

**PROPOSALS FOR UNIFICATION
of
THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF SCOTLAND
and the
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**prepared by
a Joint Negotiating Group**

**for presentation to the Assemblies
of the two Churches**

December 1987

PREFACE

The Joint Negotiating Group was appointed by the two churches. The Congregational Union of Scotland made its appointments following a resolution of the Assembly in September 1985 and the United Reformed Church made its appointments through its Executive Committee in November 1985. The Joint Group first met at Durham on April 2/3 1986, and subsequently at Crieff, London, Edinburgh and Windermere, with many smaller consultations in between.

Interim reports were given to the CUS Assembly in September 1986 when a resolution to prepare a Scheme of Union was approved by 72% of members present and voting, and to the URC General Assembly in May 1987 when a resolution to proceed along the lines of the first draft was approved nem. con.

These proposals are now submitted to the Assemblies of both churches for their consideration in the belief that they are a practical, positive and important step towards the fulfilment of Christ's prayer for his church.

Mr Jeffrey Fowkes Co-Chairman
succeeded by
Mr Jim Merilees in September 1987

Revd John Slow

Revd John Arthur
Revd John Clark
Mr Robert Copleton
Revd Charles Innes
Revd Rosalind Lyle
Mrs Sheena Paul
Revd Principal Hamish Smith
Revd John Smith
Mr Patrick Smyth

Mr Fred H Brooman
Revd Donald Elliott
Revd David Hannen
Mrs Elizabeth Jupp
Mr Ian Neilson
Revd Stephen Orchard
Revd Donald Powis
succeeded by
Revd Eric Kirkman
July 1987
Miss Janet Turner

Revd Robert Waters Secretaries

Revd Bernard Thorogood

Observers:

From the Church of Scotland:

From the Episcopal Church of Scotland:

From the Scottish Churches Council:

Revd Andrew Morton

Revd Robert Halliday

Canon Kenyon Wright

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PART I

Introduction

The Approach to Unification

The Joint Negotiating Group offers the following testimony to the Churches and to the Unifying Assembly. It arises from the Group's consideration of the purpose and faith of the Church as it prepared this document setting out the proposals for unification. It is not part of those proposals.

A. We are pilgrims towards the fulness of unity among Christians and we shall be that all our lives. We are on that journey as we pray and work for growth in the unity of faith and unity in mission. The action to be taken at one point in history involves people and institutions with different experience, expectations and context. The key decision is to agree on the next step of the journey which we can take together.

At this point, the two churches can see such a step. It is to become one church which respects the identity of the distinctive parts. But beyond that, all engaged in this movement do so in expectation that further unions in England, Scotland and Wales will call for further and differing actions in these parts of the church.

The actions being taken by the Congregational Union of Scotland and the United Reformed Church are not identical at this point for they bring different histories. There is a step into interdependence and conciliar fellowship. This was taken by Congregationalists in England and Wales in 1972 at the formation of the URC. It is a step now proposed for the CUS. The URC is being called to amend its Basis and change its focus so that the heritage and gifts of Scottish Congregationalists will contribute to the life of the whole URC.

This part of the pilgrimage is within the context of the whole family of God. We are therefore seeking to be faithful to the relationships already enriching our life, and pledge ourselves to continue in the pilgrimage towards full fellowship in each human community and in Great Britain as a whole.

B. At this point of coming together, we give thanks to God and declare our faith.

We are called by Christ, the crucified and risen;
we are led by the Spirit, revealer of the Way.

God comes to us in living Word and Sacrament,
in healing and forgiveness, in love and fellowship.

God seeks us now in the prophet's voice, in the
cry of the hungry, in the good news of Christ.

We know the pain and joy of renewal,
and with all God's people
across the continents and down the years
we receive new life and hope through the cross.

God is with us, forever creating
and recreating, forgiving us and making all things new.

We know the challenge to serve God's Kingdom
where justice and peace are undivided,
where human divisions cannot endure
and true community is the experience of all.

God has set before us the life of the Kingdom
in the love, truth and suffering of Christ.

Therefore we join in the praise of the universal church,
where life and words, sacraments and prayer
are bound together, God's gift and our response,
to lead us into eternal life in all its fulness.

So we cry, with all God's people,
Hallelujah! Amen! Christ is risen!

C. **Our Confidence**

We declare that we recognise in each other the essentials of Christian faith and discipleship. We

know our sinfulness and pray that we may be forgiven for our mixed motives, unworthy fears and narrow vision. But we know, too, the goodness of God in our histories, as churches and as individuals.

Grace has been given, men and women have been led into new hope, evil has been resisted, prayer has been powerful. So we thank the Lord of the church and declare our faith in his constancy. In obedience to him we seek unity. We offer our united experience and gifts for his work in the world.

D. Our Calling

We believe that unity and mission are two dimensions of the same holy calling. God draws men and women into the fellowship of the church not for their security but for the gospel gifts they can share with the whole world, the understanding of the events in history and commitment to action that brings faith and forgiveness into human life. Our unity in faith and worship, in mutual support, in common witness and in service to the community is a sign that the Holy Spirit has changed us. This is what we have been learning through the last century of the world missionary movement and the ecumenical movement. The brokenness of the church hinders the new creation. We are called to reveal the diversity of the human family within a visible unity, a unity of the body as well as the spirit. In this way the church may be an example of grace for the world to see, and a token of the unity of all humankind.

E. Our Belief and Basis

As those who stand in the Reformed tradition, we do not hold that a written formula of faith can provide a test of Christian discipleship. Yet we do not treat matters of doctrine lightly. We value written statements of faith as witnesses to the reality of Christ, recalling us to the central elements of historic, catholic faith as perceived and expressed at a moment of history.

Hitherto the Congregational Union of Scotland has not published any statement of faith as defining the position of the churches or their ministers, but has encouraged those who join the church to make confession that, for them, Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour. It has enabled churches and ministers to join the Union by simply pronouncing loyalty to it. The Union issued a Statement of Faith in 1949 and has assented to the basis of the World Council of Churches and the statement of faith of the Multilateral Church Conversation in Scotland.

We consider that the Statement of Belief in Part IV is descriptive of the Church's belief and integral to its constitution. It reflects our understanding of the Church and so witnesses to the character of the United Reformed Church within the whole company of believers. The use of a Statement of Belief as a public testimony may be regarded, not as a narrowing or testing of the Gospel but as a way of expressing briefly the grace of God in the unity of one corporate body. Continued exploration in obedience to the Holy Spirit may lead the united body to amend this Basis as God casts more light and truth upon our way.

PART II

THE UNIFYING PROCESS

Definition

1. These Proposals
- (a) define the procedures by means of which and the terms and conditions upon which the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom ("the URC") and the Congregational Union of Scotland comprising the Evangelical Union and Congregational Union as existing at 1896 ("the CUS") would be unified so that the CUS might end its separate life with its functions carried forward within the one church to be known as the United Reformed Church in Great Britain ("the URCGB") and
- (b) declare in Part VIII the amendments ("the Part VIII amendments") which would be made to the present Basis of Union of the URC ("the Basis") and the present Structure of the URC ("the Structure") if such unification were to take place.

Procedures and Conditions for Unification

2. Provided that the procedures and conditions defined and declared in paragraph 3 of these Proposals are duly performed and observed the passing of the Unifying Declaration as therein defined shall operate on the date that such Unifying Declaration is passed ("the date of unification")
 - (a) to bring into immediate effect the Part VIII amendments
- and
- (b) to effect the immediate dissolutions reformation and other consequences defined and declared in paragraph 4 of these Proposals

all of which taking place on the date of unification are in these Proposals referred to as "the unification".

3. The unification shall take effect provided that

- (a) the Annual Assembly of the CUS ("the Annual Assembly") at its meeting in September, 1988, by resolution passed by the votes of not less than three-fourths of its members present and voting approves these Proposals for unification in the one church to be known as the United Reformed Church in Great Britain
- and
- (b) the General Assembly of the URC ("the General Assembly") at its meeting in May, 1988, by resolutions passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting
 - (i) approves these Proposals for unification in the one church to be known as the United Reformed Church in Great Britain
 - (ii) approves the Part VIII amendments as proposal for the amendment of the Basis and the Structure to become effective on the date of unification and refers such proposal to Provincial Synods and District Councils of the URC in accordance with its due procedure for amendment of the Basis and the Structure

and

- (c) resolutions to concur as hereinafter defined are passed on or before the Thirty first day of December 1988 by not less than two-thirds of the total number at that date of member churches of the CUS whose combined membership as shown in the last edition of the CUS Year Book to be published before that date is not less than three-fourths of the total membership of all member churches of the CUS as shown in the same Year Book
- (i) a resolution to concur shall mean a resolution to concur with these Proposals passed on or after the First day of October 1988 but before the Thirty first day of December 1988 by not less than three-fourths of the members present and voting at a meeting of any one of the member churches of the CUS of which due notice has been given by any person specified in the resolution addressed to the General Secretary of the CUS by the Twenty second day of January 1989
- (ii) a concurring church shall mean a member church of the CUS which has passed a

resolution to concur of which such written notice has been given and a non-concurring church shall mean one which has not

and

- (d) The General Secretary to the URC has not on or before the Thirty first day of December 1988 received written notice from more than four Provincial Synods or from more than twenty five District Councils that a motion "that the proposal be not proceeded with" has been passed by a majority of members present and voting at a duly convened meeting of such body

and

- (e) the General Assembly meeting in 1989 by resolution ratifies the Part VIII amendments to become effective on the date of Unification

and

- (f) the Annual Assembly meeting in 1989 by resolution resolves to proceed with these proposals

and

- (g) the General Assembly and the Annual Assembly resolve to meet together on a date to be specified or provided for in each such resolution as a Unifying Assembly ("the Unifying Assembly")

and

- (h) the Unifying Assembly being satisfied that all necessary action has been taken for the giving of legal effect to such parts of these Proposals as require legal sanction, by resolution passed by the members of the General Assembly and of the Annual Assembly first voting separately and then as one body declares that the URC, the CUS and the concurring churches are thereby unified in the one church (hereafter to be known as "the United Reformed Church in Great Britain") with the Basis and the Structure amended in accordance with the scheduled amendments and with the amalgamation of membership and ministry provided for in these Proposals.

Effects of the Passing of the Unifying Declaration

4. The sanction of Parliament so far as that is necessary for the implementation of these consequences will be sought. A draft of the proposed Parliamentary Bill ("the Bill") is to be found in Part III.

- (a) The Unifying Declaration will effect the dissolution of the Mid Scotland District Council of the URC and of the bodies listed in Section 5 (2) of the Bill and the extinguishment of all offices held in connection with any of them.
- (b) Every member of a concurring church will on the date of unification become a member of the URC GB and the membership roll of a concurring church shall on that date be deemed to be the membership roll of a local church of the URC GB (each such local church being referred to in these Proposals as "the corresponding local church").
- (c) All ordained ministers of the Word and Sacraments of the Congregational Union of Scotland who are in good standing with the Union and who have indicated in writing to the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church between 1 January 1989 and 31 March 1989 their assent to these proposals will, at the date of unification, become ministers of the URC GB.
- (d) All property belonging to a concurring church will belong to the corresponding local church. Such property will remain vested in existing Trustees. The existing Trust Deeds of places of worship manses and other residences will take effect as if their operative provisions were replaced by provisions contained in the appropriate part of the Schedule to the Bill.
- (e) Every non-concurring church will continue in being and retain its property.
- (f) All other property of the CUS (except that of the Scottish Congregational Ministers' Central Pension Scheme) will be held for purposes which include purposes of the URC GB. Following the date of unification all such property will be divided between the URC GB and non-concurring churches. The proportion to which each non-concurring church shall be entitled will be that proportion which its membership (as shown in the last edition of the CUS Year Book to be published before the date of unification) bears to the total membership of all member churches of the CUS as shown in the same Year Book.

- (g) The Congregational Union of Scotland Nominees Limited will remain in being but under the name of Synod of Scotland Nominees Limited subject to the following provisions:
- (i) The company will be enabled to act as trustee of URC GB property including that of local churches in Scotland, but will continue to act as trustee of non-concurring churches until such time as, at the wish of those churches, other trustees are appointed.
 - (ii) Membership of the company will consist solely of those persons who at the date of unification are members of the Council of Management of the company and such other persons as the Synod of Scotland may appoint.

PART III

(The text in this part of the Proposals is a draft of the Parliamentary Bill to be presented following the first approval of the two Assemblies.. Since it is a draft, there may be later amendments (but not such as would alter the basic principles derived from the Proposals) and the terms of the Bill presented will be subject to the approval of Parliament.)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Validity and evidence of Unifying Declaration
4. Validity and evidence of resolutions to concur
5. Dissolution of unincorporated associations
6. Heritable property held in trust for concurring churches
7. Other property held in trust for concurring churches
8. Property held in trust for Union
9. Allocation of property to which section 8 applies
10. Gifts which are to take effect as gifts to United Reformed Church
11. Power to make grants, etc., to United Reformed Church
12. Powers vested in dissolved associations
13. Preservation of existing trusteeships
14. Real conditions restricting use of heritable property
15. Completing title to property
16. Pending representative actions, etc.
17. Indemnities
18. Admission of other churches
19. The Congregational Union of Scotland Nominees Limited
20. Seceding churches
21. Arbitration
22. Saving for actions of trustees
23. Marriages
24. Saving for charges etc.
25. Saving of powers in regard to charities
26. Costs of Act

SCHEDULE:

Adaptation of trusts

Part I— Trusts for places used for religious worship

Part II— Trusts for ministers' residences and other church workers' residences

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

A Bill to make provision as to property held on behalf of the Congregational Union of Scotland and its member churches, and for other purposes incidental to or consequential upon the unification

**of the Congregational Union of Scotland with the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom;
and for connected purposes.**

WHEREAS—

(1) The Congregational Union of Scotland comprising the Evangelical Union and the Congregational Union as existing in 1896 (hereinafter called “the Union”) is a voluntary association of—

- (a) autonomous groups of persons comprising churches of the Congregational Order in Scotland
- (b) ministers recognised by the annual assembly of the Union, and
- (c) professors of the Scottish Congregational College,
the affairs of which are governed by an annual assembly:

(2) The Congregational Union of Scotland Nominees Limited is a company limited by guarantee having for its main object the holding of property in trust for the Union and local member churches of the Union:

(3) The United Reformed Church in England and Wales (hereinafter called “the United Reformed Church”) was formed by a Uniting Declaration passed on 5th October 1972 in pursuance of the Scheme of Union approved by the Assembly of the then Congregational Church in England and Wales on 11th May 1971 and by the General Assembly of the then Presbyterian Church of England on the same day:

(4) By a declaration made on 26th September 1981 by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and the Annual Conference of the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland whereby the said Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ became unified with the United Reformed Church, the United Reformed Church was re-named and has thenceforth been known as the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom:

(5) Since 1986 representatives of the United Reformed Church and of the Union have held discussions which have culminated in the Proposals for Unification (hereinafter called “the Proposals”) which were approved by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church on May 1988, and by the Annual Assembly of the Union on September 1988:

(6) The Proposals provide for the unification of the Union with the United Reformed Church if the procedures and conditions defined and declared in the Proposals are satisfied:

(7) Such unification must involve the variation of trusts of property held for or for the purpose of the Union and local member churches of the Union:

(8) It is expedient that the variations of trusts for which provision is made in this Act should be made if such unification takes place:

(9) It is further expedient that the other provisions of this Act (being provisions incidental to and consequential upon such unification) should be enacted:

(10) The purposes of this Act cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the United Reformed Church Act 1989.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the subject or context otherwise requires—

1972.c.xviii “Act of 1972” means the United Reformed Church Act 1972;

“clerk” means the clerk of the General Assembly;

“company” means The Congregational Union of Scotland Nominees Limited;

“concurring church” means any one of the member churches of the Union which shall have passed a resolution to concur;

“date of unification” means the date on which is passed the Unifying Declaration;

“dissolved association” means an association dissolved by section 5 (Dissolution of unincorporated associations) of this Act;

“General Assembly” means the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church;

“local church” means a local church of the United Reformed Church;

“Moderator” means the Moderator of the General Assembly;

“non-concurring church” means any one of the member churches of the Union which shall not have passed a resolution to concur;

“property” means property of every description wheresoever situate and includes property held on trust and securities, rights and powers of every description;

“Proposals for Unification” means the Proposals for Unification approved by resolution of the General Assembly on ; and by resolution of the Annual Assembly of the Union passed on ;

“resolution to concur” means a resolution of a member church of the Union under and in accordance with the Proposals for Unification;

“Synod of Scotland” means the national Synod for Scotland as defined in the Structure of the United Reformed Church;

“trust deed” means any deed, instrument or other writing constituting a trust or in terms of which any property is or may be held in trust and shall include any settlement, trust deed, deed of covenant, trust disposition and settlement, will or codicil; any disposition or other deed or conveyance relating to land; any private or local Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or resolution of any corporation or ecclesiastical body and any court decree or interlocutor.

“Unifying Assembly” means the General Assembly and the Annual Assembly of the Union meeting together in accordance with the Proposals for Unification;

“Unifying Declaration” means the declaration which under the Proposals for Unification effects the unification of the Union with the United Reformed Church thenceforth to be known as the United Reformed Church in Great Britain;

“Union” means the Congregational Union of Scotland comprising the Evangelical Union and the Congregational Union as existing in 1896;

“United Reformed Church” means the church or denomination as defined in section 2 (Interpretation) of the Act of 1972.

Validity and evidence of Unifying Declaration

3. (1) The declaration by the person presiding over the Unifying Assembly at that Assembly that the Unifying Declaration has been passed in accordance with the Proposals for Unification shall be final and conclusive as to that fact and as to the satisfaction of all preliminary procedures and conditions defined and declared in the Proposals for Unification and the date, validity and effectiveness of the Unifying Declaration shall not thereafter be questioned on any ground in any court or proceeding whatsoever.

(2) (a) The person presiding over the Unifying Assembly forthwith after the passage of the Unifying Declaration shall certify his declaration of that event and the date thereof and shall send the certificate together with a copy of the Proposals for Unification to the Keeper of the Records of Scotland for registration in the Books of Council and Session.

(b) A copy of the certificate referred to in the preceding paragraph or of the Proposals for Unification authenticated either by the Moderator or by the clerk shall be admissible in all courts and proceedings as evidence respectively of the matters certified and of the contents of the Proposals for Unification; and a document purporting to be such a copy shall be received without proof of the position or handwriting of the person authenticating it.

Validity and evidence of resolutions to concur

4. (1) The declaration by the person presiding at a meeting of a member church of the Union that a resolution to concur has been passed shall be final and conclusive as to that fact and as to the satisfaction of all preliminary procedures and conditions, and the date, validity and effectiveness of such a resolution shall not thereafter be questioned on any ground in any court or proceedings whatsoever.

(2) The person presiding over the meeting of a member church of the Union at which resolution to concur is passed or (in the event of his death or inability or unwillingness to act) a person present at the meeting shall forthwith certify his declaration of the passing of the resolution and the date thereof and send the certificate to the General Secretary of the Union.

(3) Forthwith after the passing of this Act the General Secretary of the Union shall send all certificates of resolutions to concur received by him under the provisions of subsection (2) of this section to the Keeper of the Records of Scotland for registration in the Books of Council and Session.

Dissolution of unincorporated associations

5. (1) On the date of unification every association to which this section applies shall be dissolved and all offices held in, or in connection with, each such association shall be extinguished.

(2) This section applies to —

- (a) the Union;
- (b) the Annual Assembly of the Union;
- (c) each concurring church; and
- (d) every committee, council or other unincorporated association of, or exclusively subsidiary or ancillary to, any of the associations previously listed.

Heritable property held in trust for concurring churches

6. (1) (a) All heritable property which immediately before the date of unification is held in trust for, or for the purposes of, or in connection with, a concurring church, shall on and from that date, and in accordance with the following provisions of this section, be held in trust for or (as the case may be) for equivalent purposes of, or in connection with, the local church corresponding to the concurring church in question.

(b) (Provision for certificates of correspondence.)

(2) (a) The trust deed or the title deed or deeds relating to any heritable property to which subsection (1) of this section applies being either heritable property held in trust for use as a church, chapel, church hall, mission hall, preaching station, Sunday school or other place of religious worship, or heritable property held in trust for use as a manse or place of residence of a minister, lay worker or caretaker, shall on and from the date of unification have effect as if the provisions contained either in Part I or (as the case may be) in Part II of the Schedule to this Act were substituted for the operative provisions previously contained in such deed or deeds, and the references in either Part of the said Schedule to “the trustees” and “the premises” shall be construed (notwithstanding any definition in the deed or deeds) as references to the trustee or trustees for the time being of the deed or deeds and to the heritable property and, where appropriate, the buildings to which the deed or deeds relate and references to “the local church” shall be construed as references to the local church corresponding to the concurring church to which the deed or deeds relate.

(b) In any case where under paragraph (a) of this subsection the provisions of both Part I and Part II of the Schedule to this Act would or might (but for this paragraph) be substituted as therein provided the provisions of Part I only of that Schedule shall be so substituted.

(c) In any case where the property subject to any trust referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection comprises in addition to land any capital money, investments or other property, paragraph (a) of this subsection shall apply to all the property so comprised.

(d) Every agreement with a minister of a concurring church or with a lay worker for, or caretaker engaged by, a concurring church which is in force at the date of unification and which relates to the occupation of a manse or place of residence of a minister, lay worker or caretaker shall on and from that date have effect as if references therein (whether express or implied) to that church and to the provisions of any trust deed or title deed were references to the corresponding local church and the provisions of that deed as affected by the preceding provisions of this subsection.

(3) The trust deed or title deed of any heritable property to which subsection (1) of this section applies, not being a trust deed or title deed to which subsection (2) of this section applies, shall on and from the date of unification have effect as if words referring to a local church were substituted for any words therein referring to or describing a church of the Union.

(4) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not have the effect of bringing into

operation any rights of pre-emption, reduction, irritancy or forfeiture vested in any person or persons.

(5) The foregoing provisions of this section shall operate in relation to any scheme legally established and affecting land to which subsection (1) of this section applies as if the scheme were a trust deed and as if paragraph 8 in both Parts of the Schedule to this Act were omitted.

Other property held in trust for concurring churches

7. (1) All property (other than property to which the preceding section of this Act applies) which immediately before the date of unification is held in trust for, or for the purposes of, or in connection with—

- (a) a concurring church;
- (b) the minister or ministers of a concurring church; or
- (c) the members of or any class of members of a concurring church;

shall on and from that date be held in trust for or (as the case may be) for equivalent purposes of or in connection with the local church, the minister or ministers of the local church, or the members or class of members of the local church corresponding to the concurring church for which, or for the purposes of, or in connection with which, the property was previously held but otherwise, so far as circumstances will permit, upon the same trusts and with and subject to the same powers and provisions as those upon which the property was held before the date of unification.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not have the effect of bringing into operation any rights of pre-emption, redemption, irritancy or forfeiture vested in any person or persons.

(3) (Provision for certificates of correspondence)

Property held in trust for Union

8. (1) On and from the date of unification and until distribution has been made in accordance with the provisions of subsection (9) or subsection (10) of section 9 (Allocation of property to which section 8 applies) of this Act, all property to which this section applies shall be held so far as circumstances will permit upon the same trusts and with and subject to the same powers and provisions as those upon which the property was held before the date of unification but the purposes of such trusts and the powers and provisions thereof shall be hereby varied or extended so as to include purposes of the United Reformed Church corresponding to any purpose of the trust which was extant before the date of unification.

(2) If immediately before the date of unification any property to which this section applies was (in whomsoever vested) subject to the management of any association which is dissolved by section 5 (Dissolution of unincorporated associations) of this Act, then, until distribution has been made in accordance with the provisions of subsection (9) or subsection (10) of section 9 (Allocation of property to which section 8 applies) of this Act, the management of that property shall be exercised—

(a) where the management was previously exercised by a concurring church, by the local church corresponding to that concurring church; and

(b) in any other case, by such persons as the Synod of Scotland shall appoint but the Synod of Scotland may delegate the exercise of its powers under this paragraph to any person or body of persons.

(3) This section applies to all property which immediately before the date of unification is held for or on behalf of, or in trust for, or for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Union (and in particular shall include all property held by the company) other than—

(a) property to which section 6 (Heritable property held in trust for concurring churches) or section 7 (Other property held in trust for concurring churches) of this Act applies; and

(b) property comprising the Scottish Congregational Ministers' Central Pension Scheme.

Allocation of property to which section 8 applies

9. (1) In this section the expression “property of the Union” shall mean, unless the subject

or context otherwise requires, the property to which section 8 (Property held in trust for Union) applies.

(2) (a) The General Secretary of the Union to the extent possible before the date of unification and thereafter the Moderator of the Synod of Scotland (in this section referred to as "the Synod Moderator") shall cause to be ascertained the value at the date of unification of the property of the Union (such value in this section being referred to as "the gross ascertained value").

(b) (i) In the case of heritable property and moveables the value to be ascertained shall be the price which such property might reasonably be expected to fetch if sold in the open market by a willing seller at the date of unification.

(ii) In the case of securities quoted on the Stock Exchange the value to be ascertained shall be the price one-quarter up from the lower to the higher of the range of prices for each such security quoted in the Stock Exchange Daily Official List for the date of unification or, if no quotations are issued for that day, then for the business day next following the date of unification.

(3) There shall be deducted from the gross ascertained value such sum as the auditors to the Union shall certify as representing all liabilities of the Union incurred or due in respect of the period prior to the date of unification and unpaid at that date calculated in accordance with the accounting policy of the Union and generally accepted accounting principles. (The resultant net value being referred to in this section as "the net ascertained value").

(4) Forthwith upon the ascertainment of the net ascertained value the Synod Moderator shall cause a schedule of distribution (in this section referred to as "the schedule of distribution") to be prepared.

(5) The schedule of distribution shall —

(a) list the assets comprising the property of the Union and the value of such assets at the date of unification;

(b) show the liabilities of the Union as certified by the auditors to the Union in accordance with subsection (3) of this section; and

(c) allocate —

(i) to each non-concurring church a sum equal to such proportion of the net ascertained value as the membership of such non-concurring church (as recorded in the last year book of the Union to be published before the date of unification) bears to the membership (as so recorded) of all concurring and non-concurring churches; and

(ii) to the Synod of Scotland the balance of net ascertained value remaining after such allocation to the non-concurring churches.

(6) Forthwith upon completion of the schedule of distribution the Synod Moderator shall cause a copy of it to be sent by prepaid post to the Secretary (as last notified to the Union) of each non-concurring church at the address of such secretary (as so notified).

(7) Any non-concurring church may by resolution, passed by a majority of those present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose and notified in writing to the Synod Moderator within one month after the posting to the secretary of such church of the copy of the schedule of distribution, request that the valuation of any heritable property forming part of the property of the Union as shown therein be referred to arbitration.

(8) If requests made in accordance with the provisions of subsection (7) of this section in respect of the same heritable property are received by the Synod Moderator from more than one half in number of non-concurring churches, the Synod Moderator shall refer the valuation of that property to a single arbiter appointed by the President of the Law Society of Scotland and the decision of such arbiter shall be final.

(9) If during the period of one month from the date of posting of the last copy of the schedule of distribution to be sent to a non-concurring church requests for reference to arbitration made in accordance with the provisions of subsection (7) of this section have not been received in respect of the same heritable property from more than one half in number of the non-concurring churches, the Synod Moderator shall cause distribution to be made in accordance with the schedule of distribution (and for such purpose all trustees in whom property of the Union is vested shall act in accordance with the instructions given by the Synod Moderator).

(10) If a reference to arbitration shall be made in accordance with subsection (8) of this section the Synod Moderator shall cause distribution to be made in accordance with the schedule

of distribution revised only in accordance with the arbiter's determination (and for such purpose all trustees in whom property of the Union is vested shall act in accordance with the instructions given by the Synod Moderator forthwith upon receipt of the arbiter's determination.)

(11) Any sum payable to a non-concurring church in pursuance of the provisions of this section shall if not so paid within three months after the date of unification carry interest at the rate of () per centum per annum from the day of the date three months after the date of unification until the date of payment.

(12) The Synod Moderator may for the purpose of giving effect to the schedule of distribution at his discretion cause a sale to be made of any part of the property of the Union and for such purpose the trustees in whom any part of the property of the Union is vested shall act in accordance with instructions given by the Synod Moderator.

(13) Following completion of the distribution in accordance with the schedule of distribution to the non-concurring churches any trustees (other than the company) in whom any part of the property of the Union may be vested shall if required by resolution of the Synod of Scotland transfer such property to the company and all the property of the Union then remaining shall be held by the company (or by the trustees in whom it may for the time being be vested) upon such trusts for such charitable purposes of, or in connection with, the Synod of Scotland and subject to such powers and provisions (including powers and provisions for management and administration thereof) as the Synod of Scotland may determine, and declare by Deed signed by the Synod Moderator or other officer of the Synod authorised for this purpose by resolution of the Synod of Scotland.

Gifts which are to take effect as gifts to United Reformed Church

10. (1) Any provision contained in any settlement, trust deed, deed of covenant, agreement, trust disposition and settlement, will or codicil coming into operation on or after the date of unification and being a provision in favour of, or directed to be administered by, any dissolved association, shall have effect as a provision in favour of, or to be administered by, the Synod of Scotland or such body or association as shall be nominated by the Synod of Scotland but upon, with and subject to such trusts, powers and provisions as are by such settlement, trust deed, deed of covenant, agreement, trust disposition and settlement, will or codicil expressed concerning the same:

Provided that if in any such case a person or class of persons or a society, institution, charity or fund standing in any relation to any dissolved association is an object named in the provision, the object of such provision shall be a person or a class of persons or a society, institution, charity or fund standing in a similar relation to the United Reformed Church generally.

(2) In any case to which the preceding subsection applies the receipt for a gift or bequest of the treasurer of the Synod of Scotland, of the clerk or of the treasurer or secretary of the body or association nominated under that subsection shall be an effectual discharge to the trustees or personal representatives concerned and shall exonerate them from being concerned to see to the destination or application of the gift or bequest and from being answerable for the misapplication or non-application thereof.

Power to make grants, etc., to United Reformed Church

11. The power of any person under any enactment or document to make grants to or to lend property to or to provide benefits for any dissolved association, or to or for any minister, officer, members or class of members of such an association, or to or for any child, widow or other dependant of such a minister, officer or member shall on and from the date of unification be exercisable in favour of (as the case may be) an association, minister, officer, members or class of members of the United Reformed Church or the children, widows or other dependants of such a minister, officer or member.

Powers vested in dissolved associations

12. (1) Where immediately before the date of unification any power with respect to any trust or any power of nomination is or is to be vested in any dissolved association, or in any minister or officer of a dissolved association, in the capacity of such minister or officer, then on and from that date any such power shall (in the case of power previously vested or to be vested in an

association) vest in such person or body of persons as the Synod of Scotland shall from time to time appoint and (in the case of a power previously vested or to be vested in a minister or officer) in the holder of the corresponding ministry or office of the United Reformed Church:

Provided that this section shall not apply where the trust relates exclusively to a church other than a concurring church which immediately prior to the dissolution of the Union was a member church thereof or to the members or any class of members of such a church.

(2) The Synod of Scotland may delegate the exercise of its powers under the foregoing subsection to any person or body of persons.

Preservation of existing trusteeships

13. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, nothing in this Act shall operate to divest any trustee (including any custodian trustee) of any property vested in him immediately before the date of unification.

(2) Where in any document it is provided that the trustees of any trust shall be members of a dissolved association such document shall on and after the date of unification be read and have effect as if the reference to membership of that association included a reference to membership of the United Reformed Church.

Real conditions restricting use of heritable property

14. On and from the date of unification any words referring to or describing whether expressly or by implication the Union or a member church of the Union being words which immediately before that day were contained in any restriction as to the use of heritable property shall be read, construed and have effect as including a reference to or description of the United Reformed Church.

Completing title to property

15. For the purpose of completing a title, if thought fit, to any property transferred by virtue of this Act by notice of title or otherwise, or to deduce title, this Act shall be deemed to be, and may be used as, a general disposition, conveyance, or as the case may be, assignation of such property to the transferee.

Pending representative actions, etc.

16. (1) Any action, arbitration or proceeding which shall on the date of unification be pending by or against representatives of any dissolved association shall not abate or be discontinued or be in any way prejudicially affected by reason of the provisions of this Act or of anything empowered to be done thereunder but the same may be prosecuted and continued as if this Act had not been passed.

(2) Any cause of action, arbitration or proceeding which shall on the date of unification be existing against or in favour of persons representative of any dissolved association shall not be prejudicially affected by reason of the provisions of this Act or of anything empowered to be done thereunder, but the same may be enforced against or by such representative persons as shall be nominated for the purpose by the Moderator as and when it might have been enforced if this Act had not been passed.

Indemnities

17. Nothing in this Act and nothing empowered to be done thereunder shall deprive any person of any right of indemnity to which he was entitled immediately before the date of unification whether as party to any action, arbitration or proceeding as trustee or in any other capacity whatsoever.

Admission of other churches

18. (1) Any church other than a concurring church which immediately prior to the dissolution of the Union was a member church thereof, may, if so authorised by not less than three-fourths

of those present and voting at a meeting of the members thereof specially convened for the purpose, apply to be unified with the United Reformed Church and shall be admitted thereto if the General Assembly so resolves by not less than three-fourths of the members thereof present and voting.

(2) Any admission under the preceding subsection shall occur on such day as the Moderator in consultation with the Moderator of the Synod of Scotland shall appoint.

(3) On and from the day of admission appointed under the preceding subsection the provisions of this Act shall apply as if the day of admission was the date of unification and as if the church were a concurring church.

The Congregational Union of Scotland Nominees Limited

19. (1) On the date of unification the name of the company shall be changed to Synod of Scotland Nominees Limited.

(2) On and from the date of unification the only members of the company shall be those members who immediately before that date were members of the Council of Management of the Company or who have been appointed under the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, and all other members shall be deemed to have retired from membership immediately before that date.

(3) (a) On and from the date of unification the Synod of Scotland shall have sole power of appointing members of the Council of Management of the company.

(b) The Synod of Scotland may delegate the power conferred on it by paragraph (a) of this subsection to such other body or person as it thinks fit.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, on and after the date of unification references in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company to the Union and to its annual assembly and general committee shall be read and construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as references to the Synod of Scotland and references to member churches of the Union shall be read and construed as references to churches which—

(a) were member churches of the Union immediately prior to its dissolution or

(b) are local churches in Scotland of the United Reformed Church.

(5) Where immediately before the date of unification the company is acting as nominee of a non-concurring church or as trustees of assets held in trust for or on behalf of a non-concurring church, the company shall, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4) of this section, continue so to act until such non-concurring church appoints another body or person to act as nominee or trustee in its place.

(6) Forthwith after the date of unification a copy of this Act printed by the Queen's Printer shall be sent to the Registrar of Companies in Scotland who shall enter the new name of the Company on the register in place of the former name and shall issue a certificate of incorporation altered to meet the change of name.

(7) The production of a copy of this Act printed by the Queen's Printer shall on and after the date of unification be conclusive evidence in all courts and proceedings of the matters set forth in this section.

Seceding churches

20. (1) In any case where the General Assembly passes a resolution permitting a concurring church to secede from the United Reformed Church then, as and from the date of such resolution, the property of any such church shall be held upon the same trusts and for the same purposes as it was held immediately before the date of unification.

(2) For the purposes of this section "property" means, in relation to any such church as is referred to in subsection (1) of this section, property held in trust for, or for the purposes of, or in connection with, any such church.

Arbitration

21. Any question arising under this Act as to what corresponds to any association, charity, class of members, committee, court, institution, members, minister, ministry, office, officer, purpose, society, concurring church or non-concurring church, shall be determined by a single arbiter

appointed by the President of The Law Society of Scotland, and the award of such arbiter shall be final:

Provided that the said President shall not be liable for the payment of the arbiter's fee or the costs of the arbitration.

Saving for actions of trustees

22. Nothing done by a trustee in preparing or procuring, or in pursuance of, or otherwise in connection with, the Proposals for Unification or the provisions of this Act, including any act pursuant to, or in compliance with, the unifying process set forth in the Proposals for Unification shall constitute, or shall have constituted, a breach of trust by that trustee.

Marriages

23. On and after the date of unification the United Reformed Church shall be deemed to be a religious body prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 8(1) 1977 c. 15. (a) (ii) of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977.

Saving for charges etc.

24. Nothing in this Act and nothing done in the exercise of powers thereby conferred shall relieve any property or any person from any liability or responsibility to which they would otherwise be subject in respect of any mortgage, charge, standard security, incumbrance, lien, bond or obligation.

Saving of Powers in regard to charites

25. Nothing in this Act shall affect any power of Her Majesty or the court to alter the trusts of any charity.

Costs of Act

26. The costs, charges and expenses preliminary to and of and incidental to the preparing, applying for, obtaining and passing of this Act shall be paid as to half by the Union and as to half by the United Reformed Church.

THE SCHEDULE

ADAPTATION OF TRUSTS

Part I

TRUSTS FOR PLACES USED FOR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

The premises shall be held upon the following trusts:-

1. The trustees shall permit the premises to be used for all or any of the following purposes and all proper ancillary purposes namely:-

- (a) The public worship of God according to the principles and usages for the time being of the United Reformed Church;
- (b) The instruction of children or adults; or
- (c) The promotion of other charitable purposes not inconsistent with the principles and usages aforesaid;

such use to be primarily by the members of the local church or any other church which may supersede it as a result of amalgamation or regrouping and to be directed by the Church Meeting acting with due regard for the recommendations of the Elders' Meeting and those other Councils of the United Reformed Church which exercise oversight of the local church.

2. The trustees may, if in their discretion they think fit, but not without the authority of a resolution of the Church Meeting and (except as to work on or in a building which does not substantially alter its character, appearance or value) not without the approval of the Synod (which approval shall be sufficiently evidenced by a document signed by the Chairman or the Secretary for the time being of the District Council and stating that such approval has been given), and subject to any statutory restrictions, do any of the following things from time to time:-

- (a) Permit the buildings on the premises to be altered, enlarged, improved, rebuilt, supplemented or demolished;
- (b) Raise money required for any of the last mentioned purposes by mortgage or charge of or by granting a Standard Security over the whole of the premises or by sale of part of the premises;
- (c) Sell or mortgage the whole or part of the premises and apply the money so obtained (as the Church Meeting shall direct) in or towards the acquisition of any interest in land (subject or not to incumbrances) and the erection of buildings on land so acquired such land to be held upon the like trusts or for any other charitable purposes of the United Reformed Church;
- (d) Dispose of the premises or any part thereof for development under a building lease or other arrangement including or not including provisions for the acquisition of any interest (to be held so far as may be on the trusts set forth in paragraph 1 hereof) in new church premises to be built as part of the development and apply all money arising from any such disposal and not required for new premises for such charitable purposes connected with the work of the United Reformed Church as the Synod acting with due regard for the needs of such work within the district of the District Council shall by resolution appoint (or if so directed by the Synod shall pay them to the Treasurer of the Synod or of the District Council to be dealt with in either case as part of the general funds of that Synod or Council as the case may be);
- (e) Let any part (not the whole) of the premises for any period not exceeding twenty years (or such other period as shall from time to time be the maximum period by virtue of statute or otherwise for which the premises may be let for residential use) and pay the income arising from such letting to the local church as an addition to its general funds.

3. The trustees may if in their discretion they think fit with the authority of a resolution of the Church Meeting but without any approval of the Synod and without creating any lease or tenancy authorise or permit any other person or persons, organisation or other body to use temporarily or occasionally or intermittently for any reputable purpose (but only when use under paragraph 1 hereof is not expected to be required) the whole or any part of the premises:

Provided that any such authority or permission may be granted without consideration or for

such consideration as the trustees think fit and that any proceeds or income arising from such authority or permission shall be paid to the local church as an addition to its general funds.

4. The trustees shall not, except to the extent of funds supplied to them for that purpose, be responsible for the repair and upkeep of the premises.

5. If the Synod on the recommendation of the District Council made to it after consultation between representatives of that Council and the Church Meeting resolve that the use of the premises as aforesaid is or if continued would be no longer useful and that the premises ought to be disposed of the trustees shall sell or let the premises under the direction of the Synod and shall apply the net proceeds of sale or letting in the manner prescribed by paragraph (2)(d) hereof.

6. Any person acquiring from the trustees in good faith and for value an interest in or charge on or security over the premises or part thereof may accept without further inquiry a statement in the document transferring, creating or evidencing such interest or charge or security to the effect that the trustees are acting in exercise of the powers conferred on them by this deed and the interest or charge or security to which such document relates shall not be capable of being impugned on the ground that it was transferred or created without authority.

7. (1) The power of appointing and removing trustees shall be vested in the Church Meeting to the exclusion of the trustees' statutory power to assume new trustees and shall be exercised by a resolution of the majority of those present and voting at a meeting convened by notice stating the purpose of the meeting given at each service held on the two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. The chairman shall have for this purpose if necessary a casting vote. If there is no Church Meeting in existence to exercise the power of appointing new trustees as aforesaid, the statutory power of assuming new trustees shall be vested in the trustees for the time being.

(2) No individual person shall be eligible for appointment who is not on the membership roll of some local church (which need not be within the district of the same District Council as the local church).

(3) Any trustee who ceases to have the qualification last mentioned shall *ipso facto* cease to be a trustee.

(4) Any trustee who wishes to be discharged from the trust may be discharged therefrom, without any appointment of a new trustee, by such a resolution as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph.

(5) The number of trustees shall so far as practicable be kept up to four.

8. If in the opinion of the Church Meeting evidenced by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the persons present and (being entitled to vote) voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose of considering such resolution, any amendment of any of the foregoing provisions with or without any amendment previously made shall be desirable and such resolution (in which the foregoing provisions with any amendment previously made may be referred to as "the statutory scheduled provisions") shall be sanctioned by the Synod and the General Assembly and a memorandum thereof and of its sanction signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly and dated shall be endorsed on or annexed to the trust deed then as from the date of the said memorandum the foregoing provisions with any previous amendment shall be read as if the amendment or amendments specified in the resolution were embodied therein:

Provided that no amendment shall be made to that part of paragraph 1 hereof which ends with the words "principles and usages aforesaid" nor shall any amendment deprive the trustees of the discretion conferred on them by paragraph 2 hereof in relation to any matter therein mentioned.

Part II

TRUSTS FOR MINISTERS' RESIDENCES AND OTHER CHURCH WORKERS' RESIDENCES

The premises shall be held upon the following trusts:-

1. The trustees shall permit the premises to be used for such charitable purposes in connection with the United Reformed Church (including their use as a residence for the minister or any caretaker or other church worker or employee of the local church and also including their use for any religious or other charitable purposes not inconsistent with the principles and usages of that church) as the Church Meeting acting with due regard for the recommendations of the Elders' Meeting and those other Councils of the United Reformed Church which exercise oversight of the local church shall from time to time direct.

2. The trustees may, if in their discretion they think fit, but not without the authority of a resolution of the Church Meeting and (except as to work on or in a building which does not substantially alter its character, appearance or value) not without the approval of the Synod (which approval shall be sufficiently evidenced by a document signed by the Chairman or the Secretary for the time being of the District Council and stating that such approval has been given), and subject to any statutory restrictions, do any of the following things from time to time:-

- (a) Permit the buildings on the premises to be altered, enlarged, improved, rebuilt, supplemented or demolished;
- (b) Raise money required for any of the last-mentioned purposes by mortgage or charge of or by granting a Standard Security over the whole of the premises or by sale of part of the premises;
- (c) Sell or mortgage the whole or part of the premises and apply the money so obtained (as the Church Meeting shall direct) in or towards the acquisition of any interest in land (subject or not to incumbrances) and the erection of buildings on land so acquired such land to be held upon the like trusts or for any other charitable purposes of the United Reformed Church.
- (d) Dispose of the premises or any part thereof for development under a building lease or other arrangement including or not including provisions for the acquisition of any interest (to be held so far as may be on the trusts set forth in paragraph 1 hereof) in new premises to be built as part of the development and apply all money arising from any such disposal and not required for new premises for such charitable purposes connected with the work of the United Reformed Church as the Synod acting with due regard for the needs of such work within the district of the District Council shall by resolution appoint (or if so directed by the Synod shall pay them to the Treasurer of the Synod or of the District Council to be dealt with in either case as part of the general funds of that Synod or Council as the case may be);
- (e) Let the premises or any part thereof for any period not exceeding twenty years (or such other period as shall from time to time be the maximum period by virtue of statute or otherwise for which the premises may be let for residential use) and pay the income arising from such letting to the local church as an addition to its general funds.

3. The trustees may, if in their discretion they think fit, with the authority of a resolution of the Church Meeting but without any approval of the Synod and without creating any lease or tenancy authorise or permit any other person or persons, organisation or other body to use temporarily or occasionally or intermittently for any reputable purpose (but only when use under paragraph 1 hereof is not expected to be required) the whole or any part of the premises:

Provided that any such authority or permission may be granted without consideration or for such consideration as the trustees think fit and that any proceeds or income arising from such authority or permission shall be paid to the local church as an addition to its general funds.

4. The trustees shall not, except to the extent of funds supplied to them for that purpose, be responsible for the repair and upkeep of the premises.

5. If the Synod on the recommendation of the District Council made to it after consultation between representatives of that council and the Church Meeting resolves that the use of the premises as aforesaid is or if continued would be no longer useful and that the premises ought to be disposed of the trustees shall sell or let the premises under the direction of the Synod and shall apply the net proceeds of sale or letting in the manner prescribed by paragraph (2)(d) hereof.

6. Any person acquiring from the trustees in good faith and for value an interest in or charge on or security over the premises or part thereof may accept without further inquiry a statement in the document transferring, creating or evidencing such interest or charge or security to the effect that the trustees are acting in exercise of the powers conferred on them by this deed and the interest or charge or security to which such document relates shall not be capable of being impugned on the grounds that it was transferred or created without authority.

7. (1) The power of appointing and removing trustees shall be vested in the Church Meeting to the exclusion of the trustees' statutory power to assume new trustees and shall be exercised by a resolution of the majority of those present and voting at a meeting convened by notice stating the purpose of the meeting given at each service held on the two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. The chairman shall have for this purpose if necessary a casting vote. If there is no Church Meeting in existence to exercise the power of appointing new trustees as aforesaid, the statutory power of assuming new trustees shall be vested in the trustees for the time being.

(2) No individual person shall be eligible for appointment who is not on the membership roll of some local church (which need not be within the District of the same District Council as the local church).

(3) Any trustee who ceases to have the qualification last mentioned shall *ipso facto* cease to be a trustee.

(4) Any trustee who wishes to be discharged from the trust may be discharged therefrom, without any appointment of a new trustee, by such a resolution as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph.

(5) The number of trustees hereof shall so far as practicable be kept up to four.

8. If in the opinion of the Church Meeting evidenced by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the persons present and (being entitled to vote) voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose of considering such resolution, any amendment of any of the foregoing provisions with or without any amendment previously made shall be desirable and such resolution (in which the foregoing provisions with any amendment previously made may be referred to as "the statutory scheduled provisions") shall be sanctioned by the Synod and the General Assembly and a memorandum thereof and of its sanction signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly and dated shall be endorsed on or annexed to the trust deed then as from the date of the said memorandum the foregoing provisions with any previous amendment shall be read as if the amendment or amendments specified in the resolution were embodied therein:

Provided that no amendment shall authorise the use of the premises for any purpose not being charitable and connected with the United Reformed Church nor shall any amendment deprive the trustees of the discretion conferred on them by paragraph 2 hereof in relation to any matter therein mentioned.

PART IV

THE BASIS AND STRUCTURE

(The following text contains the present basis and structure of the URC amended in accordance with the Part VIII amendments and also showing amendments due to come to the 1988 United Reformed Church Assembly for ratification regarding the position of retired ministers in the councils of the Church).

THE CHURCH AND THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

1. There is but one Church of the one God. He called Israel to be his people, and in fulfilment of the purpose then begun he called the Church into being through Jesus Christ; by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. The one Church of the one God is holy because he has redeemed and consecrated it through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and because there Christ dwells with his people.
3. The Church is catholic or universal because Christ calls into it all peoples and because it proclaims the fullness of Christ's gospel to all.
4. The Church is apostolic because Christ continues to entrust it with the gospel and the commission first given to the apostles to proclaim that gospel to all peoples.
5. The unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity of the Church have been obscured by the failure and weakness which mar the life of the Church.
6. Christ's mercy in continuing his call to the Church in all its failure and weakness has taught the Church that its life must ever be renewed and reformed according to the Scriptures, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
7. The United Reformed Church humbly recognises that the failure and weakness of the Church have in particular been manifested in division which has made it impossible for Christians fully to know, experience and communicate the life of the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church.
8. The United Reformed Church has been formed in obedience to the call to repent of what has been amiss in the past and to be reconciled. It sees its formation and growth as a part of what God is doing to make his people one, and as a united Church will take, wherever possible and with all speed, further steps towards the unity of all God's people.
9. The United Reformed Church testifies to its faith, and orders its life, according to this Basis of Union, believing it to embody the essential notes of the Church Catholic and Reformed. The United Reformed Church nevertheless reserves its right and declares its readiness at any time to alter, add to, modify or supersede this Basis so that its life may accord more nearly with the mind of Christ.
10. The United Reformed Church, believing that it is through the freedom of the Spirit that Jesus Christ holds his people in the fellowship of the One Body, shall uphold the rights of personal conviction. It shall be for the Church, in safeguarding the substance of the faith and maintaining the unity of the fellowship, to determine when these rights are asserted to the injury of its unity and peace.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH AND THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

11. Within the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church the United Reformed Church acknowledges its responsibility under God:
 - to make its life a continual offering of itself and the world to God in adoration and worship through Jesus Christ;
 - to receive and express the renewing life of the Holy Spirit in each place and in its total fellowship, and there to declare the reconciling and saving power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;
 - to live out, in joyful and sacrificial service to all in the variety of their physical and spiritual needs, that ministry of caring, forgiving and healing love which Jesus Christ brought to all

whom he met;
to bear witness to the lordship of Christ over the nations in all the variety of their organised life.

THE FAITH OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

12. The United Reformed Church confesses the faith of the Church Catholic in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It acknowledges that the life of faith to which it is called is a gift of the Holy Spirit continually received in Word and Sacrament and in the common life of God's people. It acknowledges the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.

13. The United Reformed Church believes that, in the ministry of the Word, through preaching and the study of the Scriptures, God makes known in each age his saving love, his will for his people and his purpose for the world.

14. The United Reformed Church observes the gospel sacrament of baptism into Christ as a gift of God to his Church, and as an appointed means of grace. Baptism is administered with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. It is the sacrament of entry into the Church and is therefore administered once only to any person.

When the Church observes this sacrament it makes explicit at a particular time and place and for a particular person what God has accomplished in Christ for the whole creation and for all people — the forgiveness of sins, the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit and newness of life in the family of God. In this sacrament the Church affirms its faith in the action of God in Jesus Christ; and takes corporate responsibility for those receiving baptism, promising to support and nourish them as it receives them into its fellowship. Baptism may be administered in infancy or at an age of responsibility. Both forms of baptism shall be made available in the life of every worshipping congregation. In either case the sacrament of baptism is a unique part of the total process of Christian initiation. When baptism is administered at an age of responsibility, upon profession of faith, the baptized person at once enters upon the full privileges and responsibilities of membership. When baptism is administered to infants upon profession of faith by their parents, they are received within the fellowship and nurture of the Church that they may be led by the Holy Spirit in due time to make their own profession of faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and enter upon the full privileges and responsibilities of membership. These two patterns of Christian initiation are recognised by the United Reformed Church. The profession of faith to be made prior to baptism by a believer or at an age of responsibility by one baptized in infancy is indicated in Schedule A*. This profession, and its acceptance by the Church which shares in it, is a necessary part of the process of initiation and whenever possible it should be made at a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The United Reformed Church includes within its membership both persons whose conviction it is that baptism can only be appropriately administered to a believer and those whose conviction it is that infant baptism also is in harmony with the mind of Christ. Both convictions are honoured by the Church and both forms of baptism are understood to be used by God in the upbuilding of faith. Should these differences of conviction within the one Church result in personal conflict of conscience it will require to be pastorally reconciled in mutual understanding and charity, and in accordance with the Basis of Union, in the first instance by the Elders' Meeting of the local congregation, and if necessary by the wider councils of the Church. No one shall be required to administer a form or mode of baptism to which he has a conscientious objection, nor shall the form or mode of baptism used in any instance be one to which conscientious objection is taken by the person seeking baptism or the parent(s) requesting baptism for an infant.

15. The United Reformed Church celebrates the gospel sacrament of the Lord's Supper. When in obedience to the Lord's command his people show forth his sacrifice on the cross by the bread broken and the wine outpoured for them to eat and drink, he himself, risen and ascended, is present and gives himself to them for their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. United with him and with the whole Church on earth and in heaven, his people gathered at his table present their sacrifice of thanksgiving and renew the offering of themselves, and rejoice in the promise of his coming in glory.

16. The United Reformed Church gives thanks for the common life of the Church, wherein the

* Admission to the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of the Church shall be in accordance with paragraphs 9(1) and 2(vi) of the Structure and with Schedule A.

people of God, being made members one of another, are called to love and serve one another and all people and to grow together in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Participating in the common life of the Church within the local church, they enter into the life of the Church throughout the world. With that whole Church they also share in the life of the Church in all ages and in the Communion of Saints have fellowship with the Church Triumphant.

17. The United Reformed Church at the date of unification confesses its faith, in the words of this statement:-

We believe in the one living and true God, creator, preserver and ruler of all things in heaven and earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Him alone we worship, and in him we put our trust.

We believe that God, in his infinite love for the world, gave his eternal Son, Jesus^{Christ} our Lord, who became man, lived on earth in perfect love and obedience, died upon the cross^{for} for our sins, rose again from the dead and lives for evermore, saviour, judge and king.

We believe that, by the Holy Spirit, this glorious gospel is made effective so that through faith we receive the forgiveness of sins, newness of life as children of God and strength in this present world to do his will.

We believe in the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church, in heaven and on earth, wherein by the same Spirit, the whole company of believers is made one Body of Christ, to worship God and serve him and all people in his kingdom of righteousness and love.

We rejoice in the gift of eternal life, and believe that, in the fullness of time, God will renew and gather in one all things in Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

18. The United Reformed Church, under the authority of Holy Scripture and in corporate responsibility to Jesus Christ its everliving head, acknowledges its duty to be open at all times to the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore affirms its right to make such new declarations of its faith and for such purposes as may from time to time be required by obedience to the same Spirit.

At the same time, the United Reformed Church accepts with thanksgiving the witness borne to the Catholic faith by the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. It recognises as its own particular heritage the formulations and declarations of faith which have been valued by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and members of Churches of Christ as stating the gospel and seeking to make its implications clear*.

MINISTRY IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

19. The Lord Jesus Christ continues his ministry in and through the Church, the whole people of God called and committed to his service and equipped by him for it. This service is given by worship, prayer, proclamation of the gospel and Christian witness; by mutual and outgoing care and responsibility; and by obedient discipleship in the whole of daily life, according to the gifts and opportunities given to each one. The preparation and strengthening of its members for such ministry and discipleship shall always be a major concern of the United Reformed Church.

20. For the equipment of his people for this total ministry the Lord Jesus Christ gives particular gifts for particular ministries and calls some of his servants to exercise them in offices duly recognised within his Church. The United Reformed Church recognises that Christ gives himself to his Church through Word and Sacraments and through the total caring oversight by which his people grow in faith and love, the exercise of which oversight is the special concern of elders and

***E.g. Among Presbyterians:**

The Westminster Confession 1647;
A Statement of Christian Faith 1956;

Among Congregationalists:

In England and Wales:

The Savoy Declaration 1658;
A Declaration of Faith 1967;

In Scotland:

A Statement of Faith 1949;

Among Churches of Christ:

Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address 1809;

Ecumenically:

The Basis of the World Council of Churches;
The Multilateral Church Conversations in Scotland;
'Faith of the Church' 1972.

ministers. Those who enter on such ministries commit themselves to them for so long as God wills: the United Reformed Church having solemnly acknowledged their vocation and accepted their commitment shall appoint them to their particular ministry and give them authority to exercise it within the Church, setting them apart with prayer that they shall be given all needful gifts and graces for its fulfilment, which solemn setting apart shall in the case of ministers and elders be termed ordination.

21. Some are called to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments. After approved preparation and training, they may be called to be ministers of local churches, or missionaries overseas, or to some special and approved ministry, and are then ordained and inducted to their office. They are commissioned to conduct public worship, to preach the Word and to administer the Sacraments, to exercise pastoral care and oversight and to give leadership to the Church in its mission to the world. Others serve as auxiliary ministers, continuing in other occupations and earning their livelihood within them.*

22. Some are called to be elders. They share with ministers of the Word and Sacraments in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local churches, taking counsel together in the Elders' Meeting for the whole Church and having each a group of members particularly entrusted to his pastoral care. They shall be associated with ministers in all the Councils of the Church. Elders elected by the Church Meeting, are ordained to their office and are inducted to serve for such limited period as the Church which elects them shall determine. § All elders are eligible for re-election, and those re-elected shall enter upon their office by induction. On removing to another local church, an ordained elder is eligible for election by that church to the Elders' Meeting and, if elected, is inducted. The ordination and induction of elders shall be carried out in the course of public worship by a minister of the local church (or during a pastoral vacancy, the interim moderator) acting with the serving elders (see Schedule B). §

23. All other ministries recognised by the uniting Churches at the time of unification shall continue to be exercised in the United Reformed Church without further commissioning, subject always to the decisions of the General Assembly. The United Reformed Church shall determine from time to time what other ministries may be required and which of them should be recognised as ministries in the whole Church. It shall decide how those who are to exercise them shall be set apart.

24. The worship of the local church is an expression of the worship of the whole people of God. In order that this may be clearly seen, the United Reformed Church shall (a) take steps to ensure that so far as possible ordained ministers of the Word and Sacraments are readily available to every local church; (b) provide for the training of suitable men and women, members of the United Reformed Church, to be accredited by District Councils as lay preachers; (c) make provision through District Councils, in full consultation with the local churches concerned, for the recognition of certain members of the United Reformed Church, normally deaconesses, elders or accredited lay preachers, who may be invited by local churches to preside at baptismal and communion services where pastoral necessity so requires. The pastoral needs of each situation shall be reviewed periodically by the District Council in consultation with the local church. Apart from ordained ministers of the United Reformed Church and of other Churches, only such recognised persons may be invited.

25. The ordination and induction of ministers (including auxiliary ministers) shall be in accord with Schedules C and D. Appropriate affirmations of faith shall also be made by those entering upon other ministries within the life of the Church. In the United Reformed Church all ministries shall be open to both men and women.

SCHEDULE A (See clause 14 in the Basis of Union)

Affirmation of Faith to be made at admission to the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of the Church.

* Those persons who, at the time of unification, serve as Lay Pastors and are so recognised by the Congregational Union of Scotland, may continue in that service under the same conditions. Such persons shall be authorised by the District Council to preside at the sacraments and to serve as members of the District Council. They may choose to be ordained as Auxiliary Ministers and shall in that case be offered the opportunity of suitable training.

§ Within the local churches in Scotland those lay persons called to pastoral oversight and leadership in each congregation may be given and retain such titles, be inducted by such methods and serve in such bodies as are in operation at the time of unification. Such persons will be recognised as elders for all purposes of representation in the wider councils of the Church. This position will be retained until the General Assembly makes a new determination. (See also Part V paragraph A(ii)).

It is the responsibility of the ministers and Elders' Meeting, before bringing the names of candidates to the Church Meeting, to be assured of the sincerity of their intention. After adequate preparation, and acceptance by the Church Meeting, candidates shall be publicly admitted to the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of the Church of Jesus Christ and in particular to the membership of the local church.

This act may include the laying on of hands as a sign of the commissioning of those called by God to the service of Jesus Christ. Acceptance of the candidates, as also their acceptance of their commission, shall be signified by the giving and receiving of the right hand of fellowship.

Thereafter they shall be commended to the love and care of their fellow-members.

During the act of admission public profession of faith and of commitment to the Church shall be made—

Either: (a) By question and answer thus:

Q. Do you confess your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, taking the Father to be your Father, the Son to be your saviour and Lord, the Spirit to be your helper and guide?

A. I do.

Q. Do you promise, in dependence on God's grace, to be faithful in private and public worship; to live in the fellowship of the Church and to share in its work; and to give and serve, as God enables you, for the advancement of his kingdom throughout the world?

A. I do.

Q. Do you promise, by that same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life?

A. I do.

Q. And do you trust in his mercy alone to bring you into the fullness of the life of the world to come?

A. I do.

or: (b) in the form of a declaration such as the following:

I confess my faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, taking the Father to be my Father, the Son to be my saviour and Lord, the Spirit to be my helper and guide,

I promise, in dependence on God's grace, to be faithful in private and public worship; to live in the fellowship of the Church and to share in its work; and to give and serve as God enables me, for the advancement of his kingdom throughout the world.

I promise, by that same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of my life; and I trust in his mercy alone to bring me into the fullness of the life of the world to come.

Or: (c) in the forms customarily used in the uniting Churches before unification.

SCHEDULE B

Affirmations to be made by Elders at Ordination and Induction.

NOTE

The service, which takes place at public worship, shall include a statement regarding the functions of the elders taken from Schedule D and from clauses 19, 20 and 22 in the Basis of Union.

Afterwards the presiding minister shall say to the elders-elect:

In the light of this statement of the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church and concerning the functions of the eldership, the elders-elect are now asked to answer the following questions:

1. Do you confess again your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

I do.

2. In dependence on God's grace do you reaffirm your trust in Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord and your promise to follow him and to seek to do and bear his will all the days of your life?

I do.

3. 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.

4. Do you accept the office of elder of the United Reformed Church in this congregation and do you promise to perform its duties faithfully?

I do.

SCHEDULE C (See clause 21 in the Basis of Union)

Affirmations to be made by Ministers at Ordination 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. The minister may also make a personal statement of his own call to that office.

The presiding minister shall say immediately after the reading of the Statement: A.B., do you undertake to exercise your ministry in conformity with this statement?

I do.

The presiding minister shall then ask the ordinand a series of questions. Two versions are provided. Both are authorised for use in their entirety and the choice between them is made by the District Council. The first series comes from the 1972 United Reformed Church Scheme of Union; the second from the Congregational Union of Scotland.

First version:

1. 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, born into this world, living amongst us, dying upon the cross, raised from the dead and reigning for evermore, is God's gift of himself to the world whereby his love and mercy are revealed, offering forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life to all? And will you faithfully proclaim this gospel?

This I believe and this I will proclaim.

4. Do you believe that the Church is God's people, gathered by his love to serve him in reconciling the world to himself?

I do.

5. Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, 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? (at induction to a new charge, the question shall end "to enter on the duties of the ministry in this place".)

They are.

6. Do you promise to fulfil the duties of your charge with all fidelity, to lead your people in worship, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, to exercise pastoral care and oversight, and to give leadership to the Church in its mission to the world?

I do.

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

I do.

8. Do you promise as a minister of this Church to seek its purity, peace and true prosperity, to cherish love towards all other Churches and to endeavour always to build up the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

I do.

9. And all these things do you profess and promise as the Lord Jesus Christ shall give you grace and strength to fulfil the same?

I do.

Second version:

A.B. my sister/brother, we have now heard testimony that the grace of God has brought you, through the call of the church, into this ministry; and we are about to seal this covenant so marvellously made. And so I ask you:

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as saviour?

I do so believe.

Do you believe that God gave himself to this world in Jesus Christ who, by living our life, knowing death on the cross, being raised and eternally glorified, showed forth the love and mercy, the forgiveness and reconciliation of God, and gave us the promise of eternal life; and will you proclaim this gospel?

I do so believe and will proclaim.

Are you convinced that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments is the supreme authority in life and the sufficient source of doctrine?

I am so convinced.

Do you believe in your heart that God is calling you into this ministry and does this truth, above all else, constrain you to obey in faith?

I do so believe.

Do you promise in this your charge to give care and oversight, to lead your people in worship and mission, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, and to cherish the purity, peace and true prosperity of the whole Church of Jesus Christ?

I do so promise, the Lord being my helper.

SCHEDULE D

A statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church.

(One of the following authorised forms to be read aloud at Ordination and Induction Services).

1. The United Reformed Church confesses the faith of the Church Catholic in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. The United Reformed Church acknowledges that the life of faith to which it is called is a gift of the Holy Spirit continually received in Word and Sacrament and in the common life of God's people.
3. The United Reformed Church acknowledges the Word of God in the Old and New

Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.

4. The United Reformed Church accepts with thanksgiving the witness borne to the Catholic faith by the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and recognises as its own particular heritage the formulations and declarations of faith which have been valued by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and members of Churches of Christ as stating the gospel and seeking to make its implications clear.
5. The United Reformed Church testifies to its faith, and orders its life, according to the Basis of Union, believing it to embody the essential notes of the Church Catholic and Reformed. The United Reformed Church nevertheless reserves its right and declares its readiness at any time to alter, add to, modify or supersede this Basis so that its life may accord more nearly with the mind of Christ.
6. The United Reformed Church, under the authority of Holy Scripture and in corporate responsibility to Jesus Christ its everliving head, acknowledges its duty to be open at all times to the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore affirms its right to make such new declarations of its faith and for such purposes as may from time to time be required by obedience to the same Spirit.
7. The United Reformed Church, believing that it is through the freedom of the Spirit that Jesus Christ holds his people in the fellowship of the One Body, upholds the rights of personal conviction. It shall be for the Church, in safeguarding the substance of the faith and maintaining the unity of the fellowship, to determine when these rights are asserted to the injury of its unity and peace.
8. The United Reformed Church declares that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only king and head of the Church, has therein appointed a government distinct from civil government and in things spiritual not subordinate thereto, and that civil authorities, being always subject to the rule of God, ought to respect the rights of conscience and of religious belief and to serve God's will of justice and peace for all.
9. The United Reformed Church declares its intention, in fellowship with all the Churches, to pray and work for such visible unity of the whole Church as Christ wills and in the way he wills in order that the whole creation may be led more and more to glorify the Father in heaven.

Alternative version:

With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The life of faith to which we are called
is the Spirit's gift
continually received
through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

The highest authority
for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible
alive for his people today
through the help of the Spirit.

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene creeds.

We acknowledge the declarations
made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and the Churches of Christ
in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

We conduct our life together
according to the Basis of Union

in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe contain
the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;
but we affirm our right and readiness,
if the need arises,
to change the Basis of Union
and to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.
For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the Church to decide
when differences of conviction
hurt our unity and peace.

We believe that
Christ gives his Church a government
distinct from the government of the state.
In things that affect obedience to God
the Church is not subordinate to the state,
but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ,
its only King and Head.
Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humanity,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

We affirm our intention
to go on praying and working,
with all our fellow Christians,
for the visible unity of the Church
in the way Christ chooses,
so that people and nations
may be led to love and serve God
and praise him more and more for ever.

8 THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

(1) Members of the United Reformed Church associated in a locality for worship witness and service shall together comprise a local church. Since the proper functioning of the local church is so fundamental to the life of the United Reformed Church, where there is a number of small congregations in proximity to one another unable separately to provide leadership and resources for the work of the Church, such congregations shall consult with the District Council to formulate an acceptable scheme for joining together with a single membership, a common Church Meeting and Elders' Meeting, representative of all the constituent congregations, and a shared ministry.

(2) The United Reformed Church shall be divided into National and Provincial Synods, and these Synod areas into Districts or Areas of Ecumenical Co-operation, each such division comprising the geographical area from time to time assigned to it by the General Assembly.

(3) The oversight of the United Reformed Church shall be the concern both of the local church and wider representative Councils. The Councils of the United Reformed Church shall be:-

- (a) The Church Meeting and the Elders' Meeting of each local church.
- (b) The Council of each District to be known as a District Council and of each Area of Ecumenical Co-operation to be known as an Area Meeting.
- (c) The Synod of each Nation or Province to be known as a National or Provincial Synod.
- (d) The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

These four parts of the Structure of the United Reformed Church shall have such consultative, legislative and executive functions as are hereinafter respectively assigned to each of them and

each shall be recognised by members of the United Reformed Church as possessing such authority, under the Word of God and the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, as shall enable it to exercise its functions and thereby to minister in that sphere of the life of the United Reformed Church with which it is concerned.

9. THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCILS OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

(1) The Church Meeting of the local church shall consist of those persons who have been admitted to the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of the United Reformed Church and whose names are included on the membership roll of such local church. The Church Meeting may invite other persons who regularly worship with the local church but whose names are not on the membership roll to attend and speak at its meetings on particular occasions but no such person shall have the right to vote. In the Church Meeting which shall meet at least once a quarter and at which the minister or one of the ministers shall normally preside, the members have opportunity through discussion, responsible decision and care for one another, to strengthen each other's faith and to foster the life, work and mission of the Church.

Functions:

Concerning the outgoing of the Church:

- (i) to further the Church's mission in the locality;
- (ii) to develop local ecumenical relationships;
- (iii) to further the Church's compassionate ministry in the locality and throughout the world;
- (iv) to consider and support the wider work of the Church at home and abroad;
- (v) to consider public questions in relation to the Christian faith;
- (vi) to bring concerns for consideration by the Elders' Meeting and wider Councils of the Church;

Concerning the nurture of the fellowship:

- (vii) to call a minister with concurrence of the District Council(s) concerned (see paragraph 9(3)(ii));
- (viii) to elect elders and officers, determining their number and period of service, and representatives to wider Councils;
- (ix) to admit and transfer members, to maintain standards of membership, and to suspend or remove names from the membership roll, always on advice from the Elders' Meeting;
- (x) to consider, always on advice from the Elders' Meeting, any application for recognition as a candidate for the ministry (including the auxiliary ministry) and to transmit it, if approved, to the District Council;
- (xi) to adopt financial reports;
- (xii) to receive reports and proposals from the Elders' Meeting, District Council, Synod and General Assembly and to authorise appropriate action;
- (xiii) on the recommendation of the Elders' Meeting to make or provide for the making of arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and the general oversight of all the financial responsibilities of the local church;

And generally:

- (xiv) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church.

(2) The Elders' Meeting of the local church shall consist of the minister(s) and the elders elected by the Church Meeting of such local church and shall exercise oversight of the spiritual life of the local church. The Elders' Meeting shall serve the local church and by its relation to the wider Councils of the United Reformed Church represent the whole Church to the local church. The minister, or one of the ministers, or during a pastoral vacancy the interim moderator appointed as hereinafter provided, shall normally preside over the Elders' Meeting.

Functions:

- (i) to foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism

at home and abroad, Christian education, ecumenical action, local inter-church relations and the wider responsibilities of the whole Church;

- (ii) to see that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, and generally to promote the welfare of the congregation;
- (iii) to ensure pastoral care of the congregation, in which the minister is joined by elders having particular responsibility for groups of members;
- (iv) to nominate from among its members a Church Secretary (or Secretaries), to be elected by the Church Meeting, to serve both the Church Meeting and the Elders' Meeting.
- (v) to arrange for pulpit supply in a vacancy;
- (vi) to keep the roll of members (see paragraph 9(1)) and (as an aid to the discharge of the congregation's pastoral and evangelistic responsibility) lists of names of adherents and children attached to the congregation, and in consultation with the Church Meeting to maintain standards of membership and to advise on the admission of members on profession of faith and by transfer, on the suspension of members, and on the removal of names from the roll;
- (vii) to be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people and of all organisations within the congregation;
- (viii) to call for the election of elders and advise on the number required;
- (ix) to consider the suitability of any applicant for recognition as a candidate for the ministry (including the auxiliary ministry) and to advise the Church Meeting about its recommendation to the District Council;
- (x) to recommend to the Church Meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and the general oversight of all the financial responsibilities of the local church;
- (xi) to act on behalf of the Church Meeting and bring concerns to the wider Councils of the United Reformed Church;
- (xii) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church.

(3) The District Council of each District being representative of the local churches in that District grouped together for the purpose of fellowship, support, intimate mutual oversight and united action shall consist of:

- (a) all ministers (other than auxiliary ministers), deaconesses and registered local pastors engaged directly in the service of the United Reformed Church within that District;
- (b) Such other ministers, deaconesses and such local pastors as shall from time to time be appointed by the Synod as hereinafter provided;
- (c) Such auxiliary ministers in the service of the United Reformed Church within that District as the District Council in consultation with the Synod shall from time to time determine, always with regard to a proper balance between ministerial and lay representation;
- (d) Representatives of local churches within the District who shall normally be members of the Elders' Meeting of a local church and who shall be appointed by the Church Meeting of such local church, the number of such representatives to be: 1-200 members one representative, 201-400 two representatives, 401-600 three representatives, 601-800 members four representatives, over 800 members five representatives.
- (e) The Moderator of the Synod for the time being;
- (f) Such members of local churches normally elders not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the District Council;
- (g) A retired Minister, who has been appointed by the District Council as an Officer of the Council, or as an interim moderator, for the period of the appointment shall be a full member of the District Council;
- (h) All retired Ministers not covered by clause 9.3.g. residing in the District who shall be associate members of the Council having the right to speak but not to vote at meetings of the Council;

- (i) Two young people, being members of the United Reformed Church, nominated by the District Youth Forum, Committee or equivalent.

The District Council shall elect from among its members a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other officers as the Council shall from time to time think desirable and shall determine their periods of service. It may also appoint such committees and for such purposes as it from time to time may think desirable and may appoint to any such committee any member of the United Reformed Church notwithstanding that he is not a member of the Council.

The United Reformed Church membership of the Area Meeting in each Area of Ecumenical Co-operation (hereinafter referred to as the United Reformed Church Committee) shall consist of the Moderator of Synod, all ministers and deaconesses engaged directly in the service of the United Reformed Church within the Area, representatives of local churches within the Area, and such other persons as determined by the constitution of each Area Meeting as approved by resolution of the Synod.

- (j) Representatives, not exceeding the number approved by the General Assembly, of other denominations in the District as the Council may from time to time determine.

Functions:

- (i) to exercise oversight of the ministry;
- (ii) to give (or, where deep pastoral concern for the Church requires it, withhold) concurrence in calls to ministers and, with the Moderator of Synod or his deputy presiding, to conduct, in fellowship with the local church, any ordination and/or inductions of ministers within the district;
- (iii) to appoint in consultation with the local church and the Moderator of Synod, from among its members an interim moderator during a pastoral vacancy, such interim moderator normally being a minister or retired minister; an auxiliary minister or in exceptional circumstances an elder may be appointed;
- (iv) to care for all the churches of the District Council, and to visit them by deputies at regular intervals for consultation concerning their life and work;
- (v) to consider on the recommendation of local churches applications for recognition as candidates for the ministry (including the auxiliary ministry) and to transmit them, if approved, to the Synod for decision;
- (vi) to accredit lay preachers and, in consultation with the local churches concerned and the Moderator of the Synod, to give authority for appropriate lay persons to preside at the Sacraments;
- (vii) to consider resignations of ministers and, in consultation with the Moderator of Synod, to decide upon appropriate action (See also paragraphs 9(4)(viii) and (5)(xviii));
- (viii) to appoint from time to time such number of representatives to the General Assembly (ministerial and lay in equal numbers) as the General Assembly shall determine. The District Council shall so far as possible make such appointments in rotation from local churches within its District;
- (ix) to engage in study concerning the Church's mission in the region and to encourage in the local churches concern for youth work and social service and a sense of responsibility for the wider work of the Church at home and abroad;
- (x) to promote church extension within the area and to submit proposals to the Synod for the establishing of new causes;
- (xi) to make recommendations to the Synod in consultation with the churches concerned and to act on behalf of the Synod in consultation with the Moderator on all matters regarding the grouping, amalgamation or dissolution of local churches;
- (xii) to make recommendations to the Synod in consultation with the churches concerned and to act on behalf of the Synod on all matters regarding erection, major reconstruction or disposal of buildings;
- (xiii) to provide a forum for concerns brought forward by local churches and to advise thereon;
- (xiv) to hear and make decisions upon appeals brought forward by local churches and church members;

- (xv) to take appropriate action on matters referred to the Council by the Synod or General Assembly, and to initiate or transmit proposals for consideration by those bodies;
- (xvi) to maintain contact with ecumenical and missionary work in the area;
- (xvii) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church;
- (xviii) to make recommendations to the Synod for appointment to service on District Council of
 - (i) United Reformed Church ministers/lay people serving as (a) full time Chaplains to Universities, Colleges, Hospitals, Factories, where their work is seen to be an extension of the ministry of the District concerned (b) Secretaries and other full time officials of ecumenical bodies with which the United Reformed Church is in relationship.
 - (ii) United Reformed Church ministers giving significant oversight to local churches, under the general direction of the Council concerned.
 - (iii) Ministers of other Churches appointed to serve on behalf of the United Reformed Church in charge of a United Reformed Church or in an ecumenical group including United Reformed Church interests.
 - (iv) Ministers not in pastoral charge who perform duties within the District in respect of which the Council has some direct responsibility.

(i) to (xviii) above describe also the functions of Area Meetings, always understanding that such functions as relate solely to the work of the United Reformed Church may be discharged by the United Reformed Church Committee of each Area Meeting. In this statement of the Structure of the United Reformed Church wherever the words District Council occur they shall be read as meaning Area Meeting in respect of those places where an Area Meeting has been duly established.

(4) The Synod of each Nation or Province being representative of the local churches and District Councils in that area united for the purpose of dealing with the matters of wider concern shall consist of:-

- (a) All ministers (including auxiliary ministers), deaconesses and registered local pastors who shall for the time being be members of District Councils within the Synod;
- (b) All missionaries of the United Reformed Church for the time being on furlough and for the time being resident within the Synod area;
- (c) Representatives of local churches within the Synod area who shall normally be members of the Elders' Meeting of a local church and who shall be appointed by the Church Meeting of such local church, the number of such representatives to be: 1-200 members one representative, 201-400 two representatives, 401-600 three representatives, 601-800 four representatives, over 800 members five representatives;
- (d) The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, for the time being of each District Council within the Synod;
- (e) Such members of local churches, normally elders, not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the Synod;
- (f) Such members as shall from time to time be appointed by the General Assembly;
- (g) A retired minister who has been appointed by the Synod as an officer of the Synod for the period of the appointment shall be a full member of the Synod.
- (h) All retired ministers not covered by clause 9.4.g residing in the Synod area who shall be associate members of the Synod having the right to speak but not to vote at meetings of the Synod;
- (i) Two young people, being members of the United Reformed Church nominated by the Provincial Youth Forum, Committee or equivalent.

The Synod shall elect from among its members a Clerk, a Treasurer and such other officers as the Synod shall from time to time think desirable and shall determine their periods of service. It may also appoint such committees and for such purposes as it from time to time may think desirable and may appoint to any such committee any member of the United Reformed Church notwithstanding that he is not a member of the Synod.

- (j) Representatives, not exceeding the number approved by the General Assembly, of other denominations in the Province as the Synod may from time to time determine.

Moderators of Synods. There shall be a Moderator for each Synod being a minister appointed from time to time by the General Assembly to which such Moderator shall be responsible. The Moderator shall be appointed for such term not exceeding seven years as the General Assembly shall in each case think fit with power for the General Assembly to determine any such appointment during its term or to renew any such appointment for successive terms of not more than five years each provided that no such Moderator shall be eligible to hold office after the end of the calendar year in which he shall attain the age of sixty-seven years.

The Moderator shall be separated from any local pastoral charge and

- (i) shall stimulate and encourage the work of the United Reformed Church within the Synod area;
- (ii) shall preside over meetings of the Synod and exercise a pastoral office towards the ministers and churches within the Synod area;
- (iii) in consultation with interim moderators of local churches shall suggest names of ministers to vacant pastorates;
- (iv) shall in person or, when necessary, by deputy, preside at all ordinations and/or inductions of ministers within the Synod area;
- (v) being a member of each District Council in the Synod area shall participate with each such Council in the discharge of its responsibilities and in particular in the oversight of local churches and ministers.

The Moderators of Synods shall meet together at regular intervals for the better discharge of their duties.

Functions of Synod:

- (i) to take such action as it deems conducive to the propagation of the gospel at home and abroad, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole, and the well-being of the community in which the Church is placed;
- (ii) to have oversight of the District Councils and in consultation with the District Councils and local churches concerned, to determine the boundaries and number of District Councils within the Synod area (all such changes shall be reported to the General Assembly);
- (iii) to promote church extension within the Synod area and decide upon proposals submitted by District Councils for the establishment of new causes;
- (iv) to receive and decide upon recommendations from the District Councils on all matters regarding the grouping, amalgamation or dissolution of local churches and the erection, major reconstruction or disposal of buildings;
- (v) to receive and decide upon applications for recognition as candidates for the ministry, which have been previously considered and transmitted by District Councils.
- (vi) to give oversight to candidates for the auxiliary and stipendiary ministry and to candidates for any form of full-time service in the Church at home and abroad, and, in the case of candidates for the ministry, determine their eligibility for a call;
- (vii) to receive and forward with a recommendation through the Moderator of the Synod to the General Assembly applications for admission into the United Reformed Church from ministers, probationers or congregations;
- (viii) to consider questions regarding inclusion on the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church and make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly;
- (ix) to deal with reports of committees of the General Assembly;
- (x) to examine matters sent to it from District Councils or the General Assembly;
- (xi) to make proposals to and raise concerns for consideration by the General Assembly;
- (xii) to foster ecumenical relationships and action; in Scotland and Wales to undertake responsibility for national ecumenical relationships and, on behalf of the General Assembly, to appoint representatives to national agencies for ecumenical co-operation.
- (xiii) to receive and decide upon references and appeals duly submitted;

- (xiv) to appoint at its discretion ministers (including auxiliary ministers) deaconesses and local pastors, not already members of a District Council, to serve on District Councils;
- (xv) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church;
- (xvi) to appoint at its discretion additional members to serve on District Councils in accordance with recommendations made by such Councils under the provisions of paragraph 9(3)(xix) above.

(5) **The General Assembly** which shall embody the unity of the United Reformed Church and act as the central organ of its life and the final authority, under the Word of God and the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, in all matters of doctrine and order and in all other concerns of its common life shall consist of:-

- (a) Such number of representatives of District Councils (ministerial and lay in equal numbers) as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine (at present one representative per 8 churches or part thereof plus one per 800 church members or part thereof, with an adjustment to add one in the case of each District if necessary to secure an even number of representatives;)
- (b) The Moderators of the General Assembly and of the Synods and such other officers of the General Assembly and of the Synods as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine (the Assembly has determined that Clerks of Synods, Treasurers of Synods, the Clerk or Clerks of Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of Assembly in any year when one is appointed, shall be members of Assembly);
- (c) The Convenor of each of the departments and standing committees of the General Assembly;
- (d) A staff representative and a student representative, being members of the United Reformed Church, from each of such recognised theological colleges as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine;
- (e) Up to twelve missionaries of the United Reformed Church on furlough or such other number as the Assembly shall from time to time determine;
- (f) Such other ministers and elders of the United Reformed Church as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine (the Assembly has added to its membership two representatives of the Church and Society Department, one serving United Reformed Church Chaplain to the Forces, nominated each year by the Organising Secretary of the United Board, in consultation with the three Principal Chaplains; and three representatives from each Synod except the Synod of Scotland which shall appoint nine.)
- (g) All former Moderators of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and all past Chairmen of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, all past Presidents of the Congregational Church, all former Moderators of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, all former Chairmen and Presidents of the Annual Conference of the Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland, and all former Presidents of the Annual Conference of the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland, provided that such former officers are members of the United Reformed Church;
- (h) Such number of representatives of the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth, being members of the United Reformed Church, as the Assembly shall from time to time determine (at present two);

In making its determination from time to time as to the number of members to be comprised in each of the categories (a) to (f) above, the General Assembly shall ensure that

- (i) the total number of members to be drawn from all these categories shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty and
 - (ii) the number of those in categories (b) to (f) shall not in total exceed one-half of those in category (a).
- (i) Representatives, not exceeding the number approved by the General Assembly, of other denominations in the United Kingdom as the Assembly on the advice of the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

The General Assembly shall elect a Moderator and such other officers as it shall from time

to time think desirable. It shall also appoint an Executive Committee with power to act in its name in matters of urgency between meetings of the General Assembly and to discharge such other functions as the General Assembly may from time to time direct. The General Assembly shall also set up Departments and appoint Standing Committees which subject to the General Assembly shall have charge of the continuing interests of the Church. It may also appoint Special Committees which subject to the General Assembly shall have charge of such matters as the General Assembly may assign to them from time to time. The General Assembly may appoint to any such Department or Committee members of the United Reformed Church who are not members of the General Assembly.

Functions:

- (i) to oversee the total work of the Church;
- (ii) to make decisions on reports and recommendations from its own Departments and Committees, issue such directions and take such actions as it deems conducive to the propagation of the gospel, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole and the well-being of the community in which the Church is placed;
- (iii) to conduct and foster the ecumenical relationships of the United Reformed Church;
- (iv) to support and share in the missionary work of the Church at home and abroad;
- (v) to determine the standards and scope of an adequate ministerial education and training;
- (vi) to make regulations respecting Theological Colleges belonging to the United Reformed Church, to appoint the Principal, Professors and other members of the teaching staff, Board of Studies, and Bursar, and to superintend their work;
- (vii) to recognise Theological Colleges previously recognised by the Congregational Church in England and Wales, the Scottish Congregational College and such other Colleges in such manner and for such purposes as the General Assembly may determine;
- (viii) to appoint Moderators of Synods;
- (ix) to remit questions concerning the witness and judgment of the Church for general discussion in Church Meetings, Elders' Meetings, District Councils and Synods, and to call for reports from these Councils;
- (x) to interpret all forms and expressions of the polity practice and doctrinal formulations of the United Reformed Church including the Basis and the Structure and to determine when rights of personal conviction are asserted to the injury of the unity and peace of the United Reformed Church;
- (xi) to alter, add to, modify or supersede the Basis, Structure and any other form or expression of the polity and doctrinal formulations of the United Reformed Church;
- (xii) to make, alter or rescind rules for the conduct of its own proceedings and of those of other Councils of the United Reformed Church and such other rules, by-laws and standing orders as the General Assembly may from time to time think desirable for the performance of its functions and the carrying into effect of any of the provisions contained in the Basis and the Structure and for the conduct of the business and affairs of the General Assembly and of the other Councils of the United Reformed Church;
- (xiii) to appoint at its discretion additional members to serve on Synods;
- (xiv) to make such alterations in the boundaries and groupings of Districts and Synod areas and to establish such new Districts and Synods as the General Assembly may from time to time think desirable;
- (xv) to consider and decide upon references and appeals duly submitted;
- (xvi) to make, alter or rescind rules of procedure for the submission and conduct of references and appeals to and by the Councils of the United Reformed Church;
- (xvii) to receive and decide upon applications for admission into the United Reformed Church from ministers, probationers and congregations, transmitted by Synods through their Moderators;
- (xviii) to decide upon questions regarding inclusion on the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church which have been previously considered and transmitted with

recommendations by Synods;

- (xix) to provide for the raising of funds for the work of the United Reformed Church and to determine arrangements for payment of stipends and expenses to ministers and officers of the United Reformed Church and for such other financial matters as the General Assembly may from time to time think desirable;
- (xx) to consider and decide upon issues and representations duly transmitted by other Councils of the United Reformed Church;
- (xxi) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church.

10. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

- (1) a The proposal for the amendment shall be made in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.
 - b The General Assembly shall vote on a motion to approve the proposal which shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass.
 - c The General Assembly shall, if such motion to approve the proposal is passed, refer the proposal to Synods and may, if it deems appropriate, refer the proposal also to District Councils and in exceptional cases also to local churches.
 - d The General Assembly shall in making any such reference set a final date for responses to be made, which shall normally be at an appropriate time before the next annual Assembly.
 - e If by such date notice has been received by the General Secretary from more than one third of Synods (or, if it has been so referred, more than one third of District Councils or more than one third of local churches) that a motion 'that the proposal be not proceeded with' has been passed by a majority of members present and voting at a duly convened meeting of such body, then the Assembly in its concern for the unity of the church shall not proceed to ratify the proposal.
 - f If by such date such notice has not been received, the General Assembly shall at its next meeting vote on a motion to agree the amendment which shall require a simple majority of the members present and voting to pass.
 - g If such a motion is passed by such a majority the amendment shall have effect.
- (2) In the case of motions which would have the effect of terminating the separate existence of the United Reformed Church, or of a Synod within it, by union with other churches, the voting process to be used shall be not less stringent than in 10(1) and that process shall be determined by a single vote of the General Assembly which shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass.

11. CONSULTATION

Decisions on the part of any Council shall be reached only after the fullest attempt has been made to discover the mind of the other Councils or of local churches likely to be affected by the decision.

12. APPEALS

A local church or any member thereof or Elders' Meeting may appeal to the District Council upon which the local church is entitled to be represented for the resolution of any dispute or difference and may appeal from any decision of such District Council to the Synod on which it is entitled to be represented and from any decision of such Synod to the General Assembly.

A District Council may refer any dispute or difference, whether or not the same shall have come before it on appeal, to the Synod on which it is entitled to be represented and may appeal from any decision of the Synod by which it is affected, whether or not made on such a reference, to the General Assembly.

A Synod may refer any dispute or difference, whether or not the same shall have come before it on a reference or appeal, to the General Assembly.

The decision of the General Assembly on any matter which has come before it on reference or appeal shall be final and binding.

PART V

PROCEDURES FOLLOWING UNIFICATION

This section contains commitments and provisions for particular aspects of the life of the unified Church.

A. Local Churches

(i) Membership and Baptism

The unified Church will accept all those who are members of either church at the time of union as fully members of the new URC, whether or not they have been baptised. From the date of unification the practice of the Church will be that baptism is integral to entry into full membership of the URC. This is not stated as judgement of other Christian bodies which do not practise baptism, but to indicate the understanding that we have reached, within the fellowship of the universal church, of the mind of Christ. Our understanding of the practice of baptism is set out in Section 14 of the Basis.

(ii) Office Bearers

- a. It is recognised that an important debate is taking place about the nature and function of Christian ministry in the contemporary church, especially as this affects the responsibilities of church members for service to the world.
- b. At this point of unification, different traditions regarding office bearers come together. The URC has developed the office of elder (Basis, para.22) and offers this as a pattern of corporate pastoral leadership. In the Congregational Union of Scotland there is a variety of local pastoral leadership, having different titles and following different constitutions, but fulfilling very similar functions to those prescribed for elders in URC.
- c. As these traditions inform each other, the URC will undertake at an early date a review of diaconal ministries and local church office bearers, and will seek to carry this through with ecumenical consultation. Within four years from the date of unification the General Assembly will debate this matter and seek agreement for the whole church.
- d. Therefore from the time of union those office bearers in the Congregational Churches in Scotland who fulfil the functions of the URC eldership may, by local church meeting decision, become elders or may retain their existing titles and modes of election and service while being assured that they will be recognised as elders in all the councils of the church. This position will be retained in Scotland unless and until there is a further determination by the General Assembly (c above).

B. District Councils

- (i) The Councils will be constituted according to sections 9(3) of the Basis and Structure as the point of co-operation and shared responsibility in each area. In Appendix B a possible listing of local churches in Districts is provided. This can only be provisional since it is the Synod which has freedom to decide the boundaries of Districts and it will not be until voting is completed that the precise number of local churches in the Synod will be known.
- (ii) The Council known as the Mid-Scotland District Council of the URC will be dissolved at the date of unification. Any assets of the Council will be distributed to the newly formed District Councils in proportion to the number of individual members of the churches in the Mid-Scotland District Council whose church membership is in the new Districts.

C. The Synod of Scotland

- (i) It is expected that the Synod will meet residentially once a year so as to maintain the

benefits found in the Congregational Union of Scotland Assembly, and may additionally meet for a one-day meeting in the spring prior to the General Assembly. The Synod, as the identifiable Scottish section of the church, will be referred to as a National Synod and may bring forward resolutions for consideration by the General Assembly.

- (ii) As accepted throughout the URC the Synod of Scotland will have a Moderator. Section 9.4 of the Basis describes the Moderator's functions. The Moderator will initially be appointed by the Unifying Assembly on the nomination of the Joint Negotiating Group. That Group will be advised by a Nominations Committee comprising 12 persons from the Congregational Union of Scotland, two persons from the Mid-Scotland District Council of the URC, and six persons from the rest of the URC appointed by the URC Executive, one of those six occupying the chair. This Nominations Committee will invite person(s) for interview before recommending a name.
- (iii) About a year before unification takes place the Joint Negotiating Group will arrange for a Synod Preparation Working Party to gather the material needed for the first meeting of the Synod. That Working Party will be able to receive a wide range of suggestions and to place detailed proposals before the Synod. In Appendix A the Joint Negotiating Group provides a first sketch of how the Synod may operate so that the churches have a reasonable idea of what is involved, but this is only one suggestion and is NOT imposed by the acceptance of these proposals. It is expected that the Synod will first meet within three months of the date of unification.

D. Ministers and Lay Pastors

- (i) All ministers of the United Reformed Church will be eligible for service in any part of the church. The unified church will move as quickly as possible to common terms of ministerial service throughout the church. This will take some time, and interim arrangements are described in Section VII. It is accepted as a basic principle that no minister will be worse off through the union.
- (ii) In Section 21 of the Basis the position of Lay Pastors in Scotland is described. There are currently 9 of these serving local churches. These persons will be encouraged and authorised to continue their existing service but no new Lay Pastors will be appointed. It is expected that Auxiliary Ministers of Word and Sacraments will come forward in Scotland, will be trained and will help the witness of the churches where a stipendiary minister is not available. The existing Lay Pastors will have the opportunity to be ordained as Auxiliary Ministers. Those who so choose will be offered suitable training by the Ministries Department.

E. General Assembly — Scottish Representatives

The representatives of the District Councils will be as detailed in Section 9.5(a) of the Structure. The special representation of the Synod is covered by the addition of six persons to the usual three (9.5(f)). This is to enable the national life of the URC in Scotland to be present in the General Assembly, and is recognition that former Presidents of the Congregational Union are not to be included ex officio in the Assembly. These nine persons will be appointed by the Synod.

F. Representation on Other Bodies

- (i) C.W.M — It is proposed that the unified church should seek 5 places on the Council and that the URC Nominations Committee should ensure that for at least six years from the date of unification one of these should be filled from the Synod of Scotland.
- (ii) B.C.C — For the period up to 1990 when a new ecumenical structure is probable it is proposed to seek seven places on the Assembly, that is the existing number from the two churches.
- (iii) Scottish Ecumenical Bodies. It will be for the Synod of Scotland to negotiate the number of representatives appropriate to each agency. The Synod may invite URC people from outside Scotland to participate. The Synod will inform the Nominations Committee of its appointments to ecumenical agencies in Scotland.

- (iv) Representation in URC national bodies. Where committees of the URC have a representative from each Synod, the Synod of Scotland will place names before the central Nominations Committee so that it is included as soon as possible after the date of unification. In addition the Nominations Committee will endeavour to use the opportunity of unification to share Scottish skills and experience in all the national work of the church.

G. Women's Work

Both the CUS and the URC have acknowledged with thankfulness the full place taken by women in all the councils and offices of the churches. Both have some separate women's gatherings and activities. But while the URC has these mainly at the level of the local church and District Council, the CUS has a Women's Union which touches the life of all the local churches, often takes the lead in ecumenical matters and is parallel to similar movements in other churches. It is firmly proposed that the life and work of the Women's Union in Scotland should continue in relation to the Synod of Scotland.

This fact leads to the conviction that the whole URC will need to discuss the value of special organisations for women and for men as complementary to the balance of both in all the Councils and committees of the church. This discussion will be led by the Faith and Life Department, and will keep in mind the issues raised by the ecumenical programme on the Community of Women and Men in the Church.

H. Youth Work

It is recognised that the Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain will have as a priority integration with the youth policy of the whole church. The partnership created will open up a new set of youth relationships throughout the new URC at local, District, Synod and Assembly levels. It is expected that an early priority of the Youth Committee of the new URC will be to give urgent consideration to whether a full-time youth appointment for Scotland will be required. This is an issue which is already the concern of the Congregational Union of Scotland; seating that person in the context of the Youth Leadership Training Officer team makes it much more possible. The remit of such a person will include the development and support of a range of ecumenical youth work in Scotland and beyond.

Present URC youth policy and practice encourages Provinces and Synods to develop their own strategies for youth ministry. Therefore, to integrate the hopes and intentions of the CUS Youth Committee with the aims and objectives of present URC youth work, it is proposed to form a Scottish Youth Committee of the new URC, based on what already exists. The SYC will incorporate, support and promote the following:

- a) Youth Leadership training locally and in the wider Church.
- b) Fullest youth participation in the councils of the Church. (Basis and Structure para 9.3.h and 9.4.h)
- c) Building up ecumenical youth links in Scotland.
- d) Participation in UK Youth Events and other activities. (e.g. General Assembly, Summer Camps)
- e) Development of programmes at Longyester & Sannox Youth Centres.
- f) Promotion of youth dimension in Mission through CWM.
- g) Encouragement of the concept of FURY — the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth.

FURY is not an organisation but a *fellowship*. All young people between 13 and 25, whether attending Church, member of a uniformed organisation, Youth Fellowship or any other youth activity, are automatically members. There is no membership fee. Being young and part of the Church is enough.

Since its inception the URC has consistently followed through a policy of encouragement, support and financial provision for youth ministry. Members of the present CUS Youth Committee see the prospect of a new URC incorporating such principles as the best possible way to advance the work of youth ministry in Scotland.

I. Theological Education

The URC has four recognised colleges for the training of ordination candidates. These are Mansfield College, Oxford; Westminster College, Cambridge; Northern College, Manchester; and Queen's College, Birmingham. Of these Westminster College is the only one owned by the URC. Queen's College is largely Church of England and Methodist but with URC involvement. About half the current ordinands (mainly those for auxiliary ministry) are trained at non-residential courses rather than in colleges.

The Congregational Union of Scotland trains its candidates through the Scottish Congregational College, Edinburgh which has an independent constitution with a relationship to the Union similar to that of the Northern College to the URC.

The unifying Assembly would be asked, by resolution, to recognise the Scottish Congregational College as one of the church's centres of training. All the recognised colleges and training schemes would be open to candidates from all parts of the church.

The two churches have at present similar methods of screening candidates. The final decisions about acceptance for training rest with the Synod. The Ministries Department provides a National Assessment Conference for all candidates.

J. Name

The unifying Assembly will be asked to declare by resolution that the name of the church be The United Reformed Church in Great Britain.

K. Appeals

The Structure gives members and local churches rights of appeal and makes the General Assembly the place of final decision. Procedures for appeals are laid down in Standing Orders. Standing Orders also provide for the way in which a local church may initiate a matter for consideration by the General Assembly.

While no local church has a right to secede, it may, following the due procedures, seek permission to do so. The General Assembly would consider carefully whether or not it should permit such secession. If it were to agree the local church would be permitted to secede with its property. (Part 3 Bill Section 22). If the Assembly should not agree to secession then the property would remain within the United Reformed Church for its continuing witness.

PART VI

PROVISIONS FOR FUTURE UNIONS IN SCOTLAND

- A.** It would be the hope and expectation of the uniting bodies that there will be further exploration of church unity in Scotland and that the Synod of Scotland of the URC will be in the forefront of the process. The union of 1972, which brought together Congregationalists and Presbyterians, led to close links between the URC and the Church of Scotland. It is the intention of all concerned in this present unifying process to maintain those links. At present there is progress in the mutual acceptance of members and ministers among the Reformed churches in Scotland and the URC will continue this work in the hope that a united fellowship of all Christians in this tradition may become a reality. If a proposal is submitted for a further union of churches, this will be a matter primarily for the URC members in Scotland to consider and then for the General Assembly to decide. The URC will be ready to discuss any proposals, whether multilateral or bilateral, which might serve to heal divisions in the Christian family.
- B.** It is proposed that the Synod of Scotland will have authority, on behalf of the URC, to enter into negotiations with other churches in Scotland, to appoint representatives to negotiating bodies and to develop local ecumenical relationships. It will keep the World Church and Mission Department informed of each advance in unity matters so that the experience of the whole church may be made available.
- C.** The first formal discussion of a union proposal will be in the Synod of Scotland, which will need to consult widely among the churches. Only if the Synod votes in favour by the required majority will the matter come before the General Assembly. It will then be for the Assembly, with whatever procedures are then agreed, to reach a decision.
- D.** In order to facilitate future union the URC will endeavour to hold within Scotland any funds which are transferred from the CUS to the trustee body of the Synod. When and if a future union in Scotland takes place, assets and property held by that Synod trustee body could be made available to the new united church, subject to any requirements of the law at that time.

PART VII

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Maintenance of the Ministry

- 1.1 The URC will seek to move towards parity of support for all its ministers in pastoral charge through the payment of a basic stipend from the central Maintenance of the Ministry Fund. Differences between the two churches in this matter will take time to reconcile but the direction is clear, It is:
 - (a) to provide ministerial support throughout the URC which will free ministers and their families from financial need so that they may fulfil their vocation.
 - (b) to have regard to the comparable support provided by other major churches in England, Scotland and Wales,
 - (c) to provide a central system of payment to all in pastoral charge or in Assembly appointments, which allows for local variation upwards by means of a supplement to the basic stipend, and
 - (d) to ensure that regular contributions for ministerial support are the first charge for each local church, not simply to provide for its minister but as a contribution to the support of the ministry of the whole Church.
- 1.2 The conditions of service of all ministers entering the unified Church will not be changed to their disadvantage by the unification whilst they remain in their existing posts. When they move to a new post the terms of appointment will be negotiated afresh, as is the present practice in each of the Churches.
- 1.3 The basic stipend, determined annually following the General Assembly, will apply throughout the Church, as will the rules and procedures set out in the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration. Any cash allowance in lieu of expenses paid by a local church through the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund will be treated in the same way as a stipend supplement and must be subject to deduction of income tax and of national insurance contributions.
- 1.4 The Synod will be responsible for offering to the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund a figure of the total contributions by all the local churches. Initially this will have regard to the cost to the Fund of paying basic stipend, national insurance and pension contributions of all ministers serving the URC in the Synod of Scotland. The Synod will be free to decide in what manner or by what formula this total is divided among the local churches.
- 1.5 Local churches will ensure the regular payment of contributions to the central fund. The most efficient way to do this is by direct debit.
- 1.6 In order to provide adequate time for the transition, the ministers of the church in Scotland will continue to be paid by the existing methods for a period of not more than 18 months from the date of unification. The date of individual transfer to the central payment system will be decided by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee in consultation with the Synod of Scotland.

2. Pensions

- 2.1 Ministers of the Congregational Union of Scotland will retain their pension rights secured by past contributions to the Scottish Congregational Ministers' Central Pension Scheme. Those who enter the unified Church along with their congregations will have three options to cover their future service:
 - (i) To join the URC Ministers' Pension Fund
 - (ii) To remain in the Scottish Congregational Ministers' Central Pension Scheme
 - (iii) To enter into a private arrangement under the new Government proposals.
- 2.2 Present Ministers of the URC and many ministers of the CUS expect to retire and commence receiving their pensions at age 65 and no change in these arrangements is envisaged. Other CUS ministers expect to receive their pension at age 70 and this expectation need not be changed if they stay in the Scottish Scheme. If they enter the

URC Scheme, they will qualify for a pension from the Scheme at age 65.

- 2.3 The URC Ministers' Pension Fund has an actuarial deficit caused mainly by up-rating pensions in line with stipends at a time of high inflation. The present URC congregations are making good this deficit by contributions through the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund, currently at the rate of £500,000 a year. The congregations entering the URC from the CUS will not be asked to contribute to this deficit following unification. Equally, the present URC congregations will not be called upon to help fund, whether by annual contributions or otherwise, any deficit which may arise in the Scottish fund or to provide additional money to improve benefits. It will be the Synod of Scotland which will be responsible for meeting any such requirements.

3. Retired Ministers' Housing

Local Authority housing is generally available for retired ministers of the Congregational Union of Scotland and for their widows. Those who enter the unified Church and who retire after the date of unification and the widows of any who die in service after the date of unification will be entitled to apply for housing from the Retired Ministers' Housing Committee of the unified Church if they are not otherwise adequately housed. In considering eligibility for housing, service with the Congregational Union of Scotland up to the date of unification will be counted in the same way as service with the United Reformed Church.

4. Unified Appeal

4.1 The local churches in Scotland have been accustomed to contributing to the central services of the Congregational Union and to World Mission. Within the United Reformed Church in Great Britain each local church will make such a contribution to Synod and central services, to World Mission and to ecumenical bodies. The income for all these central and Synod items will be provided by one Unified Appeal.

4.2 The Synods will be asked each year what they can contribute to the total required and the General Assembly will set the budget according to the needs and the responses of the Synods, on the advice of the Budget Committee. Each Synod will decide how to allocate target figures to the local churches.

4.3 In 1988 the General Assessment within the Congregational Union of Scotland is set as £6.50 per member. In the first year of the unified Church (possibly the year 1990) it is expected that the figure will rise to approximately £10 per member in order that the churches in Scotland may share in the whole life and witness of the Church. The Joint Negotiating Group envisages that during the following years the contribution of the Synod of Scotland to the central expenditure of the United Reformed Church will grow until it more nearly matches the average of such contributions by the whole membership. But the annual figure of contributions is subject to negotiation between the Synods and the Finance Department so it is not possible to make any exact predictions.

4.4 It is proposed that the Synod of Scotland contribute to the Unified Appeal from 1st January following the date of unification.

5. The General Assembly may revise or reform these methods of fund raising for central services and mission, but the overall financial asking is unlikely to be significantly affected by such a revision.

PART VIII

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE BASIS AND STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

These amendments are included in Part IV of these proposals. Page References are to the Second Edition of the URC Manual.

Amend- ment Number	Page	section	
1	2	Heading	Delete (Congregational-Presbyterian)
2	2	3	Delete 'men'
3	3	11	Delete 'men' and 'all' to read '...service to all in the variety...'
4	3	14 line 8	Delete 'mankind'. Insert 'people'
5	3	14 line 18	Delete sentence beginning 'When baptism...' Insert 'When baptism is administered to infants upon profession of faith by their parents they are received within the fellowship and nurture of the Church that they may be led by the Holy Spirit in due time to make their own profession of faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and enter upon the full privileges and responsibilities of membership.'
6	4	16 line 3	Delete 'men'. Insert 'people'
7	4	17 line 1	Delete 'formation'. Insert 'unification'
8	4	17 line 6	Delete 'men'. Insert 'the world'
9	5	17 line 9	Delete 'men'. Insert 'people'
10	5	Footnote	Delete footnote and insert as follows: *e.g. Among Presbyterians: The Westminster Confession 1647; A Statement of Christian Faith 1959. Among Congregationalists in England and Wales: the Savoy Declaration 1658; A Declaration of Faith 1967. In Scotland: A Statement of Faith 1949. Among Churches of Christ: Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address 1809. Ecumenically: The Basis of the World Council of Churches; The Multilateral Church Conversations in Scotland; 'Faith of the Church' 1972.
11	6	21 footnote	Delete present footnote and insert as follows: 'Those persons who, at the time of unification, serve as Lay Pastors and are so recognised by the Congregational Union of Scotland, may continue in that service under the same conditions. Such persons shall be authorised by the District Council to preside at the sacraments and to serve as members of the District Council. They may choose to be ordained as Auxiliary Ministers and shall in that case be offered the opportunity of suitable training'.
12	6	22	Delete footnote and carry material from it into the text of 22 by adding as follows: 'All elders are eligible for re-election, and those elected shall enter upon their office by induction. On removing to another local church an ordained elder is eligible for election by that church to the Elders' Meeting and, if elected, is inducted. The ordination and induction of elders shall be carried out in the course of public worship by a minister of the local church (or during a pastoral vacancy,

the interim moderator) acting with the serving elders. (See Schedule B)+

13	6	22 footnote	Insert new footnote as follows: +Within the local churches in Scotland those lay persons called to pastoral oversight and leadership in each congregation may be given and retain such titles, be inducted by such methods and serve in bodies as are in operation at the time of unification. Such persons will be recognised as elders for all purposes of representation in the wider councils of the Church. This position will be retained until the General Assembly makes a new determination. (See also Part V A ii of Unification Proposals)
14	6	23	Delete paragraph
15	7	24	Re-number 23 Delete 'full and part-time'. Insert 'All' to read 'All other ministries . . .'
16	7	24 line 2	Delete 'time of union' Insert 'date of unification'
17	7	25	Re-number 24. Delete asterisk and footnote
18	7	26	Re-number 25
19	8	Schedule A last line	Delete 'union' Insert 'unification'
20	9	Schedule C	Delete 'He shall then ask' and insert 'The presiding minister shall then ask the ordinand a series of questions. Two versions are provided. Both are authorised for use in their entirety and the choice between them is made by the District Council. The first series comes from the 1972 URC Scheme of Union; the second from the Congregational Union of Scotland. First Version.'
21	9	Schedule C	Delete 'living as man among men'. Insert 'living among us'
22	9	Schedule C 3, line 4	Delete 'to all men' Insert at end of line 'to all'
23	10	Schedule C 5, line 2	Delete 'men' Insert 'the world'
24	10	Schedule C 8, line 2	Delete 'brotherly'
25	10	After question 9	Insert Second Version A.B my sister/brother, we have now heard testimony that the grace of God has brought you, through the call of the Church, into this ministry; and we are about to seal this covenant so marvellously made. And so I ask you: Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour? I do so believe. Do you believe that God gave himself to this world in Jesus Christ who, by living our life, knowing death on the cross, being raised and eternally glorified, showed forth the love and mercy, the forgiveness and reconciliation of God, and gave us the promise of eternal life; and will you proclaim this gospel? I do so believe and will proclaim. Are you convinced that the word of God in the old and new testaments is the supreme authority in life and the

sufficient source of doctrine?

I am so convinced.

Do you believe in your heart that God is calling you into this ministry and does this truth, above all else, constrain you to obey in faith?

I do so believe.

Do you promise in this your charge to give care and oversight, to lead your people in worship and mission, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments and to cherish the purity, peace and true prosperity of the whole Church of Jesus Christ?

I do so promise, the Lord being my helper.

26	10	Schedule D	Bracket to read ('One of the following authorised forms to be read aloud at Ordination and Induction services').
27	11	8 last line	Delete 'men'
28	11	9 line 4/5	Delete 'men and nations' Insert 'the whole creation may be led more and more to...'
29	11	Heading	Delete 'The following...' Insert 'Alternative Version'
30	13	2 first line	Delete 'Provinces and Provinces' Insert 'National and Provincial Synods and these Synod areas...'
31	13	3(c)	Delete and insert The Synod of each nation or Province to be known as a National or Provincial Synod.
32	14	(2)line 2	Delete clause in brackets
33	15	3(b)	Delete clause in brackets
34	15	3(b)	Delete 'Provincial'
35	15	3(c) line 3	Delete 'Provincial'
36	15	3(e)	Delete 'Provincial'
37	16	3(i) line 12	Delete 'Provincial' Insert 'Moderator of Synod'
38	16	3(i) line 17	Delete 'Provincial'
39	17	3(xix) line 3.	Delete 'laymen' Insert 'laypeople'
40	18	4 line 1	Delete 'Provincial' Insert 'The Synod of each nation or Province...'
41	18	4 line 2	Delete 'Province' Insert 'area'
42	18	4(a)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod'
43	18	4(b)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod area'
44	18	4(c)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod area'
45	18	4(d)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod'
46	18	4(h)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod area'
47	18	4(j)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod area'
48	18	Moderators line 1	Delete 'Provincial'
49	18	Moderators line 3	Delete 'he' Insert 'such a Moderator'
50	19	Moderators line 4	After 'sixty-seven' Insert 'years'
51	19	Line 5 to 16	This section re-arranged in numbered clauses so that functions are more clearly seen.
52	19	4(ii)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod area'

53	19	4(iii)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod area'
54	19	4(v)	Delete bracketed passage
55	19	4(vi)	Delete bracketed passage. Insert 'candidates for the auxiliary and stipendiary ministry'
56	20	4(xii)	Add after 'action', 'and in Scotland and Wales to undertake responsibility for national ecumenical relationships and, on behalf of the General Assembly, to appoint representatives to national agencies for ecumenical co-operation.'
57	20	5(b) line 1	Delete 'Provincial'
58	20	5(b) line 2	Delete 'Provincial'
59	20	5(b) line 4	Delete 'Provincial'
60	21	5(e)	Delete present clause and insert 'Up to twelve missionaries of the United Reformed Church on furlough or such other number as the Assembly shall from time to time determine.'
61	21	5(f)	Delete three bracketed references.
62	21	5(f)	Delete last clause and insert 'and three representatives from each Synod except the Synod of Scotland which shall appoint nine.'
63	22	5(vii)	Insert after Wales, 'the Scottish Congregational College'
64	23	5(xiv)	Delete first 'Provinces' Insert 'Synod areas' Delete second 'Provinces' Insert 'Synods'
65	23	5(xviii)	Delete 'Provincial'
66	23	10(i)c	Delete 'Provincial'
67	23	10(i)e	Delete 'Provincial'
68	23	10(2)	Delete 'Province' Insert 'Synod'
69	23	12 line 4	Delete 'Provincial'
70	23	12 line 5	Delete 'Provincial'
71	23	12 line 8	Delete 'Provincial'
72	23	12 line 9	Delete 'Provincial'
73	24	12 line 1	Delete 'Provincial'

The following amendments to the Basis and Structure were approved by the URC General Assembly in 1987 and are expected to come before the General Assembly in 1988 for ratification. They are included here for information and convenience and have been printed in Part IV of this document. They are not part of these proposals and will be voted on separately by the URC General Assembly.

101	16	9(3)(g)	Delete 'Emeritus'. Insert 'A retired minister who...'
102	16	9(3)(h)	Delete 'Emeriti'. Insert 'All retired ministers not covered...'
103	16	9(3)(iii)	Delete 'Minister Emeritus' Insert 'retired minister'
104	17	9(3)(viii)	Delete clause. Re-number ix to xix to be viii to xviii.
105	18	First line	Delete xix. Insert xviii.
106	18	9(4)(g)	Delete 'Emeritus'. Insert 'A retired minister who...'
107	18	9(4)(h)	Delete 'Emeriti'. Insert 'All retired ministers not covered by clause 9(4)(g) residing in the Synod area who...'
108	20	9(4)(xv)	Delete clause. Re-number xvi and xvii to be xv and xvi.

PART IX

THE UNIFYING ASSEMBLY

A. Arrangements

1. Arrangements for the Unifying Assembly will be made by the Joint Negotiating Group, and it will be held in Scotland.
2. Membership in the Unifying Assembly will be the membership of the Assembly of the Congregational Union of Scotland and the membership of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.
3. The presiding officer for the Unifying Assembly to the point of passing the unifying declaration will be the Chairman of the Congregational Union of Scotland, and from that point the Moderator of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain.
4. The costs as regards the individual members shall be carried by the two churches in their own ways and the overhead costs will be carried by the two churches equally up to the point of unification, and any costs remaining to be paid after the date of unification will be met by the URC central budget.

B. Business

By the time of the Unifying Assembly there may be additional material requiring decision and action, but the following are the main resolutions that will be needed after the passing of the Unifying Declaration which will include the declaration by resolution adopting the name The United Reformed Church in Great Britain.

1. A resolution to inform other bodies that unification has taken place.
2. A resolution which provides for the setting up of the Synod of Scotland and for its first meeting.
3. A resolution appointing the Moderator of the Synod.
4. A resolution affirming continued membership in CWM, BCC, Scottish Churches Council and other co-operative bodies.
5. A resolution appointing any other officers of the General Assembly who will be resident in Scotland.
6. A resolution instructing the Faith and Life Department and the Ministries Department to undertake an enquiry into the patterns of eldership, diaconal ministries and lay leadership generally, in the present ecumenical context, in order to advise the Assembly on whether the existing provisions in the URC need amendment; and to report within four years.
7. A resolution instructing the Faith and Life Department to consider the implications of the Community of Women and Men in the Church and whether there are consequences for the central organisation of the URC still to be faced.
8. A resolution approving a new list of theological colleges and courses as recognised for the training of ordinands.

APPENDIX A

SYNOD OF SCOTLAND

1. Staffing

The Joint Negotiating Group proposes that the staffing of the Office should be as follows:

The Moderator, whose functions are set out in the Basis and whose method of nomination is described in Section V.B.II. The Executive Officer, who will be responsible for the procedures of the Synod and its office and who will share with the Moderator the representation of the Synod in ecumenical and community affairs. The Executive Officer will be appointed by the Synod.

It is recommended that the office of the Synod be in Glasgow. It is also recommended that the present CUS post of World Mission Secretary become an appointment of the central World Church and Mission Department but that the post be located in Scotland. In this way a much fuller integration of mission advocacy and education could be achieved.

2. The responsibilities of the Synod are specified in the Basis and Structure (9(4)) but the Joint Negotiating Group feel it would be helpful to suggest how these duties might be fulfilled. The Synod will need to appoint committees to carry forward its work and the following are offered:-

General Council
Ministry Committee
Administration Committee
Outreach Committee
Church Life Committee

General Council could act as an executive committee for the Synod, making recommendations on the remit of other committees and allocating their responsibilities. It could appoint working parties or sub-committees to deal with matters such as nominations. The Moderator, Executive Officer, Treasurer, the Chairman and Secretary of each Synod committee, the Chairman and Secretary of each District Council could make up the membership, with powers of co-option.

Ministry Committee would have responsibility for all matters to do with ministerial oversight, accreditation, welfare, training, support and education on behalf of the Synod.

Administration Committee would have responsibility for all matters to do with finance and property on behalf of the Synod including the detail of negotiations with the Assembly Finance and Administration Department and the preparation of accounts and budgets.

Outreach Committee would have responsibility for advocacy of all forms of mission and the promotion of ecumenical relations.

Church Life Committee would have responsibility for matters relating to the support and development of the faith and life of local congregations including youth and children's work, women's work and all forms of adult education.

The Moderator, Executive Officer and Treasurer would be ex officio members of all committees, and any officers employed by the Synod will be assigned committee responsibilities as appropriate.

3. The structure of committees in each District Council may need to mirror the Synod structures to some extent, although the experience of many existing URC District Councils is that a Pastoral Committee exercising personal care for the life of all ministers and churches within the District is essential. The District Council will need to be assured that its committee structures enable it to fulfil its obligations in the Basis and Structure (9(3)). The committees might be:

General Purposes and Finance
Pastoral, including Ministry
Outreach
Church Life

The District Chairman and Secretary will find themselves called to offer leadership over and above the conduct of meetings, and provision may be made to ensure continuity in the office of Secretary.

4. The local churches will all be directly represented on the District Council and the Synod but it may be advisable for them to nominate correspondents to receive direct communications from the Synod and District Council on such matters as Ministry, Mission, Ecumenical Relations, Finance, Property, Women's Work, Youth Concerns and Christian Education.
5. It is advisable to ensure that no one is required to carry Synod office for too long and that there is provision for changing and renewing committee membership. This may be achieved by setting a normal term of appointment in committee and offices within the Synod of Scotland of three years, renewable for one further term after which members would be ineligible for appointment for at least one year. An exception might be made for the Secretaries of District Councils. Powers of co-option could be made available to committees but limited to two or three members.
6. Whatever Standing Orders and procedures are adopted by the Synod of Scotland and its District Councils, it will be advisable to make provision for review after the first three years and postpone any major revision of the structures until there is a body of experience about the needs of the URC churches within Scotland.

APPENDIX B

PROVISIONAL DISTRICT COUNCIL STRUCTURE IN SCOTLAND

This proposal will be available to the Synod of Scotland for its decision.

Name of Church	Parts of a Ministerial Charge	Members	No of Churches	General Assembly Reps
Northern District				
Aberdeen — Mastrick	1.00	100		
Aberdeen — Bridge of Don	1.00	129		
Aberdeen — St Nicholas	1.00	429		
Aberdeen — Woodside	1.00	102		
Shetland	1.00	90		
Kirkwall	.50	61		
Thurso	1.00	117		
Avoch	1.00	150		
Cruden Bay	.00	12		
Fraserburgh	1.00	150		
Inverurie	.00	12		
Nairn	1.00	95		
Peterhead	1.00	100		
	10.50	1547	13	4
Central District				
Montrose	1.00	193		
Newburgh	.75	105		
Perth	1.00	430		
Dundee	1.00	339		
Broughty Ferry	.50	80		
Forfar	.00	25		
Dunning	.50	108		
Tillicoultry	.50	152		
Kirkcaldy — West End	1.00	339		
Kirkcaldy — Pathhead	.50	70		
Kirkcaldy — URC	.25	40		
Dundee — URC	.15	28		
Coaltown — URC	.10	22		
Dunfermline	1.00	252		
	8.25	2183	14	6
Eastern District				
Musselburgh	1.00	310		
Portobello	.50	42		
Leith	1.00	256		
Edinburgh — URC	1.00	94		
Edinburgh — Augustine	1.00	145		
Edinburgh — Dalry	.50	50		
Edinburgh — Granton	1.00	144		
Edinburgh — Morningside	1.00	214		
Edinburgh — Saughtonhall	1.00	244		
Livingstone	1.00	100		
Bathgate	1.00	151		
Avonbridge	.50	70		
Falkirk	.50	72		
Falkirk — URC	.00	24		
Galashiels	.50	93		

Selkirk	.50	85		
Hawick	1.00	131		
Newcastleton	.50	77		
	13.50	2302	18	6
Airdrie District				
Airdrie — Coatdyke	1.00	220		
Airdrie — Ebenezer	1.00	320		
Airdrie — Park	1.00	145		
Bellshill	1.00	141		
Coatbridge	1.00	205		
Cumbernauld	1.00	202		
Motherwell	.75	110		
Wishaw	1.00	186		
Uddingston	.25	33		
Blantyre	.50	109		
Hamilton	.50	135		
	9.00	1814	11	6
Lanark District				
Carluke	1.00	336		
Lanark	.50	70		
Larkhall	1.00	168		
Shotts	1.00	150		
Stonehouse	1.00	120		
Strathaven	1.00	388		
East Kilbride	1.00	320		
East Kilbride — URC	1.00	77		
	7.50	1629	8	4
Glasgow District				
Broomhill Trinity	.50	94		
Cathcart	1.00	188		
Coplaw Street — URC	.50	50		
Drumchapel	1.00	132		
Easterhouse	1.00	25		
Giffnock	1.00	406		
Govan	.50	70		
Kilsyth	1.00	100		
Knightswood	1.00	455		
Lloyd Morris	1.00	100		
Mosspark	1.00	130		
Parkhead	1.00	278		
Partick	1.00	107		
Pollokshields	1.00	114		
Priesthill	.50	60		
Rutherglen	1.00	230		
Shawlands — URC	.50	50		
	14.50	2589	17	8
Western District				
Barrhead	1.00	374		
Clydebank — Morison	1.00	298		
Clydebank — Radnor Park	.50	75		
Dumbarton	1.00	268		
Greenock — East	1.00	150		
Greenock — George Sq	1.00	220		

Greenock — Nelson St	1.00	378		
Helensburgh	1.00	144		
Oban	.50	35		
Paisley	1.00	246		
Port Glasgow	1.00	160		
	10.00	2348	11	6

South Western District

Annan	1.00	150		
Ardrossan	1.00	172		
Beith	.50	106		
Catrine	.50	55		
Cumnock	1.00	340		
Dreghorn	.50	40		
Dumfries	1.00	108		
Kilmarnock	1.00	290		
Kilwinning	1.00	184		
Saltcoats	.50	46		
Sanquhar	.50	50		
Stewarton	.50	116		
Thornhill	.25	40		
	9.25	1697	13	6

TOTALS **81.75** **16139** **105** **46**

**Total Assembly
Representatives** **46**

Plus Synod — 9 **55**

Three Districts cover wide areas: Northern would require to fly representatives from the islands at least once yearly, Eastern could meet in two parts (Border and Edinburgh) as could South Western (Kilmarnock and Dumfries) except for once a year.