

Friday, 7th July 2006

First Session

Constitution of Assembly

Conveners of General Assembly Standing Committees and Task Groups:
Assembly Arrangements:

Theological College Representatives:
Mansfield College Revd Dr Walter Houston

Mr Richard Howard

1.2.3 **The Review Group** for the post of CRCW Development Worker at Church House will be convened by Ms Daphne Beale.

1.2.4 **The Review Group** for the post of Secretary for Training at Church House will be convened by Mrs Bridget Fosten.

1.2.5 **The Review Group** for the post of Pilots Development Officer at Church House will be convened by Mr Simon Rowntree.

1.3 **The Group for the Role of Treasurer** convened by the Revd John Waller completed its work and nominated Mr John Ellis to serve as Assistant Treasurer with immediate effect and as Hon. Treasurer of the United Reformed Church from Assembly 2007 until 2111.

2. RESPONSE TO 2005 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 16 AND 36

The Committee had set up a process for consultation with the Equal Opportunities and Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministries Committees. Records were being kept of those approached to serve on committees and monitoring of appointments to committees would take place in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Committee.

3. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES and Sub-COMMITTEES

Notes:

1.

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3.3 COMMUNICATIONS and EDITORIAL

Convener: Revd Martin Hazell [2007]

Secretary: Secretary for Communications

Revd Kirsty Thorpe#** [2011]

Revd Martin Whiffen [2007]

Ms Julia Wills [2008]

Mr Ron Sweeney [2009]

Revd Paul Snell [2008]

Mrs Valerie Jenkins [2009]

Mr Richard Lathaen [2009]

Revd Janet Sutton [2008]

Ms Catherine Lewis-Smith [2009]

Mr Jerome Whittingham** [2010]

3.4 DOCTRINE, PRAYER and WORSHIP

Convener: Revd Dr Susan Durber [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order

Revd Prof Alan Sell [2007]

Miss Sarah Lane [2007]

Revd Jason McCullagh [2008]

Miss Suzanne McDonald [2009]

Revd Geoffrey Clarke [2007]

Dr John Turner [2007]

Revd Peter Trow [2008]

Mrs Jill Jenkins [2009]

Revd Hilary Collinson [2007]

Mrs Chris Eddowes [2008]

Revd Gordon Smith [2009]

3.5 ECUMENICAL

Convener: Revd Elizabeth Nash [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Faith & Order

Mrs Ann Shillaker[2007]

Revd Anthony Howells [2009]

Mrs Pat Gurr [2008]

Revd Sarah Moore** [2010]

Revd Graham Maskery [2009]

Mr David Barber** [2010]

3.9.1 LIFE and WITNESS - STEWARDSHIP Sub-Committee

Convener: Mr Ray McHugh[2008]

Secretary: Secretary for Life and Witness

Mrs Jackie Haws[2007]

Mrs Susan Wilkinson [2007]

Revd John Durrell [2008]

Mr Gareth Curl [2009]

Revd Sarah Simpson** [2010]

3.9.2 WINDERMERE ADVISORY GROUP

Convener: Revd Bernard Collins [2009]

Secretary: The Director of Windermere

Mrs Irene Wren [2008]

Revd Carole Allison[2009]

Revd Jan Berry [2009]

Convener of Windermere Management Committee Convener of Life and Witness Committee

Representative of Carver URC

3.10 MINISTRIES

Convener: Revd Peter Poulter [2010]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Mrs Joan Trippier [2007]

Revd Paul Whittle [2007]

Revd Terry Oakley [2008]

Revd Alan Evans [2009]

Mrs Joanna Morling [2009]

Dr Roger Allen** [2010]

Convener of Assessment Board

3.10.1 MINISTRIES - ACCREDITATION Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Gwen Collins [2009]

Secretary: Secretary for Ministries

Revd Tony Wilkinson [2007]

Revd Howard Sharp [2009]

Mr Simon Rowntree [2009]

Mr Rod Morrison [2009]

Mrs Pat Evans** [2010]

3.10.2 MINISTRIES - CRCW Programme Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Bob Day [2008]

Secretary: The CRCW Development Workers

Mr Peter Twilley [2007]

Revd Tracey Lewis [2008]

Mrs Maureen Thompson [2009]

Mrs Shirley Rawnsley** [2010]

Revd Daphne Lloyd** [2010]

3.10.3 MINISTRIES - LAY PREACHING Support Sub Committee

Assembly Lay Preaching Advocate: Dr Philip Theaker [2007]

And four members elected by the Lay Preaching Commissioners Consultation

3.10.4 MINISTRIES - MAINTENANCE OF MINISTRY Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd Geoffrey Roper [2009]

Secretary: Mr David Taylor [2010]

Mrs Lyn Alford [2008]

Mr David Hayden [2008]

Mr Brian Knight** [2010]

Revd Ken Summers** [2010]

The Treasurer Convener of Pensions Executive Financial Secretary

3.10.5 MINISTRIES - RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING - Sub-Committee

Convener: Revd David Bedford [2010]

Secretary: Secretary Retired Ministers' Housing Society Ltd

Mrs Liz Tadd [2009]

Revd Elizabeth Caswell [2008]

Revd Michael Spencer* [2011]

Revd Nanette Lewis-Head** [2012]

The Treasurer

Note: Properties are managed by a Company viz: **RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING SOCIETY LTD** Details of the

Members of the Board etc may be obtained from the Secretary: Mr Tony Bayley at Church House

3.10.6 ASSESSMENT BOARD

Convener: Prof David Cutler [2009]

Retiring 2007 Revd Diana Cullum-Hall, Miss Sarah Dodds, Revd Roy Fowler, Mrs Wilma Frew, Mrs Pat Poinen,
Revd Nigel Uden, Revd Simon Walkling

Retiring 2008 Mrs Judith Harris, Mrs Barbara Lancaster, Dr Cameron Wilson

Retiring 2009 Mrs Tina Ashitey, Dr Peter Clarke, Mr Hugh Abel

Retiring 2010 Revd David A L Jenkins, Revd Dr Irene John, Revd Edward Sanniez, Revd Lesley Charlton

Retiring 2011** Revd Wilf Bahadur, Revd Jan Adamson, Revd Sian Collins, Mrs Wendy Smith

3.11 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd Malcolm Hanson [2010]

Secretary: Revd Elizabeth Brown [2009]

Synod Representatives: Revd Kevin Watson [1], Revd Ruth Wollaston [2], Revd John Oldershaw [3], Mrs Val Morrison [4], Mrs Irene Wren [5], Dr Anthony Jeans [6], Revd Richard Church [7], Revd Roz Harrison [8], Mr Peter Pay [9], Revd Martin Hazell [10], Dr Graham Campling [11], Dr Jean Silvan-Evans [12], Dr James Merrilees [13], with the Immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretary.

3.12 PASTORAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

Convener: Revd Keith Forecast [2007]

Secretary: Deputy General Secretary

Revd Alasdair Pratt#** [2011]

Mrs Margaret Carrick Smith [2009]

Convener of Welfare Sub-Committee

Revd David Grosch Miller [2007]

Mrs Delyth Rees** [2011]

The Treasurer

Revd Meryl Court [2008]

The General Secretary

3.12.1

5.3 CONGREGATIONAL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Revd Dr Peter Jupp
Dr John Thompson

Mr Hartley Oldham
Dr Elaine Kaye

Mr Graham Stacy
Dr Brian Woodhall

5.4 THE AUSTRALIAN FRONTIER SERVICES CHARITABLE TRUST

Mr Clem Frank

Mr Brian Wates - joint appointment with Uniting Church in Australia

6. Representatives of the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH to Meetings of SISTER CHURCHES

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Revd Dr David Peel

General Synod of Church of England

Revd Fleur Houston

Methodist Conference

Revd Richard Mortimer

Congregational Federation

Revd Martin Smith

General Assembly of Church of Scotland [note 5]

Revd Dr David Peel, Revd John Humphreys, Revd Jill Thornton

United Free Church of Scotland [note 5]

Revd John Wylie

Scottish Episcopal Church [note 5]

Revd John Humphreys

Methodist Church in Scotland [note 5]

Revd Mary Buchanan

Baptist Union of Scotland [note 5]

Revd John Humphreys

Presbyterian Church of Wales [note 5]

Revd Dr David Peel

Union of Welsh Independents [note 5]

Revd Stuart Jackson

Church in Wales Governing Board [note 5]

Revd Stuart Jackson

Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church

Revd David Bunney

7. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ON ECUMENICAL CHURCH BODIES

The following have been nominated as URC representatives at the major gatherings of the Ecumenical Bodies listed.

Note: A list of representatives to other ecumenical bodies, commissions and committees, co-ordinating groups and agencies, who are appointed by the relevant committees, will be distributed to all members of General Assembly. Additional copies are available, on request, from the Secretary for Ecumenical Relations.

7.1 Council for

7.4.3 Free Church Education Committee

Mr Graham Handscomb, Mrs Gillian Kingston

7.5 ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) [see Note 5]

Forum: Revd John Humphreys, Revd Mary Buchanan

7.6 National Sponsoring Body for Scotland [see note 5]

Revd Mary Buchanan, Revd John Humphreys

7.7 CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales) [see Note 5]

Council: Revd Peter Noble, Revd Stuart Jackson, Mrs Eileen McIlveen

7.8 FREE CHURCH COUNCIL for WALES [see Note 5]

Revd Peter Noble, Revd Stuart Jackson

8. UNITED REFORMED CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES AT FORMAL BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL COMMITTEES

8.1 Methodist/United Reformed Church Liaison Committee

The Secretary for Ecumenical Relations together with: Revd Roy Fowler, Revd Roberta Rominger, Revd Barbara Bennett**, Revd Kay Alberg**, Miss Emma Pugh**

8.2 Anglican/Moravian Contact Groups

Revd David Tatem

8.3 Tri-lateral Conversation of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

Revd Mary Buchanan, Revd John Humphreys, Revd John Young

8.4 The Commission of Covenanted Churches within CYTUN [see Note 5]

Revd Peter Noble, Revd Stuart Jackson, Mrs Ann Shillaker

9. URC REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES OF THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES ETC.

9.1 Mansfield College:

Ministerial and Educational Training Committee: Revd Fiona Thomas [2009]
Revd Nigel Appleton** [2010]
Convener of the Training Committee
Secretary for Training

9.2 New College London

Foundation Trustees:
Mr Graham Stacy [2007]
Mr Philip Wade [2007]
alternate Mr Colin Howard [2008]
Mr John Smethers** [2009]

9.3 Northern College

Secretary for Training [2009]
Revd David Jenkins [2009]
Mr Bill McLaughlin [2009]
Miss Margaret Atkinson** [2011]
Mrs Helen Brown** [2011]
Revd Dr Robert Pope** [2011]
Secretary for Training

Luther King House Educational Trust

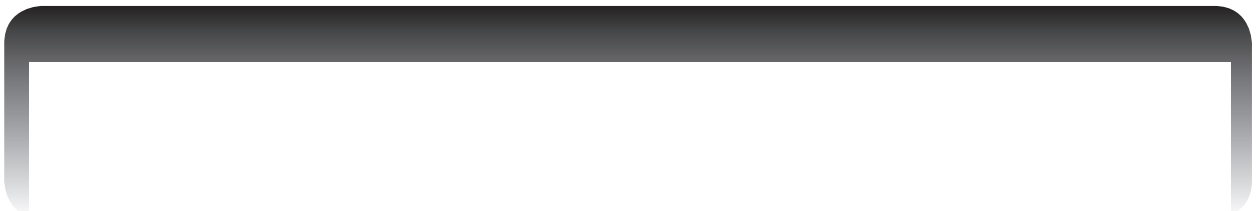
11. MISCELLANEOUS:

The URC is represented on a variety of other national organisations and committees as follows:

Retired Ministers' and Widows' Fund

Mr Ken Meekison
Mrs Jill Strong
Revd Julian Macro

Christian Education
Board of Trustees



Assistant Treasurer

Principal Orchard moved the nomination of Mr John Ellis as Assistant Treasurer, with a view to his succeeding the current Honorary Treasurer.

The Assembly agreed.

The Moderator thanked Principal Orchard for his service as Convener of the Nominations Committee.

Finance Committee

In presenting the report of the Finance Committee, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Eric Chilton, thanked the Church House staff for their work over the past year, and moved adoption of Resolution 20:

Resolution 20

Accounts

General Assembly adopts the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2005.

Resolution 20 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 21:

Resolution 21

Appointment of Auditors

General Assembly resolves that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be appointed auditors of the United Reformed Church, to hold office until the conclusion of the next meeting at which accounts are laid before General Assembly and that their remuneration be fixed by the Finance Committee.

Resolution 21 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 22:

Resolution 22

The giving of the members of the Church to central funds

General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2005 to the Ministry and Mission Fund and the work of the local church, district and synod treasurers.

Resolution 22 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 23:

Resolution 23

United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund contributions

General Assembly resolves that the total contribution to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund should be increased to 23% with effect from 1 January 2007. This will be made up of a Church contribution of 17.25% (increased from 15.65%) and Ministers' contributions of 5.75% (increased from 4.5%).

Resolution 23 was carried.

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 15:



Opening worship was led by the Chaplain; Bible study was led by Mr Lawrence Moore, Director of the Windermere Centre.

The Revd Dr David Peel took the Chair.

South West Synod

The South West Synod made a presentation on its life and work.

Communications and Editorial Committee

The report of the Communications and Editorial Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Martin Hazell assisted by the Secretary for Communications, Mrs Carol Rogers.

The Moderator paid tribute to the Revd David Lawrence who had returned to pastoral ministry after serving as editor of *Reform* for twelve years.

The Moderator greeted Mrs Carol Rogers, and wished her well on her retirement after nineteen years as Secretary for Communications.

Mr Hazell moved adoption of Resolution 18:

Resolution 18

Leaflet on Church Magazines

General Assembly commends the leaflet on Church Magazines to all local congregations.

Resolution 18 was carried.

Mr Hazell moved adoption of Resolution 19:

Resolution 19

Review of the Work of the Communications and Editorial Committee

General Assembly receives and accepts the review carried out by the Communications and Editorial Committee and instructs it to continue to explore the proposals to:

- a) **develop an effective and more professional website**
- b)

Election of Moderator of General Assembly 2007/8

The Assembly Clerk explained the voting procedure. The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer, and ballot slips were collected.

Youth and Children's Work Committee

The report of the Youth and Children's Work Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Kathryn Price and FURY Chair, Ms Isobel Simmons.

The Moderator greeted:

Ms Jo Williams	Children's Work Development Officer
Mr Chris Burgham	Young Persons Training Officer, West Midlands
Mr Stewart Cutler	Youth & Children's Work Training and Development Officer, Scotland
Mr Nick White	Youth & Children's Work Training and Development Officer, Southern
Mr Malcolm Evans	Youth & Children's Work Training and Development Officer, Mersey

Mrs Price moved adoption of Resolution 40:

Resolution 40

Safe Church Declaration

General Assembly instructs Mission Council to revisit the 'Declaration of a Safe Church' and bring to the next Assembly proposals to extend its provisions to cover emotional, physical and domestic abuse and neglect.

After debate, Resolution 40 was carried.

The Assembly approved the minutes of Friday 7th July, first and second sessions.

Catch the Vision

The General Secretary and members of the Steering Group reported on the *Catch the Vision* process.

The Revd Elizabeth Welch took the Chair.

The General Secretary responded to a number of questions and comments.

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell resumed the Chair.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 44:

Resolution 44 **Resolutions returned for ratification (1)**

General Assembly resolves that there shall be one level of council between the General Assembly and the local church.

Resolution 44 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 45:

Resolution 45 **Resolutions returned for ratification (2)**

General Assembly resolves that as from General Assembly 2007, there shall be one level of council between the General Assembly and the local church, the thirteen 'new Synods.'

Two synods, Eastern and Thames North, who had rejected the resolutions, were invited to make statements.

After some debate, the Revd Tim Jackson proposed that the resolution be now put, seconded by Ms Morag McLintock. The Assembly agreed by more than the required two-thirds majority.

Following the General Secretary's response, a vote was taken, and Resolution 45 was carried.

The General Secretary moved adoption of Resolution 46:

Resolution 46 **Resolutions returned for ratification (3)**

General Assembly resolves that, as from 2007, General Assembly shall meet every two years.

Following debate, the Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee responded, a vote was taken, and Resolution 46 was carried.

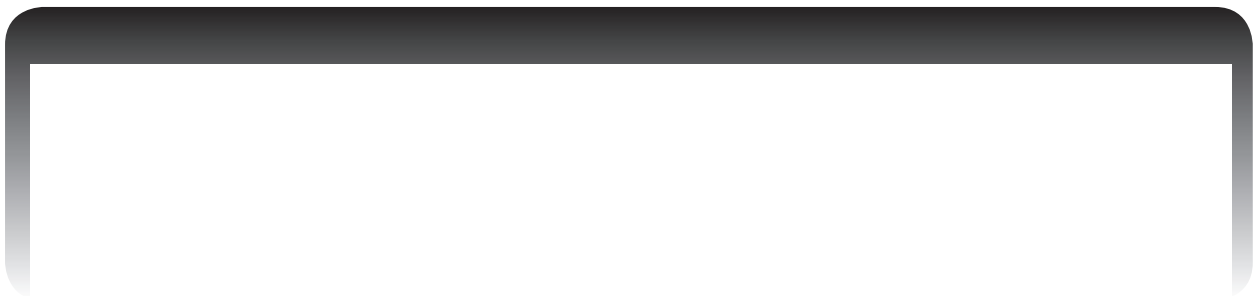
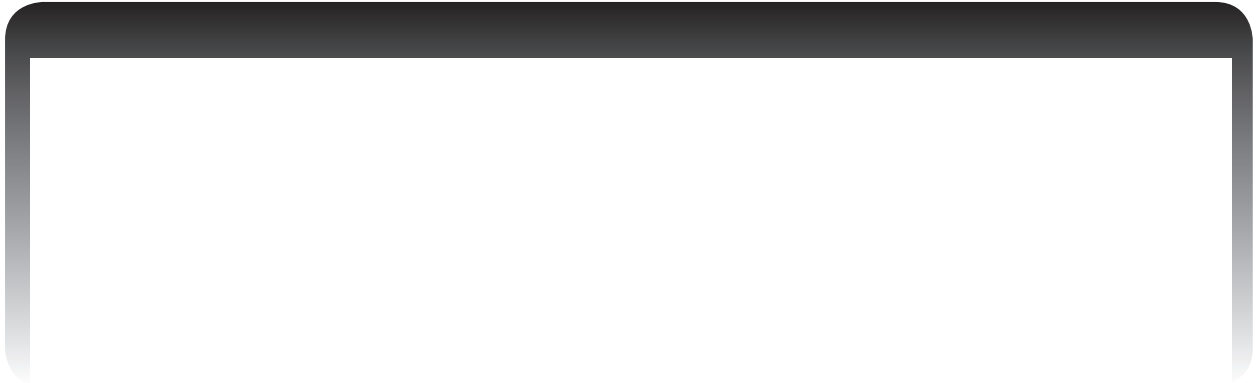
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Training Committee

The report of the Training Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd John Humphreys.

Mr Humphreys presented the Training Committee review and responded to a number of questions and comments.

Mr Humphreys moved adoption of Resolution 35:



FURY

Following a FURY presentation 'Drumming for Trade Justice' and an account of a recent visit to our church partners in Jamaica, both of which were part of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of Trade Justice, the Rt Revd John Gladwin, Bishop of Chelmsford and Chair of Christian Aid, addressed the Assembly.

Christian Aid

Dr Gladwin described something of the current work of Christian Aid, its priorities and challenges, and was

Worship was conducted by the Chaplain.

Mersey Synod

The Mersey Synod made a presentation of its life and work.

Church and Society Committee

The report of the Church and Society Committee was presented by the Convener, the Revd Martin Camroux.

The Revd John Johansen-Berg moved adoption of Resolution 17:

Resolution 17

Peacemaking: A CG C7(G)-aroux.

Reception of New Ministers and CRCWs

Synod Moderators introduced Ministers and Church Related Community Workers who had been ordained or commissioned since the previous meeting of the General Assembly. Each of those present was greeted in turn and received by the Assembly with applause.

Northern Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Poulter)

Yvonne Tracey (*in absentia*) Blyth/East Northumberland Ecumenical Area

North Western Synod (Moderator: Revd Peter Brain)

Richard Bradley Hope Denton & Trinity Audenshaw (UM) Pastorates

Mersey Synod (Moderator: Revd Howard Sharp)

Peter Lyth Churchtown and Hampton Road URCs

Yorkshire Synod (Moderator: Revd Arnold Harrison)

Alison Termie Spen and Calder Enterprise (SPACE)

East Midlands Synod (Moderator: Revd Terry Oakley)

Kay Cattell Marlpool and Selston URCs

South West Synod (Moderator: Revd David Grosch-Miller)

Ian Robert McDonald Southernhay, Exeter

Wessex Synod (Moderator: Revd Adrian Bulley)

David Moss Dorset District/West Moors Group
Lucy Brierley Woking URC
Clare Callanan Reading & Oxford District/Faringdon United Church
Alison Dalton (CRCW) Longham, Skinner Street & Parkstone URCs, Poole

Resolution 39 was carried.

Assembly Worship

The Assembly joined in worship, during which the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated. The act of worship included the commemoration of the following ministers and missionaries of the United Reformed Church who had died since the previous General Assembly.

Ministers who had served at home and as missionaries overseas and had died since Assembly 2005:

Gordon William Ernest BAKER
George Robinson BARR
Albert William BARRAH
Desmond Hugh BENDING
Norman BIRNIE
James Ian BROOKS
James Harold COUCH
David Neville CROWTHER
Adrienne DONES
Thomas George DYER
John Gibson FORSYTH
Frank Ronald HALL
Colin HARLEY
Frederick James HOLLEY
Mary Patricia HOWE
Nellie HUDSON
James Henry Marsh JOLLIFFE
David Ellis LEWIS
Thomas Irvine MACKAY
Philip MORGAN
John Richard MOWAT
Margaret Gray Plenderleith NUTTALL
John Reginald William PAULL
David Brinley RICHARDS
Henrietta Isabel SHORT
William Charles Edward SIMPSON
Hamish SMITH
Stanley Gilbert SMITH
Douglas Galloway STEWART

Richard Charles TUCKER
Kenneth Thomas WALTERS
Joseph WARREN
Donald Frank WILKINS
George John WILLIAMS
Ronald Franklin WILLIAMS,
John William Patrick WILLIAMSON
Douglas Vincent YOUNG

DEACONNESS

Agnes PURDIE

MISSIONARIES

Owen ABEL
Margaret RILEY
Dorothy TODMAN
Anne WALKER

Sunday 9th July

Second Session

West Midlands Synod

The West Midlands Synod made a presentation of its life and work.

The Moderator greeted the Revd Bernard Thorogood, former General Secretary and the Revd Kathleen Hendry, celebrating the 75th anniversary of her ordination.

Training Committee

The Moderator reminded the Assembly that it was still in Committee under Standing Order 5a.

The Assembly continued to address Resolution 37:

Seconded by the Revd Michael Hopkins.

Resolution 61 was carried.

Assembly Arrangements Committee

The report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee was presented by the Convener, Mr William McVey.

Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 43:

Resolution 43

General Assembly 2008

Assembly agrees that General Assembly in 2008 will meet at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh from 10th to 13th July.

Resolution 43 was carried.

Mr McVey moved adoption of Resolution 51:

Resolution 51 Membership of General Assembly

General Assembly adopts the criteria for representation at General Assembly with effect from the Assembly in 2008 as set out below:

Representation at General Assembly shall consist of:

Those who are members of the United Reformed Church, with the exception of those appointed from categories specified in paragraphs seven and eight below who need not be members of the United Reformed Church.

In compliance with Trustee law, members of Assembly must be at least 18 years of age. Should a Synod or other body entitled to appoint, appoint someone under 18 years of age that person shall have full speaking rights only.

1. Representation of Local Churches at each Assembly: this shall be based on the latest regional membership (Synods¹) of the United Reformed Church. A total number of such places as determined by Assembly on the Un.368 (Chuo2(1(a)34g4(belo)34g4(brelo)68 (C)TJ/T7)-25(have)-2ssemb67)-a (C)-2sseg-7(Assem

- 3 In conjunction with maintaining the balance between lay and ordained people, each region must decide for itself who can best reflect the needs and life of the church at that time in their region. However, regions are reminded of the equal opportunities policy of the church.
 - 4 Representation shall normally be for a complete cycle of four years – this will enable representatives to attend two consecutive meetings of the biennial General Assembly.
 - 5 Each region shall be also entitled to the attendance of their Moderator; this is in addition to the places under the formula, the even-number additions, and the Synod of Scotland additional places.
- 5.1 If

Resolution 1 Discussion and decision making at General Assembly

General Assembly acknowledging the importance of discerning the mind of Christ in the councils of the church and believing that the current procedures used in making decisions are not necessarily the best, instructs Mission Council

a)

- 2 The representation from each region shall be balanced equally between Ministers and lay. Any shortfall in one category of representation must be balanced by a reduction in the other category of representation. No substitute is allowable from the other category.
- 3 In conjunction with maintaining the balance between lay and ordained people, each region must decide for itself who can best reflect the needs and life of the church at that time in their region. However, regions are reminded of the equal opportunities policy of the church.
- 4 Representation shall normally be for a complete cycle of four years – this will enable representatives to attend two consecutive meetings of the biennial General Assembly.
- 5 Each region shall be also entitled to the attendance of their Moderator; this is in addition to the places under the formula, the even-number additions, and the Synod of Scotland additional places.
- 5.1 If a region's Moderator is, for the time being, an Officer of Assembly², the Moderator-Elect, or a past Moderator entitled to attend Assembly, then an alternate may be appointed by the region.
- 6 Other members of General Assembly shall include:
 - The Officers of Assembly
 - The Moderator-Elect
 - The immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly, the previous past Moderator of General Assembly and an additional 2 past Moderators
 - The Convener of each of the standing committees of General Assembly
 - A staff representative and a student representative from each of such recognised theological colleges as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine
 - A serving URC Chaplain to the forces of the Crown
- 7 Other members of General Assembly shall include:
 - Assembly-appointed staff in such number as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine
 - Representatives of FURY in such numbers as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine
 - A representative of the Council for World Mission
- 8 Further, as members of General Assembly, there may be invited:
 - Representatives of ecumenical partners in the United Kingdom in such number as the Assembly on the advice of Mission Council may from time to time determine
 - Representatives of our worldwide partners in such number as the Assembly on the advice of Mission Council may from time to time determine
- 9 There shall also be invited to attend as guests of the General Assembly, representatives of:
 - Such local ecumenical partners in the region in which the Assembly is being held as the Assembly on the advice of Mission Council may from time to time determine
 - Such ecumenical partners in the United Kingdom as the Assembly on the advice of Mission Council may from time to time determine.
 - Such of our worldwide partners as the Assembly on the advice of Mission Council may from time to time determine
 - Others agreed by Mission Council on an occasional basis

It was moved that the Resolution be not put. The motion fell.

The Revd Roberta Rominger moved the amendment that the sentence re Forces Chaplains be moved from the end of para 6 to the end of para 8.

After debate the amendment fell.

Mrs Helen Lidgett moved the amendment:

'Assembly agrees to delete "Assembly-appointed sta in such number as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine"

Seconded by the Revd Michael Hopkins.

The amendment fell.

The Assembly Clerk proposed an amendment to delete '2008' and replace with '2010'; seconded by the Revd Michael Hopkins.

The amendment was carried.

The General Secretary moved that the motion be now put. Many members seconded. Carried by more than the required two thirds majority..

The Substantive Motion was then moved:

Resolution 51

Membership of General Assembly

General Assembly adopts the criteria for representation at General Assembly with effect from the Assembly in 2010 as set out below:

Representation at General Assembly shall consist of:

Those who are members of the United Reformed Church, with the exception of those appointed from categories specified in paragraphs seven and eight below who need not be members of the United Reformed Church.

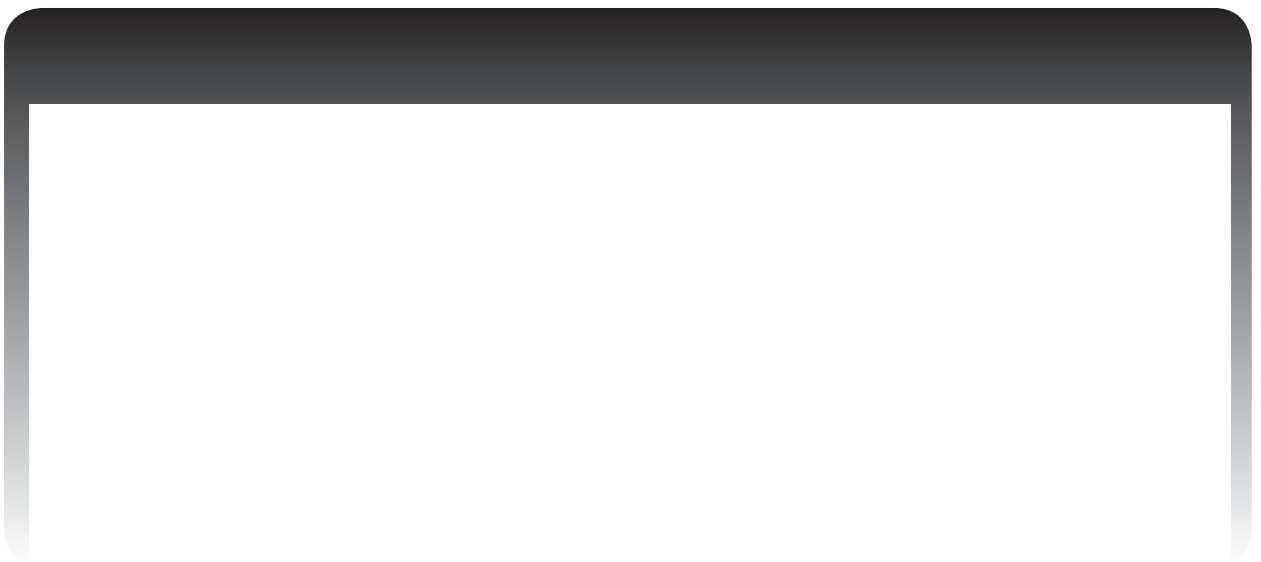
Subject to clarification of Trustee Law, all those appointed by a synod or other body, shall have full voting rights, regardless of age.

- 1. Representation of Local Churches at each Assembly: this shall be based on the latest regional membership (Synods¹) of the United Reformed Church. A total number of such places as determined by Assembly on the advice of Mission Council shall be available; these will be allocated on the basis of the proportion of members of the United Reformed Church in each region to the total membership of the United Reformed Church.**
 - 1.1 Within the places for each region, two places shall be reserved for young people (those 26 years of age and under). If these places are not filled from within the region they may be offered to young people from another region. Remaining young people's spare places may not be utilised by anyone over 26 years of age.**
 - 1.2 After the deduction of the two places for young people, any odd number of places shall be increased to the next even number.**
 - 1.3 In addition to the number of places calculated under the formula, including the young people's places, the Synod of Scotland shall retain their six additional places in accordance with the agreement. When necessary, the number of places for the Synod of Scotland under the formula shall be increased to the next even number before the addition of the six extra places.**
- 2 The representation from each region shall be balanced equally between Ministers and lay. Any shortfall in one category of representation must be balanced by a reduction in the other category of representation. No substitute is allowable from the other category.**
- 3 In conjunction with maintaining the balance between lay and ordained people, each region must decide for itself who can best reflect the needs and life of the church at that time in their region. However, regions are reminded of the equal opportunities policy of the church.**

General Assembly agrees that the total regional representation at General Assembly, with effect from the Assembly in 2010, shall be set at 250 members before taking into account the additional members for the Synod of Scotland and the Moderator of each Synod.

- (j) 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);
- (k) Representatives of other denominations in the United Kingdom as the General Assembly may from time to time determine;
- (l) A representative of the Council for World Mission.
- (m) Such number of Assembly-appointed staff as the General Assembly may from time to time determine.

(In order to comply with Trust and Charity law all members of the General Assembly must be at least eighteen years of age. Where a representative is seventeen years or younger, at the date appointed for the first session of the General assembly, that representative shall have full speaking rights but shall not be entitled to vote)



General Assembly approves the following procedures in respect of changes to ministerial service:

1 Statement of Reasons

A Minister/CRCW who decides to move or resign should be asked by the Synod Moderator to make a written statement about the reasons for that course of action. A copy of this statement should be sent by the Moderator to the Secretary for Ministries.

2 Move from one pastorate or post to another within the United Reformed Church

a) Where a Minister is moving from one pastorate or post to another, they should discuss with the Moderator whether there are particular reasons behind the move which should be shared with the local church/post that is entering a vacancy.

b) In the case of termed appointments for CRCWs and those in Special Category Ministry, most moves come at the recognised end of that appointment. The same procedure should nonetheless be followed to help with reflection on the ministry.

c) When a Minister is changing pastorates because of difficulties, some form of counselling or debriefing should be offered through the Moderator.

3 Move away from ministerial service in the United Reformed Church without resignation from the Roll of Ministers/list of CRCWs

a) Some Ministers and CRCWs move out of posts under the auspices of the United Reformed Church in order to exercise another form of service. If the Minister/CRCW wishes to remain on the Roll/list, their move should be subject to the concurrence of the Church.

b) In such a case, the Minister/CRCW should provide a copy of their stated reasons for wishing to move out of URC ministerial service to the appropriate Council of the Church (currently District Council) and seek concurrence with the proposed move.

c) If concurrence is granted, the Minister/CRCW would remain on the Roll of Ministers/list of CRCWs and his/her name would continue to appear in the Yearbook. He/she would be under the oversight and care of the Synod in which they reside. The Minister/CRCW would be eligible to seek a future pastorate/post within the United Reformed Church upon request to the Moderators.

d) If concurrence is not granted and the Minister/CRCW proceeds with the move, the District should send a report of the District decision to the Accreditation Sub-Committee. This report should:

- i) set out details of the post the Minister/CRCW has accepted;
- ii) the reasons why the District did not consider it appropriate to give concurrence.

If the Accreditation Sub-committee gives approval for the move, the Minister's/CRCW's status would remain as in (c) above.

If the Accreditation Sub-Committee upholds the decision of the District, the Minister/CRCW would be deemed to have resigned from the Roll of Ministers/list of CRCWs. His/her name would no longer appear in the Yearbook. If a Minister/CRCW does not receive concurrence and was removed from the Roll/list, he/she would have the right of appeal to the Ministries Committee.

- e) The Ministries Committee copy of the Minister's/CRCW's statement should be added to their file, together with a record of whether the move was with or without the concurrence of the Church.
- f) If a Minister/CRCW is already outside a post under the auspices of the United Reformed Church and moves to a fresh sphere of service, the same procedure should be followed if they wish to remain on the Roll/list.

4 Resignation from the Roll of Ministers/list of CRCWs

- a) When the resignation of a Minister/CRCW from the Roll/list is accepted, his/her written statement should be added to his/her Ministries Committee file.
- b) This statement should be consulted if the former Minister/CRCW seeks reinstatement to

Accreditation Sub-Committee shall consider the individual circumstances alongside the overall responsibility of the United Reformed Church to monitor Minister numbers so that:

- a) the financial responsibility to support the ministerial work force is not threatened; and
 - b) the introduction of newly ordained and commissioned ministers is not curtailed.
- 6 The Secretary for Ministries shall inform the appropriate Council and the Minister of the decision of the Accreditation Sub-Committee. If the decision is to accept an extension then a new date of retirement shall be agreed.
- 7 A year before the revised date of retirement, the payroll office shall once again write to the Minister and if a further extension of full time stipendiary service is requested the United Reformed Church must consider the request. The procedure set out above will therefore be repeated.

Following brief debate, Resolution 26 was carried.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 27:

Resolution 27

Return to work after ill-health retirement

General Assembly adopts the following procedure for return to work after ill-health

Moderator in the first instance. Following that meeting the Moderator will advise the Accreditation Sub-Committee as to whether the Minister's name should remain available for introduction to a pastorate.

- ix) Should the original health problem recur to the point where early retirement on the grounds of ill health becomes necessary, there should be a streamlined procedure for approving retirement on the grounds of ill-health. There will normally be no further opportunity to return to ministerial service.**

Following brief debate, Resolution 27 was carried.

Mr Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 28:

Resolution 28

'Where a member has at least three months but less than two years qualifying service he/she shall also be entitled to the option of taking a Cash Transfer Sum which may be

5. General Finance Act 2004 amendments

The schedule summarising the Inland Revenue limits shall be amended so that it is in two parts, with the wording in the current schedule being entitled 'Part II' and the following wording added as an introduction to the schedule and as Part I:

'This schedule is divided into 2 parts:

Part I sets out the overriding tax rules that apply to the Fund with effect from 6 April 2006, and Part II summarises the Inland Revenue Limits that applied to the Fund before 6 April 2006, and which shall be deemed to continue to apply on and after 6 April 2006, subject to the modifications described in Part I.

Part I – Tax Rules

1. **Definitions:** In this Part I the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

A-Day: 6 April 2006

Authorised Payment: a payment authorised in accordance with section 164 of the Finance Act 2004 (an authorised member payment) or section 175 of that Act (an authorised employer payment).

Finance Act: Finance Act 2004

HMRC: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Inland Revenue Limits: the limits which in the opinion of the Pension Trustee would have applied to benefits and contributions, if the tax regime in force before A-Day had continued to apply on and after A-Day, in order not to prejudice the Fund's exempt approved status under that tax regime, assuming that HMRC practice (as summarised in the practice note IR12 and in HMRC Updates) and any concessions granted in relation to the Fund by HMRC would have continued on the same basis as applied immediately before A-Day. Inland Revenue Limits are summarised in Part II of this schedule.

Unauthorised Payment: an unauthorised payment as defined in section 160(5) of the Finance Act.

2. **Overriding effect:** This Part I of the schedule overrides any other provisions of the Trust Deed and Rules of the Fund that are inconsistent with it except clause 9 of the Trust Deed (power of amendment) and any other provision conferring a power to modify the Fund.

3. **Registered pension scheme:** The Fund is intended to be a registered pension scheme

6.

14A.5 Pension Trustee's powers: On, or at any time following, the Withdrawal Date, the Pension Trustee may make a transfer payment under Rule 36 to secure benefits from an Assurance Company for all or any of the Members who are or were employed by the Participating Body which has withdrawn from membership of the Fund. Otherwise, benefits are payable under the Fund in accordance with the Trust Deed and Rules.

Rule 15.2 shall be amended by the addition of the following words after the first sentence:

'The Participating Bodies shall contribute to the expenses of administering the Fund including such share of the Fund's Pension Protection Fund levy as the Assembly shall determine from time to time on the advice of the Actuary.'

2. Winding-up

Rule 35.1 shall be amended so that the following words are added at the end of it as follows:

'On the determination of the Fund, the Fund shall be wound up in accordance with Rule 35.2 except if, and to the extent, any statutory priority order overrides it.'

Resolution 32 was carried.

The Moderator thanked Mr Ellis as he finishes his period of service as Convener of the Ministries Committee.

Synod Resolution

On behalf of the Wessex Synod, the Revd Ruth Whitehead moved adoption of Resolution 2:

Resolution 2

Housing of Non-stipendiary Ministers

General Assembly notes

- a) that in many of our Districts we are reducing the number of stipendiary ministers and so are finding it increasingly difficult to provide leadership in all of our churches**
- b) that the Charity Commissioners allow charities to use their assets for activities which further the aim of the charity**
- c) that the Anglican church benefits from the possibility of finding non stipendiary ministers for churches by offering 'house-for-duty'**

Assembly instructs Mission Council to investigate the possibility of changing United Reformed Church regulations to allow flexibility in the provision and payment for housing of Non-stipendiary Ministers.

Seconded by Mrs Margaret Telfer.

After brief debate, Resolution 2 was carried.

Catch the Vision

The Assembly moved into committee mode to discuss Resolution 47 and its implications for the Basis of Union and the Structure of the United Reformed Church. The Clerk highlighted a number of minor errors and alterations to the proposed revision of the Basis of Union and Structure of the URC.

In reinstating Standing Orders, the Moderator reminded the Assembly that, during the debate in committee, the following had been agreed:

- Provision of places for two members under the age of 26
- Deletion of a specific maximum number of General Assembly members
- Inclusion of support and care for local churches among Functions of Synods
- Insertion of new clauses (xiv) and (xv) as follows:

(xv) To receive and decide upon applications of recognition as candidates for the ministry.

(xvi) To receive and forward to the General Assembly, recommendations concerning applications for admission into the United Reformed Church for ministers, probationers or congregations.

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 47:

Resolution 47

Changes to the Basis and Structure

General Assembly approves the changes to the Basis and Structure of the United Reformed Church consequent upon its acceptance of resolutions 40, 41 and 43 of 2005, as set out in Catch the Vision Appendix 4, pages 141-160 of the book of Reports 2006.

Resolution 47 was carried.

The General Secretary moved that:

'in accordance with Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure, Resolution 47 be referred to Synods with the 31st March 2007 as the final date for responses to the General Secretary as to whether or not this constitutional amendment be proceeded with.'

The Assembly agreed.

(N.B. A version of the Basis and Structure containing all the changes proposed and agreed at this year's Assembly is printed as an appendix to this Record of Assembly)

After worship led by the Chaplain, the Assembly adjourned.

Paragraphs C.3.1, C.3.2, C.4.1, E.12.2, E.12.3, G.4.2, G.4.3, G.5, G.10.4, G.10.5

In all these paragraphs, any reference to Paragraphs 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 of Part I shall be replaced by a simple reference to Paragraph 7.1 of Part I.

Paragraphs E.4.1

At the end of the paragraph add the words '... whereupon the Secretary shall forthwith provide copies thereof for the Convener and the other members of the Assembly Commission.'

Paragraph E.7.4

At the end of the paragraph add the words '... unless the Minister shall have lodged with the Secretary of the Assembly Commission, within twenty-eight days of the passing of the sentence in the criminal case, written evidence that s/he has lodged an appeal against the decision of the criminal court, whether it be against the conviction itself or the sentence imposed.'

Paragraph E.7.6

Add a new Paragraph E.7.6 as follows:

E.7.6 'If the Minister shall have lodged with the Secretary of the Assembly Commission, within twenty-eight days of the passing of the sentence in the criminal case, written evidence that s/he has lodged an appeal against the decision of the criminal court, whether it be against the conviction itself or the sentence imposed.'

review of the operation of the Section O Process to monitor the performance of Mandated Groups and thus to ensure that all appropriate training and assistance is provided and the highest standards are maintained.'

APPENDIX

B. APPOINTMENT AND ROLE OF MANDATED GROUPS AND INITIATION OF SECTION O

B.1. B.1.1 To enable it properly to carry out its Function 2(3)(A)(xviii) of the Structure, every District Council shall act solely through a group of three persons ("the Mandated Group") which shall have mandated authority to act in the name of the District Council in every matter requiring consideration under that Function.

B.1.2 The Mandated Group called in to deal with any particular case under Paragraph B.6.1, Paragraph B.9.2 or Paragraph B.9.3 has no pastoral role to fulfil and its precise functions are described in Paragraphs B.7 and B.8.

B.2 In cases arising under Paragraph B.6.1 (District Council), the Mandated Groups charged with the responsibilities ascribed to them under these Rules of Procedure shall be constituted in the following manner:

B.2.1 Two members thereof shall be appointed by each District Council on a standing basis from a Synod Panel itself appointed and maintained by each Synod, there normally being on such panel at least one, and preferably two, persons from each District within the Synod. One such member shall, wherever possible, be appointed to the Mandated Group from the District from which the case emanates.

B.2.2 The Synod Moderator or other person responsible for calling in the Mandated Group shall appoint the remaining person to the Mandated Group from the Joint Panel in accordance with the procedure set out in Paragraph B.3.

B.3 B.3.1 There shall be a standing panel ('the Joint Panel') consisting of a maximum of thirteen persons, of whom one shall be nominated by each Synod and selected preferably on account of some legal, tribunal or professional experience or other similar background, which would equip them for assuming a role as part of a Mandated Group. The list of those currently on the Joint Panel shall be held by the Synod Moderators.

B.3.2 In cases arising either under Paragraph B.6.1 (District Council) or Paragraph B.9.2 (Synod) (where one member of the Joint Panel will be required to serve) the Synod Moderator or other person responsible for calling in the Mandated Group shall appoint the remaining member of the Mandated Group for that case from the Joint Panel.

B.3.3 In cases arising under Paragraph B.9.3 (General Assembly or Mission Council on its behalf) the Deputy General Secretary, in consultation with such other officers of General Assembly as s/he considers appropriate, shall constitute the Mandated Group by the appointment of all three persons, each of whom shall be selected from either the Joint Panel or any of the Synod Panels (at least one from the Joint Panel and at least one from the Synod Panels).

B.4 If any member of a Synod Panel or the Joint Panel is a member of a local church connected with a case or has any pastoral or personal involvement in a case or is the subject of a disciplinary complaint, that person shall not form part of the Mandated Group for that case.

B.5 B.5.1 If any member of a Synod Panel or the Joint Panel is disqualified under Paragraph B.4 or is for any other reason unable to act in a particular case, the Moderator of the Synod shall appoint another member from the same panel to serve as a member of the Mandated Group for that case. The Mandated Group for all matters relating to that case shall be its remaining member(s) together with the person(s) appointed under this

B.7 The functions of the Mandated Group called in by the person authorised for that purpose under Paragraph B.6 in any particular case are described in this Paragraph B.7 (as regards the initial enquiry) and in Paragraph B.8 (as regards its role during the Commission Stage):

B.7.1 The Mandated Group shall carry out its own initial enquiry with all due expedition in consultation (where practical and appropriate) with the person calling in the Mandated Group for the sole purpose of ascertaining whether the Commission Stage should be initiated. Having done so, it must bring its initial enquiry to a conclusion in accordance with Paragraphs B.7.2 and B.7.3.

B.7.2 If the Mandated Group decides as a result of its initial enquiry not to proceed any further with the matter, it shall serve on the Moderator of the Synod or other person calling it in a notice to that effect (a Notice of Non-Continuance), which shall have the effect of discharging from further involvement in that case the Mandated Group itself (subject to due compliance by it of Paragraph H.4) and the Council in whose name it conducted the initial enquiry.

B.7.3 On receipt of a Notice of Non-Continuance the person calling in the Mandated



B.11 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.

B.12 Once a Referral Notice has been issued by a Mandated Group in any case, no further Referral Notice shall in any circumstances be issued in respect of the subject matter of that referral, save only where the Minister has been the subject of an earlier disciplinary case in which the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission issued a written warning under the pronra1A-8(tc0(i)29b(f)-6(u)-oM.4i4(e)-20(o)-8(nu)-8(e)-11A-87)/Drd a

1.3.2 The Rules of Procedure contained in Part II shall provide for the service of the above Order (and any accompanying documentation if appropriate) on the Synod Moderator/Deputy General Secretary or other person who called in the Mandated Group and under those Rules s/he shall be required, within the time therein specified, to notify the Secretary of the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission in writing whether the recommendation has been accepted or rejected.

1.3.3 If the recommendation has been accepted, the notification shall specify the date on which the Ministerial Incapacity Procedure was initiated, whereupon the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission shall make a further Order declaring the Ministerial Disciplinary case to be concluded, subject only to the continuation of the Minister's suspension until the issue of his/her suspension has been resolved in accordance with the Ministerial Incapacity Procedure.

1.3.4 If the recommendation has been rejected, the notification shall state the reasons and the Assembly Commission or the Appeals Commission shall forthwith reactivate the Ministerial Disciplinary case.

2. The Assembly Commissionyre.

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In any case where no written warning is attached to the decision not to delete, the Notice may state, if the Mandated Group so desires, that the appeal is limited to the question of the issue of a written warning to the Minister.

5.3 No-one other than the Parties has any right of appeal from the decision of the Assembly Commission.

6. Procedural matters shall in every case be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Procedure as contained in Part II.

7.7.1 Save only as provided in Paragraph 7.2, this Part I of the Section O Process is subject to Paragraph 3(1) of the Structure.

7.2 Mission Council acting in the name of General Assembly has authority by single resolution of that Council to make as and when necessary and with immediate effect such changes to Part I as are, on the advice of the legal advisers to the United Reformed Church, required to bring the Section O Process into line with the general law of the land consequent upon any changes in legislation and/or case law.

7.3 All such changes to the Section O Process as are made by Mission Council under Paragraph 7.2 shall be reported to the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Resolution 8 was carried.

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of Resolution 9:

Resolution 9

Amendments to the Structure in relation to the Section O Process

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

Paragraph 2(3)(A)(xviii)

Replace the existing 2(3)(A)(xviii) with the following:

‘Where the District Council, acting through its Mandated Group as defined in the Disciplinary Process referred to below, considers that a Minister is or may not be exercising his/her Ministry in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union, to refer the case of that Minister to the Commission Stage of the Disciplinary

responsibilities marking the commencement of the Disciplinary Process).'

Paragraph 2(5)(B)

Replace the existing unnumbered paragraph immediately following the functions of General Assembly with the following paragraph to be numbered 2(5)(B):

'Once the Disciplinary Process has commenced in the case of any Minister, whether by the General Assembly or by one of the other Councils of the Church, the General Assembly shall not exercise its functions in respect of that Minister (save only in the provision of such pastoral care as may be appropriate) until the Process has been duly concluded.'

Resolution 9 was carried.

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1. Under the provisions of this Ministerial Incapacity Procedure (herein called “the Incapacity Procedure”) a Review Commission* and, in the event of an appeal, an Appeals Review Commission* shall operate under the authority of the General Assembly for the purpose of considering and deciding upon cases properly referred to it in which Ministers*, whilst not perceived to have committed any breach of ministerial discipline, are nevertheless regarded as being incapable of exercising, or of continuing to exercise, ministry on account of medical, psychological or other or similar or related reasons.
2. The Review Commission, the Standing Panel*, the Appeals Review Commission, and all aspects of the Incapacity Procedure shall at all times remain under the jurisdiction and control of the General Assembly which has the authority through the exercise of its functions as contained in Paragraph 2(5) of the Structure* to amend, enlarge or revoke the whole or any part of this Incapacity Procedure, save only that, as long as that Procedure remains in force, the decision reached in any particular case (whether or not on appeal) and any orders made in accordance with the Incapacity Procedure shall be made in the name of the General Assembly and shall be final and binding on the Minister and on all the councils of the Church*.
3. Subject only to Section H of Part II, when the case of any Minister is being dealt with under the Incapacity Procedure, it must be conducted and concluded entirely in accordance with that procedure and not through any other procedure or process of the Church.
4. The Incapacity Procedure shall not be initiated in respect of any Minister if his/her case is currently being dealt with under the Disciplinary Process, save only where the Incapacity Procedure is initiated as a result of a recommendation from the Disciplinary Process, giving rise to a short transitional overlap between the commencement of the case within the Incapacity Procedure and the conclusion of the Disciplinary Process in relation to that Minister.
5. Although



Mr Chilton moved adoption of resolution 53:

Resolution 53

2007 Budget

General Assembly considers ministry essential to the worship, life and witness of local churches and wishes to sustain the present link between the number of stipendiary ministers and the overall membership of the Church.

Following brief debate, resolution 53 was carried.

Mr Chilton moved adoption of Resolution 54:

Resolution 54

2007 Budget

General Assembly reminds local churches that they have the responsibility collectively to support the full cost of ministry; including training, pension contributions and retired

The Revd Elizabeth Caswell resumed the Chair.

Synod Resolution

Mrs Val Morrison moved adoption of Resolution 4:

Resolution 4

Heritage Lottery Fund

In the light of the diminishing government funding available for the repair and upkeep of historic church buildings, especially listed buildings, and the diverse way in which the Lottery is now being used to fund other agencies and sources of financial support, General Assembly resolves to revisit its 1995 resolution and instructs Mission Council to report to Assembly 2007.

Seconded by the Revd Arnold Harrison.

Following debate, Resolution 4 was carried.

On behalf of the West Midlands Synod, the Mrs Wilma Frew moved adoption of Resolution 3:

Resolution 3 Synods and CRCW management

General Assembly re-affirms the value of the Church Related Community Work ministry and, in particular, the commitment to allocate CRCW posts in each Synod. However, recognising the important contribution of local knowledge in all deployment it asks that the Ministries / CRCW Programme Sub-Committee devolve to the Synods the task of terming and reviewing CRCW posts.

Seconded by Mr Bill Robson.

Malcolm Breeze moved that the Resolution be not put; seconded by Marie Trubic.

The Assembly agreed, by more than the required two thirds majority.

Ministries

Mr John Ellis moved adoption of Resolution 16:

Resolution 16

Ministerial development

General Assembly:

- a) agrees in principle to replace the existing scheme for ministerial Accompanied Self-Appraisal with a more comprehensive review scheme which would:**
 - i) eventually include all Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers;**

Following debate, Resolution 16 was carried.

Assembly Commission

The General Secretary reported on Assembly Commissions held during the past year. There had been 1 hearing since Assembly 2005 and the name of the Revd Neville Husband had been deleted from the Roll. The cost had been £2530.41.

The Assembly Clerk moved that:

Assembly receives the minutes of Saturday, and approves the insertion of the minutes of Sunday and Monday into the full minutes after review and any necessary correction by officers of the Assembly.

The Assembly agreed.

Address to the Throne

The Revd Sheila Maxey, former Moderator, presented the address to the Throne:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, meeting in Exeter, sends greetings, in the year of Your Majesty's 80th Birthday.

This year's General Assembly has received a study document produced jointly by a working group from our Church and the Methodist Church entitled *Peacemaking: a Christian Vocation*. It affirms that Christians believe peace to be God's fundamental will for the created order, and that they have a responsibility to witness to this truth, to those in power.

Three years ago, the Church expressed grave reservations about the wisdom of the military initiative in Iraq,

Many of our members and local churches are active in public service; we believe this to be both a Christian calling and an essential element in sustaining and re-creating a sense of community and common purpose among peoples and nations.

As people of faith, we are heartened by the part that a personal faith clearly plays in Your Majesty's own life. We pray that this will both strengthen and sustain, enabling Your Majesty to continue to lead by example.

Revd Elizabeth Caswell
Moderator

Revd Dr David Cornick
General Secretary

The Assembly approved the address.

Moderator-Elect

The Moderator-elect, the Revd Principal Stephen Orchard, addressed the Assembly.

Vote of Thanks

Mr George Morton thanked South West Synod for its welcome and hospitality, and assured members of a warm welcome to the North western Synod in 2007.

The Moderator thanked the staff of the University of Exeter, the Assembly administrative staff, the platform party, musicians and worship leaders.

The General Secretary thanked the Moderator for her conduct of the Assembly's business.

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary and the members of the Catch the Vision Steering Group.

Closing Worship

Closing worship was led by the Chaplain.

The General Secretary announced that the Assembly had completed its business and would adjourn to meet as agreed at the University of Manchester on 7th July 2007 or at such other place or on such other date as may be necessary.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH AND
THE PURPOSE 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. 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 their service is given within the area of a Synod and in a context it has approved.*

* Those persons who, at the time of unification serve as Registered 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 a Synod to preside at the sacraments and to serve as members of that Synod. They may seek further training with a view to applying for recognition as ministers.

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

23. 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 severally groups of members particularly entrusted to their pastoral care. They shall be associated with ministers in all the councils of the church.

Apart from ordained ministers of the United Reformed Church and of other churches, only such recognised persons may be invited.

'The provisions of paragraph 25 are intended to establish the principle that worship should be led by representative persons recognised by the wider church as well as by the local church. The provisions do not prevent the congregation assembled for baptismal or communion service from themselves appointing, as a church meeting, a suitable person to preside at the celebration of the sacrament in a case of emergency, for example if the expected president is taken ill or held up in travel. The provisions do not require such an action rather than a postponement of the baptismal or communion service if that seems preferable.'

26. The ordination and induction of 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.

The totality of ministers who fall within any of the categories defined in Schedule E, Paragraph 1 and are in good standing may be referred to as the Roll of Ministers. Ministers shall conduct their ministry according to the criteria set out in Schedule E.

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

It is the responsibility of the minister 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:

VERSION I

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.



SCHEDULE B

Affirmations to be made by elders at ordination and induction

NOTE: The service, which takes place at public worship, shall include the reading of the Statement contained in

4. Do you believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ?

I do.
5. Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Holy Spirit and a desire

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 ruler 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 humankind.
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 people and nations may be led more and more to glorify the Father in heaven.

VERSION II

With the whole Christian Church
 the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
*The living God, the only God,
 ever to be praised.*

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.
*We acknowledge the gift
 and answer the call,
 giving thanks for the means of grace.*

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 respond to this Word,
 whose servants we are
 with all God's people
 through the years.*

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 Churches of Christ
 in which they stated the faith
 and sought to make its implications clear.
*Faith alive and active:
 gift of an eternal source,
 renewed for every generation.*
 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

SCHEDULE E

1. The following constitute the categories of ministers comprising the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church;
 - a. Ministers of the former Congregational Church of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England who became ministers of the United Reformed Church at its formation in 1972.
 - b. Ministers of the former Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ who became ministers of the United Reformed Church in 1981.
 - c. Ministers of the former Congregational Union of Scotland who became ministers of the United Reformed Church in 1999.
 - d. Ministers who have been ordained as ministers of the United Reformed Church and inducted to a local pastorate (or some other post approved by Synod) after having received a call with the concurrence of the Synod or have been appointed to a post by councils of the Church or are associate members of a Synod
 - e. Ministers of other churches who have been granted a Certificate of Eligibility by the General Assembly, or the committee designated by the General Assembly with the responsibility to grant Certificates of Eligibility, and who subsequently transferred to the United Reformed Church upon ordination and/or induction to a local pastorate following a call with the concurrence of the Synod
 - f. Ministers of other churches who, with the approval of a Synod, have been permitted by the General Assembly, or the committee delegated by the General Assembly to act on its behalf, to transfer to the United Reformed Church without receiving a call to a local pastorate or without being appointed to a post approved by Synod.
2. Ministers must conduct themselves and exercise all aspects of their ministries in a manner which is compatible with the unity and peace of the United Reformed Church and the affirmation made by ministers at ordination and induction (Schedule C) and the Statement concerning the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church (Schedule D) in accordance with which ministers undertake to exercise their ministry.
3. Acting in due exercise of their functions as contained in the Structure of the United Reformed Church, the councils of the Church have authority in certain circumstances (without prejudice to a minister's conditions under the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration) to suspend a minister which involves a temporary ban on the exercise of ministry by the minister concerned but not his/her removal from the Roll of Ministers.
4. A minister under suspension, whether in pastoral charge or not, shall not present him/herself as a minister and shall not preside at communion. The minister shall refrain from all activity which may lead others to believe that he/she is acting as a minister of religion. Suspension also means that the minister may not exercise the ministerial rights of membership of any council of the Church. Suspension does not remove any of the rights accorded by the process of determining the disciplinary matter which had led to the suspension.
5. A person whose name has been deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church and who remains a member of the United Reformed Church has the privilege and responsibilities of that membership, but not those of a minister of Word and sacraments, and should refrain from all activity which may lead others to believe that he/she is acting as a minister of religion. However, should that person be re-instated to the Roll of Ministers, he/she would, on being called to a pastorate, need to be inducted to that pastorate, but not ordained, since ordination is not repeatable.

The Structure of the URC

1.(1) Members of the United Reformed Church associated in a locality for worship witness and service shall together comprise a local church.

1.(1)(a) 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 Synod 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.

1.(1)(b) Where two or more local churches together, and in consultation with the Synod, decide that their mission will be more effective if they share resources and ordained ministry, they may, on the decision of the synod, form an association known as a group of churches with a structured relationship and a constitution governing the way in which they relate to one another as to the sharing of both resources and the ordained ministry. Each church within the group shall retain its own identity, and the church meeting and elders' meeting shall continue to exercise

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The Composition and Functions of the Councils of the United Reformed Church

2.(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

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, evajEMC -02(o)208(e)9(s)1ce co(o)4(5(

number of representatives of local churches so that both local churches with 1-200 members and local churches with over 200 members appoint two representatives.

(where a local church, whether a local ecumenical partnership or a local church organised according to paragraph 1.(1)(a), comprises two or more congregations worshipping in separate locations, the synod may authorise that local church to appoint representatives to the synod from each constituent congregation to such numbers as would be permitted by the above rule if each congregation were a separate local church);

- (d) Such members of local churches, normally elders, not exceeding twelve (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the synod;
- (e) Such members as shall from time to time be appointed by the General Assembly;
- (f) Such retired ministers who have been appointed by the synod as officers of the synod, for the period of their appointment;
- (g) All retired ministers not covered by clause 2.3a or 2.3f residing within the province or nation served by the synod, who shall be associate members of the synod having the right to speak but not to vote at meetings of the synod;
- (h) Two young people, being members of the United Reformed Church, nominated by the synod's youth forum, committee or equivalent;
- (i) Representatives, not exceeding the number approved by the General Assembly, of other denominations as the synod may from time to time determine;
- (j) An elder appointed by the synod as an interim moderator who shall be a full member of the synod for the period of the appointment.

The synod shall elect from among its members a clerk, a treasurer and such other officers as it 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 members of the United Reformed Church notwithstanding that they are not members of the synod.

Moderators of synods. There shall be a moderator for each synod being a minister appointed from time to time by the General Assembly according to its rules of procedure and responsible to the General Assembly.

The moderator shall:

be separated from any local pastoral charge,

stimulate and encourage the work of the United Reformed Church within the province or nation,

preside over the meetings of the synod and exercise a pastoral office towards the ministers and churches within the province or nation,

suggest names of ministers to vacant pastorates, in consultation with interim moderators of local churches,

preside, or appoint a deputy to preside, at all ordinations and/or inductions of ministers within the province or nation,

The moderators of the synods shall meet together at regular intervals for the better discharge of their duties.

Functions of synod:

A. The Synod is responsible for exercising the following Functions (subject to the restriction referred to in Paragraph (B) below):

- (i) To take action which supports
the spreading of the Gospel at home and abroad,
the life and witness of the United Reformed Church
the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole,
the well-being of the community in which the Church is placed;

- (ii) to encourage church extension within the province or nation, decide upon the establishment of new causes and the recognition of mission projects;
- (iii) to decide upon all matters regarding the grouping, amalgamation or dissolution of local churches.
- (iv) to take appropriate action on matters referred to it by the General Assembly of local churches.

- (xv) to receive and decide upon applications for recognition as candidates for the ministry.
 - (xvi) to receive and forward to the General Assembly, recommendations concerning applications for admission into the United Reformed Church from ministers, probationers or congregations.
 - (xvii) to give oversight to candidates for the 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.
 - (xviii) 'Where the Synod, acting through its Mandated Group as defined in the Disciplinary Process referred to below, considers that a Minister is or may not be exercising his/her Ministry in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union, to refer the case of that Minister to the Commission Stage of the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and in every such case to suspend the Minister concerned pending the resolution of the matter under that Process (for the avoidance of doubt the calling in of the Mandated Group under that Process in order to fulfil its responsibilities marking the commencement of the Disciplinary Process).'
 - (xix) to appoint, or to concur in the appointment of, non-stipendiary ministers to their particular service and to review this service at stated intervals.
 - (xx) to accredit and provide support and training for lay preachers and worship leaders and, in consultation with the Local Churches concerned, to give authority for appropriate lay persons to preside at the sacraments. Authorisation for lay persons to preside at the Sacraments in Ecumenical Areas shall only be given in consultation with the appropriate Ecumenical Partner,
 - (xxi) to receive the resignation of ministers and to decide upon appropriate action (see also paragraph 2.5.xviii)
 - (xxii) to seek to expand the range and deepen the nature of the Christian common life and witness in each local community, and in Scotland and Wales to undertake responsibility for national ecumenical relationships on behalf of the whole United Reformed Church, subject to the final authority of the General Assembly.
 - (xxiii) to decide upon all matters regarding erection, major reconstruction or disposal of buildings..
 - (xxiv) to receive, hear and decide upon references and appeals duly submitted.
 - (xxv) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the church.
- (B) 'Once the Disciplinary Process has commenced in the case of any Minister, whether by the Synod or by one

- (xvii) to maintain contact with ecumenical and missionary work in the area;
- (xviii) where the area meeting considers that a minister is not or may not be exercising his/her ministry in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule E to the Basis of Union, to refer the case of that minister to be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church and in every such case to suspend the minister concerned pending the resolution of the matter under that Process at the appropriate time as specified in that Process.

(D) 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.

2.(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 synods (ministerial and lay in equal numbers) as the General Assembly shall from time to time determine (at present one representative per 12

- (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 and Part 1 of the Statement of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process referred to in Function (xxiii) below;
- (xii) to make, alter or rescind rules for the conduct of its own proceedings and of those of other councils and commissions of the United Reformed Church and such other rules, bye-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

2(5)(B) 'Once the Disciplinary Process has commenced in the case of any Minister, whether by the General Assembly or by one of the other Councils of the Church, the General Assembly shall not exercise its functions in respect of that Minister (save only in the provision of such pastoral care as may be appropriate) until the Process has been duly concluded.'

Constitutional Amendments

3.(1) No exercise by the General Assembly of the function of constitutional amendment contained in 2.5.xi shall have effect unless the following procedure has been followed:

- (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, in exceptional cases refer the proposal

Any decision reached in accordance with the Disciplinary Process contained in Section O of the Manual of the United Reformed Church has the status of a decision of the General Assembly and is final and binding.

5.(2) The procedure for dealing with reference and appeals falling outside paragraph 5(1) or paragraph 5(3) is as follows:

A local church or any member thereof or elders' meeting may appeal to the synod 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 synod 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.

5(3) Applications for consent to carry out works to buildings coming within the Church's Control procedure under the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations for the time being in force and appeals from decisions made thereunder shall be dealt with in accordance with that procedure and not under paragraph 5(2) above.

Note: The procedure for appeals appears in paragraph 8 of the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the United Reformed Church.

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