment.

The amendment was not carried.

The Revd Peter Makari spoke to support the Resolution and expressed the gratitude of our American partner churches for the support and encouragement received from the United Reformed Church.

The Revd William Mahood proposed that the Resolution be **now put**.

This was seconded by the Revd Janet Lees.

The Assembly agreed

The Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 51 was carried.**

## **Nominations Committee**

The Moderator invited the Revd Glyn Jenkins to present the report of the Nominations Committee.

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 39:

### **Resolution 39**

### **Nominations**

**General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out on pages 75 to 82 of the Book of Reports subject to the additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary Report before Assembly.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator put the resolution to the vote.

**Resolution 39 was carried.**

Mr Jenkins moved adoption of Resolution 40:

### **Resolution 40**

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

**General Assembly agrees that those appointed to serve on the Retired Ministers' Housing Sub-Committee shall be appointed for an initial four-year period, with the option of serving for a further two years without the need to refer back to Assembly.**

After discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 40 was carried.**

## **Nominations Committee**

The Revd John Reardon moved adoption of resolution 54:

### **Resolution 54**

### **Honorary Assistant Treasurer**

**Assembly resolves to create the post of Honorary Assistant Treasurer and asks Mission Council to make an appointment to the post at its meeting in October 2002.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 54 was carried.**

The Revd John Reardon moved adoption of Resolution 55:

### **Resolution 55**

### **Honorary Treasurer**

**Assembly appoints Mr Eric Chilton as Honorary Treasurer for a 4-year period from 1 January 2003.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 55 was carried.**

The Moderator greeted Mr Chilton.

The Moderator thanked the retiring Convener of the Nominations Committee, the Revd Glyn Jenkins.

On behalf of the Assembly, the Moderator thanked the Revd Frank Beattie and Ms Gabrielle Cox for their work as Conveners of the Life and Witness, and Church and Society Committees respectively.

## **Thanks to the Clerk and the Honorary Treasurer**

The Moderator thereafter thanked the Assembly Clerk, Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith, and Honorary Treasurer, Mr Graham Stacy, whose terms of office were about to end. On behalf of the Assembly he presented both with gifts. The Assembly stood to applaud.

## **Mission Council Resolution**

The Revd Adrian Bulley moved adoption of Resolution 17:

### Resolution 17

### Task Group on Authority

General Assembly agrees to make the following changes to the Standing Orders of the Assembly with effect from the close of the Annual meeting of the Assembly in 2002:

Alter the title of Standing Orders section 5 to read:

“Motions on Status or Closure of Debate”

and add a new paragraph 5a:

“A member of Assembly may deliver to the General Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting of the Assembly a notice in writing of a motion that the General Assembly, for the better consideration of a specified resolution and its related documents, goes into a committee of the whole Assembly. For such a motion to be carried, two thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. Committee procedure enables members to speak more than once and exploratory votes to be taken on particular points or suggested changes. The number and length of speeches shall be at the discretion of the Moderator. After discussion in committee and decision on any proposed changes the Moderator shall declare the committee stage to be ended, and the Assembly shall proceed to hear a closing speech from the mover of the motion under discussion and proceed to a vote on the motion, subject to any further motion under Standing Order 5.”

Re-number the existing paragraphs 5a, 5b, 5c and 5d as 5b, 5c, 5d and 5e respectively, and in the new 5e, amend “5a, 5b 5c” to read: “5a, 5b, 5c and 5d”. (3.9.2a)

The Revd Dr Alan Spence proposed the following amendment to Resolution 17:

‘Replace paragraph 5a with:

The Assembly may resolve itself into a committee of the whole Assembly for the better consideration of a specified resolution and its related documents. Notice of such a motion must normally be given by a member of the Assembly to the General Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting of the Assembly and it is only carried if two thirds of the votes cast are given in its favour. While in committee the formal rules of the debate are suspended. When the Assembly resumes, the minute of the decisions made in committee is read. The motion to accept this minute will be voted on without discussion.’

The Convener of the Task Group on Authority offered to withdraw the Resolution in order that further consultation could take place. The Assembly agreed

## Synod Resolution

The Revd Paul Whittle, on behalf of West Midlands Synod, moved adoption of Resolution 7:

### Resolution 7

### CRCW Programme

**General Assembly asks the Ministries Committee to re-examine the way in which the criteria for the issue of Certificates of Eligibility to potential CRCWs are applied, to consider whether any changes are needed and to report to the Assembly.**

The Resolution was seconded by the Revd Dr John Campbell.

After considerable debate, Mr Whittle responded, and the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 7 was carried.**

## Ministries Committee

The Revd Graham Long moved adoption of resolution 37, requesting that the following portions be withdrawn:

From

“Add a new Definition 27 to read”

to

the end of 14.1.1.4

in 14.1.2 line 3, and in 20, line 2, the words in italics “or CRCW”.

### Resolution 37

### Ministers' Pension Fund

**General Assembly amends the definitions of the Rules and the Rules of the URC Ministers' Pension Fund by the deletion of the words in square brackets and the addition of the words in italics in the Rules shown, and adds an Appendix to the Rules:**

**Amend Definition 11 to read**

**11. Participating Bodies**

**means such United Reformed Churches or any other body admitted to membership of the Fund, and the participating body in relation to any [minister] member means that participating body he/she is serving.**

**Amend Rule 14.1.2 to read**

**14.1.2 If a contributing member serving full-time reduces his/her commitment to that of part-time service whilst under normal pension age, the Pension Trustee may raise the Pensionable Service to the level applicable to a full-time minister having regard to the length of any previous full-time service, to the age and health of the [minister] member, to the fraction of basic stipend being paid and to the purpose and pensionability of any other employment and shall in such cases allow full membership of the Pension Fund, contributions then being payable on the full basic stipend.**

**14.2 Every [minister] member who has ceased to be a contributing member under Rule 13.3 and who whilst under normal pension age is re-admitted to full-time or part-time service in the URC may become a contributory member of the Fund as is provided**

in the previous Rule. At the time of re-admission the Pension Trustee shall have discretion to aggregate for the purposes of Rules 18-23 that [minister's] member's previous period or periods of membership with the [minister's] member's latest period of membership PROVIDED that the [minister] member waives his/her right to any deferred pension and surviving spouses pension under Rule 29 in respect of such previous period or periods of membership and repays to the Fund an amount equal to the sum of

Add a new Rule 17.4 to read

17.4 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Fund documentation the options in Parts I, II and III of Appendix XII dated 08/2001 of the Inland Revenue document IR 12 (2001) may be applied to the benefits of Fund members with the consent of the Pension Trustee.

Amend the first paragraph of Rule 20 to read

20. Ill-health Retirement

In the event that a member retires before normal pension age on account of incapacity to undertake the duties of a stipendiary minister due to ill-health duly certified to the satisfaction of the Pension Trustee, he/she shall be entitled to an immediate pension which shall be calculated as provided in Rule 18 but with the substitution of the date of retirement for the attainment of normal pension age provided always that when the period of pensionable service completed up to the date of retirement is less than twenty years, the amount of pension will be calculated on the basis of:

Add a new Rule 30.4 to read

30.4 Following receipt of a Pension Sharing Order pursuant to the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 the Pension Trustee will transfer the defined proportion of the value of a member's pension benefit to an appropriate policy with an insurer of the Ex-spouse's choosing. If not chosen by the Ex-spouse within the specified period, the default option of the Pension Trustee arranging an appropriate policy with an insurer will operate. Appendix 1 hereto contains provisions relating to Pension Sharing under the said Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999.

Add an Appendix to the Rules to read

Appendix 1 - Pension Sharing On Divorce

Rule 1

Definitions

"Ex-Spouse" means an individual to whom Pension Credit Rights have been or are to be allocated following a Pension Sharing Order, agreement or equivalent provision.

"Insurance Company" is as defined in Section 659B of the 1988 Act.

"Negative Deferred Pension" means the amount by which the member's pension or deferred pension under the Fund which arose/arises from service with the URC is reduced at the Relevant Date by s.31 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 following a Pension Sharing Order, agreement or equivalent provision. For this purpose, service with the URC includes all periods of service with other employers which have been treated as if they were service with the URC where a transfer payment has been made to the Fund in respect of that other service.

"Pension Credit" means a credit under s.29(1)(b), Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999.



“Pension Credit Benefit” in relation to a Fund, means the benefits payable under the Fund to or in respect of a person by virtue of rights under the Fund attributable (directly or indirectly) to a Pension Credit.

“Pension Credit Rights” means right to future benefits under a Fund which are attributable (directly or indirectly) to a Pension Credit.

“Pension Debit” means a debit under s.29(1)(a) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999.

“Pension Debit member” means a member whose benefits have been permanently reduced by a Pension Debit. Such a member will either be:-

(i) a member who is a Controlling Director of a company which is his/her employer if he/she is a director of the company to whom paragraph (b) of Section 417(5) of the 1988 Act applies either at the date on which the marriage was dissolved or annulled, or at any time within the period of 10 years before that date, or

(ii) a member whose earnings at the date at which his/her marriage was dissolved or annulled exceeded 1/4 of the Permitted Maximum for the year of assessment in which the dissolution or annulment occurred. Earnings for these purposes shall be taken to be the total emoluments -

(a) which were paid to the member in consequence of Pensionable Service to which the Fund relates during the year of assessment before the year of assessment in which the marriage was dissolved or annulled, and

(b) from which tax was deducted in accordance with the Income Tax (Employments) Regulations 1993.

“Pension Sharing Order” means any order or provision as is mentioned in s.28(1) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999.

## Rule 2 Assignment

Rule 30 is amended by the insertion of Rule 30.4, to permit the assignment as therein provided of part or all of the member’s retirement benefits or rights to benefits under the Fund to his/her Ex-spouse to the extent necessary to comply with a Pension Sharing Order, agreement or equivalent provision.

## Rule 3

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Rules, the benefits for a Pension Debit member are additionally subject to the following limits, subject to compliance with Social Security legislation:

(i) The pension shall not exceed the Aggregate Retirement Benefit in Part 1 of the Schedule less the Negative Deferred Pension in this Fund and the Negative Deferred Pension in any Associated Scheme and, furthermore in the case of a Class A member the Negative Deferred Pension in any Connected Scheme.

(ii) The lump sum from this and any Associated Scheme shall not exceed:

(a) for Pension Debit members who are Class A members or Class B members, an amount determined by 2.25 x the initial annual pension payable;

(b) for Pension Debit members who are Class C members, an amount of the greater of:

(i) 2.25 x the initial annual pension payable or,

(II) an amount determined in accordance with Part I of the Schedule as if there had been no Pension Debit, less 2.25 x the Negative Deferred Pension.

For the purposes of this Rule, the initial annual pension should be calculated on the following bases:

(aa) if the pension payable for the year changes, the initial pension payable should be taken;

(bb) it should be assumed that the Pension Debit member will survive for a year;

(cc) the effect of commutation should be ignored.

(iii) On the death of the Pension Debit member, any pension for a Dependant shall not exceed  $\frac{2}{3}$  x an amount determined in accordance with Part 4 of the Schedule as if there had been no Pension Debit, less the Negative Deferred Pension and the Negative Deferred Pension in any Associated Scheme and, furthermore in the case of a Class A member the Negative Deferred Pension in any Connected Scheme. Where more than one pension is to be paid the total of all the pensions cannot exceed 100% of an amount determined in accordance with Part 4 of the Schedule as if there had been no Pension Debit, less the Negative Deferred Pension and the Negative Deferred Pension in any Associated Scheme and, furthermore in the case of a Class A member the Negative Deferred Pension in any Connected Scheme.

#### Rule 4

The Pension Trustee must give full details of the Pension Debit and a lump sum certificate specifying the maximum permissible lump sum, to the receiving scheme/arrangement where the fund underlying the benefits for a Pension Debit member is transferred to another retirement benefits scheme approved under Chapter I Part XIV of the 1988 Act or a scheme approved under Chapter IV Part XIV of the 1988 Act.

#### Rule 5

Where the Pension Trustee accepts a transfer payment and is informed by the transferor of the details of a Pension Debit relating to the transfer payment, the Pension Trustee must take account of the Pension Debit, if appropriate, in the calculation of any limit on benefits for that member. If a transfer of the fund underlying the benefits for the member is made to a scheme approved under Chapter I Part XIV of the 1988 Act or a scheme approved under Chapter IV Part XIV of the 1988 Act, the Pension Trustee must give full details of the Pension Debit to the receiving scheme/arrangement.

#### Rule 6

If the Ex-spouse dies after a Pension Sharing Order, agreement or equivalent provision is made but before it is acted upon by the Pension Trustee, the following benefits may be paid:

A lump sum death benefit may be paid to any person at the discretion of the Pension Trustee.

The lump sum is limited to 25% of what would have been the cash equivalent of the fund which would have provided the Pension Credit Rights for the Ex-Spouse. The balance of the fund may be used to provide a non-commutable pension to a Dependant of the Ex-Spouse.

The amount of pension payable to a Dependant is limited to a maximum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the amount of pension that could have been paid to the Ex-Spouse at the date of death if the whole of what would have been the cash equivalent of the fund which would have

provided the Pension Credit Rights had been used to purchase an annuity at an available market rate. Where more than one pension is to be paid the total of the pensions cannot exceed the amount of pension that could have been paid to the Ex-Spouse.

Such pensions must be payable for life, except that any pension paid to children must cease on the attainment of age 18 or, if later on the cessation of full time education. Such pensions may be fully commuted, however, for a lump sum on the grounds of triviality at the time such a pension becomes payable.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 37 in its altered form was carried.**

## **Mission Council Resolution**

The Revd Elizabeth Welch moved adoption of Resolution 20:

### **Resolution 20**

### **Visit to the Northern Synod**

**Assembly notes that the visit to the Northern Synod, agreed in 1998, has been completed; thanks the visitors for their work; commends the report to the continuing attention of the Synod; but resolves not to initiate further synod visits at the present time.**

The Revd Peter Poulter proposed the following amendment:

Delete final clause and replace with, 'and encourages other synods to engage in the process'.

After brief discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the amendment.

The amendment was not carried.

The Revd Terry Oakley moved that decision on this motion be deferred to the next Assembly.

This was seconded by Mrs Muriel Garrow.

The Moderator declined to accept this motion.

The Revd Dr David Thompson proposed the deletion of the final clause.

This was seconded by the Revd Peter Poulter.

Assembly agreed

The Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the amended resolution

**Resolution 20, as amended, was carried.**

### **Resolution 20**

### **Visit to the Northern Synod**

**Assembly notes that the visit to the Northern Synod, agreed in 1998, has been completed; thanks the visitors for their work; commends the report to the continuing attention of the Synod.**

## Youth and Children's Work

Revd Elizabeth Caswell moved adoption of Resolution 48:

### **Resolution 48**                      **Youth and Children's Work Training Programme**

**General Assembly affirms the continuation of the Youth and Children's Work Training programme, with an increasing emphasis on development.**

There being no discussion, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote.

**Resolution 48 was carried.**

Revd Kathryn Price moved adoption of Resolution 41b. In doing so, she thanked the Convener of the Review Group, the Revd Elizabeth Caswell.

### **Resolution 41(b)**                      **Policy for youth and children's work**

**General Assembly**  
**b) encourages the Youth and Children's Work Committee to work with the recommendations in the review report, developing them as a coherent policy for youth and children's work in the United Reformed Church.**

Miss Alison Marshall proposed the following amendment:

Insert the words "using them to develop a national strategy from which a" instead of "developing them as a" and then "can be created" after "United Reformed Church"

The amendment was seconded by Mr Graham Rolfe.

After discussion, the Moderator invited the Assembly to vote on the amendment.

The amendment was not carried.

The General Secretary moved that the resolution **be now put**.

This was seconded by Mr Jonathan Price.

Assembly agreed

The Convener of the Youth and Children's Work Committee responded, during which response in reply to a question from the Revd Stephen Thornton she indicated that it was her understanding that the terms of the resolution would permit development and change to the recommendations contained in the report, and further that there was no intention to alter the role or title of the "Children's Advocate". In light of these assurances, the Moderator called upon the Assembly to vote

**Resolution 41b was carried.**

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly to the Review Group and to the members and staff of the Youth and Children's Work committee.

## **Retirement of the Deputy General Secretary**

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair and the Assembly joined in offering thanks and good wishes to the Revd John Waller on his retirement from the post of Deputy General Secretary.

After worship led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

The Chaplain led Assembly in worship.

The Moderator asked the Assembly Clerk to present the minutes of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## Address to the Throne

The Moderator invited the Revd Elizabeth Welch, the immediate past Moderator, to present the Address to the Throne:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church now meeting at St Andrew's University sends greetings to Your Majesty.

Our decision to hold our Assembly at St Andrew's reflects the stronger presence the United Reformed Church now has in Scotland. This is a consequence of its union two years ago with the Congregational Union of Scotland which was entered into with great enthusiasm and anticipation by both parties. The United Reformed Church is proud that it is now able to exercise its ministry in the three nations on the mainland of the British Isles.

We give gratitude and thanks to God for the fifty years of service Your Majesty has given to the nation and the Commonwealth, and pray that God may bless and uphold you during this year of Jubilee. We were pleased to be represented at the Jubilee Services at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and St. Paul's Cathedral. We were grateful that, after the first of these significant services, you marked the ecumenical progress that has been made in these islands over the past 50 years by your presence at the signing of the personal Covenant between the Presidents of Churches Together in England.

We share the sense of sadness and loss felt by the whole country at the deaths earlier this year of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. We pray that Your Majesty and the members of your family will know the gracious blessing of God through the Christian hope of Resurrection.

The mood of celebration abroad in the country during this, Your Majesty's Jubilee year, calls to mind the biblical roots of the concept of 'Jubilee'. The Scriptures teach us that the institution of a 'Jubilee year' was God's way of periodically levelling out inequalities in society, of ensuring that those burdened with debt or bonded as slaves could enjoy a fresh start. Appropriately the international campaign for the relief of the debt burden borne by the world's poorest countries styles itself with the name 'Jubilee'. We congratulate Your Majesty's Government on the lead it continues to give the rest of the world in the matter of securing deeper and wider debt relief for the millions of people still enslaved by debt in Commonwealth countries and beyond. We pray that this will be a continuing part of Your Majesty's Government's policy through this Jubilee year and beyond.

Our concern for justice also leads us to support the growing movement for a transformation of the rules governing international trade. We share the view that such a transformation, together with full debt relief for the world's poorest and most indebted countries, is vital if the Millennium Development Goals, to which Your Majesty's Government is committed, are to be met. We very warmly welcome Your Government's decision to honour Your Majesty's Jubilee year with the establishment of a fund to speed the introduction of universal primary education in the Commonwealth.

With the whole global community we continue to be deeply shocked by the events which took place in New York and Washington last September, and continue to work and pray for peaceful



and just solutions to the situations of conflict in our world. The experience of September 11 presents us with many challenges, one of the most important being the need for different faiths to understand one another better and find ways of working more closely together. We applaud the lead Your Majesty has given in this direction, noting especially the reception at Buckingham Palace in June for representatives of nine faith communities in the UK. We warmly endorse the message presented to Your Majesty on that occasion, with its pledge to pursue mutual understanding 'in a spirit of friendship and co-operation'. Our own churches are committed to working alongside others of goodwill to foster harmony between people of all faiths and races. We seek to follow the biblical injunction to 'welcome the stranger' into our midst, and stand in prayerful solidarity with those from minority communities, including those seeking asylum, who so often find themselves among the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society.

We pray for the continued health and strength of Your Majesty as you offer leadership and service to the United Kingdom and to the Commonwealth.

We have the honour to remain your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects.

Revd. John Waller  
Moderator

Revd Dr David Cornick  
General Secretary

The Assembly approved the Address.

## **Moderator-Elect**

The Moderator invited the Moderator-Elect, the Revd D. Alasdair Pratt, to address the Assembly.

## **Vote of Thanks**

The Moderator called upon Mr Graham Rolfe, who thanked the Synod of Scotland for its welcome and hospitality. Mr Rolfe assured members of a warm welcome to Wessex Synod in 2003.

The Moderator thanked those who had contributed to the smooth running of the Assembly, expressing particular thanks to the Chaplain and leader of Assembly Bible Study.

The Revd Carolyn Smyth, on behalf of the Drumchapel Churches Partnership, thanked the Assembly for the generous donation to the Emmaus Project, of the Offering from the Assembly Communion.

The General Secretary thanked the Moderator for his patience, wisdom and grace in conducting the proceedings of Assembly.

## **Closing Worship**

The Chaplain led the closing worship, which included the induction of the Revd Raymond Adams as Deputy General Secretary.

The General Secretary formally announced that the Assembly had completed its business and would adjourn to meet as agreed in Portsmouth on 5th-8th July 2003, or at such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.

# INDEX

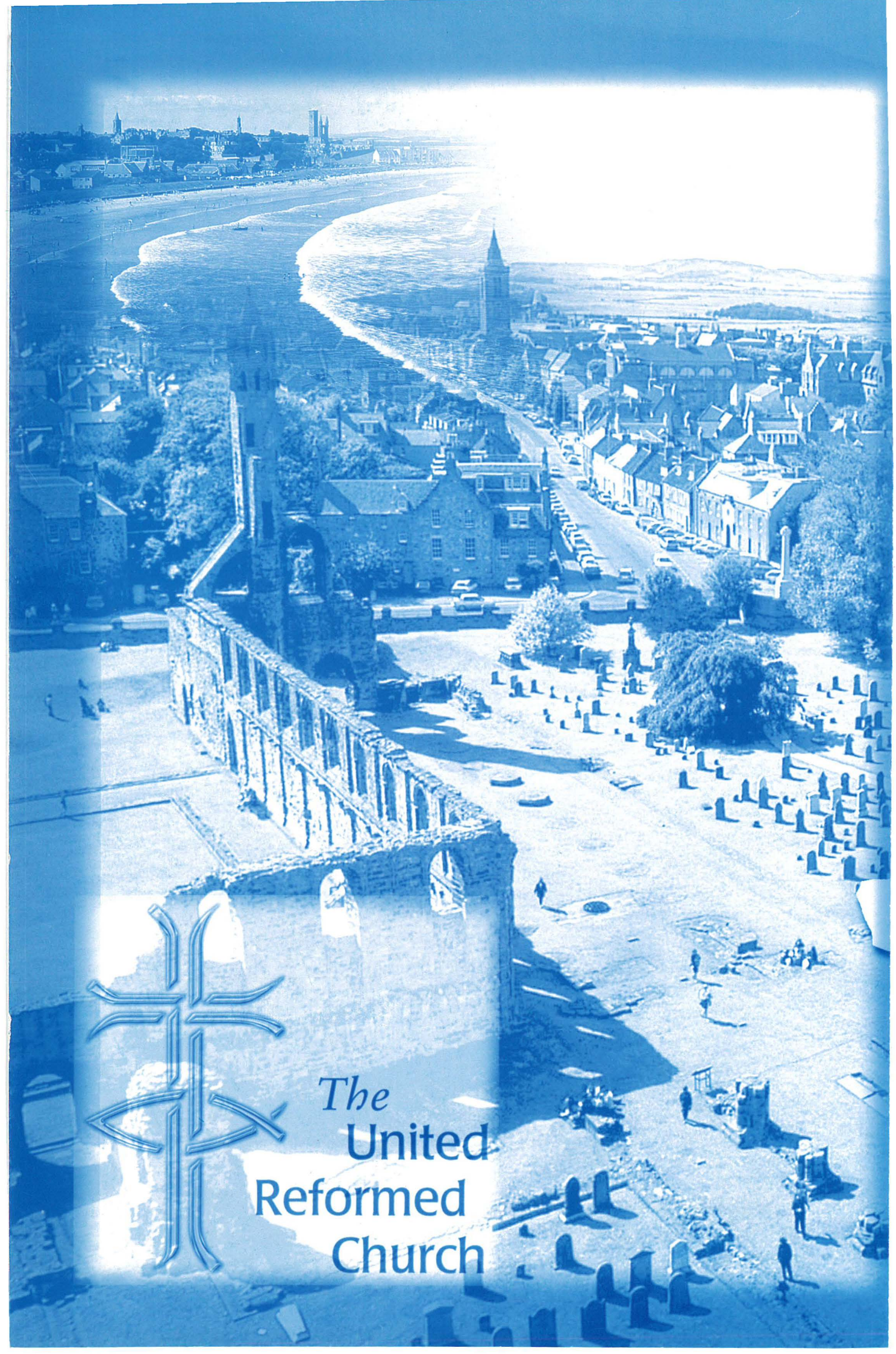
*The Page numbers given are where the item starts. It might run to succeeding pages.*

	Reports	Record
Accounts	51	11
Adams, Revd Ray		49
Address to the throne		48
Anglican-Methodist Covenant	104	37
Assembly Arrangements	45	
Assessment Board, National	57	
Authority Task Group	35	14, 41
Bishop, ecumenical in Wales	11	38
Budget	41	34
Certification of Limited Eligibility	64	24
Charity Trustees, Indemnity of	33	
Church and Society Committee	104	9
Church-Related Community Workers	65, 13	25, 42
Churches, closures	17	18
Churches, new	17	18
Church House Reference Group	33	
Communications & Editorial	47	17
Conversations on the way to unity	104	36
Deployment, ministerial	53	
Deputy General-Secretary, retirement of		47
Dunn Chair, Westminster College		23 (record only)
Ecumenical bishop in Wales	11	38
Employment & voluntary religious service	10	10
End of Life issues	104	9
Equal Opportunities	49	9
Ethical Investment	30	35
Finance	51	10
FURY	47, 102	32
General Assembly 2004	44	34
Grants and Loans Group	33	
Grouping, Structure changes to:	37	11
Human Sexuality pastoral group	28	
International Situation		39
Inter-Synod Sharing	12	35
Lay Preaching	68	30
LEPs, Administration of	10	37

Limited Eligibility, Certification of	64	24
Lowes, Revd Roy	32	
Miller, Revd David	32	21
Ministerial Jubilees		20
Ministerial Transfers, Assembly welcome for	63	23
Ministers' Pension Fund	70	30, 42
Ministries, Future Patterns of	63	24
Ministry & Mission Fund	62	11
Moderators' report	22	38
National Youth Resource Centre, Yardley Hastings	99, 102	22
Nominations Committee	75	40
Northern Synod, visit to	39	46
Occupational Health	31	
Pension Fund, Ministers'	70	30
PILOTS	100	
Plan for Partnership	70	30
Prisoners	12	10
Racial Justice	84	9
Racism	85	
Reform	47	
Retired Ministers' Housing	60	40
ROOTS	48	17
Ruiton, Secession	42	17
Section O	40	13
Sharing, inter-synod	12	35
Stacy, Mr Graham	33	
Standing Orders, changes to	36	41
Stewardship, Advocacy for Christian	11	34
Stipend, basic ministerial	33	
Stipendiary Service, ending of full-time	41	33
Structure, changes to, Grouping	37	11
Treasurer, Honorary		40
Treasurer, Honorary-Assistant		40
Training Committee	88	23
Unity, Conversations on the way to	104	36
Voluntary religious service and employment	10	10
Wales, Ecumenical bishop in	11	38
Women's Union of Scotland	29	
Women's work	29	
Yardley Hastings	99, 102	22
Youth and Children's Work Committee	95	21, 31, 47

Notes





*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

