

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
OF THE  
**General Assembly**  
OF THE  
**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Held at Belfast, June, 2004**

**FIRST SESSION**

**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Seven o'clock. Evening**

**Within Church House**

The Right Rev Dr I A McKay, Moderator of the General Assembly, led in the exercise of public worship and addressed those present before constituting the Assembly with prayer.

The Memorial Roll of Ministers deceased was submitted by the Rev J F Murdoch and the Assembly paid their customary tribute.

The Clerk announced that the names of 608 ministers being ex officio members and 490 elders on whose behalf commissions had been received, had been entered on the Roll of the Assembly together with 60 Assembly Elders, Conveners and nominees of the Business Board. 7 Deaconesses, 29 Irish Mission Workers, 60 Women's representatives and 38 Youth representatives together with 17 Conveners and Missionaries who are not members of the court had been invited to sit and deliberate along with 8 Licentiates. There were also 14 Corresponding Members and Delegates from other Churches.

The following Ministers and Ruling Elders were present at the Annual Meeting:-









































The Moderator welcomed, on behalf of the Assembly, representatives of sister Churches, of Universities and Community Organisations, and other special guests present.

The Moderator, having expressed thanks for the help he had received during the past year of office, asked the Assembly to proceed to the election and appointment of a successor to him in office for the ensuing year.

The Clerk submitted the nominations of Presbyteries for the Moderatorship as follows:-

The Rev K N E Newell, BA, BD, MTh .....	10 votes
The Rev R E H Uprichard, BA, BD, MTh, PhD .....	10 votes
The Rev W A Kennedy, MA .....	1 vote

Because of the tied vote Presbyteries voted again in March when the nominations were as follows:-

The Rev K N E Newell, BA, BD, MTh .....	12 votes
The Rev R E H Uprichard, BA, BD, MTh, PhD .....	9 votes

On the motion of the Rev Dr R E H Uprichard, seconded by the Rev W A Kennedy, the Rev Dr K N E Newell was unanimously called to the Chair, welcomed by the retiring Moderator and commended to God in prayer.

The Right Rev Dr K N E Newell then addressed the House.

The sederunt came to a close at 8.50 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## SECOND SESSION

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon**

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**BUSINESS BOARD** by the Rev Dr D J Watts, together with the following Supplementary Report.

The Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** (Reports pp 90-100) was submitted

**Supplementary Report****DELEGATES TO OTHER CHURCHES****The Church of Scotland General Assembly (2004)**

*The Rt Rev Dr I A. McKay reports:*

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in Edinburgh from 15 May until 21 May 2004. Corresponding members from our Church were the Rt Rev Dr I A McKay, the Rev Harold Boyce and Mr William Cousins. We were warmly welcomed to the Assembly and received generous hospitality throughout the week. A pre-assembly introductory meeting for visitors and new commissioners proved useful in understanding the differences in business procedures between our two assemblies.

Dr Alison Elliot was inducted as Moderator and became the first woman and only the second ruling elder to hold the office. Procedurally the only difference was that Dr Elliot's own minister presided at the Communion Service while she assisted in serving the elements.

The Assembly was in reappraisal mode for most of the week. This was because of a falling membership and a deficit of almost five million pounds in the accounts of the main boards and committees. How is the Church to fulfil its mission in such circumstances? Central administration is being streamlined with the creation of six new councils to take over the roles of the existing boards. The aim is to prevent overlap of business and to downsize administration. The need to "radically increase the amount of flexibility within the institutional Church" was recognised, though the Assembly was resistant to the creation of a chief executive-style post. The setting up of a Council of Assembly with only about 16 voting members to carry forward the work of the Assembly was approved though many reservations were expressed about the concentration of power in so few hands. The palliative offered to those who were doubtful was in the belief that "a mission-orientated ethos should inform and effect every area of work undertaken by the Church's central administration". We could identify with the overall aspiration to engage in strategic planning which would include the setting of priorities. The more difficult pill to swallow was the prospect of some cutbacks and even redundancies in the bigger boards.

The use of ministerial resources is also being looked at in a new way. The suggestion is that ministers should be called by a presbytery (and indirectly by a congregation) and should be subject to "flexible tenure" arrangements. A presbytery would be allocated a certain number of ministers, according to pastoral needs and outreach opportunities and those ministers could be moved by the presbytery as needs and opportunities changed within its bounds. It was not immediately clear how this would work in practice particularly in relation to the provision of manses.

A report on the concept of tithing concluded that the Bible did not make this a requirement but rather taught something more radical, "sacrificial giving". The challenge of this is to be taken into local presbyteries in a series of rallies. Paradoxically the report did acknowledge that "it is probably the case that the most generous giving comes from those who do tithe".

One other knotty problem is in the shape of unwanted or underused buildings. With their number increasing there was a warning flagged to congregations that "more robust legislation will be needed to deal with the problem".

Although this “flavour” of the assembly has concentrated on the difficulties the Kirk faces there was also much to encourage. The Church of Scotland has an impressively wide field of ministry and there is a desire to maintain this and at the same time prepare the church for the future. The “Church Without Walls” initiative continues to give reasons for hope and encouragement as more congregations begin to imbibe its principles.

We appreciated the opportunity to be part of the General Assembly and realised again the common challenges we face and the common gospel we preach. One other question was, worryingly, left in the air. In paraphrase it asked, “What shall we do with ex-moderators?”

### **The General Synod of the Church of Ireland (2004)**

*The Right Rev Dr I A McKay reports:*

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland met in Armagh from 11-13 May.

The Presbyterian representatives were the Moderator and Mr Ronnie Gamble, an elder in First Armagh. They, as with other visitors, received a very warm welcome – formally and informally— and were accorded generous hospitality. The Moderator addressed the Synod and offered greetings in the name of the Presbyterian Church.

In general terms, it was a “quiet” Synod – at times “thinly” attended. This was probably because the issues of “The Hard Gospel” and the “Revised Prayer Book” were not as demanding as in recent years.

The major event was the launching of the revised “Book of Common Prayer”. This was celebrated at a Communion Service in St Patrick’s Cathedral at which the Archbishop of Canterbury was the speaker. The conduct of this service, alongside comments re the Prayer Book (e.g. “This is the Church of Ireland”), underlined the emphasis on a liturgical approach to worship. This was an “historic” moment.

Archbishop Eames presided over the business sessions and delivered a lengthy “state of the nation” address. The parliamentary procedures – first, second and third reading of Bills plus Committee stage for detailed examination – sounded complicated to Presbyterian ears but the end was always achieved.

Many areas run parallel to our own situation: dealing with sectarianism (through the “Hard Gospel” project); deficiency in Clergy Pension Fund requiring a 3.1% increase in contributions; sabbatical leave for ministers; reform of synod membership; increasing use of the Church website (442,600 “hits” last year!); issues of heritage protection of buildings; mission in Ireland today; the influence of the Gospel in all of society.

It is always profitable to observe how another denomination approaches its work and witness. This was no exception. We face common problems and challenges but serve the same Gospel. For them, as for us, there remains the priority of how best to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in the changing Ireland of today.

## **The National Synod of the Église Réformée de France.**

*The Rev K D W Crowe reports:*

The National Synod of our partner church, the Église Réformée de France, was held in Cognac, in that Church's western region, from Thursday 20 - Sunday 23 May 2004. (Cognac will sound familiar to some of our members as the place of origin of a famous strong drink, but should also be remembered as the place where Gordon Campbell, currently working in Aix-en-Provence, used to pastor the four local ERF congregations at the start of the very successful partnership between PCI and ERF). Gordon was also present at the Synod in his role as translator, which he carried out with his usual great skill.

The Synod, under the watchful eye of the *Modératrice* (lady Moderator) Janine Pirotte, was held in the town's conference centre – but note that the Moderator is elected to oversee the business of the Synod, and is not a year-long appointment such as ours. Over 90 delegates from the various “*régions*” of the Church were present, as well as several overseas invited guests, such as myself. It was interesting to see how the number and range of such guests has increased since my last attendance at a synod seven years ago, reflecting perhaps an increase in the ERF's overseas links.

Each year the Synod deals with the usual in-house issues of finances and reports from its various organisations and boards, but it also chooses a central theme for debate. This year that theme was “Ministry”, with a particular focus on the role of the minister. This was discussed both in plenary and in group sessions. Important points to emerge by the final day were:

- that authority for ministry derives from Christ and His Word
- that all church members are involved in ministry, although “ministers” have a specialist role.
- that Ministers need time for rest, study and in-service training
- that ministry should be evaluated regularly, through visitation and oversight by the regional presidents (= presbytery moderators)
- that Ministers seek to divide their time and gifts fairly between the local congregation and the wider church
- that the teamwork role of Kirk Sessions is emphasised, and that local congregations formulate “mission statements”
- that mission receive a greater emphasis
- that other forms of personal ministry are appreciated and that the church's ministry is not the personal property of any one person. Every local congregation and minister must work together for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

The delegates to the Synod were treated to wonderful hospitality, including a tour of local places of interest. One of these was a visit to a memorial situated in the middle of a forest, commemorating where local Protestants used to have to meet secretly during the times of fierce persecution in previous centuries. The Synod concluded on Sunday with a dignified communion service in the church in Segonzac (one of the four Cognaçais churches), during which the General Secretary and other national office bearers were dedicated. I would like to thank PCI for according me the privilege of attending this Synod.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev T C Morrison, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the recommended Order of Business be adopted.
3. That the professional amplification controller and the visual display operator be admitted to the private session.
4. That a grant of £16,000 be made from the Incidental Fund to the Arrangements Committee.
5. That the Business Board, with its associated working committee, for the ensuing year beginning 15 March 2005, be appointed in accordance with Par 275 of the Code.

#### **Synods and Presbyteries**

The Report of the **Synods and Presbyteries** (Reports pp 79-89) was submitted by the Rev Dr D J Watts, together with the following Addition.

#### **Reports of Synods and Presbyteries – Addition**

The ARDS PRESBYTERY report that the Rev C Burcombe, BSc, BD, Associate Minister of Greenwell Street, resigned on 2 October, 2003 and was furnished with credentials to the East Belfast Presbytery.

The EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY report that the Rev C Burcombe, BSc, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ards, was installed as Minister of Mersey Street on 3 October, 2003; Alastair Dunlop is a Student for the Ministry under the care of the Presbtery.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

#### **Corresponding Members**

The **Corresponding Members** were received from the Church of Scotland. These were Dr Alison Elliot, the Rev Johnston McKay, Mr. Andrew F Stewart, and from the Conference of European Churches, the Rev Matthew Ross.

The Moderator welcomed the Corresponding Members. Dr Alison Elliot replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Rev Alasdair Pratt and the Rev Richard Mortimer, Corresponding Members from the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom, and the Rev Dafydd Owen, a delegate from the Presbyterian Church of Wales. The Rev Alasdair Pratt replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Canon W A Lewis and Mr Roy Totten, delegates from the Church of Ireland; the Rev Harold Good, OBE, and Mrs Sandra Dickson, delegates from the Methodist Church in Ireland. Mr Roy Totten replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed other delegates from: the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Rev David Riitho Gathanju; Church of North India, the Right Rev Vinod Malaviya; Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, the Rev Binnie Mwakasungula.

The Right Rev Vinod Malaviya replied and conveyed greetings.



The Report of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** (Reports pp 277 – 292) was submitted by the Rev J McAllister, OBE. **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Moved by the Rev J McAllister, OBE, seconded by the Rev S Stewart, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly welcome the work being undertaken by the Transferor Representatives' Council on "ethos" in the controlled sector.
3. That the General Assembly, grateful for the diligent work of the Religious Education Curriculum Review Group, offer thanks especially to Mr Tom Shaw CBE and Dr Aidan Donaldson. **State Education Committee**
4. That the General Assembly note the initiative of the Board in providing training for patron's representatives in Presbyterian schools.
5. That the work of the Church Education Committee, particularly in the "Moving On" project and the "Building Blocks" Children's Ministry Conferences, be commended to the support and prayers of the church. **Church Education Committee**
6. That a grant of £2,000 be paid to the Presbyterian Family Holiday from the Incidental Fund. **General**
7. That the University Chaplains be thanked for their dedicated work and commended in prayer.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev S Stewart, and agreed:

8. That the resignation of the Rev James McAllister, OBE, as Convener of the Education Board be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev R Herron be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev J McAllister, OBE, seconded by the Rev S Stewart, and agreed:

9. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Derek Poots, OBE, as Convener of the State Education Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and Mr W J Caves appointed in his place.
10. That the Board of Education, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 284 of the Code as follows:

**Rev R Herron, Convener**  
**Rev S Stewart, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the Principal UTC, University Chaplains, Conveners of RE in Day Schools, Representative on Stranmillis Management, Transferors' Representatives on the NI Area Boards, Deputy Clerk, Rev J McAllister, R. Herron, S. Stewart.**

(b) **Revs W Sinclair, WJ Carlisle' — Revs JWP McConnell, TA McNeely — Rev JL Keenan; WA Wilson — Dr J Davis, J Wilkinson — Rev HSW Cubitt; George Beattie — Revs BD Colvin, JKA McIntyre.**

(c) **Rev KWJ Hanna; W McCartney — Rev GAJ Farquhar; E Crawford — Rev Dr R Kane; N Lyttle — Rev Dr CA Grant; JL Snodgrass — T Nicholl, W Hoy.**

(d) **Rev JN Seawright; R Manson — Rev Dr I Hart; H Ruddell — \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.**

(e) **Rev DW Reid; WA McIlwaine — Rev TV Mawhinney; R Graham — James Cochrane, Mrs. C. Trimble — Rev AS Thompson; Mrs E Farr.**

(f) **Ian McCracken, AO Buchanan — Rev GD Campbell; Dr Mary Carson—  
Rev RI Carton; Mrs D Holmes-Greer.**

(g) **Revs Dr John Thompson, Prof LS Kirkpatrick; Dr TD Alexander, TJ Shaw,  
Mrs S Lewis, Mrs R Clements, Mrs L Gibson, Mrs D McKee, Alan S Kennedy.**

**A. STATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (5) WJ Caves, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr RFS Poots, Nancy Cubitt,  
IT McKee, J McAllister, Dr TR Buick, Education Secretary; J Magowan,  
BT Duffy, WJ Caves.**

(x) **TJ Shaw, W Steele, Mrs J Campbell.**

(y) **Revs GAJ Farquhar, JA Curry, S Stewart, ME Taylor, W Sinclair; JL  
Snodgrass, J Wilkinson, Mrs M Patterson.**

**B. UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE (5)**

**Rev Dr TR Buick, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs IT McKee, J McAllister, TR  
Buick; Director of Youth Ministry, Education Secretary, Convener of War  
Memorial Hostel Committee, Secretary Board of Social Witness.**

(x) **Rev Prof WP Addley; TJ Shaw, N Todd, Mrs CM Poots.**

(y) **Revs AS Thompson, DW Reid, Dr RA Kane; Dr Mary Carson, N Lyttle,  
Mrs E Farr.**

**2004 Assembly  
Conference  
Committee**

The Report of the **2004 Assembly Conference Committee** (Reports p 353)  
was submitted by the Rev I F Smith.

Moved by the Rev I F Smith, seconded by the Rev Dr M A Barry, and  
agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to participate fully  
in the 'GET A LIFE' process by praying for the Conference, and by using the  
follow-up resource materials in Mid-weeks, Youth Groups, and other appropriate  
meetings.

3. That the ad hoc Committee for the Residential Assembly Conference be  
reappointed for a further year as follows:

**Revs JH Robinson, IF Smith, Co-Conveners**

**The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs JH Robinson, IF Smith.**

**Revs TD Gribben, Dr MA Barry, H Boyce, R Hill, KA McBride, DJ Montgomery,  
AJMcL Smith, C Maban; Dr TD Alexander, Miss A Houston, S Lynas, S McDowell, D  
Thomson, L Conway.**

**Intermission**

Members of Assembly were joined by others to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, conducted by the Moderator, assisted by the Very Rev Dr I A McKay and the Clerk.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.15pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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### THIRD SESSION

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2004      A quarter past two o'clock. Afternoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** PWA (Reports pp 201-205) was submitted by Mrs Margaret Myers, together with the following Supplementary Report.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION – Supplementary Report**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Executive  
Secretary:  
Revised Job  
Description**

**Job Title:** Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA)

**Salary:** Salary Scale E3

**Responsible to:** The Deputy Clerk for the management function of the PWA Office and to the Executive Committee of the Association for the overall implementation of PWA strategies and plans.

**Reports to:** The Deputy Clerk and formally, as required, to the Executive Committee.

**Main Functions:** To work with the Executive Committee in the resourcing / promotion/ envisioning/ development of the PWA at every level, in consultation with Presbyterial Committees and local branches and to exercise overall responsibility for general administration in the PWA Office, including the supervision of the office and its staff, ensuring that all functions are efficiently carried out.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

1. To ensure that communication with PWA branches is maintained and developed, providing assistance and advice and encouraging prayer and financial giving.
2. To undertake deputation work at PWA Meetings, Church Services and other meetings and share in the leading of the worship, as necessary.
3. To manage the financial functions of the PWA Office.
4. To liaise regularly with the Central President on PWA matters.
5. To be responsible for servicing the meetings of the Executive Committee and to service other ad hoc working parties and committees of Executive, as required.
6. To prepare PWA Points for Prayer pages.
7. To prepare the PWA Annual Report to the General Assembly and for the PWA Annual Meeting and edit the Annual Deaconesses' Reports.
8. To draft and update statements of policy and procedures for deaconesses and submit to the Executive Committee and BMI Personnel committee.
9. To co-ordinate occasional Special Events along with members of the Executive Committee.
10. To support the work in South Belfast Friendship House and liaise with the Board of Social Witness and South Belfast Presbytery regarding partnership.
11. To liaise with the Central Committee of the Young Women's Group and be available for consultation.
12. To organise the process of application and training for Deaconesses and liaise with Union College on placements during training.
13. To organise the placements in Congregations (or specialised Ministries) of Deaconesses and probationary Deaconesses of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Deacons/Deaconesses of partner Churches.
14. To prepare and update regularly the leaflet for prospective Deaconesses.
15. To offer encouragement and pastoral care to serving Deaconesses, including visiting in situ.
16. To organise occasional events for inspiration and mutual fellowship of serving Deaconesses.
17. To organise, in consultation with serving deaconesses and the Deputy Clerk, the programme for development and in service training for Deaconesses, including periodic reviews.
18. To prepare and update regularly the Deaconess Handbook.
19. To prepare and update regularly an information leaflet for Ministers who have Probationary Deaconesses/Deaconesses or those who are interested in having a Deaconess in their Congregation. To liaise with the Ministers and oversee the Deaconesses.
20. To liaise with Clerks of Presbyteries and Ministers regarding Induction and Commissioning of Deaconesses.
21. To undertake any other duties relevant to the post as required by the Deputy Clerk or the Executive Committee.

## BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND

As agreed with the Deputy Clerk and the PWA Executive Committee, to contribute to those aspects of the work of the Board of Mission in Ireland that are recognised as relating directly to the central functions and aims of PWA, including membership of relevant committees.

## OVERSEAS BOARD

As agreed with the Deputy Clerk, the Executive Secretary of the Overseas Board and the PWA Executive Committee, to contribute to those aspects of the work of the Overseas Board that are recognised as relating directly to the central functions and aims of PWA, including membership of relevant committees.

Mrs Zoe Vallely, PWA Central President, also addressed the Assembly.

Moved by Mrs Margaret Myers, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

The **Overtures Anent Par 308(7)(a) and 308(7)(b) of the Code** (Reports p 205) were submitted by Mrs M Myers. **Overtures Anent Par 308(7)(a) and 308(7)(b)**

Moved by Mrs M Myers, seconded by Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

That the Overture Anent Par 308(7)(a) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code it be made the rule of the Church.

That the Overture Anent Par 308(7)(b) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code it be made the rule of the Church.

The Report of the **NOMINATION BOARD** (Reports pp 121-127) was submitted by the Rev Dr D J Watts. **NOMINATION BOARD**

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev D Knowles, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Rev R S Hetherington be appointed Director of Ministerial Studies. **Director of Ministerial Studies**

The Moderator declared the Rev R S Hetherington elected and, having subscribed the Westminster Confession of Faith, he was declared appointed.

SUBSCRIPTION in terms of the General Assembly's Formula.

I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith as described in the Code, Chapter I, paragraphs 12-14, to be founded on and agreeable to the word of God, and as such I subscribe it as the Confession of my faith.

R S HETHERINGTON  
 Certified by DONALD J WATTS  
 Clerk of Assembly  
 8 June 2004

Mr Hetherington expressed his thanks to the Moderator and members of Assembly, after which the Moderator, leading in prayer, commended the Rev R S Hetherington to the care and guidance of God.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev D Knowles, and agreed:

**General** 3. That the General Assembly adopt the recommendations contained in the Review, pars 5-12.

4. That the General Assembly ask the Board of Finance and Personnel in the light of this Report, to review all aspects of the recruitment and employment of executive staff and report to the General Assembly in 2005.

5. That the Nomination Board be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 276 of the Code as follows:

**The Clerk, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly.**

(b\*) **Revs TWD Johnston, NAL Cameron, Dr RJ Greer; J Chestnutt, J Whittle, R McCleary.**

(c\*) **Revs JA Beattie, JH MacConnell, RJA Bell; ITA Gillespie, E Martin, EC Redmond.**

(d\*) **Revs AW Boyd, DR Whitley, BR Hughes; H McRoberts, Mrs E Murray, J McKaig.**

(e\*) **Revs Noel Ward, IF Smith, JF Murdoch; Mrs Rhona Ferguson, G Sproule, Stanley Warnock.**

(f\*) **Revs SW Rea, MR Burnside, J Mann; John Ellis, Samuel Anderson, Mrs D Holmes-Greer.**

(g) **Rev Dr RI Birney; Mrs Mary Robinson — Rev Dr DH Allen; N Chambers — Rev Dr RFS Poots; DF Adair.**

**Together with four “specialists” variously nominated for particular appointments.**

**BOARD OF  
STUDIES AND  
CHRISTIAN  
TRAINING**

The Report of the **BOARD OF STUDIES AND CHRISTIAN TRAINING** (Reports pp 293-306) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr A W G Brown, together with the following Correction to the Report of the Students’ Bursary Fund Committee.

### **BOARD OF STUDIES AND CHRISTIAN TRAINING – Correction**

**Reports pp 299 Par 4** to read:

Taking all this into consideration, the Committee would recommend that we should not require repayment of grants or fees from those who have withdrawn or have been required to withdraw from training for the ministry, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so, as determined by the Board on the recommendation of the Students’ Bursary Fund Committee.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr A W G Brown, seconded by the Rev D S Mackay, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the General Assembly note with gratitude to God the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Union Theological College, and pray for God's continued blessing on the Principal, Faculty, members of staff and students.

3. That the General Assembly note with pleasure the continued good number of applicants for the ordained ministry, and urge ministers and Kirk Sessions to encourage suitably gifted members to consider the possibility of God's call.

4. That the General Assembly ask the Board of Studies and Christian Training to seriously consider ensuring that within the selection process the minister of the applicant's congregation is adequately consulted.

5. That the following candidates, their nominations having been sustained by the Board of Studies and Christian Training, be accepted as students for the ordained ministry and placed under the care of their Presbyteries:

Ronald S Agnew	Craigavon	Armagh
P Martin Baxter	Ballywillan	Coleraine
Andy Carroll	Lucan	Dublin & Munster
Mark R Catney	2 <sup>nd</sup> Comber	Down
David Clawson	Strand	East Belfast
J Martin Gracey	Downshire	Carrickfergus
William Montgomery	Aghadowey	Coleraine
David McCarthy	Dunmurry	South Belfast
Andrew McConnell	Hill Street, Lurgan	Armagh
T Philip McCullough	Kells	Ballymena
Stephen R Robinson	Kilmakee	South Belfast
D Mark Shaw	Ballysillan	North Belfast
W J Ivan Thompson	1 <sup>st</sup> Holywood	Ards

6. That the General Assembly note the recent review of legislation on assistants and associates, together with revised regulations for applicants, and approve their implementation for two years before any formal changes are made to the Code.

7. That the names of licentiates be included with those who are designated to conduct wedding services, subject to the rules of the Church.

8. Recognising the need for a small number of congregations to extend an Associate ministry beyond the present seven-year limit, the General Assembly approve the drawing up of legislation along the lines indicated in the Report.

9. The General Assembly invite the Review Committee to pursue further the possibility of a new category of 'Associate and Successor', and to report to next year's General Assembly.

10. That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme in 2004 be reduced from 0.75p per £ to 0.25p per £ of stipend.

**Ministerial  
Development  
Programme**

11. That the General Assembly approve the repayment policy outlined in paragraph 5 of the Student's Bursary Fund report.

12. That the General Assembly accept the revised guidelines for the recording of academic qualifications in the Alphabetical List of Ministers, with effect from 2005.

**Recording of  
Academic  
Qualifications**

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

- General** 13. That the resignation of the Very Rev Dr Godfrey Brown as Convener of the Board of Studies and Christian Training be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev George Moore be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr A W G Brown, seconded by the Rev D S Mackay, and agreed:

14. That the resignation of the Rev Graham Connor as Convener of the College and Magee Management Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Rev D W Brice be appointed in his place.

15. That the following grants be paid from the Incidental Fund:

June Summer School & Phase I Interview	£1,534
Pre-Term College Retreat	£2,270
Applicants' Study Day	£340
Phase II Interviews	£40
Licentiate Courses	£95
Meetings for students and spouses	£400
Honoraria for Extern Examiners	£300
Teaching in Communication Skills for students outside Ireland	£100
Information Day	<u>£452</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,531</b>

16. That the Board of Studies and Christian Training, together with the appropriate working Committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 285 of the Code, as follows:

**Rev G Moore, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Professors in UTC, and two student representatives, University Chaplains, Exec Dir BMI, Director of Ministerial Studies, Revs Dr AWG Brown, G Moore.**

(b) **Revs JNI McNeely, RA Patton — Revs TA Moore, JWP McConnell — Revs RA Moffett, TW Gordon — Rev Dr RJG Gray; Dr C Reid, — Revs WL Orr, WJM Parker — Revs FJ Gibson, Dr MA Barry.**

(c) **Revs JD McGaughey, DA Murphy — Revs SP Moore, FA Bradley — Rev DS Mackay; Dr JH Gillespie — Revs DIJ McNie, RJ Gilkinson — Revs JH MacConnell, WJ Sleith.**

(d) **Rev TD Gribben; Mrs H Murdock — Revs V Sinclair, Dr. MR Patterson — Rev W McKeown; WF McConnell.**

(e) **Revs RW Gaston, DJ Hutchinson — Revs Dr C Glass, SJ Gray — Rev RI Abraham; Miss M Guy — Revs NW McAuley, JH Flaherty.**

(f) **Revs J Lamont, PA McBride — Revs Dr JG Millar, FP Sellar, — Revs RI Carton, AA McCullough.**

(g) **Mrs M Robinson; Revs JH McIntyre, JG Kennedy, GAJ Farquhar, ATF Johnston, AV Stewart, GE Best, DT Moore, ES Hughes, C Meban.**



- A. COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STUDIES (5)**  
**Rev SP Moore, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Principal UTC, Education Secretary, Convener of Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee, Director of Ministerial Studies, Convener of Students' Bursary Fund Committee, Revs G Moore, SP Moore.**
  - (x) **Revs GR Stockdale, AJMcL Smith, Prof WP Addley, Prof LS Kirkpatrick, Dr JG Millar; Mrs H Murdock.**
  - (y) **Revs DJ Hutchinson, RA Moffett, JNI McNeely, NW McAuley, JWP McConnell; Dr JH Gillespie.**
- B. COLLEGE AND MAGEE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (4)**  
**Rev DW Brice, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the Principal UTC.**
  - (fac) **Revs Prof JC McCullough, Prof WP Addley, Prof LS Kirkpatrick, WDF Marshall.**
  - (x) **Dr TD Alexander, D Clements; Revs GBS Gibson, SP Moore, DW Brice, G Moore.**
- C. COMMITTEE ON RESOURCING CHRISTIANS FOR MINISTRY (6)**  
**Rev Dr RM Crooks, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Education Secretary, Professor of Practical Theology, Director and Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Director of Christian Training, Director of Social Service, Director of Ministerial Studies, Revs G Moore, Dr RM Crooks.**
  - (x) **Revs Dr IA McKay, G Aitcheson, J Coulter; Colin Millar.**
  - (y) **Revs JD McGaughey, RJ Gilkinson, JNI McNeely, DH Thompson, Dr MA Barry, DJ Hutchinson, AA McCullough; Dr J Gillespie.**
- D. RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES COMMITTEE (5)**  
**Rev RB Savage, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Principal UTC, Revs AD Davidson, G Moore, RB Savage, Director of Ministerial Studies, Convener of the Committee on Studies.**
  - (x) **Revs Dr DH Allen, SD Finlay, SS Johnston, TWD Johnston, DS McIlwrath, WTJ Richardson.**
  - (y) **Revs TD Gribben, W McKeown, Dr JG Millar, TA Moore; Mrs H Murdock, Mrs M Robinson.**

**Intermission**

The Report of the **BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS** (Reports pp 101-120) was submitted by the Rev W A Kennedy, together with the following Supplementary Report.

## **BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS – Supplementary Report**

### **Memorial Record**

**The Rev George Lambert McAdoo, BA, BD, MTh**, senior minister of First Larne, died on 4 April 2004, in the 68<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 40<sup>th</sup> of his ministry.

The son of a County Monaghan farmer, he was educated at Dundalk Grammar School. He became an automobile engineer and maintained a lifelong interest in cars and motorcycles. Having first attended Magee University College and graduated in Arts from Trinity College, Dublin, it was recovery from a serious motorcycle accident which led him to pursue theological training in New College, Edinburgh and Assembly's College, Belfast. He later gained degrees in Divinity and Theology from Edinburgh and Belfast respectively. Licensed by the Presbytery of Monaghan on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1964, he was ordained in Fortwilliam Park, Belfast, in December of that year and served assistantships there and in Lowe Memorial, Finaghy.

Called to Newry, he ministered to the Sandys Street congregation from 5 July 1967 to 10 September 1975. Installed in First Larne on 11 September 1975, he gave vital leadership to a congregation in the process of moving from the old meeting house to a new building complex. From the outset he poured all his energy into the life and work of that congregation, and it absorbed him completely, so that he had little interest in or outlet for recreational pursuits. His was a practical Christian faith through which he was a blessing to many. He had a pastor's heart and possessed the ability to reach out and to relate to different types of people. He made himself always available and was especially supportive of any in trouble. A big man with a big heart and noted for his abiding sense of humour, he was a very human human being who remained true to his early background and his roots in the country.

Outside the congregation and in the community he had a particular interest in education and brought his wisdom and enthusiasm to the Boards of Governors of Larne and Inver and Olderfleet Primary Schools and to both the High School and the Grammar School. He served the wider Church as Convener of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee from 1986-1993 and was Moderator of the Synod of Ballymena and Coleraine in 2000.

After twenty-seven years in First Larne he retired on 11 September 2002 and was diagnosed soon afterwards with a serious illness, which he faced with courage and with the confidence of the faith he had so consistently commended both within the pulpit and without.

He is survived by his widow, Dorothy, their three sons, and also by his mother.

**The Rev Colin Corkey, BA**, senior minister of Hydepark, died on 26 May, 2004 in the 94<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 68<sup>th</sup> of his ministry.

A son of the Manse, he was born at Drumhillery, Co Armagh on 21 May, 1911 and brought up in the congregation of Cullnady. From there he followed the path of education which took him to Foyle College, Londonderry, to Magee University College, and to Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated in Arts. He then attended New College, Edinburgh and Assembly's College, Belfast.

He was licensed in Magherafelt on 4 September, 1934. It was not Ireland, however, which inspired him to seek ordination, but the mission-field of China. After an assistantship in Castleton he offered himself for service in Manchuria, was ordained as a missionary on 27 July, 1936, and set about learning the Manchurian dialect in what was then Peking. His was an abiding interest in Chinese life and culture. After five years, however, in which he gave himself with dedication and enthusiasm to work which included a spell as YMCA secretary in Moukden and brought with it experiences and adventures which in later years he loved to recount, the Irish Presbyterian Church, fearful for their safety, withdrew its missionaries from China and, with reluctance and a sense of disappointment, he came home.

Drawn to work as a chaplain to the forces, he served for the remaining years of the Second World War in this capacity with the RAF. The acquisition of a wife, herself the daughter of the Manse, suggested adaptation to the more settled life of congregational ministry. He accepted the call of First Castlederg, was installed there in 1947, and remained until 1952, founding a company of the Boys' Brigade which continues to flourish. Rural Tyrone and Belfast's Falls Road may seem a contrast more than remarkable; but it was to the congregation of Albert Street that he was to minister next, from 1952-1965, and among the clergy and people of that area that he was to promote the politics of peace, compromise and justice for all which expressed his own character. After thirteen years he felt ready for a change, made application to the congregation of Hydepark, accepted their call, and remained as their minister until retirement on 31 July, 1976.

In such a varied life there were certain constants. Wherever he followed the call of God he displayed faithful pastoral care, kindly leadership, a type of preaching that was both reasoned and reasonable, and, above all, a warm-hearted friendship. Ever sure of his own convictions, he was careful to speak the truth in love. He himself had embraced a simple faith, and it was that which he sought to impart to others, in the belief that Christianity is "life with meaning". Robustly energetic, he found an interest in sport which enabled him to relate with particular ease to young people.

His own was a happy, hearty family-life. It was with his family that he delighted to spend holiday-time in Co Donegal. Upon retirement he and his wife went first to live in the redundant Manse at Killaig, where they endeared themselves to the people there, and then to a bungalow at Ballyhenry which brought further association with the Hydepark congregation. A long life lived to the full, it was one which touched a host of other lives and brought much blessing. Doreen, his wife and co-worker, and Frances, Colin, Stephen and John, their children, will be joined by many who remember and give thanks.

Moved by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by the Rev W T J Richardson, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly commend the work of the Communications Department and express thanks to the Information Officer, the office staff and the Editor of the Presbyterian Herald.
3. That the General Assembly approve the changes to the internal structures of the Board of Communications as described in Appendix I of their report.
4. That the General Assembly note with encouragement the plans by the Board of Communications to develop communication within the church as described in Appendix II of their report.
5. That the General Assembly welcome the production of the new Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook and encourage its use in all congregations.
6. That the General Assembly urge a good attendance at the launch of the new hymnbook on Saturday 18 September at 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall and at the regional launches.
7. That the Hymnal Committee be thanked for its work and appointed as an ad hoc committee of the General Assembly for one further year as follows:

**Rev WTJ Richardson, Convener**

**The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Rev WTJ Richardson; Stephen Lynas.**

**Revs Dr WP Addley, WTJ Richardson, WJ Murdoch, WA Kennedy, RL Brown, JH McIntyre, WH Sanderson, RD McDowell, M Spratt, R Hill, JF Murdoch, IF Smith, JR Dickinson, Dr AWG Brown; H Morrow, Mrs O Marshall, Miss M Guy, O McAuley, C Blake, Ms J Cowle, Mrs M Braithwaite, Ms D Holt.**

Moved by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

**Public  
Worship  
Committee**

8. That the Public Worship Committee be thanked for its services and discharged and that the Rev Jack Richardson be thanked for his work as its convener.
9. That the resignation of the Rev John Murdoch as convener of the Memorial Record be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev Jack Richardson be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by the Rev W T J Richardson, and agreed:

**Historical Society  
Committee**

10. That the Historical Society Committee be thanked for its services and discharged; that the Rev Dr John McKee be thanked for his work as its convener and the Rev Ivor Smith be appointed as convener as described in Appendix I of the Board of Communications Report.

**Church  
Architecture  
Committee**

11. That the resignation of the Rev Lawrence Hilditch as Convener of the Church Architecture Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev George Simpson be appointed in his place.

12. That a grant of £1,500 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Church Architecture Committee. **General**

13. That a grant of £13,700 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

14. That the Board of Communications, together with its associated working committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 277 of the Code as follows:

**Rev WA Kennedy, Convener**  
**Stephen Lynas, Secretary**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Rev WA Kennedy; Editors of the Church Magazines, S Lynas.**
- (b) **Rev CJC McMullen; Mrs Jean Mann — J MacQueen, V Riddell — Rev TI Harte; R Fleming— Rev DH Gilpin; A Robinson — Rev WH Sanderson; H Morrow — Rev DC Scott; Mrs P Qua.**
- (c) **J Francey, T Montgomery — R Nelson, Mrs H Graham — Rev R McMullan; Dr W Gilmore — Rev RD McDowell; K McAuley — Rev RL Brown; J Gowdy.**
- (d) **Rev TC Wright; R Manson — Rev Dr G Grindle; Miss JP Gamble — Rev JR Lambe; T Busby.**
- (e) **Rev Dr R Buick; W Harvey — Rev GD Simpson; J Donaghey — Miss Margaret Guy, JA Patterson— Rev JI Thompson; Mrs M Crooks.**
- (f) **Rev SJ Richmond; Mrs J Wilson — Rev Robert Cobain; Mrs Val Fitzgerald — Rev GJ Mackarel; R Sharpe.**

**A. COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (5)**

**Rev Dr RA Russell, Rev IF Smith, Co-Conveners**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Information Officer, Editor of Presbyterian Herald, Board of Communications Committee Conveners.**
- (x) **Rev Dr WE Davison; R Patton, M O'Neill, R Nelson.**
- (y) **Revs WH Sanderson, DH Gilpin, CJC McMullen, R Cobain; Mrs P Qua, Mrs J Mann, T Busby, R Fleming.**

**B. COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (7)**

**Rev C Glover, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Information Officer, Editors of Church Magazines, Magee Director, Prof of Practical Theology, Rev Dr RS Tosh, Religious Advisors to BBC, Downtown Radio, RTE and UTV.**
- (x) **Revs PD Thompson, J Wylie, C Meban, Dr WHG Crawley.**
- (y) **Revs RD McDowell, GJ Mackarel, RL Brown, SJ Richmond, CJC McMullen; T Busby, Val Fitzgerald, Miss Margaret Guy.**

**C. CHURCH ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE (4)**

**Rev GD Simpson, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs WA Kennedy, LWH Hilditch, GD Simpson; Information Officer.**

- General** (x) **W Boyce, Mrs J Hamilton, M Shaw; Rev RE Boggs.**  
 (y) **T Montgomery, JA Patterson; Revs JR Lambe, TI Harte.**

**Overtures Anent Par 277(2)(c) and (d)** The **Overtures Anent Par 277(2)(c) and (d) of the Code** (Reports p 120) were submitted by the Rev W A Kennedy.

Moved by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by the Rev W T J Richardson, and agreed:

That the Overture Anent Par 277(2)(c) of the Code be received and that, under Para 111 of the Code it be made the rule of the Church.

That the Overture Anent Par 277(2)(d) of the Code be received and that, under Para 111 of the Code it be made the rule of the Church.

**BOARD OF MINISTRY AND PENSIONS** The Report of the **BOARD OF MINISTRY AND PENSIONS** (Reports pp 339-345) was submitted by the Rev J L Casement.

Moved by the Rev J L Casement, seconded by Mr J Millar, OBE, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

**Central Ministry Fund** 2. That Retired Ministers with pre 1978 service be paid, in the current year, a special grant, Code Par 315(5), of £15 per month from the CMF.

3. That the rate of assessment for CMF in 2004 be 17p in the £ of Stipend.

**Retired Ministers' Fund** 4. That the rate of assessment for the Retired Ministers' Fund in 2004 be 11p in the £ of Stipend.

**Widow of Ministers' Fund** 5. That the rate of assessment for the Widows of Ministers' Fund in 2004 be 7.75p in the £ of Stipend.

**Ministers' Prolonged Disability Fund** 6. That the rate of assessment for the Ministers' Prolonged Disability Fund in 2004 be 2p in the £ of Stipend for Ministers, Licentiatees and College Professors and of Basic Ministerial Minimum for Ministers who are Missionaries.

**Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978)** 7. That the rate of assessment for the Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978) in 2004 be 20.75p in the £ of Stipend as shown in the column 'Stipend paid to Minister' or as fixed by the Union Commission in the case of a vacancy.

8. That the General Board be authorised to act on behalf of the General Assembly during the coming year in relation to any proposed change to the assessments and contributions for the Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978).

9. That under the provisions of Code Par 223 (3) Rev J M Cathcart (Waterside and Fahan) be given permission to retire on or after his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday and that his pension be in accordance with the Code and the Rules of the Scheme.

10. That the Board of Ministry and Pensions be thanked for its services and discharged.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

11. That the out-going Conveners – Revs J L Casement, R J A Bell, D C Porter, Messrs J Hutcheson, J Millar, N McLaughlin – be thanked for their work in convening the Board and Committees.

Moved by the Rev J L Casement, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

12. That Mr J Millar, OBE, be appointed Convener of the Board of Finance and Personnel.

Moved by the Rev J L Casement, seconded by Mr J Millar, OBE, and agreed:

13. That Mr David Lamb be appointed Convener of the Personnel Committee; Mr Michael Fitch be appointed Convener of the Finance, Legal and IT Committee; Mr Hubert Martin be appointed Convener of the Assembly Buildings Committee; Mr Douglas Crowe be appointed Convener of the Pensions and Assessments Committee.

14. That the Board of Finance and Personnel, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed as follows:

**J Millar, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Financial Secretary, the Convener of Union Commission, Board Convener, Conveners of Finance, Legal & IT Committee, Personnel Committee, Assembly Buildings Committee and Pensions & Assessments Committee..**

(b) **Rev NJ Linkens; Mrs J Mann — AG Sleator, N Greenlee — Rev M Casement; R Courtenay— Rev AS Thompson; M McMaster— Rev SA Matthews; H Smyth — Rev D Rankin; M Agnew.**

(c) **Rev WF Dickey; C McClelland — Rev R Bell; F Picton — Rev R Kelly; H Stewart — Rev KDW Crowe; J McMullan — FJ Hand, CRA Davis.**

(d) **Rev WA Abernethy; D Crowe — Rev WI Hull; M Fitch — M Cairnduff, N Valentine.**

(e) **Rev JT Williamson; A Fletcher— Rev JA Noble; RJ Boggs — Rev JL Casement; Robert Kidd — Rev IF Smith; E Carroll.**

(f) **Rev SW Rea; WC Patterson — Rev J Carson; J Gregg — Rev A McCullough; T Semple.**

**A. FINANCE, LEGAL AND IT COMMITTEE (3)**

**M Fitch, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, M Fitch, J Millar, Financial Secretary.**

(x) **R Power, T McQuoid, B McCluggage, W Miscampbell.**

(y) **Revs WI Hull, KDW Crowe; FJ Hand, N Valentine.**

**B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (3)**

**D Lamb, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; D Lamb, J Millar, Head of Personnel.**

(x) **Revs Dr J Fell; B Phillips, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.**

(y) **Revs JM Casement, IF Smith; T Semple, H Smyth.**

**C. ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS COMMITTEE (3)**

**JH Martin, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, J Millar, J Kelly; Rev RIA Allely; JH Martin.**

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- (x) WJ Cairns, A McQuoid, D Bell.
- (y) Revs JT Williamson, R Kelly, A Shaw Thompson.

**D. PENSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE (4)**  
**D Crowe, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, D Crowe, J Millar, Financial Secretary.**
- (x) **Rev D Armstrong; J Hutcheson, I Johnston, D Munster, D Clements,**  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- (y) **Revs RJA Bell, JL Casement, SW Rea, WA Abernethy, AA McCullough; E Carroll.**

**Overtures anent** The **Overtures anent Pars 223(3); 268(4)(d); 286; 288; 311(3); 311(6); 311(7); 312(2); 316(3); 314; 315(3); 318(A)2b; 319(3); 324(3); 321(1); 111(6) of the Code** (Reports pp 345-348) were submitted by the Rev J L Casement.

**Pars 223(3); 268(4)(d); 286; 288; 311(3); 311(6); 311(7); 312(2); 316(3); 314; 315(3); 318(A)2b; 319(3); 324(3); 321(1); 111(6)**

Moved by the Rev J L Casement, seconded by Mr J Millar, OBE, and agreed:

That the Overtures anent Pars 223(3); 268(4)(d); 286; 288; 311(3); 311(6); 311(7); 312(2); 316(3); 314; 315(3); 318(A)2b; 319(3); 324(3); 321(1) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

Moved by the Rev J L Casement, seconded by Mr J Millar, OBE and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 111(6) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.55pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## FOURTH SESSION

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**DOCTRINE  
COMMITTEE**

The Report of the **DOCTRINE COMMITTEE** (Reports pp 27-35) was submitted by the Rev Professor S N Williams.



Moved by the Rev Professor S N Williams, seconded by the Very Rev Dr J W Lockington.

1. That the Report be received.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Dr A N Kerr, seconded by the Rev T W A Greer:

That the Report be received and in its further deliberations the committee be asked to consider how best the truth of the historic doctrine of Justification by Faith can be proclaimed relevantly in our present situation.

On being put, the amendment was declared passed.

Voting: For ..... 163  
Against ..... 161

Moved, as a further amendment, by the Rev Dr M A Barry, seconded by the Rev Dr W W Porter, and agreed:

That the Report be received and in its further deliberations the committee be asked to consider how best the truth of the historic doctrine of Justification by Faith can be proclaimed relevantly in our present situation, and to set up the mechanism to examine the Biblical nature, role and relationship of the minister, elder and deacon, including the meaning of ordination and appropriate ways of training elders.

On being put as substantive motion, was passed.

Moved by the Rev Professor S N Williams, seconded by the Very Rev Dr J W Lockington, and agreed:

2. That overtures be prepared by the Clerk and presented to the General Assembly of 2005 to accommodate elders who may wish to give up the duties of eldership for a period of time.

3. That the General Assembly take steps to encourage every-member ministry, initially through a six month programme focussing on ministries in the church, where possible beginning in January 2005.

4. That the General Assembly encourage the Magee Institute in their provision of instruction and resources for those seeking to develop every-member ministry.

### **Intermission**

The Report of the **CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE** (Reports pp 36-58) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, together with the following Supplementary Report. **CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – Supplementary Report**

1. Since the report was prepared there have been a number of significant events.

**International Monitoring Commission**

2. In April the independent International Monitoring Commission issued a report. It angered Sinn Fein by reporting continuing IRA activity and operative links between the IRA and Sinn Fein. It also angered the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Political Research Group by linking the UVF to recent murders, and loyalist paramilitaries in general to criminality. None of this came exactly as a surprise. However, as the IMC has now placed these matters on public record, the question arises, “What should be done about it?” The Government’s response has been to impose financial penalties. Is it sufficient to leave it at that? Does responsibility not rest with the Government to ensure that sanctions are sufficiently stringent that no political party will allow itself to have any link with any paramilitary organisation? Political parties must understand that, if they expect to be accepted and respected, they must be completely committed in practice, as well as in theory, to constitutional politics alone.

3. Paramilitary organisations are a scourge on the very communities they claim to protect. There is a parallel with the Mafia in Sicily. Peter Popham, writing in the Independent (24 May) quotes Leoluca Orlando, a campaigning anti-Mafia mayor of Palermo: “The Mafia is something I call ‘identity-based criminality’. The Sicilian Mafia used our culture to justify killings. And they killed in the name of values: in the name of honour, family, friendship. So they killed twice: one time they killed the person, one time they killed the culture.”

4. This is not to say that paramilitary organisations should be forced into a corner and cut off from all contact with civilised society. It is vitally important that those groups and individuals who have meaningful contact with them should continue to use whatever influence they have to challenge their philosophy and methodology, which lead only to hopelessness and futility both for themselves and for their communities, and to encourage them towards constructive community regeneration. If this is to happen, they need to know that there can be a better future. The Church has an important role here, albeit difficult and at times frustrating. On the one hand that role is to maintain moral integrity and call sin for what it is, and on the other hand it is to care about people, to patiently build relationships and to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Those who attempt this difficult work are to be commended.

**Iraq**

5. Unease continues to grow about British and American policy in Iraq. An open letter to the Prime Minister, signed by 52 former British ambassadors, high commissioners, governors and senior international officials, expressed deepening concern about the policies on the Arab-Israel problem, and Iraq. Given its source, it was couched in unusually strong terms.

6. The security situation in Iraq has steadily worsened in the past 4 months, although the war ended over a year ago. No weapons of mass destruction have been found, with the exception of old poison-gas artillery shells left over from the Iran-Iraq war, thus undermining justification for the war. It has become clear that there was no effective plan for the post-Saddam settlement, and only recently has an exit strategy been hastily put together. On top of this, abuse of Iraqi prisoners

by American soldiers, and allegations of similar abuse by British soldiers, have caused shock and outrage around the world, and greatly exacerbated an already volatile situation.

7. Coalition policy must take account of the nature and history of Iraq, the most complex country in the region. However much Iraqis may yearn for a democratic society, the belief that one can now be created by the Coalition is naïve. This is the view of nearly all the independent specialists on the region, both in Britain and in America. The situation requires the active involvement of the United Nations in plans to restore peace and stable government. It is important that the British Government provide whatever support is requested by Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations special envoy to Iraq.

### **The Middle East**

8. On 14 April, Prime Minister Sharon and President Bush announced that the “Road Map” for the settlement of the Israel/Palestine conflict was being set to one side. This decision was made without consultation with the EU, Russia, the UN, or the Palestinians, although the decision to launch the “Road Map” had involved all of them. Despite nothing being done to move negotiations forward or to curb the violence, hopes had been raised that, at last, there might be some prospect of an end to violence, and a resolution of a problem which, more than any other, has poisoned relations between the West and the Islamic world. These hopes now appear to be ill-founded. The announcement is an abandonment of principle, which is one-sided and illegal. Further, it has not even been accepted by many within Mr Sharon’s own party who resent the proposed giving up of settlements within Gaza, albeit in return for holding on to many settlements in the West Bank. It constitutes a worrying disengagement from the peacemaking process and an endorsement of a course of action that can only lead to more desperate violence and the prolonging of conflict in the region.

9. In the light of current events, it is timely and appropriate to repeat the statement issued by the Church and Government Committee two years ago:

(1) “For the sake of peace and security in Israel and Palestine, in the Middle East and in the world, the human tragedy experienced by Palestinians and Israelis must be ended. Acts of terror, whether individual or organised, and state violence and military destruction must stop. We do not believe that acts of violence will ultimately create a climate in which Israelis and Palestinians can live together in security.

(2) Israel has a right to exist as a sovereign state within secure boundaries, as have the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state, and both peoples have a right to live in peace as neighbours. The Committee calls on the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to take a pro-active, unbiased role in promoting justice and peace in the region.

(3) We acknowledge that though the land be holy for its historical significance for people of different faiths, it is not sacred for exclusive claims. As a Committee of the Presbyterian Church, we are convinced that the potential for peace, if grounded in justice, is far greater than the divisions perpetuated by conflict, hostility and violence. We are absolutely convinced that ‘shalom’, ‘salaam’, ‘peace’ is God’s will for all people. Therefore we pray to Almighty God that the spirit of good counsel and good will prevail for a just and lasting peace in Israel and Palestine.” (2002 Annual Reports, p.58)

10. The Micah Declaration on Integral Mission (2001) sets out a biblical theological statement which challenges the Church on such issues:

“Integral mission or holistic transformation is the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God we have nothing to bring to the world. Justice and justification by faith, worship and political action, the spiritual and the material, personal change and structural change belong together. As in the life of Jesus, being, doing and saying are at the heart of our integral task.

We call one another back to the centrality of Jesus Christ. His life of sacrificial service is the pattern for Christian discipleship. In his life and through his death Jesus modelled identification with the poor and inclusion of the other. On the cross God shows us how seriously he takes justice, reconciling both rich and poor to himself as he meets the demands of his justice. We serve by the power of the risen Lord through the Spirit as we journey with the poor, finding our hope in the subjection of all things under Christ and the final defeat of evil. We confess that all too often we have failed to live a life worthy of this gospel.

The grace of God is the heartbeat of integral mission. As recipients of undeserved love we are to show grace, generosity and inclusiveness. Grace redefines justice as not merely honouring a contract, but helping the disadvantaged.”

Moved by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, seconded by Mr G McCullagh, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly, recognising the need for victims to find healing and closure, yet conscious of the debilitating effect on society of yet more inquiries, call for the establishment of a dedicated forum where victims can tell their stories and their personal experiences be placed on official public record.
3. That the General Assembly, believing that all people are made in the image of God and as such deserve respect, protection and care, deplore the level of violent crime against elderly people and members of minority communities, and call upon all citizens of both parts of Ireland to be good neighbours to all and to work towards a more tolerant and peaceful society.
4. That the General Assembly urge the Minister of Justice in the Republic of Ireland to grant the right to residency to parents of Irish citizens who in accordance with regulations pertaining at the time in good faith made application for the right to residency but who now, due to regulation changes after a High Court Ruling, are left with no decision on their application and without the right to free legal aid.

5. That the General Assembly encourage voters to cast their vote in the forthcoming referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the right to citizenship of every person born on the island of Ireland.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders.

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator, assisted by Miss J P Gamble and Mr D Leal.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev J R Dickinson addressed the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.00pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## **FIFTH SESSION**

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Two o'clock. Afternoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

### **CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **– Debate Resumed**

Moved by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, seconded by Mr G McCullough, and agreed:

6. That the General Assembly congratulate the Government of the Irish Republic on the introduction of anti-smoking regulations, and urge that similar provisions be introduced in Northern Ireland.

7. That the General Assembly commend to the prayers of the Church all who work in the Prison Service in Northern Ireland, and their families, continue to call upon paramilitary groups to desist from all illegal activity, and support the creation of a post of Prison Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

8. That the General Assembly, noting that June 20th is Politics Sunday, encourage members of the Church, of whatever political persuasion, to be involved in politics, to cast their vote in elections, including the forthcoming European election, and to pray for politicians.

**CHURCH AND  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE**

9. That the General Assembly, recognising the professionalism and bravery of British troops and police personnel in the difficult situation in Iraq, call upon the Government of the United Kingdom to support an upgraded role for the United Nations in the shaping of the new Iraqi state, in the restoration of peace and stability, and in the reconstruction of Iraq.

10. That the General Assembly call on the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to take a pro-active role in encouraging the Government of the United States of America to begin a peace initiative based on the "Road Map" launched by the USA, the EU, Russia and the UN.

11. That the Rev Matthew Ross and his ministry in Brussels, and all the staff of the Church and Society Commission, be commended to the prayers of the Church.

12. That the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic be urged to work for the retention of Article I-51 in the proposed Constitution for Europe.

13. That the General Assembly reaffirm its opposition to the mining of lignite in the Ballymoney area, and request the Government to bear this affirmation in mind when it considers any application for exploration or mining in the area.

14. That a grant of £15,200 be made available from the Incidental Fund to the Church and Government Committee.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

15. That the resignation of Mr George McCullagh as Co-Convener of the Church and Government Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev D T Moore be appointed in his place.

**GENERAL BOARD** The Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 9-25) was submitted by the Rev Dr D J Watts, together with the following Supplementary Report.

### **GENERAL BOARD – Supplementary Report**

#### **MARRIAGE ORDERS**

The Civil Registration Act 2004 was signed into law in the Republic of Ireland on 27 February 2004. At present no date has been announced for its implementation. While broadly similar to the Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, there are important differences and any minister not familiar with the new provisions should consult the Presbytery Clerks. In particular it should be noted that there must be a specific declaration of no impediment made, i.e. silence is not sufficient. If not included in the service, this may be made no more than two days prior to the date of marriage. There will also not be an overlap of old and new regulations. The new must be followed from the date to be announced. It is intended that all ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland should be included in the Register of Solemnisers in the Republic, as is the case in Northern Ireland.

**REPORT OF GENERAL BOARD PANEL ON CHURCH HOUSE****FUTURE OF  
CHURCH  
HOUSE****1. THE PANEL**

The General Board, in October, 2003, appointed the Panel to advise on 'all matters relating to Church House and Fisherwick Buildings'. The membership of the Panel is as follows:- The Moderator, Clerk, Very Rev Dr DH Allen, Very Rev Dr SJ Dixon; Revs LE Carroll, JA McCaughan, FP Sellar; Mrs Z Vallely, DF Adair, David Bell, John Millar, JH Martin, WJ Cairns, Clive Knox and Jonathan Kelly.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION****a. History**

The major part of the Church House complex was built between 1900 and 1905 from a sandstone that tends to be porous and prone to water absorption making it susceptible to erosion and decay. It is a listed building and the views of the Department of Environment and Heritage must be taken account of in any work proposed.

In the early 1990's, a major refurbishment was completed, including the stabilising of the foundations and the rearrangement of the internal space, at a cost of £6.7 million. This was financed by an annual assessment of 10 pence in the £ for 10 years and the rents arising from the shops in the Spires Mall and Church House offices.

The following summary reflects the income and costs from February 1990 to December 2003:

	£
Building Costs	6,703,163
Fixtures and Fittings	201,258
Stonework Repairs	444,568
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>7,348,989</b>
Congregational Assessments	(5,546,035)
Cash Surplus from lettings( <i>Note 1</i> )	(1,922,548)
Bank Balance at 31 December 2003 ( <i>Note 2</i> )	119,594

*Note 1 – This includes amounts charged to internal Church agencies over the years*

*Note 2 – Since 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2003 this balance has been utilised in completing the current phase of the repairs.*

**b. Stonework**

There was no major work done to the stonework in the 1990 project and, in 2002, following instances of stone falling off the building, a Survey and Condition Report indicated that significant work was required.

The estimated nett cost of the work was £800,000 and it was anticipated that this would be funded over a number of years by rents from the shops.

At an early stage in the work, it was discovered that the condition of the stonework was worse than expected. A further survey was requested by the Assembly Buildings Committee and this revealed that the total cost of the work required was £2.5 million (less whatever grant would be available). This was reported to the June, 2003, Assembly.

A 'Structural Panel' was set up and agreed with the contract team to bring the present contract to a close when the present phase and any necessary safety works were completed.

A Supplementary Inspection and Report was commissioned in January, 2004. The additional work, if carried out at that time, was estimated to cost £1.6 million, subject to the level of any grants. The Report states that the outstanding work will need to be addressed within about 18 months. The estimate for work under a future contract is £1.75m.

	Completed Work (Phase 2 plus Safety Work)	Work Outstanding	Total Cost of Project
Building Work	603,300	1,581,000	2,184,300
Fees	83,790	165,000	248,790
VAT	120,241	279,000	399,241
TOTAL	807,331	2,025,000	2,832,331
Grant	(184,840)	(457,000)	(641,840)
Net Cost	622,491	1,568,000	2,190,491

### c. Other Essential Work

While the stonework is essential it is not the only work which needs to be considered.

**Fisherwick Buildings:** This part of the complex, at the Upper Queen Street end, consists of Offices leased to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The Lease expires on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, and there is a possibility that the lease will not be renewed. In any event, the condition of the premises is not in accordance with current legal requirements and it is professionally estimated that expenditure of around £740,000 will be required to ensure that current standards are met. The Managing Agents believe that this expenditure, whilst necessary, is not guaranteed to increase rents.

**Church House Offices:** The office accommodation is fully utilised. The lack of flexibility in room sizes does not contribute to making more effective use of the space available and means that the service costs are high. BTW Shiells comments:- "The detailed analysis of the existing floor areas in Church House, even with allowance for the assembly hall, give a net efficiency of 54% in their current layout. Typical average office buildings produce a net efficiency of 80%".

Substantial expenditure will shortly be required to meet new legislation regarding disability access and to extend the existing comfort cooling system.



**d. Financial**

It is estimated by BTW Shiells that the required work set out above will involve expenditure in excess of £3.4 million.

Based on the existing level of income from letting it will take approximately 35 years to pay off this amount.

It is important to realise that the cash surplus from letting (currently £210,000 p.a.) is made up both of external rents and rents paid by the various Church agencies on offices in Church House. The cash surplus from external sources is currently £40,000 and likely to decrease (see (e) below).

**e. The Spires Mall**

The Assembly Buildings Committee has been looking at the commercial viability of the Mall and has received a Report from the Managing Agents (BTW Shiells). The Agents point out that, while being successful at its initial inception, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure and maintain lettings. This is partly due to location, as the commercial centre of the city moves towards Castle Court and Victoria Square. There are also significant, but necessary, restrictive covenants on the leases. The report states:- "The Spires Mall, occupying the ground floor level of the building, offers a niche shopping location in a pleasant mall environment. The Spires Mall, however, has not proven to be a vibrant retail destination due to its fringe location in relation to the city's main retailing core and in part to the fact that the entrances to the scheme do not provide sufficient impact to draw footfall through the Mall. As a destination, the Spires lacks critical mass, limiting the schemes potential to provide major footfall levels, which for particular retail uses is critical."

It then concludes:- "It is difficult to foresee any significant increase in the future income derived from the Scheme. In all probability, expenditure will escalate in terms of rent and service charge voids; tenant incentives; vacant rate liability; disabled access compliance and physical enhancements to the property, in particular, improvements to the mall entrances, signage and lighting and a refurbishment of offices to modern standards."

**f. Assembly Buildings Committee**

At its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2004, the Committee considered the situation and, whilst recognising that the Church needs to consider other matters, e.g. the City Centre location, Presbyterian witness in the City Centre, the history and heritage of the building etc., concluded 'that the building should be expediently sold in its entirety'.

The Agents' Report values the entire property, ignoring the stonework liability, at £4.25 million on the basis that the Church would attach no restrictive covenants to a sale. It expresses the view:- "We believe the property would generate substantial interest in the present buoyant market and would appeal to a range of developers, private investors and owner occupiers."

It is worth noting that the building is now valued at approximately £3m less than has been spent since 1990.

### 3. THE PANEL'S DELIBERATIONS

The Panel recognised that it had been asked to consider a vital but sensitive issue for the future life of the Church. While the financial considerations outlined above are important, they should not be the defining factor in any decisions that are made. The following issues were among those recognised as important.

- (a) There is an historic and sentimental attachment to Church House as a building, which stands on a prominent site in the City Centre. It would be unfortunate, and inaccurate, if a move from the present site was interpreted as a retreat from the life of the City. In fact the Church would wish to engage more fully in commercial and civic life.
- (b) The Committee on Priorities strongly recognised, in its 2002 Report (Reports p.307), that: "The local congregation is the primary mission unit of the Church." It follows that the administrative centre of the Church exists to facilitate and strengthen the work of mission in congregations. It must therefore do so in as effective and efficient a way as possible. The office accommodation provided can either assist, or make this task more difficult.
- (c) Church House must be accessible, both to members of the Church and to the agencies and organisations with which the Church relates. This means that car parking should be readily available, although planning restrictions in the City Centre mean that it is unlikely, on a City Centre location, to be provided on site. It is also important that Church House is accessible by public transport, especially for those coming from a distance.
- (d) The present Church House serves three main functions, providing office accommodation; meeting rooms and the Assembly Hall. It was recognised that in any move it would be unlikely that provision could be made for meetings of the General Assembly. Appropriate accommodation would need to be hired each year.
- (e) If it remains in the City Centre, Church House should make a positive contribution to the Presbyterian presence in the City, by providing information and a welcoming access to the structures of the Church.
- (f) Any suggestion of a move from the present Church House will inevitably cause uncertainty for staff and existing tenants. It is therefore important that decisions are made without undue delay.

### 4. THE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Panel considered five main options and commissioned BTW Shiells to prepare a report on each of them. At the time of writing the final version of the report has not been received, but an interim report gives clear guidance.

- (a) Retain the existing buildings, complete stonework and other essential maintenance, renovate Fisherwick Buildings to facilitate letting and undertake basic, essential work in Church House.

BTW Shiells comments:- "The most significant advantage to this option is the subjective benefit of retaining the existing historical location.

There are, however, a significant number of disadvantages. The refurbished building will not perform to standards of new purpose built developments and, in particular, there will be difficulties in complying with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation.

The proposal would be disruptive in that there would require to be a period when the building is decanted for a period of, probably, 18 months and there is a potential problem of the availability of temporary office space for such a relocation.

This option has a fundamental financial disadvantage in respect of the potential future void areas within the building and the increasing capital expenditure required to maintain the building.”

- The cost is estimated at £3.4m., including VAT and nett of anticipated grant.
- (b) Retain the façade of the existing building but build new behind it.
- The cost is estimated at £12.8m., assuming no liability for VAT.
- (c) Relocation to a City Centre site.

BTW Shiells recognises that this should be a significant site where the Presbyterian Church would be a visible presence.

- The cost is estimated at £5.025m. If the present buildings are sold at the estimated £4.25m., there would be a cost to the Church of £775,000.
- (d) Relocation to a site along the “M1-M2 corridor”.
- The cost is estimated at £4.275m. If the present buildings are sold at the estimated £4.25m., there would be a cost to the Church of £25,000.
- (e) Leasehold

BTW Shiells comments:- “The option to move to leased accommodation and, in particular, a speculative office development which may have already been constructed would give you less control over the occupation and future use of the building. This would also limit your financial control on expenditure, particularly in respect of service charges which would be landlord driven.” It should be noted that the normal lease also makes the tenant responsible for repairs deemed necessary by the Landlord during the tenancy.

- Estimate cost over 21 years £10.39m. (including VAT).

If interest of 5% is earned on the proceeds from the sale of Church House, but subject to any rent reviews, the proceeds would only cover 10-11 years rental payments. Thereafter the annual rent (£493,500 at current levels) will be a charge to the Church in full. Of course with this proposal the Church is left with no asset, and an on-going requirement to lease property.

## **5. A FURTHER POSSIBILITY**

During the preparation of this Report, the Panel became aware of an exciting possibility to re-locate to the car-park site adjacent to May Street Church. This site has been bought by a development company – Barnabas Ventures – which was set up to encourage projects which facilitate Christian mission, especially in

the City. The Managing Director had felt led to purchase this site and was in discussion with May Street Congregation as to how a development might assist their outreach. On hearing that there was discussion of the re-location of Church House, he offered to discuss whether the needs of Church administration could also be met from a new building on this site, but linked into the existing and historic May Street Church. The Panel are convinced that this is a proposal which should be seriously considered. It retains a very visible presence for the Presbyterian Church on an historic site in the City Centre. Indeed the previous Church House was across May Street in the present Ross's Auction Rooms. It also brings together in a creative way a centre of worship, outreach and administration. The synergy which this may provide should not be ignored. It is also encouraging that May Street Congregation would welcome the interest of the wider Church. While at present this is no more than a possibility, and there would be much detailed work to be done, the Panel believes the possibility must be fully explored, to determine if this is the direction the Spirit is leading us.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel fully accepts that much detailed work has still to be carried out, but it is also convinced that certain decisions need to be taken now. The report on the stonework only gives an eighteen month period before further work may be needed, and the possibility of the May Street site cannot be held open indefinitely.

In general, the Panel cannot see how further substantial expenditure on Church House would ensure that the needs of the Church are met. There is no guarantee that the required further expenditure on stonework would be the last. The commercial aspects of the property present ongoing concerns and act as a distraction from the ongoing work and mission of the Church. Work to the offices would deal with statutory requirements but is unlikely to create an environment capable of being easily altered to accommodate any reorganisation of staff that might be required from time to time.

There would, understandably, be a sense of sadness and disappointment if the Church decided to move from Church House and the loss of the Assembly Hall as a venue for the General Assembly would present significant, but not insurmountable, difficulty in obtaining an alternative. In spite of these, the Panel believes that, before further substantial sums of money are expended, the opportunity should be taken to seek to relocate to a modern setting that will reallocate resources to provide a new more flexible, efficient and adaptable setting for the Church's administration.

It is recommended that:-

- a. a decision is made, in principle, to sell the Church House complex in its entirety and without the attachment of restrictive trading covenants
- b. a suitable alternative site and accommodation is sought. This should provide accessibility and capacity to meet the needs of the Church
- c. plans for the new location are drawn up
- d. plans are put in place for interim accommodation, if necessary
- e. regard is had for the interests and concerns of the staff during the decision, planning and execution stages

- f. proposals are made as to the location for General Assemblies etc.
- g. detailed financial estimates are prepared for all aspects of the recommendations.

DONALD J. WATTS

**APPENDIX A**  
**SUMMARY OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES**  
**(from BTW Shiells Report)**

**OPTION 1 - STAYING IN PRESENT BUILDINGS**

**Advantages**

- Capital investment is retained, albeit subject to further capital expenditure and reduced revenue
- Subjective benefit of remaining in the existing historical location
- Income from conference facility

**Disadvantages**

- Decanting costs and disruption on two occasions in decanting and reoccupying the building
- Availability of appropriate space for temporary relocation
- High life cycle costs
- Functional suitability and space utilisation of existing building in respect of the proposed use
- Relatively poor performing building with a low lettable ratio in relation to the gross area
- Poor functional suitability and difficult to comply with DDA
- Increasing financial liability in respect of:
  - Major building repairs
  - Potential vacant space, both retail in The spires and offices in Fisherwick Buildings

**OPTION 2 - RELOCATION  
ACQUISITION**

**Advantages**

- Occupation of building bespoke to specified requirements
- Lower life cycle costings
- Less disruption – only one relocation
- No decant costs
- Longer term improved investment value
- Improved ratio of gross to net lettable area
- Potentially improved car parking provision
- Reduced financial liability

**Disadvantages**

- Requires further capital investment
- Loss of historical location and historic building
- Loss of income from conferences
- Difficulty in identifying suitable site for development

**OPTION 3 - RENTAL****Advantages**

- Flexibility to relocate in the future with no capital investment and expenditure
- Capital investment not limited or restricted

**Disadvantages**

- Ongoing annual rent and service charge payments for the property
- Lack of control over service charge expenditure which is dictated by the landlord
- Liability in respect of any repairing obligations that may be imposed by the landlord
- The building would not necessarily be bespoke to your requirements
- Lack over control over common parts if building is not occupied 100% by one user.

**YOUTH BOARD  
CENTRES**

The Panel appointed by the General Board continues its work.

**Rostrevor** continues to operate with a significant increase in the number of bookings since March 2004. However, for the centre to remain open, substantial investment will be required, not least with regard to the new disability legislation.

**Lucan**, as reported, is closed for residential accommodation but the “day” programme continues to operate and indeed there has been an increase in demand for this facility. As a precautionary measure, the Panel responded to the County Council’s consultation on a draft plan for development in the area by applying for re-zoning of that section of the site which is not currently zoned for residential development. This was not an indication of any early decision to sell, but was considered prudent to maximise an asset which is important to the mission of the Church. Discussion as to the future use of the Lucan site continues. A useful paper has been prepared by the Dublin and Munster Presbytery and it is hoped to meet representatives of both the Presbytery and the local congregation in the near future.

**Guysmere** continues to be fully booked at weekends. Most of the centre has recently been repainted internally and a decision has been taken to replace carpets and undertake essential disability work. This is with a view to ensuring that the centre can remain open in the immediate future, while a decision on the wider issues of residential accommodation is being made.

The Panel has prepared a questionnaire which is being sent to every congregation to try to ascertain the present and future use of the centres and their importance for congregational life. Only if congregations feel that residential centres are an important aspect of their ministry can there be any justification for either keeping and renewing what we have, or building something entirely new. As this is an important issue for the whole Church it would be helpful if every congregation would respond to the survey and return the questionnaire by **30 June**.

**MODERATOR'S  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

The Moderator’s Advisory Committee met to advise the Moderator-Designate.

The Recognised Ministries Committee met to consider two organisations under the recognised ministries scheme, where ministers have been employed and are seeking recognition.

### **The Boys' Brigade**

*The Very Rev Dr D H Allen writes:*

The Boys' Brigade is an interdenominational Christian Uniformed Youth Organisation catering for boys and young men in the 4 to 18 age range. It was founded by William Alexander Smith in Glasgow in 1883 and came to Northern Ireland in 1888. It has a current membership of about 17,000.

Its *object* is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

The Boys' Brigade seeks to provide boys and young men with opportunities to promote their personal, social, spiritual and physical development, through a comprehensive range of experience and services. Through the achievement of its' object it hopes to lead them to personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Youth Link**

*The Rev David Stanfield writes:*

Youth Link was formed in 1992 as the shared dream of the four larger Churches (Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland) with the joint purposes of developing and delivering quality training in the areas of Youth Ministry and Community Relations.

Youth Link exists to serve the Church, therefore it works with the church youth departments in the delivery of accredited and non-accredited youth leadership training programmes in youth work and ministry, peace building and reconciliation. These programmes are recognised widely for their quality and are delivered in a variety of contexts from local congregations to institutions such as the Belfast Bible College.

With particular regard to the Presbyterian Church, Youth Link has helped the Youth Board in the development and delivery of both the Youth Ministry, and Advanced Youth Ministry Courses. Staff also support David Smith in the development and delivery of the Preparing Youth for Peace Programme.

On a wider level Youth Link is currently facilitating the discussions around the creation of a Professional qualification in Youth Ministry that would more adequately prepare people to become full-time Youth Workers in Church-based contexts.

In the sphere of community relations, programmes have been recognised both nationally and internationally as being innovative, creative and significant in their contribution to peace building.

As it looks to the future, Youth Link's vision is of Churches working together to develop excellence in youth work and ministry and to promote equity, diversity and interdependence.

The recommendation of the Committee is that recognition should be given to both organisations in terms of Code Par 200(5)(a). The Committee also recommends that it should review the practice of recognising ministries and organisations and report to the next Assembly.

**PEACE AND  
PEACEMAKING  
COMMITTEE**

There have been a number of meetings over the past two months between members of the Peace and Peacemaking Committee and the Youth Board to explore ways to build both on the success of the Youth Board's *Preparing Youth For Peace Programme* and the increasing number of congregations developing specific initiatives in response to the "Church's Peace Vocation" statement. Recognising that it is important for churches on this island to deal positively with racial and social differences as well as religious and political ones, representatives of the Race Relations Committee and the Board of Social Witness have also participated in these discussions. Our hope is to be able to develop materials and provide trained leadership, including programme officers, to work with both adults and youth across the church. A very preliminary discussion exploring possible funding has also taken place with the International Fund for Ireland. Our hope is that it will be possible to bring more detailed proposals to the General Board in the Autumn.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by Mr D F Adair, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly agree that the Church House complex be sold and that a suitable alternative site and accommodation be acquired.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by Mr D F Adair:

3. That the Church House Panel of the General Board be tasked with bringing to the General Board a definite proposal for the sale and resiting of Church House, with detailed reasons and costings.

Moved, as an amendment, by the Rev G D Simpson, seconded by the Rev R E Boggs:

That the Church House Panel of the General Board be tasked with bringing to the General Assembly a definite proposal for the sale and viable options for the resiting of Church House, with detailed reasons and costings.

On the amendment being put and a vote taken the Moderator announced the result as follows:

Voting: For ..... 221 votes  
Against ..... 223 votes

A ballot was then taken and the Moderator announced the result as follows:

Voting: For ..... 222 votes  
Against ..... 240 votes



The amendment was declared lost.

The original resolution, being put, was passed.

### **Intermission**

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by Mr D F Adair:

4. That the General Board be authorised to make all necessary decisions regarding the sale and move of Church House to an alternative site, including financial arrangements.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev G D Simpson, seconded by the Rev R E Boggs:

That the General Assembly authorise the Moderator, at the request of the General Board, to call a special meeting of the General Assembly to make all necessary decisions regarding the sale and move of Church House to an alternative site, including financial arrangements.

On being put, the amendment was declared lost.

The original resolution, being put, was passed.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (See p72)

The Report of the **YOUTH BOARD** (Reports pp 260-276) was submitted by **YOUTH BOARD** the Rev E J Hyndman.

Moved by the Rev E J Hyndman, seconded by the Rev J P Moxen, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That a grant of £6,500 be paid to Youth Link NI from the Incidental Fund.

Moved by the Rev E J Hyndman, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

3. That the resignation of the Rev Jonathan Moxen as Convener of the Youth Events Committee be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

Moved by the Rev E J Hyndman, seconded by the Rev J P Moxen, and agreed:

4. That the resignation of Mrs Heather Lyle as Convener of the Youth Training and Resources Committee be accepted and that she be thanked for her services.

5. That the resignation of the Rev Desi Paul as Convener of the Youth Home Mission Committee be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

6. That the resignation of the Rev Peter Lyle as Convener of the Youth Overseas Committee be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

7. That the resignation of the Rev Robin Brown as Convener of the Youth Centres Committee be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

**Board of Youth  
and Children's  
Ministry**

8. That the proposals for development of the new integrated Board of Youth and Children's Ministry be accepted and the revised job descriptions adopted.

9. That the Rev E J Hyndman be appointed Convener of the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry.

10. That the following be appointed Conveners of the Committees of the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry:

Training Committee	Rev C D Mawhinney
Research and Education Committee	Mrs H Lyle
Resources Committee	Rev G J Kennedy
Ministry Opportunities Committee	Rev D J Paul
Ministry Events Committee	Rev J P Moxen

11. That the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 283 of the Code as follows:

**Rev EJ Hyndman, Convener  
Miss R Stirling, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Convener of Congregational Life and Resourcing Christians for Ministry Committees, Education Board Secretary, University Chaplains, Rev EJ Hyndman; Director and Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry.**

(b) **Revs AM Bates, GJ Kennedy — Rev SD Finlay; N McKee — Rev. D Stanfield; N Conkey — Rev DJ Bruce; S Macfarlane — Revs I Harbinson, A Watson — M Peacock, Mrs E Maxwell.**

(c) **Revs AWT Brown, MJR Neilly — Rev J Moxen; M Wylie — Revs CJ Aitcheson, JG Johnston — Rev RD McDowell; Miss R Patterson — Rev MN Davidson; Mrs L Dunlop.**

(d) **Rev IK McDonald; Miss J Nelson — Rev R Love; Miss H Murray — Rev ME Taylor; \_\_\_\_\_.**

(e) **Rev TD Hagan; K McCrossan — Rev JG Jones; Wm Willis — Rev K Henderson; Miss M Guy — Revs JA Curry, Dr AN Kerr.**

(f) **Rev SJ Richmond; J Cowan — Revs Andrew Smith, Dr Keith McCrory — Kieran Kelly, Miss Pamela Patton.**

(g) **Miss A Morrow, Mrs Jill Craig, Mrs Mercy Emery, Mrs J Robinson, Mrs R McKnight, Miss Anne Houston, Mrs Gillian Ditty, Mrs Heather Carey, Miss Fiona Livingstone, Mrs Gillian Graham, Mrs Linda Keys, Mrs Ellen Wilmont, Mrs Deirdre Johnston, Ivan Ferris, Aaron Ditty, David Pattison, T Bruce, David Laney, David McNeill, Andrew Brown.**

**A. TRAINING COMMITTEE (5) Rev Craig Mawhinney, Convener**

**(a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Rev EJ Hyndman, Craig Mawhinney, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Youth Development Officers, Children's Development Officer, Regional Youth and Support Worker.**

- (x) **Revs Dr William Crawley, John Peacock; Paul Bowman, Paul Brown, Mrs J Robinson.**
- (y) **Revs David Bruce, Marlene Taylor, JG Jones, Kenneth Henderson, David Stanfield.**

**B. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE (3)**

**Mrs Heather Lyle, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, Mrs Heather Lyle, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry.**
- (x) **Rev Roy Patton; Lynda Gould, Glen Jordan.**
- (y) **Revs David Stanfield, Robert Love, Andrew Watson.**

**C. RESOURCES COMMITTEE (6) Rev GJ Kennedy, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, GJ Kennedy; Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Centres' Director, Children's Development Officer, Youth Development Officers, Regional Youth and Support Worker.**
- (x) **Revs Brian Martin, David Montgomery, Robin Brown, Dr Stewart Jones; Mrs Lorna Rankin.**
- (y) **Revs Chris Aitcheson, JG Johnston, AWT Brown, Ian Harbinson, Alistair Bates, David Bruce.**

**D. MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE (6)**

**Rev DJ Paul, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, DJ Paul; Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Overseas Board representative, Board of Mission in Ireland representative, Volunteers' Co-Ordinator.**
- (x) **Revs Philip Thompson, Cheryl Meban, D Rankin; Mark Smith, Mrs Marianne Trueman, Mark Welsh.**
- (y) **Revs Robert Love, TD Hagan, MJR Neilly, Michael Davidson, Ian McDonald, JA Curry.**

**E. MINISTRY EVENTS COMMITTEE (4)**

**Rev Jonathan Moxen, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, Jonathan Moxen; Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry.**
- (x) **Revs John Carlisle, James Burnett; Alan Meban, Martin Hull, Mark McIntyre.**
- (y) **Revs Alistair Bates, Andrew Smith, Sam Finlay; Michael Wylie, Stephen Macfarlane, Keiran Kelly.**

**UNION  
COMMISSION**

The Report of the **UNION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 60-76) was submitted by the Rev T J Stothers, together with the following Supplementary Report.

**UNION COMMISSION – Supplementary Report**

(1) The Personnel and Planning Committee have continued to consider the appointment of Additional Pastoral Personnel and especially the wide-ranging legal and personnel issues involved. It is recommended that a firm of consultants in this field – Peninsula – be engaged to offer a personnel and health and safety service to all congregations. This is a large consultancy firm which is organised on an all-Ireland basis.

(2) It is possible that a congregation may need a slight change to its parish bounds and it would be helpful if it could be dealt with before the next Assembly. A resolution is appended to authorise the Union Commission to deal with the matter.

Moved by the Rev T J Stothers, seconded by the Rev C D McClure, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the CMF be authorised to pay grants towards expenses incurred by ministers in congregations, up to a limit of NI £5,100 or RI €7,650 for ministers residing in the Republic of Ireland, within the terms of resolution 3, p70, General Assembly Minutes 1988.

**Panel on  
Urban Mission**

3. That the General Assembly accept in outline the suggestions made in part 4 of the report from the Panel on Urban Mission (Appendix), and directs the panel to consult with the Board of Mission in Ireland with a view to their implementation.

**Corlea**

4. That the congregation of Corlea be dissolved by the Union Commission on 1 January, 2005, or other suitable date, subject to suitable arrangements being made for the distribution of its assets.

Moved by the Rev T J Stothers, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

**General**

5. That the Personnel and Planning Committee be thanked for its services and discharged (see Reports p61, Par 11) and that the Rev Colin McClure be thanked for his work as its Convener.

Moved by the Rev T J Stothers, seconded by the Rev C D McClure, and agreed:

6. That the General Assembly agree the appointment of “Peninsula” to offer a personnel and health and safety service to congregations in terms to be agreed with the Union Commission and the Board of Finance and Personnel, and that an assessment be raised at a rate in 2004 of 0.25p in the £ of Stipend.

7. That the General Assembly authorise the Union Commission to approve a change in parish bounds on the recommendation of the Synod.

8. That the Union Commission be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 128 of the Code as follows:

**Rev TJ Stothers, Convener**  
**Rev SA Matthews, Secretary**

**(a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the Convener and Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary of the Board of Mission in Ireland, the Convener of the Home and Irish Mission Committee, one representative of the Central Ministry Fund.**

**(b\*) Revs TA McNeely, WJ Henry; Wm Grills, Mervyn Spence, Dr Chris Girvan, JB McClean.**

**(c\*) Revs Dr RI Birney, N McClean, TR Graham, WI Hunter; HL Todd, J Gregg.**

**(d\*) Revs TV Patterson, Dr I Hart, AR Bill; AJ Giffen, D McCormick, L Hully.**

**(e\*) Revs TWA Greer, GD Simpson, Dr J Fell; Mrs L Thompson, R Forbes, TR Reid.**

**(f\*) Revs M Burnside, J Lamont, S Anketell, B Brown; Kenneth Walker, Miss J Binnie.**

**(g) Revs P Dalzell, Dr AR Rodgers, J Brackenridge, CD McClure, WT Cordner, LH Eagleson; Mrs H Jess, Mrs H Murdock, Dr TJ Robinson.**

The **Overtures anent Par 128(1) and Par 193(2)(a) of the Code** (Reports p 77) were submitted by the Rev T J Stothers. **Overtures anent Par 128(1) and Par 193(2)(a)**

Moved by the Rev T J Stothers, seconded by the Rev C D McClure, and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 128(1) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

That the Overture anent Par 193(2)(a) of the Code be received and that, under Para 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.45pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

On Wednesday evening, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2004, a Rally, conducted by the Moderator, took place at 7.45 pm. During worship, the Moderator welcomed Licentiates and expressed thanks to recently retired Ministers.

At the request of the Moderator, Professor David Livingstone, Professor of Geography and Intellectual History at the Queen's University of Belfast, addressed the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 9.25 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## SIXTH SESSION

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**OVERSEAS  
BOARD**

The Report of the **OVERSEAS BOARD** (Reports pp 147-176) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S J Dixon, together with the following Correction to the Board Report:

### **OVERSEAS BOARD – Correction**

#### **Reports p 163 Appendix A, under 'India' to include:**

Norman & Joan Duncan 1994 Layman's Evangelical Fellowship and CNI – on Home Assignment

Board missionaries home from overseas, overseas bursars and Presbyterians serving with other missionary societies were introduced to the House by Miss Helen Johnston, Executive Officer for Personnel.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S J Dixon, seconded by the Rev W S Marrs, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly receive the Interim Report on the review of vision, purpose and strategy and direct the Overseas Board to continue with this process, bringing a final report to the General Assembly in 2005.

3. That the General Assembly note that approximately 90% of mission is carried out by the Church world-wide in countries that are generally perceived to be predominantly Christian, and urge the Overseas Board to consider this in its strategic review.

4. That the General Assembly instruct the Overseas Board to look into how our church should best respond to the rise of Islam in the overseas context.

5. That given the ongoing political tensions and religious conflicts in Asia, and the consequent challenges heaped on minority Christian communities, the General Assembly call upon all our people to be committed to prayerful and practical support for Christians in China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.

6. That the General Assembly urge prayer for a peaceful solution to the ongoing political turmoil and conflict in Nepal, and for the United Mission to Nepal as they further implement their strategic plan and not least as they relate to the Nepali Christian Community.

7. That the General Assembly recommend the Overseas Board, at this time of European Union expansion and numerical decline in many of the Churches of Europe, to work together with European partners to discern and respond to new God-given opportunities for the effective proclamation of the gospel.

8. That the General Assembly give thanks for our renewed contact with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, and ask the Overseas Board to continue its investigation into the place of Western mission in the Middle East, with particular reference to the role of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

9. That the General Assembly, recognizing the high degree of involvement in recent years with our partners in mission in Malawi, Kenya and Sudan, call upon our people to pray earnestly for these African Churches as they continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the context of deepening poverty and political uncertainty, and where an effective response to HIV/AIDS is diminished by the exodus of many healthcare workers to the West.

10. That the General Assembly give thanks that we have the privilege of contributing to and learning from the missionary endeavours of the Presbyterian churches in Brazil, and the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, as these churches seek to reach out effectively with the gospel in isolated rural locations and growing urban centres.

11. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the faithful service and witness of our missionary personnel in their varied and sometimes dangerous situations, and commend them and their families to the whole hearted support of our church.

12. That the General Assembly give thanks for the widespread interest in prayer and support for our missionaries and overseas mission partners, and rejoice at the evidence of an increasing desire on the part of some individuals and congregations for a more direct, 'hands on' involvement in global mission.

13. That the General Assembly encourage the Overseas Board, where appropriate, to work closely with other boards, presbyteries and congregations of our church in identifying and implementing strategies by which to encourage and enable all of our people to be active in their support for and involvement in the mission of Jesus Christ to the world.

14. That the resignation of the Rev Robin Quinn as Convener of the Africa, Latin America and Caribbean Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev Stephen Richmond be appointed in his place.

15. That the Rev Dr Mark Gray be appointed as Convener of the World Development Committee.

16. That the Overseas Board, with its associated working committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 279 of the Code as follows:

**Rev Dr SJ Dixon, Convener**  
**Rev WS Marrs, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, President, Overseas Vice-President and Executive Secretary of the PWA, Convener and Secretary of the Board, Convener of the Church Relations Committee, Deputy Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, two Young Women's Group representatives, Board of Youth and Children's Ministry representative.**

(b) **Rev Nigel McCullough; JM Warnock, Mrs A Murdock — Rev MM Stewart; Miss J Allen, Mrs E McIlwaine — Revs M Stanfield, RA Moffett; Miss M McCombe — Rev RA McLernon; N McKinney, Miss W Norwood— Rev P Thompson; Dr J Kyle, Mrs M McCammon — Revs NS Millen, DB Murphy; Mrs D Rea.**

(c) **Rev NA Brown; N Rea, Mrs A Erwin — Mrs I Wallace, Miss D Savage, Mrs J Gaston — Rev Dr RN Gordon; G McIntyre, Mrs J Farlow — Rev NE Dorrans; Mrs N Moore, Miss C Anderson — Rev PE Dickinson; D Robinson, Mrs A Reid.**

(d) **Revs JSB Drennan, GF McKeown; Mrs Margaret Patterson,— Revs BR Hughes, T Wilson; Mrs M Jackson— Rev Dr D Murphy; Miss R Taylor,**

(e) **Revs Dr WJH McKee, LWH Hilditch; Dr H Williamson — Rev DS Irwin; Mrs E Alexander, Mrs M Conn — Rev G Aitcheson; Dr C McKibbin, Mrs M McKibbin — Rev JW Fleck; R Wallace, Mrs M McCreehy.**

(f) **Rev SJ Richmond; S Speer, Mrs F Armour — Revs P McDowell, J Mann; Mrs D Mitchell— Miss H Stewart, L Foster, E Martin.**

(p) **Mrs Doreen McMullen, Mrs Sandra Fleck, Mrs Lorna Brown, Mrs Rosemary Cowan, Mrs Pat Colvin, Mrs Valerie Stewart, Miss Zena McAllister.**

**A. ASIA COMMITTEE (5) Rev SJ Hanna, Convener  
Rev WS Marrs, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr SJ Dixon, SJ Hanna; Mrs Z Valley, Mrs S Fell, Mrs D McMullen; Rev WS Marrs; CN Eves.**

(x) **Revs Dr JW Lockington, Dr MCA Gray, CJC McMullen; Dr M Watson**

(y) **Revs D Murphy, BR Hughes, G Aitcheson, PG McDowell; Miss M McCombe, Miss D Savage, Mrs E McIlwaine, Mrs M Jackson.**

**B. EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE (6) Mrs Maureen Patterson, Convener  
Rev WS Marrs, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr SJ Dixon, JA Kirkpatrick, JN Seawright; Mrs M Patterson, Mrs Z Valley, Mrs S Fell, Mrs D McMullen; Rev WS Marrs.**



- (x) **Revs Dr RI Birney, IJ Patterson, JI Thompson; Mrs E Alexander.**
- (y) **Revs RA McLernon, GF McKeown, RA Moffett; N McKinney, Mrs A Reid, Miss Z McAllister, Mrs J Gaston, Mrs D Rea**
  
- C. **AFRICA, CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA COMMITTEE (5)**  
  - Rev SJ Richmond, Convener**
  - Rev WS Marrs, Secretary**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr SJ Dixon, HR Quinn; World Development Committee Convener, Mrs Z Vallely, Mrs S Fell, Mrs D McMullen; Rev WS Marrs.**
- (x) **Revs WJ Waring, WP Addley; TA Macpherson, R Kerr, Mrs M Binnie, J Doherty.**
- (y) **Revs J Mann, Dr RN Gordon, NE Dorrans; Miss R Taylor, Mrs D Mitchell, Dr H Williamson.**
  
- D. **WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5)**  
  - Rev Dr MCA Gray, Convener**
  - Rev WS Marrs, Secretary**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr SJ Dixon, WS Marrs, Dr. MCA Gray; Mrs H McCall, Church Relations Committee Representative, PWA Representative.**
- (x) **Rev CD McClure; A McCreary, Mrs S Phillips, D Nesbitt, Mrs F Watts, T Magowan.**
- (y) **Revs NJ McCullough, J Mann; Miss Z McAllister, Mrs M McCammon, Mrs M Patterson, G McIntyre.**

The **Overture Anent Par 279(2) of the Code** (Reports p 176) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S J Dixon. **Overture Anent Par 279(2)**

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S J Dixon, seconded by the Rev W S Marrs, and agreed:

That the Overture Anent Par 279(2) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The Minutes were taken and corrected.

### **Intermission**

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp 177-200) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen. **BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND**

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Rev R L Craig:

1. That the Report be received.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev D Bannerman, seconded by the Rev Dr R A Russell:

**Report on  
alternative  
medicines  
and therapies**

That the Report be received and that the report on alternative medicines and therapies be printed separately as a charge on the Incidental Fund.

On being put, the amendment was declared passed.

On being put as substantive motion, was passed.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (See page 75).

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator, assisted by the Rev D Bradley, the Rev Binnie Mwakasungula and Mr G Jordan.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev Dr M R Patterson addressed the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.00 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## SEVENTH SESSION

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Two o'clock. Afternoon**

**In Private**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**JUDICIAL  
COMMISSION**

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports p 59) was submitted by the Rev Dr D J Watts.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by Mr M A Morrow, QC, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Rev Mairisine Stanfield be appointed to the Judicial Commission.

The Report of the **COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES** (Reports pp 306-308) was submitted by the Rev R B Savage, together with the following Supplementary Report.

**RECEPTION  
OF MINISTERS  
AND  
LICENTIATES**

**COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES – Supplementary Report**

The Committee met to interview the Rev T C Morgan and a resolution is appended.

Moved by the Rev R B Savage, seconded by the Rev T W D Johnston, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Rev Jane Dasher be required to be reinterviewed by the Committee for the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates should a future application be submitted.
3. That the Rev Troy Christopher Morgan be declared eligible for call upon undertaking the courses required by the Board of Studies and Christian Training and satisfactorily completing an ordained assistantship of two years, on the same basis as the licentiate assistantship.

**The Rev  
Troy Christopher  
Morgan**

The **Memorial of the Rev D J M Boyle** (Reports p 308) was submitted by the Rev C G Harris.

**Memorial of  
Rev DJM Boyle**

Moved by the Rev C G Harris, seconded by the Rev T A McNeely, and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted, and that the Rev D J M Boyle serve an Ordained Assistantship for a period of not less than 12 months.

The **Memorial of the Rev Jeffrey Godwin** (Reports p 309) was withdrawn.

The **Memorial of the Rev Geoffrey Reilly** (Reports p 310) was submitted by the Rev G Aitcheson.

**Memorial of  
Rev Geoffrey  
Reilly**

Moved by the Rev G Aitcheson, seconded by the Rev J F Murdoch:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

On being put, the motion was declared lost.

The **Memorial of the Rev Maurice Sloan** (Reports p 311) was submitted by the Rev R T Anderson.

**Memorial of  
Rev Maurice  
Sloan**

Moved by the Rev R T Anderson, seconded by Mr V Garland:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

On being put, the motion was declared lost.

The **Memorial of the Rev Charles Tarter** (Reports p 312) was withdrawn.

**In Public****INTER-  
CHURCH  
RELATIONS  
BOARD**

The Report of the **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS BOARD** (Reports pp 128-146) was submitted by the Rev A D Davidson.

Moved by the Rev A D Davidson, seconded by the Rev L E Carroll, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received and that studies be carried out by the Church Relations Committee to determine the possibility of dialogue with the Reformed Presbyterian and Evangelical Presbyterian churches in the island of Ireland.

**Irish Church  
Relations**

2. That the following appointments be made:

To the Irish Council of Churches – Revs J Brackenridge, Dr S J Campbell; L Conway, OBE; Rev L E Carroll; Mrs Pat Crossley; Revs A D Davidson, G A J Farquhar; Miss D Gilmour; Revs Dr R J G Gray, Dr M C A Gray, R Herron, Dr S Hutchinson; Mrs M Irwin; Revs L Kennedy-Ritchie, D Knox, C McClure, D Nesbitt; J A Patterson, Ms Valerie Steele; Rev Dr D J Watts.

To the Irish Council of Churches Executive – Revs J Brackenridge, A D Davidson, L Kennedy-Ritchie and Dr D J Watts.

To the Irish Inter Church Committee – Revs A D Davidson and Dr D J Watts.

**Race Relations**

3. That the General Assembly welcome and support initiatives being taken at local and at General Assembly level in response to recent racial attacks, particularly in Northern Ireland.

4. That every Presbytery be urged to appoint a Race Relations Agent.

5. That Presbyteries be urged:

- to study the published report Policy on Asylum Seekers and Refugees;
- to seek contact with new immigrants and guest workers within their boundaries;
- to monitor incidents of racial intimidation or tension locally and to report on the above to the Race Relations Panel.

6. That 12 September 2004 be observed as Racial Justice Sunday.

**General**

7. That the following grants be made from the Incidental Fund:

Irish Council of Churches	£16,400
Irish Inter-Church Meeting	£8,000
Conference of European Churches	£3,500
Leuenberg Consultation	£1,000
World Alliance of Reformed Churches	£10,100
World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council Fund	£1,000
Race Relations Grants	£3,850
Environmental Panel	£300
General Work of the Board	£5,500

## Race Relations Grants:

(i) Diakonia Council of Churches	£1,000
(ii) Holocaust Memorial Day Committee	£100
(iii) All-Ireland Consultative Committee (towards the projected November Conference with ethnic minorities)	£1,500
(iv) Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities	£250
(v) Irish Refugee Council (Dublin)	£250
(vi) General work of the Race Relations Committee	£750

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

8. That the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Board, Rev A D Davidson, and the Conveners of its working committees – Revs Gabrielle Farquhar, Lesley Carroll, Dr Gordon Gray and Mrs Hazel McCall – be thanked for their years of dedicated service.

Moved by the Rev A D Davidson, seconded by the Rev L E Carroll, and agreed:

9. That the Inter-Church Relations Board, with its associated working committees, be thanked and discharged.

The **Overture Anent Par 278 of the Code** (Reports p 146) was submitted by the Rev Dr D J Watts. **Overture Anent Par 278**

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

That the Overture Anent Par 278 of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The Report of the **UNITED APPEAL BOARD** (Reports pp 332-338) was submitted by Mr M H Stewart. **UNITED APPEAL BOARD**

Moved by Mr M H Stewart, seconded by the Rev T D Gribben, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the United Appeal for 2005 be as set out in Schedules III and IV.
3. That the United Appeal Board for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 287 of the Code as follows:

**MH Stewart, Convener  
The Clerk, Secretary**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; MH Stewart.**
- (b\*) **Revs WL Haslett, DC Porter; JAM Cunningham, Noel Greenlee.**
- (c\*) **Rev GA Preston; Miss M French, MH Stewart, V McLean.**
- (d\*) **Revs SE Hughes, V Sinclair, JR Lambe; J McKibben.**
- (e\*) **Revs PG McCrea, Dr SDH Williamson, J Noble; JA Patterson.**

(f\*) **Revs M Burnside, GA Mitchell, A Boal; Norman Watt.**

(g) **Revs D Clarke, TD Gribben, J Lamont, Rev G McClelland; Mrs O Marshall, J Clarke, B McCormack, N Adams.**

**BOARD OF  
FINANCE AND  
ADMINISTRATION**

The Report of the **BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** (Reports pp 315-331) was submitted by Mr D F Adair, together with the following Supplementary Report.

### **BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Supplementary Report Value Added Tax**

Further discussions have taken place with Customs & Excise. The Church originally registered for VAT from 1 April 1973 as it was unclear at the time of late registration what the actual date should have been. It has now been agreed with Customs & Excise that the registration date should be 1 January 1996. A first VAT return has been prepared for the period 1 January 1996 to 31 October 2003 and the amount of VAT paid was £59,400. As the Church registered with Customs & Excise before the expiration of the Belated Notification Penalty Exemption, no penalty is payable. Furthermore, no interest is due in respect of this amount. It is estimated that amounts for subsequent quarters will be in the region of £2,250. In principle Customs & Excise have agreed the basis on which the first VAT return was prepared but they reserve the right to carry out an inspection of the Church's records relating to that return.

As indicated in the Board report, it will be necessary to make changes to the accounting systems and it is planned to have these in place for the VAT return for the quarter commencing 1 July 2004. If the relevant resolution appended to the Boards report is approved, amounts due prior to this will be a charge to the Incidental Fund and thereafter any agency of the Church with vatiable supplies will be responsible for payment of any VAT due.

One issue which remains unresolved relates to Fisherwick Management Services Limited (owned by PCI), who manage the Church House complex. The company is responsible for service charge expenditure and for invoicing this to tenants.

Moved by Mr D F Adair, seconded by Mr D Lamb, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Ernst and Young LLP be appointed as auditors for all the Committees, Boards, Trusts, Commissions and Agencies of the General Assembly for the year 2004.
3. That the assessment for the Incidental Fund for 2004 be 5.25p in the £ of stipend.
4. That the Incidental Fund be authorised to meet any liability to Customs & Excise arising from late VAT registration.
5. That no action is taken at present to incorporate the central Church structure as a company limited by guarantee but that the matter be kept under review by the Board of Finance and Personnel and that a report be brought to the General Assembly by that Board by 2008 at the latest.

**Incidental Fund**

6. That Presbyteries and Congregations be strongly recommended to take such steps as are required to:

(a) indemnify officers and members of decision-making bodies such as Church Committees and Kirk Sessions,

(b) ensure that such persons are aware of their responsibilities as specified in the Code and their potential liabilities,

(c) arrange for suitable indemnity insurance cover for congregations and presbyteries,

(d) provide appropriate training,

(e) ensure that the people appointed to carry out tasks have, or employ those who have, the appropriate skills and experience;

and that in order that such provision of indemnification be as consistent and comprehensive as possible throughout the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Board of Finance and Personnel should prepare and distribute guidelines for Congregations and Presbyteries, after appropriate consultation with experts in the areas of insurance and law.

7. That the Board of Finance and Personnel have a Risk Assessment for the Central Church carried out and that a report be made to the General Assembly no later than 2006.

Moved by Mr D F Adair, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

8. That the resignations of Mr Michael Fitch, Mr David Lamb and Rev R I A Allely as Conveners under the Board of Finance and Administration be accepted and that they be thanked for their services.

Moved by Mr D Lamb, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

9. That the resignation of Mr D F Adair as Convener of the Board of Finance and Administration be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

10. That the Board of Finance and Administration, with its associated working committees, are thanked for their services but not reappointed in accordance with Par 286 of the Code in view of the General Assembly's decision to amalgamate the Board with the Board of Ministry and Pensions in the new Board of Finance and Personnel.

### Intermission

The **Memorial of the Kirk Session of Adelaide Road, Donore** (Reports p 77) was submitted by the Rev F P Sellar.

**Memorial of the  
Kirk Session of  
Adelaide Road,  
Donore**

Moved by the Rev F P Sellar, seconded by the Rev C M Hunter, and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

**Kirk Session  
of Clontarf  
Memorial**

The **Memorial of the Kirk Session of Clontarf** (Reports p 78) was submitted by the Rev W McLaren.

Moved by the Rev W McLaren, seconded by Mrs C Poynton, and agreed:  
That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

**GENERAL  
BOARD**

**GENERAL BOARD** —Debate Resumed (See page 57)

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by Mr D F Adair, and agreed:

5. That the General Assembly adopt the Marriage Guidelines as printed in paragraph 11.

6. That the General Assembly approve in principle the new Committee structure of the General Board.

7. That the following Panel be set up to consider the number and boundaries of Presbyteries and report through the General Board: Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Clerks of Synods, Revs J G Faris, T C Morrison; W H Scott, S Warnock.

**Conciliation**

8. That a grant of up to £1,000 be made available from the Incidental Fund to the Conciliation Panel.

**Recognised  
Ministries**

9. That the General Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Recognised Ministries Committee on Ministers and Licentiates without Charge.

10. That the Rev Dr Ruth Patterson and the Rev Desmond Maxwell report in the interim to the General Board.

11. That The Boys' Brigade be approved as an organisation appropriate for recognised ministry.

12. That Youth Link be approved as an organisation appropriate for recognised ministry.

On being put, the resolution was declared passed.

Voting: For ..... 76  
Against ..... 38

13. That the General Assembly ask the Recognised Ministries Committee to review all aspects of the Recognised Ministries scheme and report to the next Assembly.

**Forces  
Committee**

14. That the greetings of the General Assembly be sent to our chaplains serving with the Regular Forces.

15. That the General Assembly note the various openings becoming available for chaplaincy work in the Regular Forces and commend these opportunities for service to our younger ministers.

16. That the General Assembly commend the work done by our part time chaplains in the Territorial Army, the Army Cadet Force and by Officiating Chaplains to our Garrisons and Stations.

17. That the General Assembly express appreciation for those of our ministers who have recently returned from operational duties in Iraq, Bosnia and Afghanistan.



18. That the General Assembly recommend the customary observance of Battle of Britain Sunday and Remembrance Sunday in our congregations and that the appropriate offerings taken up on those days be given to the Royal Air Force “Wings Appeal” and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

19. That the General Assembly recommend that congregations continue to support the work of the UDR/Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund by taking up an offering on the last Sunday in April or some other appropriate Sunday.

20. That a grant of up to £2,500 be made available from the Incidental Fund to the Peace and Peacemaking Committee.

Peace and  
Peacemaking  
Committee  
General

21. That the following grants be paid from the Incidental Fund:

Church House Panel	£7,500
Residential Centres Panel	£1,000
Provision of Marriage Registers	£4,000
General work of the Board	£3,500

22. That the resignation of the Rev Stephan van Os as Convener of the Forces Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev P P Campbell appointed in his place.

23. That the resignation of Dr Robert Rodgers as Convener of the Chaplains Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev J Gordon appointed in his place.

24. That the resignation of the Rev Doug Baker as Convener of the Peace and Peacemaking Committee be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

25. That the General Board, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 272 of the Code as follows:

**The Clerk, Convener**

(a) **Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, preceding three Moderators and former Clerks of Assembly, Clerks of Synods and Assembly Conveners of Commissions and Boards.**

(b) **Revs Dr RA Russell, J Gordon; J McIntyre, DF Adair — Revs CG Harris, FAC Wilson; WJ Hamilton, WH Scott — Revs Dr James Harper, RE Boggs; McL Gibson, Mrs I McBride — Revs JI Davey, R Lockhart; N Mawhinney, Miss E McConnell — Revs IJ Patterson, R. Murray; J Hudson, Dr TJ Robinson — Revs SA Finlay, Dr DJ McGaughey; RE McWilliams, S Walker.**

(c) **Revs JJ Andrews, B Boyd; N Rea, S Wallace — Revs WJ Johnstone, G. Farquhar; E. Boal, RJ McDowell — Revs Ivan Hunter, TP Fleming; I Smyth, P McGonigle — Revs HB Wallace, HW Mullan; M Morrison, EC Redmond — Revs WD Weir, D Bannerman; B Strange, Mrs AB Wilson.**

(d) **Revs TC Morrison, RS Hetherington; R Doggart, B Hamill — Revs RT Anderson, WPH Erskine; Dr RM Nicholl, Miss Mary Angus — Revs John McVeigh, Dr JR Savage; AJ Morrow, Miss VJ Wilson.**

(e) **Revs Dr J Fell, DJ Hutchinson; JA Emery, A Craig — Revs S Stewart, N Ward; B Douglas, S Warnock — Revs JF Murdoch, R Herron; J Cochrane, JA Patterson — Revs TJ Conway, T Greer; R Stewart, EM Carroll.**

(f) **Revs Brian Brown, J Lamont; AO Buchanan, Mervyn McKean — Revs JG Faris, FP Sellar; Ms Joan Cowle, Wm Harper — Revs Nancy Cubitt, A McCullough; J Fairbairn, \_\_\_\_\_.**

(g) **Revs TD Gribben, IF Smith, CJC McMullen; Mrs G Irwin, Mrs K Mawhinney, Mrs M Patterson, Mrs Z Vallely, Mrs R Cowan, Miss E Drysdale, Mrs M Thompson, HS McCullough, A McMurtry, S McKinney, Mrs A Harbison, Mrs H Jess, D McCleery, WH Henry, D Bell, JH Martin, Mrs M Magowan.**

**A. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE (6)**

**Revs Dr Alastair Dunlop; David Moore, Conveners**

- (a) **The Moderator, preceding Moderator, Clerk, former Clerks, and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Moderator-Designate, Global Concerns Convener, Revs, Dr Alastair Dunlop, David Moore; George McCullagh.**
- (x) **Revs D Bannerman, TN Hamilton, R Herron, DR Baker; Mrs S Blair, Mrs H McKinley, Ross McCarter.**
- (y) **Revs J Gordon, Dr J Fell, JJ Andrews, TJ Conway; J Hudson, M McKean.**

**B. GLOBAL CONCERNS (5) Rev Lesley Carroll, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Conveners of Environment, Peace and Peacemaking, Race Relations Panels, One representative from Overseas Board, Church Relations Committee; Rev. Lesley Carroll.**
- (x) **Revs CM Hunter, CJC McMullen, AC Rankin; Mrs F Watts; Dr J Gillespie**
- (y) **Revs DJ Hutchinson, IJ Patterson, Dr RA Russell; AJ Morrow, R Stewart.**

**C. CHURCH RELATIONS (5) Rev AD Davidson, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Prof of Systematic Theology, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, one representative from: Board of Mission in Ireland, Overseas Board and Global Concerns Panel; Rev AD Davidson.**
- (x) **Revs J Brackenridge, KDW Crowe, SE Hughes, JC McCullough, L Kennedy-Ritchie; Mrs H McKinley.**
- (y) **Revs WB Boyd, GAJ Farquhar, J McVeigh, Dr JR Savage; W Harper, Dr JJ Robinson.**

**D. DOCTRINE COMMITTEE (5) Principal, UTC, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the General Assembly's Theological Professors.**
- (x) **Revs C Meban, Prof RFG Holmes, Dr JW Lockington, A Gibson, GJ Kennedy; Dr N Smith.**
- (y) **Revs Dr J Fell, TP Fleming, JG Faris, FP Sellar, J Gordon, SA Finlay**

**E. PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (6) The Clerk, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, General Board Conveners.**
- (x) **One Representative from the Boards of Communications; Overseas; Board of Mission in Ireland; Social Witness; Youth and Children's Ministry; Education; Studies and Christian Training; Finance and Personnel.**
- (y) **Revs TJ Conway, N Cubitt, RS Hetherington, WD Weir; Miss VJ Wilson, DF Adair, EM Carroll, WH Scott.**

- F. MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (5) The Clerk, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator, preceding three Moderators, Clerk, former Clerks, and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Clerks of Synods, Head of Personnel, Information Officer.**
  - (x) **Mrs R Dunlop, N Chambers, MA Morrow, QC.**
  - (y) **Revs. JJ Andrews, TJ Conway, Dr J Fell, IJ Patterson, WD Weir; Miss VJ Wilson.**
- G. RECOGNISED MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (4) The Clerk, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Convener of Doctrine Committee, Convener of Union Commission, Deputy Clerk, Convener of Committee on Reception of Ministers and Licentiates.**
  - (x) **Revs IT McKee, WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers, Miss R Stirling.**
  - (y) **Revs JJ Andrews, WPH Erskine, TP Fleming, WJ Johnstone, R Lockhart, WD Weir; Miss VJ Wilson.**

The **Overture anent Par 93 (2) of the Code** (Reports p 29) was submitted **Overture anent Par 93(2)**  
by the Rev Dr D J Watts.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by Mr D F Adair, and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 93 (2) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The **Memorial of the Presbytery of Foyle** (Reports p 26) was submitted by **Presbytery of Foyle Memorial**  
the Rev N Ward.

Moved by the Rev N Ward, seconded by the Rev G D Simpson, and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

**BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND – Debate Resumed (See Page 66)**

**BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND**

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Rev R L Craig, and agreed:

2. That the General Assembly, in commending Bible Sunday (5 December), encourage congregations to make fuller use of the available resources and to highlight the importance of the Scriptures in our life and witness. **Evangelism Committee**

3. That the General Assembly in encouraging members of the Church to see the privilege and responsibility of being 'salt' and 'light' in everyday life, commend to ministers the booklet, "Supporting Christians at Work" by Mark Greene.

4. That the General Assembly thank Rev Harold Boyce for his energetic and effective service as Director of Evangelism, and pray that God will continue to use him up to and beyond his retirement on 31 January 2005.

5. That the General Assembly grant permission to the Irish Mission to borrow finances from the Presbyterian Mutual Society to enable the provision of accommodation for Irish Mission Workers. **Irish Mission Committee**

- Presbyterian Mutual Society** 6. That the General Assembly congratulate the Directors of the Society on its continuing success and encourage congregations and individuals to avail of its lending facilities.
- Historic Churches Advisory Committee** 7. That the General Assembly note with satisfaction the agreed Guidelines, which recognise “that churches may wish to adapt places of public worship in the light of contemporary revisions of their worship and mission”.
- Alternating Ministries Committee** 8. That the following be appointed to the Alternating Ministries Committee: Conveners of the Board of Mission in Ireland and Home & Irish Mission Committee, Deputy Clerk, Mrs C Poynton, Rev S G Anketell.
- General** Moved by the Rev R L Craig, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:
9. That the resignation of the Very Rev Dr D H Allen as Convener of the Board be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev Graham Connor be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Rev R L Craig, and agreed:

10. That the General Assembly approve the new structure of the Board of Mission in Ireland, as outlined in Appendix I.
11. That the General Assembly approve the revised Job Descriptions, as outlined in Appendix II.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

12. That the resignations of Rev George Moffett & Mr Brian Knox (Church Extension), Rev John Parkes (Evangelism), Rev Dr Stephen Williamson (Divine Healing), Rev Rob Craig (Home Mission) and Rev Roy Patton (Irish Mission) be accepted, and that they be thanked for their services.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Rev R L Craig, and agreed:

13. That Mrs Cherry Poynton be appointed as Convener of the Committee for Education and Promotion.
14. That the Rev R A Patton be appointed as Convener of the Home and Irish Mission Committee.
15. That the Rev Harold Boyce be appointed as Convener of the Committee on Congregational Life.
16. That the Board of Mission in Ireland, with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 280 of the Code as follows:

**Rev Graham Connor, Convener  
Deputy Clerk, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Convener of BMI, President, Home Vice-President, and Executive Secretary of PWA, BMI Director for Personnel, Convener and Secretary of the Social Witness Board, the Conveners of the Education, Studies and Christian Training, Youth & Children’s Ministry Boards, the**

**Union Commission and the Pensions and Assessments Committee, the Presbyterian Mutual Society Agent, two Young Women's Group representatives, two Youth & Children's Ministry Board representatives, two deaconess representatives; Rev Dr DH Allen.**

(b) **Revs J Gordon, D Bradley; Mrs J Richardson — Revs BA McDonald, BA Small; Mrs M Dowds— Revs M Casement, G Stockdale; Mrs L Moore — Rev WJ Henry; I McCullagh, Mrs H Jess — Revs AA Cole, J Hagan; Mrs A Harbinson — Revs DS Henry, FJ Gibson; Mrs A McIntyre.**

(c) **Rev SW Dickinson; J McWhirter, Miss H Nicholl— Revs RJ McCullough, B McMillen; Mrs L Stothers — Rev M Goudy; Dr JH Gillespie, Mrs D Lynn — Rev ST Carson, RB Thompson; Mrs H Morrison — Revs S Simpson, Dr WD Patton; Mrs HW Montgomery.**

(d) **Rev ID Neish; B Gordon, Miss C Cathcart — Revs DJ McKelvey, K Drury; Miss M Angus— Revs M Gibson, J Scott; Mrs S Giffen.**

(e) **Revs TD Hagan, DJ Hutchinson; Mrs M McCloskey — Revs JL Blair, J McGregor; Mrs M Docherty — Rev Dr JW Lockington; JA Patterson, Miss J Patterson — Revs Dr KO Patterson, PG McCrea; Mrs E Farr.**

(f) **Revs J Lamont, WA McCully; Mrs A Lamont — Revs Dr S Mawhinney, SS Johnston; Mrs C Poynton— Rev N Cubitt; Mrs G Oliver; R McConkey.**

(p) **Dr Lynn Murray, Mrs Eileen Greenlee, Mrs Georgina Hunter, Mrs Barbara Thompson, Mrs Jean Donald, Mrs Nan Bradford, Mrs Doreen McMullen.**

**A. EDUCATION AND PROMOTION (5) Mrs C Poynton, Convener  
Executive Secretary for Education and Promotion, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Convener of BMI, Committee Convener, Executive Secretary for Education & Promotion, Conveners of Home and Irish Mission, Congregational Life and Shankill Road Mission Committees, Information Officer, PWA Executive Secretary.**

(x) **Revs TW Gordon, J Scott; D Aicken, D Thompson, W Steele.**

(y) **Revs BA McDonald, J Lamont, B McMillan, GR Stockdale; Mrs M Weir.**

**B. HOME AND IRISH MISSION COMMITTEE (7)**

**Rev RA Patton, Convener  
Deputy Clerk, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Convener of BMI, Committee Convener, PWA Central President, PWA Home Vice-President, PWA Executive Secretary, BMI Director for Personnel, BMI Executive Secretary for Education & Promotion, Mrs C Poynton.**

(x) **Revs JD Woodside, PG McCrea, WJ Henry, SS Johnston, RL Craig, G Trueman, WA McCully, Dr S Mawhinney; DF Adair, Mrs Irene Young.**

(y) **Revs JM Casement, KA Drury, N Cubitt; Mrs L Stothers, J Patterson.**

**C. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (5) Rev H Boyce, Convener  
Director for Congregational Life, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Convener of BMI, Committee Convener, Director for Congregational Life, Convener of Committee on Resourcing Christians for Ministry, Director of Christian**

**Training, BMI Executive Secretary for Education & Promotion, Director for Personnel, Prof of Practical Theology.**

- (x) **Revs GE Best, RB Savage, IJ Patterson, WJ Parkes, D Bannerman.**
- (y) **Revs JM Casement, Dr WD Patton, RJ McCullough, JL Blair; Mrs B Thompson.**

**D. SHANKILL ROAD MISSION (5) Rev JS Dallas, Convener  
Rev WMcB Campbell, Superintendent**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Convener of BMI, Committee Convener, Shankill Road Mission Superintendent, Clerk of Session of Shankill Road Mission Congregation, BMI Executive Secretary for Education and Promotion.**
- (x) **Revs Dr I Hart, GF McKeown, AW Boyd; Miss D Pinkerton.**
- (y) **Revs J Gordon, M Gibson, Dr JW Lockington; Miss C Cathcart**

**Overture anent Par 300(1)** The **Overture Anent Par 300(1) of the Code** (Reports p 200) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Rev R L Craig, and agreed:

That the Overture Anent Par 300(1) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.25pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## EIGHTH SESSION

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**

**Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**TRUSTEES** The Report of the **TRUSTEES** (Reports pp 349-352) was submitted by Sir Eric McDowell.

Moved by Sir Eric McDowell, seconded by Mr J I Bill, OBE, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the recommendation regarding the Mrs A M Davidson Trust be adopted.
3. That the recommendation regarding the Sir Wm V McCleery Trust be adopted.
4. That the recommendation regarding the Miss Irene Scott Trust be adopted.
5. That the recommendation regarding the Miss Ida Mary McGeown Trust be adopted.
6. That the recommendation regarding the Victor Morrow Trust be adopted.
7. That in accordance with the Will of the late John Getty the following be constituted as the Committee for the “direction and management of the application” of the income from the Getty Bequest:

Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, Revs Dr D J Watts, J McAllister, OBE, W D F Marshall, R J A Bell, W J Orr; Mr Wilson Ervin, CBE, Sir Eric McDowell, Mr David Bell, CB, Mr A T Ross, Mr John Millar, OBE, Mr J I Bill, OBE.

The Report of the **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS** (Reports p 314) was submitted by Mr A J Rankin. **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS**

Moved by Mr A J Rankin, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Commission on Trusts for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 130 of the Code as follows:-

**AJ Rankin, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk; AJ Rankin.**
- (g) **Revs D Clarke, Dr TJ Simpson, RJA Bell, D Chapman, WS Marrs, JH Robinson; JW Russell, WH Henry, Mrs O Marshall.**

The Report of the **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS** (Reports pp 206-257) was submitted by Mr L Conway, OBE, together with the following Supplementary Report. **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS**

### **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS – Supplementary Report (S)**

1. Since the writing of the Report to the General Assembly, ongoing discussions have been taking place with the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland with a view to standardising procedures in the area of child protection, and especially in relationships with external youth organisations that use church premises.

2. It is hoped that one result of these discussions will be a common protocol used by the churches for dealing with youth groups that are not church affiliated but which use church premises. This common protocol will clarify procedures for appointing leaders, reporting procedures in the event of an incident occurring, and issues of accountability and responsibility. In due course the common protocol will be printed in the Child Protection guidelines but it will take more time to reach agreement on the detail.

3. As part of these discussions it has been necessary to review our procedures for carrying out police checks. Since 1997 only ministers, deaconesses and full time youth workers have been required by the General Assembly to be checked. It is likely that this practice of checking will have to be widened to all who have substantial contact with children.

4. Discussions are taking place with PECS (the Pre-Employment Consultancy Service) to agree the job descriptions of those who are most likely to require checks – eg Sunday School teachers, youth club leaders, perhaps also organists and caretakers.

5. Currently the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland are PECS checking a wider range of persons working with young people.

6. In light of the benefits of having a consistent policy amongst the churches, and also with the approach of a scheme of Accreditation and new legislation that is raising the benchmark, it seems that we have little alternative but to widen our policy of checking all those who apply to work with children and young people. At the moment this would only apply to new applicants, existing workers will not be checked. As this is a significant change in the policy of the General Assembly a resolution is appended.

7. At the moment PECS checks are facilitated by the Youth Board. In the light of the increased workload a review of the administration of the PECS forms is taking place. The outcome of that review will be notified to congregations. We thank the Youth Board, especially Lois McIlrath, for facilitating the process of PECS checking thus far.

8. As these discussions have raised other child protection issues there has been a delay in finalising the third edition of the Guidelines. We had hoped to go to print in June but this will have to be delayed. We are still hoping to have the third edition available by early September.

Moved by Mr L Conway, OBE, seconded by the Rev R Vallely, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Dr Jean McClune be continued as Convener of the Kinghan Mission Committee for a further year.
3. That the General Assembly express its appreciation to the Police Service of Northern Ireland for the determined stand taken against drug trafficking in Northern Ireland; congratulate them on recent significant seizures and encourage their future endeavours in the fight against a great social evil.
4. That the General Assembly welcome the third edition of the Child Protection Guidelines and encourage every congregation to regularly review their procedures in light of these Guidelines.
5. That the General Assembly agree that from 1 January 2005 PECS checks will be carried out on all new applicants and volunteers who will have regular access to children and young people in churches and their organisations.

**Allegations of Sexual Abuse**

6. That the General Assembly approve and adopt the policy document: Policy and Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse.

**Allegations of Sexual Harassment**

7. That the General Assembly approve and adopt the policy document: Policy and Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Harassment.



8. That the General Assembly appoint Mr Norman Chambers to the position of Co-ordinator, responsible for the efficient handling and co-ordinating of complaints received under the Policy and Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse and/or Harassment.

9. That a charge be made on the Incidental Fund for the printing and promotion of the third edition of the Child Protection Guidelines.

10. That a charge be made on the Incidental Fund for the printing of the policy documents: Policy and Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse/Harassment.

11. That the customary grant made by the Social Issues and Resources Committee up to a total of £3,000 be met from the Incidental Fund.

12. That Willow Brook be added to the list of agencies recognised by the United Appeal. Motion on the Books: Willow Brook

13. That the Board of Social Witness, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 281 of the Code as follows:- General

**Rev R Vallely, Convener  
Director of Social Service, Secretary**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Superintendent of the Shankill Road Mission, Minister and Superintendent of the Kinghan Mission, Board Convener, Director of Social Service, Residential Services Manager.**

(b) **Revs WJ Murdock, H Boyd; L Willoughby — Rev AJ Thompson; J Smart, Mrs D Foster — Rev JR Hyndman; W Keown, Mrs J Davidson — Dr D Patterson, R McCleary, Mrs A Neilly — Rev P Thompson; Mrs M Hewitson, Mrs M Williams — Rev RJ Mattison; J Chestnutt, Mrs C Stephenson.**

(c) **Rev DW Brice; J Todd, Mrs W Bristow — Rev MS Gault; Mrs L Graham, Mrs Z Vallely — Rev J Coulter; G McIntyre, Mrs L Conn — Revs M Barr, JA Thompson; Mrs K Fulton — Rev JL Tosh; DL Malcolm, Mrs W Dickey.**

(d) **Revs K McConnell, TN Hamilton; Mrs B Brennan, — Revs J Braithwaite, N Agnew; Miss M Cromie — Revs Dr RM Crooks, D Maxwell; Mrs B Stewart.**

(e) **Revs AJA Rosborough, JK McCormick; Mrs E Patterson — Revs DS Irwin, EG McKimmon; Mrs V Miller — Rev GD Allen; H Alexander, Mrs M Good — Rev RIA Allely; R McKee, Mrs I Reid.**

(f) **Rev PA McBride; Mrs E Montgomery, Mrs J McKean — Rev Dr S Mawhinney; D Boyd, Mrs L Milligan — Rev GJ Mackarel; Miss F Fleming, W McConkey.**

(p) **Mrs Marie Catherine, Miss Elizabeth Smyth, Mrs Helen Murdock, Mrs Hilary Jess, Mrs Maureen Weir, Mrs Joan Hanna.**

**A. SOCIAL ISSUES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (4)**

**Rev RA Liddle, Convener**

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Committee Convener, Board Convener, Director of Social Service.**

(x) **Revs Dr RA Russell, Dr CA Grant; Dr K Moyna Bill.**

(y) **Revs H Boyd, RIA Allely, J Braithwaite, WJ Murdock; Miss E Smith, Dr D Patterson.**

- B. ADDICTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE (5)**  
Revs JA Beattie, TJ Wilson Co-Conveners
- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Director of Social Service, Committee Conveners, 1 Rep Duncairn & St Enoch's Church, Rev Dr JC Buick.
  - (x) Rev Ian McClean; J Luke, Miss L Dunlop, Dr L Calderwood.
  - (y) Revs GD Allen, AJA Rosborough, AJ Thompson, Mrs Z Vallely, G McIntyre, G Todd, Mrs W Bristow, Dr D Patterson.
- C. WAR MEMORIAL HOSTEL COMMITTEE (5) JH Martin, Convener**
- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener; Director of Social Service, Committee Convener, Financial Secretary, Convener and Secretary of the Board of Education, Convener of the University Education Committee, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry.
  - (x) Revs RN Agnew, RA Patton; NJ Chambers, A Treacy.
  - (y) Revs MS Gault, DS Irwin, Dr RM Crooks, K McConnell, Mrs H Murdock, Mrs G Drennan, Mrs M Patterson.
- D. KINGHAN MISSION COMMITTEE (4) Dr Jean McClune, Convener  
Rev S Henning, Superintendent**
- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Minister and Superintendent of Kinghan Mission, Director of Social Service, Committee Convener.
  - (x) G Lewis, A Shaw, Mrs Christine Houston.
  - (y) Revs Dr RM Crooks, JA Braithwaite, DS Irwin, M Barr, JA Thompson; Mrs H Jess.
- E. PRESBYTERIAN RESIDENTIAL TRUST COMMITTEE (4)**  
Rev JA Noble, Convener  
Mrs Linda Wray, Secretary
- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener; Director of Social Service, Residential Services Manager.
  - (x) I Gillespie, Miss H McMillen, B Wilson.
  - (y) Revs MS Gault, JA Thompson; Miss F Fleming, Mrs P Johnston, Mrs Z Vallely, Mrs B Stewart.
- F. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY COMMITTEE (5)**  
Mrs R Simpson, Convener
- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Board Convener, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Rev Dr RM Crooks, Director of Social Service, Professor of Practical Theology.
  - (x) Revs JM Wade, JW McAuley; Mrs Irene Millar, Mrs Christine Finlay, Dr Paul Gray, Mrs G Compton.
  - (y) Revs JA Braithwaite, DS Irwin, GJ Mackarel; Miss L Graham, Mrs E Montgomery, Miss M Cromie.

- G. FORCES COMMITTEE (3) Rev PP Campbell, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Director of Social Service, Revs S van Os, PP Campbell.**
- (x) **Revs Dr J Fell, JJ Andrews, RT Anderson, Dr J Harper.**
- (y) **Revs EG McKimmon, N Agnew; W Keown.**
- H. CHAPLAINS COMMITTEE (5) Rev J Gordon, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Director of Social Service, Convener of Social Issues and Resources Committee; Rev J Gordon.**
- (x) **Revs BCG Black, Dr RFS Poots, WPH Erskine, Dr. J. Fell, TJ Conway, SA Finlay; RDT Gibson.**
- (y) **Revs TN Hamilton, JL Tosh; Miss M Cromie.**

### Intermission

The Report of the **Ad-Hoc Committee on Priorities** (Reports pp 354-360) was submitted by the Rev T D Gribben. **Ad-Hoc Committee on Priorities**

Moved by the Rev T D Gribben, seconded by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That a Panel be set up under the General Board, to report to the 2005 General Assembly with regard to the issues in the second paragraph of the 'Outstanding matters' section of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities.
3. That the General Assembly approve the recommendations relating to 'Co-ordination / Co-operation between Boards', as outlined in Appendix I.
4. That the General Assembly approve the recommendations relating to 'Making the system work', as outlined in Appendix II.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

5. That the Rev Trevor Gribben be thanked for his diligent and committed work as Convener of the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities.

Moved by the Rev T D Gribben, seconded by the Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop, and agreed:

6. That the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities be thanked for its services and discharged.

The Report of the **SHANKILL ROAD MISSION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 258-259) was submitted by the Rev J S Dallas. **SHANKILL ROAD MISSION COMMISSION**

Moved by the Rev J S Dallas, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the Superintendent and the Shankill Road Mission Staff be commended to the prayers of the General Assembly, as they carry on the work in West Belfast.

3. That the Shankill Road Mission Commission be thanked for its services and discharged as a Commission, but that the Shankill Road Mission Committee be appointed, under the Board of Mission in Ireland.

The Minutes were taken and corrected.

**BUSINESS BOARD** The Final Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** was submitted by the Clerk, the Rev Dr D J Watts, as follows:

The Business Board met once during the week. It considered an additional resolution, which was subsequently withdrawn.

At its meeting on Friday 4 June, the resolutions appended were approved for submission at the close of the Assembly.

Moved by the Rev Dr D J Watts, seconded by the Rev J H Robinson, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the following corresponding members be appointed:

*To the Church of Scotland 2005*

The Right Rev Dr K N E Newell

The Rev W I Hull

An Elder to be appointed by the Business Board

3. That the corresponding members to the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom, 2005, and delegates to the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Conference, 2005, be appointed by the Business Board.

4. That the Clerk be given authority to make corrections to the Daily Minutes as and when required.

5. That the next General Assembly be held in Church House, Belfast on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2005.

After a brief adjournment, the Moderator conducted worship, assisted by the Revs C Meban and Dr A N Kerr

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev R S Stockman addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator conducted a closing act of worship; thanked the Clerk of Assembly, the Deputy Clerk and his Chaplains; Mrs Joyce Anderson and the staff of the General Secretary's Office; Mr Stephen Lynas, the audio visual team and the media; the Church House staff, including Mr Harry Orr; the Rev T C Morrison and Mrs Claire Dixon; the organists and musicians; those who acted as stewards and time-keepers.

Thereafter he declared the Assembly to be dissolved and convened the next Stated General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Church House, Belfast, on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2005.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.25 pm.

Attested by  
DONALD J WATTS  
Clerk of Assembly

## DEPUTATIONS — 2005

- I.— CORRESPONDING MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
 Right Rev Dr K N E Newell, Moderator  
 Rev W I Hull  
 An Elder to be appointed by the Business Board
- II.— CORRESPONDING MEMBER  
 TO THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
 To be appointed by the Business Board.
- III.— DELEGATE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES  
 To be appointed by the Business Board.
- IV.— DELEGATES TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD  
 To be appointed by the Business Board.
- V.— DELEGATES TO THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND CONFERENCE  
 To be appointed by the Business Board.

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### ECCLESIASTICAL CHANGES, ETC.

	Reported by Presbyteries in —	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Licensures .....		13	13	15	8	4	4	5
Ordinations .....		12	16	13	14	14	9	4
Installations .....		24	26	41	36	32	22	24
Resignation of Ministers .....		28	13	28	26	27	23	27
Retirements of Ministers .....		13	11	14	16	13	12	13
Deaths of Ministers .....		15	3	10	14	6	14	17
Students .....		44	39	26	22	25	30	37
Ministers under care of Assembly .....		26	26	21	22	22	23	23
Licentiatees .....		41	33	34	18	12	6	10

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### FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*I hereby give and bequeath to the General Secretary for the time being of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, whose receipt for the same shall be a sufficient discharge, the sum of £..... upon trust to be applied by such General Secretary toward the ..... (here state the Mission, Central Ministry, or other Fund, to be benefited) of the General Assembly; and I direct that the said legacy be paid out of my pure personal estate; and free from any deduction on account of any legacy duty, or other tax whatever.*

# CHANGES IN THE CODE 2004

CHURCH HOUSE,  
BELFAST, BT1 6DW  
AUGUST, 2004.

The following changes have been made in the 1997 edition of the Code, which should be corrected accordingly.

DONALD J. WATTS  
Clerk of Assembly

## **Anent Par 111(6) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that the present wording of sub-paragraph 111(6) of the Code be deleted and substituted by:

“No alterations to the rules governing the Central Ministry Fund, the Retired Ministers’ Fund, the Widows of Ministers’ Fund or the 1978 Ministers’ Pension Scheme shall be made unless notice proposing the making of the rules has been on the minutes of the proceedings of the Assembly for twelve months.”

## **Anent Par 193(2)(a) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 193(2)(a) of the Code the words “or at any time during” be inserted after the words “prior to”.

## **Anent Par 223(3) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 223(3) of the Code the words “Ministry and Pensions” and “Retirements and Pensions” be deleted and the words “Finance and Personnel” and “Pensions and Assessments” be substituted in their place.

## **Anent Par 268(4)(d) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 268(4)(d) of the Code the words “Finance and Administration” be deleted and the words “Finance and Personnel” be substituted in their place and the words “Board of Ministry and Pensions” be deleted.

## **Anent Par 277(2)(c) and (d) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that Par 277 (2)(c) and (d) of the Code be deleted.

**Anent Par 278 of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that Par 278 of the Code be deleted.

**Anent Par 279(2) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 279(2) of the Code an additional sub-section (b) be added as follows:

“(b) encourage study of, and response to, the issues of aid, relief and world development”

and that the present sub-sections (b)-(d) be renumbered as (c)-(e)

**Anent Par 286 of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that the present wording of Par 286 of the Code be deleted and substituted by the following:

**“Board of Finance and Personnel**

(1) The Board shall consist of the Moderator and Clerk, the Financial Secretary, the Convener of the Union Commission, the Assembly Conveners of the Board and the working committees under its supervision, with their members, and two persons nominated by each Presbytery, not more than one of whom shall be a minister.

(2) The Board shall:

- (a) be responsible for the management of all personnel employed by the General Assembly or under the control of the Assembly whether in Church House or in other related appointments, including the approval of all contracts of employment and amendments thereto. (In the appointment of the Financial Secretary, the Board, while retaining the power of appointment shall consult with the Executive Committee of the Trustees to permit the person to be also appointed Secretary to that Committee).
- (b) ensure that all Boards and officials provide all information necessary for the review of staff matters.
- (c) ensure that Boards and officials and all staff adhere to any regulations introduced by or with the authority of the Board for the welfare or the general efficiency of the staff or the property of the Church.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Board to:

- (a) oversee the finances of the church, including the regulation of the systems for the control of all assets and funds of the Church,



except those which are the responsibility of individual congregations or the Assembly Trustees.

- (b) prepare and present the annual accounts to the Assembly and nominate auditors for appointment by the Assembly.
- (c) ensure that Boards and officials follow guidelines approved by the Board for the receipt, recording, retention, and payment of monies, and that they provide financial and other information as and when the Board shall require.
- (d) require Boards and officials to obtain the prior approval of the Board before adopting any policy or change of policy affecting the legal status of the Church, a Board, or an official of the Church.
- (e) require Boards and officials to take all steps considered necessary by the Board, for the protection of the assets of the Church against all classes of risk.

(4) The Board shall, directly or by committee, superintend the administration of the Assembly's Incidental Fund, as directed by the Assembly:

- (a) for the payment of travelling expenses, postage, printing and administrative costs in connection with the work of the General Assembly or any of its Boards or Committees.
- (b) for the payment of any other grants or expenses as approved by the General Assembly.
- (c) to obtain the necessary funds by means of an annual assessment levied on congregations, at a rate which shall be fixed by the Assembly annually.
- (d) but shall not be chargeable with the expenses of any committee for which the Assembly has made other provisions, as through the United Appeal; nor of members of commissions, boards and committees other than conveners or secretaries, unless by special direction of the Assembly; nor of deputations beyond the limits of the British Isles without the directions of the Assembly or its General and Business Boards.

(5) The Board shall, directly or by committee, be responsible for the regular compilation and publication of Church Statistics as follows:

- (a) it shall prepare and issue annually a query sheet to congregations to ascertain their numerical strength and financial condition together with any additional matters which it may decide. It is the responsibility of each Moderator, or interim Moderator, of Kirk Session, to ensure that all questions are answered and that the

query sheets are submitted to Presbytery in time for examination and certification at their stated meeting in March, after which they shall be forwarded to the Board without delay.

- (b) the information thus obtained shall be tabulated and subsequently published by the authority of the Assembly as a supplement to its annual Minutes.

(6) The Board shall, directly or by committee, superintend the management of the Church House and Assembly Hall, including the Fisherwick Buildings, caring for the fabric, effecting necessary repairs and improvements, arranging lettings of the various halls, rooms, and buildings and maintaining the order and cleanliness of the entire property and be responsible for all matters of health and safety within the buildings.

(7) The Board shall directly or by committee:

- (a) administer The Central Ministry Fund (see Pars 313ff)
- (b) administer The Retired Ministers Fund (see Pars 321ff)
- (c) administer The Widows of Ministers Fund (see Pars 324ff)
- (d) administer The 1978 Ministers' Pension Scheme (see Pars 326ff)
- (e) administer The Prolonged Disability Fund
- (f) administer The Retired Ministers' House Fund
- (g) appoint a committee to consider and report to the Assembly the cases of all ministers applying for special leave to retire from active duty. The committee shall have the right to issue a schedule of queries to be answered by the applicant.

(8) The Board shall have the authority to deal with urgent matters of financial administration, outside the other powers of the Board, which may arise between meetings of the General Assembly.

### **Anent Par 288 of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that the present Par 288 of the Code be deleted.

### **Anent Par 300(1) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 300(1) of the Code the words "Home Board" be deleted and the words "Board of Mission in Ireland" be substituted in their place.

**Anent Par 308(7)(a) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 308(7)(a) of the Code the words, “the Home Treasurer, the Overseas Treasurer” be deleted and that the words, “the Treasurer”, be substituted in their place.

**Anent Par 308(7)(b) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 308(7)(b) of the Code the word “twenty-one” be deleted and the words “not otherwise represented” be added after the words “Presbyterial Committees”.

**Anent Par 311(3) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 311(3) of the Code the words “Board of Ministry and Pensions and its Central Ministry Fund (ie CMF) Committee” be deleted and the words “Board of Finance and Personnel through its Pensions and Assessments Committee” be substituted in their place.

**Anent Par 311(6) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that the present wording of Par 311(6) of the Code be deleted and substituted by:

“(6) Two secretaries of the Fund shall be appointed annually by the Board of Finance and Personnel from among its members”.

**Anent Par 311(7) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that subparagraph 311(7) of the Code be deleted.

**Anent Pars 312(2) and 316(3) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Pars 312(2) and 316(3) the words “CMF Committee” be deleted and the words “Pensions and Assessments Committee” be substituted in their place.

**Anent Par 314 of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 314 of the Code the words “Board of Ministry and Pensions” and “CMF Committee” be deleted and the words “Board of Finance and Personnel” and “Pensions and Assessments Committee” be substituted in their place.

**Anent Par 315(3) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 315(3) of the Code the words “upon application” be deleted.

**Anent Pars 318(A)2b; 319(3); 324(3) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Pars 318(A)2b; 319(3); 324(3) of the Code the words “Ministry and Pensions” be deleted and the words “Finance and Personnel” be substituted in their place.

**Anent Par 321(1) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 321(1) of the Code the words “Committee on Retirements and Pensions and the Board of Ministry and Pensions” be deleted and the words “Pensions and Assessments Committee of the Board of Finance and Personnel” be substituted in their place.

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