

## Session Six

The Moderator, the Revd Fiona Bennett, took the chair.

### 16 Further Ministries Committee Papers

The Moderator invited the Revd Dr Sarah Hall to ask the question of which she had given notice:

*While acknowledging with thanks the generosity of various terms of provision of housing for retired ministers, is the Committee aware of the depth of concern and ill feeling about the new rent policy adopted by RMHS, which is believed by many to be unjust? Please could the committee assure General Assembly that these concerns have been heard and will be considered?*

The Moderator invited the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary of Ministries, to respond. Ms Furley-Smith said:

*Thank you for your question. I should at this point declare I am a director of RMHS.*

*To give some background:*

*The Society's rent setting policy and procedure was previously reviewed in 2019. Without changing the structure of, or methodology used in, setting rents, the review was a light touch one to simplify what was considered at the time a complex and unworkable approach.*

*That review, amongst other changes, reflected that the annual rent increase should be tied to a measure such as CPI(H) or RPI; and added two new bands - up to £300,000 and over £300,000 to the rent matrix.*

*The review did not consider the levels of rent within the rent matrix or compare them to other rents across the housing sector or other methods of rent setting.*

*Since then, the Covid pandemic happened and several environmental events around the world saw an increase in cost of living, driven by higher fuel and material costs. These have impacted the cost of building and maintenance as well as rent, mortgages and house prices.*

*Until 2023, house prices increased significantly, and remained relatively high despite high borrowing challenges faced by many. House prices have an impact on setting the Society's rents as the capital employed is directly related to the monthly rent charged and does not match expenditure.*

*In January 2023 the Board raised the National Ceiling for purchases to £750,000. With only having two bands the residents living in properties purchased at £305,000 and £650,000 were paying the same rent.*

*The new policy seeks to establish a rent setting mechanism that closely resembles the Society's operations, which is a shared ownership methodology by using multipliers against the level of capital employed by the Society in each property. The capital employed is limited to the price of purchase and does not include other on-costs. This mechanism creates better clarity and applies fairness in the way the Society charges rents.*

*The new model is intended to simplify the rent setting process for the RMHS and mean that every resident (existing or new) would pay a rent which exactly reflects the capital employed by the Society to acquire their property. The size and location of the property will determine the purchase price which will then be reflected in the rent set.*

*However, what the policy does not do is recognise that being fair does not mean treating people the same. Ministers do not start from the same position where some may have other income, ie a secular pension or previous employment. There is a danger that the policy will create a postcode lottery for where ministers will be able to afford to retire.*

*It is acknowledged that the best way of letting residents know of this change is not through a newsletter. I also recognise that communication between the RMHS and the residents is poor.*

*At the last RHMS AGM we heard very clearly the negative impact the new rent policy is having on some residents. I therefore want to assure General Assembly that we did hear what was being said. The Ministries Committee RMHS sub Committee is having a joint meeting with the full Board in September and both the rent review impact and the tenant satisfaction survey will be on the agenda.*

In response to a question asked earlier in the day regarding paragraph 23 of Paper G2 *Linking Stipendiary Ministry Costs to M&M Receipts* Ms Furley-Smith assured General Assembly that the Ministries Committee would take the conversation forward.

The Moderator then invited Assembly to return to Paper H3: *Process for Reconfiguring Pastorates and Scopings* and invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor of the Ministries Committee, and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary of Ministries, to continue to lead the discussion.

Ms Furley-Smith assured Assembly that the Ministries Committee would consider, and bring further proposals, to Assembly Executive addressing part-time posts in this process. Ms Furley-Smith explained the Ministries Committee had changed the wording of section 9 of the policy to read:

#### *9. Stipend Support*

*9.1. Where the minister is actively engaging in the Call process, their stipend should continue for six months whilst looking for a new Call.*

*9.2 This support may be continued up to a further 6 months where the minister continues to actively engage with the process.*

*9.3. After 12 months, and where there is a concern for welfare, the Synod Moderator shall make an application to the GA Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee for further stipend support.*

Assembly agreed to these amended words.

#### **Resolution 20**

**General Assembly adopts the process for Reconfiguring Pastorates and Scopings.**

*Agreed*

The Moderator invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor, Ministries Committee, and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith to introduce paper H9 *Withdrawal of Call*.

Ms Furley-Smith asked Assembly to agree to amend the words in Section 6 of Paper H9 to reflect the changed wording in Section 9 in Paper H3 which had just been adopted. Assembly did so.

## **Resolution 29**

**General Assembly agrees the additions to the URC Policy on Withdrawal of Call.**

*Agreed*

The Moderator invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Adrian Bulley, Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary for Ministries, to introduce Paper H10 *Process for the Nomination and Appointment of Synod Moderators and other General Assembly roles reserved for Ministers of Word and Sacraments*.

Ms Thomas indicated that in Annexe 2, 4.3 four members should read three members, and in 3.2 two people should read three people.

In response to a wide-ranging discussion the Ministries Committee agreed to

- incorporate neurodiversity, inclusion and disability along with anti-racism and unconscious bias training into the compulsory training required of panel members.
- further consult to alleviate concerns raised about the reduced number of panel members having a negative impact on diversity and inclusion.
- the Synod Executive - not the Support Group - to initiate the review.

In response to comments suggesting that ageism in the church was the greater issue not age discrimination in the appointment of Synod Moderators, Dr Bradbury responded that whilst ageism is an issue the particular concern of these resolutions is to ensure that the church does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of age.

## **Resolution 30**

**General Assembly adopts the process for the appointment of Synod Moderators as contained in annexe two of paper H10 of General Assembly 2024, effective for processes commenced after 1 January 2025.**

*Agreed*

## **Resolution 31**

**General Assembly adopts the process for the appointment of other General Assembly roles reserved for ministers of Word and Sacraments as contained in annexe three of Paper H10 of General Assembly 2024, effective for processes commenced after 1 January 2025.**

*Agreed*

## **Resolution 32**

**General Assembly requires that the notes for nominating groups for other Assembly-appointed posts as contained in annex four of Paper H10 of General Assembly 2024 be noted and disseminated as appropriate.**

*Agreed*

## **Resolution 33**

General Assembly resolves that:

- i. fixed terms be removed from all current Assembly-appointed minister posts, from the close of General Assembly 2024;
- ii. all future such appointments be untermmed;

- iii. requires that the terms of settlement of all ministers currently serving in such posts be revised to reflect this change.

*This resolution was not sustained by a two thirds majority and so failed.*

#### **Resolution 34**

**General Assembly instructs the Clerk to update the Rules of Procedure as soon as possible to reflect the decisions taken by General Assembly, and that the Business Committee is authorised to approve these changes reflecting the will of General Assembly, and the updated Rules of Procedure be published as soon as possible.**

*Agreed*

The Moderator invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor, Ministries Committee, and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith to introduce Paper H5 *Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) revised*.

#### **Resolution 25**

**General Assembly adopts the revised Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) and commends it for use in local churches/pastorates.**

*Agreed*

The Moderator invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor of the Ministries Committee and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary for Ministries to introduce Paper H7 *Guidelines on Elders in Local Leadership*.

Ms Thomas noted the paper had been amended to reflect that point 2 on the front page had been changed to indicate the “election” not “recruitment” of Elders in local leadership.

Assembly accepted this amendment.

#### **Resolution 27**

**General Assembly adopts the guidelines on Elders in Local Leadership and commends the document for use in Synods.**

*Agreed*

The Moderator invited Ms Sarah Lane Cawte, Convenor of the Mission Committee and the Revd Philip Brookes to continue conversation on Paper I3

Ms Lane Cawte drew Assembly’s attention to the revised working of Resolution 40 which had been disseminated in the Order Paper.

#### **Resolution 40**

**General Assembly calls on the UK Government to observe its obligations under the international Arms Trade Treaty, to cease arms sales to Israel, and to monitor existing embargoes on arms sales to nations that might be supporting Hamas militarily.**

*Agreed*

The Moderator indicated that Resolutions 41,42 and 43 would be taken together.

#### **Resolution 41**

**General Assembly denounces all acts of antisemitism in the UK, expresses deep concern over its unacceptable rise in our communities, and wishes to extend a hand of solidarity to our highly valued Jewish neighbours.**

*Agreed*

#### **Resolution 42**

**General Assembly denounces all acts of Islamophobia in the UK, expresses deep concern over its unacceptable rise in our communities, and wishes to extend a hand of solidarity to our highly valued Muslim neighbours.**

*Agreed*

#### **Resolution 43**

**Given the unacceptable rise in religious hate crime, General Assembly encourages every local church and Synod to reach out in friendship and welcome to their local faith communities using interfaith dialogue and/or other resources available to them for this purpose.**

*Agreed*

#### **Resolution 44**

**In order to encourage learning and deeper awareness, without taking a view itself on these terms, General Assembly instructs Mission Committee in collaboration with the Education and Learning Committee and Youth Assembly, to consider how best to resource the URC with a better understanding of the theologies and history that help to shape and feed the crisis in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory as these relate to:**

- i. Christian Zionism and Supersessionism**
- ii. The Balfour Declaration**
- iii. Antisemitism and Islamophobia**
- iv. Peace, Violence, Security, and related, relevant topics so that Synods, local churches, and members can grow in their awareness of these issues and respond in loving prayer, gracious advocacy, and Jesus-shaped solidarity.**

*Agreed*

Ms Lane Cawte noted the revised resolution which had been disseminated on the Order Paper.

### **17 Parallel Sessions**

Assembly met in parallel sessions to discuss reports from the Business, Finance, Mission, Worship, Faith & Order, Communications, Equalities, Education & Learning, and Children and Youth Work Committees.

## Sunday 14 July

The chaplains led Assembly worship. The Revd Dr Michael Jagassar led Assembly in a Bible Study.

### Session Seven

The Moderator took the chair.

#### 17 Church Life Review Group

The Moderator invited the General Secretary and Myles Dunnett (Programme Manager, Church Life Review) to introduce paper N1 *Church Life Review Progress Report*.

The Chaplains led Assembly in morning worship.

### Session Eight

The Moderator took the chair.

#### 18 Synod Resolutions

The Moderator invited the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator, North Western Synod and Tim Hopley, Clerk, North Western Synod to introduce paper X2 *A Church with People at the Margins: A Strategy for Mission and Ministry*.

The North Western Synod slightly amended their resolutions (the text had been disseminated in the Order Paper).

The Revd Dr Romilly Micklem moved to remove “instructs...to task groups” and replace with “and asks the Church Life Steering Group to review” delete “bringing a proposal” and replace with “and report to the extraordinary General Assembly in 2025.” in Resolution 53. Many members of Assembly indicated they would second this.

*Assembly agreed*

#### **Resolution 52:**

**In response to General Assembly 2023 resolution 31 (c), General Assembly commends the North Western Synod's strategy document ‘A Church with People at the Margins: A Strategy for Mission and Ministry’ to the wider church. General Assembly encourages all parts of the United Reformed Church to reflect on its implications for their own areas of responsibility.**

*Agreed*

#### **Resolution 53:**

**General Assembly requests that Synods, Assembly Committees and Task Groups consider the implications of the North Western Synod report, ‘A Church with people at the margins’ particularly in respect of the priority given to the allocation of resources (people, finance and other) for ministry and mission to churches working with those experiencing poverty and marginalisation, and asks the Church Life Steering Group to review the feasibility of establishing a Community Enabling Fund that any church within the United Reformed Church can apply to, in order to support and develop their presence**

and engagement with people experiencing poverty and marginalisation, and report to the extraordinary General Assembly in November 2025.

*Agreed*

## **19 Matters dealt with En Bloc**

The General Secretary moved the en bloc matters.

*Paper A3 Terms of Reference for Children's and Youth Work Committee, A4 Worship, Faith & Order Terms of Reference, A5 Terms of Reference for Ministries Committee, A6 Revised Terms of Reference for the Pastoral, Reference and Welfare Committee, A7 Terms of Reference for the Education and Learning Committee, A10 New Nominations Committee and Safer Recruitment, H2 Accreditations (CRCW & SCM) sub-committee – Change of name to the Accreditations sub-committee, H6 Basis of Union paragraphs 19-24: Ministry in the United Reformed Church, H8 Amending the Basis of Union Paragraph 24, P1 Local United Reformed Church Constitutions, J1 Report to General Assembly 2024, J2 Supplementary Report to General Assembly 2024, T1 Safeguarding Annual Report, and X1 Northstowe Church Network (LEP) becoming a local United Reformed Church,*

### **Resolution 1**

**General Assembly adopts the revised terms of reference for Children's and Youth Work Committee as contained in Paper A3 General Assembly 2024.**

### **Resolution 59**

**General Assembly adopts the revised terms of reference for the Worship, Faith, and Order Committee as contained in Paper A4 of General Assembly 2024**

### **Resolution 2**

**General Assembly adopts the Terms of Reference for the Ministries Committee as contained in Paper A5 of General Assembly 2024.**

### **Resolution 3**

**General Assembly adopts the revised terms of reference for the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee as contained in Paper K1 of General Assembly 2024.**

### **Resolution 4**

**General Assembly adopts the revised terms of reference for the Education and Learning Committee as contained in Paper D2 of General Assembly 2024.**

### **Resolution 10**

**General Assembly offers profound thanks to Helen Lidgett and Margaret Marshall for their work as Convenor and Secretary of the Nominations Committee as they step down from these roles at this General Assembly 2024.**

### **Resolution 11**

**General Assembly appoints Victoria Paulding to serve as the Convenor of the new Nominations Committee from General Assembly 2024 to General Assembly 2028.**

### **Resolution 12**

**General Assembly appoints the representatives reflecting the diversity of the Church to the new Nominations Committee as named in supplementary reports to Assembly.**

## **Resolution 19**

**General Assembly agrees to the change of name of the Accreditations (CRCW & SCM) sub-committee to the Accreditations sub-committee.**

## **Resolution 26**

**General Assembly adopts the changes to Schedule A of The Manual with regards to Ministry in the United Reformed Church (paragraphs 19-24). (changes in blue)**

### **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 Sacrament 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 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 **as committed disciples** 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 part shall in the case of Ministers and elders be termed ordination and in the case of Church Related Community Workers be termed commissioning. In the United Reformed Church all ministries within the life of the Church shall be open to both men and women. Appropriate affirmations of faith shall be made by those entering upon all ministries within the life of the Church.**

**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. The ordination and induction of Ministers shall be in accordance with Schedules C and D. 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.**

**Their service may be stipendiary or non-stipendiary, and in the latter case the service is given within an area of a Synod, and in the context it has approved.**

**22 Some are called to the ministry of Church Related Community Work. After approval, preparation and training, they may be called to be Church Related Community Workers in a post approved by the United Reformed church, event, commission to the office of Church Related Community Worker, and inducted to serve in a particular post for a designated period. This commissioning and induction shall be in accord with schedules D&F. Church Related Community Workers are commissioned to care for, to challenge, and to pray for the community, to discern**



with others, God's will, for the well-being of the community, and to endeavour to enable the church to live out its calling to proclaim with love and mercy through the working with others in both church and community for peace and justice in the world. Their service may be stipendiary or non stipendiary, and in the latter case their service is given within the area of a Synod and in a context it has approved.

23 Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers are called to serve by God and, as members of the church, live out their committed discipleship as office-holders, in which their membership, service to, support and relationship with the Church and community has never created, has never been intended to create, and does not create any contractual relations.

24 The church cares for and supports these office-holders, whether stipendiary or non-stipendiary, through careful training, loving nurture, and prayerful oversight. As office-holding members of the church, ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers are accountable through the church's various Councils for the satisfactory performance of their ministries. Through the Councils of the Church, discernment through the Holy Spirit is found regarding: accepting candidates for ministry, the nurture and support necessary for flourishing of church and office-holder, their deployment to particular ministries, the oversight necessary for healthy discipleship and for the circumstances when it is necessary to lay down the responsibilities of being an office-holder.

#### **Resolution 28**

**General Assembly amends the Basis of Union paragraph 24 to read (new words in blue)**

24. All other ministries recognised by the uniting churches at the date of unification (as defined by the United Reformed Church Act 1981) shall continue to be exercised in the United Reformed Church without further commissioning, subject always to the decisions of the General Assembly. The URC 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. **The affirmations in Schedule B (adapted for the particular ministry) shall be made by those entering upon all such ministries within the life of the church.**

#### **Resolution 46**

**General Assembly appoints committees and representatives of the Church as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Report, subject to the adoptions and corrections contained in supplementary Reports to Assembly.**

#### **Resolution 47**

**General Assembly accepts the resignations set out in paragraph 6 of this report and discharges them with thanks for their service.**

#### **Resolution 48**

**General Assembly dissolves the Nominations Committee from the close of General Assembly 2024. General Assembly discharges the officers and members and thanks them for their service. General Assembly transfers its functions and responsibilities to the new Nominations Committee set up by the 2024 General Assembly.**

### **Resolution 49**

**General Assembly dissolves the following committees from the close of General Assembly 2024: Finance Committee, Communications Committee, Human Resources Committee and the Church House Management Group. General Assembly discharges the members and thanks them for their service. For the avoidance of doubt, General Assembly transfers any functions and responsibilities not explicitly mentioned to the Resources Committee with effect from the close of General Assembly.**

### **Resolution 50**

**Assembly thanks the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins for his ten years' service as Clerk of General Assembly and offers him its good wishes for his future ministry.**

### **Resolution 51**

**General Assembly receives Northstowe Church Network (LEP) as a local church of the United Reformed Church.**

*All en bloc business was agreed.*

### **20 Thanks to the Clerk**

The General Secretary thanked the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins for his 10 years of service as Clerk to the Assembly. The Moderator presented a gift and Dr Hopkins delivered a suitable reply.

### **21 Referral to the Synods**

In accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, the General Secretary proposed that Resolution 26 be referred to Synods, with a final date for responses to him by 31 March 2025.

*Agreed.*

In accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, the General Secretary proposed that Resolution 28 be referred to Synods, with a final date for responses to him by 31 March 2025.

*Agreed.*

## **Session Nine**

The Moderator invited the Clerk to move Saturday's minutes (up until 4pm) for approval subject to minor typographical changes.

*Agreed*

### **22 Ministries**

The Moderator invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor, Ministries Committee and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary for Ministries to introduce Paper H4 Amendments to the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration.

Ms Thomas indicated that further consultation on the Plan for Partnership would be undertaken.

Questions, comments, and discussion on Resolution 21 resulted in assurances from the General Secretary over the issue of dependents would take place bearing in mind the complexity of ownership of manses.

Mr John Skipworth moved that Resolution 21 be referred back to the Committee for further work under Standing Order 12.2. Many members of Assembly indicated they were willing to second this. After further discussion Assembly voted against this procedural motion.

After further discussion Ms Jo Harris moved that question be now put under Standing Order 12.13. The Revd Professor David Thompson seconded. Assembly Agreed.

### **Resolution 21**

**General Assembly agrees to a change of wording in 6.3.2 from spouse and children to spouse/partner and dependent children in 6.3.2.**

*Agreed*

### **Resolution 22**

General Assembly recommends that the Fixed Car allowance be increased from £1,200 to £2,400 for cars and £300 to £600 for motorcycles, and urges local churches to implement this from September 2024.

The Revd Steve Faber and Steve Powell moved that the words “September 2024” be changed to “January 2025”. The Ministries Committee has indicated that they are content to accept the amendment and Assembly also agreed this change.

Following discussion the Clerk moved an amendment to change the resolution to:

### **Resolution 22**

**General Assembly changes the rate of the Fixed Car Allowance from £1,200 to £2,400 and the Fixed Motorcycle Allowance from £300 to £600 in the Plan for Partnership from 1st January 2025.**

Many members of Assembly agreed to second this. Assembly accepted the amendment.

Mr John Everleigh moved to add the words “and the rate of RPI annually.”

The Moderator ruled the amendment out of order as the financial impact of this resolution had not been considered. Ms Furley-Smith, however, assured Assembly that more regular reviews of rates in the Plan for Partnership would take place.

The Revd Dr Trevor Jamison urged the Ministries Committee to consider changing the system so that the financial burden is eased for those poorer pastorates. Ms Furley-Smith agreed that the Ministries Committee will look at this.

Assembly agreed Resolution 22.

## **23 Jubilee & New Ministers**

The Moderator invited Assembly to celebrate Jubilee Ministers

Minister ordained for 75 years  
Peter John Humphrey Brewer

Ministers ordained for 70 years:

Malcolm Hill

Brian Edward Ranford

Anthony David Tucker

Ministers ordained for 60 years:

Robert John Blows	Anthony John Coates	James Ashford Hollyman
Neville Jarrett	Frank Jones	Joseph Ross McLaren
Derek Alan Newton	Robert Freeland Philip	
Adrian Stanley John Phippen		
Stephen Mitchell Thornton	Derek Geoffrey Wensley	

Ministers ordained for 50 years

George Clifford Graham Bembridge	Bernard Alan Collins	Richard Frank Davis
Anita Margaret Evans	Peter Heckels	Walter John Houston
David Howlett	Ann Frances Jackson	Anthony Roger Lee
William Dick McNaughton	Gerald Christopher Moule	John Maldwyn Parry
Rodney John Wood		

The Moderator greeted newly ordained ministers, newly commissioned Church Related Community Workers and ministers new to their URC roles:

- The Revd Roberta Mary Ritson serving at Bellingham LEP, Wark LEP and Horsley Village Church
- The Revd Louise Sanders serving at St Andrew's, Monkseaton & Trinity, Ashington LEP
- The Revd Gilbert Esuh Esambe from the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon serving in the Lancashire East Missional Partnership
- The Revd Walt Wallace Johnson serving at the Bolton & Salford Missional Partnership
- The Revd Karen Helen Jones serving the North Staffordshire Group: Burslem; Chesterton; Longton; Tomkin; Uttoxeter
- The Revd Mark Andrew Rodgers serving in the Shropshire Team Ministry: Preeshenlle URC, Christ Church URC/PCW, Shrewsbury URC; Church Stretton URC, Oakengates Telford URC, Trinity Newport URC
- The Revd Gillian Barbara Bailey serving with Christ Church Milton;
- The Revd Stanslous Chatikobo serving Trinity Church, Ashwell & Walkern & Sandon United Church;
- The Revd Margaret Ruth Dewis serving Bush Hill Park; Christ Church; Lancaster Road
- The Revd Nathan Glover Eddy
- The Revd Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal serving at Bexley, Geddes Place & Emmanuel Sidcup
- The Revd David George Cumbers serving at All Saints, Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, and Hassocks
- The Revd John Francis Arthur O'Hanlon serving at Rivertown URC.
- Ms Alice Victoria Louise Gilbert serving Priesthill and Shawlands CRCW Project
- The Revd Derek McDonald serving Greenock East URC

## Session Ten

### 24 Ministries

The Moderator invited the Revd Mary Thomas, Convenor, Ministries Committee and the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary for Ministries to continue to lead discussion on Paper H4 Amendments to the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration.

After some discussion the Revd Dr Romilly Micklem moved that the matter be now put under Standing Order 12.13 A number of members of Assembly agreed and the resolution was put.

### Resolution 23

**General Assembly agrees a change of wording from Ministerial Working Week to Ministerial Hours in paragraph 7 of the Plan for Partnership..**

The new paragraph will read:

#### Ministerial Hours

The 2010 General Assembly resolved that there should be more clarity in defining hours of service and recommended that, translated into hours in a four-week period, a minister should be serving no less than 160 hours and not more than 192 hours.

*Agreed*

#### Resolution 24

**General Assembly agrees the changes to holiday entitlement in paragraph 8 of the Plan for Partnership to include when to carry over holiday to the following year for sick leave, parental leave or Jury Service; expectations for sabbatical and holiday leave; Bank Holidays and days in lieu for Christmas Day and Good Friday.**

*Agreed*

#### 25 Gaza and Israel

The Moderator invited Ms Sarah Lane Cawte, Convenor Mission Committee, and the Revd Philip Brooks, Deputy General Secretary (Mission), to continue to lead Assembly in discussion of paper I3

Mr Brooks commented that Resolution 45 was offered to test the mind of Assembly about whether it wishes to request the URC Trusts to consider increasing the screening of investments to include Israeli registered companies, not just ones which benefit from the occupation. He reminded Assembly that this can only be a request as the Trusts are independent. If the Trusts were willing to consider the request in Resolution 45 a practical route to screen out such investments would have to be explored, as has been done over the past three years with the 2021 resolutions. The passing of Resolution 45 though would be an indicator of our collective desire to hold the Israeli Government to account. By this we mean their actions in the occupied Palestinian territory and the contravention of international law in terms of settlements, forced house demolitions and the acquisition of land by coercion as described in Resolution 30 of 2021 General Assembly.

After lengthy discussion the matter was remaindered to consider alternative working.

#### 26 Commemoration of Deceased Ministers and closed churches

The Chaplains led Assembly in evening worship where the ministers who had died over the last year were remembered, as were the churches which had closed.

Ministers & CRCWs who have died since Assembly last met and the start of this Assembly. With gratitude and prayer Assembly held in love the following ministers:

Brian Baker	Phyllis Ball	John Bassett	John Belderson
John Braund	Charles Brock	John Clark	Valerie Davies
Laurence Dixon	Douglas Farquhar	Kenneth Fear	Grenville Fisher
Alan Gaunt	Peter Grimshaw	Geoffrey Harmer	John Hopkins
John Johnahsen-Berg	Nigel Lemon	Anne Lindsay	Cecil Macaulay
Ted Marley OBE	Barbara Meachin	Chris Mellor	John Mitchell
Lesley Newton	Brian Rawling	Ivor Rees	Basil Rogers
Paul Smith	Peter Southcombe	Daphne Topple	Rikki Twigg
John Wade	Michael Wear	Kenneth Wilkinson	

With thanks for the mission and ministry of local churches General Assembly remembered:

Falstone with Kielder, Northumberland  
Warkworth, Northumberland  
St Andrew's Silloth, Cumbria  
Trinity United, Cheetham, Manchester  
St George's, Southport  
Christ Church, Castleford, West Yorkshire  
Cornerstone Church, Great Horton, Bradford, West Yorkshire  
Stainland and Holywell Green, Halifax  
Castle Square, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire  
Ermine, Lincoln  
Great Doddington, Northamptonshire  
Independent Chapel (URC), Earl Shilton, Leicestershire  
Rose Hill, Chesterfield  
Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire  
Bournville, Birmingham  
Coleshill United, Birmingham  
Trinity Church, Hednesford, Staffordshire  
Brentwood, Essex  
Christ Church, Colchester  
Dunmow, Essex  
Fowlmere, Hertfordshire  
Abbey Meads Church of Christ the Servant, Swindon  
Bedminster, Bristol  
Emmanuel, Ilfracombe, Devon  
Trinity, Plymouth, Devon  
Upton Cheyney, Bristol  
Hedge End, Southampton  
Woodley Airfield Church, Berkshire  
Trinity, Camden Town, London  
The Hyde, Colindale, London  
Heaton Way, Romford  
Manor Road, London  
Crundale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire  
New Street United Church, Welshpool, Powys.

The Assembly adjourned, to meet again tomorrow morning.