









Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees:

Assembly Arrangements:	Mr William McVey
Church and Society:	Revd Martin Camroux
Communications and Editorial:	Revd Martin Hazell
Doctrine, Prayer & Worship:	Revd John Young
Ecumenical:	Vacant
Equal Opportunities:	Revd Wilfred Bahadur
Finance:	Mr Eric Chilton
Interfaith Relations:	Revd Dr John Parry
Life and Witness:	Revd Brian Jolly
Ministries:	Mr John Ellis
Nominations:	Revd Principal Stephen Orchard
Pastoral Reference:	Revd Keith Forecast
Racial Justice:	Revd Andrew Prasad
Training:	Revd John Humphreys
Youth & Children's Work:	Revd Kathryn Price

Synod Clerks:

I	Revd John Durell
II	Mr George Morton
III	Mr Donald Swift
IV	Mrs Val Morrison
V	Mrs Irene Wren
VI	Mr Bill Robson
VII	



Synod I

- A: Revd Colin Biggs, Revd Ed Butlin, Mrs Joyce Calcraft, Ms Ann Honey
- B: Revd Kay Alberg, Mr Ron Golightly, Revd Peter Heckels, Revd David Herbert, Revd Nigel Watson, Mr Peter Yorke, Mrs Alison Watson
- C: Revd Kenneth Harris, Mrs Daphne Clarke, Mrs Dorothy Harris, Mrs Margaret Humberston, Mrs Helen Stephenson
- E: Revd Geoffrey Haigh, Revd Robert Sheard, Mrs Olive Cronie, Mrs Ros Fearon

Synod II

- A: Revd Robert Canham, Revd Anne Gray, Revd Eileen Sambrooks, Mrs Lindsey Cottam, Dr Roger John
- B:

Synod VI

A: Revd Franziska Herring, Revd Ruth Maxey, Revd Geoffrey Rodgers, Mr Geoff Harrison,



- D: Revd David Aplin, Revd Paul Dean, Revd Tony Ruffell, Dr James Anderson, Mrs Rowena Dean, Mrs Mair Luck
- E: Revd Bruce Allinson, Revd David Downing, Revd John Macaulay, Mrs Tina Ashitey, Miss Barbara Leighton MBE, Miss Samira Young
- F: Revd Alison Mackay, Revd Lythan Nevard, Mr Lee Redican, Revd David Skipp, Mr Roy Clark

#### Synod XI

- A: Revd Michael Hensman, Revd Ceri Lewis, Revd Alexander Mabbs, Revd Terry Sparks, Miss Avril Hiscock, Mr David Howell, Mr Romilly Micklem, Mr Benjamin Munyaneza
- B: Revd John Du Bois, Revd John Joseph, Revd Jennifer Millington, Revd Christopher Parker, E k k B a d ; Ye h Z ] o E j ' H Y m d ? j a P f \$ E a k k ' @ Y j j a I ' D a f \ k Y o \$ E j ' E Y I I ` ] o ' E g j ] I g f
- C: Revd Jack Beeson, Revd Jim Horne, Mrs Marion Bayley, Miss Lizzie King, Mr Peter Sheehan, Mr John Twidale, Miss Louisa Weeks\*
- D: Revd Richard Alford, Revd Peter Clark, Revd Alan Wharton, Mr Richard Blackwell
- E: Mrs Anne Catherall, Mr Jim Catherall, Mr James Wells, Mrs Susan Wootton
- F: Revd Michael J Davies, Revd Roy Cole, Revd Dr Gerald Munro, Dr Sas Conradie, Miss Sarah Perry, Mrs Christine Robertson
- G: Revd Peter Elliott, Revd John Gordon, Revd Kenneth Lynch, Mrs Celia Elliott, Mrs Maureen Lawrence, Miss Naomi Lynch

#### Synod XII

- A: Revd Kate Gartside, Revd Simon Walkling, Mrs Maureen Jones, Mr Jonathon Whyler
- B: Revd David Marshall-Jones, Revd Alvan Richards-Clarke, Mrs Sheila Jones, Mr Ron Prosser
- C: Revd Klaus Gutwein, Revd Shelagh Pollard, Revd Gethin Rhys, Ms Bethan Noble, Mrs Christine Roberts, Mr S J Sansom
- D: Revd Stuart Jackson, Revd David Salisbury, Mrs Edwina Davies, Mr Jonathan Price
- E: Revd Alison Davis, Mr Richard Laws
- F: Revd Peter Gaskell, Revd Alan Willcocks, Mr Alwyn Batley, Mrs Liz Tadd

#### Synod XIII

- A: Revd George Sykes, Revd Mary Taylor, Revd John Wylie, Mrs Doris Caldwell, Dr Andrew Davidson, Mrs Kathleen Ziffo
- B: Revd David Coleman, Revd Paul Jupp, Mr Drummond McNicol, Mrs Maureen Stewart, Mr Patrick Smyth
- C: Revd Connie Bonner, Revd Gordon Smith, Mr Clive Bonner, Mrs Margaret Gillan
- D: Mrs Helen Muir, Pastor Jack Muir
- E: Revd Danny Cheyne, Mr David Barr, Mrs Henrietta Colwell, Mrs Mary Howat

#### **Reception of Visitors and Assembly Members from Other Churches**

Local Visitors were introduced by Revd Peter Noble, Moderator, Synod of Wales:

Revd Vaughn Rees, chaplain from the University of Glamorgan  
 Canon Bob Reardon STL, Vicar General, the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales  
 The Revd John Garland, The Covenanted Baptist Churches in Wales

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Presbyterian Church of Wales  
Roman Catholic Bishops Conference  
The Church in Wales  
The Church of Scotland

The Methodist Church  
Union of Welsh Independants  
United Free Church of Scotland

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland  
CYTUN

Conference of European Churches

Revd Dr Donald Watts  
Rt Revd Dr Ken Newell and  
Mrs Newell  
Revd Neil Kirkham  
Revd Andrew Faley  
Revd Canon Enid Morgan  
Dr Alison Elliot OBE  
Revd Eric Cramb and  
Mrs E Cramb  
Revd Sheilagh Kesting  
Revd Martyn Skinner  
Revd Kevin Davies  
Revd John McFie and  
Mrs A McFie  
Mrs Gillian Kingston  
Miss Sylvia Scarf



General Assembly appoints Committees and representatives of the Church as set out in pp 77-84 of the Book of Reports subject to additions and corrections contained in the Supplementary report before Assembly.

## 1. ASSEMBLY STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 **The Nominating Group, convened** by Revd Peter Noble, recommended the appointment of Mr John Brown to serve as Secretary for Youth Work for 5 years from 1 January 2004 until 31 December 2008
- 1.2 The Review Group, convened by Revd David Jenkins, recommended the re-appointment of Revd Arnold Harrison to serve as Moderator for Yorkshire Synod from 1 September 2004 until retirement on 29 February 2008.

## 2. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES and Sub-COMMITTEES

Notes:

- 1 The Moderator, the Moderator-elect, the immediate past Moderator and the General Secretary are members *ex officio* of every Standing Committee.
- 2 Officers and members appointed since Assembly 2003 are indicated by one asterisk (\*), two asterisks (\*\* ) denotes those whom Assembly 2004 is invited to appoint for the first time. (#) indicates a **Convener Elect** who will become Convener in 2005. (: ) indicates a **Secretary Elect** who will become Secretary in 2005.
- 3 The date in brackets following the names indicates the date of retirement, assuming a full term.
- 4 Many committees have cross-representation [e.g. the Ecumenical Committee has representatives from Doctrine, Prayer & Worship, Church and Society, Youth and Children's Work etc.,] These are internal appointments and are not listed here.
- 5 In accordance with the decision of General Assembly 2000 some nominations have been made by the National Synods of Wales and Scotland.

### 2.1 ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS

Convener: Mr William McVey [2006]

Secretary: Office & Personnel Manager

Synod Representative for forthcoming Assembly

Synod Representative for previous Assembly who is then replaced after 'review' meeting by Synod

Representative for Assembly two years hence.

Moderator, oderator, 7(nn)-1s-10(d)T\*(M)-8(o)3-6(e)-13(p-28(m)-946(6o346(6o346(6o346(6o346(6o346(6o346(6o346(6o346(

## 2.4 DOCTRINE, PRAYER and WORSHIP

Convener: Revd John Young [2005]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order

Revd Dr Robert Pope [2005]

Revd Alistair Smeaton [2005]

Revd Prof Alan Sell [2007]

Revd Geoffrey Clarke [2007]

Revd Hilary Collinson [2007]

Revd Dr Susan Durber# [2009]

Miss Sarah Lane [2007]

Dr John Turner [2007]

Mrs Chris Eddowes \*\*[2008]

Revd Jason McCullagh \*\*[2008]

Revd Peter Trow \*\*[2008]

## 2.5 ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd Elizabeth Nash\*\* [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order

Revd Bryan Shirley [2005]

Revd Cecil White [2005]

Revd Rowena Francis [2006]

Mr Malcolm Porter [2006]

Revd Lindsey Sanderson [2006] Mrs Ann Shillaker [2007]

Mrs Pat Gurr \*\* [2008]

Revd Stuart Jackson representing the National Synod of Wales

Revd Mary Buchanan representing National Synod of Scotland

### 2.5.1 ECUMENICAL - INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Chris Baillie [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for International Relations

Revd Birgit Ewald [2005]

Mrs Heather Barnes [2006]

Revd Nigel Uden [2006]

Mrs Eileen McIlveen [2007]

Revd Michael Thomason [2007]

## 2.6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Convener: Revd Wilf Bahadur [2006]

Secretary: Revd Derek Hopkins [2008]

Ms Gloria Bujan [2005]

Mr Derek Estill [2006]

Mr Alan Hart [2006]

Revd Sue MacBeth [2007]

Dr Ruth Shepherd \*\*[2008]

Mrs Louise Sanders \*\*[2008]

## 2.7 FINANCE

Convener: The Treasurer

Secretary: Financial Secretary

Mr John Woodman [2005]

Ms Alison Holt [2006]

Revd David Dones [2007]

Mrs Marie Whitman [2007]

Mr Errol Martin \*\*[2008]

Mr Graham Law \*\*[2008]

Convener of the URC Trust

## 2.8 INTER-FAITH RELATIONS

Convener: Revd Dr John Parry [2007]

Secretary: Mrs Jean Potter [2008]

Miss Marie Williams [2005]

Revd Peter Colwell [2006]

Dr Iain Frew \*\*[2008]

Revd Heather Pollard \*\* [2008]

## 2.9 LIFE and WITNESS

Convener: Revd Brian Jolly [2006]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Revd Kenneth Forbes [2005]

Revd Peter Hurter [2005]

Revd Linda Elliott [2006]

Mrs Sheila Brain [2007]

Mr Colin Ferguson [2007]

Revd Ian Fosten [2007]

Revd Michael Hodgson [2007]

Revd Kate Gray\*\* [2008]

Mr Emmanuel Nkusi\*\* [2008]

### 2.9.1 LIFE and WITNESS - STEWARDSHIP Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Ray McHugh [2008]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Mr Mick Barnes [2005]

Revd David Legge [2006]

Mrs Jackie Haws [2007]

Mrs Susan Wilkinson [2007]

Revd John Durrell \*\* [2008]

### 2.9.2 WINDERMERE ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Mr Jim Wilkinson [2005]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere

Dr Peter Clarke [2005]

Revd Bernard Collins # [2009]

Mrs Irene Wren\*\* [2008]

Convener of Windermere Management Committee, Convener of Life and Witness Committee,

## **2.10 MINISTRIES**

Convener: Mr John Ellis [2006]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Alison Biggs [2005]

Revd Stuart Brock [2005]

Revd Pauline Barnes [2006]

Mrs Joan Trippier [2007]

Revd Paul Whittle [2007]

## **2.12 PASTORAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Convener: Revd Keith Forecast [2007]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Mrs Irene Brunskill [2005]

Revd David Grosch-Miller [2007]    Revd Meryl Court \*\* [2008]

Mrs Sharn Waldron \*\* [2008]

Convener of Welfare Sub-Committee    The Treasurer    The General Secretary

### **2.12.1 PASTORAL WELFARE -Sub-Committee**

Convener: Revd Alan Wharton [2007]

Secretary: Mrs Judy Stockings

[*ex officio* Financial Secretary, The Treasurer, Convener Pastoral Reference Committee]

## **2.13 RACIAL JUSTICE**

Convener: Revd Andrew Prasad [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for Racial Justice

Revd John Campbell [2005]

Mrs Sandra Ackroyd [2007]

Mrs Elaine Patrick [2007]

Revd Norman Setchell [2007]

Revd Carla Grosch-Miller









## **9 GOVERNORS of COLLEGES and SCHOOLS with which the URC is associated**

9.1 Caterham School

Revd Nigel Uden \*\*[2007]

Mr John Mathias \*\*[2008]

9.2 Eltham College

Revd Derek Lindfield [2007]

9.3 Walthamstow Hall

Mrs Margaret Abraham

9.4 Milton Mount Foundation

Revd George Thomas [2006]

Mrs Clare Meachin [2006]

Revd David Cuckson [2006]

Mr Graham Rolfe \*\*[2008]

Mr Brian West \*\* [2008]

9.5

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 5:

## Resolution 5

## Closure of Local Churches

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

Claypath, Durham  
Baker Street, Stockport  
Heywood  
Lower Chapel, Darwen  
Elsecar  
St. Edith's, Wilton  
Cockfosters  
Paddington Chapel  
Wingrave

Northern  
North Western  
North Western  
North Western  
Yorkshire  
Wessex  
Thames North  
Thames North  
Thames North

After brief debate, Resolution 5 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 4:

## Resolution 4

## New Church & Mission Projects

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

Mission Project  
Local Church

Ingleby-net  
Church Langley Church

Northern  
Eastern

Resolution 4 was carried.

The Assembly welcomed the Revd Tom MacMeekin, representing Church Langley.

The Moderator presented a shield made of Lego and created as a memento of the Pilots day at Legoland to each of the 13 synods.

Mr Colin Ferguson moved adoption of Resolution 40:

## Resolution 40

## Hungerford

General Assembly expresses its support for the Hungerford Churches Together in their concern at the BBC proposal to make a programme about the 1987 Hungerford Tragedy. It therefore urges the BBC to reconsider these proposals and instructs the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church to write to the BBC on our behalf, in such terms.

Seconded by the Revd Peter Flint

After debate, Resolution 40 was carried.

**Mission Council**

The Assembly Clerk, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 10:

**Resolution 10**

[Empty resolution text area]

Paragraph 7.1.2 Re-number as 7.1.

Paragraph 8

The Assembly Clerk, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 11:

**Resolution 11**

**New changes to Section O Part I**

General Assembly agree 0 k0/Act. il





After debate, **Resolution 38** was carried.

A film was shown of the Pilots' visit to Legoland.

### **Mission Council**

The Mission Council Report was presented by the Revd D Alasdair Pratt.

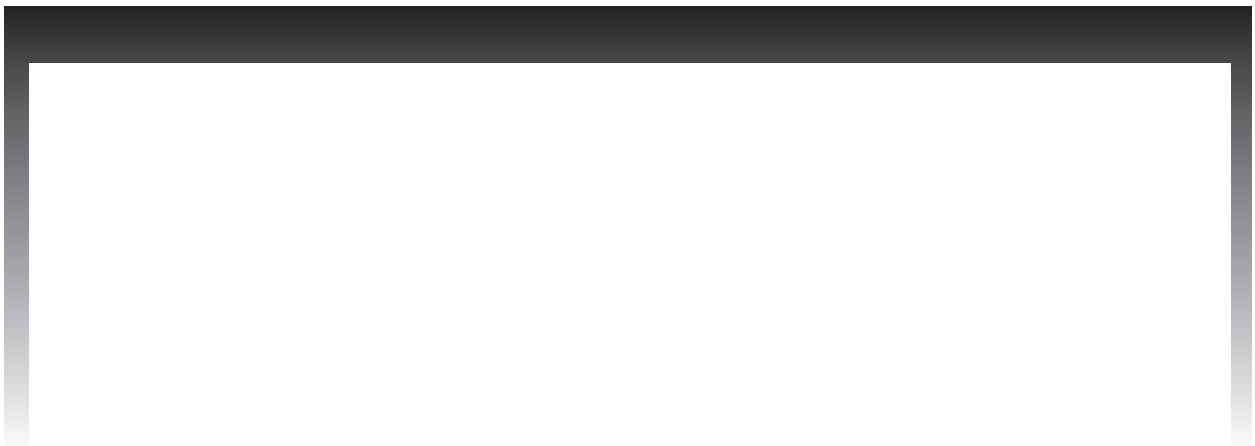
The Revd Ray Adams and Mr John Ellis responded to a number of questions.

Assembly adjourned.

**Sunday 4th July 2004**

**Second Session**

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### Paragraph B.8.1

At the end of the paragraph, add the following words: '(as to the contents of the written notice of suspension, see also Paragraph B.11)'.

### Paragraph B.11

Add a new B.11 as follows:

'The Notice of Suspension, whether issued under Paragraph B.6.2 or Paragraph B.8.1, shall inform the Minister that, in accordance with these Rules of Procedure, any conduct on his/her part which breaches or contravenes Paragraph 4 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union may be taken into account by the Assembly Commission in reaching its decision under Paragraph 10 of Part I.'

### Paragraph B.12

The existing B.11 to become B.12

### Paragraph C.1.6

Add a new Paragraph C.1.6 as follows:

'On receipt of the Minister's response under Paragraph C.1.2 and any documents which may accompany it, provide the Mandated Group with copies thereof.'

### Paragraph C.1.7

Add a new Paragraph C.1.7 as follows:

'In any case arising as a consequence of a Notice of Reference back, where comments are received from either of the parties as a result of a meeting held on 14(r)-43(t)-28(w)-18(h) .xb unt P9(o)-15 -1.263 TD[(m)

**'Paragraph G.6**

Delete the words 'The Moderator of the General Assembly shall be the Convener of the Appeals Commission but s/he...!' and replace them with the words 'The Convener of the Appeals Commission..!'

Resolution 12 was carried

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 14:

**Resolution 14**

**Ratification of Westminster College Bursar**

**(Resolution 8 2003)**

General Assembly agrees to ratify its decision of July 2003 to make the following changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church about the role of the Bursar of Westminster College.

Delete 'and Bursar' from General Assembly function (vi) and replace 'Board of Studies' and with 'Board of Governors' in that same function so that it reads:

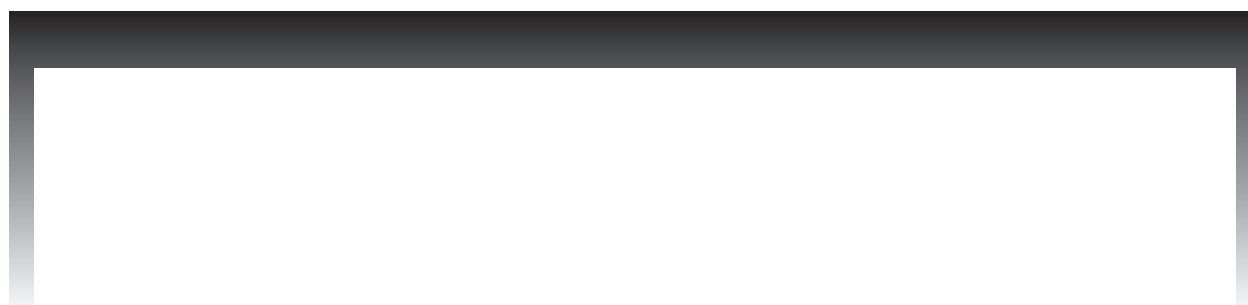
'... to make regulations respecting Theological Colleges belonging to the United Reformed Church, to appoint the principal, professors and other members of the teaching staff, and Board of Governors, and to superintend their work'.

Resolution 14 was carried.



The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair.

**Synod Resolution**



## Resolution 13 Changes to Structure regarding Resignation of Ministers

General Assembly agrees to the following changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church:

Paragraph 2(3)A(viii)

Insert the words 'not currently the subject of any case within the Section O Process for Ministerial Discipline referred to in Function (xviii) below)' after the word 'ministers'.

Paragraphs 2(3)A(xviii), 2(4)A(xiv) and 2(5)A(xxiii)

The General Secretary proposed that: 'In accordance with paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 13 be referred to Synods with the 31st March 2005 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.' **The Assembly agreed.**

On behalf of Mission Council, the Revd Ray Adams moved adoption of Resolution 8:

## Resolution 8

## Racial Justice & Multicultural Ministry

General Assembly agrees that:

- a) the Racial Justice Committee be renamed the Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry Committee;
  - b) there should be cross representation between the Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry Committee and
- ue -11(t)-37(w)-3(e)-19(e)-19(n)-1564-20(t(R)-e)-19(e)-1-14(c)-18(lm7Et)-27(5o)-y saMu  
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## **B. The re-appointment of a serving Synod Moderator**

### *3. Preparing for meeting*

3.1 Before a Review Group is appointed the General Secretary will ascertain from the Moderator concerned whether she/he wishes to be considered for a further period of service. This consultation should take place in time for a Review Group to be formed, consider the matter and reach a conclusion no later than eight months before the end of the current appointment. The Review Group, appointed by the Nominations ; ge e dl]] \$o ad[ gf k&l 'g^bn] 'h] ghq 'jge 'gmka] 'l' ] 'kqf g\ '[gf []]f]\&L' ] '?]f]]YdK]]j]IY]q'gj\$`' &' her absence, the Deputy General Secretary, will provide services to the Group.

3.2 The synod will appoint its own internal Review Panel, consisting of one representative from each District or equivalent structure under the convenorship of the Synod Clerk. The members of this group would be charged to consult as widely as possible within their constituency. They should meet with the synod

## **Catch the Vision**

The General Secretary, on behalf of the Catch the Vision Steering Group continued the presentation of the Catch the Vision Report, and moved adoption of Resolution 43:

### **Resolution 43**

### **Catch the Vision**

**Assembly notes the actions taken by the Catch the Vision Steering Group and endorses its report.**

General Assembly recognising that Communication is at the heart of the Gospel reaffirms the commitment of the United Reformed Church to openness and accessibility in all its discussions and decisions. Accordingly General Assembly instructs the Communications and Editorial Committee, in co-operation with the other committees of General Assembly to work towards:

- a) providing open access to all documents and resources not considered to be confidential;
- b) the facility for interest groups within the church to engage in discussions at a distance;
- c) a framework of common email addresses throughout the church.

Resolution 21 was carried.

Mr Hazell, on behalf of the Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 22:

General Assembly recommends to the churches the leaflet "Get Noticed" as a basis of enhancing their visibility in the community.

Resolution 22 was carried.

Assembly adjourned.

## Monday 5th July 2004

## Second Session

The Assembly Clerk presented the minutes of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The Assembly approved the minutes.

### Eastern Synod

The Eastern Synod made its presentation.

### New Ministers and CRCW's

Synod Moderators introduced ministers and Church Related Community Workers who had been ordained or commissioned since the previous meeting of the Assembly, or transferred from other denominations. (Those whose names had been reported to a previous Assembly but who were received at this Assembly are marked ↗.) Each of those present was greeted in turn and received by the Assembly with applause.

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

Revd Ed Butlin	Felton, Longframlington & Glanton with Branton
Revd Robert Sheard	North Cumbria Group
Mrs Helen Stephenson	Grindon URC, Sunderland

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

Revd Kate Gray Wythenshawe  
 Revd J461(i)-8(a)-28(G)-17(r)-7(o)-8(u)-RedodMlr4.ere present



**Ordained 1934**

Kenneth Raymond SAINSBURY

**Ordained 1944**

Alyn Lloyd DAVIES  
Granville DAVIES  
Edward Philip EASTMAN  
Sidney Samuel Thomas EVANS  
Stanley Horner HODGSON  
Thomas JONES  
Ronald Martin WARD

**Ordained 1954**

Eric Stanley ALLEN  
Anthony John BRADSHAW  
John Ewart FRANCIS  
Colin FURSE  
Gordon Ewart HARRIS  
Malcolm HILL  
Cecil JONES  
John Derek JONES  
Albert Frederick JORDAN  
Sydney Graham LONG  
David Edward MARSDEN  
Stephen Harold MAYOR  
Jeffrey Room PLOWMAN  
Brian Edward RANFORD  
Roy David ROBINSON  
Robin John SLEIGH  
Ronald Dougall SPEIRS  
Kenneth Fred Dennis TRUNKS  
Anthony David TUCKER

Those present were greeted by the Moderator, to the warm applause of the Assembly.

**Training Committee**

The Revd John Humphreys presented the Report of the Training Committee

Mr Humphreys, on behalf of the Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 34:

**Resolution 34**

**Review of Training Needs**

General Assembly encourages the Training Committee in its review of training needs,

General Assembly resolves to rescind the following restriction on Ministers undertaking a sabbatical after the age of 60. '...Ministers are offered...a sabbatical term of up to three months.... but not after the age of 60. A...two month sabbatical will be available... between the ages of 60 and 63' (CME 'Learning for Life Leaf et' 2001, page 4). Applications will now be processed as with most CME requests, via the synod-training officer who will assess the proposal.

Resolution 36 was carried.

Mr Dyce moved adoption of Resolution 37:

- a) General Assembly agrees that all training for Ministers & CRCWs be reconfigured in a single framework called Education for Ministry (EM) in three phases with initial ministerial training as EM 1, Post Ordination and Education Commissioning and Training as EM 2 and Continuing Ministerial Education as EM 3.
- b) General Assembly agrees that Education for Ministry 1 and 2 be reconfigured as a coherent programme, with the learning of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Church Related Community Workers in EM 2 remaining under the care of Synods and the Continuing Ministerial Education sub Committee until the completion of EM 2.
- c) General Assembly welcomes the review of the POET Programme and the implications for the development of POET as spelt out in the text of the Training Committee's Report.

Mr Andrew Francis proposed that the Resolution be now put. Several members of the Assembly indicated



The Moderator resumed the Chair.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Elizabeth Nash, retiring from her post at WARC.

## **Church and Society**

The Revd Martin Camroux presented the Report of the Church and Society Committee.

Mr Camroux, on behalf of the Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 20:

### **Resolution 20**

### **Israeli Separation Barrier**

#### **General Assembly:**

- a) views with deep indignation the Separation Barrier currently being constructed by the Government of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;
- b) believes that the Barrier is causing profound social and economic problems for th



The Moderator invited Mr Schwarz to address the Assembly

The Moderator greeted Sally Thomas as she ends her term of office as Secretary of the Ecumenical Relations Committee.

After prayers led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

## Monday 5th July 2004

## Third Session

### Church and Society

The Revd Martin Camroux, on behalf of the Church and Society Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 19:

#### Resolution 19

#### The Environment

##### General Assembly

- a) affirms its commitment to the Five Marks of Mission with their call to the people of God to be faithful stewards of God's creation and to seek to sustain and renew the life of the earth;
- b) welcomes and endorses 'An environmental policy for the United Reformed Church';
- c) commends churches that have engaged with the United Reformed Church 'Roots and Branches' pack and the subsequent ecumenical 'Eco-Congregation' project; congratulates Zion United Reformed Church Northallerton and Christ Church United Reformed/Methodist Church Ross-on-Wye on gaining the Eco-Congregation Award; and encourages other churches to follow their lead;
- d) pledges its support for Operation Noah, an initiative of the Christian Ecology Link seeking to raise awareness of, and promote action around, the issue of climate change.

After discussion, Resolution 19 was carried.

Mr Camroux moved adoption of Resolution 17:

#### Resolution 17

#### 2005 Campaign to Double Aid and Make Trade Just

##### General Assembly

- a) notes with approval plans for a major mobilization to fight poverty in 2005 incorporating efforts to ensure that the finance is available to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and a concerted campaign to make trade rules work in the interest of poor nations;
- b) pledges its support for this mobilization and for ecumenical action within it.

After discussion, Resolution 17 was carried.

Mr Camroux moved adoption of Resolution 18:

## General Assembly

- a) welcomes the continuing and significant growth in the number of local churches participating in Commitment for Life and the consequent increase in funds raised and campaigning activity;
- b) recognizes the personal effort in promoting the programme put in by advocates in each synod and the effective work of the Director and Programme Assistant;
- c) notes that although there is a continuing focus on partners, through Christian Aid, in four countries, there is an increased and growing emphasis on campaigning for economic justice;
- d) notes the closer relationship between Commitment for Life and the International Relations office and commends to churches the new leaflet produced jointly by both programmes;
- e) agrees that the disbursement of Commitment for Life income shall remain at 75% going to our partners via Christian Aid, 10% for World Development Movement and 15% for Grants and Advocacy;
- f) therefore urges non-participating churches, large and small, to join the Commitment for Life programme, a mission priority of the church, and in the work for justice and peace.

After discussion, the Revd Elizabeth Nash proposed that the Resolution be now put.

Seconded by the Revd Alison Davis. **The Assembly agreed.**

**Resolution 18 was carried.**

Following prayers led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

## Tuesday 6th July 2004

## First Session

Opening worship was conducted by the Chaplain; Bible study was led by the Revd Janet Tollington.

### Nominations

Principal Orchard, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 46:

### Resolution 46

### Synod Moderators

Assembly appoints the following panel for the appointment and review of Synod Moderators:

Revd Craig Bowman  
Dr Jean Silvan Evans  
Mr Simon Rowntree  
Mrs Irene Wren

Mrs Helen Brown  
Mrs Janet Gray  
Mr Ron Todd

Revd Lesley Charlton  
Mr Alun Jones  
Revd Cecil White

**Resolution 46 was carried.**

### Ministries

Mr John Ellis, on behalf of the Ministries Committee, moved adoption of Resolution 29:

General Assembly approves the following procedure regarding applications for reinstatement to the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church.

- a) Ministers who have been removed from the Roll of Ministers by resignation or by Assembly decision, and who wish to apply for re-instatement, shall in the first place consult the Moderator of the Synod of the area where they reside. The application procedure may not normally commence until five years have elapsed from the date their name was removed from the Roll.
- b) The Secretary for Ministries shall be informed by the applicant, who will be advised of the procedure to be followed.
- [!] L` ] `K] [j] IYj q` g`j `E f k l j d k` o ad f gl a q` l` ] j] d n Y f l` K q f g` \ ` g` P [ ] j ` o ` ] j] ` l` ] ` Y h h d [ Y f l` j] k A ] k` g` ^ l` ]` application, and will ask the Synod and District/Area Council to arrange an interview with the applicant. The Secretary for Ministries will ask the Synod that the following documents be obtained by them:
  - i) A personal statement from the applicant which covers:
    - l` ] j] Y k g f k l` g` j l` ] ` \ ] d l a g f ` g` j] k a \_ f Y l a g f \$ Y f \ ` Y j] B] [ l a g f ` g` f l` ] ` [ d [ m e k l Y f [ ] k` k n j j g m f \ f \_ ` d 3
    - an outline of the applicant's personal development and journey of faith since the deletion or resignation;
    - current employment;
    - the reasons for seeking reinstatement, including their current conviction of call to the ministry.
  - ii) At least two personal references in support of the applicant.
  - iii) A commendation from the applicant's local church.
  - iv) A statement from the Moderator of the Synod where the applicant resides, or an equivalent officer in an overseas church, where appropriate.
  - v) A



Seconded by the Revd David Parkin.

The Proposer indicated willingness to accept the amendment.

**The amendment was carried.**

The Revd Malcolm Hanson moved adoption of the following amendment:

add:

*e) Within this process consideration should be given to the views and needs of the congregations where the applicant has served and renumber following paragraphs accordingly"*

Seconded by Mrs Irene Wren

The Convener indicated willingness to accept this amendment.

**The amendment was carried**

After discussion, **Resolution 29, as amended, was carried.**

## **Resolution 29**

## **Reinstatement of Ministers**

General Assembly approves the following procedure regarding applications for reinstatement to the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church.

- a) Ministers who have been removed from the Roll of Ministers by resignation or by Assembly decision, and who wish to apply for re-instatement, shall in the first place consult the Moderator of the Synod of the area where they reside. The application procedure may not normally commence until five years have elapsed from the date their name was removed from the Roll.
- b) The Secretary for Ministries shall be informed by the applicant, who will be advised of the procedure to be followed.
- c) The Secretary for Ministries will notify the relevant Synod officer where the applicant resides of the application, and will ask the Synod and District/Area Council to arrange an interview with the applicant, with the instruction that those appointed to interview the applicant should be people who have had no previous direct involvement with him/her. The Secretary for Ministries will ask the Synod that the following documents be obtained by them:
  - i) A personal statement from the applicant which covers:
    - the reason(s) for the deletion or resignation, and a reflection on the circumstances surrounding it;
    - an outline of the applicant's personal development and journey of faith since the deletion or resignation;
    - current employment;
    - the reasons for seeking reinstatement, including their current conviction of call to the ministry.
  - ii) At least two personal references in support of the applicant.
  - iii) A commendation from the applicant's local church.
  - iv) A statement from the Moderator of the Synod where the applicant resides, or an equivalent officer in an overseas church, where appropriate.
  - v) A medical report, together with a psychiatric evaluation if appropriate.
- d) It should be noted that where the applicant has moved into a different Synod or Area/District since their name was removed from the Roll, the Synod handling the application will seek the observations of the present Moderator of their previous



Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 16:

## Resolution 16

## General Assembly Representation

General Assembly resolves, from the close of General Assembly 2004, to change the representation of district councils (ministerial and lay in equal numbers) from, "one representative per eight churches or part thereof plus one per 800 church members or part thereof" to "one representative per twelve churches or part thereof plus one per 1,200 church members or part thereof".

After debate, it was proposed that this Resolution be deferred to the next Assembly...

The proposal fell.

The General Secretary moved that the Resolution be now put

Seconded by the Revd Janet Tollington **The Assembly Agreed**

**Resolution 16 was carried.**

The Moderator resumed the Chair

## Mission Council

Mr Eric Chilton presented the budget for 2005 and, on behalf of Mission Council, moved adoption of Resolution 9:

## Resolution 9

## Budget for the year 2005

General Assembly accepts the budget for the year 2005, set out in Appendix (7) to the Book of Reports.

After brief debate, **Resolution 9 was carried.**

## Assembly Commissions

The General Secretary reported on Assembly Commissions held during the past year. This report is appended to the Record.

## Catch the Vision

The General Secretary on behalf of the The Steering Group continued the Catch the vision Report Report, and moved adoption of resolution 44:

## Resolution 44

## Catch the Vision

Assembly instructs the Steering Group to prepare appropriate worship material for local churches considering the 'Catch the Vision' report, and to include the prayer of commitment in paragraph 2.2.2.

After debate, it was proposed that Resolution 44 be not put..

The proposal fell

After futher debate, **Resolution 44 was carried.**

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 42:

## Resolution 42

## Catch the Vision

**General Assembly requests the Life and Witness Committee to consider the ways in which the local church should be structured in the United Reformed Church, and to bring a report to the 2006 Assembly.**

Resolution 42 was carried.

## Minutes

The Clerk moved that:

Assembly receives the minutes of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July and approves the insertion of the minutes of its closing session into the full minutes after review and any necessary correction by officers of Assembly. **Assembly agreed.**

## Address to the Throne

The Revd Alasdair Pratt, the immediate past Moderator, presented the Address to the Throne:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church now meeting at the University of Glamorgan in Trefforest sends loyal greetings to Your Majesty. We give gratitude to God for all the service you have rendered to our nation during the fifty-two years of Your Majesty's reign.

The situation in Iraq continues to provide a backdrop to our proceedings. While we still question the wisdom and morality of the invasion of the country last year we welcome recent moves towards the establishment of an independent, democratic state. We pray that this will soon enable the Iraqi people to enjoy the peace, stability and security for which they have yearned for so long.





# Appendix 1

1. There have been three hearings since Assembly met in 2003. In one, a decision was reached by the Commission meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2004 that the Revd Emyr Evans name be removed from the Roll of Ministers. In the second, although the Commission found that a breach of discipline had occurred, it decided that a written warning was sufficient. In the third, the minister's name was retained on the Roll of Ministers.
2. The costs incurred in the three cases were £3,975.
3. In a fourth case, although the minister was convicted of a serious offence in February 2003, and is now serving a prison sentence, the Commission's proceedings have been adjourned for over a year, pending the outcome of an appeal.

# **The report of the 'Catch the vision' Steering Group to the General Assembly 2004**

*[We apologise to Assembly that our report was not available for printing with the Book of Reports and has*





### **3. Growth and decline**

3.1 We are people with a vision because we are Jesus people; wonderfully, inextricably, mystically caught up in the life of the living Christ, dealing daily with the possibilities opened up by his resurrection.

## **4. Being church differently**

4.1 What does it mean to be 'in Christ' in this new, strange landscape? How can we go on being God's faithful ones, telling the story of Jesus Christ, living resurrection life? This is a time of transition, a movement of cultures. Modernism is dead, but it is as yet unclear what will replace it. In some places traditional, institutional church as we know it will continue to thrive, but elsewhere new forms of being church are coming into being, defined by people and networks rather than buildings, occasionally sharing in large worship events, but for the most part meeting in cells. Not many are in the United Reformed Church, and if there was one sadness about the responses to catch the vision, it was that little imagination is abroad about different ways of being church and different ways of using ministry. One question which must be faced is whether our structures inhibit such experiment. The age of 'Christendom' has passed. We can no longer assume knowledge of the Christian story, still less that people have any understanding of church. Like the early church, we are in an environment of mission, and mission is about finding connections with cultures and societies. In some places and cases that will mean fostering new, imaginative, 'alternative' ways of being church. That can sound threatening and difficult, but we should rejoice that at least in one part of our life we have succeeded remarkably in doing that.

4.2 In May there was a gathering of 6,000 Pilots and their leaders at Legoland – probably the biggest Christian youth event in Britain this year. Pilots is a new way of being church for children and young people mid-week. It has caught the mood, found a way of being church differently. 91% of Pilots attend Pilots







presented to Assembly in 2005, it would need to be sent to Synods for discussion, and come back to the fact that reports to Assembly about changes in our life will be presented to consecutive Assemblies, a time-scale of ten years seems realistic rather than generous.

6.2.1. The second caveat was strongly articulated at the Synod listeners' day, and is far more significant. We were very pleasantly surprised by the strength of the opinion that far from seeking to be a sustainable community, the United Reformed Church should do all that it can to pursue the vision of its Basis of Union, paragraph 8, and '...take, wherever possible and with all speed, further steps towards the unity of all God's people.' The strength of that opinion was in our view such that we could not ignore it. We see the goals of sustainability and ecumenism as complementary rather than contradictory, for our ecumenical experience since 1972 has taught us the virtues of patience and serendipity. However, in the light of the views expressed to us we bring the following resolution:

### **Resolution 41**

'General Assembly affirms its commitment to paragraph 8 of its Basis of Union, and instructs the Ecumenical Committee to form a small working party to assess what possibilities exist for the United Reformed Church to '...take further steps towards the unity of all God's people' and to report back to Mission Council and the 2005 Assembly.'

6.3. There is widespread agreement that our conciliar structure is too complex and in some places is impeding rather than enabling mission. In some parts of the church structures have fallen into abeyance because there simply are not the people to service them. Several Synods have begun to re-consider their structures. The question of the size and frequency of Assembly has also been raised, not least by the Assembly Arrangements Committee. So too has the size and style of Mission Council. These questions revolve around a central question. Do we wish to be a federation of 13 synods (which have grown in power and influence in our history) or a connexional church? The perennial question of the nature of ecumenical boundaries, particularly in relation to regionalisation, is also 'live'. We have therefore commissioned a working group under the convenership of the Revd John Oldershaw, and including all the Synod Clerks, to consider the conciliar structure of the church and bring a report and recommendations to the 2005 Assembly. It is our hope that these proposals may result in both a more mission-focused organisation, and in considerable cost savings. We believe that this will be a critical and significant report.

6.3.1 We are not persuaded that all that hinders the mission of the church is to be found in the wider structures of the church. A host of questions cluster around the life of the local church. We are aware, for example, of a dramatic range of practice in both the frequency and style of Church Meeting across the denomination, and questions are also being raised about the role of membership in an age which shuns 'belonging'. We believe that we should consider anew what structures we need within the local church, and bring the following resolution:

### **Resolution 42**

'General Assembly requests the Life and Witness Committee to consider the ways in which the local church should be structured in the United Reformed Church, and to bring a report to the 2006 Assembly.'

6.4. The work of the Assembly is presently carried out through the central committees of the Church and the Assembly Offices at Church House. We believe that the Catch the Vision process should evaluate that work and its costings, and explore what possibilities there might be for the organisation of Assembly's work. However, we are persuaded that



ministers exist to enable the church to be the church, and the church exists to participate in God's mission in the world. It is that agenda that should determine the way in which ministers are deployed. We respect the many voices telling us that spreading ministry thinly like jam hinders mission and harms ministers. We also hear the cry of ministers who want to be ministers of Word and Sacraments, not middle managers, team leaders or fellowship trainers. We have a profound sympathy with the theological principle behind that cry because it speaks of the importance of rootedness and taking community seriously. Historically most of our congregations have parochial instincts, even if those instincts were formed by rejection from the parochial system in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A residue of that theology informed the brave decision in 1972 that every church should contribute to the cost of ministry and every church receive ministry. Communities are important and churches 'belong' within their communities. That is where their participation in God's mission is focused.

7.3.1. The 'golden age' of the single pastorate is actually an historical myth (at least in England and Wales). If Presbyterian churches were not viable, presbyteries shut them down. Within Congregationalism there were large churches who were never without a minister, except during interregnums (what a telling word!), yet also plenty of smaller churches who never knew full-time ministry. The Churches of Christ, of course, had a completely different pattern of ministry. We still have the most generous minister-member ratio of any mainstream British denomination, although it does not feel like that to most ministers and most congregations. However, we should listen acutely to what this feeling tells us about our present understanding of ministry and practice of deployment.

7.3.2. In reality, the number of options before us is limited, and dependent on the will of the church. If the church decides it needs more ministers, we could increase the number of stipendiary ministers/CRCWs. Giving to the Ministry and Mission Fund would have to increase proportionately. We could propose a strategy of altering the balance between the number of stipendiary and non-stipendiary ministers/CRCWs. That would depend on an increase in vocations to non-stipendiary ministry. Those are the only ways in which our ministerial work force can be increased.

7.3.3. The remaining options are to reduce the number of congregations in the denomination (see above 6.5.3), revisit the principle agreed in 1972 that every church should contribute to the cost of ministry and every church receive ministry, or develop a different pattern of ministry which relies on integrating the ministries of ministers, CRCWs, elders and others. We do not believe that the solutions to this conundrum will be easily achieved. The underlying question of what pattern of ministry is appropriate for the United Reformed Church in the next decades remains. We have worked closely with the Ministries Committee this year as they have developed 'Equipping the Saints'. We welcome their detailed work, and recommend to Assembly that they take responsibility from the Catch the Vision Steering Group for future work on ministry, whilst maintaining their close working and consultative relationship with the Group.

7.3.4. However, we ask Assembly and the Ministries Committee to note that the response to our proposition 5(c) that we become more dependent on lay leadership was the least well-received part of the vision statement. We understand the anxieties raised in the minds of our respondents by that proposition. We had deliberately used the words loosely, to encompass the many kinds of lay leadership already being exercised in the church. That was not clearly understood, and that is our fault. We have considerable sympathy with those respondents who told us that lay leaders (of all kinds) are already giving all that they can. We know from our own experience of that remarkable commitment. Other respondents told us that reliance on lay leadership should not be at the expense of ministry (both stipendiary and non-stipendiary), or that the work of volunteers should not be at the expense of paid professionals. We readily concur. Any future work needs to attend thoughtfully to those voices. We do not believe that we have heard any unwillingness to develop lay leadership, but we do believe that we have heard a significant affirmation of the ministry of Word and Sacraments and CRCWs within the life of the church. Whilst it might be fashionable in some circles to dismiss such a feeling as 'conservative' or 'old model', we demur from that judgement. Any future pattern of ministry needs to appreciate both the depth of emotional attachment, and the instinctive theological perception of the importance of the ministry of the Word and the Sacraments to the well-being of God's people.

## **8. The heart of the matter - spirituality and discipleship**

8.1 God's people are disciples, called to participate in God's mission in their own particular space and time. We detect a yearning for a renewal of spirituality and discipleship at the heart of the church. Clare Short concluded her prophetic speech at the 2003 Assembly by saying, 'This is a time for all good people, and people of faith, and people who are inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ to mean it, to take it into the mainstream, to move our societies and to move our world forward.' The responses to our process echo that. We believe that this is at the heart of 'Catch the vision'. Within our traditions that sense of discipleship was traditionally expressed through the concept of church membership. We note with interest that according to the Year Book, a third of regular worshippers are not church members, and we hear anecdotal evidence of the Church Meeting being but a pale shadow of its former self. Sociologists point to a crisis of 'belonging' in Western Europe, and our experience may well be a manifestation of that reality.

8.2. We are a people varied in theology and style, but as we have responded to the questionnaire and struggled to put into words what is most important to us, we have shown that there is a passion for Christ abroad in this church, and a deep desire to 'make a difference' for his sake. That needs to be translated into the realities of discipleship, spirituality and mission. We know that much more work is needed here, and we have no idea what the outcome will be, but we have a vision. It is of the United Reformed Church focused around making that difference, alive to God in worship, creative in discipleship, risk-taking in its use of resources. We do not believe that 'one size will fit all', but we dare to believe that evangelists and community regenerators, radical liberals and charismatic conservatives, alternative church proponents and traditional church champions, contemplatives and activists can together discover what it might mean for this church to take mission seriously in our strange yet hopeful context. We ask Assembly to allow us to work further on this during the course of this year, and to bring a report to the 2005 Assembly.

## **9. Celebrate – for God's sake!**

9.1 We know that this report has been eagerly awaited, and that the church has been generous in the way it has given of itself in responding to our questionnaires, statements and conversations. We hope that Assembly will be encouraged and stimulated by the discovering we have made in the course of this year, and that we will set out on the next stages of this pilgrimage with expectation. There are indeed realities with which we must cope, and we have attempted to be honest about them, but there is also much to encourage us. There are areas where there is growth. There are even greater areas where there is no decline. We are more successful than we think at alternative ways of being church if we take our work with Pilots as seriously as we should. Our ecumenical commitment is still passionate, and may yet bear fruit. Most significantly of all, however, we are a church blessed with considerable resources. That means that if we have the will, we can follow the Way.

### **Resolution 43**

Assembly notes the actions taken by the Catch the Vision Steering Group and endorses its report.

### **Resolution 44**

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