

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Held at Belfast, June, 2003

FIRST SESSION

Monday, 2nd June, 2003

Seven o'clock. Evening

Within Church House

The Right Rev Dr R I Birney, 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 623 ministers being ex officio members and 513 elders on whose behalf commissions had been received, had been entered on the Roll of the Assembly together with 56 Assembly Elders, Conveners and nominees of the Business Board. 15 Deaconesses, 8 Irish Mission Workers, 61 Women's representatives and 33 Youth representatives together with 20 Conveners and Missionaries who are not members of the court had been invited to sit and deliberate along with 7 Licentiates. There were also 15 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 I A McKay, BA, BD	7 votes
The Rev K N E Newell, BA, BD, MTh	7 votes
The Rev W T J Richardson, BA, BD	3 votes
The Rev J Fell, MA, PhD	1 vote
The Rev W A Kennedy, MA	1 vote
The Rev J H MacConnell, MA, BD	1 vote
The Rev W J Orr, BA, BD, ThM	1 vote

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

The Rev I A McKay, BA, BD	11 votes
The Rev K N E Newell, BA, BD, MTh	10 votes

On the motion of the Rev K N E Newell, seconded by the Rev W T J Richardson, the Rev Dr I A McKay was unanimously called to the Chair, welcomed by the retiring Moderator and commended to God in prayer.

The Right Rev Dr I A McKay then addressed the House.

The sederunt came to a close at 8.55 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 3rd June, 2003

Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**BUSINESS
BOARD**

The Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** (Reports pp 90-97) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, together with the following Supplementary Report.

Supplementary Report

DELEGATES TO OTHER CHURCHES

The Church of Scotland General Assembly (2003)

The Right Rev Dr R I Birney reports:

The Church of Scotland General Assembly met from 17 – 23 May. The corresponding members from our Church were Rt Rev R I Birney, Rev R S Hetherington and Mr William Henry.

As always a warm welcome was extended to the corresponding members and we greatly appreciated the generous hospitality that we enjoyed throughout the week.

The Assembly began with the election as Moderator of Rev Professor Iain Torrance, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Divinity, Master of Christ's College, Aberdeen. His father, the Very Rev Professor Tom Torrance, was Moderator from 1976-7. As expected, the opening service in St Giles Cathedral was both dignified and impressive.

Attendance at the Assembly was consistently good, whatever the matter under discussion, and the standard of debate was high. Microphone points throughout the building allow delegates to contribute without having to approach the rostrum and projected images ensure that all can see those who are speaking.

The Church of Scotland has actually reconsidered the timing of its General Assembly and also the length of time a Moderator holds his post. However it is felt that a change of date might produce more problems than it solves, and any extension of the Moderator's tenure would result in 'major repercussions' for the individual involved.

As in our own denomination, the establishing of priorities is regarded as an urgent necessity. The *Church Without Walls* report, which was accepted with enthusiasm by the 2001 General Assembly, set out a compelling vision for the Church for the next few years and affirmed the key role of local congregations. This vision now has to shape the use of Church funds, so that priority areas of Church life receive adequate financial support.

A wide-ranging consultation process resulted in a major report on the eldership. This concluded that the Kirk's 40,000 elders are an 'astonishing' resource. Already many elders participate in public worship, and this trend is to be encouraged. The report emphasises that this is essentially a spiritual office and believes it is time to 'talk up' the eldership, with ministers offering encouragement and training to members of Session. The Assembly received an Overture allowing elders to moderate at Session meetings in certain defined circumstances. This will be transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration.

In a high-profile debate the Assembly decisively rejected plans for a visible union with the Methodist Church, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church. While increased co-operation between these denominations was warmly encouraged, the idea of even a modified form of episcopacy and a perceived diminution of the status of elders proved to be the main stumbling blocks.

The Assembly highlighted the distressing issue of domestic abuse. We were told that in Scotland hundreds of thousands of women and children live with the daily threat of violence in their homes. The Scottish Executive and Parliament

were commended for the action they have taken in this area, and the Church itself was challenged to provide a Christian role model and to offer sensitive pastoral care.

I was invited to address the Assembly during its *Church and Nation* debate and did so, with special reference to the current situation in Northern Ireland.

Concern over a steep decline in the number of children being baptised prompted a report on the sacrament from the Panel on Doctrine. This provoked a lively discussion, after which the Church redefined its guidelines and authorised the preparation of an order of service to be used where an act of thanksgiving may be thought more appropriate.

However, Scottish matters did not predominate to the exclusion of global issues. The political and spiritual climate in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe was thoughtfully highlighted, as the Church reviewed its involvement in some of these areas.

The Church of Scotland has been forced to withdraw its entire missionary personnel from Pakistan, in the wake of the terrorist threat to Christian workers there. It was a moving experience to hear visiting delegates from the like of Myanmar, Palestine and the Sudan describe how many of God's people are suffering in today's world.

The Assembly clearly affirmed its opposition to the war against Iraq, based as it was on a doctrine of pre-emptive strike, and on the use of certain weaponry in that conflict (ie cluster bombs and depleted uranium shells). However there was also an unambiguous condemnation of Saddam Hussein's evil regime, and a recognition that British Forces, and their families, had behaved with great courage in very difficult circumstances.

While your representatives were most appreciative of the fellowship and friendship that we experienced, we were also impressed by a Church which is seeking to bear a meaningful witness in an increasingly secular society. Since we face many of the same challenges, we can only be enriched by continuing to share our experiences and insights.

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland (2003)

The Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop reports:

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland met in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin, from 13-15 May.

The Presbyterian representatives were Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop and Mr David Colvin, an elder in Abbey Church, Dublin. They, along with other visitors, were extended a warm welcome, both formally and informally, and received generous hospitality. Mr Gordon Pearson of the Religious Society of Friends responded with thanks on behalf of all the guests.

At the conclusion of the first day of business, a Synod Communion service was held in St Patrick's Cathedral. The preacher was Rt Rev M E Marshall, Incumbent of Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, London, and Auxiliary Bishop of London. Devotions before each day's business were led by Rt Rev P F Barrett, the new Bishop of Cashel and Ossory.

The business sessions were presided over by the Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev R H A Eames, assisted by the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev J R W

Neill. Archbishop Eames delivered a wide-ranging Presidential address on the theme of 'Power and Powerlessness'. Among other issues, he touched on world poverty and national debt, calling for direct taxation to help raise funds for the poor, and, closer to home, he questioned the moral assumptions behind the 'Celtic Tiger' economy in the Republic. He spoke of the need in Northern Ireland for a new power of trust to replace the power of violence. He also indicated that the Bishops are considering the issues surrounding same-gender relationships.

Synod's legislative procedures involve a First, Second and Third Reading of Bills, plus a Committee stage when clauses and amendments are examined in detail. This year 17 Bills received a Second Reading, went through Committee stage, and then a Third Reading. These were dominated by the continuing preparation of a new Book of Common Prayer to be published next year. The completion of this task, begun in 2000, should help free up Synod time to debate the mission and ministry issues which many see as increasingly urgent in the Ireland of today.

A major study on sectarianism and dealing with difference, titled 'The Hard Gospel', was introduced by Dr Gareth Higgins. In debate it was noted that sectarian attitudes are by no means confined to Northern Ireland, that all need to learn how to live positively with difference, and that change is necessary for all. A church-wide education programme was adopted.

In addition to these issues Synod dealt with familiar matters such as education, youth, mission, inter-church, social responsibility and pensions. The 2002 Summit on Ministry has contributed to an on-going process of review of ministry.

It was good to observe another denomination in Ireland at work. While there are similarities and differences in the ways we go about that work, we face common challenges and opportunities, not least those of connecting with people of all ages in Ireland today and communicating the good news of Jesus Christ.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, 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 £15,000 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, 2004 be appointed in accordance with Par 275 of the Code.

The Report of the **Synods and Presbyteries** (Reports pp 80-89) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson. **Synods & Presbyteries**

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

1. That the Report be received.

**Corresponding
Members**

The **Corresponding Members** were received from the Church of Scotland. These were the Right Rev Prof Iain Torrance, Rev Dr Iain C Barclay, and Prof Trevor Salmon.

The Moderator welcomed the Corresponding Members. The Right Rev Prof Iain Torrance replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Revs John D Waller and Dr David Cornick, Corresponding Members from the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom, and the Rev Meirion Lloyd Davies, a delegate from the Presbyterian Church of Wales. The Rev Meirion Lloyd Davies replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Right Rev Kenneth Good and Mr Frederick Rankin, delegates from the Church of Ireland; the Rev Harold Good, OBE, and Mrs Louise Wilson, delegates from the Methodist Church in Ireland and Dr David Stevens from the Irish Council of Churches. The Rev Harold Good, OBE, replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed other delegates from: the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Rt Rev John Knapp; W A R C, the Rev Dr Setri Nyomi; Church of North India, Rev Devanus Oza; Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Rev David Kiarie.

The Rev David Kiarie replied and conveyed greetings.

**BOARD OF
MINISTRY
& PENSIONS**

The Report of the **BOARD OF MINISTRY AND PENSIONS** (Reports pp 283 – 295) was submitted by the Rev D S Graham.

Moved by the Rev D S Graham, seconded by Mr J Millar OBE and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

**Central
Ministry Fund**

2. That the 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 Central Ministry Fund.

3. That the rate of assessment for CMF in 2003 be 17p in the £ of Stipend.

**Retired
Ministers' Fund**

4. That the rate of assessment for the Retired Ministers' Fund in 2003 be 11p in the £ of Stipend.

**Widows of
Ministers' Fund**

5. That the rate of assessment for the Widows of Ministers Fund in 2003 be 7.75p in the £ of Stipend.

**Ministers'
Prolonged
Disability Fund**

6. That a Ministers' Prolonged Disability Fund be established with immediate effect.

7. That the Rules of the Ministers' Prolonged Disability Fund as in Appendix A above be approved with the following amendment to Rule 19:

19. Appeal

- (a) Any appeal against a decision regarding the grant, alteration, refusal or termination of benefits from the Fund shall be lodged within twenty-one days with the Convener of the Board of Ministry and Pensions, who shall refer the appeal forthwith to the Judicial Commission, whose decision shall be final.
- (b) The notification of appeal shall state the grounds thereof and shall be accompanied by documentary evidence. Any party shall if requested by the Judicial Commission submit any additional documentary evidence.

(c) The decision of the Judicial Commission on appeal shall be final and binding.

8. That the rate of assessment for the Ministers' Prolonged Disability Fund in 2003 be as follows:

- in respect of ministers of congregations 4p in the £ of stipend;
- in respect of licentiates and College Professors 4p in the £ of salary;
- in respect of ministers who are missionaries 4p in the £ of the Basic Ministerial Minimum.

9. That the rate of assessment for the Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978) for 2003 remain at 18.75p 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. **Ministers' Pension Scheme**

10. That the resignation of the Rev Derek Boden, as Co-convenor of the Retirements and Pensions Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Mr John Millar continue as sole Convener. **General**

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

11. That the retirement of the Rev D S Graham as Convener of the Board of Ministry and Pensions be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev J L Casement be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev D S Graham, seconded by Mr J Millar OBE, and agreed:

12. That the resignation of the Rev J L Casement as Co-Convener of the Retired Ministers House Fund Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev D C Porter be appointed in his place.

13. That the Board of Ministry and Pensions, with its associated working committees, for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 288 of the Code as follows:

Rev JL Casement, Convener

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Convener of Union Commission, Convener and Secretary Home Mission Committee; Revs JL Casement, RJA Bell, DC Porter; J Hutcheson, J Millar, N McLaughlin; Rev DS Graham.**

(b) **Rev NJ Linkens; WJ Moorhead — A Sleator, N Greenlee — Rev B Black; McL Gibson — C Stanfield, J Magee — Revs J Holmes, J Briggs — Rev D Rankin; D Orr.**

(c) **Rev GA Preston; H Coulter — Rev Douglas Armstrong; JB Robinson — Rev R Kelly; L Montgomery — Revs JA Thompson, G Cunningham — FJ Hand, W Hoy.**

(d) **Rev JS Dallas; D Crowe — Rev Dr I Hart; William Dale — N Valentine, H McRoberts.**

(e) **Rev D Latimer; A Fletcher — Rev S Stewart; J Boggs — Rev K Henderson; WC Henderson — Rev IF Smith; Noel Johnston.**

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

A. CENTRAL MINISTRY FUND COMMITTEE (5)

Rev RJA Bell; J Hutcheson, Conveners

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Rev RJA Bell; J Hutcheson; Rev JL Casement; J Millar; Revs RL Craig, TJ Stothers, Deputy Clerk.**

(x) **Revs D Nesbitt, G Preston; DJ Clements, Adrian Patterson.**

- (y) **Revs J Briggs, AA McCullough, S Stewart, D Armstrong, SW Rea, D Latimer; WJ Moorhead, W Dale.**

B. COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENTS AND PENSIONS (5)

J Millar, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs JL Casement, RJA Bell; J Hutcheson, J Millar, Deputy Clerk.**
- (x) **Sir Eric McDowell, DA Crowe, John McKeown.**
- (y) **Revs SW Rea, D Armstrong, J Dallas, S Stewart, R Kelly; N Johnston, H McRoberts, JB Robinson.**

C. RETIRED MINISTERS' HOUSE FUND (5)

Rev DC Porter; N McLaughlin, Co-Conveners

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs DC Porter, JL Casement; N McLaughlin, Financial Secretary.**
- (x) **Rev James Clarke; H Smyth, I McElhinney.**
- (y) **Revs J Briggs, JS Dallas, GA Preston; N Johnston, J Hodgins, JB Robinson.**

**Overtures anent
Pars. 326(1)(b)
& 326(1)(c)** The **Overtures anent Pars 326 (1) (b) and 326 (1) (c)** of the Code (Reports p 295) were submitted by the Rev D S Graham.

Moved by the Rev D S Graham, seconded by Mr J Millar OBE, and agreed:

That the Overtures anent Pars 326 (1) (b) and 326 (1) (c) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be made the rule of the Church.

**Overtures anent
Pars. 288(2)
& 288(3)** The **Overtures anent Pars 288 (2) and 288 (3)** of the Code (Reports p 295) were submitted by the Rev D S Graham.

Moved by the Rev D S Graham, seconded by Mr J Millar OBE, and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 288 (2) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

Moved by the Rev D S Graham, seconded by Mr J Millar OBE:

That the Overture anent Par 288 (3) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

Moved, as an amendment by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, seconded by the Rev Dr D J Watts:

That the following amendment to the Overture anent Par 288 (3) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 288 of the Code an additional sub-paragraph (3) be added as follows:

“(3) Any appeal against a decision regarding the grant, alteration, refusal or termination of benefits from the Ministers’ Prolonged Disability Fund shall be lodged within twenty-one days with the Convener of the Board of Ministry and Pensions, who shall refer the appeal forthwith to the Judicial Commission, whose decision shall be final.”

On being put, the amendment was declared passed.

On being put as substantive motion, was passed.

The **Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Tyrone Memorial** (Reports p 302) was submitted by the Rev R Kelly. **Ad Hoc Committee on the Tyrone Memorial**

Moved by the Rev R Kelly, seconded by the Rev Dr W J Patterson, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That congregations continue to record Specified Sources.
3. That the ad hoc Committee on the Tyrone Memorial be thanked and discharged.

The Report of the **SHANKILL ROAD MISSION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 211-212) was submitted by the Rev Dr I Hart. **SHANKILL ROAD MISSION COMMISSION**

Moved by the Rev Dr I Hart, seconded by the Rev JS Dallas, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Mr Albert Lofthouse be commended to the prayers of the General Assembly as he continues to work in the Lower Shankill.

3. That the General Assembly rescind the decision of 1998 to appoint, as Trustees of the Shankill Road Mission, the following office-holders provided that such office-holders are for the time being members in full communion of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland:- **Motion on the Books**

The Superintendent of the Shankill Road Mission for the time being;
The Honorary Treasurer of the Shankill Road Mission for the time being;
The Conveners of Commission of the Shankill Road Mission for the time

being;

The Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the time being;

The Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the time being;

The General Assembly's Solicitor of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the time being.

4. That the following be appointed as Trustees of Shankill Road Mission: **General**
Rev W M Campbell, Rev A W Boyd, Rev Dr I Hart, Rev G F McKeown, Mr W Caswell, Rev Dr D J Watts, Mr A J Rankin.

5. That the Shankill Road Mission Commission be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 129 of the Code as follows:

Rev JS Dallas, Convener

Rev WMcB Campbell, Superintendent

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Convener Board of Social Witness, Revs WMcB Campbell, JS Dallas; Moderator and Clerk of Belfast South Presbytery, Clerk of Session of Shankill Road Mission Congregation.**

(x) **Revs Dr I Hart, K McConnell, GF McKeown, ED Smyth, JT Lamb, AW Boyd; Miss D Pinkerton, W Caswell.**

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 R I Birney and the Clerk.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.05 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

**THIRD SESSION****Tuesday, 3rd June, 2003****Two o'clock. Afternoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

PWA The Report of the **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** (Reports pp 184-187) was submitted by Mrs Margaret Myers.

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

Moved by the Mrs Margaret Myers, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

The Report of the **NOMINATION BOARD** (Reports p 117) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, together with the following Supplementary Report.

**NOMINATION
BOARD**

NOMINATION BOARD - Supplementary Report

1. The Nomination Board met again on 7 May. Mrs Eileen McClenaghan, Head of Personnel was in attendance, as was Rev Dr Edmund Mawhinney, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland, who acted as External Assessor.
2. The Board heard a further report from the Short-Listing Committee and discussed procedures, after which it proceeded to interview five candidates for the post of Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly and Assistant General Secretary.
3. Each candidate gave a short presentation and answered questions, after which a vote was taken. As a result the Board resolved to nominate Rev J H Robinson for this appointment. However, in accordance with the remit of the Board, the name of Rev T J McCormick, who received more than one-third of the votes cast, is also forwarded for final decision by the Assembly.
4. A copy of each candidate's application is printed in abbreviated form in the Appendix.

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON

APPENDIX I

APPLICATION FORM

For Deputy Clerk of Assembly and Assistant General Secretary

Full Name John Harold (Harry) Robinson
Address 31 Wandsworth Road, Bangor, BT19 1BB

Personal and Family Background

Date & Place of Birth 01.06.53; Donaghadee
Marital Status Married
Family Details (if applicable) My wife, Jenny, is a Deaconess. We have four children.

Education

Post Primary Education:

Newtownards Technical College 1964 – 1967
Bangor Technical College 1967 – 1971
10 'O' levels; award for highest 'O' level results in North Down
Technical Colleges
5 'A' Levels

Tertiary Level Education

QUB; 1971 – 1974; BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering

QUB; 1974 – 1977; BD (Hons)

QUB; 1999 – 2001; MTh

Title and dates of any major Theses

‘An Examination of the Doctrine and Practice of
Christian Preaching from the Patristic to the
Modern Era’

MTh Thesis, QUB, 2001

Training for Ministry**Places and dates of theological training**

Union Theological College; 1974 – 1977

Date of Licensing

19 June 1977

Date of Ordination

22 January 1978

Career**Spheres of Ministry**

Ordained Assistant, Knock Presbyterian Church; 1978 – 1982

Minister, 2nd & 3rd Rathfriland Presbyterian Churches; 1982 – 1991

Minister, 1st Holywood Presbyterian Church; 1991 – 1996

Director of Ministerial Students; 1996 - Present

Responsibilities in Church Courts, Boards and Committees

Clerk of Iveagh Presbytery 1985 – 1991; Secretary to Board of Studies and Christian Training and member of all its associated Committees 1996 – ; Secretary to, then Co-Convenor of, Residential Assembly Conference Committee 2001— ; Moderator of Ards Presbytery 2002 – 2003; Convenor of Books Committee of Synod of Armagh and Down 1998— ; member currently of Business Board, Board of Mission in Ireland, General Board, Irish Council of Churches; previously Convenor of Committee on Studies 1990 – 1996, Convenor of the Board of Studies’ Qualifications Committee 1990 – 1996; member of Board of Studies’ Interviewing Panel 1987 & 1988, then Secretary of same 1989 – 2001; previously member of Consultative Panel on Assistantships; Ad Hoc Committee on Theological Education; Youth Board, and Youth Night, Youth International and Youth Service & Leadership Training Committees; Ad Hoc Committee on Special Fellowships; Board of Ministry and Pensions & CMF Committee; Publications Board and TV & AVA Committee

Inter-Church Involvement

Confining my comments on inter-church involvement to that with members and representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, I have participated in inter-church marriages (since my assistantship days), Remembrance Day Services and other Royal British Legion occasions, services in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and united services for ‘Holy Week’. I have recently been appointed to represent PCI on the Irish Council of Churches. By way of further elucidation, I am by nurture and conviction an evangelical, convinced that if one knows what one believes, and why, one has nothing to fear in seeking to understand and be

understood by those of differing persuasions. I am further convinced that the endemic sectarianism and rampant secularisation of our island calls for courage and risk-taking, rather than retrenchment and the adoption of a siege mentality.

Development

Use of Information Technology

I am competent in word-processing and in the use of e-mail, the internet and PowerPoint. I am familiar with (though do not use on a daily basis) Microsoft Access, Excel & Publisher. My normal mode of working outside office hours is via a synchronised laptop.

Current Study

I am enrolled as a part-time postgraduate student at QUB, continuing my research into the character of Presbyterian preaching, particularly as it relates to the political situation of Ireland. My intention has been to submit my PhD thesis in 2006-7.

Community Interests, Hobbies etc.

Level of involvement in non-church organisations

I am Expedition Coordinator and Navigation Trainer at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels in a Open Centre of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (this Centre, though based in a PCI Church Hall, caters mainly for unchurched young people). It involves about 8 evenings over the course of the year, together with supervising expeditions in the Mourne and the Wicklow Mountains, as other commitments permit. I am a qualified Mountain Leader (Level II).

I have served on the Board of Governors of Holywood Primary School and Sullivan Upper Grammar School.

Interests, hobbies, sports, social activities

Hill-walking; sailing; reading

Additional Information

My love of our Church, and my commitment to, and confidence in, its significant future role in the purposes of God on our island, have caused me to read widely and reflect at length on new models of ministry and mission. Research papers like, 'Reconnecting with a Missing Generation', 'Engaging with the Community' and 'New Church Development in the Greater Dublin Area' have assisted and stimulated, as have the models promoted by the Rev Willie John McDonald in Scotland and the 'Church without Walls' report of the Church of Scotland.

My current post carries 'Head of Department' status within Church House, so that while a 'clash' with College staff meetings has meant irregular, even infrequent, attendance at monthly Head of Department meetings, I sense that I have attended sufficient over the last 6 years to gain 'a feel' for quite a few of the dynamics at work and issues under discussion.

Referees

The Very Rev Dr John Ross	Senior Minister of High Street, Holywood and Moderator of the General Assembly, 1995
The Rev Prof W P Addley	Professor of Practical Theology, Union Theological College
The Rev Graham Connor	Minister of Bloomfield PC and Convener of College and Magee Management Committee

APPLICANT'S SPECIFICATION

A summary of the—"Applicant's Specification" is provided below.

A vision and passion for mission in Ireland.

I have always either initiated and/or maintained financial and prayer support for Home Mission and Irish Mission. At the conclusion of my assistantship, I seriously considered ministry in the South, but the door did not seem to open. In the 'North-South Fellowship' I sought to learn from and encourage colleagues ministering in the South. I have conducted services in Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan. I am excited by the possibility of being an encourager of those who are seizing this 'new day' in the South.

Leadership qualities, as an enabler with vision and realism.

In Rathfriland and Holywood I led the transition from entirely traditional worship to a blend of traditional and contemporary. In the new post of DMS I have taken the duties of the post in parts beyond the initial concept and trimmed it in others, thereby combining 'vision and realism'.

Theological competence.

BD, MTh & currently working towards PhD; teaching the module, 'The History, Doctrine and Practice of Christian Preaching', and team-teaching The Westminster Confession of Faith.

Ability to work collaboratively.

I have always been a 'team player'. Demonstrated, for example, in my being invited to continue my Assistantship for a further two years; in my forging of a close partnership with our neighbouring churches in Rathfriland and Holywood. Most recently demonstrated in working collaboratively with Faculty.

Facilitation of change.

The process of change from a traditional mode of worship was highly sensitive, but by offering patient explanations, listening carefully to concerns, taking seriously opposing viewpoints and inaugurating the changes at a deliberately slow pace, a smooth and successful transition was achieved.

Strategy development.

I participated the Assembly reviews of our strategy for training students, and for the deployment of Licentiates, Assistants and Associates. More recently, in the setting up and supervising the study programme for Deaconesses. I introduce Licentiates to the 'Clearing Our Vision' programme of Evangelical Ministries.

Management and administration skills, including the ability to handle a heavy workload.

My Presbytery Clerkship; my servicing the process of interview and assessment of candidates; the administration of the Board of Studies and Christian Training, including Minutes, correspondence, preparing the annual Report and Resolutions to the General Assembly, and, for 5 years, the Board's budget. In respect of handling a heavy workload, for some months last year I carried my DMS responsibilities, together with Moderatorship of Ards Presbytery and the Convenership of a vacancy.

Skills in writing, both analytically and inspirationally.

Articles to Church Magazines and ‘Thought for the Week’ columns in local newspapers; single-handed production of a quarterly church magazine for 8 years; promotional literature related to ordained ministry; occasional articles in the Presbyterian Herald, Wider World and Frontiers.

Experience in handling conflict and change creatively.

Almost 20 years in parish ministry entails involvement in numerous situations of conflict. At a congregation-wide level, one issue with the potential to cause significant division was dealt with by initiating and facilitating discussion, stubbornly keeping everyone focused on issues rather than persons, encouraging all to voice opinions, and thereby reaching a clear majority, with no resignations or resentments following.

Understanding of and respect for the diversity of the Church.

I have studiously avoided membership of ‘pressure groups’ in our denomination. My preaching engagements illustrate my preparedness to step beyond any one theological ‘camp’. My ministry situations: very large suburban, two-point charge in a small country town, mid-sized professional, have given me insight into the demographic and sociological diversity of our denomination.

An ability to interpret the constitution of the Church.

As a Clerk of Presbytery for 6 years I was frequently asked to explain rights and responsibilities as laid down in The Code. My present work involves me in advising candidates and students on the rules of the General Assembly.

A working knowledge of the organisation and operations of the General Assembly and other governing bodies in the Church.

Membership of the Boards and Committees cited above. I have attended the General Assembly every year since 1975.

Please provide information on the “assisting” roles you have performed in your professional career and the personal qualities you regard as essential for success in such roles.

4-year assistantship in Knock PC; successive Moderators of Presbytery during my Clerkship; my Senior Chaplaincy to Dr John Ross was much more than a sinecure. I am currently in an assisting role, guiding candidates from initial enquiry right through to eligibility. Essential personal qualities are : loyalty, confidentiality, taking leadership and initiative *when invited to do so*, carrying out meticulously and enthusiastically *all* delegated tasks.

APPENDIX II

APPLICATION FORM

For Deputy Clerk of Assembly and Assistant General Secretary

Full Name Trevor John McCormick
Address 6 Garvagh Road, Kilrea, Co Londonderry,
 BT51 5QP

Personal and Family Background

Date & Place of Birth 5th May 1958 Belfast
Marital Status Married 31st July 1982 Margaret Isobel Steele
Family Details One son, Jonathan

Education**Post Primary Education**

Royal Belfast Academical Institution 1969 - 1976

Tertiary Level Education

1976-1979 Northern Ireland Polytechnic
 B.A.(Hons) Social Administration (CNAAs) 1979
 1979-1983 Queens University Belfast
 B.D. 1983

Title and dates of any major Theses

June 1976 B.A. Honours dissertation
 'Legal Aid provision in Northern Ireland –
 does it deliver justice?'

Training for Ministry**Places and dates of theological training**

Union Theological College, Belfast 1979-1983

Date of Licensing 29th June 1983 (Alexandra, North Belfast)

Date of Ordination 5th January 1984 (1st Carrickfergus)

Career**Spheres of Ministry**

Donegal & Ballyshannon Summer Assistant June-September 1979
 Cavan, Killeshandra, Drumkeeran & Bellasis Summer Assistant
 June-September 1980
 Kilkeel Summer Assistant June-September 1981
 1st Carrickfergus Assistant Minister September 1981 – February
 1986
 1st Kilrea Minister February 1986 -

Responsibilities in Church Courts, Boards and Committees

Convener of Presbyterian Residential Trust 1996 –
 Co-Convener of Union Commission Review Committee 2000 –

Member of Business Board and Arrangements Committee
 Finance Convener in Coleraine Presbytery
 (Previous experience and responsibilities listed below)

Inter-Church Involvement

Member of Inter Church Relations Board & Irish Church Relations Committee
 1987 - 1996
 PCI representative to Irish Council of Churches 1988 – 1996
 Member of Irish Council of Churches Executive 1992 - 1996

Development

Use of Information Technology

Competent in Word-processing, spreadsheets, and databases.
 Regular use of Powerpoint with experience in animation, video and sound capture.

Community Interests, Hobbies etc.

Level of involvement in non-church organisations

Chairman of Boys Brigade in Northern Ireland Christian Education & Church
 Relation Committee 1993 -
 Boys' Brigade Training Officer and licensed Brigade Training Assessor
 Chairman of Kilrea Primary School Board of Governors
 Member of Kilrea Development Committee
 Interests, hobbies, sports, social activities
 Organising hospitality, especially summer barbeques
 Vintage Cars – I own a 1939 Austin 10
 Antique and Longcase clocks
 Political biographies

Additional Information

Experience on General Assembly Boards and Committees

1984 – 1986 Youth Board; Youth Centres Committee
 1987 – 1996 Inter Church Relations Board; Irish Church Relations Committee;
 World Development Committee
 1988 - Business Board; Arrangements Committee
 1988 – 1990 'More than a Sunday Service' Campaign Committee
 1994 - 1998 Strategy for Mission Committee; Co-Convener of 'Presbyteries
 Committee'
 1994 - Union Commission; Personnel Planning Committee
 1998 – 2000 Fractions Co-Convener
 1994 - Board of Social Witness; Presbyterian Residential Trust
 Committee
 1995 – 2002 Presbytery Visitation Committee (under General Board)

Presbytery Responsibilities

1987 – 1993 Press Agent
 1988 – 1996 Member of Burnside Church Extension Interim Kirk Session
 1989 – 1990 Vacancy Commission Convener Main Street, Garvagh and
 Killaig
 1990 – 1997 Strategy for Mission Convener
 1993 – 1994 Moderator of Presbytery
 1994 – Finance Convener
 1998 – 1999 Vacancy Commission Convener New Row, Coleraine
 Member of Prayer, Evangelism and Church Extension
 Committees.

Other Committee and Leadership Experience

- 1977 – 1979 Christian Union Committee Member at Ulster Polytechnic
 1978 – 1980 Irish Representative to UCCF National Colleges Executive
 (Chairman 1979 – 1980)
 1997 – 2000 Chairman Boy’s Brigade Northern Ireland Millennium
 Committee
 1999’ – 2000 Elected member of Boy’s Brigade Northern Ireland Regional
 Committee

Publication

‘Vacancy Guidelines – Handbook on procedures during a vacancy’.
 Published by Union Commission 1997.

Referees

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Rev David Clarke | Minister of Terrace Row, Coleraine, and
Former Convener of Union Commission |
| Very Rev Dr A R Rodgers | Retired Minister of Dungannon, and Chairman
of Union Commission |
| Rev Roy Vallely | Minister of Ballylinney, Convener of Board of
Social Witness and former Convener of
Arrangements Committee |

APPLICANT’S SPECIFICATION

A summary of the “Applicant’s Specification” is provided below.

My vision is a vibrant witness throughout Ireland which is Biblically based, culturally relevant, coherently structured and adequately resourced. This vision is shaped by ministry experience in diverse situations throughout Ireland: my home congregation Alexandra in Belfast, Assistantships in Donegal, Cavan, Kilkeel, and Carrickfergus, and present ministry in the rural setting of Kilrea.

Through membership of the Strategy for Mission Committee and the Union Commission, I am excited by the new styles of ministry and witness suggested by the former, (eg Mission Plants and Mission Priority Areas), and now becoming a reality with the encouragement of the latter. I hope that ‘tent-making’ ministries, community based ministries, and increased co-ordination between congregations and agencies will be part of a more flexible response to the needs of the diverse communities throughout Ireland.

The experience I have to offer includes:

Leadership qualities and working collaboratively

Leading 1st Kilrea congregation through a number of projects: restructuring Sunday School and Children’s Church; developing an integrated Youth Ministry and a Young Adults’ ministry; two major building projects. Our shared projects include; a five year programme of Discipleship Training with six neighbouring congregations, and Youth Work with 2nd Kilrea and Boveedy congregations.

Convenership of The Presbyterian Residential Trust (PRT) has entailed committee work, and close liaison with executive staff, staff in the homes and members of House committees.

In The Boys' Brigade (BB) I have extensive committee experience, in particular I chaired the committee which arranged 5 projects and celebrations to mark the Millennium.

Strategy development.

I have made contributions to the PRT and Board of Social Witness Business Plans. I was co-convenor of the Presbyteries' sub-committee of Strategy for Mission to enable Presbyteries in the discharge of their duties and encourage fellowship among members and congregations in their bounds. I was a member of the Presbyterian Visitation Committee which developed the Consultation Process. I am currently a member of The Boys' Brigade 'Facing the Future' steering committee.

Management and administration skills, with aptitude for business affairs

PRT work has included senior personnel issues and the oversight of budgets. Development work has required negotiations with Professional Advisors and Statutory Agencies. I have also represented PRT in discussions with Political and Community leaders.

Union Commission Fractions and Reviews demand understanding and interpretation of numerical and financial trends.

An ability to interpret the constitution of the Church and a working knowledge of how the Church works.

The Vacancy Guidelines Handbook demonstrates my ability to interpret the Code in an accurate and 'user-friendly' manner. Through the Business Board and Arrangements Committee I have 'hands on experience' of the organisation of the General Assembly. In addition to membership of Boards and Committees I have served as a 'specialist' on the Nomination Board for two appointments, and met with The Trustees of the Church on several occasions.

Understanding of diversity of the Church and the challenges to be faced.

Through the Union Commission, I have an appreciation of the variety of situations, challenges and opportunities being faced throughout Ireland. I am aware of shortage of ministerial personnel as an immediate concern not just in vacant congregations but also in larger congregations where additional help is needed. Experience with the Irish Church Relations Committee and Irish Council of Churches has given me an insight of the diverse traditions, methods and aspirations of Churches throughout Ireland.

As a pastor I recognise parents' anxiety in relation to education reforms: The Transfer Procedure; University Fees; and the emigration of Young People for study and employment. Ministering in a community which has experienced significant demographic and political change in the past two decades I am keenly aware of the tensions associated with the marching season, and the disillusionment with the political process from which many have disengaged.

Through the Board of Social Witness and PRT I am aware of current social issues, moral laxity, disregard for the family unit, acceptance of drug use, and the needs of the elderly who are a growing proportion of the population. I recognise that the Celtic Tiger economy has slowed significantly causing uncertainty and anxiety.

Handling conflict and change creatively.

I have served on Union Commission deputations where patient listening and gracious explanation have usually resulted in a reasonable and acceptable resolution. In PRT I have experience of disciplinary and grievance procedures in which I have endeavoured to be fair and consistent with everyone involved. During my convenership the Administrative Staff have been re-located, one home has changed location, and we have addressed ongoing changes in standards, legislation and funding arrangements. In 1st Kilrea we have viewed change has been a process of development in relation to the structure and style of worship, Midweek Service and Bible Study Groups, and Youth work.

Skills in writing, both analytically and inspirationally.

I authored 'Vacancy Guidelines – Handbook on procedures during a vacancy' Published by Union Commission 1997. I have written PRT reports to the General Assembly and contributed to the Presbytery Consultation Process and the associated training material. I have contributed articles to The Presbyterian Herald and The Christian Irishman on World Development Appeal and Boys' Brigade work.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, seconded by the Very Rev Dr DH Allen, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

Deputy Clerk

In accordance with the rules of the Nomination Board the names of the Rev J H Robinson as nominee and the Rev T J McCormick as second were submitted and a ballot was taken.

The Moderator declared the result as follows:

Rev J H Robinson 313 votes
Rev T J McCormick 213 votes

The Rev T J McCormick asked that the appointment be made unanimous.

2. That the Rev J H Robinson be appointed Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly.

The Moderator informed the Rev J H Robinson of his election 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.

J H ROBINSON
Certified by SAMUEL HUTCHINSON
Clerk of Assembly

The DECLARATION

I, John Harold Robinson, having been chosen as Deputy to the Clerk of the General Assembly do hereby promise that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been appointed; and that I will carefully preserve and, when required by this Court, restore the records and other documents now intrusted, or that may be hereafter intrusted, to my care.

J H ROBINSON
Attested by SAMUEL HUTCHINSON
3 June 2003

The Moderator, leading in prayer, commended the Rev J H Robinson to the care and guidance of God.

The Rev J H Robinson thanked the Moderator and members of Assembly.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, instructed that the Rev. J. H. Robinson be made a member of the appropriate Courts of the Church.

3. That the Nomination Board present a report to the 2004 General Assembly on its membership, training, period of office and other relevant matters. **General**

4. 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; Rev Dr S Hutchinson.**

(b*) **Revs RJ Greer, NAL Cameron, D Knowles; J Chestnutt, R McCleary, H Lennon.**

(c*) **Revs JH MacConnell, JA Beattie, SS McFarland; ITA Gillespie, Leslie Morrell, Elvin Martin.**

(d*) **Revs A Boyd, DR Whitley, B Hughes; H McRoberts, Mrs Edna Murray, J McKaig.**

(e*) **Revs John McWhirter, IF Smith, John F Murdoch; Mrs Rhona Ferguson, G Sproule, S Warnock.**

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

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

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

The Report of the **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS BOARD** (Reports pp 118-138) was submitted by the Rev A D Davidson. **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS BOARD**

Moved by the Rev A D Davidson, seconded by the Rev S J Millar, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the following appointments be made:

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

To the Irish Inter Church Meeting – Revs L E Carroll, N Cubitt, A D Davidson, Dr H A Dunlop, Dr J Dunlop, Dr R J G Gray, R Herron, I A McKay, J P Taylor; Ms Valerie Steele; Rev Dr D J Watts.

To the Irish Inter Church Committee - Rev A D Davidson, Rev Dr D J Watts.

3. That the document *Policy on Asylum Seekers and Refugees* be adopted as the General Assembly’s policy. **Race Relations**

4. That 1000 copies of the Policy document and 2000 copies of a popular leaflet for congregations be published as a charge on the Incidental Fund.

- General**
5. That Sunday 14 September, 2003 be observed as Racial Justice Sunday.
 6. That the following grants be made from the Incidental Fund:

Irish Council of Churches	£16,400
Irish Inter-Church Meeting	£8,000
Conference on European Churches	£3,500
CEC Solidarity Fund	£1,500
Leuenberg Consultation	£1,000
World Alliance of Reformed Churches	£10,100
World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council Fund	£1,000
Race Relations Grants:	
(i) Diakonia Council of Churches	£1,500
(ii) Churches' Council for Racial Justice	£400
(iii) Multi-cultural Resource Centre	£350
(iv) Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities	£300
(v) Irish Refugee Council	£250
(vi) Christ Holiness Assembly International (Dublin)	£100
(vii) Holocaust Memorial Day Committee	£100
Environmental Panel	£150
General Work of the Board	£5,000
 7. That the Inter-Church Relations Board, with its associated working committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 278 of the Code as follows:

Rev AD Davidson, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Rev AD Davidson, Conveners and Secretaries of the Home Mission Committee and Overseas Board, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Union Theological College, Superintendent of the Irish Mission, Overseas Board Representative, the Director of Youth Ministry.**
- (b) **Rev WT Corder; Mrs FM Watts — Revs WG Cameron, JA Curry — Rev DS McIlwrath; I Adair — Revs DJ Bruce, Dr RJG Gray — Rev P Thompson, R Murray — Revs JKA McIntyre, EP Gamble.**
- (c) **Rev WB Boyd; S Davison — Revs GAJ Farquhar, FA Bradley — Revs JG Johnston, F Russell — Revs AC Rankin, JT Magowan — Rev B Kennaway; RJ Coulter.**
- (d) **Rev JK Doherty; W Crawford — Revs Dr DC Irwin, KNE Newell — J McVeigh; AJ Kilgore.**
- (e) **Revs David Latimer, GP Young — Revs SJ Gray, J McGregor — Rev ES McDowell; Mrs CA Trimble — Rev TWA Greer; Mrs M Crooks.**
- (f) **Revs MCA Gray, P McBride — Revs AV Martin, Denis Campbell — Rev David Nesbitt; W McConkey.**
- (g) **Revs KDW Crowe, SJ Millar, DB Knox, N McAuley; Mrs P Crossley, D Hewitt.**

A. WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5)

Mrs H McCall, Convener

- (a) **Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Rev AD Davidson; PWA Executive Secretary, Mrs H McCall; Overseas Board Representative.**
- (x) **Rev C McClure; J Doherty, A. McCreary, Mrs Sheila Phillips.**

- (y) **Revs MCA Gray, WT Cordner, JA Curry, D Nesbitt, JT Magowan, Denis Campbell; Mrs. FM Watts, Mrs M Crooks.**

B. IRISH CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (5)

Rev Lesley Carroll, Convener

- (a) **Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs AD Davidson, Lesley Carroll.**
 (x) **Revs J Brackenridge, AR Bill; M Hunter, Miss D Gilmour.**
 (y) **Revs B Kennaway, GP Young, WG Cameron, Dr DC Irwin, TWA Greer, KNE Newell, R Murray, J McVeigh.**

C. WORLD CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (5)

Rev GAJ Farquhar, Convener

- (a) **Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs AD Davidson, GAJ Farquhar, Overseas Board Representative.**
 (x) **Revs SE Hughes, WJA Sleith; Mrs M Irwin, Miss A Taylor.**
 (y) **Revs FA Bradley, AC Rankin, MCA Gray, DJ Bruce, Denis Campbell, PD Thompson, WB Boyd; A Kilgore.**

D. RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (5) Rev Dr RJG Gray, Convener

- (a) **Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Overseas Board Secretaries, Revs AD Davidson, Dr RJG Gray.**
 (x) **R Kerr, Ms Fee Ching Leong, Mrs J Harbinson; Rev K Meyer.**
 (y) **Revs D Latimer, F Russell, GAJ Farquhar, Denis Campbell, A Martin, P McBride; W Crawford, AJ Kilgore.**

The Report of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** (Reports pp 222-239) was submitted by the Rev J McAllister, OBE. **EDUCATION BOARD**

Moved by the Rev J McAllister, OBE, seconded by the Rev Dr R F S Poots, OBE and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Board be authorised to act on behalf of the General Assembly in taking any decisions related to the review of the R E Core Syllabus. **State Education Committee**

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

3. That the Rev Dr R F S Poots, OBE, continue as Convener of the State Education Committee.

Moved by the Rev J McAllister, OBE, seconded by the Rev Dr R F S Poots, OBE, and agreed:

4. That the General Assembly thank Sunday Schools and Youth Groups for their generous support for the current "Moving On" Project 2003 and commend the new Project "Reaching Out" to the Church. **Church Education Committee**

5. That the General Board be authorised to approve arrangements for the appointment of a Secretary to the Education Board once the proposals of the ad hoc Committee on Priorities have been decided. **General**

6. 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 J McAllister, Convener
_____, **Secretary**

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

(b) **Rev W Sinclair; R Davidson — Revs JWP McConnell, J Curry— Rev JL Keenan; WA Wilson — Dr J Davis; J Wilkinson— Rev H Cubitt; George Beattie — Revs BD Colvin, JKA McIntyre.**

(c) **Rev M Dunn; W Cairns — Rev G Farquhar; GL Gillespie — Rev M Goudy; N Lyttle — Rev B Martin; JL Snodgrass — Rev J Tolland; T Nicholl.**

(d) **Rev JN Seawright; R Manson — Rev Prof JC McCullough; H Ruddell — Rev ME Taylor; _____.**

(e) **Rev DW Reid; WA McIlwaine — Rev S Stewart; R Graham— James Cochrane, Mrs M Patterson— Rev AS Thompson; Mrs E Farr.**

(f) **Ian McCracken, AO Buchanan — Rev Denis Campbell; Dr Mary Carson — Rev Nancy Cubitt; Mrs D Holmes-Greer.**

(g) **Rev Dr John Thompson; TJ Shaw, Mrs S Lewis, Mrs R Clements, Mrs L Gibson, Mrs D McKee, Alan S Kennedy, David McClurg.**

A. CHURCH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (5) Rev IT McKee, Convener

(a) **Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Education Secretary; Revs IT McKee, J McAllister.**

(x) **Revs Dr SR Jones, WJ Carlisle; Mrs E Pollock, WR Quinn.**

(y) **Revs ME Taylor, JN Seawright, RA Patton, JA Curry, M Dunn, N Cubitt, M Goudy, B Martin.**

B. STATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (5) Rev Dr RFS Poots, 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.**

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

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

C. 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 M Poots.**

(y) **Revs RA Patton, Alan S. Thompson, Prof JC McCullough, DW Reid; Mrs M Patterson, Dr Mary Carson, N Lyttle, Mrs E Farr.**

The Report of the **UNION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 61-77) was submitted by the Rev T J Stothers, together with the following Supplementary Report. **UNION COMMISSION**

UNION COMMISSION - Supplementary Report

The Presbytery of Dublin and Munster and the Presbytery of Down have separately asked that the Union Commission facilitate amalgamations of congregations within their bounds. Appropriate resolutions are appended.

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 congregation of Ormond Quay & Scots be amalgamated with the congregation of Clontarf, on terms agreed with the Union Commission, and under the name Clontarf, with effect from 31 July, 2003 or other suitable date. **Ormond Quay & Scots**
3. That the congregation of Strangford be amalgamated with the congregation of Ardglass, on terms agreed with the Union Commission, and under the name Ardglass, with effect from 30 September, 2003 or other suitable date. **Strangford**
4. That the CMF be authorised to pay grants towards expenses incurred by ministers in congregations, up to a limit of NI £5,000 or RI €7,500 for ministers residing in the Republic of Ireland, within the terms of resolution 3, p 70 General Assembly Minutes 1988. **General**
5. That the Personnel and Planning Committee, in consultation with other relevant Boards and agencies, continue to facilitate discussions concerning the optimum means of employing, and supporting work of, additional pastoral personnel within our congregations; and that a co-ordinated strategy be formulated for wider discussion and implementation.
6. That the Union Commission with its associated working Committee 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, Convener and Secretary of Home Mission Committee, Superintendent of the Irish Mission, Conveners of Church Extension, and CMF Committees, Convener of Ministry and Pensions Board, Revs SA Matthews, TJ Stothers.**

(b*) **Revs SA Matthews, TA McNeely, WJ Henry; Wm Grills, Mervyn Spence, Dr Chris Girvan.**

(c*) **Revs Dr RI Birney, N McClean, TR Graham, WI Hunter; HL Todd, JW Petrie.**

(d*) **Revs TV Patterson, Dr I Hart, AR Bill; J Wilson, D McCormick, L Hully.**

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

(f*) **Revs GJ Mackarel, J Lamont, S Anketell, B Brown; Kenneth Walker, Miss J Binnie.**

(g) **Revs James Gordon, JI Mairs, JNI McNeely, P Dalzell, Dr AR Rodgers, J Brackenridge; Lyle Cubitt, RJ Davidson, Dr TJ Robinson.**

A. PERSONNEL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (5)**Rev CD McClure, Convener**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Rev TJ Stothers, Professor of Practical Theology, HM Convener and Secretary, two PWA Representatives, Church Extension representatives, CMF Conveners, Rev CD McClure; Chairman of Union Commission.**
- (x) **Revs TJ McCormick, PT Dalzell; H Smyth, Miss D Shannon.**
- (y) **Revs TV Patterson, Dr Ian Hart, GJ Mackarel, Dr J Fell, AR Bill, SA Matthews, TR Graham; Dr. C Girvan.**

Memorial of Kirk Session of Macrory Memorial

The **Memorial of the Kirk Session of Macrory Memorial** (Reports pp 77-78) was submitted by the Rev L E Carroll.

Moved by the Rev L E Carroll, seconded by Mr W J A Crawford and agreed:
That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

Memorial of Presbytery of East Belfast

The **Memorial of the Presbytery of East Belfast** (Reports pp 78-79) was submitted by the Rev Dr J R Savage.

Moved by the Rev Dr J R Savage, seconded by the Rev J McVeigh:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

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

That the Memorial be received and that it be referred to the General Board to investigate the matter of Ministers being allowed to purchase their own house in place of a manse, and report to the General Assembly 2004.

On being put as substantive motion, was passed.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.40 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 4th June, 2003**Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

CHURCH & GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Report of the **CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE** (Reports pp 31-58) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr J Dunlop, together with the following Supplementary Report.

CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – Supplementary Report

1. Since our report was prepared, the Iraq war has ended, although the future governance of Iraq remains problematic, with its Shia majority and Sunni and Christian minorities. Additionally, the elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, expected to take place on 29th May, were postponed for a second time. This followed lengthy negotiations between the pro-Agreement parties, the Irish and British governments, and the active involvement of the American administration.

2. In April the two governments published their comprehensive “Joint Declaration” covering the areas of “Requirements of Peace and Stability”, “Acts of Completion”, “Political Institutions”, “Paramilitarism”, “Normalisation”, “Policing and Justice”, “Rights, Equality, Identity and Community” and “Review of the operation of the Agreement”. While some of the elements in the Declaration are controversial, in their conclusion the two Governments state their belief that “These proposals provide a comprehensive basis for the acts of completion sufficient to re-establish trust and confidence, restore the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland and complete the implementation of the Agreement”.

3. In the Joint Declaration the two governments stated “We need to see an immediate, full and permanent cessation of all paramilitary activity, including military attacks, training, targeting, intelligence gathering, acquisition or development of arms or weapons, other preparations for terrorist campaigns, punishment beatings and attacks and involvement in riots. Moreover, the practice of exiling must come to an end and the exiled must feel free to return in safety. Similarly, sectarian attacks and intimidation directed at vulnerable communities must cease”. Such straightforward language is welcome.

4. The two responses from the IRA, with clarification provided by the president of Sinn Fein, went some way to meeting the governments’ requirements but were deemed to be insufficient. If Sinn Fein aspires to be part of the government, to be active in local District Policing Partnerships and to be members of the Policing Board, and maybe, in the event of Security and Justice being devolved to Northern Ireland, having responsibility in that area, the requirements of the two governments and the wider population for clear undertakings and associated actions are entirely reasonable. Could it be that the most militant faction within Republicanism prevented the last step being taken? In the first statement the IRA said “We do not claim to fully understand unionist perceptions. But we are prepared to listen and learn”. That openness is welcome and may lead to some progress.

5. Additionally, since our report to the General Assembly was written, Sir John Stevens has placed in the public domain a short summary of the results of his ongoing lengthy investigations into allegations of security force collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in murder. He believes that elements in the security forces were complicit in murders or failed to prevent them.

6. More recently allegations have been made that the security forces had one, and maybe more than one, highly placed informer within the IRA and one particular individual has been named as the informer known as “Steak-knife” or “Stake-knife”.

7. Sir John Stevens’ enquiry, as well as, perhaps, those resulting from the enquiries undertaken by Judge Cory (see 2002 Reports, page 41, paragraphs 16-

31; page 49, paragraph 10; 2003 Reports, page 40, paragraph 4 c), in addition to books written by competent academics and journalists, all shed some light on activities in what some refer to as a war and others refer to as a terrorist campaign and the state's resistance to it.

8. These matters raise issues of profound moral complexity which are associated with the government of a democratic society's obligations to protect its citizens against powerful terrorist organisations. It may be possible to make some people amenable under the rule of law through the courts, although the threshold of proof in a criminal case, "beyond reasonable doubt", is high. The threshold of proof in a civil case, like that being undertaken in the Omagh case, is the lower one of "on the balance of probabilities". It may be necessary to have informers placed as highly as possible within terrorist organisations, which people, to maintain their cover and to provide intelligence and possibly to prevent murder, may be involved, with others, in either murder or failure to prevent murder. This moves the agents of the state beyond the rule of law. Is this ever permissible and if it is, under what conditions, by what authority, and under what safeguards? In an imperfect world the choice is often between the lesser of two evils. Can a government suspend its rules to defend its principles? An attempt to deal with such matters is addressed by just war principles in conflict between nation states, but what about internal or asymmetrical terrorism? This is a discussion which needs to take place.

9. The 2002 General Assembly passed the following resolution "That the General Assembly view with concern the partisan way in which the allegations concerning members of the security forces are being investigated and the calls for associated enquiries, while a blind eye is apparently turned to the activities of people who have been or still are associated with terrorist organisations. The General Assembly do not believe that such one sided activity serves the building of trust, nor do they believe that the time is right for a South African style Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

10. If the current enquiries continue, and calls for more enquiries are met, we may end up with the extraordinary situation of having "on the runs" back in society, police officers in court and maybe in prison and people closely associated with terrorism in the government and running the police. Either everything is to be opened, which we do not recommend, or everything is closed down while we get on with trying to shape a new future without carrying ever increasing burdens from the past. The emotional and social burden of enquiries is too heavy for our society to bear at present. In a book dedicated to the Protestant patriot Thomas Davis, John Mitchel wrote that Irishmen had to consent to let "the past become indeed history, not party politics, and begin to learn from it the lessons of mutual respect and tolerance. Instead of endless bitterness and enmity, then, at last this distracted land shall see the dawn of hope and peace". (Quoted by Paul Bew in the Sunday Independent 27-04-03).

11. The British Government's Consultation paper "A Shared Future" on Improving Relations in Northern Ireland will be responded to by the Church and Government Committee in association with the Irish Church Relations Committee and the Peace and Peacemaking Committee.

12. The latest draft of a new European Union Constitution has been published. The document which will eventually be agreed will be of long-lasting significance.

New Marriage Legislation

The Clerk of Assembly reports:

The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 is now on the statute book and it is hoped that the new provisions will come into operation from 1 January 2004.

The main changes resulting from the new legislation will be:-

- * Notice for all marriages will have to be given to the Registrar
- * Both parties will have to give notice to the Registrar of the District in which they wish to marry
- * There will be no residency requirements
- * Notice can be given by post
- * There will be authorised 'Officiants' who will conduct religious marriages
- * There will be no registered buildings and all authorised officiants will be able to conduct marriages where they consider appropriate
- * The Registrar will issue a 'Schedule' to the parties that will allow a marriage to take place
- * Civil marriages will be able to be conducted by a Registrar in 'Approved Places'
- * Approved places will be authorised by District Councils
- * Civil marriages will be able to take place at any time including Sunday

However before the provisions of the new legislation can be introduced, three other pieces of legislation have to be enacted ie Marriage Regulations, Marriage Fees Order and Marriage Commencement Order.

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly believe that any political accommodation in Ireland must take account of the stubborn cultural, political and religious diversity of the people who live here and call upon political leaders to have regard to the importance of pursuing policies and using language which engender a sense of mutual belonging in contrast to reinforcing sectarian divisions.
3. That the General Assembly, in the service of shaping a new future, strongly resist the calls for additional enquiries, call upon paramilitary groups to desist from their illegal activities and encourage local congregations to understand and resist sectarianism and to be active in building bridges of co-operation, generosity and truthful understanding so that we lay good foundations for our shared future and that of succeeding generations.

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

4. That the resignation of Very Rev Dr John Dunlop as Co-Convener of the Church and Government Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that Very Rev Dr H A Dunlop be appointed in his place.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 60).

Intermission

GENERAL BOARD The Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 9-30) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, seconded by Dr R J Rodgers, OBE, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr J Dunlop, seconded by Dr R J Rodgers, OBE, and agreed:

Retirement of the Very Rev. Dr. S. Hutchinson 2. That the General Assembly accept the retirement of Very Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson from the position of Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Church with effect from 31 August, 2003, and that he be thanked for his services.

The Very Rev Dr J Dunlop spoke with warm appreciation of the devoted service which Dr Hutchinson had given to the General Assembly and the whole church.

The Moderator also expressed the thanks of the Assembly to the outgoing Clerk and presented him with a token of appreciation of his many friends in the Church.

The Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson replied and thanked the Assembly.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, seconded by Dr R J Rodgers, OBE, and agreed:

Clerk of Assembly 3. That the Rev Dr Donald Watts be appointed Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Church with effect from 1 September, 2003.

The Rev Dr Donald J Watts, having subscribed the Westminster Confession of Faith, 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.

DONALD J WATTS
Certified by SAMUEL HUTCHINSON
Clerk of Assembly

The DECLARATION

I, Donald J Watts, having been chosen as the Clerk of the General Assembly do hereby promise that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been appointed; and that I will carefully preserve and, when required by this Court, restore the records and other documents now intrusted, or that may be hereafter intrusted, to my care.

DONALD J WATTS
Attested by SAMUEL HUTCHINSON
4 June 2003

The Moderator, leading in prayer, commended the Rev Dr Donald J Watts to the care and guidance of God.

The Rev Dr D J Watts thanked the Moderator and members of Assembly.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly instructed that the Rev. Dr. D. J. Watts be made a member of the appropriate courts of the Church.

4. That the General Assembly give approval in principle to the abolition of the regular Synods, and ask that detailed proposals be submitted in 2004. **Synods**

5. That the greetings of the General Assembly be sent to our chaplains serving with the Regular Forces assuring them of our prayerful concern and good wishes at this time. **Forces Committee**

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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**

11. That the present policy of inviting a wide range of people from civil society to the Opening Night of the General Assembly be continued, but that the list be widened. **Opening Night**

12. That a grant of up to £3,000 be made available from the Incidental Fund to the Conciliation Panel. **Conciliation**

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

14. 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: **General**

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; WJ McClelland, J McIntyre — 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; RDT Gibson, Miss E McConnell — Revs LJ Patterson, J Holmes; RA McCracken, J Hudson — Revs SA Finlay, Dr DJ McGaughey; E McWilliams, H McGaffin.**

(c) **Revs JJ Andrews, SW Dickinson; J Petrie, Mrs A Erwin — Revs WJ Johnstone, Dr JW Lockington; Mrs E Love, RJ McDowell — Revs Ivan Hunter, TP Fleming; I Smyth, P McGonigle — Revs HB Wallace, NE Dorrans; RH Gault, RD McConaghie — Revs WD Weir, D Bannerman; B Strange, Mrs AB Wilson.**

(d) **Revs TC Morrison, RS Hetherington; M Whittle, JH McDowell — Revs RT Anderson, WPH Erskine; Dr RM Nicholl, Miss Mary Angus — Revs John McVeigh, Dr R Savage; AJ Morrow, Miss VJ Wilson.**

(e) **Revs Dr J Fell, RL Craig; JA Emery, A Craig —Revs S Stewart, N Ward; B Douglas, S Warnock— Revs JF Murdoch, JR Burnett; WC Henderson, J Cochrane — Revs TJ Conway, NW McAuley; R Stewart, EM Carroll.**

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

(g) **Revs TD Gribben, IF Smith, JH Robinson, CJC McMullen; Mrs G Irwin, Mrs K Mawhinney, Mrs Maureen Patterson, Mrs Z Valley, Mrs R Cowan, Miss E Drysdale, Mrs M Thompson, HS McCullough, Aubrey McMurtry, S McKinney, Mrs Alison Harbison, Mrs C Poynton, Mrs H Jess, D McCleery, WH Henry.**

A. CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE (5)

Rev Dr Alastair Dunlop; George McCullagh, Conveners

(a) **The Moderator, preceding Moderator, Clerk, former Clerks, and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Moderator-Designate, Forces Convener, Peace and Peacemaking Convener, Revs Dr John Dunlop, Dr Alastair Dunlop; George McCullagh.**

(x) **Rev Lesley E Carroll; Mrs Gillian Drennan, Miss Heather Morrow, Mrs Serena Blair.**

(y) **Revs James Gordon, Dr Joseph Fell, Joseph Andrews, Tom Conway; Jackie Hudson, Mervyn McKean, Robert Gault, Mervyn Jackson.**

B. 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, Conveners of Church and Government Committee, Head of Personnel, Information Officer.**

(x) **Revs Dr AWG Brown, DR Baker; MA Morrow, QC, N Chambers.**

(y) **Revs JJ Andrews, TJ Conway, IJ Patterson, Dr J Fell, WD Weir; RDT Gibson, RA McCracken, Miss VJ Wilson.**

C. DOCTRINE COMMITTEE (5) Principal, UTC, Convener

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the General Assembly's Theological Professors.**

(x) **Revs C Reid, Prof RFG Holmes; Dr RJ Rodgers, Dr N Smith.**

(y) **Revs Dr J Fell, TP Fleming, N Cubitt, Dr JW Lockington, JG Faris, FP Sellar, John McVeigh, IJ Patterson.**

D. FORCES COMMITTEE (5) Rev S van Os, Convener

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Rev S van Os.**

(x) **Revs. PP Campbell, Prof JP Taylor; S Agnew.**

(y) **Revs Dr J Fell, JJ Andrews, RT Anderson, Dr. J Harper, WD Weir; WH Scott.**

- E. CHAPLAINS COMMITTEE (5) Dr RJ Rodgers, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Conveners of Church and Government Committee, Convener of Social Issues and Resources Committee; Dr RJ Rodgers.**
- (x) **Revs BCG Black, Dr RFS Poots; RDT Gibson, Miss M. Cromie.**
- (y) **Revs RT Anderson, J Gordon, WPH Erskine, Dr J Fell, TJ Conway, SA Finlay; Mrs A Erwin, J Petrie.**
- F. RECOGNISED MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (5) 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, Dr RFS Poots, WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers.**
- (y) **Revs WJ Johnstone, WD Weir, JI Davey, TP Fleming, WPH Erskine, R Lockhart, JJ Andrews; Miss VJ Wilson.**
- G. PEACE & PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE (5)**
- Rev DR Baker, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Rev DR Baker, Youth for Peace Programme Officer.**
- (x) **Revs JI Thompson, SE Hughes, R Hill; Mrs B Reid.**
- (y) **Revs J Burnett, J Gordon, TP Fleming, I Patterson, RE Boggs; R Gibson, Miss VJ Wilson, Mrs A Erwin.**

The **Overtures anent Pars 90 (1) and 95 (d) of the Code** (Reports p 29) were submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson. **Overtures anent Pars. 90(1) & 95(d)**

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

That the Overture anent Par 90 (1) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

That the Overture anent Par 95 (d) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The **Overture anent Par 93 (2) of the Code** (Reports p29) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson. **Overture anent Par. 93(2)**

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

That the Overture anent Par 93 (2) of the Code be received, placed on the books and sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

The **Memorial of the Presbytery of Tyrone** (Reports p 29) was submitted by the Rev W T Bingham. Moved by the Rev W T Bingham, seconded by the Rev R A McLernon, and agreed: **Memorial of the Tyrone Presbytery**

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator, assisted by the Rev Robert Allen.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev J S Carson addressed the Assembly.

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

FIFTH SESSION

Wednesday, 4th June, 2003

Two o'clock. Afternoon

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Minutes were taken and corrected.

**SOCIAL
WITNESS
BOARD**

The Report of the **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS** (Reports pp190-210) was submitted by the Rev R Vallely together with the following Supplementary Report.

Convenership

The Rev Ian McDonald has tendered his resignation as Co-Convenor of the Addiction and Education Services Committee. During his brief Convenership he has made a significant contribution to the work of the Board in this area, in particular, in his pastoral role as Chaplain in Carlisle House. The Board warmly thanks him for his services.

R VALLELY

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the resignation of Rev Trevor McCormick as Convener of the Presbyterian Residential Trust be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev John Noble be appointed in his place.
3. That the resignation of the Rev Ian McDonald as Co-Convenor of the Addiction and Education Services Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev T J Wilson be appointed in his place.
4. That the Recommendations numbered 1-13 in the Report on the Review of the Remarriage Panel be approved.

5. That the Marriage and the Family Committee prepare Guidelines for the 2004 General Assembly on the circumstances that would make permissible the remarriage of a divorced person by a minister.

6. That the Marriage and the Family Committee review the wording of the Code Par 85(6).

7. That the Marriage and the Family Committee explore ways of improving the accommodation arrangements for the Remarriage Panel.

8. That the General Assembly commend the book *“From Despair to Hope” – a Christian perspective on the tragedy of suicide* to all those ‘working with, and concerned for, the tragedy of those for whom life no longer has any meaning’.

9. 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.

10. 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:

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) **Rev WJ Murdock; Miss D Shannon, Mrs A Sinclair — 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 A Johnston; Mrs M Hewitson, Mrs M Williams — Rev J Mattison; J Chestnutt, Mrs E Barry.**

(c) **Rev DJ Kane; J Todd, Mrs W Bristow — Rev MS Gault; Mrs L Graham, Mrs Z Vallely — Rev J Coulter; George McIntyre, Mrs I Cairns — Rev M Barr; J Chestnutt, Mrs K Fulton — Rev JL Tosh; RJ Coulter, Mrs W Dickey.**

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

(e) **Revs AJA Rosborough, JK McCormick; Mrs E Patterson— Revs DS Irwin, KG Patterson; Mrs V Miller — Rev GD Allen; H Alexander, Mrs M Good — Rev T Coburn; Mrs A Allingham, Mrs I Reid.**

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

(p) **Miss Elizabeth Smyth, Mrs J. Kirk, Mrs Gillian Drennan, Mrs Helen Murdock, Mrs Pearl Johnston, Mrs H Jess, Mrs M Patterson.**

A. SOCIAL ISSUES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (5)

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 C Grant; Dr K Moyna Bill.**

(y) **Revs A Johnston, JA Braithwaite, WJ Murdock; Miss E Smyth, Dr D Patterson, Miss D Shannon.**

- B. ADDICTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE (5)**
Revs JA Beattie, T J 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 JC Buick.**
 - (x) **Revs Ian McClean, _____; Mrs L Dunlop, Dr L Calderwood.**
 - (y) **Revs KG Patterson, GD Allen, AJA Rosborough, AJ Thompson; Mrs Z Vallely, G McIntyre, J Todd, Mrs Wenda Bristow.**
- 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 Ministry.**
 - (x) **NJ Chambers, Austin Treacy; Revs T Coburn, RA Patton.**
 - (y) **Revs MS Gault, DS Irwin, Dr RM Crooks, K McConnell; Mrs Helen Murdoch, Mrs G Drennan, Miss JP Gamble, Mrs M Patterson.**
- D. KINGHAN MISSION COMMITTEE (5) 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, J Braithwaite, T Coburn, DS Irwin, M Barr; Mrs Amy Allingham.**
- E. PRESBYTERIAN RESIDENTIAL TRUST COMMITTEE (5)**
**Rev JA Noble, Convener
 Mrs Linda Wray, Secretary**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener; Rev TJ McCormick; Director of Social Service, Residential Services Manager.**
 - (x) **I Gillespie, Miss H McMillen, B Wilson.**
 - (y) **Rev MS Gault; Mrs E Barry, Miss F Fleming, Mrs P Johnston, Mrs Z Vallely, Mrs A Allingham.**
- F. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY COMMITTEE (5)**
Mrs R Simpson, Convener
- (a) **The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Board Convener, Secretary of the Board, Director of Youth Ministry, Rev Dr RM Crooks, Director of Social Service, Professor of Practical Theology.**
 - (x) **Mrs Irene Millar, Mrs Christine Finlay, Dr Paul Gray.
 Revs Maurice Wade, JW McAuley; Mrs G Compton.**
 - (y) **Revs J Braithwaite, DS Irwin, Jean Mackarel; Mrs L Graham, Mrs E Montgomery, Mrs E Barry.**

The **Overture anent Par 132** of the Code (Reports p 210) was submitted by the Rev N A L Cameron. **Overture anent Par. 132**

Moved by the Rev N A L Cameron, seconded by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 132 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

Notice of Motion (Report p 210) was submitted by the Rev R Vallely. **Notice of Motion**

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

That Notice of Motion be received to add Willow Brook to the list of agencies recognised by the United Appeal.

The Report of the **YOUTH BOARD** (Reports pp 213-221) was submitted by the Rev R J Hyndman, together with the following Supplementary Report. **YOUTH BOARD**

On Friday 28 March 2003, Youth Board personnel received a second report from the Architect's CPM Design on the condition of the residential block at the Lucan Youth Centre. This report highlighted the absence of fire breaks in the roof void and the deterioration of the asbestos roof. Upon careful consideration and evaluation of the risk to anyone resident in that block the decision was taken at the Board meeting on 1st April 2003 to close the Centre to residential groups with immediate effect.

The Board, having already committed itself to a substantial review of the work and ministry of all three Youth Centres, and taking into consideration the poor financial situation at the Lucan Youth Centre, recommended at its meeting on 27th May 2003 that:

- the residential function at the Lucan Youth Centre continue to be suspended pending the outcome of that review, and staffing levels reduced accordingly;
- in the interim period the chalet bungalows be rented out commercially;
- the daytime use of the new dining/conference hall be continued and further developed where possible;
- that any major development arising before the General Assembly of 2004 be referred to the General Board.

Youth Board Convenerships

The Youth Board has also agreed changes to the convenerships of the Youth Events and Youth Training and Resources Committee. Appropriate resolutions are appended.

The Youth Board records its gratitude to the Rev Jonathan Moxen for his investment and vision in the Youth Training and Resources Committee and look forward to his ongoing involvement with the Board as he takes up the role as Convener of the Youth Events Committee.

Moved by the Rev R J Hyndman, seconded by the Rev R L Brown, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

Youth Centres

2. That pending the outcome of the strategic review of the work and ministry of the three Youth Centres of the Youth Board, the Lucan Youth Centre remain closed for residential groups.

3. That the chalet bungalows at Lucan be rented commercially for the time being, and the daytime use of the conference hall be continued and developed further where possible.

General

4. That the Revs E J Hyndman, Dr William Crawley, John Peacock and Mr Trevor Long be appointed as representatives on the Youth Link: NI Council.

5. That the following grant be paid from the Incidental Fund:
Youth Link NI £6500.

6. That the title of Youth Officer be changed to Director of Youth Ministry.
Moved by Rev P C Lyle, seconded by the Rev R L Brown and agreed:

7. That the resignation of the Rev James Hyndman as Convener of the Youth Board be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev E J Hyndman be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev R J Hyndman, seconded by the Rev R L Brown, and agreed:

8. That the resignation of the Rev E J Hyndman as Convener of the Youth Events Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev J P Moxen be appointed in his place.

9. That the resignation of the Rev J P Moxen as Convener of the Youth Training and Resources Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Mrs Heather Lyle be appointed in his place.

10. That the Youth Board, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 283 of the Code as follows:

Rev E J Hyndman, Convener
Miss R Stirling, Secretary

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Convener of Evangelism and Resourcing Christians for Ministry Committees, Education Board Secretary, Sunday School Organiser, University Chaplains, Revs R J Hyndman, E J Hyndman; Director of Youth Ministry.**

(b) **Revs AM Bates, G J Kennedy — Rev SD Finlay; Noel McKee — Rev. M Stanfield; Nathan Conkey — S Macfarlane, E Poots — Rev I Harbinson; Miss Diane Johnston — M Peacock, Miss E Wallace.**

(c) **Revs AWT Brown, M J R Neilly — M Wylie, R Logan — Revs C J Aitchison, J G Johnston — Rev RD McDowell; S Tweed — Rev MN Davidson; Mrs L Dunlop.**

(d) **Rev IK McDonald; Miss J Nelson — Rev R Love; Miss H Murray — Rev J Peacock; M McIntyre.**

(e) **Rev D Hagan; K McCrossan — Wm Willis, S Montgomery — Rev JR Burnett; Miss M Guy — Revs PG McCrea, RA McLernon.**

(f) **Revs A Carson, J G Jones — Revs Andrew Smith, Dr Keith McCrory — Kieran Kelly, Miss P Patton.**

(g) **Miss A Morrow, Mrs Elaine Hamill, Mrs Pauline McCorrison, Mrs J Robinson, Mrs R McKnight, Miss Anne Houston, Mrs Maureen Blake, Mrs Heather Carey, Miss Fiona Livingstone, Mrs Gillian Graham, Mrs Karen Black, Mrs Ellen Wilmont, Ivan Ferris, Reuben McCormick, Trevor Long, William Burnison, Christiaan Hofstra, David Pattison, T Bruce, David Laney.**

- A. YOUTH EVENTS COMMITTEE (5) Rev J P Moxen, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Rev EJ Hyndman, Director of Youth Ministry, Sunday School Organiser, Rev J P Moxen.**
- (x) **Alan Meban, Shane Tucker, Martin Hull, Mrs Louise Van der Linde.**
- (y) **Revs AM Bates, AJMcL Smith, J Burnett, M Stanfield; Michael Wylie, Stephen Macfarlane, Kieran Kelly, Mark McIntyre.**
- B. YOUTH TRAINING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (5)**
- Mrs Heather Lyle, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, Jonathan Moxen; Director of Youth Ministry, Youth Development Officers, Mrs Heather Lyle.**
- (x) **Revs D Montgomery, Dr William Crawley; Paul Bowman, Paul Brown.**
- (y) **Revs SD Finlay, M Stanfield, J Peacock, Dr K McCrory, JG Jones; Miss P Patton, Miss D Johnston, Mrs Lorna Dunlop.**
- C. YOUTH HOME MISSION COMMITTEE (5) Rev DJ Paul, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, DJ Paul; Director of Youth Ministry, Youth Development Officers, Evangelism Promoter.**
- (x) **Rev PD Thompson; Mark Smith, Jill Owen.**
- (y) **Revs GJ Kennedy, R Love, TD Hagan, PG McCrea, MJR Neilly; Nathan Conkey.**
- D. YOUTH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE (5) Rev PC Lyle, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, PC Lyle; Director of Youth Ministry, Overseas Board Representative.**
- (x) **Revs Cheryl Reid, D Rankin; Mrs M Trueman, Mark Welsh.**
- (y) **Revs RA McLernon, A Carson, AJMcL Smith; MD Davidson, IK McDonald, Dr K McCrory; Keith McCrossan, Pamela Patton.**
- E. YOUTH CENTRES COMMITTEE (5) Rev RL Brown, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Revs EJ Hyndman, RL Brown; Director of Youth Ministry, Centre Director, Convener Youth Training and Resources Committee, Youth Board Development Officer.**
- (x) **Rev B McMillen; C Graham, Mrs S Maginnis, Miss Jacqui Stronge.**
- (y) **Revs JG Johnston, AWT Brown, CJ Aitcheson, I Harbinson; M Peacock, Stephen Tweed, Miss H Murray, E Poots.**

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp 168-185) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen.

**BOARD OF
MISSION IN
IRELAND**

Intermission

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

1. That the Report be received.

**Evangelism
Committee**

2. That the General Assembly commend the work of the Director of Evangelism and encourage congregations to use the Personal Evangelism for Presbyterians Course and to become involved in the Eleven One Fellowship.

3. That the General Assembly, in commending Bible Sunday (7th December), encourage congregations to make fuller use of the available resources and to highlight the importance of the Scriptures in our life and witness.

4. That the General Assembly acknowledge the work being done by ministers of our Church in sports chaplaincy.

**Presbyterian
Mutual Society**

5. That the General Assembly congratulate the Directors of the Presbyterian Mutual Society Limited for the success of the Society and urge congregations and individuals to make use of the lending facilities offered through the Society.

**Home Mission
Committee**

6. That the following be appointed to the Alternating Ministries Scheme Committee: Conveners of the Board of Mission in Ireland and Home Mission Committee; Deputy Clerk; Mrs C Poynton; Rev S G Anketell.

**Church
Extension
Committee**

7. That the Rev George Moffett continue as Co-Convener of the Church Extension Committee for one further year.

General

8. That the General Assembly encourage the Board of Mission in Ireland to continue its review as outlined in Appendix A.

9. That the General Assembly accept there should be no change at present to the Status of Deaconesses in the Courts of the Church.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr D H Allen, seconded by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, and agreed:

10. That the resignation of Rev Dr Brian Moore as Co-Convener of the Board of Mission in Ireland be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Very Rev Dr D H Allen continue as sole Convener.

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

11. 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 Dr DH Allen, Convener

Deputy Clerk, Secretary

Rev DJ Temple; Mrs M Myers, Associate Secretaries

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, President, Home Vice-President, and Executive Secretary of PWA, Irish Mission Superintendent, Convener and Secretary of the Social Witness Board, the Conveners of the Education, Studies and Christian Training, Youth and Inter-Church Relations Board and the Union Commission and the Central Ministry Fund Committee, the Presbyterian Mutual Society Agent, two Young Women's Group representatives, two Youth Board representatives, two deaconess representatives, the Conveners and Secretaries of the Board, Rev Dr JB Moore.**

- (b) Rev CW Megaw; RG Beers, Mrs J Richardson — Revs BA McDonald, BA Small; Mrs M Dowds — Revs S Armstrong, G Stockdale; Mrs L Moore — Rev WJ Henry; I McCullagh, Mrs H Jess — Revs AA Cole, J Hagan; Mrs A Harbinson — Revs Dr DJ McGaughey, FJ Gibson; Mrs J Kirk.
- (c) Rev SW Dickinson; J McWhirter, Miss H Nicholl — Revs RJ McCullough, TJ Stothers; Mrs I Wallace — Rev Mark Goudy; Dr JH Gillespie, Mrs M Quinn — Rev ST Carson; RH McIvor, Mrs M Gault — Revs G Moore, T Pollock; Mrs HW Montgomery.
- (d) Rev ID Neish; B Gordon, Miss C Cathcart — Rev DJ McKelvey; G Houston, Miss Mary Angus — Rev R Beggs; A Spence, Mrs Irene Younge.
- (e) Revs Dr R Kane, DJ Hutchinson; Mrs M McCloskey — Rev GD Simpson, DJ Paul; Mrs M Docherty — Rev JL Blair; JA Patterson, Miss J Patterson — Revs Dr KO Patterson, PG McCrea; Mrs Pearl Ewing.
- (f) Revs J Lamont, W.A. McCully; Mrs A Lamont — Revs Dr S Mawhinney, SS Johnston; Mrs C Poynton — Rev N Cubitt; Mrs G Oliver; B McConkey.
- (p) Mrs Jane McClure, Mrs E Greenlee, Mrs Amanda Blair, Mrs B Thompson, Mrs M Weir, Mrs M Russell.

A. HOME MISSION (7) Rev RL Craig, Convener
Deputy Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; PWA President, Home Vice President, PWA Home Treasurer, PWA Executive Secretary, HM Treasurer, Irish Mission Superintendent; PMS Representative; Revs RL Craig, Dr DH Allen; Mrs C Poynton, Deputy Clerk.
- (x) Revs JD Woodside, JG Faris, WA Watson, N McClean.
- (y) Revs ID Neish, PG McCrea, Dr R Kane WJ Henry, SS Johnston; Mrs H Jess, Mrs M McCloskey, JA Patterson.

B. CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE (7)

Rev G Moffett; Brian Knox, Conveners
Deputy Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; PWA President, Home Vice President, PWA Executive Secretary; Revs Dr DH Allen, DJ Temple, G Moffett, Deputy Clerk; Brian Knox.
- (x) JH Martin, J Sloan, Mrs Rosemary Thompson, Cyril Cavan.
- (y) Revs Dr R Kane, TJ Stothers, J Lamont, M Goudy; J McWhirter, Mrs B Thompson, RH McIvor, Mrs H Jess.

C. COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM (5) Rev WJ Parkes, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Board Secretaries, Convener of Committee on Resourcing Christians for Ministry, Superintendent of City Mission; Rev WJ Parkes, Director of Evangelism.
- (x) Revs AW Boyd, Prof WP Addley; John McKibben, C Matthews.
- (y) Revs WJ Henry, R Beggs, RJ McCullough, DJ Paul, PG McCrea, Dr DJ McGaughey, DJ Hutchinson; Dr JH Gillespie.

- D. IRISH MISSION (5)** **Rev RA Patton, Convener**
Rev DJ Temple, Superintendent
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs RA Patton, Dr DH Allen, Board Secretaries, Conveners Home Mission, Evangelism, Secretaries, Home Mission, PWA, Youth, City Mission.**
- (x) **Revs RIA Allely, G Trueman, J Woodside; DF Adair.**
- (y) **Revs G Stockdale, WA McCully, G Moore, WJ Henry, RJ McCullough, M Goudy, Dr S Mawhinney; Mrs Irene Younge.**
- E. DIVINE HEALING COMMITTEE (5)** **Rev Dr SDH Williamson, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr DH Allen, Dr SDH Williamson; Director of Social Service, Board Secretaries.**
- (x) **Revs Dr Ruth Patterson; Dr Margaret AF Wallace, WG Cameron.**
- (y) **Revs C Megaw, Dr R Kane, DJ McKelvey, Nancy Cubitt, S Armstrong; Mrs M McCloskey.**

**Church and
Government
Committee**

CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

– Debate Resumed (see page 47)

5. That the General Assembly acknowledge the commandment of the Lord Jesus “to love your neighbour as yourself” as being of fundamental importance to the Christian witness of our denomination and the future well-being of this society, and therefore, positively encourage Presbyterians to foster friendships with Roman Catholics who have, in the sectarian tradition of this society, be seen as “the other side”.

6. That the General Assembly believe that the Constitution of Europe should contain (i) an explicit reference to the Christian heritage of Europe; (ii) a mechanism for consultation between the European institutions and the religious communities of the European Union and (iii) Appendix 11 of the Treaty of Amsterdam on the status of churches.

7. That the General Assembly, aware of the significance of the proposed European Union Constitution, believe that the opinions of the electorates should be tested in referenda in the Republic of Ireland and in the United Kingdom, or alternatively, by a referendum in the Republic of Ireland and by a free vote in the House of Commons.

8. That the General Assembly call upon all ministers to be aware of the proposed changes in the marriage laws in both jurisdictions in Ireland.

9. That the General Assembly, alarmed at the social and environmental consequences of the proposed lignite mine and associated power station in North Antrim, call upon those with relevant political responsibilities to reject the proposal.

10. That a grant of £6,200.00 be made available from the Incidental Fund to the Church and Government Committee.

11. That a grant of up to £6,000.00 be made available from the Incidental Fund to meet part of the cost of the Church and Society Commission post in Brussels.

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

12. That Mr George McCullagh be continued as Co-Convener of the Church and Government Committee for one further year.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.30 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

On Wednesday evening, 4th June 2003, 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, the Rev Rico Tice addressed the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 9.35 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SIXTH SESSION

Thursday, 5th June, 2003

Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF STUDIES AND CHRISTIAN TRAINING** (Reports pp 240-249) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr A W G Brown together with the following Supplementary Report.

**BOARD OF
STUDIES &
CHRISTIAN
TRAINING**

**Director of
Ministerial
Studies**

1. The Board of Studies and Christian Training note with pleasure the appointment of the Rev Harry Robinson as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly and Secretary to the Board of Mission in Ireland.

2. The Board, through a special committee, has considered carefully the various options it faced in the event of this appointment being made by the Assembly.

These included:

- a. Seeking from Assembly permission for the Nomination Board to proceed forthwith to appoint a successor.
- b. Seeking from Assembly permission for the Board of Studies and Christian Training to reconsider the revised job description (approved by Assembly last year) and to report to the General Board in the autumn, seeking its approval to move towards an appointment by next year's Assembly.
- c. Asking Assembly to instruct the General Board to report to next year's Assembly with a view to appointment in 2005.

3. The Board would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that Union Theological College is now a very different place from that to which Mr Robinson was appointed. The primary purpose of the College is to train students for the ordained ministry, and we are happy to notice a steady increase in numbers over recent years. In addition, the College now has 120 full-time students, 111 studying part-time for degrees, plus a significant number of students pursuing other short courses. There are also students taking the Certificate courses in Youth Work and Children's Ministry, and the many church members involved in courses with the Magee Institute of Christian Training. The Board is convinced that a full-time post is fully justified and necessary for the efficient working of the College and the Board. We believe, however, that the job itself may need to be altered in certain ways in order to reflect the constantly changing situation. In our view this merits consideration by the wider Church and not simply by the Board itself.

4. We are convinced however that any such discussion needs to be carried out with urgency as it would be detrimental to everything we seek to do, were the vacancy to extend beyond next Assembly.

5. Accordingly we request the General Assembly to ask the General Board to review the terms of the post, through a Working Party, which will report to the General Board in October so that, if approved, the Nomination Board may be able to bring forward a name to next year's Assembly.

6. In addition we invite any members of Assembly who may wish to contribute to the discussion, to send their comments to the Clerk of the General Assembly on or before the 15th September.

The Very Rev Dr A W G Brown writes:

7. The appointment of the Rev Harry Robinson as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly means his resignation from the post of Director of Ministerial Studies. The Board of Studies and Christian Training wishes to record its deep indebtedness to Mr Robinson for the excellent way in which he has undertaken this position. As first holder of the post, Mr Robinson had the unenviable task of trying to make a somewhat tentative job description work. This he did superbly, not only carrying out the various duties with efficiency, but relating in a caring

way to the many students and prospective students who applied for selection, and in most cases went on to undertake training during his tenure of office. He built good structures of co-operation with Faculty and other members of staff as well as successive members of the Board. He also developed useful strategies for presenting to school leavers the challenge of the ministry. Mr Robinson combined a meticulous attention to detail with the ability to innovate, and the insight that saw quickly to the heart of an issue. We thank him for his warm humanity, and for all that he has achieved for the College and for the wider Church.

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly note with gratitude to God the continued increase in numbers of those making application for ordained ministry, and encourage ministers and Kirk Sessions to identify suitably-gifted members so that this increase may be sustained.
3. That the resignation of the Rev Harry Robinson as Director of Ministerial Students be accepted as from 31 August, 2003 and that he be thanked for the diligent and sensitive way in which he carried out his duties.
4. That the following be appointed as the General Board's Working Party to consider the situation arising from the appointment of the present Director of Ministerial Students to another post, and to report to the General Board in October:

Moderator, Rev Dr D J Watts (Convener), Principal of UTC, Prof of Practical Theology, Convener of the Board of Studies and Christian Training, Convener of the Committee on Ministerial Studies; Convener of College and Magee Management Committee, the Revs Dr R M Crooks, Dr H A Dunlop, W J Johnston, S D Finlay, T D Gribben, T C Morrison, R B Savage, B A Small, M Stanfield; Mrs E McClenaghan, D F Adair, H R F Plester.

5. That the General Board be given Assembly powers to direct the Nomination Board and to take any other necessary decisions.

6. That the General Assembly approve the proposals outlined in Paragraph 14 for streamlining the procedures for the processing of claims. **Ministerial Development Programme**

7. That the General Assembly approve the proposal in Paragraph 15 that the weekly allowance be raised to include the Supply Fee incurred.

8. That the General Assembly approve the proposal outlined in Paragraph 16 for the taking of sabbatical leave by Ministers approaching retirement.

9. That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme in 2003 be 0.75p per £ of stipend.

10. That the Board of Studies and Christian Training, in consultation with the Union Commission, Board of Mission in Ireland and other interested parties, carry out a review of the current legislation relating to Licentiate Assistants, Ordained Assistants and Associate Ministers, and report to next year's General Assembly. **General**

11. 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:

T Neil Bingham	Newcastle	Iveagh
David S Brownlow	Hazelbank	Coleraine
Mark E Donald	Clough	Ballymena
Alastair J Dunlop	Knock	East Belfast
Richard A Johnston	Orangefield	East Belfast
Gareth McFadden	Lucan	Dublin & Munster
Richard S J McIlhatton	Downshire	Carrickfergus
Philip L McKelvey	Sixmilecross	Omagh
Martin D McNeely	Bloomfield	East Belfast
John D Montgomery	The Mall	Armagh
Roderick A Mulholland	1st Portglenone	Ballymena
Kenneth Nelson	Hill Street, Lurgan	Armagh
Scott A Woodburn	McQuiston Memorial	East Belfast

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

June Summer School & Phase I Interview	£1,065
Pre-Term College Retreat	£1,680
Applicants' Study Day	£295
Licentiate Courses	£95
Meetings for students and spouses	£400
Honoraria for Extern Examiners	£300
Teaching Communication Skills for students outside Ireland	£100
TOTAL	£3,935

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

Rev Dr AWG Brown, Convener

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Professors in UTC, and two student representatives, University Chaplains, Secretary of the HM Committee, Director of Ministerial Students, Dr AWG Brown.**

(b) **Revs JNI McNeely, TWD Johnston — Revs TA Moore, JWP McConnell — Revs RA Moffett, TW Gordon — Rev GBS Gibson; Dr C Reid, — Revs WL Orr, DM Rodgers— Revs FJ Gibson, Dr MA Barry.**

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

(d) **Rev TD Gribben; Mrs H Murdock — Rev V Sinclair; O McAuley — Rev W McKeown; WF McConnell.**

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

(f) **Revs J Lamont, PA McBride — Revs Dr G Millar, F Sellar, — Revs Nancy Cubitt, A McCullough.**

(g) **Mrs M Robinson; Revs JH McIntyre, JG Kennedy, GAJ Farquhar, ATF Johnston, Dr SDH Williamson, A Stewart, GE Best, DT Moore.**

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 Students, Convener of Students' Bursary Fund Committee, Rev Dr AWG Brown, Committee Convener.

- (x) **Revs GR Stockdale, AJMcL Smith, Prof WP Addley, Prof LS Kirkpatrick.**
- (y) **Revs DJ Hutchinson, RA Moffett, JNI McNeely, DS Mackay, JWP McConnell, TWD Johnston; NW McAuley; Dr JH Gillespie.**

B. COLLEGE AND MAGEE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (4)

Rev Graham Connor, 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, Graham Connor, Dr AWG Brown.**

C. COMMITTEE ON RESOURCING CHRISTIANS FOR MINISTRY (5)

Rev Dr RM Crooks, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Education Secretary, Director of Youth Ministry, Professor of Practical Theology, Sunday School Organiser, Director of Christian Training, Superintendent Irish Mission, Convener of Evangelism Committee, Director of Social Service, Rev Dr RM Crooks, Board Convener, Director of Ministerial Students.**
- (x) **Revs Dr IA McKay, G Aitcheson, J Coulter; Colin Millar.**
- (y) **Revs JD McGaughey, RJ Gilkinson, JNI McNeely, DM Rodgers, Dr MA Barry, DJ Hutchinson, A.A. 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, Dr AWG Brown, RB Savage, Director of Ministerial Students, Convener of the Committee on Studies.**
- (x) **Revs Dr DH Allen, WTJ Richardson, Dr JB Moore, DS McIlwrath.**
- (y) **Revs N Cubitt, James Clarke, TD Gribben, W McKeown, TWD Johnston, NW McAuley, DM Rodgers, Mrs H Murdock.**

The Report of the **UNITED APPEAL BOARD** (Reports pp 276-282) was submitted by Mr H Stewart.

**UNITED
APPEAL
BOARD**

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

1. That the Report be received.

Moved, as an amendment, by the Very Rev Dr J Dunlop, seconded by the Rev G P Young:

That the Report be received, but that publicity should use the phrase "United Appeal for Mission".

On being put, the amendment was declared passed.

Moved, as an amendment, by the Rev D Clarke, seconded by the Very Rev Dr J W Lockington:

That the Report be received, but that the Board reconsider its publicity strapline.

On being put, the amendment was declared lost.

On being put, the motion as amended, was passed.

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

2. That the United Appeal for 2004 be as set out in Schedules III and IV.

Moved, as an amendment, by the Rev D Rankin, seconded by the Rev S A Finlay:

That the United Appeal for 2004 be as set out in Schedule IV, but that Schedule III revert back to 100% of the target being based on contributing families.

On being put, the amendment was declared lost.

The original resolution, being put, was passed.

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 SJ Hanna, WL Haslett; 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, TV Mawhinney; JA Patterson.**
- (f*) **Revs M Burnside, JG Jones, A Boal; Norman Watt.**
- (g) **Revs D Clarke, TD Gribben, J Lamont, Rev G McClelland; Mrs O Marshall, J Clarke.**

Intermission

OVERSEAS BOARD

The Report of the **OVERSEAS BOARD** (Reports pp 139-167) was submitted by the Rev W S Marrs.

Missionaries serving overseas were introduced to the House.

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly request the Overseas Board to conduct a review of its vision, mission and strategy, reporting to the General Assembly of 2004 with a strategic plan to the year 2010.
3. That the General Assembly thank all the presbyteries who contributed to

the discussion on Globalisation, Mission and the Kingdom of God, that the resulting Report (Appendix C) be noted, and that the Overseas Board draw upon its findings to clarify the priorities of our Church in world mission at the outset of the 21st Century.

4. That the General Assembly give thanks for the new, recently approved constitution, bye-laws and five year strategic plan of the United Mission to Nepal and urge prayer for their effective ministry in new major areas of involvement, as well as for a lasting settlement to the ongoing political crisis in Nepal.

5. That the General Assembly call on all our people to pray for our partner churches in Asia to know God's protection and to be courageous in witness despite often living under oppressive national and state laws, and having their growing minority presence perceived by their Hindu and Muslim neighbours as a threat.

6. That the General Assembly pray that our partner churches in Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Spain, France and the Czech and Slovak Republics provide an effective witness to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ despite the rising tide of secularism, and that we, in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, would continue to look for the most appropriate ways to share with our European partners in the building of God's Kingdom.

7. That the General Assembly encourage the Overseas Board to review partner church relations in the Middle East as a whole and to continue to seek out the most appropriate ways to share in God's mission amidst all the uncertainty and instability in that region.

8. That the General Assembly give thanks for the peaceful transition to a new government in Kenya, for the positive developments in the Presbyterian Church of Sudan, and urge prayer for progress towards peace in Sudan.

9. That the General Assembly encourage continued prayer and practical support for the Synods of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian as they seek to minister amidst an ongoing food crisis and AIDS epidemic, and for Malawi, that justice and democracy would be safeguarded at this time of constitutional crisis.

10. That the General Assembly give thanks for our partnerships with the Presbyterian Churches in Brazil and the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, and for the opportunities to share in their national missions, sending greetings to the Independent Presbyterian Church in Brazil on the occasion of their Centennial Celebrations.

11. That the General Assembly acknowledge the faithful service and witness of our missionary personnel serving overseas, pray for their spiritual empowerment and physical protection in many challenging and sometimes dangerous situations, and give thanks also for the witness of all who come from partner churches to study and serve here in Ireland.

12. That the General Assembly give thanks for the appointment of Miss Helen Johnston as Executive Officer with special responsibilities for personnel and Mrs Moreen Gordon as Pastoral Adviser, and encourage the Overseas Board to continue development of a pastoral care model for missionaries.

13. That the General Assembly give thanks that mission information permeates through church life in such a way as to stimulate prayerful and practical support for our missionaries and partner churches, rejoice in the growing direct

involvement in overseas mission at congregational level, and encourage our people to discover new ways of owning the task of world mission.

14. 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; Mrs M Myers, Secretaries

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, President and Overseas Vice-President of the PWA, Convener and Secretaries of the Board, Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Board, Sunday School Organiser, two Young Women's Group representatives, Youth Board representative.**

(b) **Rev NJ McCullough; J Warnock, Mrs A Murdock — Rev MM Stewart; Miss J Allen, Mrs E McIlwaine — Revs M Stanfield, RA Moffett; Miss M McCombe — Rev AK Duddy; N McKinney, Miss W Norwood — Rev G Best; Dr J Kyle, Mrs T Johnston — Rev NS Millen; R Harper, Mrs D Rea.**

(c) **Rev NA Brown; N Rea, Mrs T Boyd — Rev LJ Addis; Miss D Savage, Mrs J Gaston — Rev Dr RN Gordon; G McIntyre, Mrs J Farlow — Rev JA Thompson; Mrs N Moore, Mrs M Binnie — Rev PE Dickinson; D Robinson, Mrs A Reid.**

(d) **Revs Dr W Crawley, GF McKeown; Mrs D Smyth, — Revs T Wilson, BR Hughes; Mrs E Jackson— Rev Dr D Murphy; WH Hawe, Miss R Taylor.**

(e) **Rev Dr WJH McKee; E Laverty, Dr H Williamson — Revs N Hunter, N Ward; Mrs E Alexander — Rev G Aitcheson; Dr C McKibbin, Mrs M McKibbin — Rev JW Fleck; R Wallace, Mrs M McCreedy.**

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

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

A. ASIA COMMITTEE (7)

Rev SJ Hanna, Convener

Rev WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers, Secretaries

(a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Dr SJ Dixon, SJ Hanna; Mrs Z Vallely, Mrs R Cowan, Mrs D McMullen; Rev WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers, CN Eves.**

(x) **Revs Dr J W Lockington, MCA Gray, CJC McMullen; Dr MS Watson.**

(y) **Revs Dr D Murphy, LJ Addis, BR Hughes, G Aitcheson; Miss M McCombe, Miss D Savage, Mrs S Fell, Mrs E McIlwaine.**

B. EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE (7)

Mrs Maureen Patterson, Convener

Rev WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers, Secretaries

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

(x) **Revs Dr RI Birney, IJ Patterson, JI Thompson; Dr G Moles.**

(y) **Revs NJ McCullough, GF McKeown, RA Moffett; N McKinney, Mrs A Reid, Miss Z McAllister, Mrs J Gaston, Mrs D Rea.**

C. AFRICA, CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA COMMITTEE (7)**Rev HR Quinn, Convener****Rev WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers, Secretaries**

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs SJ Dixon, HR Quinn; World Development Committee Convener, Mrs Z Vallely, Mrs R Cowan, Mrs D McMullen; Rev WS Marrs; Mrs M Myers.**
- (x) **Revs WJ Waring, Prof WP Addley; TA Macpherson, R Kerr.**
- (y) **Revs J Mann, S Richmond, Dr RN Gordon, N Hunter; E Laverty, Miss R Taylor, Mrs M Binnie, Mrs D Mitchell.**

The Report of the **2004 Assembly Conference Committee** (Reports pp 303-305) was submitted by the Rev J H Robinson.

**2004 Assembly
Conference
Committee**

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 78)

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator, assisted by the Rev John Holmes.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev J S Carson addressed the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 12.55 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SEVENTH SESSION

Thursday, 5th June, 2003

Two o'clock. Afternoon

In Private

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF** **MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES** (Reports p 250-251) was submitted by the Rev R B Savage.

**RECEPTION OF
MINISTERS &
LICENTIATES
COMMITTEE**

Moved by the Rev R B Savage, seconded by the Very Rev Dr A W G Brown, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That, for a period of three years, the Committee for the Reception of Ministers and Licentiatees be authorised to interview all applicants from outside the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.
3. That the Rev Jane Dasher be declared eligible for an Ordained Assistantship in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

**Overture anent
Par.219(5)(a)**

The **Overture anent Par 219 (5) (a)** of the Code was submitted by the Rev R B Savage as follows:

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 219 (5) (a) of the Code after the words ‘produce to a Presbytery’ there be inserted the words ‘credentials of health and’.

Moved by the Rev R B Savage, seconded by the Very Rev Dr A W G Brown, and agreed:

That the overture anent Par 219 (5) (a) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

**Memorial of the
Rev. Lorraine
Kennedy-Ritchie**

The **Memorial of the Rev Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie** (Reports 252) was submitted by the Rev G D Campbell.

Moved by the Rev G D Campbell, seconded by the Rev Dr D K McCrory, and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

**JUDICIAL
COMMISSION**

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports p 59-60) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, seconded by Mr M Morrow, QC, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Judicial Commission be appointed in accordance with Par 127 of the Code as follows:

The Clerk, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly.**
- (b*) **Revs J Gordon, Dr WJ Patterson; Sir John Pringle.**
- (c*) **Revs Dr RFS Poots, Dr RVA Lynas; JS Tweed.**
- (d*) **Rev James McAllister; MA Morrow, QC, Noel Valentine.**
- (e*) **Revs TJ Conway, Dr J Fell; WK Duncan.**
- (f*) **Revs Dr RWJ MacDermott, Nancy Cubitt, Brian Brown.**
- (g) **Revs Dr TJ Simpson, Dr AR Rodgers, Dr S Hutchinson, Dr DJ Watts; JW Russell.**

In Public

The Minutes were taken and corrected.

**Ad Hoc
Committee
on Priorities**

The Report of the **Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities** (Reports pp 306-315) was submitted by the Rev T D Gribben.

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 the General Assembly approve the priorities outlined in the Appendix, Section 2 as the priorities for the central work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the next five to seven years. **Priorities**

Intermission

3. That all relevant Boards take account of the General Assembly's priorities that are applicable to their area of work, and give precedence to those priorities, during the next five to seven years.

4. That the central funding agencies seek to ensure that, as far as possible, funding allocations enable the agreed priorities of the General Assembly to be progressed.

5. That the moratorium on new posts and projects, approved by the General Assembly in June 2002, be lifted with immediate effect.

6. That the General Assembly approve the amalgamation of the Youth Board and the Church Education Committee to form a new Board, with the name to be decided by the General Board. **Structures**

7. That the General Assembly approve responsibility for the area of public worship being included within the remit of the Board of Mission in Ireland.

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

8. That the General Assembly approve moving the World Development Committee to the Overseas Board.

Moved, as an amendment by the Rev A D Davidson, seconded by the Rev W S Marrs:

That the Overseas Board, Inter-Church Relations Board and General Board together with the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities bring proposals to the Assembly of 2004 concerning their future structures and relationships.

On being put, the amendment was declared lost.

The original resolution, being put, was passed.

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

9. That the General Assembly approve the establishment of an Inter-Church Relations Committee and a Global Concerns Committee under the General Board.

10. That the General Assembly approve the amalgamation of the Board of Finance and Administration and the Board of Ministry and Pensions.

11. That the General Assembly approve the remainder of the new Structures for Central Work, as outlined in the Appendix, Section 3 Sub-Sections A, B & C.

12. That appropriate overtures be prepared by the Clerk of Assembly to enable the necessary changes to be enacted to bring the Code into line with the new Structures for Central Work, as agreed in Resolutions 6 - 11, and that these overtures be presented, where possible, to the General Assembly in 2004.

13. That, in the interim, the General Assembly authorise the operation of the new structures, agreed in Resolutions 6 to 11, beginning in June 2004.

14. That Presbyteries and Synods be requested to nominate members to Boards in 2004 on the basis of the new structures.

15. That, on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities, the General Board be authorised to act on behalf of the General Assembly to deal with any unforeseen matters relating to the changes in central structures.

**The further
implementation
of structural
change**

16. That the General Assembly approve the proposals on 'The Further Implementation of Structural Change', as outlined in the Appendix, Section 3 Sub-Section D.

17. That the General Assembly direct the Standing Committee, or other equivalent body, of each relevant Board included in the new structures to undertake a review of the arrangements within their Board as outlined in the Appendix, Section 3 Sub-Section D, and, following approval by their Board, to forward the outcome of that review to the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities, by 31st December 2003.

18. That the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities co-ordinate and facilitate the progression of the proposals agreed in Resolution 16.

19. That the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities take the lead in co-ordinating the presentation to the General Assembly of agreed changes to the arrangements within each Board.

20. That the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities be reappointed for a further year as follows:

Rev TD Gribben, Convener

The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Financial Secretary, Rev TD Gribben.

Revs RJA Bell, JR Dickinson, Dr. HA Dunlop, SE Hughes, Dr. JW Lockington, G Moore, Dr TWJ Morrow; D.F. Adair, D Lamb, J Millar.

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

EIGHTH SESSION

Friday, 6th June, 2003

Half past nine o'clock. Forenoon

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **TRUSTEES** (Reports pp296-301) was submitted by Sir **TRUSTEES** Eric McDowell.

Moved by Sir Eric McDowell, seconded by Mr David Bell, CB, 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.

Moved, as an additional resolution, by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by the Rev Dr R A Russell, and agreed:

8. That the General Assembly request the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to retain and invest the nett proceeds of the sale of Familybooks for a period of ten years against the contingency that the Church may decide at a future date to re-establish a Presbyterian bookshop

The **Overture anent Par 318 (A) (2) (c)** of the Code was submitted by the **Overture anent Par. 318(A)(2)(c)** Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson.

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

That the Overture anent Par 318 (A) (2) (c) 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 **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS** (Reports p 253) was submitted by Mr A J Rankin. **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS**

Moved by Mr A J Rankin, seconded by the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, 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, Deputy Clerk, JW Russell, WH Henry, Mrs O Marshall.**

The Report of the **BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** (Reports pp 254-275) was submitted by Mr D F Adair, together with the following Supplementary Report.

Assembly Buildings Committee Stonework Repairs

As recorded in the Committee's report to the Assembly, the Committee has embarked on essential repairs and renovations to the walls and roofs of the Church House complex. The first phase of this work, the "PWA corner", began in November 2002 and the Committee has been closely monitoring progress. The repairs have been much more extensive than initially expected and some walls were found to be in a dangerous state of repair. In the light of this experience and using the knowledge gained from the first phase, the Committee asked for the rest of walls to be resurveyed. The results of this further survey were presented to representatives of the Committee on Wednesday 28 May 2003 and indicate that the rest of the walls will require much more extensive repairs than previously considered necessary. The estimated additional cost (net of anticipated grant from the Environment and Heritage Service) of the repairs is £1,194,000 bringing the total cost of the repairs to £2,016,000. As this information has just been received the Board of Finance & Administration has not yet had an opportunity to consider how to respond to it.

Moved by Mr D F Adair, seconded by the Rev R I A Allely, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

Intermission

2. That the Guidelines for Board members in Appendix B be approved.
3. That an indemnity be provided for members of Boards and Committees where they have acted in good faith, within authority limits and in accordance with the law.
4. That where the General Assembly is joined in a legal action it shall normally be represented by the Clerk of Assembly and the Financial Secretary, but the General Board may make other arrangements in any particular case.
5. That Ernst & Young, LLP be appointed as auditors for all the Committees, Boards, Trusts, Commissions and Agencies of the General Assembly for the year 2003.
6. That the assessment for the Incidental Fund for 2003 be 5.0p in the £ of stipend.
7. That the Board of Finance and Administration, with its associated working committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 286 of the Code as follows:

DF Adair, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; DF Adair.**
- (b) **Rev NJ Linkens; D Johnston — Rev S van Os; N Greenlee — Rev M Casement; R Courtenay — Rev MG McClelland; M McMaster — Revs IJ Patterson, SA Matthews — Revs D Rankin, EP Gamble.**
- (c) **Rev WF Dickey; C McClelland — D Tomb, F Picton — Rev R Kelly; H Stewart — Rev KDW Crowe; J McMullan — Rev PP Campbell; CRA Davis.**

- (d) **Rev ML Johnston; M Finlay — Rev WI Hull; M Fitch — M Cairnduff, N Valentine.**
- (e) **Rev Dr SDH Williamson, JT Williamson — Revs DS Irwin, JA Noble—— RH Kidd, Norman Morrison — Rev Dr AN Kerr; E Carroll.**
- (f) **Rev WA McCully; Alan Speer — Arthur Jordan, J Gregg — W Carleton, T Semple.**
- (g) **Mrs Maureen Patterson, Mrs G Irwin, J Petrie.**
- A. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND STAFFING (5) D Lamb, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Head of Personnel; D Lamb, DF Adair.**
- (x) **Rev Dr J Fell; Mrs E Armstrong, M Finlay A Treacy.**
- (y) **Revs JT Williamson, PP Campbell, JM Casement, KDW Crowe; N Valentine, D Tomb, M Fitch, D Johnston.**
- B. INCIDENTAL FUND COMMITTEE (5) M Fitch, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Financial Secretary, M Fitch, DF Adair.**
- (x) **Rev RIA Allely; B McClean, RB Lyons, TG Swan.**
- (y) **Revs R Kelly, KDW Crowe, MG McClelland, Dr SDH Williamson, D Rankin, WI Hull, Dr AN Kerr; M Cairnduff.**
- C. ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS COMMITTEE (5) Rev RIA Allely, Convener**
- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Arrangements Committee Convener, Board Convener, J Kelly; Rev RIA Allely.**
- (x) **AS McQuoid, Mrs J Moran, WJ Cairns, B Smyth.**
- (y) **Revs JM Casement, EM Carroll, R Kelly, JT Williamson, MG McClelland, AN Kerr, ML Johnston; CRA Davis.**

The Minutes were taken and corrected.

The Report of the **BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS** (Reports pp 98-116) was submitted by the Rev W A Kennedy, together with the following Supplementary Report.

Memorial Record

The Rev William Desmond McBride, BA, senior minister of Second Saintfield, died on 10 April, 2003 in the 67th year of his age and the 40th of his ministry. A Belfastman, he was educated at Belfast Royal Academy and Queen's University, where he graduated in Arts in 1958. Responding to a call to Christian ministry, he commenced his theological studies at New College, Edinburgh, completing them at Assembly's College, Belfast.

Returning to Edinburgh, he served as Assistant Minister for a year at Palmerston Place. In 1962 he won a scholarship to train at the Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, and then to work with an inter-Church group on behalf of Christian Aid in northern Greece. He then came back to Ireland and was ordained Assistant Minister in Rosemary congregation on 6 November, 1963. Called to

Second Saintfield, he was installed there on 3 February, 1966, and there he was to spend 36 years in ministry which won the hearts and moulded the lives of many within that congregation and in the community beyond. He will be remembered for preaching that was Biblical, practical and relevant; for devoted pastoral care; and for his rapport with young people. A motivator, his was the gift to form a team of others around him, whether to share in the conduct of worship, to renovate the Church building, to build new halls or extend the graveyard. A good Presbyterian and a valued colleague, he was renowned for the conscientiousness and an attention to detail with which he fulfilled the tasks assigned to him, especially as Vacancy Convener. He was appointed Moderator of the Synod of Armagh and Down in 1988.

Ever eager to co-operate with others, to cross barriers and build up relationships, he cultivated close ties with the local Church of Ireland congregation, gave his support to ecumenical gatherings, and was pleased to be a member of the Assembly's Committee which produced the Church's Peace Vocation. He enjoyed travel, within Ireland and abroad, and on two occasions he exchanged pulpits with a minister in New York.

A servant of Christ, dedicated to his Master and to his Church, he was undeterred by problems of personal ill-health and benefited from a kidney transplant in 1983. His own experience helped him to relate with heightened sensitivity to others who faced periods of prolonged sickness or hospitalisation.

Sadly, it was his medical condition which foreshortened a period of retirement into which he entered only on 28 February, 2002, and which robbed his wife Maralyn, daughter of the late Rev Leslie Martin of Helen's Bay, and their daughter Alison of one who was to many a faithful minister of the gospel but to them, most particularly, a devoted husband and father.

Correction

Reports PP 108-109

Rev John Alexander Fulton, BA. His home congregation was Grange.

Moved by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by Mr S Lynas, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly express appreciation to the Directors and staff for the ministry provided to the Church and wider community by Familybooks up until its disposal in May 2003.

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

3. That the General Assembly express thanks to the Information Officer, the staff of the Communications Department and the Editor of the Presbyterian Herald for all their work on behalf of the Church and commend their ongoing efforts to make the Presbyterian Herald a vibrant forum for the Church.

Moved by the Rev W A Kennedy, seconded by Mr S Lynas, and agreed:

4. That, to maintain continuity in progress towards publication of the new Presbyterian Hymnbook, the General Assembly agree that Rev W T J Richardson continue for a further year as Convener of the Public Worship Committee.

5. That a grant of £800 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Public Worship Committee.
6. That a grant of £1,300 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Church Architecture Committee.
7. That a grant of £13,700 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
8. 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 C McMullen; Mrs Jean Mann — J MacQueen, V Riddell — Revs TI Harte, RE Boggs — Rev DJ Bruce; A Robinson — Rev WH Sanderson; H Morrow — Rev DC Scott; Mrs P Qua.**
- (c) **Rev NA Brown; 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 Daggart — Rev JT Lamb; Mrs Olive Marshall — Rev WM Brown; T Busby.**
- (e) **Rev TD Hagan; W Harvey — Rev GD Simpson; Mrs J Norris — Miss Margaret Guy, JA Patterson — Rev JI Thompson; O Gibson.**
- (f) **Rev AW Carson; Mrs J Wilson — Rev Robert Cobain; Val Fitzgerald — Rev GJ Mackarel; J Jenkins.**

A. COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (5)

Rev Dr. R.A. Russell, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Information Officer, Editors of Church Magazines, Representative of Familybooks, two Overseas Board and two PWA Representatives, Revs WA Kennedy, Dr. RA Russell.**
- (x) **Rev Dr WE Davison; R. Patton, M O'Neill, R Nelson.**
- (y) **Revs WH Sanderson, DJ Bruce, CJC McMullen, R Cobain, RE Boggs; Mrs P Qua, Mrs J Mann, T Busby.**

B. MEDIA COMMITTEE (5)

Rev C Glover, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Information Officer, Magee Director, Revs C Glover, WA Kennedy, Dr RS Tosh, Professor of Practical Theology, Rel Advisers Downtown Radio, RTE, UTV.**
- (x) **Revs PD Thompson, S Henning, Cheryl Reid; WHG Crawley.**
- (y) **Revs RD McDowell, GJ Mackarel, AW Carson, WM Brown, CJC McMullen; T Busby, V Fitzgerald, Mrs J Norris.**

C. PUBLIC WORSHIP COMMITTEE (5) Rev WTJ Richardson, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs WA Kennedy, WTJ Richardson; Professor of Practical Theology, Information Officer.**

- (x) **Revs JH McIntyre, WJ Murdock, M Spratt.**
- (y) **Revs WH Sanderson, RD McDowell, RL Brown; H Morrow, Mrs O Marshall, Miss M Guy.**

D. CHURCH ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE (5)

Rev LWH Hilditch, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs WA Kennedy, LWH Hilditch; Information Officer.**
- (x) **M Shaw, W Boyce, Mrs J Hamilton.**
- (y) **Revs AW Carson, GD Simpson, Mrs O Marshall, RE Boggs; JA Patterson, T Montgomery.**

E. HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE (5)

Rev Dr WJH McKee, Convener

- (a) **The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Revs Prof LS Kirkpatrick, Dr H Cromie, WA Kennedy, JF Murdoch, Dr WJH McKee; Information Officer.**
- (x) **M Gilmour; George Gillespie, Derek Alexander, Mrs D McKee.**
- (y) **Revs Robert Cobain, TD Hagan, G.D. Simpson, TC Wright, JI Thompson, JT Lamb; T Busby, Mrs. O. Marshall.**

**2004 Assembly
Conference
Committee**

2004 Assembly Conference Committee – Debate Resumed (see page 69)

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly encourage all Congregations to support the 2004 Residential Assembly Conference, and to prayerfully nominate suitable delegates to represent them.
3. That the General Assembly approve the proposed Delegate Selection Scheme, as outlined above.

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

4. That the resignation of the Rev T D Gribben as Co-Convener of the Assembly Conference Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev I F Smith be appointed in his place.

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

5. 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 TD Gribben, JH Robinson, IF Smith.
Revs Dr MA Barry, H Boyce, G Connor, R Hill, RJ Hyndman, KA McBride, DJ Montgomery, SW Rea, AJMcL Smith; Dr D Alexander, Mrs R Craig, Miss A Houston, S Lynas, S McDowell, Mrs M Myers, Miss C Reid, D Thomson.**

The Final Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** was submitted by the Clerk, **BUSINESS BOARD** the Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson, as follows:

The Business Board met once during the week to licence additional business.

The customary final resolutions are appended.

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

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

To the Church of Scotland 2004

Right Rev Dr I A McKay

Rev Harold Boyce

Mr W Hawe

To the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom 2004

Right Rev Dr I A McKay

3. That the delegates to the Presbyterian Church of Wales 2004, the 2004 General Synod of the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Conference 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, 7th June, 2004, at 7.00 pm.

After a brief adjournment, the Moderator conducted worship, assisted by the Rev R J Stevenson.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev J S Carson addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked the Clerk of Assembly and the Deputy Clerk; his Chaplains; Mrs Jean Hanna 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 pianist; 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, 7th June, 2004 at seven o'clock in the evening.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.10 pm.

Attested by
SAMUEL HUTCHINSON
Clerk of Assembly

DEPUTATIONS — 2004

- I.— CORRESPONDING MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 Right Rev Dr I A McKay, Moderator
 Rev Harold Boyce
 An Elder to be appointed by the Business Board
- II.— CORRESPONDING MEMBER
 TO THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
 Right Rev Dr I A McKay, Moderator
- 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.

ECCLESIASTICAL CHANGES, ETC.

	Reported by Presbyteries in —	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Licensures		17	13	13	15	8	4	4
Ordinations		1	12	16	13	14	14	9
Installations		36	24	26	41	36	32	22
Resignation of Ministers		34	28	13	28	26	27	23
Retirements of Ministers		4	13	11	14	16	13	12
Deaths of Ministers		10	15	3	10	14	6	14
Students		51	44	39	26	22	25	30
Ministers under care of Assembly		23	26	26	21	22	22	23
Licentiates		35	41	33	34	18	12	6

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 2003

CHURCH HOUSE,
BELFAST, BT1 6DW
AUGUST, 2003.

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

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON
Clerk of Assembly.

Par 90(1)

Delete the words “to take place in the month of March, at such place within its bounds as it may appoint”. (2003).

Par 95(d) (*as re-numbered in 1999*)

Delete sub-paragraph 95(d) and re-number (e) as (d). (2003).

Par 132

Insert a new sub-paragraph (4) as follows:

“(4) Ministers, licentiates, accepted students for the ministry, deaconesses and all appointed to, or training for, posts of ministry or mission shall disclose promptly to the Clerk of the General Assembly, in confidence, any police investigation, summons, or conviction for offences against children, offences involving dishonesty, sexual misconduct, indecency, violence, alcohol or drugs, or any other serious offence.”

Renumber sub-paragraphs (4), (5), (6) and (7) as (5) (6) (7) and (8). (2003).

Par 219(5)(a)

After the words ‘produce to a Presbytery’ insert the words ‘credentials of health and’ (2003).

Par 288(2)

Insert an additional sub-section (f) as follows:

“(f) administer the Ministers’ Prolonged Disability Fund;” and re-number the present sub-section (f) as (g). (2003).

Par 288(3)

Add an additional sub-paragraph (3) as follows:

“(3) Any appeal against a decision regarding the grant, alteration, refusal or termination of benefits from the Ministers’ Prolonged Disability Fund shall be lodged within twenty-one days with the Convener of the Board of Ministry and Pensions, who shall refer the appeal forthwith to the Judicial Commission, whose decision shall be final.” (2003).

Par 318(A)(2)(c)

Delete. (2003).

Par 326(1)(b)

Delete the words “one quarter” and substitute “27.5%”. (2003).

Par 326(1)(c)

Delete the words “25%” and substitute “27.5%”. (2003).

CORRECTION - Par 97(h)

There was a misprint in last year’s correction slip. The correct text is as follows:

Par 97(h)

Insert a new sub-paragraph (iii) as follows:

“Clerks of Presbytery or Synod, being ministers without charge or ruling elders;”

and re-number (iii) as (iv). (2002).