

# Paper H1

## General Report

### Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee (PWRC)

#### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	The Revd Elizabeth Welch, Convenor PRWC <b>elizabeth@skerratt-welch.org.uk</b> The Revd Jenny Mills <b>jenny.mills@urc.org.uk</b>
<b>Action required</b>	For information only
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>None</b>

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To report the work of the committee and its oversight of welfare funds
<b>Main points</b>	The work of the Committee is necessarily confidential, but the report draws attention to matters of general concern and the potential future of the Committee.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Report to General Assembly 2023
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Synod Moderators, Deputy General Secretary (Ministries), Maintenance of the Ministries Committee

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None but possible transfer to oversight by Ministries (if creation of new Ministers Support and Wellbeing Committee goes ahead)
<b>External (eg ecumenical)</b>	None.

**Introduction** The pastoral reference and welfare committee (PRWC) considers the cases of ministers who are referred to it, usually by Synods, often at times of difficulty. It also deals with welfare and emergency matters including the use of welfare funds. Because of the confidential nature of its work the report is in general terms only.

#### **Committee members:**

Convenor: The Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch [2027]\*\*

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)

Deputy Treasurer

Synod Moderator – Geoffrey Clarke

Nominated Members:

The Revd Ruth Dillon [2028]

Mrs Hilary Miles [2026]\*\*

Mrs Bridget Akinyombo [2028]

Vacancy

In attendance:

The Deputy General Secretary (Ministries)

The committee has continued to meet via Zoom and this has enabled the committee to make decisions in a timely fashion. Urgent requests are occasionally dealt with via email.

We have considered 5 cases this past year.

## Schedule of Welfare grants - 2020 - 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Widow/er Gifts	9,450	11,750	9,000	6,675	12,650	12,650
Education grants	1542	1175	2089	-	-	2,672
Medical grants	-	441	-	-	-	1,304
Special grants	3,839	14,100	11,062	8,273	6,836	1,767
Ministerial Counselling	11,622	10,921	10,793	8,003	7,479	14,429
Christmas gifts	39,500	38,875	40,625	44,550	43,950	44,250
Re-imbursed	(2,750)	(2,875)	(3,105)	(3,000)	(2,850)	(2850)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,202</b>	<b>74,387</b>	<b>70,464</b>	<b>64,501</b>	<b>68,065</b>	<b>74222</b>

Other points to note:

- In the past year there have been discussions around ensuring the appropriate form for the Retired Minister's Benevolent Fund is both easy to complete and contains the necessary information.
- The welfare letter was sent out to all Ministers, explaining support that is available.
- Discussions with the Synod Moderators led to the development of guidelines for when to approach the PRWC. This led to more questions and to the conversation about combining MoM and PRWC Committees as much of the work overlaps.
- The biggest expenses are the Christmas gifts and Widow/er's gifts.
- The funding of the Churches' Ministerial Counselling Service is met from the Ministries budget.
- There was a discussion about Private Medical treatment and the tax implications of this sort of support from synods or the PRWC.
- The Committee met with the Head of Compliance around the Risk Register. All Committees need to have completed such a Register related to their work.

We give thanks to all members of the Committee who serve, and have served, in the past three years. Much of the work is hard and not without tough decisions. Thank you to Izumi Nishizono who oversees the administration of the Committee, Mary Steele who makes the payments and offers her experience and wisdom to our work, and Elizabeth Welch who convenes and leads the Committee with grace, commitment and compassion.

If the decision to combine the PRWC and MoM Committees is agreed at this General Assembly, this will be the final report from PRWC.