UNITED APPEAL BOARD

Convener: Rev RIA ALLELY
Secretary: THE CLERK

1. The United Appeal Board was relieved but also and especially grateful to God that there was only a small deficit when the books closed at the end of January 2014. The total received from Congregations was £3,038,713, £141,287 short of the Target of Honour. However, when the late receipts from 2013 were added (£139,555), the overall deficit was only £1,732. This meant that 99.9% of the Target was realised.

2. When a statistical analysis of Congregation's givings was examined, the following figures emerged: 6 Congregations gave nothing; 135 gave less than their Target, 140 met their Target exactly (presumably doing this by transferring from their General Funds – and perhaps restricting Mission locally), and the rest exceeded their Target by varying amounts (5p to £11,265.00!) The Board acknowledges and applauds the generous givings of a good number of Congregations – 13 exceeding their Targets by at least £2,000.00.

3. The Mission Boards collectively sought a total of £3,506,000 for 2015, considerably more than what was received from Congregations for 2013. The Finance Committee again appreciate the fact that the Mission Boards are doing all that they can to streamline their budgets. When the representatives were interviewed the Committee was impressed by the vision and serious application of their Boards to the request that budgets be not increased by more than 2%.

4. The Board brought a resolution last year to the Assembly: "That the General Assembly designate the 1st Sunday in March as United Appeal for Mission Sunday." A similar resolution is being brought this year as the Board became aware that many Congregations simply ignored this directive from the Assembly, although some Congregations had offerings on other Sundays, more appropriate to them.

5. The Board commends the Promotions Committee for their efforts to communicate better with Congregations and acknowledges the expertise of the Creative Production Unit in assisting them to achieve better results. The Board reminds ministers especially of the resources available on the PCI website. It would be interesting to discover how many Congregations have actually seen one of the downloadable videos!

6. The Board accepted the Finance Committee's recommendation that the various Mission Boards receive the Grants outlined in Schedule IV and regrets that certain Boards appear to have been penalised. This is not so – as serious contemplation and prayer was involved in the final decision. It goes without saying that we cannot give what we do not have! Some years ago an examination of what our people gave to the United Appeal in 3 Presbyteries showed that only about 10% gave anything to the Appeal.

7. The Board is aware that some Congregations do not pay their Target because they have a heavy responsibility to members who are working with other Missionary Societies. While it is wonderful that men and women are responding to the call of God to serve overseas (and in the Republic of Ireland) there is a

danger of such Congregations being more "Congregational" than Presbyterian. Our practise has always been to help each other!

8. The Board again would thank the Financial Secretary and his Department for their assistance in every area of the United Appeal's work. Treasurers were reminded in December that it was imperative to have their United Appeal money with this Department long before 31 January. Sadly, many appear not to have done this. The Board appreciates that Accounts have to be audited before Congregational Committees are able to finalise their figures. However, any monies received for United Appeal should be remitted as soon as possible after it is collected. In no case should United Appeal money be used to compliment the cash flow of Congregations.

9. The Board commends the "Grace of Giving" initiative to Congregations and call on Ministers to teach their Congregations about biblical giving as soon as possible.

10. The Board has budgeted to release another £100,000 from reserves in 2015 in order to restrict the Appeal to the Church. It is obvious to those speaking about the United Appeal in Congregations across the land that many of our members just don't understand the whole concept of "United Appeal for Mission" – this problem is being attended to by the Promotions Committee, which is constantly reviewing ways and means of changing this perception.

PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

The Very Rev Dr John Dunlop reports:

1. In preparation for the 'United Appeal for Mission Sunday' on 2 March 2014, the following resources were made available for ministers and members of the Church.

(a) The Spring edition of 'Briefings' was distributed at the February Presbyteries.

(b) A comprehensive Power Point presentation and accompanying commentary was sent by email.

(c) The *Herald* and *ReachOut* magazines carried explanatory articles. Thanks are expressed to the editors, Sarah Harding and Robin Fairbairn.

(d) Two Children's Addresses were prepared by the Board of Youth and Children.

(e) An exciting and explanatory 'animation' was made available on the PCI website.

2. This material provided an overview of the way in which the United Appeal for Mission works and the way the Appeal supports the exciting mission work which the General Assembly accomplishes through its six Mission Boards. The work of each Board was summarised.

3. Explanation was given of how the overall United Appeal Appeal for Mission Target is arrived at by the General Assembly; how Presbyteries are given targets depending on their size and how Presbyteries set the 'Targets of Honour' for congregations.

4. This is how we Presbyterians 'Do things together' at congregational, Presbytery and General Assembly levels. We are able to do things together which we could never do on our own.

5. "Briefings' are distributed twice each year, at the February and September Presbyteries. Accompanying DVDs are available on the PCI website. Our thanks to James McCormick, the General Assembly's Head of Creative Production, who has taken over this work and to Stephen Lynas who served the Committee for many years.

6. Deputation work reveals that many of our members do not know how the Appeal works nor do they understand the wide-ranging and magnificent mission work done through the six Mission Boards. Other Missionary Societies explain what they do and gain enthusiastic support. We should do the same.

7. The United Appeal for Mission Board and the Promotions' Committee are wholly dependent on ministers explaining this to congregations. Sadly we have to report that many ministers do not see this as important. How are people to know if the material is not both distributed and explained? This is a good news story which our members deserve to hear and be thereby encouraged.

8. Let us thank God for what is accomplished and encourage and challenge one another.

APPRAISALS COMMITTEE

The Clerk reports:

The Appraisals Committee has approved the following posts or projects since it last reported:

- Additional Support Worker (15 hours) at Gray's Court for the Board of Social Witness, funded by Supporting People;
- Temporary additional Personnel Officer (1 year) for the Board of Finance and Personnel;
- Increased hours (to 4 days) for the Herald Editor and Creative Production Adviser, General Board;
- Grant to Mullingar New Church Project (up to €171,000) from the Board of Mission in Ireland;
- Temporary appointment of a Mission Training and Leadership Development Officer (to 31 December 2014) for the Board of Mission Overseas;
- Refurbishment of apartments at Tritonville Close, Dublin, by the Board of Social Witness;
- Purchase of a manse in Donabate (up to €250,000) by the Board of Mission in Ireland.

At the time of writing a proposal by the Board of Social Witness for the transfer of Lawnfield House, Newcastle to the BSW from the Disabled Christians' Fellowship Ireland is awaiting more detailed information.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the United Appeal for 2015 be as set out in the Schedules (iii) and (iv).

3. That the General Assembly encourage all Congregations to make use of the available promotional materials, especially the downloadable videos.

4. That the General Assembly designate the 1st Sunday in March, or other suitable Sunday, as United Appeal for Mission Sunday.

SCHEDULE I

Presbytery	Contributing Families 2012	Assessable Income 2012 £	United Appeal 2014 £
Ards	7,472	3,341,864	299,701
Armagh	3,793	2,008,468	165,939
Ballymena	6,950	3,200,231	282,826
Belfast North	5,003	2,116,975	195,335
Belfast South	3,266	1,820,051	146,892
Belfast East	5,594	3,039,655	248,159
Carrickfergus	4,940	1,913,654	185,062
Coleraine and Limavady	5,543	2,491,807	222,890
Derry and Donegal	4,935	2,066,228	191,708
Down	4,715	1,751,945	173,335
Dromore	4,637	2,103,332	187,292
Dublin and Munster	987	1,350,791	79,809
Iveagh	3,510	1,529,612	139,007
Monaghan	1,007	660,624	49,690
Newry	2,838	1,199,071	110,726
Omagh	3,498	1,448,429	135,172
Route	3,515	1,401,824	133,456
Templepatrick	4,075	1,621,748	154,567
Tyrone	3,661	1,673,355	148,434
	79,939	36,739,664	3,250,000

50% of the allocation for 2014 has been based on contributing families and 50% on Assessable Income. Assessable Income for Congregations in the Republic of Ireland have been converted to euro on the basis of the average exchange rate for 2012 of 1.2222.

SCHEDULE II

	Requested 2014 £	Proposed Grant 2014 £
BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND	1,030,000	1,000,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	40,000	40,000
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING	427,000	410,000
BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	420,000	410,000
BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS	445,000	415,000
BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS	1,000,000	1,000,000
GENERAL BOARD – COMMUNICATIONS	150,000	130,000
	3,512,000	3,405,000
Allocation from reserves		(155,000)
Appeal to Congregations		3,250,000

SCHEDULE III

Presbytery	Contributing Families 2013	Assessable Income 2013 £	United Appeal 2015 £
Ards	7,241	3,382,769	307,368
Armagh	3,674	2,023,957	169,945
Ballymena	6,909	3,333,817	298,103
Belfast North	4,773	2,107,135	197,028
Belfast South	3,129	1,754,933	146,154
Belfast East	5,526	3,061,902	256,414
Carrickfergus	4,682	1,817,105	181,908
Coleraine and Limavady	5,383	2,480,844	226,956
Derry and Donegal	4,742	2,058,180	194,145
Down	4,597	1,701,911	174,867
Dromore	4,844	2,124,566	199,325
Dublin and Munster	989	1,397,740	84,538
Iveagh	3,598	1,410,336	140,426
Monaghan	1,106	668,962	53,874
Newry	2,602	1,113,437	105,806
Omagh	3,474	1,465,713	140,316
Route	3,572	1,416,896	140,173
Templepatrick	3,955	1,622,899	157,662
Tyrone	3,618	1,611,338	149,992
	78,414	36,554,440	3,325,000

50% of the allocation for 2015 has been based on contributing families and 50% on Assessable Income. Assessable Income for Congregations in the Republic of Ireland have been converted to euro on the basis of the average exchange rate for 2013 of 1.1962.

SCHEDULE IV

	Requested 2015 £	Proposed Grant 2015 £
BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND	1,020,000	1,000,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	40,000	40,000
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING	427,000	410,000
BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	420,000	430,000
BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS	454,000	415,000
BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS	1,000,000	1,000,000
GENERAL BOARD – COMMUNICATIONS	145,000	130,000
	3,506,000	3,425,000
Allocation from reserves		(100,000)
Appeal to Congregations		3,325,000