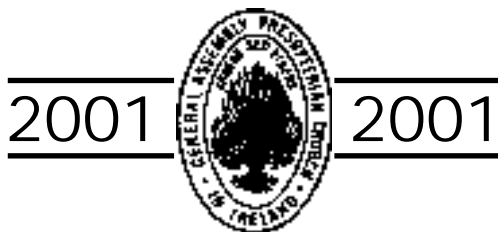




GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ANNUAL REPORTS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Notes: Business commences at 9.30 a.m. each morning.

Luncheon adjournment at 1.00 p.m. each day.

The figures printed in brackets are page references to the Annual Reports.

References to the Minutes of Assembly are given in full.

Tuesday

Business Board

Ministry & Pensions

Memorial of Tyrone Presbytery

PWA

Nomination Board

Inter-Church Relations Board

Union Commission

Youth Board

Wednesday

Church & Gov.

General Board (Other C'ttes.)

Social Witness

Shankill Road Mission

Board of Mission in Ireland

Thursday

2003 Committee

Education Board

Overseas Board

Judicial Commission

Communications Board

Friday

Trustees

Trusts

United Appeal Board

Board of Studies & Christian Training

Finance and Administration

NOTES

MONDAY, JUNE 4

Within Church House

7.00 p.m.—

Divine Service
Constitution of Assembly
Memorial Roll
Election of Moderator

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Within May Street Church

9.30 a.m.—

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
(Intermission 15 minutes)

Within Church House

11.00 a.m.—

1. BUSINESS BOARD: Report and Resolutions (91-98).
Arrangements Committee.
2. Motion re Mr. H. W. Templeton (98).
3. Reports of Synods and Presbyteries (80-90).
- (11.30) 4. Reception of Corresponding Members and Delegates.
Church of Scotland: The Right Rev. John Miller (Moderator), Miss Ann Lyall DCS, Mrs. Janette Baird.
United Reformed Church: Rev. Wm. W. Mahood (Moderator), Dr. Andrew Bradstock.
Presbyterian Church of Wales: Rev. J. E. Wynne Davies (Moderator).
Church of Ireland: Rev. Canon P. F. Patterson, Ms Kate Turner.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

The Methodist Church in Ireland: Rev. Dr. Kenneth A. Wilson, Rev. R. D. Rodgers, Mrs. Irene McKeown, Mr. R. S. Strong.

Irish Council of Churches: Dr. David Stevens.

Eglise Réformée de France: _____.

Presbyterian Church of the Sudan: Rev. Shawish Nyawelo Kir, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of the Sudan.

Presbyterian Church of Pakistan: Rev. Dr. Maqsood Kamil, Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan.

5. **BOARD OF MINISTRY AND PENSIONS: Report and Resolutions (271-276).**

Central Ministry Fund, Committee on Retirements and Pensions, Retired Ministers' House Fund.

6. **Committee on Memorial of the Tyrone Presbytery: Report and Resolutions (283-285).**

Overture anent Par. 236 of the Code (285).

Lapsed Business.

2.00 p.m.—

7. **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Report and Resolutions (185-190).**

8. **NOMINATION BOARD: Report and Resolutions (114-128).**

9. **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS BOARD: Report and Resolutions (129-140).**

Irish Church Relations, World Church Relations, World Development, Race Relations Committees.

(4.00) 10. **UNION COMMISSION: Report and Resolutions (59-78).**

Personnel/Planning Committee.

11. **Overtures anent Pars 193(1)(a)(i), 193(2)(a), 274(4) of the Code (78-79).**

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

12. **YOUTH BOARD: Report and Resolutions (211-219).**

Youth Events, Youth Training and Resources, Youth Home Mission, Youth Overseas, Youth Centres, Committees.

Lapsed Business.

(6.30) Close of Business.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

9.30 a.m.—

13. **Church and Government Committee: Report and Resolutions (27-49).**

(11.00) 14. **GENERAL BOARD: Report and Resolutions (5-26).**

Moderator's Advisory, Forces, Chaplains, Doctrine, Peace and Peacemaking Committees.

15. **Overtures anent Pars. 65(2), 97(h), 250(4) of the Code (26).**

16. **Memorial of the Synod of Armagh and Down (26).**

Lapsed Business.

12.15 p.m.

Worship.

17. **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS: Report and Resolutions (191-208).
(Alternative Presentation)**

Alcohol and Education Services, War Memorial Hostel, Kinghan Mission, Presbyterian Residential Trust, Marriage and the Family, Social Issues and Resources Committees.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

18. SHANKILL ROAD MISSION COMMISSION:
Report and Resolutions (209-210)
- (4.00) 19. BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND: Report and
Resolutions (165-184).
Home Mission, Church Extension, Evangelism, Irish
Mission, Divine Healing.
20. Memorial of Mr Sam Condell and others (184).
Lapsed Business.
- (5.30) Close of Business.
Meeting of the General Synod of Ulster.
- 7.45 p.m.— Evening Rally.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

- 9.30 a.m.—
21. 2003 COMMITTEE: Report and Resolutions
(286-288).
22. BOARD OF EDUCATION: Report and
Resolutions (220-235).
Church Education, State Education, University
Education Committees.
- (11.00) 23. OVERSEAS BOARD: Report and Resolutions
(141-164).
Lapsed Business.
- 12.15 p.m.
Worship
- 2.00 p.m.—
In Private

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

24. Committee on Reception of Ministers and Licentiates: Report and Resolutions (243).
25. Memorial of Rev. Christina Bradley (243-244).
26. Memorial of Rev. Stephen Calder (245).
27. Recognised Ministries Committee: Report and Resolutions (50-51).
28. JUDICIAL COMMISSION: Report and Resolutions (52-58).
29. Overture on the Books anent Par. 19(4) of the Code (58).

In Public

30. BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS: Report and Resolutions (99-113).
 Communications Administration, Media, Public
 Worship, Church Architecture, Historical Society
 Committees.

Lapsed Business.

(6.00) Adjournment.

Meeting of Secession Synod at Adjournment.

7.00 p.m.—

Lapsed Business, if any.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

9.30 a.m.—

31. TRUSTEES: Report and Resolutions (277-280).
32. Overtures anent Trustees Byelaws XIII and XIV (280).
33. Appointment of new Trustees (281-282).

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

- 34. COMMISSION ON TRUSTS: Report and Resolutions (246).
- 35. UNITED APPEAL BOARD: Report and Resolutions (264-270).
- (11.00) 36. BOARD OF STUDIES AND CHRISTIAN TRAINING: Report and Resolutions (236-242).
Ministerial Studies, College and Magee Management, Resourcing Christians for Ministry, Students' Bursary Fund Committees.

Lapsed Business.

- (12.15) Worship.

2.00 p.m.—

- 37. BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Report and Resolutions (247-263).
Finance and Staffing, Incidental Fund, Assembly Buildings Committees.

- 38. Overture on the Books anent Par. 137 of the Code (263).

Late Business, if any.

Lapsed Business.

BUSINESS BOARD, Final Report.

CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY.

7.45 p.m.— YOUTH NIGHT

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

BUSINESS BOARD

A Guide to Assembly Procedure

1. **Members** of Assembly consist of all ministers in active duty or retired and some elders, ex officio, together with a representative elder from each established congregation plus other elders commissioned by Presbyteries to correspond with the number of ministers serving in special appointments. Deaconesses, representatives of the Women's and Youth Movements and some others have now been invited to "sit and deliberate" as associates — i.e., to take part with members freely in debate but without voting. The Assembly quorum is fifty members.

2. While members should bear in mind any opinions or concerns of their Congregations, Kirk Sessions or Presbyteries, neither ministers nor elders attend as "delegates", obliged to vote as instructed by any of these. The Assembly should be a gathering of fully responsible, free Christian men and women, always open to spiritual guidance and information on a Church-wide basis, not a device for counting up decisions already made elsewhere.

3. **The Moderator** is chairman of the Assembly, in charge of proceedings, but he should not take sides in debates. **Former Moderators** may deputise from time to time at his request, should he wish to take part in debate or to withdraw from the House. When the Moderator rises to speak at any point all other members must yield to the Chair. Members should stand when the Moderator enters or leaves at the beginning or end of proceedings. Members may enter or leave at any time during proceedings, but should do so with as little disturbance as possible. It is a courtesy in so doing to give a slight bow to the Chair.

4. With the changing composition of the Assembly the recommended form of address to the House is simply "Moderator" (not "Mr." Moderator, etc.). Speakers should face towards the House and the microphones, not towards the Moderator.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

5. **Work for which the Assembly** is responsible is generally entrusted to various permanent or temporary (“ad hoc”) committees. These must each present a report to the Assembly. Working Committees concerned with related matters are grouped under a supervising Board. A Commission of Assembly is a committee entrusted with the executive powers of the Assembly, within the terms of its appointment. Members of committees, etc., are appointed by the Assembly on the nomination of various bodies and have a Convener (i.e., executive secretary, in Irish usage) in charge.

6. **Reports.** While the Assembly is obliged to “receive” the report of each committee, etc., it does not “adopt” or accept responsibility for the contents of any report. Reports carry only the authority of the committee concerned and not of the Assembly. If found too unsatisfactory, the report may be received and referred back. Any matter to which the Assembly is to be committed must be stated in a specific resolution. Resolutions should be kept to conclusions, rather than include arguments in support such as are appropriate to speeches. Similarly, speeches in the Assembly carry the authority only of the speaker.

7. Reports, together with any appended resolutions, are first of all “presented”, usually by a Board or Committee Convener. There is then an opportunity for **questions** to be asked. These should quite strictly be asked only for further information or explanation, whether of something in the report or not in the report but for which the Board, etc., carries responsibility; they should not be rhetorical or debating “questions”, to score a point.

8. **Questions**, which should be written out and placed in the box provided in good time, will normally be limited to two per person and ten minutes in all, unless the Moderator judge that a particular subject merits an extension of these limits.

9. After Questions, the presenter of the report formally proposes the appended resolutions in block and another person seconds, with a speech taking up any other aspects requiring treatment.

10. **The Resolutions** are then taken in succession. The first of these is always “that the report be received”. This is the point where members may discuss (not ask questions about) any matters in the report or for which the Board, etc., should bear responsibility, but which do not arise under any subsequent resolution.

11. Unless otherwise arranged, speeches are limited as follows:—

Presenting a group of reports and resolutions 10 minutes

Seconding a group of reports and resolutions 7 minutes

All other speeches 5 minutes

If lapsed business accumulates, the normal abbreviated timings are as follows:—

Proposing a group of Reports – 10 minutes reduced to 7

Seconding a group of Reports – 7 minutes reduced to 5

Other speeches – 5 minutes reduced to 3.

A flickering light is given 1 minute before the end, a steady light at 30 seconds and a buzz when the time is up. Before commencing, speakers should announce their name and congregation, or for Women’s and Youth representatives, their name and Presbytery. Apart from the proposer (or alternatively the seconder) having the right to speak again in closing the debate, no one may speak twice in debating any one resolution or amendment, except to clarify some misunderstanding.

12. Resolutions are called by number. Those wishing to speak should at once come forward, or otherwise indicate their desire to speak.

13. **Amendments** may be moved without prior notice by any member so as to change the terms of a resolution with its general scope but not so as to introduce another subject. Before debating proceeds the amendment should be given in writing to the Clerk’s desk. Any amendments previously received and licensed by the Business Board, however, have precedence. At least one day’s notice must be given of an amendment which would substantially affect the scope of a motion or overture. A plea for the outright rejection of a resolution is not an amendment.

14. An amendment, if seconded, must be dealt with before further debate on the original resolution or consideration of any further amendment. If passed, the

amendment is then put as a substantive motion, when one more amendment may be considered. If the first two amendments are rejected, one more amendment may be considered before reverting to the original resolution.

15. **Additional resolutions**, concerning some matters not covered by an existing resolution, may be submitted by any member or associate as notice of motion for license. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, these should be received by the Clerk at least one week before the Assembly. Resolutions rescinding or reversing a previous decision of the Assembly require notice of motion to be first given and accepted at the preceding annual meeting. Those invited to sit and deliberate may “present” resolutions or amendments in the usual way, but these must be formally proposed and seconded by a member of Assembly before being debated.

16. In the “**Alternative**” format each Board is given 35 minutes for a “Presentation”, including not only the proposing and seconding of the Report but the introduction of guests, the showing of videos, etc as may be desired. Outside speakers require the permission of the Business Board. Assembly questions for clarification then follow, and finally the resolutions. The speeches of the proposer and seconder, and any comments from committee conveners, should all be included in the allotted period of time, and these officebearers should not speak again (except on a point of clarification or to close the debate on a resolution) otherwise the report is liable to overrun and cause business to lapse.

17. **Voting** may be by voice, when the Moderator calls for those in favour to say “Aye” and those against to say “No”, or by a standing vote to be counted by tellers; or by ballot, asked for by not fewer than twenty-five members or, at the discretion of the Moderator, by the showing of voting tickets, to be counted by tellers. Proxy voting for an absent member is not allowed. A member may intimate his personal dissent or protest against any decision immediately after it has been pronounced, but does not thereby free himself from obligation loyally to implement the decision taken.

18. An “**Overture**” is a proposal for a change in the “Code”, or law of the Church’s Constitution and Government. Changes in rules, of which notice has been given in the

printed Reports, may be adopted forthwith if approved by a two-thirds majority, or without such notice if approved nem. con. If approved by a lesser majority, it is "placed on the books", to be decided at the following Assembly. This applies also to rules governing the Central Ministry Fund and other Ministry Funds. In the Basic Code, where immediate operation is desirable, the change may be adopted temporarily during the intervening year as an "interim act". If an overture contemplates a constitutional change it must also be sent down to Presbyteries to be voted on during the intervening year.

19. A "**Memorial**" is a petition to the Assembly, usually from some person or body who is not a member of Assembly, such as a subordinate court of the Church, a Church member or group of members, or persons unconnected with the Church. Procedures and forms are laid down by which the circumstances of the Memorial are outlined and a definite request or "prayer" is stated. A Memorial is also the procedure by which someone, whether member of the Assembly or not, asks for exemption from some Church rule on the plea of special circumstances.

NOTES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND ACCOUNTS 2000 — PREFACE

A preface to the Accounts is submitted herewith.

This takes the form of a memorandum Central Income and Expenditure Account and a graphical illustration in relation to this Income and Expenditure.

This Income and Expenditure does not form part of the Audited Accounts of the Church.

1999 Column is period to 31 December 1999.

2000 Column is year to 31 December 2000.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

	Grand Total		Contributions from Congregations		Congregational Assessments		United Appeal	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
General Board	80	25	4	4	—	—	22	21
Business Board	13	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communications Board	458	349	—	—	—	—	170	150
Inter-Church Relations	434	461	421	446	—	—	—	—
Overseas Board — Designated	655	455	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overseas Board — Others	1,271	1,218	16	8	—	—	820	785
Home Board	725	820	43	61	8	4	475	505
Social Witness Board	4,856	4,444	12	9	—	—	192	169
Evangelism & Christian Training	545	609	14	8	—	—	295	305
Youth Board	563	435	—	—	—	—	223	226
Education Board	323	239	—	—	—	—	190	155
Board of Studies	836	1,062	73	49	—	—	279	327
Finance & Administration	989	1,330	—	—	439	952	—	—
United Appeal	381	364	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ministry & Pensions	4,388	3,951	—	—	3,153	3,121	—	—
Presbyterian Women's Association	1,050	821	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sundry Other	331	346	272	298	—	—	—	—
Grand Total	17,898	16,938	855	883	3,600	4,077	2,666	2,643

EXPENDITURE

	Grand Total		Employee and Ministry Costs		Printing Stationery, etc		Administration	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
General Board	75	13	70	11	—	1	2	1
Business Board	12	10	—	—	12	9	1	1
Communications Board	410	350	108	103	257	207	43	40
Inter-Church Relations	430	386	—	—	9	9	1	1
Overseas Board — Designated	693	386	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overseas Board — Others	1,594	1,251	143	113	49	19	84	86
Home Board	487	644	88	89	11	9	94	81
Social Witness Board	4,437	4,245	2,725	2,566	492	431	46	107
Evangelism & Christian Training	679	540	321	323	82	47	23	34
Youth Board	509	450	151	141	87	67	38	36
Education Board	311	311	158	131	30	26	16	32
Board of Studies	856	712	393	348	194	162	14	7
Finance & Administration	1,441	1,178	569	496	321	191	164	145
United Appeal	33	9	—	—	33	9	—	—
Ministry & Pensions	3,852	3,561	3,349	3,292	25	14	201	188
Presbyterian Women's Association	679	891	505	678	59	58	48	45
Sundry Other	319	318	—	—	—	—	1	1
Grand Total	16,817	15,255	8,580	8,291	1,660	1,259	775	805

— MEMORANDUM CENTRAL INCOME

2000 Per Board £000's

Trust, Investment Income and Bank Interest		Rental Income (net)		Donations and Bequests		Loan Repayments		Sales: Periodicals & Property		Grants and Fees	
2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	9
-12	-10	—	—	—	3	—	—	299	206	—	—
9	9	—	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	23	—	—	635	432	—	—	—	—	—	—
166	149	—	—	270	276	—	—	—	—	—	—
133	97	12	11	41	86	13	56	—	—	—	—
133	242	3,106	3,003	197	246	0	111	847	292	369	372
12	18	—	—	125	179	—	—	99	99	—	—
5	8	74	62	202	70	—	—	—	—	58	69
8	4	—	—	94	68	—	—	-2	3	33	9
284	271	6	7	35	33	—	—	—	251	159	124
17	-38	376	382	50	14	—	—	13	20	94	—
370	364	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
930	798	17	—	88	32	183	—	17	—	—	—
98	81	—	—	889	673	—	—	63	67	—	—
15	14	—	—	—	—	34	34	—	—	10	—
<u>2,189</u>	<u>2,030</u>	<u>3,592</u>	<u>3,465</u>	<u>2,641</u>	<u>2,118</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>1,336</u>	<u>938</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>583</u>

Travel Expenses etc		Building Costs		Upkeep of Property		Loans Issued		Home and Over- seas Projects and Grants		Missionaries Field Costs	
2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	420	376	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	693	386	—	—
10	13	25	24	—	—	—	—	254	226	1,029	770
—	—	18	7	16	311	12	14	247	133	—	—
28	31	764	749	368	196	—	160	16	5	—	—
69	42	14	47	102	—	—	—	15	1	54	46
—	6	46	46	10	12	—	—	177	142	—	—
10	9	28	23	—	—	—	—	69	90	—	—
2	8	111	48	—	—	—	—	143	139	—	—
27	48	227	206	—	—	—	—	133	92	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56	65	23	—	76	—	120	—	2	2	—	—
24	15	6	7	—	—	—	—	36	88	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	28	25	290	292	—	—
<u>226</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>1,262</u>	<u>1,157</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,972</u>	<u>1,082</u>	<u>816</u>

REPORTS: JUNE, 2001

BELFAST

GENERAL BOARD

Convener: THE CLERK

1. The General Board has the responsibility of dealing with issues affecting the public interest or the general work of the Church, issuing statements and also supervising the work of some of the General Assembly's most senior committees. The following pages will indicate how the Board has discharged these duties during the last year.

2. A living Church, like any organism, should be capable of adapting to changes in its environment, while always preserving its essential nature. Reports on the gradual modification of our central Board and Committee structure, the proposed transformation of the procedure for Presbytery Visitations of congregations (now to be known as "Consultations") and the Overview of Funding show that serious thought is being given to the question of how the Church can best maintain an effective witness in the twenty-first century.

3. As many reports in this edition of the Blue Book demonstrate, the Church's witness includes a Christian concern for those in any kind of need. The reports of the Chaplains Committee and the Forces Committee reveal how they are ministering to those who are away from their home environment, while the reports of the Conciliation Panel and the Committee on Peace and Peacemaking illustrate how they are trying to restore harmony in any situations of tension within congregations and to promote peace in the wider community.

4. It was with deep regret that the Board heard of the death of two of its former members, Mr R W Jess, the retired Financial Secretary, and Very Rev Dr A J Weir, Clerk Emeritus of the General Assembly. Fuller tributes will be found elsewhere in this volume of reports, but the General Board would also record its appreciation of the service they gave and its sympathy to those who mourn.

Resignation

5. The Chaplains Committee received, with regret, the intimation that Mr John Scott has to lighten his load of responsibilities and will tender his resignation from the Convenership of the Committee to this Assembly.

6. His years saw the closure of the Maze Prison, with the consequent partial redundancy of our chaplain, and the appointment of two full-time hospital chaplains in the City and the Royal Victoria Hospitals.

7. Mr Scott was well suited to this Convenership. As the former principal of a successful secondary school, his administrative skills and person management proved invaluable in negotiations and one-to-one situations. He

already had experience of the prison service though his Chairmanship of a Board of Prison Visitors and quickly imported the totality of his experience into the hospital side of the job. He showed outstanding ability to work with the Northern Ireland Office, with Health Trusts and Presbyteries but never lost his Christian concern and compassion for the chaplains and those among whom they ministered.

8. We record our grateful appreciation to him for all that he achieved.

Elders As Clerks Of Presbytery

9. Last Assembly resolved "That legislation be prepared for next Assembly to permit a ruling elder or minister without charge who is appointed as Clerk of Presbytery to be an ex officio member of Presbytery while holding office."

10. An overture anent Par 97(h) of the Code is appended to ensure that any Clerks of Presbytery in this category would be ex officio members of the General Assembly. They would then become members of Presbytery and Synod under the existing provisions of Pars 61(h) and 86 of the Code. This overture, together with an amendment to Par 65(2), would seem to be the simplest way of effecting the necessary change.

11. However, as these proposals affect the membership of Church courts, Barrier Act procedure will be required. It is therefore proposed that the Assembly of 2001 receive the overtures and place them on the books with a view to enactment in 2002.

12. While last year's report to Assembly dealt only with Clerks of Presbytery it seems reasonable to include Clerks of Synod and the overtures have been worded accordingly.

Calls

13. At its October meeting the General Board issued a Call to Rev J H Wilson to serve as Chaplain in the Royal Group of Hospitals, and a Call to Rev F W Vincent to serve as Chaplain in the Northern Ireland Hospice.

Nomination Board

14. The Nomination Board was required to make nominations to the 2001 General Assembly for two posts:

- (i) Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly; and
- (ii) Secretary-Designate of the Overseas Board.

15. Under the provisions of Par 276(1) of the Code four specialists, as determined by the General Board, were added to the Nomination Board for each post.

16. Specialists for the post of Clerk-Designate were added as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Board of Finance and Administration | 1 Representative |
| Trustees | 1 Representative |
| General Board | 2 Representatives |

17. The General Board's specialists on the Nomination Board for the Post of Clerk-Designate were Rev R J T McMullan and Very Rev Dr A W G Brown.

18. Specialists for the post of Overseas Board Secretary-Designate were added to the Nomination Board as follows:

Board of Finance and Administration	1 place
Overseas Board	3 places

Business Board

19. At a meeting of the General Board on 1 March approval was given under the provisions of Par 286(4)(b)(ii) of the Code to the proposals of the Business Board for the appointment of the following delegates to Churches abroad:

- to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA – Rev Robert Herron (Convener, Inter-Church Relations Board);
- to the Centenary Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia – Rev R F S Poots (Deputy Clerk);
- to the Synod of L'Eglise Réformée de France – Mrs Maureen Patterson (Convener, Europe and Middle East Committee).

20. It was further agreed that the Business Board should be empowered to make an annual appointment of a delegate to the French Synod.

GENERAL BOARD STATEMENTS

During the year the Board issued statements as follows:

General Board Resolutions 12 October 2000

1. The General Board believes that it is better to co-operate politically, to do things together and sustain negotiated agreements than to pursue our ends without regard for the legitimate fears and concerns of others.
2. The General Board extends its prayerful good wishes to members of the Civic Forum and thanks them for their willingness to serve the community.

General Board Resolutions 1 March 2001

1. That the General Board calls for the new Police Board to be brought into operation without further delay and calls upon people to apply for membership of the new Police Service of Northern Ireland.
2. That the General Board calls upon all paramilitary groups to dispose of all their weapons in a complete and verifiable way so that confidence is engendered.
3. That the General Board condemns the paramilitary attacks on the Belfast-Dublin railway, on Ebrington Barracks and the pipe bomb attacks on people's homes.
4. That the General Board thanks the Rt Hon Peter Mandelson for his work, and conveys its good wishes to Dr John Reid and calls upon the Church to offer prayer for him.
5. That the General Board, conscious of the needs of victims of the troubles, welcomes the significant additional funding being provided by the government.

General Board Resolutions 5 April 2001

1. That representations be made to the appropriate authorities in Northern Ireland in the matter of the comprehensive review of rating policy.

2. That congregations be asked to use Palm Sunday 8 April, 2001 as a special day of prayer for members of the farming community, government ministers, officials and veterinary surgeons in the Departments of Agriculture, businesses associated with the farming industry and those involved in tourism, that God may grant wisdom to those who must take difficult decisions and grace and encouragement to those who are anxious and distressed by what is happening to them, their families and their livelihoods as well as their livestock, their farms and businesses.

PANEL ON THE OVERVIEW OF FUNDING

1. During the year the Panel on the Overview of Funding approved five applications for new posts not requiring additional funding from central Church funds. These were Addiction and Education Secretary, Nightlight Development Officer, Assistant Residential Services Manager, Youth Board Programme Officer (two years) and Derryvolgie Development Officer (one year).

2. On the recommendation of the Panel the General Board asked the Overseas Board, the Youth Board, the Home Mission, Church Extension, the Irish Mission, the Board of Social Witness and the Presbyterian Residential Trust to submit five-year business plans.

3. The Panel noted that the sale next year of the manse occupied by the Overseas Board's Secretary would, inter alia, raise capital to cover the cost of an additional senior administrative post in the Overseas Office, which is accepted as necessary. The Panel commended the initiative of the Youth Board in seeking funding from government grants and various outside trusts.

4. The Panel made the general point that there may be more than one way of carrying out a project, eg accommodation for a minister or for a worship centre might be rented for a time until increasing numbers clearly justify buying or building property. Boards and agencies are encouraged to consider such alternatives before embarking on major capital expenditure. The mere fact that funds happen to be available does not necessarily mean that they should be spent on the first project that may be suggested.

5. The preparation of these five year business plans proved to be a worthwhile experience, as it helped the agencies concerned to think through their future plans and possible cash flow, and also enabled the Panel to begin taking an overview of likely needs and commitments in the medium-term future. We are therefore submitting a resolution to the Assembly asking four more agencies, the College and Magee Management Committee, the Education Board, the Shankill Road Mission and the Board of Communications, to submit similar five year plans to the Panel by the end of September. In view of the long summer break these agencies were advised of this request in April so that they could begin work on their plans in good time.

6. All agencies and/or their supervising Boards are also encouraged to prioritise their work, eg the new Board of Mission in Ireland is asked to prioritise the claim of the agencies it supervises, the Home Mission, the Irish Mission and

Church Extension, in the light of perceived needs and opportunities and the limited resources available.

7. However, the question of prioritising our work is an issue, not just for particular Boards, but for the Church as a whole. The Panel has therefore prepared an initial study paper, which is reprinted here as the Appendix.

Appendix

Towards Prioritising the Central Work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

A The Task in Hand

1. At central level :
 - 1.1 There is a need to draw up overall central priorities for PCI, which will then be reflected in the broad allocation of funding.
 - 1.2 There is a need to produce a strategy for the appraisal of proposals at central level, which will reflect these overall PCI priorities.
2. At Board level :
 - 2.1 There is a need for the major spending Boards of the Church to broadly prioritise within their own spheres of work.
 - 2.2 There is a need for the major spending Boards to have a strategy for the appraisal of proposals within their own spheres of work, in the light of their internal priorities.

B The Way Ahead

1. It is recommended that an ad hoc Committee on Priorities be established at the General Assembly in June 2001. It is envisaged that it will remain in being for one year, or at the most two.
2. The ad hoc Committee on Priorities to :
 - 2.1 Ascertain from the major spending Boards of the Church their broad priorities. This will be with reference to their 5 year Business Plans, perhaps slightly amended in some cases, and by discussions with representatives of each major spending Board. (To be completed by end of November 2001)
 - 2.2 Draw up a report on the central priorities for PCI to be presented to the June 2002 Assembly, taking account of the views of the major spending Boards of the Church. (To be ready by mid-March 2002, for inclusion in the 2002 Assembly Reports)

3. The major Boards of the Church to :
 - 3.1 Co-operate with the ad hoc Committee in the above, specifically prioritising both their existing work and envisaged new proposals, where this has not been done.
(To be completed by end of November 2001)
 - 3.2 On an ongoing basis, internally prioritise all new proposals in the light of the stated priorities of both PCI, (once agreed), and the individual Board. To facilitate this, an 'Appraisal Checklist' and accompanying 'Guidance on Completion' notes will be provided to each relevant Board.

4. The Panel on Overview of Funding to :
 - 4.1 Draw up an 'Appraisal Checklist' and accompanying 'Guidance on Completion' notes, both for use by individual Boards and for use by the Panel itself. (To be ready by June 2001)
 - 4.2 In the light of the PCI's priorities, use the 'Appraisal Checklist' and accompanying 'Guidance on Completion' notes to begin to ensure that central funding reflects the PCI's priorities.
 - 4.3 Use the 'Appraisal Checklist' and accompanying 'Guidance on Completion' notes to prioritise, on an ongoing basis, all new proposals coming from Boards.

[For the purposes of the above, the major spending Boards of the Church are defined as follows :

Overseas Board, Board of Mission in Ireland, Board of Social Witness, Youth Board, Communications Board, Board of Studies and Christian Training, Board of Education, Board of Finance & Administration and the Shankill Road Mission Commission.]

PANEL ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. During the year the Panel on Boards and Committees compared our structures with those of other Reformed Churches of roughly comparable size, such as the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, and found all to be broadly similar, with an annual General Assembly, plus eg a Board of National Mission, a Board of World Mission, a Board of Social Responsibility, etc and various subordinate committees. Our basic structure is therefore in line with those elsewhere, the main difference being that the number of people involved in our central structures is significantly higher. If travelling time is taken into account, the number of person-hours taken up with this operation must run into tens of thousands every year, the equivalent of several ministers.

2. However, with many parish ministers and other busy people involved, it is unlikely that attendance on any occasion will exceed 75%, even for important meetings, so membership should not be pruned too severely. We are happy to report that the General Board, which shed 30% of its membership in 1996, continues to function satisfactorily. If attendance at a Board or

Committee is consistently poor, that may be an indication that the body concerned has outlived its usefulness.

3. Our Boards could be divided into three main types:
 - (i) those that perform a special or technical function for the Assembly, such as the Judicial Commission, the Business Board, the Nomination Board or the Commission on Trusts; taking into account what has been said above about the attendance levels that can be expected, they are probably best left much as they are;
 - (ii) the primary “Mission” Boards, such as the Overseas Board, the Board of Mission in Ireland or the Board of Social Witness, together with a few committees (eg Forces) located elsewhere. (Several other Boards could fairly claim that they are also involved in mission). It is proper that the three “Mission” Boards should have a larger than average membership, especially as part of a Board’s task is to disseminate information about the Church’s work and to seek prayer and finance for it;
 - (iii) the Boards that provide support for the Church’s mission and general work, such as the United Appeal Board, the Board of Finance and Administration or the Board of Ministry and Pensions.

4. Other points worth making are as follows.

- (i) The Mission Statement 1992 provided PCI with a clear statement of its purpose. As far as practical the structure of PCI should facilitate the action orientated elements of that Mission.
- (ii) The speed with which change occurs today necessitates having a very responsive structure.
- (iii) The degree of change, including legislative change at a European, national and provincial level and social change, such as secularisation, requires a Church with a clear authoritative voice and the ability to participate in national and international debate, and the structure needs to facilitate the exercise of the Church’s voice.
- (iv) The Mission of PCI, as far as possible, needs to be carried out through its individual members, congregations and presbyteries, and the central structure should encourage, co-ordinate and help to resource the efforts while (a) ensuring that no important area of the Mission is neglected and (b) taking the responsibility for those elements that can be most effectively carried out at the centre.
- (v) There is a need to use effectively the human, property and financial resources of the Church.

5. Our Boards and Committees are an integral part of our Church’s decision-making process, which would normally follow some such sequence as the following.

- (i) Full-time Board Secretaries and honorary Conveners have the knowledge, vision and enthusiasm to identify needs in a changing situation and to provide the necessary ideas and leadership.
- (ii) These leaders confer with the relevant Committees, sub-Committees or panels, which should include people with relevant expertise.
- (iii) These subordinate bodies then report to their supervising Board, which should have a substantial “democratic” representation from the

wider Church. Boards were designed to function as mini-Assemblies rather than maxi-Committees. Some criticisms made of Boards in the past may have failed to recognise that point.

- (iv) The annual General Assembly remains the final and supreme decision-making body, especially on broad policy issues.

6. At the lower levels in this system meetings could be fairly frequent in number and small in size. Higher up the meetings will be less frequent but much larger in size.

7. Some Boards and Committees are now finding that two meetings per year are sufficient, especially as the February and Easter meetings come rather close together. The bringing forward of the autumn meetings by two weeks has proved popular and helps to shorten the long summer gap. A few Boards have special additional meetings or an occasional special format (eg a conference) to meet particular requirements.

8. In this situation Board Standing Committees can have a useful function as a Business Committee in undertaking tasks remitted to them by the Board (eg nominating a new Convener) and dealing with urgent non-controversial business arising between Boards. It is not advisable to continually call special meetings of large Boards or to leave Conveners to take decisions on their own. However, a Standing Committee should not take the place of a duly appointed Assembly committee which has a remit to deal with the matter in question.

9. The Panel is aware that some would like to see “radical” changes in the Board and Committee structure, but also realises that others can become defensive if they think that drastic changes (or any changes) are going to be imposed on them. The Panel therefore prefers changes that are voluntary and gradual. It thanks the Board of Social Witness for reducing its infrastructure of committees and sub-committees from 18 to 10. The status of two committees elsewhere is also under active consideration.

10. Changes are taking place. The new Board of Mission in Ireland, created by the union of two Boards, is a vibrant body that is functioning well, though it will obviously take a little time for the integration process to be completed. In other places we have been able to “cut out the middle man” by eliminating eg the (Assembly-level) Committees on Statistics, Getty Bequest and Assignment, though in all cases the work still goes on.

11. There is evidence of an increasing desire in the Church for an examination of the role and functions of the Synods in the 21st century, and the matter is likely to be raised in the General Assembly, a move which the Panel would support. Any such review could also include the question of whether the formal annual meetings of the two “historic” Synods during the Assembly now serve any useful purpose. The (ecclesiastical) “Act of Union” 1840 gives the historic Synods the “right” to meet, but imposes no duty to do so, and limits their authority to “temporalities”. The Regium Donum continued 1840-1870, when it ended, thus removing the main reason for the continuance of these Synod meetings after the union.

12. One matter that has come to the Panel’s attention is that certain honorary convenerships can be exceptionally heavy, and the demands on time

considerable, especially if the convener lives at a distance from Belfast. The Panel therefore offers the following suggestions.

- (i) A “Secretary” might be appointed (other than the full-time Board Secretary or administrative staff) who could deal with minutes, ordinary correspondence and other routine matters, thus freeing the Convener to deal with the big issues. This already happens in eg the Union Commission.
- (ii) A heavy convenership might be limited to five years rather than seven. Exhausted conveners are not likely to give of their best.
- (iii) Money might be made available to supply secretarial help (especially if there is no office in Church House with particular responsibility in that area) or to provide a measure of ministerial assistance in the congregation, who may otherwise feel that they are, in effect, subsidising the work of an Assembly Board or Committee. The task of listing (and de-listing) heavy convenerships might be entrusted to the General Board on the advice of the Panel.

13. The Panel hopes that the quiet process of gradual change will continue harmoniously and that the momentum will not be lost, so that our Church will have a central administrative structure suited to the needs of the 21st century.

14. Following the amalgamation of the Home Board with the Board of Christian Training and Evangelism an overture is submitted to bring the wording of Par 250(4) of the Code up to date.

CONCILIATION PANEL

Rev R F S Poots reports:

1. During the past year there was a slight increase in the number of requests from congregations for assistance on the two received in the previous twelve months.

2. The Panel remains committed to the task, not only of training and providing competent conciliators to assist as needs arise, but also of seeking to spread an ethos of conciliation through the Church as part of the Church’s witness to the demands and outworking of the gospel, particularly at congregational level.

3. At the request of the Panel, the Rev James Clarke has begun to increase awareness about its work among Presbyteries and to explain the process of conciliation as that of assisting disputants to work out their differences through a series of controlled meetings and not, as it is sometimes perceived, of going in to settle disputes in a judicial or authoritarian manner.

4. The Panel is willing to provide ‘taster’ sessions for Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and other groups which are intended to be informational, showing at first hand how conciliation is actually carried out, and educational, showing that it can be effective. A number of studies which would be of interest to Kirk Sessions and others is under consideration.

5. Lessons on conciliation are now included in the Practical Theology course of students for the ministry and a significant number of ministers have received training through the Mediation Network, an organisation to which the

Church remains indebted for the guidance and active help it provides. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of similar instruction in the training of new elders in order to better equip them as they undertake responsibility for the oversight of congregations. It is also the aim of the Panel to see at least two well-equipped conciliators in every Presbytery area who could respond quickly to invitations as local difficulties arise.

PRESBYTERY VISITATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Rev J I Davey reports:

1. This Committee was established in 1995 as a result of a Memorial from the Dromore Presbytery, expressing growing dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of Presbytery Visitations. This happily coincided with recommendations from the Strategy for Mission Committee along the same lines.

2. The initial desire to update the present questionnaires was abandoned in favour of a more radical scheme.

3. Accordingly, after consultation with other Presbyterian Churches throughout the world, a scheme has been created in which congregations are encouraged to analyse their own life under 5 main headings: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, mission. Short query sheets, with 4-7 questions on each topic, are provided to help in this. Also, members of Presbytery are made available on a consultative basis to help the congregation use this analysis as a constructive base for future action.

4. There has been a good deal of discussion about the best name for the new process. The Committee has finally opted for 'consultation' as reflecting the help and encouragement given as an expression of the Presbytery's care.

5. A major emphasis of this proposed new process is that the statistical Review of Resources should be separate from the Consultation. Matters such as buildings, finance, title deeds, historical records, Child Protection matters, Environment, etc are only important as resources for a congregation's life. We believe that sometimes these have even got in the way of analysing the most important aspects of congregation life, namely worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission. We are suggesting that a Standing Committee of each Presbytery might have the responsibility of undertaking such a Review of Resources.

6. It is envisaged that Consultations would best take place every 10 years, and a Review of Resources every 5 years, every second of which would parallel the Consultation.

7. Two years ago the General Assembly approved the implementation of pilot schemes throughout the Church. The Committee thanks most warmly those congregations in the Presbyteries of East Belfast, Coleraine, Dromore, and Monaghan who have participated in the pilot scheme for the new process. We are pleased to note that these Presbyteries are continuing to use the new process, indicating that it has found general favour and acceptance. The following are some of the comments: "Much better than the previous system"; "The focus on the five key areas is a big improvement"; "Members of the congregation felt involved in the process".

8. The main work over the last year has been to take the suggestions arising from the pilot scheme in these varied congregations and use these to fine-tune the process. The focus of these has mainly been at the beginning and end of the process. Again we are grateful to those who have taken time to forward their suggestions.

9. Having received the approval of the General Board, we now ask the Assembly to recommend to Presbyteries that the new scheme be introduced throughout the Church. A resolution is appended to have it introduced from January 2002.

10. In order for the new consultation process to be successful those who will be involved as consultants from the Presbytery level will require training. Accordingly, we envisage that this training will be provided during autumn 2001, in a number of centres, with perhaps two or three Presbyteries coming together. Written guidelines will be issued, but more important will be an understanding of the nature of the process, which we expect can only be gained through the training session.

11. It is envisaged that Presbyteries will appoint a Consultation panel, from which the team for each Consultation will be drawn. This will include elders with abilities in this area, who are not necessarily representative elders. Thus a body of expertise should be build up in each Presbytery.

INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN IRELAND

1. The Inter-Church Committee on Northern Ireland met on 2 and 3 November.

2. The speaker at the first session was the Victims Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, who explained the origins and remit of the Commission and its present activities.

3. The theme of the second session was "The Role of the Churches in Public Life". Various speakers addressed the Committee on the differing approaches of churches in Northern Ireland and the USA.

4. The third session was devoted to routine business. The recent Summer Institute ("Study Tour") was adjudged to have been very successful and another is planned for 2002.

5. The Business Education Initiative continues to function well. About 160 students from Northern Ireland and the Border Counties went to the USA during the last academic year, bringing the total to date to over 1,000.

6. The following resolutions were agreed.

- (i) That the Committee meet again in 2001.
- (ii) That the situation has changed and developed since the Committee was set up in 1990.
- (iii) That there is now less need for "Rev Tours".
- (iv) That the time has come to review the aims, membership and future of the Committee.
- (v) That the Heads of Delegations confer during the year on the above-mentioned matters.

CHURCH HOUSE STAFF

Very Rev Dr D H Allen reports:

1. In accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly last year (Mins 2000, page 56, resolutions 9 and 10) the General Board's ad hoc Committee on Church House Staff met three times last autumn and prepared a draft Job Description for the new Clerk, which was approved by the General Board at its meeting on 9 October as follows.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

CLERK OF ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL SECRETARY

INTRODUCTION

“The Presbyterian Church in Ireland,
as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ
is grounded in the Scriptures,
and exists to love and honour God
through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit,
and to enable her members to play their part
in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

God calls us to mission as witnesses to Christ
through both evangelism and social witness
challenging the values of the world in which we live
with the values of God's kingdom
and winning men and women to faith and discipleship.
This mission is to be pursued amongst all the people of Ireland
and the peoples of the European Community and the whole world:
those with whom we feel comfortable,
those from whom we feel alienated
and those who are in any way distant from us in culture and faith.”

(For the full text of the Church's Mission Statement see Reports 1992 pp89-90).

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (“the Church”) has an unchanging message but is operating in a rapidly changing and increasingly secular world with its membership numbers currently falling. It aims to present its message in a way that will be transparent, understandable and challenging to everyone.

It operates throughout Ireland with 557 congregations and has an extensive international involvement through its own personnel and through partnerships with churches and agencies overseas.

In Church House, Belfast 65 staff are employed to provide management and executive support for the Church's work. Over 500 staff work with various boards and agencies.

The stated officers of the Assembly are the Moderator (an annual appointment) and the Clerk, who also acts as General Secretary.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. (a) The Clerk/General Secretary is the Senior Full-time Officer of the General Assembly, appointed by the Assembly and 'continuing in office at its pleasure'. (Code Par 99).
Normal retirement date is 31 August following attainment of 65 years of age.
The Clerk is directly accountable to the General Assembly for the performance of the duties of the office. Note should also be taken of "the personnel management function" of the Board of Finance & Administration (Code Par 286).
- (b) As an officer of the General Assembly, the Clerk is expected to defend the constitution of the Church and to support its decisions, actions and programmes.
2. The Clerk is responsible for all matters relating to sessions of the Assembly and arising from the Assembly for which no other arrangements have been explicitly made. Duties include –
 - Co-operation with the Moderator and the Business Board to plan the overall programme for annual and special meetings of the Assembly, the monitoring of Assembly sessions to ensure that business proceeds in order and in accordance with the rules of the Church.
 - The preparation of the Annual Reports, the preparation and certification of Assembly Minutes, the preparation of an annual Directory of the Church.
 - Transmitting to relevant persons and bodies the resolutions of the Assembly regarding matters pertaining to their concerns.
3. (a) The Clerk shall act as an ex-officio member of all Assembly Boards, Committees, Sub-Committees and Commissions, with a watching brief for the co-ordination of policy and action and giving advice or intervening as required.
- (b) The Clerk is responsible for timetabling and calling the regular quarterly meetings of Boards and Committees.
- (c) The Clerk shall act as Convener and/or Secretary to the General Board, Business Board, Nomination Board, Judicial Commission, United Appeal Board, Board of Assembly Trustees and may be called upon to act as Convener and/or Secretary of certain committees etc.
4. (a) The Clerk shall supervise the work of the General Secretary's Office in Church House.
- (b) The Clerk of Assembly shall be responsible for interviewing and reporting on the programmes of all departments and agencies of the Church and shall receive from the Heads of Departments and/or representatives of the Departments and Agencies annually, their programmes and the rationale for, and the cost of these, including innovations regarding equipment, staffing etc. The Clerk shall report to the to the General Board and/or the

General Assembly on matters concerning the Church's programme of work as and when required.

- (c) The Clerk shall be one of the approved signatories in connection with the financial and documentary requirements of the Trustees, etc.
- (d) The Clerk shall be responsible for the certification of the expenses of Conveners and Committees not having their own accounts and shall make arrangements for the certification of travelling expenses of individuals to Boards and Committee meetings and the annual Assembly.
- (e) The Clerk shall be responsible with the Financial Secretary for documents etc, placed in the Muniment Room.

5. The Clerk, in consultation with the Moderator and other appropriate persons, shall contribute to the presentation of the General Assembly's policy positions, both to the public and within the Church.

6. The Clerk, so far as his conscience permits, shall represent the Church at national, international and ecumenical events and bodies, as from time to time appointed.

7. The Clerk shall be available by interview and correspondence to officials, ministers and members of the Church (and outsiders) on questions of Church law, procedure, policies and activities of the Church – also on personal and congregational difficulties.

8. The Clerk shall keep in contact with the Church at large through visits to Presbyteries, congregations, etc, and by deputation duties.

9. The Clerk shall conduct the general correspondence of the Church.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

The Clerk is expected to be an exemplar of the spiritual values of the Church and to provide the Church with

- leadership, vision, and management
- technical and doctrinal skills and advice
- sound judgement

in a discreet, conciliatory, encouraging and thoroughly spiritual manner.

The Clerk will also be expected to be the leader of the administrative staff, to whom he/she will provide the same services as to the Church. At the present time of significant change and challenge the Clerk will particularly be expected to contribute to policy formation and be an encourager, enabler and communicator of change in the structure and processes of the Church to ensure that God's mission can effectively be fulfilled in a God-honouring and scriptural way.

The Clerk will be expected to have a clear vision for the role of the Church in Ireland and in the wider world. The person appointed will have a deep personal faith in Christ, patience, adaptability, resilience and a sense of humour.

The Clerk will be a person who commands respect for the services he/she has already rendered to the Kingdom of God.

The qualities and skills sought for the post-holder will include:

- Christian commitment
- energy and enthusiasm

	Salary Scales are adjusted annually by the cost of living increase.
PENSION	Contributory Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (Employee's contribution 3.75%).
ANNUAL LEAVE	5 weeks plus statutory days.

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Deputy Clerkship

1. The ad hoc Committee met again on a number of occasions in the Spring to review the job-description for a Deputy Clerk of Assembly. It was agreed that the post will need readjustment in some areas. The review is ongoing and any further developments will be notified in Daily Minutes.

DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

1. The Doctrine Committee considered the responses to its initial report on Ministry at the 2000 General Assembly and decided to continue to develop its thinking in the light of those responses and its own research. It also decided to attempt to work out the practical results of the application of the principles enunciated in our report. It was realized that the amount of study and reflection needed to produce such a report precluded the possibility of the presentation of a final report for the June 2001 General Assembly but it is hoped to have it completed for presentation to the June 2002 Assembly. It was also realized that the presentation of a final report should only be the start of a period of discussion, reflection, study and perhaps painful adjustment of our practices in the light of a careful study of the Scriptures.

J C McCULLOUGH, Convener

FORCES COMMITTEE

1. The aims and objectives of the Forces Committee may be summed up as follows:

- (i) To provide a point of contact for members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland serving with the Armed Forces and
- (ii) Keeping the work of our chaplains in the mind of our church. In every meaningful sense of the word our chaplains are called to be missionaries in an environment that is profoundly secular in its orientation.

2. Our Church has five full-time commissioned chaplains serving with the regular Forces. At a time of considerable change within the Armed Forces it is satisfying to note that there is a continuing necessity for chaplains to meet the spiritual needs of the men and women who serve in the Forces. There are currently vacancies for chaplains to the Army, while the Royal Navy have

recently indicated that there are vacancies for one and possibly two new chaplains within their ranks.

3. A number of our ministers serve as chaplains to the Territorial Army and the Army Cadet Force or as Officiating Chaplains to the various Garrisons around Northern Ireland. They provide a valuable part-time service and frequently come into contact with men and women who have little regular contact with the Christian Church. We record our appreciation for the work which they carry out willingly in spite of often busy schedules within their congregations. With the continuing demands on the Regular Army we have seen increasing use of members of the Territorial Army, including chaplains, serving with Regular units in places such as Bosnia for periods of up to six months. None of our TA chaplains has so far been deployed in such fashion, but the possibility remains for service just the same.

4. The Rev Terry Maze, RN, continues in his role as Principal Chaplain (Church of Scotland and Free Churches), Portsmouth. In addition to the considerable administrative responsibilities that go with this post he has the pastoral care of the 18 CSFC Naval chaplains and maintains contact with the various representative boards and committees of all the sending churches in the UK. Among the highlights of his year are a study undertaken on developing the provision of chaplaincy care for the major UK-based non-Christian faith groups. The fact that such a study was regarded as necessary indicates just how religiously diverse our nation has become over recent years. A major reorganisation is also underway to prioritise the needs of the Fleet. From a chaplaincy point of view this will result in an increasingly high profile, that every ship on a directed task will carry its own chaplain who will join for the build up, remain for the full deployment and only leave when the ship returns home. Mr Maze writes: "This increase will mean that over 50% of our chaplains will be working in front line appointments."

5. We have two full-time regular chaplains in the Army. The Rev Norman McDowell continues to serve in Fallingbostal with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. In the summer he will deploy with his battalion to Kosovo, a work that will prove both challenging and stimulating, especially as he ministers to soldiers coping with all the usual problems of separation from loved ones. The Rev Philip Patterson has recently completed his tour of duty with the Royal Artillery in Gutersloh and is now posted to Palace Barracks, Hollywood to serve as chaplain to the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who are here for a two year residential tour of duty.

6. Rev David Edgar has, since summer 2000, been stationed at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. This location remains as one of the few sunshine postings for our chaplains and he continues to find his ministry there rewarding. The Rev Jonathan Wylie continues into his first posting with the RAF, having successfully completed all the phases of his induction training.

7. One of the encouraging features of the work of this Committee is to observe the value and appreciation given to the skilled and highly professional work of our Forces Chaplains. The importance of their ministry has been recognised by recent studies done by the Army. Over the next three years the Royal Army Chaplains Department have been given clearance to recruit a further 50 chaplains, thus enabling each major unit to have its own Padre when

they deploy on operational tours. A website has been developed by the RACHd to encourage ministers from all the “sending churches” to consider the challenges and opportunities of this ministry. This site can be viewed at <http://www.Armychaplains.com>

8. One of the challenges of serving as a minister in the Forces is that of working in a mixed faith environment, where people may profess to be anything from practising Christian to atheist. A further complicating factor for our chaplains is the existence of members of other faith communities to whom we must also minister with integrity. Over the years of our involvement in the Balkans requests have come in, for example, for special memorial services at the end of tours of duty involving Muslim and Christian elements. Clearly our chaplains need guidelines to help them deal with the special problems associated with such requests. The Committee is giving thought to these questions and is in contact with other sending churches so that they can be addressed constructively.

9. The Forces Committee seeks to encourage all our chaplains in their work and it also commends those organisations which frequently supplement their work and provide additional support during hard and difficult times. The work of the Sandes Homes, the Officers Christian Union, the Soldiers and Airmen’s Scripture Readers Association, the Naval, Military and Air Force Bible Society all deserve our prayerful and practical support.

10. Each year the Royal British Legion, the Royal Air Force “Wings Appeal” and the Royal Irish/UDR Benevolent Fund seek our support. We bring these worthy causes before the General Assembly once again in our resolutions. Our congregations have in the past supported these funds with great generosity and the Committee hopes that this support will continue.

S W van OS, Convener

CHAPLAINS COMMITTEE

1. The Chaplains Committee has met on four occasions since last Assembly and continues to co-ordinate, monitor, and support the work of our Hospital and Prison Chaplains.

2. Within the Health Service a number of our Chaplains have retired during the last year, some after many years of devoted Hospital Chaplaincy work. We thank all of them for jobs well done, their wise counsel, and caring influence. We extend a warm welcome to those who have been appointed to fill the vacancies.

3. The Committee was delighted to learn of the appointment of Rev Henry Wilson as full-time Presbyterian Chaplain at the Royal Group of Hospitals, and of Rev Fred Vincent as Senior Chaplain at the NI Hospice.

4. We again acknowledge the devoted and resolute ministry of part-time Hospital Chaplains and those Deaconesses who work alongside them. Despite the difficulties and frustrations of working, often in stressful environments, they continue to provide an essential service to members of our church, visitors and hospital staff.

5. Our full and part-time Chaplains working in the Prison system continue to provide a vital service to those living and working in HMP's Maghaberry, Magilligan, and Hydebank YOC.

A wide-ranging review of Chaplaincy work is currently being undertaken by the Prison Service, primarily as a result of the closure of HMP Maze. The Review's recommendations are likely to cover such topics as a Mission Statement, revision of Prison Rules pertaining to the practice of Religion, terms and conditions of employment, job descriptions, age bar of 65 years, integration of Chaplaincy through a multi-disciplinary approach, training schedules, and recruitment and appointment procedures.

6. Following correspondence from the Chaplains Committee, legal opinion is being sought by the Northern Ireland Office on current employment rights of those Chaplains whose hours of employment may be reduced or withdrawn, as a result of the review mentioned above or reductions in the prison population.

We warmly commend our Prison Chaplains for their faithful service during the past year when they have had to contend with much uncertainty brought about by government policy.

7. The Chaplains Committee is most grateful to staff involved at Prisons, Hospitals, DHHS, and NIO, who facilitate the work of our Chaplains.

8. The constant prayers of the Church are vital as our men and women seek, through faith, to counsel staff, patients, prisoners and families.

JOHN SCOTT, Convener

MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Moderator's Advisory Committee did not have occasion to meet during the year.

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON, Convener

PEACE AND PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

1. The Peace and Peacemaking Committee gives thanks to God for the vast array of work over the past year by politicians, community leaders, and ordinary citizens which has helped to sustain dialogue, improve social and economic conditions, challenge sectarianism, and nurture positive relationships in this society. This work has continued in spite of tremendous obstacles, widespread scepticism, and violence from various quarters designed to derail any peace process. The Committee believes that actively pursuing 'the things that make for peace' is a particular responsibility of the churches. The Peace Vocation adopted by the General Assembly in 1994 states that "we must be initiators of programmes of action which will contribute to peace in our community." The Committee understands its role primarily as encouraging such

initiatives through presbyteries, congregations, boards and committees, and individual members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

2. Mistrust and misunderstanding continue to hamper relationships at all levels. As a Church we consistently urge politicians to continue dialogue in order to resolve future arrangements and contentious issues. The Committee believes that what we expect of our politicians is also something which all members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland should actively seek opportunities for doing. The Peace Vocation commits us to “meet and talk with those in our own church with whom we have disagreements, with those from other churches whose beliefs and practices differ from our own, and with those from who we are politically divided.” The Committee commends members of the Assembly, congregations and presbyteries who have actively pursued such opportunities in the past year and urges others to do so.

3. The Committee has produced two editions of *Peace and Peacemaking News* this year, as a vehicle for sharing reports on activities of congregations and presbyteries, ideas, and information on events and resources. The Committee is encouraged by the range of peacemaking activities being undertaken at local level and asks those engaged in such initiatives to continue to report on their experiences so that they can be shared with others.

4. Seventy-five people from thirty congregations attended a day conference organised by the Committee in November on “*Human Rights and the Churches.*” Speakers from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, ECONI, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and The Irish Council of Churches introduced different perspectives. Small groups then wrestled with what they felt should be included in any future Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and what particular contribution the insights of the gospel brings to this debate. While recognising some dangers inherent in human rights discourse, the Committee encourages presbyteries and local congregations to contribute constructively to the consultation on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and in fostering a positive commitment to human rights locally and internationally.

5. The Committee wishes to thank all Congregational and Presbytery Peace Agents for accepting responsibility to encourage the entire membership of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to “reassert the Church’s own proper calling to seek peace and the things that make for peace in our own day” (Peace Vocation.). In particular, we wish to commend those congregations and presbyteries that have formed peacemaking groups to sustain this ministry and encourage others to do so.

D R BAKER, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.

Forces Committee

2. That the greetings of the General Assembly be sent to all our serving chaplains.

3. 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.

4. That the General Assembly commend the work of Forces Chaplaincy and encourage ministers to consider the possibilities of such a calling .

5. 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.

6. 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.

Chaplains Committee

7. That the resignation of Mr John Scott as Convener of the Chaplains Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that Dr R J Rodgers, OBE, be appointed in his place.

Peace and Peacemaking Committee

8. That the General Assembly urge Presbyteries to encourage the work of Peace Agents by inviting reports at Presbytery meetings and arranging opportunities for congregational peace agents to meet together on a regular basis.

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

Conciliation

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

Visitations

11. That Presbyteries are recommended to bring in the new Consultation process, as proposed by the Panel on Visitations, from January 2002.

12. That Presbyteries are recommended to appoint a “Review of Resources” sub-committee as from January, 2002.

Overview of Funding

13. That the College and Magee Management Committee, the Education Board, the Shankill Road Mission and the Board of Communications submit a five-year business plan to the Panel on the Overview of Funding by 30 September.

14. That the following be appointed as an ad hoc Committee on Priorities:

15. That the General Board be empowered to appoint additional members to the ad hoc Committee on Priorities during the year.

General

16. 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:

OVERTURES TRANSMITTED**Anent Par 65 (2) of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 65(2) of the Code the words “from among its members” be deleted.

Anent Par 97(h) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that a new sub-paragraph (iii) be inserted in Par 97(h) of the Code as follows: “(iii) ministers without charge or ruling elders who may be appointed as Clerks of Presbytery or Synod;”

and that the present sub-paragraph (iii) renumbered as (iv).

Anent Par 250(4) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 250(4) of the Code the words “Home Board” be deleted and that the words “Board of Mission in Ireland” be substituted in their place.

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON

MEMORIAL TRANSMITTED

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, to meet in Belfast, on the 4th day of June, 2001.

The Memorial of the Business Committee of the Synod of Armagh and Down Respectfully Showeth:

That the Synods of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland have a diminishing role in the government of the Church.

That the need for Synods is questioned by many in the Church.

That those functions which remain could be discharged by other means.

Memorialists therefore pray your Venerable Assembly to ask the General Board, or other appropriate body, to examine the issue of the role and functions of the Synods in the 21st Century, and report to the next General Assembly.

And Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Adopted at its meeting on the 8th day of March, 2001.

W J PATTERSON, Moderator

E P GAMBLE, Clerk

CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

1. By the time the General Assembly meets the Church and Government Committee will have met on eight occasions. Our report includes the appendices following the resolutions and any supplementary report in the Daily Minutes.

LONG AND UNCERTAIN JOURNEYS MARKED WITH THANKFULNESS AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD

2. From his uncertain situation in prison the Apostle Paul exhorted the church at Philippi to rejoice in the Lord, to show a gentle attitude towards everyone, to be thankful for what they had, to ask God for what they needed and to fill their minds with positive attitudes while all the time practising the faith. Meanwhile God's peace would stand guard over their hearts and minds. The letter to the Philippians breathes joy and confidence.

3. A community of faith, like the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, can breathe such positive attitudes into our public life, combating the depressing stream of negative viruses which debilitate and weaken our common life.

4. Martin Luther King said, "No greater tragedy can befall a people than to be circumscribed by the dark chambers of pessimism. Pessimism is a dark disease that dries up the red corpuscles of hope and slows down the powerful heartbeat of positive action"

5. While we are aware of the uncertainty of the present time and of the undoubted difficulties, there is a danger that we allow the present problems to overshadow the progress which has been made. It is easier to be persuaded of what has been lost rather than what has been gained; what has been conceded on one side without considering what has been conceded on the other side. It is important to recognise improvement without pretending that the promised land has been reached.

6. The tide has turned. The terrible violence which destroyed so much and killed so many has largely run its course and has failed. The new way, without guns and bombs, must be walked which has not been walked before.

7. Everywhere there is evidence of change. This remains a time of opportunity for an historic political accommodation between the principal contending communities in Ireland. It is not easy to manage a transition from deep suspicion to co-operation. The future ought not to be determined by the reiteration of attitudes understandably shaped in situations in the past.

8. We have to reverse the forced and voluntary segregation of our society including the retreat of Presbyterians from mixed areas, sustaining generous actions and attitudes fuelled and sustained by the grace of God. If our common life was marked by grace rather than by recrimination and complaint it would be transformed.

9. It would be easy to write a report which is full of complaint about what people have done or have not done, which would overlook the quite dramatic improvement in much of our shared life in Northern Ireland over the last five years and discount the fact that, compared with many parts of the world, we are an enormously privileged society which ought to be marked with thanksgiving.

10. The overall aim must not be lost sight of in the middle of our current rather tedious and difficult journey. We expressed this in the following terms to the 2000 General Assembly as the creation of a society

- *where we would treat each other with grace and generosity*
- *where people from different backgrounds would feel at home*
- *where we would seek to provide each other with a sense of belonging*
- *where no one need feel like a stranger*
- *where responsibilities and opportunities are shared*
- *where both an Executive would be formed and decommissioning would take place.*

EVENTS AND TRENDS

The Republic of Ireland

11. Historically the report from the Republic has been short and highlighted only one or two issues, none of which really ever impinged on or affected the lives of the greater number of Presbyterian people who live in Northern Ireland.

12. Writing in March 2001 under the shadow of foot-and-mouth disease it is not so easy to take a narrow and indifferent view of happenings anywhere on the island. The lives of farmers are affected similarly – incomes, culling of entire flocks and herds, restriction of movement, social and sporting postponements or cancellations – the emotional drain on whole families of losing their stocks and appearing no longer to have a purpose or daily routine. As the culling teams come to the individual farms these feelings are all common to the people involved. With questions being asked as to the methods being adopted and their ultimate success farmers are not alone in their concerns.

13. Island-wide there are problems for hotels, tourism generally and a host of small businesses which rely on the flow from farming and touring visitors to Ireland. It may be small consolation to those suffering that the culture which may have caused the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease to Ireland may now be changed. This should allow for fairer local markets and prices when something like normal farming begins again.

14. As Dr Colum Kenny put it, writing in the Sunday Independent on 25 March, of politicians, gombeen farmers and slack regulation "...Sinn Fein/IRA policies on policing have guaranteed South Armagh's reputation as "bandit country" and that status, more than anything else, has facilitated the coming of foot-and-mouth disease to Ireland. It is one fact that officials know for certain, that if the law had been enforced in border areas of Northern Ireland, then this country would still be free of foot-and-mouth disease... Honest hardworking people are left to pick up the pieces... Taxpayers will also end up compensating farmers for damage caused by reckless greed and poor regulation".

15. In the Republic it was the murder of a journalist -Veronica Guerin – that led to so much more commitment and resources to addressing and ultimately breaking many drug gangs.

16. The success of the economy in the Republic has given a new confidence to the people. There is now little of the whining that used to be

present as the benefits of work and investment have spread through the system. But there are negatives to that also.

17. In the first place we want more. Politically the government gives us more from the new surpluses in our national finances. Then we are reminded by our European Currency masters that we are not free to give away recklessly funds which may, by being spent, create inflationary pressures. A formal reprimand or recommendation having been given to us we will be more conscious in the future that a narrow nationalism can no longer prevail over our other partners in the Euro-currency area.

18. It is said that we have a more consumer-led culture. For our young people this appears to mean drugs, drinking more and having more sex. The growth of more individualism has meant less volunteering and less charitable giving. But a small number of people are able and do give very large amounts to very worthy causes.

19. Young and old are turning more and more to secularism. Given our history this means people are turning away from the Roman Catholic Church. The needs of some are being met by Pentecostal and other assemblies. Some, as in Lucan and Kilkenny in particular, are worshipping in the Presbyterian tradition.

20. As the current Tribunals are showing we have no shortage of problems within our society but the extent of these is only now slowly emerging. A result of this may be a turning away from politics.

21. Refugees and asylum-seekers have found it difficult to get a welcome here. The Government has been slow to deal with many of the issues – such as accommodation and working arrangements for the newcomers. This has caused racist tendencies and antagonisms to emerge. It appears that things are improving more recently.

22. The housing shortage, particularly in Dublin, has caused further pressure on individuals and families. Demand is such that house prices have risen very quickly to very high levels. Couples are being forced to buy some forty to fifty miles from the city at more reasonable price levels. Commuting times are increased, and there is more traffic to be accommodated on an inadequate infrastructure. This leads to more stress on home life and less time at home. Improvements are taking place in our road and rail services. More are planned, but it will be about 2015 before Dublin's traffic systems will be fully developed and integrated. It is expected the population of greater Dublin will grow from the present total of 1.4 million to 2 million by then.

Northern Ireland

23. This report was written at the end of March when people's concerns were dominated by the consequences of widespread foot-and-mouth disease among pigs, sheep and cattle in Great Britain, a report of one outbreak in Northern Ireland and one in the Republic of Ireland, some outbreaks on the European mainland and the strenuous efforts of the Republic of Ireland to do everything possible to stop the disease spreading and having catastrophic effects on the Irish economy.

24. No one was prepared to predict when the disease in Britain might be brought under control. It is having a disastrous effect on the farming community

and its associated industries as well as on the tourist industry in rural areas where people are dependent on large numbers of visitors.

25. Meanwhile the previously almost certain date of a May United Kingdom General Election was clouded with uncertainty. The Committee normally meets just before the General Assembly and should that election be held in May its results may occasion some comment from the Committee in the Assembly's Daily Minutes.

26. The first two weeks in July 2000 were once again marked by serious widespread civil disorder consequent on the unresolved issues of parades and protests. Following the Orange Order's call for protests some Loyalist paramilitaries took the opportunity to close many roads and instil widespread fear. It would be helpful if everyone involved in these disputes would show a more understanding and generous attitude towards one another.

27. The Moderator issued a statement on the fifth of July 2000 which set out the position enunciated in many previous statements issued by the General Assembly and the General Board. "I would remind people of the resolution of the 1999 General Assembly. "That in the matter of contentious disputes between residents' groups and those who wish to parade, the General Assembly call upon all concerned to treat one another with generosity, understanding and respect and further encourage them to discuss their disagreements with one another; to co-operate fully with the Parades Commission and in the event of no agreement being reached, to abide by the lawfully taken determinations of the Parades Commission..."

28. Later in the summer there was very serious intra-loyalist feuding, mainly in the Lower Shankill, which resulted in deaths and in a large number of families being driven from their homes.

29. Paramilitary activity from republicans and loyalists remains a problem. January and February were marked by pipe bomb attacks mainly by loyalists on Roman Catholic homes and Nationalist offices. The Moderator issued a statement condemning these attacks. Dissident Republicans have been active, on one occasion with a failed large mortar bomb attack on an army base in the Waterside in Londonderry, on others with bomb attacks in London. Explosions on the Belfast-Dublin train line have seriously disrupted services. We had hoped that all of this was a thing of the past.

30. As the level of violence has receded so the ongoing trauma of victims has properly received greater attention and increased understanding. The granting of additional money to RUC widows, to victims and to victim support groups is welcomed. For the most part it is the spouses and the children of those who have been killed who will benefit from the additional funds.

31. While the overall economic, political and employment situation in Northern Ireland shows very significant and welcome change from a few short years ago, political relationships remain stalled, even after extensive negotiations, on unresolved issues of policing, demilitarisation and decommissioning, which we believe ought not to have been linked.

32. The Police Bill has been passed and it is regrettable that Nationalists, Republicans and the Roman Catholic Church are so reluctant to encourage people to join the new Police Service. Having encouraged people to apply to join the new police service, we are gratified with the news that so many people from

both parts of the community are taking up the challenge of this form of honourable service.

33. The new structure of policing based on District Command Units was due to take effect from the first of April. There are twenty-nine of these under the leadership of District Commanders and they are based on local government boundaries. This will provide far greater autonomy for each district than was the case with the previous twelve divisions.

34. The Rt Hon Dr John Reid MP replaced the Rt Hon Peter Mandelson MP as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 24 January 2001.

ORGANISED CRIME

35. In September 2000 the Government established the Northern Ireland Organised Crime Task Force which published its assessment of “The Threat to Northern Ireland Society from Serious and Organised Crime” in March 2001.

36. The Task Force members include HM Customs and Excise, National Criminal Intelligence Service, Police Service of Northern Ireland (from 1 September 01), Royal Ulster Constabulary, Criminal Justice Directorate (NIO), Organised and International Crime Directorate (Home Office), Policing and Security Directorate (NIO), and other Government Agencies.

37. The Security Minister, Mr Adam Ingram said, “Organised Crime is a threat to the fabric of society, thriving on extortion, fear and violence. It cannot and will not be allowed to go unchecked.” In providing details of the range, depth and estimated impact of organised and serious crime on society the report confirms what has been suspected for a long time.

38. This assessment shines a light into the dark side of Northern Ireland and exposes some of the criminal legacy of the troubles. Alongside the description of the problem, the government published a strategy for confronting the threat.

39. It is estimated that there are 78 mafia-style gangs involving some 400 individuals operating in Northern Ireland. Their activities cover such areas as: drugs, public sector fraud, money laundering, arms/munitions trading, illegal fuel, tobacco and alcohol smuggling, betting and gaming, social security payments, cattle smuggling, vehicle theft, extortion and blackmail, counterfeiting video games, CDs and clothing, prostitution, mortgage fraud, computer crime, counterfeit notes, coins and plastic cards and fake documents. Some of the activities are a greater threat than others.

40. It is reported that just over half of these gangs have links, either current or historical, to loyalist and republican paramilitary groups, although there are varying degrees of involvement.

41. There has been some impressive and welcome success in combating this activity in the past year. The Organised Crime Task Force will focus on those believed to be the top 20 gangsters believed to be behind this activity. The Church and Government Committee welcomed the Government’s plans to set up a National Confiscation Agency.

42. These illegal activities are a threat to the development of a normal society and those people who are threatened and oppressed by these gangs already know how unacceptably abnormal is their part of our society. This is

another reason for us all to have an efficient and widely acceptable police service.

THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

43. Substantial amounts of time were taken with preparing the two submissions were included in Appendix D on the "Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland" and Appendix E on the proposed "Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland".

44. The Reports to the General Board meetings in October, March and April (Appendices A, B and C) sought to provide relevant Christian reflection on a political situation which was difficult to pin down because of the secrecy of the inter-governmental and inter-party discussion.

45. Revs John Dunlop and Brian Kennaway served on the Churches' Consortium which submitted five names to First and Deputy First Ministers. Two were from the Roman Catholic Church, two from the Churches associated with the Irish Council of Churches and one from the smaller evangelical Churches (through consultations between the Evangelical Alliance and the Caleb Foundation).

46. Members of the consortium from Irish Council of Churches member churches had decided to follow the Irish Council of Churches rule in nominations. This would suggest that over three terms of the Civic Forum (ie nine years) there would be 2 Presbyterians; 2 Church of Ireland; 1 Methodist; 1 from other ICC member churches.

The five people appointed to the Civic Forum were:

1. Ms Daphne Gilmour (Presbyterian)
2. Mr George Glenn (Church of Ireland)
3. Mrs Marie Louise Warde-Hunter (Roman Catholic)
4. Mrs Eileen Gallagher (Roman Catholic)
5. Pastor David McConaghie (Elim Pentecostal)

It was agreed that there be two contingency nominees from the churches associated with the ICC.

Mr James Currie (Salvation Army)

Dame Mary Uprichard (Methodist)

47. Along with other churches, including the Conference of European Churches, the Clerk of the Assembly has done sterling work in representing the Church on the issue of the European Directive on Employment. Representations were made to both the Irish and British Governments. After extensive negotiations the Draft Directive was amended, at the insistence of the Irish Government, to permit churches and religious bodies to take the preservation of their ethos into account when recruiting staff.

48. The Moderator, the Clerk and Mr Norman Chambers appeared before the all-party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution to explain the position of the Presbyterian Church on Abortion.

49. A group from the Committee, led by the Moderator, met representatives of the Women's Coalition, the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Ulster Unionist Party at Stormont.

50. The Committee met in Dublin on 14 September 2000. Brian Dowling (Political Correspondent of the Irish Independent) addressed the Committee on

the various tribunals in the Republic of Ireland and the way in which they impinged on political life and the standards expected of people. Barbara Losty, a social care worker from Sarsfield House Hostel, Ballyfermot, addressed the committee on the challenges facing society in caring for young offenders, given the exploding problem of drugs and the withdrawal of the Roman Catholic Church from its traditional partnership role with the Government.

51. Members of the Committee, along with representatives of other churches, ECONI and the Evangelical Alliance, met Professor Brice Dickson, the Chief Commissioner of the NI Human Rights Commission. The Committee then met separately with Professor Brice Dickson. A Submission on a proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland was forwarded to the Commission. (See Appendix E).

52. There are two extremes to be avoided. The first is to dismiss the Human Rights issue as of no importance, or indeed, seeing it as dangerous. Many of the abuses e.g. of the rights of religious communities, of minorities and of poor people are of concern to the church. It is important that the church does not hand the human rights agenda to other people. The second danger is in thinking that the Human Rights agenda can cure all the ills of society. Discourse which is dominated by rights to the subordination of all else can result in a society marked by continuous conflict, resolved, not by love, respect and mutual accommodation but by power struggles or endless litigation.

53. In consultation with the Overseas Board representations were made to the relevant authorities on the situations in Indonesia and Sudan which continued to give cause for concern throughout the year because of the continuing religious conflicts and the difficulties being experienced by Christian minorities.

54. A letter of congratulation was sent to the First and Deputy First Minister on the publication of the first draft Programme for Government. The Committee wished to mark this milestone in co-operation without endorsing everything in the programme.

55. The Committee has been giving some thought to the most appropriate way to relate to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive. It seems clear that decisions affecting the lives of the people of Northern Ireland will increasingly be taken by the N I Assembly. This can be seen already in eg the foot-and-mouth crisis and should be welcomed. It is also becoming apparent that the relationship of the Churches to the new Assembly will be quite different from any relationship we have had with government in the past. Access for the Churches to influence decisions will not be seen as an automatic right but one to be negotiated, alongside a number of other civic partners. This was well illustrated in the setting up of the Civic Forum where the Churches had to argue strongly for any specific role or participation.

56. It is important, therefore, that as a Church we establish at an early stage appropriate channels of communication with the new Assembly. This should ensure that our views are known and understood on issues where it is important a Christian viewpoint is heard. It does not mean that we should comment on everything but that we hold a watching brief, so that we are aware of particular issues of concern, either to the Christian public generally or more specifically to the Presbyterian Church.

57. On behalf of the Presbytery of Newry representations were made to the Rt Hon Adam Ingram JP, MP concerning the misuse of fireworks.

58. In consultation with the Rev N A L Cameron, the Convener of the Social Issues and Resources Committee of the Board of Social Witness, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister expressing our concern that the Government invoked the Parliamentary Act to enact the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill.

59. Representations were made supporting the posthumous award of medals to Prison Officers.

60. Representations were made to the Chairman of the Parades Commission concerning the information on an 11/1 notification of a proposed parade being forwarded by mistake to people who ought not to have received it.

61. A letter along with previous statements and reports from the Church and Government Committee and a resolution of the General Assembly were forwarded, in response to a request, to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee at Westminster for the submission of evidence to the Committee's inquiry into the Parades Commission.

62. The Committee wrote to the Rt Hon Adam Ingram expressing the Committee's support for the Government's plans to set up a National Confiscation Agency. This is important in light of the above report on organised crime.

63. Representations were made to Ms Bairbre de Brun on behalf of the Presbyterian Residential Trust concerning the de facto subsidised levels of fees charged by Health and Social Services Trusts which cannot be matched by the Residential Trust without putting their future work at risk.

JOHN DUNLOP, GEORGE McCULLAGH, Conveners

APPENDIX A

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD 12 OCTOBER 2000

"A TIME FOR REFLECTION"

1. To take the last century alone, the people of Ireland have suffered the physical, human and spiritual consequences of division and conflict. The people divided themselves into groups which fought each other and the country fell apart, just as common sense and Jesus predicted.

2. The partition of Ireland resulted in two unsatisfactory states, one dominated by catholic nationalism, the other by protestant unionism. These were small, cold, exclusive apartments with little honour or space given to minorities.

3. After eighty years the Republic of Ireland is just about recovering from the divisions of the Civil War. In Northern Ireland, the last thirty years witnessed one of the most violent and turbulent episodes of our past, which visited unquantifiable suffering on thousands of people.

4. Both parts of Ireland and the United Kingdom have a long legacy of division and violence which has made a political accommodation, with all its necessary compromises, a desirable necessity, but not one easily achieved.

5. A different future, which will see small, cramped and cold apartments replaced with a house which gives space and warmth and honour to everyone, cannot be built without understanding, patience, care, generosity and co-operation.

6. The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement constituted a blue print for such a house. Not everyone liked it, but a massive majority in the Republic of Ireland did and a substantial majority in Northern Ireland did likewise, although the support of the Unionist part of the community was by a small majority.

7. A good number of people in that Unionist part of the community are unhappy about some aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, especially the contentious issues of the release of prisoners, the absence of significant movement on de-commissioning and the future of policing. Others, while unhappy about some aspects of it, want to see the Agreement implemented, as do Nationalists and Republicans.

8. Since all political schemes inevitably have flaws, it is a simple matter to be endlessly critical while overlooking the substantial improvements which we have experienced recently in less violence, greater freedom and increased investment and employment opportunities. In many desirable ways Belfast is being transformed.

9. The necessity of replacing the cramped and cold apartments with a house which gives space and warmth and honour to everyone still remains a necessity. Will there be enough understanding, patience, care, generosity and co-operation to achieve it? On the part of some people the answer is positive. On the part of others it is negative.

10. What is not so clear is how far people will be driven by the will to make peace. The will to make peace differs from the almost universal desire for peace in that it is prepared to do what it can, sometimes to do more than it thought it could, in order to achieve the invaluable goal of peace. Along the way this may require giving up some things that are valuable in order to achieve that which is more valuable.

11. It is with dismay that we see so many evidences of self-serving factionalism which has the potential to bring the multi-faceted negotiated political accommodations of the Belfast Agreement to an end. Political parties and their associates must do more than look after their own. If the present arrangements fail, we believe the alternative will be Direct Rule with considerable influence from the Republic of Ireland and the marginalisation of Northern Ireland parties. The repercussions will be felt right across the political spectrum.

12. The bitter disruptive madness of the UFF/UVF loyalist feud on the Shankill Road and beyond has imposed self-inflicted wounds on deprived communities and caused widespread disruption to families. It has the potential to spill over into many parts of Northern Ireland.

13. Having been embraced by the love of God, is it not time for Christians to consistently express to others what we have received from God and to love our neighbours and our enemies, pray for them and treat them as friends? It will mean compromise, the exercise of consistent good faith, and a willingness to understand and alleviate other people's problems with all the inevitable risks involved.

14. This process will be assisted by both governments being even handed and by Christian churches being more than tribal chaplains. The Presbyterian Church will fail Christ if it does no more than reflect unionist opinion.

15. We share the widespread concern about the inability of the security forces and the judicial system to make the perpetrators of the Omagh bombing amenable to the law, even though there appears to be sufficient intelligence evidence to identify the guilty people. Our concern deepens with news about reorganisation of dissident republican paramilitaries.

APPENDIX B

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD 1 MARCH 2001

“TRAVELLING THROUGH CHANGE”

1. This is a difficult time
This is time of change.
This is a time of uncertainty.

2. Slavery in Egypt was bad and some people found the uncertain journey to the promised land even worse than slavery. The killing and the bombing of more than thirty years of violence were bad but people seemed to know where they were in the middle of it.

3. The overall situation is very different now and, while much better, is far from perfect. These are confusing and disorienting times because people do not know what is happening in the secret negotiations between the Irish and British Governments and some of the political parties and the paramilitary associates of some of them.

4. The overall aim of the creation of a society where there is space for people with differing religious, cultural and political identities to live in harmony with each other must not be lost sight of in the middle of this rather tedious journey.

5. The danger lies in cynicism, weariness and apathy given the endlessly unresolved issues of demilitarisation, policing and decommissioning. It was a mistake to allow these three issues to be linked, for each one is important in its own right and needed to be dealt with separately. One cannot be traded against another as if there is some kind of equivalence.

SEPARATE ISSUES

6. The Policing Bill has been passed and is now law and until such times as the law is changed it ought to be worked and obeyed. The demoralisation within the police, the absenteeism and the loss of people in sensitive positions are causes for serious concern. It is time to get the new Police Board in place and working. It is time to get recruitment of new officers underway and for the decisions about the new symbols to be taken as soon as possible.

7. Various terms have been used for dealing with arms. Disarmament and decommissioning are the terms used in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. A more recent phrase is “putting arms completely and verifiably

beyond use in such a way that maximum confidence is engendered". Whatever the terminology, let loyalist and republican paramilitaries get on with it.

8. The issue of paramilitary weapons should be of concern to the political leaders in the Republic of Ireland since many of the illegal weapons are stored in that jurisdiction and Sinn Fein operates as a political party within its bounds.

9. Mr Michael Noonan TD, the recently elected leader of Fine Gael, said "I want it (Northern Ireland) to be a successful political entity but the solutions and compromises that are necessary in Northern Ireland are not a prescription for normal democracies and down here, I will not, while Sinn Fein have a military wing, either negotiate with them to get Fine Gael into Government or look for their support if they have a significant membership in the Dail, if we're forming a Government".

10. The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD said, in response to speculation that Sinn Fein would take part in Government, "for that to be possible... Sinn Fein needs to resolve its relationship with the IRA as Fianna Fail did in the past at the time of its formation". He said any government formed here (in the Republic) would have to be in conformity with Article 15.6 of the Constitution, which requires that there be only one army raised by the Oireachtas.

11. The Taoiseach's reference to "one army" in the Constitution of the Republic, along with Michael Noonan's statement, implies an obligation on the IRA to decommission their weapons held in the Republic. There seems to be no apparent discussion about this subject in the Republic. This ought to be addressed by the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

12. Levels of security need to engender confidence in both communities that we are on the way to a secure and peaceful future. There is no reason for it to be unnecessarily high or foolishly low.

13. The absence of consistent consolidation of the Executive leads to vacuums which are being filled with the scandalous behaviour of pipe bombers and paramilitary groups controlling specific areas. This is not only dangerous but is unacceptable. The pipe bomb attacks by loyalist paramilitaries have caused widespread fear in the Roman Catholic community.

DENIAL, ANGER AND THE FUTURE

14. In both individual and communal experience, when we are subjected to change which is not looked for and is out of our control, anger and denial are common reactions. We are angry with others and deny that we are in any way implicated in the problems. Self-righteousness is a deception.

15. If we were persuaded that it was possible to gain the whole truth of what has gone on in over thirty years of violence we would call for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We do not believe that would or could be the outcome. Do we want to try to prize everything open? The Saville Enquiry into Bloody Sunday shows the problems involved in discovering the truth of only one afternoon.

16. A wide-ranging Executive has been formed and is working. Prisoners who did the most horrendous things are out in the community. It is time to move on to a different future and let Egypt be a painful memory. It remains a time for

faith in God, love for one another and steadfast hope for a different and better future.

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IRISH ECONOMIC FREEDOM

17. The growing influence of the European Union over the affairs of European Member States is highlighted by Ireland being the first Euro member country to receive an official reprimand in respect of its budgetary policy.

18. This loss of control over national policy is likely to become more evident as the European Union is enlarged and a veto will no longer apply over all decisions, as is currently the case.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

19. While pastoral care for the victims of the troubles has been provided by congregations at the local level, the Committee believes that additional government funding is required. Since the Committee met, the Rt Hon Adam Ingram has announced an additional £12 million in addition to the £6.25m previously allocated.

APPENDIX C

REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD 5 APRIL 2001

1. It has come to our attention that the Northern Ireland Executive intends to initiate a comprehensive review of rating policy. Since this may well have implications for the rating of church property we believe that it is advisable that representation by the church be made right away.

2. Since the last meeting of the Board the foot-and-mouth epidemic has worsened, with an outbreak in Co Louth as well as the previous one in Co Armagh. The epidemic appears to be out of control in parts of Great Britain with catastrophic consequences for the farming community and the industries associated with it, as well as the tourist industry, with the future of many small businesses being put at risk. The anxiety and distress which this is causing is heartbreaking as people suffer the consequences of a virulent epidemic which may have been caused by inadequate import controls and, as was the case with BSE, with feeding inappropriate food to animals in the first instance.

APPENDIX D

REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

**Submission on behalf of the Church & Government Committee of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

October 2000

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1. The Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland was established under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. In that Agreement,

the participants affirmed their belief that the aims of the criminal justice system are to:

- deliver a fair and impartial system of justice to the community,
- be responsive to the community's concerns, and encouraging community involvement where appropriate,
- have the confidence of all parts of the community; and
- deliver justice efficiently and effectively.

The Church and Government Committee of the Presbyterian Church fully accept those aims as legitimate and appropriate.

2. We are conscious of the enormity of the task undertaken by the Review Group. This review took 21 months to accomplish, received submissions from up to 75 individuals and groups, held 9 public consultation meetings and 45 or more plenary sessions. The group comprised leading civil servants, academics, practitioners and others connected with the criminal justice system here and in England and Wales. The report which runs to over 400 pages is clearly a product of a great deal of work and its recommendations deserve careful scrutiny and mature consideration. We commend the Review Group for the detailed consideration given to its work.

Chapter 2 - Experience of Criminal Justice in N.I.

3. We welcome the obvious thought and extent of research which has gone into the production of this review. We are pleased to note that notwithstanding the turbulent period through which we as a society have passed; the confidence of the general public in the fairness of the system of justice as a whole remains high and that more than three-quarters of the people surveyed expressed confidence in the fairness of judges and magistrates.

4. We respectfully agree with the views expressed by the Group that the system can only continue to work effectively if it continues to enjoy the confidence of the community it serves and treats people fairly regardless of community of origin.

5. We recognise that any proposals for change should be measured against the existing high level of confidence, and must be such as to enhance that confidence still further amongst sections of the community where this is necessary without alienating others.

Chapter 3 - Human Rights

6. We welcome the statement that human rights and dignity should be the core value of the criminal justice system, and that people should be treated fairly no matter what their background. We note the recommendation that a statement of ethics be developed for each of the criminal justice agencies covering all those employed or holding office in the system and agree that this is a useful way forward to deal with difficult issues concerning membership of outside organisations.

Chapter 4 - The Prosecution

7. We welcome the proposal for the establishment of a single independent prosecuting authority. Any changes in this direction must be

implemented in such a way as to raise standards of fairness and the efficient administration of justice. We would have concerns arising from the reported problems initially experienced by the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales - and consider it of the utmost importance that any changes are properly funded so as to provide the best system possible. We are extremely concerned that "value for money" considerations could hinder the administration of justice.

8. Our Committee expressed unhappiness about the proposal to have prosecutions mostly conducted by "in house" professional staff of the prosecution service. The proper administration of justice demands fairness between the parties. We believe justice is best served when lawyers are entirely independent of pro-prosecution or pro-defence considerations. Ideally there should be no such thing as a "prosecution lawyer" or "defence lawyer". The system should lean in favour of enhancing and safeguarding the professional independence and integrity of all lawyers, with court cases being conducted by lawyers from that independent perspective and not "on one side or the other".

9. We are told that at present prosecution fees can be as little as one tenth of the fees paid to the defence and that it is normal for the defence to be represented by two counsel and one solicitor, with the prosecution having one counsel and no solicitor. We do not believe that this is a fair balance.

10. The proposal to conduct most prosecutions "in house" by professional staff on a fixed salary, whilst defence would still be handled by independent advocates would only serve to further aggravate the disparity in the cost to the state of prosecuting someone as against the cost to the state in defending him. We believe that this requires to be addressed in order that able lawyers are attracted to handle prosecution as readily as defence, not in order to make the cost of defending someone come down.

11. It is also of enormous value to the system that advocates independent of the culture within a professional prosecution organisation conduct the actual courtroom proceedings. Such lawyers bring a breadth of experience to the system which cannot be acquired from a career serving only one side of the equation. We believe that the system works best with lawyers who have regular experience of both prosecuting and defending. This appears at present to occur only amongst Senior Counsel, in the most serious cases in the Crown court. Whatever steps are necessary to promote this ought to be considered.

It would also be considered important to retain the opportunity for independent advocates to build experience in prosecuting in the less serious cases before being asked to accept instructions in the Higher courts.

12. We understand that at present there are still many lawyers from a Nationalist background who refuse to undertake prosecution work. We are concerned that insufficient attention has been given to ensuring that Nationalist lawyers feel able to participate in the prosecution side in proportion to their numbers. While such a situation may be a product of our divided past, it is unnatural, and ought to be broken at the earliest opportunity.

13. We welcome the proposal for local political accountability for the prosecution service through an Attorney General.

14. We express concerns about too much community influence in the prosecution service. Prosecutors may have to take unpopular decisions and must

be free from community pressure which could in any way impinge on their fairness and impartiality in taking such unpopular decisions. We agree however, that as far as commensurate with their independence and promotion of justice, they should be as transparent as possible in decision making.

Chapters 5 & 6 - The structure of the Courts and Judicial System

15. We agree that the Judiciary must be appointed on merit and each individual judge not be out of touch with the views of ordinary people. We are nonetheless concerned that the common perception that the judiciary is “out of touch” ought not to be perpetuated or unduly pampered. We recognise that judges encounter a variety of situations in their work of which most of society can, thankfully, have no experience and that if anything the greater part of society might be considered “out of touch” with what one human can do to another.

16. We welcome a broadly representative workforce within the criminal justice system, religious balance, gender balance and ethnic origin. We do believe though that there is always a serious risk of window dressing if it becomes a “primary task” to develop a Judiciary reflective of the religious/ethnic and gender background of the community. We can see a stronger argument for this in bodies responsible for *collective* decision making. The over-riding importance must be given to appointment of appropriate persons to serve as judges - regardless of their gender or community of origin. Regard must be had, for example to the fact that judges and magistrates are drawn from the legal profession - and the legal profession is not necessarily a pool of people “reflective” of society and a target of a “reflective judiciary” may not be obtainable other than by illegal “reverse discrimination” - which is not desirable.

17. We disagree with the proposal that eligibility for appointment should limit the value placed on experience of presenting cases in court. A judge’s job is almost exclusively courtroom based. A lifetime of experience within the courtroom environment cannot lightly be set to one side. We believe it would be foolhardy to disregard experience of presentation of cases in court as an appropriate qualification. Whilst there are always exceptions, in a small community such as N I it is not likely that academics, for example, are going to be wanting to be judges in large numbers.

18. We agree that responsibility for Judicial Appointments is pivotal to the provision of a fair and independent Judiciary reflective of society as a whole. We agree that locally based political responsibility is required, rather than London based appointment. Any hint of political input must be kept out of judicial appointments and arrangements must be such as to emphasise the pre-eminence of the Judicial Commission’s role over that of the Assembly.

Chapter 8 - Courts

19. The Church and Government Committee believes that it is simplistic to set out to create a “friendly” court system. The nature of the business conducted is such that is bound to be intimidating - and to an extent ought to be intimidating. People coming to court must come realising the importance and

solemnity of the proceedings. Apparently “archaic” traditions which do not create un-necessary anxiety and which may indeed lend support to the process of forcing those who come to court to realise the importance of the occasion should not lightly be abandoned.

20. The courts are concerned with the resolution of disputes between opposing parties. There is little scope for the broadening of their interest to include matters which in themselves may be worthy of promotion - such as for example the use of Irish. The promotion of the Irish language is something which can be done in very many areas of public life where this can be accepted by both communities as appropriate. Although we can see no reasonable opportunity at present in which the use of Irish language would be appropriate in a court room setting it may be that with increased education in the medium of Irish, circumstances will arise where the use of Irish will be appropriate. It is important to bear in mind notwithstanding the basis for the Review having been established, in reality most language difficulties are faced by very many people of Chinese or Indian origin.

21. We believe that the Royal Coat of Arms should continue to be the official symbol for the justice system. We are not though entirely insistent that it must be displayed in every courtroom.

22. To remove the Royal Coat of Arms would create much more widespread community disquiet than retaining it. In some of the older Courthouses (Downpatrick is one example) the Coat of Arms is part of the historic interior decoration which it would be wrong, on conservation grounds, to remove. Indeed in more recently erected Courthouses the Coat of Arms has been very highly stylised as a piece of art as much as anything and again, it would be a loss to the overall architectural integrity of the courthouse to remove it.

23. On the other hand, the flying of the Union flag outside the Courthouse has never been as intimately connected to the justice system - and is widely seen to be a practice more to do with *government* than the courts. In Belfast the proximity to each other of the three Courthouses in Chichester Street gives rise to an unnecessary multiplicity of flag flying which the new Courthouse under construction will undoubtedly exacerbate. We believe a case may be made for ceasing to fly the flag except on exceptional occasions; whilst at the same time retaining the Royal Coat of Arms in its place inside most courtrooms. Where there are new Courthouses, or Courtrooms which have a “mass produced” Royal Coat of Arms further thought should be given to the possibility of having local symbols - such as the County Coat of Arms (again an old tradition in Northern Ireland courthouses) and some non-controversial way of perhaps incorporating a venerable Irish motto free from party political overtones; or a suitably stylised Royal Coat of Arms.

Chapter 9 - Restorative Justice

23. We welcome the recognition of the legitimate restorative justice concept and the clarification of what is involved in valid restorative justice schemes. We warmly welcome the proposal to incorporate such restorative justice ideas into formal processes for dealing with juveniles. We believe that restorative justice has much to offer and ought to be swiftly incorporated into the

formal criminal justice system. (See appendix: taken from Reports to the 1999 General Assembly: page 26)

Chapter 10 - Juvenile Justice

24. Whilst recognising that children as young as 10 can commit great wrongs - we are not happy that the term “criminal responsibility” is an appropriate term to use in connection with such young children. We were disappointed that the Review Group failed to think more imaginatively regarding the age of criminal responsibility and to study in more depth the situation in other European countries such as Germany. We would like the government to order further research into this issue with a view to leaning in favour of rehabilitation for 10-14 year olds, possibly removing them from the category of “criminal” altogether.

We welcome the extension of the juvenile system to incorporate 17-year-olds.

We also welcome the proposals for a wider range of community based disposals for young offenders.

Chapter 11 - Community Safety

25 The Church and Government Committee do not presently see the requirement for the Public Prosecution Service to get involved in crime prevention; we believe this ought more appropriately to be the preserve of the police.

Chapter 12 - Sentences

26. We welcome the removal of uncertainty of tariff from the life sentence and “Secretary of State’s Pleasure” prisoners.

Chapter 13 - Victims & Witnesses

27. We welcome the emphasis on involvement of the victim in the criminal justice system. Imaginative ways should be found to find a proper forum for victims and families to have a say. Notwithstanding Victim Support’s expressed view that the prosecutor should try to speak for the victim, we believe that there is a place for separation between victim’s representations and the role of the prosecutor. A prosecutor is there to ensure that the case is put fairly, and that justice is done dispassionately. However well intentioned, it is too great a burden to place on a family to expect them to be able to look dispassionately at the facts involving for example the death of a loved one. Very often what a family would want said to a court would not result in justice, but in revenge - although a court must not act on such a basis, we consider there is a place for family members to have their say - as a healing process for them rather than as a means of influencing the court.

28. The system should have a formal place for written representations to be made by family representatives before sentence is passed.

Chapter 15 - Organisation

29. We welcome the proposal for devolving responsibility for criminal justice to Northern Ireland.

Chapter 17 - Structured co-operation

30. The Committee recognises that the terms of reference required that this be considered in the Review. We do however feel that it is artificial to home in on harmonisation with the Republic of Ireland to the exclusion of the rest of the United Kingdom.

31. Over the past 80 years the Southern legal system has evolved separately from our own. Whilst much can be learned on both sides, from closer co-operation, we see no real practical advantages to be gained by a move towards North/South harmonisation which may make our present harmony with GB law any the less.

32. We were concerned that little attention seems to have been paid by the review group to the obvious problems Northern Ireland courts have faced in having wanted fugitives extradited from the South. Many such people have been wanted in connection with very grave crimes. Any unreasonable obstacle placed in the way of extradition, or exploited by such people to avoid standing trial, ought to be removed.

33. We were not entirely sure how the exchange of staff North/South would work - prosecution of offenders is a very sensitive matter, properly reserved to the State - there can be little scope for a prosecutor from another state to have a role. We express similar concerns in other areas of the criminal justice system.

34. Against the background of the Incorporation of the European Convention Human Rights, and the increasing influence of the decisions of the European Court of Justice on our own legal system, we welcome proposals for harmonisation of laws between all 4 regions of the British Isles.

APPENDIX E**Submission on behalf of the Church and Government Committee to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on a proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland****January 2001****1. EXTRACT FROM THE BELFAST (GOOD FRIDAY) AGREEMENT 1998**

1.1 "The new Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission will be invited to consult and to advise on the scope for defining, in Westminster legislation, rights supplementary to those in the European Convention on Human Rights, to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland, drawing as appropriate on international instruments and experience. The additional rights to reflect the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem, and – taken together with the European

Convention on Human Rights – to constitute a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

Among the issues for consideration by the Commission will be:

The formulation of a general obligation on government and public bodies fully to respect, on the basis of equality of treatment, the identity and ethos of both communities in Northern Ireland; and

A clear formulation of the rights not to be discriminated against and to equality of opportunity in both the public and private sectors”.

1.2 The Church and Government Committee notes that any recommendations concern “rights supplementary to those in the European Convention on Human Rights, to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland”.

1.3 The European Convention on Human Rights, which has been incorporated into British Law in the Human Rights Act of 1998, is a comprehensive document incorporating 18 articles, some of them containing considerable detail.

1.4 The issues surrounding Human Rights are of enormous importance and we welcome the concerns which underlie the European Convention and the proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. However we recognise that there are some dangers which need to be avoided if the Bill of Rights is to enhance freedom and overcome division.

2. PEOPLE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

2.1 The dignity of the human person arises from the fact that we are made in the image of God, which is a prior consideration to issues of class, race, religion or sexual orientation.

2.2 The God in whose image we are made has existed from the beginning in the unity and community of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2.3 We believe that human rights proceed from the social nature of humanity (God combines unity and relationship within himself). Everyone is a person-in-relationship whose well being cannot be attained alone. To be human is to have rights which are to be respected and to have responsibilities which are to be freely undertaken.

2.4 The individual’s dignity and worth, and consequent rights and responsibilities, derive from such a basis.

2.5 We believe that individuals are to be located within communities where rights are to be recognised and responsibilities accepted. We are very suspicious of reasoning which detaches individuals or groups from wider communities or which detaches rights from responsibilities or elevates rights above responsibilities. For example the perceived rights of individuals to engage in serial sexual relationships, all, or some, of which may produce children, may militate against the rights of children to be raised in secure and loving families where they are cared for by both of their parents.

2.6 Christian concern about human rights also proceeds from the reality that human dignity and our social relationships are frequently violated, and that restraints of law are necessary to prevent this from happening. In this perspective human rights are about the necessary protection human beings need from each other: both in the individual and corporate senses. Christian faith,

however, warns us against any utopianism in regard to human rights concerns being able to cure all social ills.

2.7 Minorities need to be protected from the tyranny of the majority, even if democratically elected. For example, many Presbyterians resisted Home Rule in the early part of the last century because they believed that a democratically elected government for the whole of Ireland would not necessarily respect the rights of dissenting non-conformist minorities. Majoritarian rule can be experienced as exclusive and excluding to minorities.

2.8 We also know of the failure in communist dominated Romania to respect the religious, cultural and linguistic rights of the Hungarian speaking, and largely Reformed, people of Transylvania.

3. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 A Bill of Rights ought to be inspirational and forward looking and therefore be briefly stated. Rights and freedoms conferred by a Bill of Rights should maximise and not minimise the liberty of citizens.

3.2 The problem with a Bill of Rights specifically tailored to the current needs of Northern Ireland may result in entrenching division, rather than overcoming it. Is this the time to enact a very comprehensive Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, additional to the Human Rights Act of 1998, when it is not deemed appropriate to do so for the rest of the United Kingdom or for the Republic of Ireland?

3.3 Since the rights of an individual or a group are seldom absolute and must be balanced against the rights of other individuals or groups, should a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland seek to be too specific, it will be necessary within the Bill of Rights to protect the rights of the other individuals or groups. Is this what a Bill of Rights is intended to do?

3.4 Rights are sometimes defined over against the activities of other individuals or groups who may well claim an inherent right for their activities. Care needs to be exercised in formulating a Bill of Rights which so highlights individual and group rights that the overall well-being of the community is further fractured. The rights of particular groups and individuals need to be balanced and judged with proportionality, taking account of the rights of other groups and individuals. An important and contentious example of this lies in the area of Parades and Protests. Will the Bill of Rights alleviate the problem in the absence of the contending parties reaching an acceptable compromise?

3.5 Any recommendations should enhance the overall concept of a single community marked by diversity, rather than a fractured community hell bent on asserting diverse rights regardless of the need to foster relationships based on mutuality and respect.

3.6 Discourse which is dominated by rights to the subordination of all else can result in a society marked by continuous conflict, resolved not by love, respect and mutual accommodation but by power struggles or endless litigation.

3.7 In Christian thinking it is sometimes better not to insist on the exercise of a perceived right in the interests of the overall well being of a society. If God had not set aside his rights, humanity could not be redeemed. To voluntarily set aside one's rights is not the same as having them denied.

3.8 It is important to distinguish between what is desirable in an imperfect world from what might be a right in a perfect world. What is desirable may not necessarily be a right.

3.9 Perceived rights may sometimes have to be balanced against a realistic assessment of available resources. Two current examples are:

- (a) The right to have a minority language officially accommodated, as distinct from permitting its use or not outlawing its use, may rightly depend upon the numbers of people involved and the expense incurred in implementing the policy.
- (b) The right to have government support for a particular form of education may rightly depend upon the numbers of people seeking such an educational facility and the amount of money available in a finite overall budget. If one group is granted such a privilege – or is it a right? – others may demand the same right – or is it a privilege?

4. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

4.1 The post reformation concern of protestant churches focussed on the right to freedom of religion. To claim this for oneself imposes a moral obligation to defend religious freedom for others, including the rights of people who choose not to identify with any religion.

4.2 Recognition of the right to freedom of religion involves the corollary of the social acceptance of a general duty on the part of the wider society to respect and to act within reason to protect the right.

4.3 From the Code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

“11. It is the privilege, right and duty of everyone to examine the Scriptures personally, and each individual is bound to submit to their authority.

13. ... the Church holds that, although civil rulers are bound to render obedience to Christ in their own province, yet they ought not to attempt in any way to constrain anyone’s religious beliefs, or invade the rights of conscience.”

4.4 Religious belief and practices are normally exercised corporately in an institutional form involving disciplines, structures, moral norms and ethical instruction. The ability of religious bodies to adopt and maintain these is an essential part of their freedom. This may involve granting them, where necessary, partial exemption from the obligation to open their corporate life to equal access and equal treatment in respect of employment. This could involve the right of churches to refuse to employ, in certain circumstances, heterosexual people who live together outside marriage or people living in same-sex relationships, or individuals whose moral behaviour on other grounds offends Christian practice. This is a practical manifestation of a religious body exercising its corporate conscience on what might be a currently contentious matter.

4.5 While such an exemption might be deemed appropriate for a religious body, it is not to sanction discrimination in general employment.

4.6 The Church and Government Committee supports the submission of the four church leaders in their statement

“There has been an ongoing recognition at a European and international level that churches should have the right to protect the ethos of their various institutions and this would include the recruitment of staff....

The four church leaders consider that it is of fundamental importance to them that the Bill of Rights adopted in Northern Ireland should reflect the international recognition of each denomination’s right to practise its religion corporately; to pursue corporate activities and to protect its own individual ethos.

It is vital that the Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland does not provide, and is not perceived to provide, a charter for the secularisation of social witness of churches and church organisations either directly by the courts or indirectly by the imposition of conditions by public bodies charged with funding private sector providers to act on behalf of the state.”

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly note with concern the difficulty of families working in Dublin who are forced to live outside the city and commute long and stressful distances.
3. That the General Assembly compliment the Garda Siochana on their success in recently bringing to justice members of drug gangs and calls upon the governments in both parts of Ireland to make adequate resources available to combat this threat to normal society.
4. That the General Assembly welcome the creation of the Northern Ireland Organised Crime Task Force.
5. That the General Assembly encourage political representatives in both parts of Ireland to vigorously pursue policies which will engender maximum confidence across the ancient divisions in this society.
6. That the General Assembly acknowledge the importance of establishing effective communication between the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and political authorities in Belfast, Dublin, London and Brussels.
7. That the General Assembly, believing that convicted prisoners associated with paramilitary groups have been treated with generosity, call upon those same paramilitary groups to reciprocate those generous actions by decommissioning their weapons, the absence of such action being experienced by many people as threatening, unhelpful and insulting.
8. That the General Assembly call for the new Police Board to be brought into operation without further delay and encourage people to apply for membership of the new Police Service of Northern Ireland and urge the whole community to actively support the new arrangements.
9. That the General Assembly, conscious of the needs of victims of the troubles, welcome the significant additional funding being provided by the government and call upon congregations to be aware of the long term needs of victims for spiritual, relational and practical support.

10. That the General Assembly affirm the importance of Human Rights and Human Responsibilities in creating and sustaining a society where both individuals and communities are important.

11. That the General Assembly welcome the decision of the Irish Government to introduce a Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into Irish law.

12. That a grant of £3,000 be paid to the Church and Government Committee from the Incidental Fund.

RECOGNISED MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

1. In March the Committee reviewed the position of Ministers and Licentiates without Charge.

The Committee's recommendations are as follows:-

<i>Presbytery</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Ards	Rev C D Mawhinney	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
	Rev Mark Spratt	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
	Rev David McKee	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev David Campbell	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
Armagh	Rev W A Shaw	To be retained as Minister without Charge for a further year.
North Belfast	Rev W M Smyth	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
	Rev C R J Brown	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev C I McKnight	To be retained as Minister without Charge for a further year.
	Rev J S Carson	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
	Rev David Stanfield	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
	Mr N Patrick	To be retained as Licentiate for a further year.
	Mr D B Murphy	To be retained as Licentiate.
Belfast East	Rev R A Crooks	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev Dr Eliz Jamison	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev Dr Samuel Scott	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev Rex Pedlow	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev W J Harshaw	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
Carrickfergus	Rev P A J McBride	To be retained as Minister without Charge for one year.
	Rev D R Byers	To be retained as Minister without Charge.

Coleraine	Rev Wm Morrison	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev J D Mark	To be retained as Minister without Charge for one year.
	Mr Thomas Mulholland	Not to be retained as Licentiate
Derry/Strabane	Rev J C Teeney	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
Down	Rev R N Stewart	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
	Rev D N Gray	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
Dublin & Munster	Rev Ruth Gregg	To be retained as Minister without Charge.
	Mr K Gibson	Not to be retained as Licentiate.
Iveagh	Rev E G McAuley	To be retained as Minister without Charge (retired).
Route	Rev Dr Victor Dobbin	To be retained as a Minister without Charge.

2. The Committee would draw attention to Code Par 219(3)(a), which provides that a licentiate or minister without charge who accepts a full-time appointment which is not under the jurisdiction of the Assembly shall be deemed to have resigned from his position in the Church, except in certain specified circumstances.

3. The Committee would also draw attention to the requirement to report regularly to the Presbytery as required, not less than annually. Having regard to the law of the Church on these points, and to all other relevant circumstances, the Committee was unable to endorse the recommendation of Presbytery in every case. A brief supplementary report will be given to the Assembly verbally.

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Recognised Ministries Committee on Ministers and Licentiatees without Charge

JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Convener: THE CLERK

1. The Judicial Commission met during the year as required.

Terms of Employment (Information) Act

2. In 1999 the Clerk reported to the General Assembly that a matter had arisen in the Irish Republic under Section 7 of their Terms of Employment (Information) Act 1994, in that a minister had lodged a written complaint with the Rights Commissioner alleging that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland had contravened the provision of the Act by not providing him with a written contract of employment. The Clerk also reported that he had appeared before the Rights Commissioner on 12 April, 1999 to answer the complaint on behalf of the Church.

3. He further reported that the Rights Commissioner had found in favour of the complainant but that an appeal had been lodged. The Assembly resolved "That the Judicial Commission be given full Assembly powers to deal with any matter arising in connection with the Irish Republic's Terms of Employment (Information) Act, 1994 and any related matter." (Mins 1999 p 66).

4. The appeal was heard on 30 November, 1999, when the Clerk appeared and gave evidence. A decision was made on 19 July, 2000 to allow the Church's appeal. In view of the importance of this successful appeal, not just for Presbyterian ministers but for all churches in the Irish Republic, the Determination is printed in full in the appendix to this report.

Richard Traynor v North Belfast Presbytery

1. The Appeal of Mr Richard Traynor against part of the decisions contained in The Finding of the Presbytery of North Belfast through its Ballyhenry Commission dated 12th October 2000 came before the Judicial Commission on 27th October 2000 and 15th December 2000. Mr Richard Traynor accompanied by the Reverend Douglas Armstrong, and Representatives of the Commission of the Presbytery of North Belfast appeared on 15th December. The Deputy Clerk submitted the Finding containing the decisions appealed against, the reasons for the Appeals, the whole record of the proceedings of the Presbytery Commission, and all relevant documents.

2. Mr Traynor provided written submissions and read same, and answered questions thereon. The Clerk of Presbytery provided written submissions and the same were read, and together with other Representatives of the Commission of Presbytery answered questions thereon.

3. The Judicial Commission continued in private session.

4. Having read and heard the submissions from the Appellant and the Respondent, the Judicial Commission finds Mr Traynor's appeal was understandable and justified, and finds no reason to impugn Mr Traynor's integrity or honesty; indeed the Presbytery Commission affirmed to the Judicial

Commission that Mr Traynor's integrity and honesty is not in question, although it is critical of his neglect of his duties.

5. The Judicial Commission recognises and applauds Mr Traynor's commitment to his Church in previous years and grieves that he has felt the need to withhold this commitment as an elder in recent years because he considered his integrity and honesty had been impugned in Kirk Session and in Presbytery. This Commission endorses Presbytery's exhortation that being called of God to leadership in the Church through the election of the people and the ordination of the Presbytery that Mr Traynor should now put that call above personal considerations.

6. The Judicial Commission, having taken the opportunity to hear in detail Mr Traynor's concerns and his reasons for withholding his commitment as an elder, hopes and intends that these concerns have been dealt with and alleviated, and that the matters that he considered had impugned his integrity and honesty have been resolved by this Finding, and that he can again fully commit himself to his responsibilities as an elder in Ballyhenry congregation.

7. The Judicial Commission therefore varies The Finding of the Ballyhenry Commission of the Presbytery of North Belfast in that it directs that, if Mr Traynor fails to notify the Commission of Presbytery in writing by 28th February 2001 that he is ready actively to discharge his duties as a ruling elder in Ballyhenry congregation, he will be deemed to have resigned his duties in the congregation as provided in paragraph 33(4) of The Code and that his name should then be placed upon a roll of elders without charge.

8. For the avoidance of doubt, in the circumstances the direction in paragraph 7 also applies to any other elders of Ballyhenry congregation who have not already given such notification.

9. The Judicial Commission adopts and emphasises the exhortation contained in the conclusion to the Finding of Presbytery that all that is now needed is the attitude described by Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus".

M. A. Morrow, Q.C. (Chairman)
R.F.S. Poots, O.B.E. (Deputy Clerk)

Dated: 7 January 2001

James Beckett v North Belfast Presbytery

1. The Appeal of Mr James Beckett against part of the decisions contained in The Finding of the Presbytery of North Belfast through its Ballyhenry Commission dated 12th October 2000 came before the Judicial Commission on 27th October 2000 and 15th December 2000. Mr James Beckett and Representatives of the Commission of the Presbytery of North Belfast appeared on 15th December. Mr Robert Lambe and Mr George Chalmers, members of Ballyhenry Kirk Session, also attended as witnesses with Mr Beckett. The Deputy Clerk submitted the Finding containing the decisions appealed against, the reasons for the Appeals, the whole record of the proceedings of the Presbytery Commission, and all relevant documents.

2. Mr Beckett provided written submissions and read same, and called Mr Chalmers and Mr Lambe as witnesses. Mr Beckett and Mr Lambe were questioned by the Judicial Commission and responded thereto. The Judicial Commission noted and welcomed the withdrawal by Mr Beckett of his threats to resort to civil action arising from the circumstances he has alleged had occurred in connection with Ballyhenry congregation.

3. The Clerk of Presbytery provided written submissions and the same were read, and, together with other Representatives of the Commission of Presbytery, answered questions thereon.

4. The Judicial Commission continued in private session, and having read and heard the submissions from the Appellant and the Respondent, and the evidence from Mr Beckett's witnesses, the Judicial Commission Finds:

5. Mr Beckett's submissions to the Judicial Commission and the correspondence emanating from Mr Beckett which is before the Judicial Commission, justifies and confirms the Finding of the North Belfast Presbytery, dated 12th October 2000, as it refers to Mr Beckett at paragraphs 8 – 10: "that there is insufficient substantially new material to warrant re-opening of Mr Beckett's [1995] case"; and at paragraphs 12 – 16 that: "Until Mr Beckett unambiguously repents of his behaviour and the attitudes that underlie it, he can have no place in the future life of Ballyhenry congregation.". The evidence of the witnesses called by Mr Beckett does not alter this conclusion. The Appeal is, therefore, dismissed.

6. The Judicial Commission commends all parties to this Appeal and also the Minister, Kirk Session and congregation to the love and care of Almighty God and reaffirms the Presbytery's exhortation to all believers to "be devoted to one another in brotherly love" and refers them to Paul's words in Romans 12. 9-21.

M. A.Morrow, Q.C. (Chairman)

R.F.S. Poots, O.B.E. (Deputy Clerk)

Dated: 7 January 2001

Mr & Mrs S D McKnight v Ards Presbytery

1. The Judicial Commission convened on 15 February, 2001, to hear the Appeal of Mr Derek McKnight and Mrs Phyllis McKnight against a decision of the Ards Presbytery.

2. The following appeared for the Ards Presbytery: Rev W T Cordner, Rev Dr S R Jones, Rev G F McKeown; Mr Wm McCreedy.

3. The Appellants did not appear.

4. The Clerk submitted letters received from the Appellants and other items of correspondence, which were considered.

5. After an adjournment it was agreed that the Appeal be held to be abandoned in accordance with the provisions of Par 167 of The Code.

We are not, of course, concerned with the two ministers in Northern Ireland nor were we told what if any development took place in relation to them. The Minister involved in this appeal referred the matter under the above Act to a Rights Commissioner, who decided that the complaint was well founded and ordered the Church to provide the Minister with his terms and conditions of employment.

At the appeal counsel for the Church argued that the Minister was not an employee and that no contract of service or employment existed. He further argued that the nature of the relationship cannot be analysed in contract terms, because there was no intention to create legal relations. Rather his relationship with the Church is in the nature of a calling which cannot be grounded in the Common Law notion of contract.

The solicitor for the Minister relied on the P60 whereby the Church expressly described the Minister as “employee,” and the Church as “employer,” and argued that this was a clear admission that an employment relationship existed. He said that the 1994 Act was the latest in a long series of statutes dealing with working conditions – statutes which are often called “protective legislation,” to improve the position of people in their working lives, and the Minister was entitled to the benefit of this protection.

One of the cases opened before the Tribunal was the decision of the House of Lords in *Davies v Presbyterian Church of Wales* (1986 1 All E.R. 705) which includes the following analysis by Lord Templeman:

“In the present case the pastor of the Church cannot point to any contract between him and the Church. The book of rules does not contain terms of employment capable of being offered and accepted in the course of a religious ceremony. The duties owed by the pastor to the Church are not contractual or enforceable. A pastor is called and accepts the call. He does not devote his working life but his whole life to the Church and his religion. His duties are defined and his activities are dictated not by contract but by conscience. He is the servant of God. If a manner of serving God is not acceptable to the Church, then his pastorate can be brought to an end by the Church in accordance with the rules.”

In *President of the Methodist Conference v Parfitt* (1984 I.C.R. 176) Dillon L.J. said:

“The courts have repeatedly recognised what is and what is not a contract of service and I have no hesitation in concluding that the relationship between a church and a minister is not apt, in the absence of clear indication to the contrary intention in the document, to be regulated by a contract of service.”

These two cases were followed in *Diocese of Southwark v Coker* (1998 I.C.R. 140)

It is worthy of note that each of these three cases dealt with a different church.

Counsel also relied on a series of Irish cases from *O’Keeffe v Cullen* (1873 I.R. 7) onwards, which he argued, had a common thread relating to the status of various churches and religious orders. It is that of voluntary and unincorporated association united on the basis of agreement, the members subscribing or assenting to certain rules and regulations binding themselves to each other. Counsel also opened to the Tribunal a paper entitled “Church and Labour Law in Ireland,” by Mr. Anthony Kerr, a distinguished author on employment law.

In *Wright v Day* (1895 2 I.R. 337) it was held that the relation of employer and employee did not exist between the plaintiff and the defendant trustees who were bishops of the Church of Ireland. There has been no recent case in this jurisdiction specifically on the point. In Northern Ireland a recent decision made at Tribunal level (*Buckley v Daly* 112/85 UD) held that a Catholic priest working in a parish was not employed by the bishop of his diocese.

In the present case we are dealing with an ordained minister working or giving his life as such. A clergyman might work in another capacity, such as a teacher, writer or broadcaster, and receive a salary in the same way as, and perhaps side by side with, a lay person. That, however, is quite a different situation.

This duality was addressed by Murphy J. in *O’Dea v St. Louis High School* (1992 ILRM 364). That case concerned a nun living in a religious community and teaching in a school attached to that community.

“She was subject to and had the benefit of two codes or two regimes. In so far as she was a member of the teaching staff of the school, she was to some extent subordinate to the board of management and answerable to them. But she was also a member of a religious community and subject to and with benefit of their code and their regulations.”

The Plaintiff in that case did not argue that she was employed by the religious community.

In *McGrath and anor. v St. Patrick’s College Maynooth* the Plaintiffs were dismissed from teaching posts after being laicised. At the time the College was designated as a seminary, but the issue in that case is not helpful to the present case because they undoubtedly were employed as teachers.

It is not for this Tribunal to comment as to churches in general. There might possibly be a distinction to be drawn between the Presbyterian Church and episcopal churches where a bishop has certain authority over ordained priests, curates and vicars, but that is not our concern in the present case. There are certain features of the Presbyterian Church which are important in analysing the relationship between that Church and its ministers.

Unlike the episcopalian churches the Presbyterian Church is based on congregations. A request must come from a particular congregation for "Leave to Call." This "Leave to Call" is issued by the Commission on Union of Congregations and the local congregation may then issue a "Form of Call to a Minister." What this means is that it is the local congregation which initiates the process and the local congregation which appoints the minister. The Church as an institution does not make the appointment in the sense that a company might engage an employee. It is also the local congregation which pays the minister his living, although there may be an element of subsidy from central funds to certain congregations, and it is to the local congregation that he gives his services.

We note the learned judgements from which we have quoted above, and having regard to the involvement of the local congregation, we cannot hold that the Minister is an employee of the Church.

We do not consider that the issue of a P60 form and the descriptions "employee" and "employer" thereon to be vital. The Revenue Commissioners, concerned as they are with the business of tax collection, deal with different matters, and over the years this Tribunal has frequently held that tax papers are not definitive statements of relationships. In particular the Tribunal has not accepted that a P45, though described as a "cessation certificate," necessarily means termination of employment. For what it is worth, the Tax laws treat a minister of religion under Schedule D, which is not appropriate to employment.

We allow the appeal.

Sealed with the Seal of the

Employment Appeals Tribunal

This 19th day of July 2000

(Sgn.) Dermot McCarthy

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly,, be appointed to the Judicial Commission in place of Very Rev Dr A J Weir.

OVERTURE ON THE BOOKS

Anent Par 19(4) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 19(4) of the Code the words "the following sub-paragraph" be deleted and that the words "sub-paragraph (6)" be inserted in their place.

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON

UNION COMMISSION

Convener: Rev W J ORR
Secretary: Rev S A MATTHEWS

INTRODUCTION

The period covered by this Report is from March 2000 to February 2001. 46 vacant congregations were given Leave to Call; in 11 of those cases the Commission felt it necessary to include in the terms an agreement that the finances would be reviewed early in the new ministry. Details of the terms agreed with congregations are set out in the report along with information about other aspects of the Commission's work. The Commission would draw attention to the following issues.

1. The number of congregations seeking Leave to Call an Associate Minister remains high – 7 in the period covered by this report, 11 last year. Together with the number of congregations seeking extra pastoral assistance, this indicates that congregations are putting money into personnel as well as buildings. However if ministerial numbers continue to decline, the Church will have to ensure that smaller congregations are not left without a minister because too many ministerial resources are being drawn to the larger congregations. All those involved are reminded that appointment as an Associate Minister is a term appointment and cannot be extended indefinitely.

2. The Commission is conscious of its role as a facilitator where initiatives have to be taken to find new ways of being the Church in the 21st century. Representatives of the Commission attended a Conference arranged by the Board of Mission in Ireland, at which ministers of the Church of Scotland shared their experience of new initiatives in areas where the Church presence had almost disappeared. The Commission would encourage prayerful support for the new Westbourne – Bloomfield linkage.

3. The Commission is conscious that fundamental changes in the financial system of the Church will flow from any legislation based on the Tyrone Memorial. Throughout the year the Commission has sought to assist the Ad Hoc Committee on the Tyrone Memorial Committee in its work.

4. The Commission took a fresh look at its arrangements for dealing with the large number of reviews which are now the responsibility of the Commission. The categories of review include:

- (i) Where a congregation is slow to issue a call
- (ii) Reviews included in terms of Leave to Call
- (iii) Reviews after seven years of ministry
- (iv) Occasional review at the request of any of the parties.

A review sub-committee was established as an in-house working group, bringing recommendations to the Commission for final decision. This now replaces the Fractions Committee. Appreciation is expressed to all those who were engaged in the work of the Fractions Committee.

5. While recognizing the role of the Presbytery in this matter, the Commission has been mindful of the difficulties caused in a new ministry when

the question of the manse is not settled. The mission of the Church is hindered where the energies of a new minister are taken up with such a potentially divisive issue, and where the minister could be perceived to be acting out of personal interest. Where the manse may have to be extensively repaired or relocated, or where a manse has to be provided, the Commission has sought to work in co-operation with Presbyteries in encouraging congregations to take decisions about the future, before the Call of a Minister

LEAVE TO CALL MINISTERS

Congregation	Stipend	Expenses	Fraction
Carndonagh	IR£4,750	IR£562	37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{5}{8}$
Malin		IR£2,600	IR£938 37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{5}{8}$
Strand Belfast	£18,000	£5,000	35%
Cloughey:	£8,250	£2,750	35%
Portavogie	£10,750	£2,750	35%, review after three full years of ministry but no annual review of stipend by Union Commission during this period. Shared Expenses – 50/50
Kilmakee	£16,000	£5,000	35%
First Saintfield			
(2000)	£25,000		
(2001)	£25,700		
(2002)	£26,500	£5,750	Suspended, review when 2002 figures are available in 2003.
Ballyrashane	£16,500	£5,500	37.5%
Whitehouse	£17,250	£5,400	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, review in 2003.
Balteagh	£12,000	£3,000	37.5%
Bovegagh	£8,100	£2,000	37.5% Shared Expenses 50/50
Second Dromara	£12,000	£5,200	Suspended, with annual review of Stipend and a full review at the end of three full years of ministry.
Berry Street	£3,000	£500	
Dun Laoghaire	IR£3,000	IR£5,500	37.5%

Edengrove, (Ballynahinch)	£20,000	£5,000	35%, Review after three year of ministry.
High Street, Holywood	£22,000	£5,500	33½%
Buckna		£23,300	£5,500 35%
Carlisle Road Crossroads	£15,000 IR£2,650	£5,000 IR£700	35% 37.5% Supplies, 50% each, Manse Rates, Insurance, Telephone ¼th Crossroads, ¼th Carlisle Road. All repairs and upkeep of Manse – Carlisle Road.
Carnmoney	£33,000	£5,500	22.5%
Lisnabreen	£13,000	£5,200	33½%
Fintona		£10,250	£3,650 37.5% Shared Expenses – ⅔
Ballynahatty & Creevan	£5,350	£2,125	37.5% Shared Expenses – ½
Ballywillan	£26,000	£5,500	20%, Reviewed after three years.
Rasharkin	£16,000	£5,500	37.5%
Garnerville	£14,000	£4,250	Suspended, annual review of stipend with full review after three years.
1st Killyleagh	£16,000	£5,500	37.5%
First Kilraughts	£16,250	£5,500	37.5%
Moy		£12,000	£3,500 37.5% Shared Expenses – ⅔
Benburb	£5,500	£2,000	37.5% Shared Expenses – ⅔
Bushmills	£19,000	£5,200	37.5%, Reviewed after three years of ministry.
Tullyallen	£7,100	£2,400	37.5% Shared Expenses – 50%
Mountnorris	£7,100	£2,400	37.5% Shared Expenses – 50%

Movilla	£13,000	£5,500	35%, Review after three years of ministry.
McQuiston Memorial	£24,600	£5,400	30%
Moira (2001)	£21,000		
(2002)	£21,600	£5,750	Suspended, review when the 2002 figures become available. Moira's stipend to be directly set by the Commission under any Tyrone Memorial legislation, at least until that review.
Molesworth (Cookstown)	£24,000	£5,500	35%
First Boardmills	£8,900	£2,200	37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{2}{3}$
Second Boardmills	£3,600	£1,100	35% Shared Expenses – $\frac{1}{2}$
Killaney	£5,300	£2,200	35% Shared Expenses – $\frac{2}{3}$
Coagh		£8,100	£2,250 37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{2}{3}$
Ballygoney	£3,300	£1,054	37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{1}{2}$
Saltersland	£9,000	£2,550	37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{2}{3}$
Aughnacloy	£7,250	£3,300	37.5%
Ballymagrane	£5,300	£2,300	37.5%
Glenwherry	£20,500	£5,500	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %

Leave to Call Under Home Mission Development Scheme

Congregation	Stipend	Expenses	Fraction
Carndonagh	IR£4,750	IR£1,562	35.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{5}{8}$
Malin	IR£2,600	IR£938	37.5% Shared Expenses – $\frac{3}{8}$

Associate Minister

Leave to call an Associate Minister was given to the following congregations in accordance with the General Assembly's Form of Call and the following terms:

Congregation	Salary	Expenses	Housing Allowance
Hamilton Road, Bangor	£16,080	£3,500	£1,500
Orangefield	£20,000	£4,000	£1,500
Bangor West	£16,080	£4,260	£1,500
Carryduff	£16,620	£3,500	£1,500
Shore Street, Donaghadee	£16,080	£3,500	£1,500
First Bangor	Salary Basic Ministerial Minimum: Expenses: Annual recommended locomotory expenses.		
Greenwell Street	Salary: Basic Ministerial Minimum plus £180: Expenses: £4,000.		

ASSOCIATE MINISTRY EXTENSIONS

Ballywillan and Carnmoney were granted one year extensions.

LEAVE TO CALL UNDER REVIEWABLE TENURE

Ballymacarrett:

- (a) Call Figure £12,200, Initial Ministerial Expenses £4,500 per annum and Fraction 30%.
- (b) The appointment to be reviewed and/or terminated:
 - (i) Five years from the date of installation OR
 - (ii) In such circumstances as the Union Commission and Presbytery plan an alternative pattern of distribution of ministry for the congregation or local congregations.

DISSOLUTION OF UNIONS

1. Moira and Ballinderry:
The Union was dissolved from 17 January 2001.
2. Kells and Corboy/Mullingar:
To enable the development of work in the Corboy and Mullingar congregations, and on the understanding that a Manse will be provided at Mullingar through the Board of Mission in Ireland, the Commission agreed to the dissolution of the Union between Kells and Corboy/Mullingar.

TERMS OF UNION

The following congregations were united under the terms set out below:

Berry Street and Richview

1. That the congregations of Berry Street and Richview be united from a date to be agreed by the Union Commission or its Office-bearers.
2. Each congregation shall maintain its separate identity with its own Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and finances.

3. Each congregation shall continue to have the right to appoint representatives to the superior courts of the Church.
4. In the choice of a minister the two congregations shall act as one congregation and the two Kirk Sessions as one Kirk Session.
5. The stated services shall be (i) Berry Street at 11.30 a.m. (ii) Richview at 11.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.; or such other times as the two Kirk Sessions acting together shall determine.
6. That the initial ministerial remuneration paid by Berry Street shall be as follows:
Stipend £3,000
Ministerial Expenses £500
7. That the Minister shall reside in the Richview Manse.
8. That the routine maintenance of the manse in 7 above, the minister's telephone rental and business calls will be borne in the proportion Berry Street 5%, Richview 95%.
9. (i) Berry Street shall pay a supply fee for one service per week, if required, while clause 5 is operative.
(ii) Cost of holiday supplies in Richview shall be covered by Richview.

Glasleck – First Bailieborough

1. That the Congregation of Glasleck be amalgamated with the congregation of First Bailieborough (Corglass) from 1 July, 2000.
2. (If applicable) The two Kirk Sessions become one Kirk Session and the two Committees become one Committee, until a Committee election is held.
3. That all existing or future assets, including property or lands not disposed of, become the property of the amalgamated congregation: and that the law of the Church and guidelines of the General Assembly shall apply to manse property, glebe, or bequests held by Glasleck (if any) for the benefit of the Minister.
4. That any expenses accruing through failure to dispose of the Glasleck property, or through having to make the buildings secure and insured be the responsibility of the amalgamated congregation.

STATED SUPPLY

The stated supply arrangement for Tassagh was extended by 12 months in March 2000.

Belville: A new stated supply arrangement began on 1 December 2000.

REVIEWS

The Commission has reviewed the financial arrangements in the following congregations and adjustments have been made as follows:

Trinity, Bangor: Stipend for 2000, £24,500

Ballyclare (Stewarship Congregation): Stipend for 2000, £27,580; Expenses £6,000.

McQuiston Memorial: Stipend for 1999, £23,165.
 Abbey: Stipend for 2000, IR£8,000. Annual review to continue.
 Ballygrainey: Stipend for 2000: £17,250. Further review in 2001.
 Second Broughshane: Stipend: £24,500. Fraction 33.3%. Annual review continues on the understanding that if Specified Sources are not maintained at reasonable level, consideration will have to be given to a 35% fraction.
 Dungannon: No adjustment to present stipend, but annual review continues. Fraction remains suspended.
 Greenisland: Stipend: £22,000 (2000) on the usual understanding that the congregation is at liberty to pay a higher figure.
 Hydepark: Fraction remains at 37.5% and is no longer subject to annual review.
 Lylehill: Fraction remains at 37.5% and is no longer subject to annual review.
 Killymurriss: Fraction of 35% confirmed and is no longer subject to annual review.
 McQuiston Memorial: Fraction reinstated at 30%.
 Bangor West: Fraction set at 13.25% with review at the end of the third full year of ministry.
 Fitzroy: The system of index linked increase in stipend continues for three years or until new legislation prompts a re-examination of the situation.
 1st Ballymoney: Stipend for 2000, £22,500.
 Lowe Memorial: Stipend for 2000, £29,964, Expenses, £6,290.
 Kilbride: Stipend for 2000, £25,000, Expenses for 2000, £5,500.
 Bannside: Fraction suspended. Stipend (2001) £26,500; (2002) £27,250; (2003) £28,000.
 Ballyholme: Stipend £26,000 (2001).
 Connor: Fraction suspended with stepped arrangement as follows for Stipend (2001) £30,000; (2002) £30,300; (2003) £30,750.
 High Street Antrim: Stipend £23,900, further review early 2002.
 Second Killyleagh: Stipend £16,000 (2001) further review early 2002.
 First Portglenone: Fraction reduced to 32.5% stipend not less than £28,500.
 Knock Associate: Stipend £20,000 (2001).

REVIEW OF LEAVE TO CALL

Conlig: Stipend £16,400, Expenses, £5,150. Fraction suspended with annual review.

EXPERIMENTAL NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN WESTBOURNE – BLOOMFIELD LINKAGE

The Commission was glad to co-operate with the other agencies involved in putting the necessary arrangements into place. Westbourne and Bloomfield have entered into a mission partnership for outreach in the Westbourne Parish area. The Scheme envisages that an Associate Minister will be called by the Home Mission to work specifically in an outreach capacity in the Westbourne area, in association with and under the supervision of the minister of Bloomfield. The entire arrangement is to be reviewed by Presbytery, Home Mission and Union Commission 3 years after the induction of the Associate. In the interim

there will be an annual report to Presbytery and Home Mission by the vacancy convener.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Where financial support of ministers was necessary because of sickness or redundancy or resignation, special arrangements were made. A rule was formulated about financial support for Moderator's Assistants who do not immediately receive a call at the end of their 13 months of ministry as assistants.

Church Extension: Special arrangements for assessments for New Mossley and Ballysally were continued for a further 12 months.

Assessments on Mission Congregations: When, with the approval of the Union Commission, a congregation is designated as "Mission priority" under the Home Mission Development Scheme, it shall be assessed on the same basis as a vacant congregation until the Union Commission decides that congregational resources are sufficiently strong for normal arrangements to apply. A report shall be made to the Union Commission when each review of the congregation takes place.

STUDENT MARRIED ALLOWANCE

The Marriage allowance for third year students is to be calculated on the same basis as that fixed by the Students' Bursary Fund.

RESTRICTED LIST

The Commission continues to apply the following rules and it is the responsibility of the individual minister to apply for an extension:

A. The name of a minister shall be removed from the list of eligible ministers (Code Par (1) (e)) after two years, unless the minister concerned applies for and is granted an extension by the Union Commission.

B. When the Union Commission is not meeting on a monthly basis:

- (a) The Convener may grant an extension of up to two months, in consultation with the Clerk of Assembly.
- (b) The Allocation Committee may place a new applicant on the restricted list.

MANSES

Various permissions granted by the Commission are given on the understanding that other permissions required by the law of the Church must be sought and that relevant guidelines are applied.

Permission was granted to the following congregations to sell their Manses: Carndonagh and Malin, Castlebellinghan, Drumlee, Castlerock, Merville and Greenbank, First Bangor and Ballycastle.

Permission was given to the congregation of Cregagh to proceed with the erection of a new manse.

Permission was given to the congregation of Dunloy to demolish the redundant manse and retain the site.

Permission was given to the congregation of Legacurry to sell part of the Manse Grounds.

Permission was granted to the congregation of Carlisle Road, Londonderry to let the manse.

Negotiations about the use of capital held in Manse Funds were entered into with Letterkenny and Castleblayney, and about the use of monies raised by the compulsory sale, for road-widening, of part of the Manse grounds at Sligo.

Assistance was given with regard to the interpretation of the term “maintenance of the Manse.”

A minister has been given permission to vacate the manse so that repairs may be made, and then to remain living outwith the manse as this would bring him to within a year of the date on which he has affirmed he plans to retire.

Following a suggestion from the Templepatrick Presbytery that more detailed Guidelines be prepared on issues related to Manses, the Manses Committee devoted considerable time drawing up such Guidelines, which were approved by the Commission and are appended to this report.

APPENDIX

GUIDELINES ON MANSES

Arising from a request by the Presbytery of Templepatrick, the Manses Committee drew up General Guidelines on Manses. It was recognised that Guidelines already existed with regard to **redundant** Manses (Assembly Reports 1980, 1992, 1994) and that there were also separate Guidelines in place, under the aegis of the General Assembly’s Architecture Committee, relating to the provision of a new Manse. However, it was also recognised that, apart from these situations, the generally accepted ‘Guidelines’ had developed by way of ‘custom and practice’, and that it was necessary for both Ministers and Congregations to have such Guidelines in written form.

The term “Guidelines” has been used rather than “Laws” or “Rules”, as it is sometimes necessary to have a degree of flexibility. However, Guidelines are more than mere suggestions. When approved by the General Assembly, they carry a definite authority and should only be departed from where there is good and sufficient reason approved by Presbytery and the Union Commission.

The Following Guidelines were adopted:

a. In a Vacancy Situation

1. Major Manse problems are better resolved before a new Minister is called, let alone installed.
2. It is recommended that the outgoing Minister and his/her family be consulted by the Convener of the Vacancy before they leave the Manse, as they may be aware of problems and faults that will not be immediately obvious to others.
3. Vacancy Commissions should remain in place until any recommendations with regard to the manse are implemented. It is further recommended that a representative of the Presbytery’s Architecture Committee (or the Architecture Convener) should sit on the Vacancy Commission. And it is strongly recommended that the

new minister should refrain from involving himself/herself in any discussions and decisions.

4. Where permission to Call is sought it is important that a detailed report on the condition of the Manse be available in order that, permission having been given, it is not subsequently discovered that major work needs to be undertaken or even that the Manse needs replacing! Consequently the Questionnaire as set out in Paragraph (c) (below) with regard to Visitations should be submitted through the Presbytery to the Union Commission, in order that all will be clearly seen to be in order. It is important to understand that the state of the manse will be definitely taken into account before Permission to Call is granted (Code: Paragraph 274 (4)).
5. Recognising that a Manse, in addition to being a family home, has on occasion a wider use (e.g. meetings of organisational committees etc.), 'public areas' should be furnished by the congregation:- i.e. carpeting provided for Hall, Stairs and Landing; carpet and curtains provided in the 'public' rooms (Study, Drawing Room, Dining Room). The kitchen should have floor covering and a cooker provided. The provision of bookshelves would be helpful.
6. Reasonable removal expenses should be paid. It is recognised that these are bound to vary depending on the distance involved and other circumstances. A sensible figure should be agreed by the Presbytery in which the vacancy occurs and submitted along with the other specified information when permission to call is being sought.
7. Whereas a congregation is obliged to provide a Manse for the Minister and he/she is obliged to live in it, in accordance with the Terms of Call, nevertheless the relationship of a congregation to the Minister is not that of landlord to tenant. As a general principle, a Minister is not responsible for interior Manse decoration as is the case with a tenant.
8. If permission has been sought and obtained from the Presbytery and the Union Commission for the short-term rental of a vacant Manse:
 - a. permission for letting should be given for a *specified period of time*, and then if necessary be subject to further permission from the Presbytery and Union Commission;
 - b. the Convener of the Vacancy Commission should have the opportunity to inspect the property between rentals;
 - c. a proper legal leasing agreement should be drawn up by the Congregational Committee, and the Convener of the Vacancy Commission should be satisfied with this agreement in order to avoid unforeseen difficulties at a later stage.
9. If there is an exceptionally large Manse garden, or a Manse Farm, the respective responsibilities of the minister and Church Committee with regard to maintenance and upkeep should be determined by the Vacancy Commission and the congregation and the arrangements submitted to the Union Commission when seeking Permission to Call.

b. In a Settled Situation

1. If a Minister has to leave the Manse temporarily on account of major renovation or the unavoidable necessity of replacing the Manse, the permission of both the Presbytery and the Union Commission should be sought before the Minister vacates the premises.
2. It is the responsibility of the Congregation, acting through its Committee, to make the necessary provision for suitable alternative accommodation, their Manse being unavailable. A departure from the provision of a Manse is in fact a departure from the Terms of Call, and it is therefore not the responsibility of the Minister to endeavour to find his/her own accommodation. Such 'temporary accommodation' should conform, as far as is possible, to the Assembly's Guidelines and have the approval of the overseeing Presbytery. In these circumstances, acceptable provision should also be made by the Committee, if necessary, for the storage of furniture temporarily 'surplus to requirements'.
3. The Minister should not be responsible for the removal costs in a situation such as that envisaged, where such a move has been necessitated by circumstances not of his/her own making.
4. It is important to understand that permission to vacate the manse is given for a limited period of time. Immediately the renovations have been completed arrangements should be set in hand by the Committee, guided by Presbytery, for the return of the Minister to the manse.
5. If a Minister is within one year of his/her definite date of retirement, or over the normal age of retirement, it is probable that permission will be given to vacate the Manse, if he/she so requests and with the agreement of the congregation, in order to facilitate them in undertaking any necessary repairs or renovations to the Manse property in anticipation of a vacancy. In other circumstances a request by a minister to vacate the manse should only be considered where there are compelling reasons (eg a certified medical condition).
6. In a situation where extensive renovations are being undertaken, or in other circumstances deemed necessary, it is recommended that consideration be given to installing an Intruder Alarm system in the Manse.

c. In Visitations by Presbytery

In each 10 year Visitation by Presbytery it is important that the condition of the Manse be monitored. Suggested questions could include:

1. Has a professional survey been undertaken of all aspects of the Manse property?
2. When was the manse constructed?
3. Are there any repairs of a serious nature that need to be undertaken with a degree of urgency?
4. Is there double glazing, central heating? Is there wall (cavity) insulation, if appropriate?

5. What is the Church Committee's policy on internal redecoration?
How often is external redecoration of the Manse undertaken?
6. Is there an Intruder alarm system fitted?

By ensuring that maintenance of the Manse is undertaken in a routine manner it is to be hoped that, should a vacancy occur, the state of the Manse would not be a contributory factor in delaying Leave to Call. Presbyteries should ensure, as is the present case, that any recommendations are put into effect within a reasonable period of time (Code Paragraph 251).

General

When a congregation requests permission from the Union Commission to sell their Manse they should ascertain the following:

1. That the deeds of the property have been inspected and that there are no restrictive clauses;
2. That a new Manse will be built or bought, conforming to the Assembly's Guidelines (unless the Manse is redundant on account of a Union);
3. That if there is any surplus of money after a Manse has been sold and a replacement provided, it will normally be placed in a Manse Fund Account, to be used for repairs and maintenance of the Manse, unless in exceptional circumstances permission has been received from the Union Commission to vary this arrangement.
4. Rental from a redundant Manse should normally be used in accordance with the General Assembly's Guidelines, unless in exceptional circumstances permission has been received from the Union Commission to vary this arrangement.

**ASSESSMENTS ON FULLY CONSTITUTED CHURCH EXTENSION
CHARGES — 2001**

Under Par. 234 (3)(a) of the Code

	<i>Fully Constituted</i>	<i>Families (†)</i>	<i>Assess 2000 £</i>	<i>Spec. Sources £</i>	<i>Income £</i>
Tullycarnet	1990	219 (154)	231	33,428	66,812
Downshire	1993	258 (169)	253	39,842	60,997
Lisnabreen	1993	258 (195)	292	40,338	71,786
Scrabo	1994	261 (162)	243	37,047	57,418
Burnside	1995	177 (155)	232	49,703	107,016
Movilla	2001	250 (181)	271	34,395	52,948

† Families contributing at least £5.00 per annum

ASSESSMENTS ON CHURCH EXTENSION CHARGES — 2001

<i>Church</i>	<i>Spec.</i>						
	<i>Building</i>	<i>Srs.</i>	<i>Stip.</i>	<i>C.M.F.</i>	<i>Ch. Ext</i>	<i>H.M.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New Mossley*	2,610	16,033	4,008	1,924	1,283	802	8,017
Ballysally*	8,709	23,454	5,864	2,814	1,876	1,173	11,727
Strathfoyle	615	3,827	1,148	574	383	229	2,334
Taughmonagh	1,200	19,453	5,836	2,918	1,945	1,167	11,866

* Special Arrangement

LICENTIATES — 2001

Licentiates are paid 75% of the ministerial minimum = £12,465 from 1st January, 2001 plus House Allowance p.a. (single — £702; married — £1,002) if applicable. House Allowance is shared equally between the Congregation and C.M.F.

FIRST YEAR — From 1st January, 2001

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Date of Licensing</i>	<i>Ministers Stipend</i>	<i>Congregations Contribution</i>	<i>C.M.F.</i>
Hamilton Road, Bangor	J. M. Casement*	25.06.00	34,385 (30%)	10,816	2,651
Dundonald	L. H. Eagleson†	15.06.00	31,636 (30%)	9,842	3,325
2nd Comber	S. D. Finlay*	18.06.00	30,910 (30%)	9,774	3,693
Malone	Dr. M. Jones†	18.06.00	28,980 (30%)	9,045	4,122
Mourne	C. W. A. Martin*	16.06.00	41,762 (30%)	12,966	501
Joymount	C. K. McDowell*	18.06.00	26,398 (30%)	8,420	5,047
1st Bangor	D. J. Steele*	28.05.00	31,102 (30%)	9,832	3,635
Hillsborough	S. Richmond*	02.07.00	30,562 (30%)	9,670	3,797

* Married House Allowance † Single House Allowance

LICENTIATES — 2001

Licentiates are paid 75% of the ministerial minimum = £12,465 from 1st January, 2001 plus House Allowance p.a. (single — £702; married — £1,002) if applicable. House Allowance is shared equally between the Congregation and C.M.F.

SECOND YEAR — From 1st January, 2001

Congregation	Assistant	Date of Licensing	Ministers		Congregations Contribution	C.M.F.
			Stipend	Contribution		
Gardenmore	C. Burcombe†	06.6.99	30,169 (30%)	9,402	3,765	
Rosemary	R. I. Carton*	27.6.99	26,900 (30%)	8,571	4,896	
Glendermott	S. J. Castles*	13.6.99	23,799 (25%)	6,451	7,016	
First Antrim	M. N. Davidson*	06.6.99	25,917 (30%)	8,276	5,191	
Bloomfield	M. Gibson*	13.6.99	26,499 (s/a)	4,226	9,241	
Trinity, Bangor	K. W. J. Hanna*	20.6.99	24,522 (30%)	7,858	5,609	
Seaview	K. Henderson*	20.6.99	18,453 (s/a)	—	13,467	
Stormont	S. Henning*	13.6.99	32,808 (30%)	10,343	3,124	
Carryduff	A. Kerr*	10.9.99	25,676 (30%)	8,204	5,263	
Ebrington	S. J. Lockington*	04.6.99	24,762 (30%)	7,930	5,537	
Belmont	P. G. McDowell*	27.6.99	25,426 (30%)	8,129	5,338	
Railway Street, Lisburn	Cheryl A. Reid†	20.6.99	25,142 (30%)	7,894	5,273	

* Married House Allowance † Single House Allowance
s/a special arrangement

LICENTIATES — 2001

Licentiates are paid 75% of the ministerial minimum = £12,465 from 1st January, 2001 plus House Allowance p.a. (single — £702; married — £1,002) if applicable. House Allowance is shared equally between the Congregation and C.M.F.

THIRD YEAR — From 1st January, 2001

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Date of Licensing</i>	<i>Ministers Stipend</i>	<i>Congregations Contribution</i>	<i>C.M.F.</i>
Harmony Hill, Lambeg	R. D. McDowell†	19.06.98	28,908 (30%)	9,023	4,144
Kilbride	E. S. McDowell†	19.06.98	24,999 (30%)	7,851	5,316
Ballygowan	G. J. Kennedy*	21.06.98	27,603 (30%)	8,782	4,685
Wellington Street	W. J. A. Moody*	28.06.98	28,900 (30%)	9,171	4,296

* Married House Allowance † Single House Allowance

ORDAINED ASSISTANTS — 2001

From 1st January, 2001

<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Date of Ord.</i>	<i>% Min.</i>	<i>Salary</i> £	<i>House Allow.</i> £	<i>Total</i> £	<i>Cong.</i> £	<i>C.M.F.</i> £
Marlene Taylor	Cooke Centenary	11.1.85	100	16,620	1,002	17,622	9,152	8,470
Dr. J. Cheshire	Hazelbank, Coleraine	18.11.79	90	14,958	1,002	15,960	9,408	6,552

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS 2001

<i>Name</i>	<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Salary</i>		<i>House Allowance Paid</i>	<i>Assessment Recovery</i>
		<i>Paid</i>	<i>Recovery</i>		
		£	£	£	£
G. Kennedy from 8.03.01	First Bangor	16,620	12,440.80	1,500	363.56
S. J. Hanna	Ballyholme	16,620	10,803.00‡	1,500	363.56
M. Henderson from 5.01.01	Shore Street	16,620	10,803.00‡	1,500	363.56
P. D. Thompson	Whiteabbey	16,620	12,488.40	1,500	363.56
D. S. McIlwrath to 3.05.01	Carmonney	19,281	5,250.00	1,024.65	659.48
D. Montgomery	Knock	20,000	17,120.40	—	2,391.56
H. E. Lewis	Bloomfield	16,620	10,803.00‡	1,500	363.56
J. Peacock	Newtownbreda	16,620	11,000.00	1,500	363.56
C Glover	Stormont	16,620	13,520.40	—	363.56
D. J. McCarthy	Orangefield	20,000	13,872.80	1,500	2,391.56
B. D. Colvin	Ballyclare	17,000	11,411.60	1,500	591.56
R. J. Montgomery	1st Carrickfergus	18,747	17,184.60	1,500	1,639.77
A. E. Tolland	1st Larne	16,620	12,124.80	1,500	363.56
A. J. M. Smith to 15.02.01	Ballywillian	21,000	1,956.52	3,600	381.54

N.B. ‡ 65% of minimum

Nat Ins recovered in full on salary paid

PERSONNEL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Extra Parochial Work

1. Eight ministers, having obtained prior Presbytery approval, were given permission for extra-parochial work of no more than six hours per week. To assist ministers and Presbyteries in complying with Par. 73 (d) of the Code a new pro-forma has been issued through Presbytery Clerks which should normally be returned annually to the Committee Convener prior to commencement of such work.

Locomotory Expenses

2. The year 2001 recommendations for locomotory allowances were set according to an established formula for a car of 1400cc travelling 13,000 "business" miles. The standing costs attributable to private motoring have been factored in.

N Ireland £4,980 (2000: £4,600); ROI IR£5,664 (2000: IR£5,000)

These figures are of course only average figures issued for the guidance of Congregational Committees. They cover only motoring costs, and should not be automatically and universally applied as the appropriate amount for each minister.

Inadequate Expenses Grant Scheme

3. Applications for grants towards inadequate expenses in the year 1999 were approved for 26 ministers. The total grants paid were almost £43,550, compared to £46,500 in the previous year.

The Committee appreciates the diligence of Ministers, Congregational Treasurers and Presbytery Clerks/Finance Conveners in supplying the relevant information and authorisations with the application forms (which are due after the March Presbytery meetings).

4. The recommended limits for 2001 claims under this scheme are as follows:

N Ireland £5,100 (2000: £4,900); ROI IR£5,800 (2000: IR£5,500)

Supply Fees

5. In pursuance of last year's Assembly resolution (p.91 Reports) amending Par. 238 (3) and (4) of the Code the supply fee for the year 2001 will be £68, with £45 for a single service supply. This is of course a minimum figure and does not include travelling expenses, which should be paid in "accordance with the rates for travel by car fixed for attendance at Assembly Boards, or be based on second class rail or bus fares." Par. 238 (4). Currently this rate is 12p per mile.

Presbyteries should ensure that atypical circumstances do not give rise to unjust anomalies in these matters.

Additional Pastoral Personnel

6. This aspect of the Committee's remit has burgeoned. Applications from fifteen congregations were considered and approved for 18 appointments. This compares with only four congregations last year.

7. The Committee strongly advocates the 1997 Guidelines (Reports 1997 p. 57). In particular, attention is drawn to the proper sequencing for the approval of the post and the actual appointment of personnel. Presbyteries have an integral role to play throughout the process, including the endorsement of such personnel before appointment.

8. In the light of anticipated expansion the Committee will closely monitor this category of pastoral provision. In order that strategic planning, robust advice and targeted researching can be optimised the Committee seeks the Church's full co-operation in gathering information and sharing good practice. An up to date register of such posts will be maintained by the Committee.

Vacancy Procedures Handbook

9. This has been widely endorsed as a helpful and timely publication. The Rev. Trevor McCormick continues to monitor the Handbook's effectiveness and would appreciate feedback from Vacancy Conveners using the questionnaire that will be provided.

C D McCLURE, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the CMF be authorised to pay grants towards expenses incurred by ministers in congregations, up to a limit of £5,100 for ministers residing in Northern Ireland, and IR£5,800 for ministers residing in the Republic of Ireland, within the terms of resolution 3, p 70 General Assembly Minutes 1998.
3. 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:

OVERTURES TRANSMITTED

Anent Par 193(1)(a)(i) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 193(1)(a)(i) of the Code the words "except that ministers ordained in January or February shall be eligible from 15th January of the qualifying year" be deleted, and that the words "except that an ordained assistant to the Moderator of the General Assembly shall be eligible to apply from 15th January of the qualifying year" be substituted in their place.

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

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 193(2)(a) of the Code the words “except that ministers ordained in January or February shall be eligible from 15th January of the qualifying year” be deleted.

Anent Par 274 (4) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 274 (4) of the Code after the words “for a new ministry” there be added the additional words:

“and the Commission is satisfied that the Manse (if any) is being put into suitable condition for the use of the Minister.”

W J ORR

REPORTS OF SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES

SYNOD OF ARMAGH AND DOWN

The **SYNOD OF ARMAGH AND DOWN** report that the Rev Robert John Gordon Gray, BA, BD, DMin, DD, has been nominated as their Moderator, and that their next stated meeting is appointed to be held at Ballydown on Tuesday 12 March, 2002 at 11.00 am.

The **ARDS PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev W T Corder, BA, DipTh, MA, is their Moderator; that the Rev William Erskine, MA, Senior Minister of Ballyholme, died on 25 March, 2000, the Rev Robert Houston, BA, Senior Minister of First Holywood, died on 14 May, 2000, the Rev J Desmond Ayre, BD, Senior Minister of Lisnabreen, died on 15 October, 2000; that the Rev William M Gray, BA, Minister of Lisnabreen, retired on 5 September, 2000, the Very Rev John Ross, BA, DD, Minister of High Street, Holywood, retired on 17 September, 2000; that the Rev T J Laverty, BSc, Assistant Minister at Bangor West, resigned on 11 May, 2000, having accepted a Call to Portstewart and was furnished with credentials to the Coleraine Presbytery, the Rev J G Millar, BSc, BD, DPhil, Associate Minister at Hamilton Road, Bangor, resigned on 11 May, 2000, having accepted a Call to Howth and Malahide and was furnished with credentials to the Dublin and Munster Presbytery, the Rev D J Campbell, BA, BD, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland, resigned his appointment on 5 May, 2000 and was received as a Minister without Charge under the care of the Presbytery, the Rev S E Hughes, BA, BD, Associate Minister at First Bangor, resigned on 6 December, 2000, having accepted a Call to Whitehouse and was furnished with credentials to the North Belfast Presbytery, the Rev D C Porter, DipTh, BD, MTh, Church Extension Minister at Movilla, resigned on 2 January, 2001, having received a Call to Second Dromara and was furnished with credentials to the Dromore Presbytery; that the Rev L W H Hilditch, BEd, BD, having presented credentials from the Armagh Presbytery was installed as Minister in Greenwell Street, Newtownards, on 12 September, 2000, Mr Mark Henderson, BA, MDiv, having presented credentials from the Route Presbytery was ordained and inducted as Associate Minister at Shore Street, Donaghadee on 5 January, 2001, the Rev D McKee, BD, having presented credentials from the Newry Presbytery was received as a Minister without Charge under the care of Presbytery on 15 June, 2000; that they licensed Mr J M Casement as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry on 25 June, 2000; that Mr M M Stewart, a Licentiate under the care of Presbytery, having accepted a Call to Knappagh and Lislooney was furnished with credentials to the Armagh Presbytery on 2 May,

Died

Retired

Resigned

Installed

Ordained

Licensed

Credentials

2000; Mr D J Steele, having presented credentials from the Route Presbytery was received as a Licentiate under the care of Presbytery on 3 October, 2000; that they have under their care as Ministers without Charge the Revs D McKee, BD, D J Campbell, BA, BD; D M Spratt, ALCM, BEd, DipTh; C D Mawhinney, BD; as Licentiates Messrs K W J Hanna, D J Steele, J M Casement; as Students Messrs C Ebbinghaus, C A Grant, C W P Kennedy, P Jamieson; that they have visited the Congregations of Hamilton Road, Bangor, Kirkcubbin, and Portaferry; and that Financial Reports of Congregations are being printed separately.

Under care

Students
Visited

The **ARMAGH PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev J W P McConnell, MA, BEd, BD, DASE, is their Moderator; that the Rev L W H Hilditch, BEd, BD, resigned as Minister of Moy and Benburb on 12 September, 2000, having received a Call from the congregation of Greenwell Street, Newtownards and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Ards; that Rev M M Stewart, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ards was ordained and installed as minister of Knappagh and Lislooney and stated supply of Middletown on 26 May, 2000; that they have under their care Mr S J Mervyn Lindsay as a student for the ministry; that they have under their care the Rev W A Shaw, BD, a Minister without Charge; and that during the year they visited the congregations of Vinecash, Redrock and Clare; and that the Financial Reports of congregations are being printed separately.

Resigned

Ordained

Students
Under care
Visited

The **DOWN PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev R A Moffett, BSc, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev W R Brown, MA, Senior Minister of First Comber died on 1 May, 2000; that the Rev T W Gordon, BA, BD, PGCE, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Belfast South, was installed in First Comber on 23 March, 2000; that the Rev T Steele, BSSc, resigned as minister of Edengrove on 31 May, 2000, having received a Call from McCord Christian Church, Ohio and was furnished with credentials to that Church; that the Rev K McConnell, BD, resigned as minister of First and Second Boardmills and Killaney on 19 October, 2000 having received a Call from the congregation of Oldpark and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of North Belfast; that they have under their care as Licentiates Mr G J Kennedy and Mr S Finlay; that they have under their care as Ministers without Charge the Revs R N Stewart, BA, BD, and D N Gray, BA, BD; that they have under their care Mr Samuel Newell as a student for the ministry; that during the year they visited the congregations of Lissara and Killinchy; that the Financial Reports of the congregations are being printed separately.

Died

Installed
Resigned

Under care

Student
Visited

The **DROMORE PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev H W Mullan, BA, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev J F Crawford, BA, minister of Moira and Ballinderry, having received a Call from the congregations of Newtown and Bowden, demitted his Charge on

Resigned

5 October, 2000, and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles; that the Rev A K Duddy, BA, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Newry, was installed to the pastoral oversight of the congregation of First Dromore on 10 March, 2000; that the Rev D C Porter, DipTh, BD, MTh, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ards, was installed to the pastoral oversight of the congregation of Second Dromara, on 3 January, 2001; that the Rev J M Wylie, BSc, BD, MTh, was ordained to the office of the Christian Ministry and installed as a Chaplain to HM Forces on 7 May, 2000; that the Rev R J Mattison, BD, Minister without Charge under the care of Presbytery, having received a Call from the Congregations of Cremore, Fourtowns and Poyntzpass was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Newry; that Mr T D Hagan, BA, BTh, Licentiate Assistant in Elmwood, having received a Call to become minister of the Congregations of Malin and Carndonagh, was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Derry and Strabane; and that they have under their care as Licentiates Miss C A Reid, LLB, BD, PGDM; Mr R D McDowell, BSc, BD, and Mr Stephen Richmond, MSc, BD; that they have under their care as students for the ministry Mr Michael McClenaghan, Mr Niall Samuel Robert Lockhart and Mr William Joseph Moody Parker; that during the year they held a Consultation with the Congregation of Harmony Hill; and that Financial Statements are being published separately by each congregation.

The **IVEAGH PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev G Best, MA, BD, is their Moderator; that on 31 January, 2001 the Rev J Briggs, BA, BD, retired from the duties of the active ministry and demitted the Charge of Scarva Street, Banbridge; that the Rev J R I Harbinson, BA, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Belfast South was Ordained and Installed as Minister in Ballyrone and Drumlee Congregations on 15 September, 2000; that the Rev W L Orr, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Tyrone was Installed as Minister in Glascar and Donaghmore on 1 December, 2000; that credentials were issued to Mr B Colvin, BA, BD, a Licentiate, having received a Call as Associate Minister from the congregation of Ballyclare; that they have under their care as a Minister without Charge (retired) the Rev E G McAuley, BA, BD, MSc; that during the year they visited the Congregations of Newmills and Garvaghy; and that the Financial Reports of the congregations are being printed separately.

The **NEWRY PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev D Rankin, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev S H Williamson, BA, Senior Minister of Warrenpoint, died on 13 January, 2001; that the Rev R A Knox, MA, LTh, AInstAM, resigned as Minister of Tullyallen and Mountnorris on 1 September, 2000, and was subsequently issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Shetland, having been appointed to the Congregations of Yell and Fetlar; that the Rev R J Mattison, BA, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Dromore, was installed as Minister of

Cremore, Fourtowns and Poyntzpass on 22 September, 2000; that they have under their care as a Licentiate Mr C W A Martin, BSc, MDiv, and as a student for the Ministry Mr D S Henry; that during the year they visited the congregation of 1st and 2nd Markethill; and that the Financial Reports of the Congregations are being printed separately.

Under care
Student
Visited

SYNOD OF BALLYMENA AND COLERAINE

The **BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE SYNOD OF BALLYMENA AND COLERAINE** report that they met on Tuesday, 13 March, 2001 at 10 am. They formed an ad hoc Committee to transact any necessary urgent business since the Annual Meeting of Synod had been cancelled owing to the foot-and-mouth crisis. They report that Rev G L McAdoo, BA, BD, MTh, is their Moderator; that Rev J T Magowan, BA, BD, has been nominated to be the Moderator for the ensuing year; that the next stated meeting of Synod will be held in Connor Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 12 March, 2002 at 10 am.

The **BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev W B Boyd, BSc, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev J A Gordon, BSc, BD, resigned his appointment as assistant minister of Kells and Eskylane on 11 May, 2000, having received and accepted a Call from Urray and Kilchrist and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Ross; that the Rev L J Addis, BSc, BD, resigned his Charge as minister of Buckna on 20 June, 2000, having received and accepted a Call from Woodlands and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Carrickfergus; that the Rev I W Crooks, BSc, BD, resigned his charge as minister of Rasharkin on 31 August, 2000 and was received as a Minister without Charge under the care of Presbytery; that the Rev R J Hyndman, BSc, BD, resigned his charge as minister of Glenwherry on 18 January, 2001, having received and accepted a Call from First Saintfield and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Down; that the Rev J J Currie, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Omagh, was installed as Minister of First Ballymena on 5 January, 2001; that Mr L H Eagleson, BSc, was licensed as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry on 15 June, 2000 and furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of East Belfast; that Mr S D Finlay, LLB, was licensed as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry on 18 June, 2000 and furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Down; that Mr C K McDowell, BA, was licensed as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry on 18 June, 2000 and furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Carrickfergus; that Mr S Richmond, MSc, BD, was licensed as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry on 2 July, 2000 and furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Dromore; that the Rev I W Crooks, BSc, BD, a Minister without Charge under the care of the Presbytery, was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Eastern Canada on 8 September, 2000; that the Congregations of Glenarm and

Resigned

Installed
Licensed

Credentials

Visited Cairnalbana, Churchtown and Ballyloughan were visited; and that the Financial Reports of the Congregations are being printed separately.

The **CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev G A J Ellis-Farquhar, DipTh, BA, MTh, is their Moderator; that the Rev Leslie J Addis, BSc, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ballymena, was installed as minister of Woodlands, Carrickfergus on 21 June, 2000; that Miss Anne Elizabeth Tolland, BSc, BD, MTh, PGCE, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Templepatrick, was Ordained to the office of the Christian Ministry and Inducted as Associate Minister in First Larne on 6 April, 2000; that Mr Jonathan Paul Moxen, BA, BTh, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Coleraine, was Ordained to the office of the Christian Ministry and Installed to the oversight of Ballynure Congregation on 4 May, 2000; that Mr Brian David Colvin, BA, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Iveagh, was Ordained to the office of the Christian Ministry and Inducted as Associate Minister in Ballyclare on 25 June, 2000; that the Rev James Craig Simms, BA, BD was received as a Minister without Charge on 12 September, 2000 following the completion of his term as Moderator's assistant; that the Rev J H Wilson, BA, MAR, a Minister without Charge under the care of Presbytery, was furnished with credentials on 12 September, 2000 on his transfer to the Presbytery of Belfast South; that the Rev James Craig Simms, BA, BD, a Minister without Charge under the care of Presbytery, was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Ballymena on 6th February, 2001 having received a Call to the Congregation of Rasharkin; that they have under their care as Minister without Charge, Rev D R Byers, BA, DipTh; that they have under their care as Licentiates Mr Colin Burcombe, BSc, and Mr Colin Kerr McDowell, BA, MDiv, who transferred to the Presbytery having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ballymena; that they visited the Congregations of Raloo and Whitehead during the year; that the Financial Statements of Congregations are being printed separately.

The **COLERAINE PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev P C Lyle, BEd, BD, is their Moderator; that on 10 September, 2000 the Rev J Frazer, BSc, BD, retired from the duties of the active ministry in Ballywillan; that on 18 February, 2001 the Rev A J McL Smith, BA, MDiv, resigned as Associate Minister of Ballywillan Congregation upon his Call to become Minister of Dun Laoghaire Congregation and was given credentials to the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster; that on 12 May, 2000 the Rev T J Laverty, BSc, was Installed as Minister of Portstewart, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ards; that on 19 May, 2000 the Rev C J Aitchison, BSc, BD, was Installed as Minister of Castlerock, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster; that on 7 March, 2000 credentials were issued to Mr J P Moxen, BA, BTh, a Licentiate under the care of Presbytery, upon his Call to become Minister of Ballynure

Congregation in the Presbytery of Carrickfergus; that on 30 August, 2000 credentials were issued to Mr G D Allen, BA, BTh, a Licentiate under the care of Presbytery upon his Call to become minister of Lisbellaw, Maguiresbridge, Lisnaskea, and Newtownbutler Congregations in the Presbytery of Omagh; that they have under their care as Ministers without Charge the Revs W J Morrison, BA, Dr James W Cheshire, and J D Mark, MA, BD; as a Licentiate without Charge, Mr T Mulholland, BSc, BTh; and as students for the Ministry Mr P Wilson and Mr D McCorrison; that the Presbytery has held a Consultation in First Kilrea Congregation and that the Financial Statements of Congregations are being printed separately.

Under care
Students
Visited

The **ROUTE PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev D I J McNie, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev S McCartney, BD, Senior Minister of Finvoy, died on 12 February, 2001; that the Rev H B Wallace, MA, Minister of Bushmills, retired on 30 June, 2000; that the Rev W E R Barton, MA, Minister of Mosside, retired on 9 July, 2000; that the Rev J T McCullough, BA, Minister of Toberdoney and Croaghmore, retired on 31 December, 2000; that the Rev D H Thompson, BA, BD, MPhil, having received a call to Strand, resigned his charge of First Kilraughts on the 30 August, 2000 and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of East Belfast; that on 28 May, 2000 they licensed Mr D J Steele, BD, MTh, and furnished him with credentials to the Presbytery of Ards; that on 14 December, 2000 they furnished Mr M Henderson, BA, MDiv, a Licentiate under the care of the Presbytery, with credentials to the Presbytery of Ards; that on 6 March, 2001 the Rev Victor Dobbin, CB, MBE, QHC, MA, MTh, PhD, DD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of North Belfast, was received as a Minister without Charge under the care of the Presbytery; that they have under their care as a student for the Ministry Mr G Chestnutt; that during the year they visited the Congregations of Finvoy and Croaghmore; that the Financial Reports of the Congregations are being printed separately.

Died
Retired
Resigned
Licensed
Credentials
Under care
Student
Visited

The **TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev G Moore, BA, BD, is their Moderator; that they have under their care as Licentiates, Messrs M N Davidson, BA, BD, E S McDowell, BSc, BD; that they have under their care as Students for the Christian Ministry Mrs L J Duncan BA (formerly Robinson) and Mr A V Stewart, MA; that during the year they visited no Congregations; that the Financial Reports of the Congregations are being printed separately.

Under care
Students

SYNOD OF BELFAST

The **SYNOD OF BELFAST** report that the Rev R D Drysdale, BA, BD, is their Moderator and that the next stated meeting of Synod

will be held at Townsend Street Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, 12 March, 2002, at 10.00 am.

The **NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Lesley Elizabeth Carroll, BA, BD, LLCM, is their Moderator; that the Rev Robert Allen, BA, Minister of Rathcoole, retired on 6 January, 2001; that the Rev John Stafford Carson, BSc, MA, MAR, MTh, Minister of Carnmoney, demitted his Charge on 31 August, 2000, to take up the post of Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, and was received as a Minister without Charge under the care of the Presbytery; that the Rev Kenneth McConnell, BD, was installed in Oldpark on 20 October, 2000, credentials having been received from the Presbytery of Down; that the Rev Sarah Elizabeth Hughes, BA, BD, was installed in Whitehouse on 7 December, 2000, credentials having been received from the Presbytery of Ards; that the Rev Frederick Wilson Vincent BA, BD, was installed as Senior Chaplain to the Northern Ireland Hospice in Rosemary on 21 January, 2001, credentials having been received from the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster; that the Rev Dr William Hugh Galloway Crawley was Ordained to the Office of the Christian Ministry and Installed as Chaplain to the University of Ulster in Whiteabbey on 14 January, 2001, credentials having been received from the Presbytery of Belfast South; that Dr Mark Jones was Licensed as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry in Ballyhenry on 18 June, 2000 and was issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Belfast South; that Mr Angus Alexander McCullough, a Licentiate, on receipt of a Call from Second Ballybay and Rockcorry, was issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Monaghan; that Mr David William Reid, a Licentiate, on receipt of a Call from Ardstraw and Douglas, was issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Derry and Strabane; that Mr Colin Gamble, a Licentiate, on receipt of a Call to become minister of Athy and Naas, was issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster; that the Rev Thomas James Wilson, BSc, BD, Minister without Charge, on receipt of a Call from Kilmakee, was issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Belfast South; that the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, CB, MBE, QHC, having retired as a Chaplain to the Forces was received as a Minister without Charge and issued with credentials to the Presbytery of Route; that they have under their care as Ministers without Charge the Revs C R J Brown, BA, (retired), J S Carson, BSc, MA, MAR, MTh, C I McKnight, BA, W M Smyth, MP, BA, BD, and D Stanfield, BA, BD; that they have under their care as Licentiates Messrs I Carton, K Henderson, D Murphy, N Patrick; that they have under their care as Students for the Ministry Messrs W G Hamilton and W J Hayes; and that Congregational Financial Reports are being printed separately.

The **BELFAST SOUTH PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Robert Brian Hughes, BA, BD, is their Moderator; that the Very Rev Dr

Andrew John Weir, MSc, BD, Clerk Emeritus of the General Assembly, died on 18 September, 2000; that the Rev T Wilson Gordon, BA, BD, Minister of Kilmakee, demitted his Charge on receipt of a Call from First Comber on 7 March, 2000 and was furnished with credentials to the Down Presbytery; that the Rev Robert Trevor Anderson, BA, MTh, was installed as Minister of Berry Street in the joint Charge of Richview/Berry Street on 26 July, 2000; that the Rev Thomas J Wilson, BSc, BD, DipSocW, was installed in Kilmakee on receipt of credentials from North Belfast Presbytery on 29 November, 2000; that the Rev James Henry Wilson, BA, MAR, upon receipt of credentials from the Carrickfergus Presbytery was installed as full time Presbyterian Chaplain to the Royal Group of Hospitals on 11 January, 2001; that Dr Mark Jones, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of North Belfast, was received as a Licentiate under the care of Presbytery; that all Congregations are furnishing their own Financial Reports; that they visited the Congregations of Windsor and Ballycairn during the year.

The **EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Kenneth A McBride, BA, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev W J R Robinson, BSc, BD, Minister of McQuiston Memorial, retired from the active duties of the Ministry on 31 October, 2000; that the Rev E D Smyth, MSSc, BD, Minister of First Ballymacarrett, retired from the active duties of the Ministry on 31 October, 2000; that the Rev A A Sleith, MA, BEd, DMin, Minister of Cregagh, retired from the active duties of the Ministry on 31 January, 2001; that the Rev Joan Scott, BA, BD, resigned as Minister of Garnerville, on 31 August, 2000 having received a Call to Missionary Service; that the Rev David J McCarthy, BSc, BD, resigned as General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance on 9 December, 2000, having received a Call to be Associate Minister in Orangefield Church; that the Rev David H Thompson, BA, BD, MPhil, presented credentials from the Presbytery of Route, and was Installed as Minister of Strand Church on 31 August, 2000; that the Rev Joan Scott, BA, BD, was Installed to Missionary Service under the Overseas Board on 1 September, 2000; that the Rev David J McCarthy, BSc, BD, was Inducted as Associate Minister in Orangefield Church on 10 December 2000; that Mr Lee H Eagleson presented credentials as a Licentiate of the Presbytery of Ballymena, and was received as a Licentiate under the care of East Belfast Presbytery; that they have under their care as Ministers without Charge the Revs R A Crooks, MA, W J Harshaw, E Jamison, BA, MEd, MTh, PhD, P A J McBride, BSc, BD, MSW, L R Pedlow, MA, S Scott, BD, PhD, ThD; that the congregation of Belmont was Visited during the year; and that Financial Reports for the Congregations are being printed separately.

SYNOD OF DERRY AND OMAGH

The **SYNOD OF DERRY AND OMAGH** report that the Rev T V Mawhinney, MA, MTh, is their Moderator; that their next Stated Meeting is appointed to be held in Myroe Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, 13 March, 2002, at 2.30 pm.

The **DERRY AND STRABANE PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev David Hillen, BSc, BD, MTh, is their Moderator; that the Rev Richard Campbell Graham, MA, Senior Minister of Carlisle Road and Crossroads died on 11 May, 2000; that the Rev John Roberts Watt, BA, Senior Minister of Badoney, Corrick and Glenelly died on 29 December, 2000; that the Rev Robert Graham Doherty, BA, Senior Minister of Newtownstewart and Gortin died on 26 January, 2001; that the Rev Thomas Robert Davey, BA, BD, resigned from the Office of the Ministry on 6 February, 2001; that Mr Alastair James Andrew Rosborough, MA, BD, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Foyle, was ordained and installed as Minister of Ballyarnett and Knowhead on 7 April, 2000; that Mr David William Reid, BD, DipMin, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of North Belfast, was ordained and installed as Minister of Ardstraw and Douglas on 8 September, 2000; that Mr Thomas David Hagan, BA, BTh, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Dromore, was ordained and inducted as Minister of Carndonagh and Malin under the Home Mission Development Scheme on 3 November, 2000; that Rev John Craig Teeney, BSc, BTh, demitted his Charge of Carlisle Road and Crossroads, on 31 July, 2000 and that he is under the care of Presbytery as a Minister without Charge; that they have under their care as a Licentiate Mr Stephen John Lockington, BA, BD; that they have under their care as Students for the Ministry Mr Robert Alexander Campbell, BA, and Mr Paul Ernest Linkens, BA; that the Congregations of 1st Derry and Claremont and Monreagh; Urney and Sion were visited during the year; that the Financial Reports of the Congregations are being printed separately.

The **FOYLE PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Stanley Stewart, BSc, DASE, BTh, is their Moderator; that the Rev William Knox, MA, Senior Minister of Glendermott, died on 25 December, 2000; that the Rev James Clarke, BA, retired from the duties of the active Ministry in the Congregations of Balteagh and Bovevagh on 31 March, 2000; that they have under their care as a Licentiate Mr S J Castles, BSc, BD; that during the year the Congregations of Magilligan and Donagheady were visited and that the Financial Reports of the congregations are being printed separately.

The **OMAGH PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev J L Blair, BSc, is their Moderator; that the Rev Arthur O'Neill, BA, minister of Fintona and Ballynahatty and Creevan, retired on 31 July, 2000; that the Rev

Jonathan James Currie, BD, minister of Aughnacloy and Ballymagrane, resigned on 31 December, 2000, having accepted a call to First Ballymena, and was furnished with credentials to the Presbytery of Ballymena; that Mr Geoffrey David Allen, BA, BTh, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Coleraine, was ordained on 1 September, 2000 and inducted to service under the Home Mission in Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and Newtownbutler; that they have under their care as a student for the ministry Mr David Irvine; that the congregations of Sixmilecross and Trinity, Omagh were visited during the year; and that Financial Statements are being printed together in booklet form.

Resigned

Ordained

Student

Visited

The **TYRONE PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Dr K O Patterson, MB, BCh, BAO, DipTh, is their Moderator; that the Rev William Trevor Coburn, BA, minister of Molesworth retired on 31 August, 2000; that the Rev James Boyd McCormick, BD, minister of 1st and 2nd Moneymore retired on 31 December, 2000; that Mr Colin W A Martin was Licensed as a Probationer for the Christian Ministry on 13 June, 2000 and furnished with credentials to the Newry Presbytery; that they have under their care as Students for the Ministry Mr Adrian T S McAlister, BSc, MSc, and Mr Knox Jones; that during the year they visited the Congregations of Castlecaulfield and Eglis and Saltersland; that the Financial Reports of the Congregations are being published separately.

Retired

Licensed

Students

Visited

SYNOD OF DUBLIN

The **SYNOD OF DUBLIN** report that the Rev Stephen W Rea, LLB, BD, is their Moderator; that the next stated meeting is appointed to be held in Ramelton, Co Donegal, on Monday 11 March, 2002, at 7 pm, or at other suitable place and date.

The **DONEGAL PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Mark Charles Arthur Gray, BA, PGCE, MDiv, is their Moderator; the Rev Charles Patrick Alexander Logue, BA, Senior Minister of Newtowncunningham and Crossroads congregations, died on 13 December, 2000; that the Congregation of Fannet was visited during the year; that the Financial Statements of the Congregations are being published in a Year Book.

Died

Visited

The **DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev Stephen S Johnston, BAgr, BD, is their Moderator; that there died on 2 May, 2000 Rev John Llewellyn Wynne and on 25 October, 2000 Rt Rev Donald Moses Kennedy, MA, PhD, DD; that on 31 March, 2000 Rev David Caskie, MA, retired; that on 2 May, 2000 Rev D Keith McCrory, BSc, BD, was appointed Stated Supply in Lucan from 7 May, 2000 until 30 June, 2000 and inducted to the Congregation of Lucan as

Died

Retired

Inducted

Moderator's Assistant with effect from 1 July, 2000 having resigned as University Chaplain and Youth Development Officer; that on 12 May, 2000 Rev John Gary Millar, BSc, BD, DPhil, was Inducted to the Charge of Howth and Malahide under the Home Mission Development Scheme having presented credentials from the Presbytery of Ards; that on 6 October, 2000 Mr Colin J Gamble, BA, BD was ordained and inducted to the Charge of Naas and Athy under the Home Mission Development Scheme having presented credentials from the Presbytery of North Belfast; that on 16 February, 2001 Rev Andrew James MacLeod Smith, BA, MDiv, was installed in the pastoral charge of Dun Laoghaire having presented credentials from the Coleraine Presbytery; that on 9 November, 2000 credentials were transmitted to the Presbytery of North Belfast in respect of Rev Fred Vincent, BA, BD; that the Presbytery has under its care as a Minister without Charge Rev Ruth Gregg, BD, and as a Licentiate without Charge, Mr Kenneth Gibson; that during the year the following congregations were visited, Clontarf, Enniscorthy and Wexford; that the Financial Statements of all Congregations are being published separately.

The **MONAGHAN PRESBYTERY** report that the Rev B C G Black, BSSc, BD, is their Moderator; that the Rev Angus A McCullough, BEng, MDiv, was ordained and installed as minister of the congregations of Second Ballybay and Rockcorry on 2 June, 2000, having presented credentials from the Presbytery of North Belfast; that they have no students for the ministry under their care; that during the year the congregation of First Monaghan was visited; that the Financial Reports are being printed in booklet form.

RESOLUTION

1. That the Report be received.

BUSINESS BOARD

Convener: THE CLERK

1. The Business Board met quarterly during the year.
2. The late arrival of commissions for representative elders has been a perennial problem for the Business Board. The issue of receipts for commissions received in good time has helped to deal with claims that commissions were sent but not received in Church House, but this has by no means eliminated the problem.
3. One factor contributing to the problem may be our present procedure whereby some 550 Kirk Sessions each send in an individual commission; in many other churches commissions to an Assembly are dealt with at Presbytery level, so that far fewer people are involved in the administration.
4. The Business Board therefore proposes that for an experimental period of two years there should be, not only the official commission form to be processed in the usual way, but also a question on the annual statistics sheet about the name and address of the representative elder. As these sheets are examined and certified by Presbytery, it should be possible for cases of oversight to be detected at this early stage.
5. Requests received for the “Alternative” presentation of reports are indicated in the Order of Business in the yellow pages of this book. For the benefit of those attending their first Assembly, or who have not attended in recent years, much of the procedural information given in last year’s Report is re-printed here. As procedures for the “Alternative” presentation, questions, etc are now well established, some of this material will in future be included in the “Guide to Assembly Procedure” in yellow pages.
6. In the “Alternative” format each Board is given 35 minutes for a “Presentation”, including not only the proposing and seconding of the Report but the introduction of guests, the showing of videos, etc as may be desired. Outside speakers require the permission of the Business Board. Assembly questions for clarification then follow, and finally the resolutions. The speeches of the proposer and seconder, and any comments from committee conveners, should all be included in the allotted period of time, and these officebearers should not speak again (except on a point of clarification or to close the debate on a resolution) otherwise the report is liable to overrun and cause business to lapse.
7. Even where the “Alternative” format is not being followed speakers submitting reports are encouraged to make full use of the modern technology now available, eg by projecting pictures or paragraph headings on to the screens, but such arrangements should be made with the Information Officer, Mr. Stephen Lynas, in good time.
8. Questions, which should be written out and placed in the box provided in good time, will normally be limited to two per person and ten minutes in all, unless the Moderator judge that a particular subject merits an extension of these limits.

9. Amendments should be written out and submitted to the Clerk's desk before they are spoken to.

10. To assist the orderly transaction of business the following recommendations are made:-

- (i) All questions dealing with one topic should be dealt with before moving on to another topic.
- (ii) Speeches under resolution 1, "That the Report be received", should be made only where there is no later resolution dealing with the subject.
- (iii) In the special case of the Church and Government Committee the report will be taken as a separate item, with its own question time, etc.

11. If business lapses, conveners will have the choice of standing by for the first available slot (which all interested in that report should note), or having the item rescheduled for Friday afternoon. The abbreviated timings for an accumulation of lapsed business are now printed in the "Guide to Assembly Procedure" in yellow pages.

12. If business runs late on Friday afternoon the Assembly may adjourn to the Minor Hall or May Street Church.

13. The front row of seats in the Assembly Hall will be reserved for those wishing to speak, who are requested to come forward to these reserved seats in good time and give their names before beginning their speech.

14. Copies of the Annual Accounts are available to members of Assembly upon request to the Financial Secretary's Office.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

15. At time of writing some Synods, and certain other bodies, are not meeting in the usual way because of the threatened epidemic of animal disease. The Business Board will therefore exercise a degree of discretion and flexibility in licensing business for the General Assembly. It does not propose to reject any item solely because some subordinate body, acting on government advice, did not meet or transact business in the usual way.

Assembly 2002

16. Monday 3 June and Tuesday 4 June, 2002 will be public holidays marking the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The Business Board therefore proposes that the General Assembly of 2002 should start one week later, ie on Monday 10 June.

17. There will not be a bank holiday on the last Monday of May next year.

Rev Roy Valley

18. Rev Roy Valley has tendered his resignation as Convener of the Arrangements Committee, so we record our deep appreciation for the gracious and efficient way in which he discharged his duties over the last six years. He carried responsibility for a wide variety of matters, including catering, stewarding, amplification, tellers, organists, etc. His organising ability and genial good nature ensured that Assembly arrangements ran smoothly. We thank

him for an important task well done and wish him well in any new duties he may be given.

Board Membership

19. The Business Board is appointed in accordance with the provisions of Par 275 of the Code to take office on the 15 March preceding the Assembly. The Board for the year 2001-2002, together with the associated Arrangements Committee, is as follows:-

- (a) The Moderator, and Clerk of Assembly, the Moderator-Designate, the former Clerks, preceding three Moderators, all Assembly Conveners and Secretaries of Commissions and Boards, Financial Secretary, Youth and Information Officers.
- (b) Rev. W.A. Kennedy; W. Graham — Rev. Dr. J. Thompson; W.H. Scott — Rev. J. Harper; W. Pentland — Rev. S.W.W. Neilly; R. Gibson — Rev. G. Best; E. McCleery — Rev. Dr. M.A. Barry; W. Flack.
- (c) Rev. J.J. Andrews; W.G. McDowell — Rev. J.W. McAuley; J.B. Robinson— Rev. T.J. McCormick; P. McGonigle — Rev. J.T. Magowan; W.V. McClean— Rev. D. Bannerman; J.M. McIlroy.
- (d) Rev. T.C. Morrison; A.W. Marshall — Rev. Ruth Patterson; V. Elliott — Rev. W.J.R. Robinson; Miss V.J. Wilson.
- (e) Rev. Dr. R. Kane; A. Craig — Rev. T.V. Mawhinney; W. Taylor — Rev. B.A. Hunt; J. Cochrane — Rev. T.J. Conway; S. McKinney.
- (f) Rev. M.C.A. Gray; R. Finlay — Rev. A. Mitchell; Gordon Henderson — Rev. D.T. Moore; J. Jenkins.

A. ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE (5) Rev. R. Vallely, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the Moderator-Designate, Deputy Clerk, Information Officer, Hospitality Secretaries, T.H. Cochrane; Rev. R. Vallely.
- (x) Revs. J.R. Lambe, P.T. Dalzell; G.Y. Crooks, N. Millar.
- (y) Revs. T.C. Morrison, G.E. Best, T.J. McCormick, T. Conway; Miss V.J. Wilson, A.W. Marshall, W.G. McDowell, J. Robinson.

Other Churches

20. Delegates to the governing bodies of other Churches were appointed as follows:

Church of Ireland General Synod 2001: Very Rev Dr John Lockington; Mr George Knaggs.

Methodist Conference 2001: Very Rev Dr Howard Cromie, Rev I.S. McDowell; Mrs S Meban.

Presbyterian Church of Wales: Rev Roy Vallely.

Eglise Réformée de France: Mrs Maureen Patterson.

Centenary Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia: Rev R F S Poots.

Presbyterian Church (USA): Rev Robert Herron.

The URC Assembly 2000

Very Rev Dr J W Lockington reports:

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church met at the Queen Mary and Westfield College of the University of London from 1 to 4 July, 2000. It was a Residential Assembly which ran from Saturday to Tuesday. My wife Norma and I were accompanied by Rev Colin McClure who represented PCI as a full voting member in partnership with the URC. A warm tribute was paid to Rev Gabrielle Ellis-Farquhar for her contribution during her years as our representative to the URC.

In the absence through illness of the Moderator, Rev Peter McIntosh, his predecessor, Mrs Wilma Frew, installed Rev William Mahood of St Ives, who had been brought up in Belfast, as the new Moderator. It was interesting to hear his Belfast accent throughout the proceedings.

Following the union with the Congregational Union of Scotland on 1st April, the new Synod of Scotland was warmly welcomed to its first General Assembly.

The fact that the URC works in an ecumenical context was underlined by the encouragement given to delegates to ask the following question throughout all the proceedings: "What are the ecumenical implications of this agenda?" The Assembly business covered a wide variety of issues such as racism, equality, inter-faith activity, broadcasting, world development and the end of life, and in all these an ecumenical perspective played a significant role. With some reservations the Assembly supported a proposed Ecumenical Bishop for East Cardiff.

So much of the procedure and business reflected that of our own Assembly. However there were significant differences. A new General Secretary was elected to serve for seven years. The next Moderator, Rev Elizabeth Ann Welch, was elected by ballot during the business. Although the Assembly dealt with no more than 48 resolutions, the business was conducted from 9 am to 9 pm and all the sessions were extremely well attended by delegates. Young people representing the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth (FURY) played an active part in many debates.

A number of interesting changes were made to the running of future Assemblies. Up to twelve representatives of overseas partner churches will take the places formerly allocated to missionaries on furlough. It was also decided that in the future Assembly committees, with a few exceptions, may, in consultation with the Arrangements Committee, report in alternate years.

Over a period of years the Assembly has been debating human sexuality and this year decided that for a period of seven years no resolutions on homosexuality were to be proposed in any church councils.

The shortage of ministers was a matter for concern and the Assembly was urged to examine the development of non-stipendary and other forms of ministry. A significant report was presented on the issue of retirement for ministers and the Assembly decided to explore the setting up of an Occupational Health Service for serving ministers and other church workers.

Reports entitled "Celebrating Church membership" and "Do we believe in Creeds?" were sent to local churches for discussion.

At the end of the Assembly the Moderator and General Secretary met with visitors and gave us the opportunity to share our impressions of the Assembly and to express our appreciation for the generous hospitality we received.

The Methodist Conference 2000

Very Rev Dr J W Lockington Reports:

The 231st Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland met in Stranmillis College, Belfast from Friday 9 to Tuesday 13 June, 2000.

The Presbyterian observers were Very Rev Dr John W Lockington, Rev David Maxwell, Mrs Joyce McMullan and Mr Ossie McAuley.

Rev Dr Kenneth Wilson, Bray, the outgoing President handed over to the new President Rev Kenneth Todd from Cork.

The delegation was received warmly and was given the opportunity to convey greetings from the General Assembly.

The President of the British Conference, Rev Stuart Burgess, chaired the Conference proceedings in a confident, humorous and efficient manner.

The Opening Service was held on Friday in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church as was the Sunday Evening Ordination and Communion Service. The venue for the Conference service on Sunday morning was the Waterfront Hall. These were impressive and well attended services.

Mr David Porter (ECONI) was the speaker at the worship time at noon each day.

The Conference directed its Faith and Order Committee to continue to examine the issue of Lay Presidency at the sacrament of Holy Communion, especially with regard to the nature of the church and the priesthood of all believers.

As with the General Assembly, issues affecting society throughout Ireland were dealt with. These included, in the South, asylum seekers, social inclusion and political corruption, and in the North, farming, national identity and domestic violence.

Conference received a report on the development of Edgehill College, which it was hoped would be completed at the end of 2001 at an approximate cost of £2 million.

Inter-Church relations led to a lively debate and Conference decided to send down to District Synods and Circuit Quarterly Meetings for study and discussion a draft Covenant between the Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland.

While there were many similarities with our own Assembly, two significant sessions were entitled "Conversation on the work of God". One gave opportunity for reports of developments in individual societies and in the other Conference members through group discussion dealt with reports on Church Extension and Rural Life.

The Welsh Assembly 2000

Rev R F S Poots reports:

1. Irish-style rain, the unexpected turns of Welsh melodies, the warmest of all possible welcomes and the finest simultaneous translation I have heard in any part of the world characterised the Welsh Assembly at Lampeter last July. The pervading spirit was uplifting and traditional preaching styles at the services of worship, mingled with Bible readings communicated effectively in more contemporary forms, but tensions between the Welsh and the English speaking sections of the Church raised their heads, unnecessarily, from time to time.

2. The procedures are more relaxed than those we understand. Decisions taken to-day could be modified to-morrow and the skill of the Moderator was needed to determine that an amendment had been proposed when the fact was obscure to a visitor. For the first time Minutes were taken daily. One report recommended a basic minimum stipend of £12,500, though it was made clear that congregations were expected to pay more, and to raise the one-service supply fee to £13.00.

3. Our sister Church faces challenges comparable to our own - declining membership, a reduction in the number of Elders and a fall in students for the ministry, which was proving a threat to one theological college. Unlike us, they have successfully published a new hymn book.

4. One report recognised that the Church had responded to the lack of applicants for ordination by forming multi-church pastorates, a practice that resulted in Ministry becoming ineffective in many areas and to many church closures. Against this background the Church is asking, "What does the Lord require of us"?, seeking to re-motivate local congregations and adopting a Mission Statement which states, "Each fellowship will be true communities of caring, loving, accepting disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to renewing and uplifting the worship of God and passing on the Good News of Jesus Christ to this generation and the next".

5. There was evidence of a small but significant work of God among the young people of the Church and a group presented a stimulating dramatic sketch to the House. The young people demonstrated an interest in the work of Assembly that is foreign to us and had prepared to participate in Assembly debates at a pre-Assembly weekend where they had discussed the reports and resolutions. The result enriched the Assembly.

6. One highlight of the week was a visit to the home of William Williams, friend of Thomas Charles of 'Mary Jones and her Bible' fame, who was a committed evangelist and author of 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah', the only hymn he wrote in English, and to meet a sixth generation descendant and his family who still work the farm at Pantycelyn (Holly Hollow).

7. The message of the week is the need to draw closer in understanding, prayer and mutual encouragement with our partners in the fellowship of the gospel.

ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Hospitality

1. The resignations of Dr Margaret Haire and Mrs Joyce Moran as Hospitality Secretaries were received by the Committee to take effect from this Assembly. Dr Haire and Mrs Moran have given sterling service by providing a warm welcome and good hospitality for our visiting delegates. This unseen work is done efficiently and is often acknowledged with much appreciation by our guests. We thank not only these ladies but also all who assisted them with accommodation, transport, meals, etc. Mrs Claire Dixon has been appointed to this role.

Transport

2. A complimentary limousine has been provided by Melville and Company for the use of the Moderator during the week. A similar facility for the outgoing Moderator on the Monday evening is provided by Wilton's of Crumlin Road.

Rev A Morrice

3. We look forward to welcoming the Rev Alastair Morrice as our Speaker for the Assembly Rally on Wednesday evening. Mr Morrice will also speak at Midday Worship from Wednesday to Friday.

Communion Service

4. The Committee have raised concern over the attendance of Members at the Tuesday Morning Communion Service. The attendance has become progressively lower each year. The facilities and hospitality provided by May Street Congregation are excellent each year and we continue to appreciate this faithful service rendered to the Church. The Committee in considering how to encourage a larger attendance suggested that the venue might be changed to the Assembly Hall, noting that Members were already destined for that venue. It was agreed by the Business Board that the General Assembly should decide where the Communion Service should be held and a resolution is presented accordingly.

Assembly Rally

5. The Committee endorsed the action of the Convener in refusing admission to a number of people on the Wednesday evening in 2000. This refusal was due to Health and Safety regulations governing the number and placement of people attending a function. It was generally agreed that those attending should come early rather than any control being placed on attendance by ticket allocation or other methods. It was noted with delight that we were confronted with the problem of over capacity attendance as the Rally was proving to be a beneficial event during Assembly Week. Members should be assured that we will endeavour to provide a place for all who come, including the offer of an overflow facility in the Concourse and the Minor Hall.

Voting Cards

6. These should be obtained as soon as possible from the desk at the Carrickfergus Window where they are available on Monday evening/Tuesday morning, after which Members should contact the Financial Secretary's Office.

Admission

7. Admission to the Private Session is only for those who have and show their own voting card. In any vote the Moderator may call for voting cards to be shown and only those displaying their own voting card are eligible to vote.

Expenses

8. All Members may claim a daily allowance but travel expenses cover the cost of only one return journey in the week. Claims should be made on the appropriate form obtainable from the Reception at the Wellington Street entrance. Full details of rates are printed on the form.

ROY VALLELY, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the recommended Order of Business be adopted.
3. That the resignations of Dr Margaret Haire and Mrs Joyce Moran be noted and that they be thanked for their services as Hospitality Secretaries.
4. That the professional amplification controller and the visual display operator be admitted to the private session.
5. That a grant of £10,500 be made from the Incidental Fund to the Arrangements Committee.
6. That the next General Assembly be held in Church House, Belfast on Monday, 10 June, 2002.
7. That the Communion Service in 2002 be held in the Assembly Hall.
8. That for an experimental period of two years a question about the representative elder to the General Assembly be included on the annual statistics sheet. This provision shall supplement and not replace the official Form of Commission.
9. That the resignation of Rev Roy Vallely as Convener of the Arrangements Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev Colin Morrison be appointed in his place.
10. That the Business Board, with its associated working committee, for the ensuing year beginning 15 March, 2002 be appointed in accordance with Par 275 of the Code.

MOTION ON THE BOOKS

That in view of his service to the Church, especially as an Opening Night steward and as time-keeper at business Sessions of the General Assembly, Mr Herbert W Templeton be made a member of Assembly under Par 97(i) and Par 107(a) of the Code.

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON

BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Convener: Rev IVOR SMITH
Secretary: Mr STEPHEN LYNAS

1. During the past year the committees of the Board have continued their routine work, and have also made progress on the two items featured in last year's report – the increased use of email and the Internet in our communications, and the search for a suitable hymn book for use by our denomination in the 21st century.

2. We were very sorry to learn of the death in June of Mrs Ruth McConnell, a very highly valued friend and former colleague in the department.

Minister in Recognised Service

Rev Dr Bert Tosh reports:

1. I continue as Chief Producer of Religious Programmes for BBC Northern Ireland - responsible for an output in the year 2000 of some 446 hours on BBC Radio Ulster, 13 hours on Network Radio and about 6 hours on local television. This covers a wide range of programme type - worship, reflection, documentary, journalism and music based programmes.

2. Of particular note was *On this Rock* a six part television series, co-produced with RTÉ, which sought to tell the story of Christianity in Ireland. It elicited a varied response. Many of the comments and criticisms referred to what had not been included. Inevitably, in a series tackling such a huge subject, there were bound to be gaps and omissions.

3. Much publicity was generated by the decision of a former minister of our Church, the Rev Ernest Rea, to take early retirement from the post of Head of Religion and Ethics within the BBC. The post has been advertised and should be filled by the time of the General Assembly. There was much discussion as to what extent, if any, religious programmes have been marginalised. I would have to say that there is no evidence of this in BBC Northern Ireland. On the contrary, the amount of religious broadcasting here has increased over the past five years rather than the reverse and I am very conscious of the support given by local management.

4. It has to be recognised, however, that the world of the media is changing at an enormous and often alarming rate. There is barely time to become familiar with one major development before another comes along. In this changing and increasingly commercial world, religious broadcasting (and I am not thinking only of BBC output) has to fight for its place and this in a Britain that is becoming more and more secular.

5. I am conscious that I make this comment most years but it is worth stressing again the indebtedness of the Religious Broadcasting Unit to a huge number of individuals without whose thoughts, co-operation and enthusiasm our work would be impossible.

6. At the time of writing I have just completed my year as Moderator of the Presbytery of Dromore and I become Convener of the Vacancy Commission in First Lisburn at the end of March.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

1. The committee has sought to fulfil the remit of the Assembly in a number of ways.

2. Religious advisers for TV and radio have kept us informed of the impact of rapid change in broadcast media.

3. A submission was made in September 2000 to the Independent Television Commission (ITC) consultation on Public Service Broadcasting.

4. Representatives of the committee attended a conference in Belfast organised by the ITC.

5. A submission was made in January 2001 by the convener responding to the public consultation on the Communications white paper.

6. A meeting with journalists was arranged to assess how effectively we are communicating with media professionals.

7. The Church maintains a significant presence on the Internet, attracting 2520 "hits" (pages visited) per day, an increase of 57% on last year. Information pages for Internet mobile phones have also been made available.

8. Many Church documents and publications are now available on the Internet; there has been a significant increase in the number people using this facility.

9. Local coverage of Presbyterian events and productions involving Presbyterians in the media during the last year has been good. The Information Office continues to circulate over 150 stories per year on Church related issues.

10. Press conferences are to be held daily during the General Assembly to try to increase media awareness of the Assembly debates.

11. Media Watch articles continue in the Herald examining a range of media issues.

R HILL, Convener

COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Information

1. Our department staff deal with a wide spectrum of work in a sensitive and professional manner. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland continues to receive good media coverage, outstripping the other major denominations. Our Information Officer, Stephen Lynas, and staff are very proactive in media relations, keeping the general public informed of our Church's views on and responses to important issues.

2. Again we are greatly indebted to the PROP ladies for their dedicated work in packing Points for Prayer booklets and update leaflets.

Herald

3. The Presbyterian Herald maintains a high standard both of content and presentation, thanks to the editor, Rev Arthur Clarke, and his team. Many other parties have shown interest by using and reproducing articles from several editions. Nevertheless, sales of the Herald are in gradual decline due to the difficulty in attracting new readership, especially from the young adult sector.

Video Unit

4. Since it is less expensive to produce videos using external agencies, it is envisaged that the PCI Video Unit will be used more often for other purposes, particularly the promotion of Internet capability.

W J CARLISLE, Convener

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1. We have welcomed Mr Mervyn Gilmour and Mr James Moffett as the new Joint Honorary Secretaries of the Society. We wish them well in these responsibilities.

2. The Society has a wide range of interesting publications on a variety of historical subjects, particularly relating to Irish Presbyterianism. During the year we have published (a) Sinclare Kelburn by Douglas Armstrong (b) Andrew Weir by Ivor Smith and (c) a booklet consisting of three essays on the United Irishmen by James Seery, Finlay Holmes and A T Q Stewart. Further publications are presently being prepared.

3. As in the past, the Society's programme of events should appeal to a variety of historical interests.

4. We invite all who are interested to visit the Society's room in Church House (Room 220), which is on the second floor and is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10.00am–12.30pm and Wednesday 10.00am–12.30pm and 1.00pm–3.30pm. Our Assistant Secretary will be pleased to assist callers in whatever way he can.

5. We thank all those who have supported the Society during the past year. The Incidental Fund remains a vital source of income, therefore we express our gratitude to the General Assembly for its generosity.

W J H McKEE, Convener

FAMILYBOOKS LTD

1. Familybooks had another successful year in 2000, despite more difficult trading conditions. The company had a turnover of some £600,000 and has been profitable over recent years, although profit maximisation is not a prime objective.

2. The provision of bookstalls to congregations is a growing aspect of our business, but is proving to be very resource intensive. We trust that we will

be able to continue to provide this service, especially to churches which are not close to Belfast.

3. At the start of the year, Mr Clifford Boyd resigned as a director and chairman of the company. Familybooks owes much to him and he provided great encouragement and leadership to the directors and staff. He will be missed. There were other staff movements also and we welcomed two new sales assistants. The staff is critical to the success of the company and the Board is grateful for their hard work and, in particular, to the shop manager, Mrs. Betty Bell.

4. The Board of Familybooks sees the business as a service, firstly to the Presbyterian Church, but also to the wider public. We rely on the support of many churches and members and look forward to this continuing. We would encourage all members of the Presbyterian Church to make use of the resources provided by Familybooks.

DAVID THOMSON, Chairman

PUBLIC WORSHIP COMMITTEE

1. At the June 2000 meeting of the General Assembly the Public Worship Committee presented the following resolution: "That the General Assembly authorise the Public Worship Committee to produce a new Irish Presbyterian Book of Praise." An amendment to this resolution was moved and passed: "That the General Assembly defer decision on the production of a new Irish Presbyterian Hymn Book pending a report from the Public Worship Committee to the 2001 Assembly on the adoption of the PRAISE Hymn Book as the core Hymn Book of the Church."

2. At the time of the General Assembly 2000 only the "words" edition of PRAISE was available. However, in September the full music edition became available and after close examination by the conveners of the four sub-committees and the full Hymnal Committee the following conclusions were reached.

- (a) As an easy option to our dilemma of not having a Hymnal for our denomination in the foreseeable future, PRAISE is commended in its ready availability in both words only and musical edition.
- (b) As an interdenominational hymnal PRAISE has a lot to commend it. For example:
 - its fine selection of excellent hymns
 - its useful form of indexing and categorising
 - its attempt to modernise some of the older hymns is, in some cases, very effective
 - it does contain some useful contemporary material
 - it includes a vernacular version of every psalm.
- (c) However, as a core Hymn Book for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland there are several drawbacks which ought to be borne in mind.
 - With regard to what we have come to call 'existing material' it should be noted that the 650 items of praise recommended in the Assembly Report 2000 were based largely on a representative

response of presbyteries, congregations and individuals to our questionnaire. Of these 650 suggestions, 346 are not included in PRAISE.

- With regard to the ‘contemporary’ section in PRAISE, this appears far too limited. Only 7.7% of PRAISE is taken from what we look on as contemporary materials, whereas in our proposal in the Assembly Report 2000, 21.7% of the proposed material is contemporary. In fact only 76 of the 976 items in PRAISE are contemporary whereas 150 out of our proposed 650 are contemporary.
- With regard to ‘psalmody and liturgical’ material, it should be noted that hardly any of what we know as ‘metrical psalms’ has been included in PRAISE. At a superficial glance only 4 of what we would call metrical psalms appear. In our questionnaire to congregations through presbyteries it emerged that there was a strong plea throughout the church that the metrical psalms be retained. While it is true that PRAISE includes a vernacular version of every psalm, the tunes set in some instances are not only mournful but woeful. Tunes are often married to a particular psalm and because of unusual metres unfamiliar tunes cannot easily be exchanged for familiar ones. As far as ‘liturgical materials’ are concerned there is a complete lack, and whereas it is true that most of our congregations do not often use them it is also true that some congregations use them often. Here we think immediately of the ancient Biblical hymns of the Church; the Creeds; the Lord’s Prayer; the Aaronic Blessing; Amens, etc.
- With regard to children’s material this, as a matter of policy, has been excluded from PRAISE. To have no children’s/young people’s materials would be a complete departure from our tradition as a denomination and would send out the wrong message to our children and young people who are not just ‘the Church of tomorrow’ but a very important section of the Church of today. Our list in the Blue Book 2000 included approximately 80 items for children, many of these items responding to requests from our congregations and made up of a good cross section of old favourites and also modern children’s material.
- From the theological perspective PRAISE would surely be sending out the wrong messages to a church whose theological interpretations are based on the covenant God entered into with human beings. In no case is this clearer than in the area of baptism where the reformed beliefs of Presbyterianism are in some cases compromised. Indeed, in the section on baptism no hymns for the baptism of the children of believing parents are included. Primarily for this reason PRAISE could never be seen as a Presbyterian Hymn Book and even if it were possible to have a special edition printed with a Presbyterian Church in Ireland imprimatur, this could never give the book the kind of Presbyterian identity which our church would want.

- The absence of the metrical psalms, children's material, hymns for special occasions such as enrolment services, opening of new buildings, liturgical items etc, would mean that PRAISE could not be adopted as a core Hymn Book for our Church without a substantial supplement.
- Whereas in PRAISE some modern versions of well known hymns have been successful, there are instances where this has not been the case (examples can be given).
- In the musical presentation there is too much unison. This, with the comparative lack of 4-part harmony, would cause great consternation among choir members of our congregations. In several cases the tunes are so obscure and the musical arrangements so intricate that it would pose great difficulty to some organists, choirs and congregations. In several cases tunes which have been traditionally wedded to a particular hymn have been abandoned. As often was the case in CH3, this would prove very unpopular with organists and congregations. (Examples can be given).
- From the point of view of congregational finances the adoption of PRAISE would have major implications. Those congregations which choose to use it would need to buy a supplement in addition to the cost of PRAISE. Those congregations which did not choose to buy PRAISE would also need to buy such a supplement of items of worship used in particular by Presbyterian churches. This would certainly be more costly than simply purchasing the proposed Irish Presbyterian book of praise. This financial burden would be likely to have an adverse effect on the sale of such a supplement. This would not only present difficulties in the financing of such a supplement, but would also mean that those congregations which bought PRAISE (or an alternative) and could not afford the supplement would lack the metrical psalms, children's hymns, Remembrance and enrolment day hymns, etc.

3. For all of these reasons, it is the considered opinion of the Public Worship Committee that the hymnal PRAISE is unsuitable as a core hymn book for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Accordingly, we feel the General Assembly 2001 should authorise the Public Worship Committee to produce a new Irish Presbyterian Book of Praise based on the list of materials produced in the year 2000 Annual Reports. If this is the decision of the Assembly, we are hopeful that the proposed new hymnal would be available for use by the Church in about three years' time.

4. On going to press with this report, work on the alternative forms of Communion Services is at its final stage of proof reading. It is intended that these will be placed in the Experimental Revision Folder and launched at the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly.

The Assembly should note that although progress on the proposed Resource Centre is slow, the discussion is nevertheless proceeding. Much of the recent discussion has centred around the siting of the Resource Centre, whether

within the Church House complex or at Union College. It has come to light that one is planned for the refurbished College and it is generally agreed by both representatives of the College Management Committee and the Public Worship Committee that two Resource Centres would be one too many. There the matter rests in the meantime, although the discussion is ongoing and hopefully a decision will be made soon. It was the strong opinion of all concerned that in order to realise its full potential, the proposed Resource Centre would need to be staffed.

W T J RICHARDSON, Convener

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

1. The Church Architecture Committee met on seven occasions since its last report and in addition has visited 9 congregations to encourage and give advice.

2. For a second year the Committee dealt with an increased number of submissions which indicate the growing amount of refurbishment or replacement of older buildings. A number of worship areas have been altered in order to facilitate more modern needs in worship and a number of churches have also made alterations in order to facilitate screens for computer generated communication.

3. The Committee has given guidance for new manses to a number of church committees and has been pleased to visit a number of congregations to give advice before building work commenced on manses, churches and church halls. The Committee seeks to further encourage church committees to use their expertise in good time so that amendments to plans can be made and other opinions sought, prior to formal planning, in order that unnecessary monetary expense is avoided.

4. During the course of the year the Committee has also had to deal with congregations who have experienced building problems after renovations had taken place. In a number of cases the Committee had not been consulted about the work in the first instance. Therefore the Committee wishes to remind the Assembly that their remit restricts them to advise before building programmes begin and cannot give advice on matters which would be better answered from a legal point of view.

5. One issue with which the Committee is increasingly concerned is the erection of telecommunication masts in or on church towers. Whilst understanding the complexity of the problems, this Committee would remind the Assembly that it is permitted only to give advice on architectural and aesthetic points. However the Committee would ask all churches approached by companies, to take heed of government reports and public opinion in this regard.

6. Rev L W H Hilditch has represented the church in the continuing work of The Ulster Historic Churches Trust during the course of the past year. The Trust is now in the position to launch its "Church Maintenance Log" which, it is hoped, will be available to all churches by early summer.

7. The Committee acknowledges the help given by all its experts and particularly that of Miss Rosemary Jack, our voluntary adviser in stained glass

window design, and also wishes to thank all those who in a voluntary capacity gave of their time to this committee during the past year.

LAWRENCE HILDITCH, Convener

MEMORIAL RECORD

Very Rev Andrew John Weir, MSc, BD, DD, Clerk of Assembly Emeritus, died on 18 September 2000 in the 82nd year of his age and the 57th of his ministry.

Born at Mukden in Manchuria, where his parents were missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, his early education was in the company and in the language of the local Chinese children, until he came to Belfast, to Campbell College, and to the congregation of Stormont. Further education took him to Queen's University, where he graduated in Experimental Physics, then to New College, Edinburgh and Assembly's College.

Licensed by the Presbytery of Belfast on 25 May 1943, he was ordained as missionary to his native China on 25 October the following year. A short period of work in the National North-eastern University was followed by four years in the Church's Theological College, where he served both as minister and teacher to the students of that time, being obliged to leave by the Communist regime, the last of the missionaries to do so. China claimed a very special place in his affections, and he kept the hope in his heart that one day circumstances would allow him to resume a ministry there.

Returning to Ireland and to an assistantship in Dundonald, he was called to Letterkenny and installed as minister on 3 September 1952. For ten years he served the congregation there, until he took up a post as Assistant Clerk to Rev A J Gailey, whom he succeeded as Clerk some two years later. Church House, where the refurbished chapel stands in recognition of the role of his own parents and of all who have served as missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, was to become his office, his mission-station and his home for a further twenty-one years. There he exercised his outstanding gifts of mind and heart for the benefit of the Church and the furtherance of the gospel at home and abroad. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly in 1976.

His contacts were legion and his stamina prodigious. A Presbyterian to the core, he was as consistently a builder of bridges; a man of courage as well as conviction, he was as ready to undertake the journey alone in the cause of reconciliation as he was prepared single-handedly to tackle the rewriting of the Code, either task and both of them for the sake of the Master and for the Church he loved. A man of exceptional intelligence, with an enviable ability to fasten upon the nub of any document after only a brief reading, his desire to make the most of every opportunity and to fill every minute available with something useful left him little time to claim as his own. Nevertheless he found recreational outlet for his energy in climbing the hills of Kerry or Mayo, and he was known as an excellent cook and housekeeper. It was he who encouraged delegates to the Assembly to take time out from the rigours of debate and who furnished the roof garden for their strawberries and cream!

Known and respected throughout his own Church, he was recognised also as a Churchman of international standing, and his stature grew even as he combated the Parkinson's Disease which threatened to reduce it, but which was not allowed to rob him of one final visit 'home' to China in 1996.

Unmarried, he leaves behind many in his own and in other Churches to whom he was both brother in Christ and father in God.

Rev James Desmond Ayre, BD, senior minister of Lisnabreen, Bangor, died on 15 October 2000, in the 67th year of his age and the 27th of his ministry.

Born at Lisburn, where he was educated at Wallace High School, his was a Methodist background. A keen evangelist from young manhood, he trained in Glasgow, and his early years of service for Christ were spent with Belfast City Mission, following his appointment to East Bread Street Mission Hall.

He felt called to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church and, although married by that time and with a family, he enrolled at Queen's University and subsequently at Assembly's College, from which he gained a degree in Divinity. During this period his gifts were employed in the Church Extension charge at Taughmonagh. Licensing and ordination came in 1973 and, after a period as part-time assistant in Ulsterville congregation, he accepted the call of Bellaghy and Knockloughrim, where he remained for some six years.

On 29 April 1981 he committed himself once again to the work of Church Extension, this time at Lisnabreen. He had always a special interest in youth work. Plans for the development of housing in the area were slow to materialise and, to add to the challenge and difficulty of the situation, there came, after just two years, a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis. The courage and determination of the minister and his wife Margaret won them the admiration of many who knew them and the practical help of two retired ministers in the congregation, with whose assistance he continued his work and struggled to be faithful to his calling. But with the insidious progress of his medical condition early retirement came on 1 January 1989.

It was a further test of faith and confidence when Margaret Ayre herself was discovered to be suffering from a terminal illness, and in the event she predeceased her husband by just five days.

To their children, a son and a daughter, Stephen and Lorraine, in the particular sadness of a double bereavement the Church extends sympathy and prayer.

Right Rev Donald Moses Kennedy, MA, PhD, DD, Missionary Emeritus to India, died on 25 October 2000, in the 86th year of his age and the 59th of his ministry.

He was born on 5 April 1915 in Dublin where his father was a Fellow of Trinity College and it was there that he was to be educated, graduating in History, the first among those who received First Class Honours in 1937. He went on to study Theology at New College, Edinburgh, in Strasbourg, and at Assembly's College, Belfast, and in 1959 he was subsequently awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Faculty of Theology of Queen's University.

Licensed by the Presbytery of Dublin on 26 May 1940, he was for two years chaplain to Presbyterian students at the College and Irish Secretary of the Student Christian Movement. In 1942 he felt the call of God to go as missionary to India. The prevailing war situation made negotiation difficult, but under the auspices of the YMCA, after service in North Africa and Egypt in a supportive role to the troops, he was able to obtain the documentation which was a necessary addition to his ordination as a missionary to India which took place on 25 September.

He joined other Irish missionaries in Gujarat, but after two years agreed to fill the vacancy which had occurred in Wilson College as Professor of History. It was in Bombay that he was to spend the rest of his ministry, becoming Warden of the students who boarded in the Old Residency and eventually chaplain of Wilson College. A leader of the people who shared his mother's maiden name with one of the outstanding figures of the Old Testament, he was committed as scholar and theologian to the principles of ecumenism, and was a natural choice to represent the Presbyterians and Congregationalists who made up the then United Church of North India in more extensive negotiations with Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and the Church of the Brethren, which were to continue for forty years. When after that almost Biblical period of time the goal was reached and the resultant Church of North India came to appoint its Bishops, it was a measure of the respect in which he was held, the contribution he had made and the consistency with which he had laboured, that Donald Kennedy took his place among others who were all natives of his adopted country, in the diocese of Bombay.

Humble of spirit, irenic and gracious in his approach, his was a lifelong promotion of understanding, respect and love, not only among Christians in India but between Christians and Hindus, and not only in India, but in Ireland too, where upon his return after retirement on 30 June 1982 he gave himself for almost another twenty years to the healing of divisions in Church and society.

He is survived by his wife and co-worker, Isabel.

Rev Charles Patrick Alexander Logue, BA, senior minister of Crossroads and Newtowncunningham, died on 13 December 2000, in the 92nd year of his age and the 68th of his ministry.

He was born in Londonderry in 1909 and perhaps owed his second name to a birthday which coincided with national celebration of one who is credited with first bringing the gospel to Ireland. Brought up in the First Derry congregation, he was educated initially at its Church school and subsequently at Magee University College in the city, where early promise in a singing voice was followed by his becoming a medallist and prize winner in elocution.

After study at Trinity College, Dublin, from where he obtained an Arts degree in 1930, and at Assembly's College, Belfast he was licensed by the Presbytery of Derry on 15 May 1932 and ordained in Killala in June of the following year. In 1941 he moved to Fermoy and Lismore, where he remained for some seven years, until he accepted a call to Kells and Ervey. After two years there he became minister of the congregations of 2nd Newtownhamilton and Creggan on 11 January 1950 and he remained in South Armagh for eleven and

a half years. His final appointment was to Crossroads and Newtowncunningham where he served for some thirteen years, retiring on 30 June 1974.

Recognised as one of kindly disposition who exercised a caring ministry among his people, he served the wider Church on the Board of Social Witness. His brothers Stanley and Robin also followed the call of Christ into ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

He is survived by his wife Janet, by son Patrick, and two daughters, Joan and Anne.

Rev William Knox, MA, senior minister of Glendermott, died on 25 December 2000, in the 94th year of his age and the 68th of his ministry.

The son of a farmer, he was born on 30 October 1907 near Broughshane, Co. Antrim and after schooling at Ballymena Academy entered Magee College in 1926, where he gained several scholarships and prizes. From Londonderry he went on to Dublin and graduated in Arts from Trinity College in 1930. The call to the ministry took him first to New College, Edinburgh and then to Assembly's College, Belfast to complete his training.

He served as Assistant in the Richview congregation, was duly licensed by the Presbytery of Ballymena, and was ordained and installed in the united charge of Ballygawley and Ballyreagh on 30 May 1933. There he remained for fourteen years. During that period he served as Moderator of the Synod of Armagh and Monaghan.

In 1947 he accepted the call of the Glendermott congregation where he was to spend the remainder of his ministry. Possessed of the pastor's heart and ways, he was accepted by all. Alertness of mind and interest in the life of the Church in general were not to desert him even in the years of his advanced age. His personal delight in music – he was an accomplished violinist and an authority on violin makers – was channelled into the service of the Church, and he encouraged both choir and organist in their respective roles. His too was the disciple's interest in fishing, and it was as fisher of men that he saw the congregation grow in size under his ministry. An extensive building programme was undertaken, with the creation of a new gallery within the Church itself and the erection of a fine new hall.

Retirement on 1 July 1973 took him first to Scotland, where he was happy to supply pulpits as opportunity arose, then to England and after the death of his wife in 1994, home once more to Ireland and to residential care in Limavady, where his long life of service came to a close.

He is survived by a family of three, Alastair, Kristine and Donald, and by his grandchildren.

Rev John Roberts Watt, BA, senior minister of Badoney, Corrick and Glenelly congregations, died on 29 December 2000 in the 86th year of his age and the 56th of his ministry.

Son of a businessman in Castleberg, he was born on 23 January 1915 and brought up in connection with the 2nd Castleberg congregation. His life followed the pattern of many other Presbyterian ministers of his time and took him from Magee University College, Londonderry to Trinity College, Dublin and, after graduation in Arts, to Assembly's College, Belfast.

He was licensed by the Presbytery of Donegal on 5 March 1944, having served with the YMCA both in France and in England, and was ordained in his first charge in Tartaraghan on 25 September 1945. After a period of sixteen years there, he moved back to the West, first to County Donegal and the congregations of Burt and Buncrana, whose minister he became on 5 October 1961 and then to his native Tyrone and the union of three churches in the Sperrin district, where he served from 23 September 1970 until retirement in 1980. He remained in the area for some ten years thereafter, and a new house presented the opportunity of a new garden in which to exercise a favourite pastime. He subsequently moved to reside in Ballyclare.

A modest, gentle man, a faithful preacher and an effective and beloved pastor, he was held in great esteem by his people. His capacity for friendship ensured the preservation of contact with many whom he had loved and served, for their own sake, and in the name of the Lord.

He is survived by his wife Doris, by their four children, Janet, Carole, Stephen and Ruth, and by their families.

Rev Stanley Hamilton Williamson, BA, senior minister of Warrenpoint, died on 13 January 2001 in the 86th year of his age and the 55th of his ministry.

Born in Belfast into the congregation of Rosemary, he received his education at Belfast Model and Belfast High Schools, and in his undergraduate years at Queen's University he assisted in the congregations of Crumlin Road and Newington.

Graduating in 1942, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Belfast in November 1945 and was ordained to his first charge in the congregation of Clare on 7 March 1946. This was to be the first of four spheres of ministry. After four years he accepted a call to Loanends, where a brief ministry was followed by a move to Drumhillery. For the last two of his seven years there he acted as Clerk to the Synod of Armagh and Down. On 29 July 1959 he embarked upon what was to be his longest period of service, in the congregation of Warrenpoint, where he spent almost 22 years, before retirement on 30 June 1981.

Noted for his clarity of thought, his compassion of heart and his integrity of character, a Presbyterian and proud of it, he exercised his gifts as preacher and pastor, steadily and effectively pointing the way to Christ and His kingdom. He served on a number of Boards and Committees of the Church and also for a time on the governing body of Newry High School.

Something of his character was expressed in a love of nature, and he and his wife devoted the hours of free time which retirement brought to the creation of a beautiful garden at their new home in County Antrim, which drew the admiration of many. Mr and Mrs Williamson had been married just four days after his ordination in Clare, and they spent their last years together in Belfast.

Elizabeth Williamson survives her husband, along with their four children, Maeve, Anne, Ian and Christopher and thirteen grandchildren.

Rev Robert Graham Doherty, BA, senior minister of Newtownstewart and Gortin, died on 26 January 2001 in the 88th year of his age and the 59th of his ministry.

RG, as he came to be known, and as he liked to be called, was a son of the manse, born at Magheramorne, where his father, Rev J T Doherty, was minister. From Larne Grammar School he proceeded to Magee University College, Londonderry, where he met Gladys Maud Hunter, who was to become his wife, and with whom he shared 57 years of marriage. A period at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated in Arts, and at Assembly's College, Belfast prepared him for the ministry, and he was licensed by the Presbytery of Carrickfergus on 16 November 1941. Ordained the following year, he served the congregations of Carnone and Alt in County Donegal for some fourteen years and the congregation of Drumlegagh for almost twenty years, before accepting the call of the people of Newtown Stewart and Gortin, where he completed a ministry contained within a relatively small geographical area in the North-West. Upon retirement in September 1981 he moved to Carrickfergus and became a member of Greenisland congregation.

He will be remembered for a droll sense of humour, for a particular way of commanding attention by fixing people with his eyes, but more importantly for his regular pastoral visitation and his compassion in times of sickness and bereavement.

He moved comfortably and enthusiastically in circles beyond Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church in pursuit of a lifelong interest in politics. Active in the cause of Unionism, he held office in local associations and upon retirement, served as a member of Carrickfergus Borough Council. A Grand Chaplain in the Orange Order, he believed strongly in the principle of civil and religious freedom for all. In the years of the Second World War he became an instructor with the Ulster Home Guard. His interest in young people found expression in membership of the West Ulster Youth Council and in his role as Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the then Castleterg County Secondary School.

While the passing of time put an end to active participation in the various sporting activities which had provided recreation in earlier years, he preserved a love of gardening always.

Life came full circle when, after a period of progressively failing health, he was laid to rest where it had begun, in the churchyard at Magheramorne.

He is survived by his widow Gladys, by their four children, Graham, John, Ailene and Lorna, and by their families.

Rev Sydney McCartney, BD, senior minister of Finvoy, died on 12 February 2001 in the 68th year of his age and the 27th of his ministry.

Born at Kells, Ballymena on 13 April 1933, his family's roots as firmly in the Church as in the land, the young Sydney became identified easily and naturally with both. Formal education took place at the Technical Colleges of Ballymena and Belfast and later at Queen's University and Assembly's College, where he gained a degree in Divinity.

Even as a young man his personal commitment to Christ was conveyed to others through preaching, in the addresses he gave at meetings and services of the Christian Endeavour. It was later in life, as a married man with a family, that he felt guided towards full-time ministry within the Presbyterian Church.

Licensed on 16 June 1974 in Kells and having served a student assistantship in High Street, Antrim, he was ordained as assistant in Wellington

Street, Ballymena on 12 January 1975, becoming minister of Finvoy on 12 March 1976. Approachable and friendly, a good communicator and with a sense of humour, one who never lost the common touch nor his special interest in youth work, his was a faithful ministry to the one congregation for 22 years, until retirement in 1998.

The schoolboy's love of soccer never deserted him. Chosen in those early years to represent Northern Ireland, in later times he became chaplain of Ballymena Football Club. Golf was another sport in which he may have shown less expertise but found much enjoyment, and he liked to travel.

In his passing after a short illness he leaves his widow Mattie and their two daughters, Caroline and Rosemary.

REPORT BY THE CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

TO

The General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Presbyterian Church of Wales and the United Free Church of Scotland in respect of the year ending 31 December 2000.

CHURCH HYMNARY THIRD EDITION

1. The sales of the Church Hymnary Third Edition showed a small decline on the previous year with 9,766 copies being sold compared with 11,299 copies in 1999. The Royalty produced was £4,271.07 compared with £4,616.91 the previous year.

SCOTTISH PSALTER 1929

2. In total, 1,214 copies of the Scottish Psalter bound with the third edition of the Church Hymnary were sold in the year 2000, being a marked increase on the previous year when 640 copies were sold.

IRISH PSALTER

3. The sales of the Irish Psalter totalled 1,420 copies compared with 1,719 copies in 1999.

STATE OF FUNDS

4. The Trustees are confident that they have sufficient funds to meet the costs of the publication of the Fourth Edition of the Hymnary. It is proposed to distribute the Royalties in 2000 to the constituent Churches.

PUBLISHER OF CHURCH HYMNARY FOURTH EDITION

5. The Trust, having considered submissions from various publishers, have resolved to enter into negotiations with SCM-Canterbury for the publication of the New Hymnary.

POSITION OF CONSTITUENT CHURCHES

6. With the entering into negotiations for the production of the Fourth Edition of the Hymnary, it is important that the position of the constituent churches to the new Hymnary is known. The Trustees hope that the constituent churches will be in a position to take final decisions on their position with regard to the Fourth Edition of the Hymnary at their respective Assemblies in 2001. These decisions are necessary to enable the Trustees to make decisions on the deployment of funds available.

GEORGE W PENROSE, Chairman
JOHN M HODGE, Secretary and Treasurer

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.

Communications Administration

2. That the General Assembly congratulate the Board of Directors and staff of Familybooks on the sustained success of the bookshop and the excellent standard of service provided, and encourage the church to continue to support the bookshop in the future.

Public Worship

3. That the General Assembly authorise the Public Worship Committee to produce a new Irish Presbyterian Book of Praise.

4. That the lists contained in Reports 2000 form the basis of the new Book of Praise.

5. That the words of the new Book of Praise be produced in electronic format.

6. That the Presbyterian Church in Ireland cease to be a member of the Church Hymnary Trust with effect from 31 December, 2001.

7. That a grant of £800 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Public Worship Committee.

Historical Society

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

Church Architecture

9. That a grant of £1,000 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Church Architecture Committee.

General

10. 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:

NOMINATION BOARD

Convener: THE CLERK

1. At a meeting of the Board on 9 November the Clerk reported that the General Assembly had asked for nominations for two posts, Clerk-Designate (to succeed him in 2003) and a Secretary-Designate of the Overseas Board (to succeed Rev R J T McMullan in 2002).

2. The Job Description for the Clerk-Designate as approved by the General Board on behalf of the General Assembly was noted. The draft advertisement, notes for candidates and application form were considered, amended and approved.

3. The Job Description for the Secretary-Designate of the Overseas Board, the draft advertisement, notes for candidates and application form were considered, amended and approved.

4. The following appointments were approved:

External Assessors Clerk-Designate: Rev Tony Burnham (General Secretary, United Reformed Church)

Overseas Board Secretary-Designate: Rev Prof Kenneth Ross (Secretary of the Board of World Mission, Church of Scotland)

Contact Person Overseas Board Secretary-Designate: Rev S J Campbell

NOMINATION OF OVERSEAS SECRETARY-DESIGNATE

5. The General Assembly of 2000 agreed to the nomination of an Overseas Secretary-Designate by an experimental procedure under which the Nomination Board would appoint a Panel of ten members, responsible to the Nomination Board. The Panel, having conducted interviews, would submit one name to the Nomination Board for nomination to the General Assembly.

6. In accordance with this decision of Assembly, the Nomination Board appointed a Panel as follows:

Moderator and Clerk (Convener)

Three Overseas Board Specialists

Five Nomination Board Members

7. The Deputy Clerk subsequently acted as Convener under Par 269(2)(a)(ii) of the Code and the Rev Prof K.R. Ross, Secretary of the Board of World Mission, Church of Scotland, was in attendance as External Assessor.

8. Five applications were received following the placing of an advertisement for the post. Criteria, based on the Personnel Specification set out in the Job Description, were applied by the Panel as a result of which all the applicants were invited for interview. References were taken up and a medical report from each applicant's doctor was submitted to a medical assessor for comment.

9. Interviews were conducted on 5 March, 2001 and the Panel nominated the Rev W S Marrs, BSc, BD, for this appointment.

10. At a meeting of the Nomination Board on 12 March it was agreed that the name of Rev W S Marrs, BSc, BD, be transmitted to the General Assembly for this appointment. His application is printed (in abbreviated form) as Appendix I.

NOMINATION OF THE CLERK-DESIGNATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11. At the meeting of the Board on 12 March Rev Tony Burnham attended as the External Assessor. The Clerk reported that the post had been duly advertised, five applications had been received and considered by the Shortlisting Committee, and all five candidates had been invited for interview. All were reported to be medically fit.

12. Each candidate was then interviewed, after which the Board voted on the candidates. As a result it was agreed that the Board nominate Rev Donald Watts, BSc, BD, PhD, for this appointment, but that in accordance with Par 276(3) of the Code the name of Rev W J Orr, BA, BD, ThM, be also forwarded for a final decision by the General Assembly. Their applications are printed in Appendices II and III.

PROCEDURES

13. The Board then reviewed the experimental method of interview by a 10 member Panel. It was generally agreed that the experiment was successful. This method is less daunting for candidates and the smaller number of interviewers makes it easier for them to express candid opinions in discussion after interviews, though some members felt there is a safeguard in having nominations made by a larger rather than a smaller group, especially for a major appointment.

14. The Board decided to recommend that both methods be retained in the meantime to allow for a further period of experiment, the General Assembly to decide which method is to be used for any particular appointment. In the event of a vacancy arising unexpectedly in the course of the year the method of interview could be determined by the General Board.

15. Should the traditional method of nomination be retained, at least for the most important posts, the provisions of Code Par 276 might be reviewed eg to allow the Nomination Board a measure of discretion in determining whether to forward one or more names to the Assembly, but no amendments are proposed at this stage.

16. The Board would, however, draw attention once again to the Opinion of Mr Nicolas Hanna QC (Reports 2000 pp 143-149), and especially his comments on the “extremely high number of people” involved in our procedures and the risks that could arise in consequence (Opinion Par 10, pp 146-147).

APPENDIX I**FORM OF APPLICATION****Secretary-Designate of the Overseas Board**

Full Name William Samuel Marrs
 Address 20 Gilnahirk Crescent
 Belfast, BT5 7DU.

I submit this application for the post of Secretary-Designate of the Overseas Board.

Signed W S Marrs
 Date 26th January, 2001

Personal and Family Background

Date & Place of Birth 28 January, 1961 – Belfast
 Marital Status Married to Margaret Jill on 18 August 1987
 Family Details Lauren Ruth born on 15 August 1991
 Joel Alexander born on 2 March 1997
 Samuel James Leonard born on 6 May 1998
 Present Congregation Greenwell Street, Newtownards

Education

Post Primary Education Belfast Royal Academy 1972-79
 Tertiary Level Education New University of Ulster, Coleraine 1979-82
 Bachelor of Science, Honours (3rd Class) in
 Economics with Accounting.

Training for Ministry

University of Aberdeen 1983-86
 Bachelor of Divinity, Honours (2nd Class
 Division 1) in Practical Theology and
 Systematic Theology. Union Theological
 College 1986-87.
 Date of Licensing 16 June, 1987, Rosemary Presbyterian Church,
 Belfast.
 Date of Ordination 28 January, 1988, Wellington Street, Ballymena.
 Any recent/current studies None.

Career

Spheres of Ministry, Missionary Service or other appointments with dates and full details
 1999- present Ordained Assistant (Temporary) Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards.
 1998-99 A member of the Ministry Team, Wellington Street Presbyterian Church, Ballymena.

- 1989-98 PCI Missionary in Kenya serving as the Director of Theological Education by Extension (TEE) and as a lecturer at the Pastoral Training Institute of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA).
- 1986-89 Assistant Minister, Wellington Street Presbyterian Church, Ballymena.
- 1982-83 Trainee Accountant, Financial Accounts Department, Gallaher Ltd, Belfast.

Assistant Minister

I served as a student assistant, a licentiate, and an ordained assistant (one year) in Wellington Street Presbyterian Church, Ballymena, 1986-1989.

On returning from Kenya in 1998, I was seconded by the Overseas Board for nine months of my Final Furlough to serve as an Ordained Assistant on the Ministry Team of Wellington Street Church.

Since September 1999 I have been working as Ordained Assistant (Temporary) in Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards. This was with a view to helping the congregation through a time of vacancy and more recently, supporting their new minister as he settles in.

While I resigned from the service of the Overseas Board at the end of August 1999, I have remained, up to the present time, under their call.

Missionary Service

During this time, in addition to directing the PCEA TEE Programme I gained experience in a number of other areas of service. The faculty of the Pastoral Institute requested that I lecture classes in economics, stewardship, book keeping and an Introduction to New Testament Greek.

Nairobi is very much at the hub of missionary activity in East Africa. Living so close to this city gave me the privilege of interacting on a regular basis with missionaries from all over the world, not least with those from partner Presbyterian Churches in Canada, USA, South Korea, Malawi, and Scotland. Based at Kikuyu, my wife and I had an ongoing ministry of hospitality to missionaries and partner church workers, and were called upon quite often to help meet their practical and pastoral needs.

My time in Kenya also gave me the opportunity to work closely with student ministers from Presbyterian Churches in Sudan, Togo, and Malawi. This has given me considerable insight into the challenges and opportunities of building partnership relationships with churches in the developing world.

While based in Kenya I had the opportunity to visit churches in Tanzania and Nigeria.

Trainee Accountant

As a result of my studies and experience in the field of accountancy I have retained a knowledge of basic book keeping and the production of financial statements.

Responsibilities in Church Courts/Inter-Church Bodies

As an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland I have gained experience as a member of the following:

Kirk Session (in Wellington Street and Greenwell Street Congregations).	
Presbytery (in Ballymena and Ards).	
The Overseas Board	1999 – present
The Asia Committee	1999 – 2000
The Africa, Caribbean and Latin America Committee	2000 – present
The Pastoral Care for Missionaries Working Group	1999 – present
A sub-committee on:	
“The Way Ahead, Further Steps in World Mission”	1999

While a missionary with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, I served as:

- A member of Limuru Presbytery
- A member of the Training and Personnel Development Committee
- A member of the Christian Education Committee
- The Secretary of the TEE Committee
- Staff Secretary at the PCEA Pastoral Institute

Over the years I have had opportunities to chair Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and various other committees in different areas of church life. On a number of occasions I have served as secretary to committees and so gained experience in recording minutes.

Inter-Church Bodies

- A member of the Kenya Committee of the Accrediting Council for Theological Education by Extension.
- A member of the Board of Reference for Theological Education through Open Learning (TETOL)

Development***Experience of managing staff (full details)***

While serving overseas as Director of the PCEA TEE Programme I was responsible for the management of the TEE office staff. This included an administrator, an office secretary, and a clerk. In addition to having responsibility for the day to day running of the TEE office, I was involved in recruitment, contract negotiations, handling salaries and with any pastoral concerns which the staff brought to me.

Experience of Information Technology

During my time as Director of the PCEA TEE Programme, I took responsibility for the purchase and installation of two computers which I used to record and update many TEE course materials. This has given me basic knowledge in a broad range of software packages, as well as in e-mail and internet access.

Community Interests, Hobbies etc***Level of involvement in non-church organisations***

I take an active interest in the work of the following para-church organisations:

- Crusade for World Revival
- The Evangelical Alliance
- Evangelical Contribution On Northern Ireland
- The Bible Society

Interests, hobbies, sports, social activities

Keeping fit, squash, skiing, golf, rugby, reading.

Driving Licence

Do you have a current driving licence? Yes

Other Relevant Information

Mission Conferences attended in the past three years in addition to those run by the PCI Overseas Board:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| November 1998 | Irish Council of Churches/Irish Missionary Union Study Day "New Ways of Sending/New Ways of Receiving". |
| November 1999 | Irish Council of Churches/Irish Missionary Union Study Day "Sharing a Vision in Mission, Listening to the 2/3 World" |
| February 2000 | Global Connections/Equip
"Preparing a New Generation" |
| November 2000 | Global Connections Annual Conference
"Transforming Leadership" |

Short Courses of Study:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1983 | Pitman's typing course (RSA Stage 1) |
| 1987 | CWR Institute of Christian Counselling (Level III) |
| 1990 | Developing TEE Leaders, (2 Weeks), Daystar University, Nairobi. |
| 1991 | TEE Course Writer's Workshop. (2 Weeks), Daystar University |
| 1991 | Pitman's course in Disk Management |
| 1998 | Lifeworks Kenya Courses: Time Management
Adult Education |

Confidential Referees

- (a) Rev Norman A Brown
Wellington Manse
21 Old Galgorm Road
Ballymena BT42 1AL

Minister of Wellington Street Presbyterian Church
- (b) Rev Andrew Gibson
Belfast Bible College
Glenburn House
Glenburn Road South
Dunmurry BT17 9JP

Lecturer, Belfast Bible College
- (c) Rev Patrick M. Rukenya
Presbyterian Church of East Africa
Jitegemea House, Muhoho Avenue
South 'C', P O Box 48268
Nairobi, Kenya, E Africa

General Secretary, Presbyterian Church of East Africa

APPENDIX II**FORM OF APPLICATION****For Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly**

Full Name	Donald James Watts
Address	3 Second Avenue, Baylands, Bangor BT20 5JZ dwatts@presbyterianireland.org
Telephone	028 9145 0141

I submit this application for the post of Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly

Signed Donald J Watts

Date 1st February, 2001

Personal and Family Background

Date & Place of Birth	23 rd September 1948, Donaghadee
Marital Status	Married to Fiona (formerly Stewart)
Family Details	Sons: David (2/9/79) Jonathan (27/10/81) Michael (1/3/84)

Education

Post Primary Education	1959-1966 Down High School, Downpatrick
Tertiary Level Education	1966-1970 Queen's University, Belfast; B.Sc. Physics (1970)
	1970-1973 University of Edinburgh; B.D.(First Class Honours in New Testament, 1973)
	1974-1977 University of Edinburgh; Ph.D. (Awarded 1981)

Title and dates of any major Theses

"Eschatology in the Johannine Community- a study in diversity" 1981

Training for Ministry	1970-1973 New College, Edinburgh
	1973-1974 Presbyterian College, Belfast

Date of Licensing	9 th June 1974
Date of Ordination	30 th October 1977

Career***Spheres of Ministry or other appointments with dates***

1973-1974	Student Assistant, First Larne
1977-1980	Licentiate and Ordained Assistant, Malone
1980- present	Minister, Ballyholme

Responsibilities in Church Courts, Boards and Committees***Presbytery***

Moderator of Ards Presbytery, 1989-1990
Clerk of Ards Presbytery, 1990- present

Boards and Committees***Board of Education, 1980-1990; 1998-present***

Convener	University Education Committee	1982-1989
Member	University Education Committee	1980-1990
	State Education Committee	1982-1989
	South Eastern Education and Library Board	1998-present

Inter-Church Relations Board, 1980-1989; 1999-present

Member	World Development Committee	1980-1989; 1999-present
	World Church Relations Committee	1981-1989
Appointed	British Council of Churches	1986-1990
	Observer British/Irish Inter-Church Process	1986-1990
	Irish Committee of Christian Aid	1990-1994

Social Witness Board, 1983-1990

Convener	Presbyterian Residential Trust Committee	1985-1989
Member	Presbyterian Residential Trust Committee	1983-1990

Board of Publications/Communications 1984-1990

Member	Broadcasting Committee	1984-1990
Appointed	Religious Adviser to Downtown Radio	1984-1990

General Board, 1990-present

Convener	Peace and Peacemaking Committee	1996-1999
Member	Doctrine Committee	1990-2000
	Peace and Peacemaking Committee	1991-2000
	Recognised Ministries Committee	1993-1995
	Moderator's Advisory Committee	1995-present
	Church and Government Committee	1996-present
Appointed	Panels on Conciliation, Toronto Blessing, Priorities, Boards and Committees	

Inter-Church Involvement

I have been interested in Inter-Church relationships since a student at Queen's University where I was involved in Inter-Chaplaincy work. My involvement has included:

- Member and Executive Member of Corrymeela Community
- Member of South Belfast Clergy Group
- Member of Bangor Council of Churches, Bangor Clergy Fraternal, Ballyholme Inter-Church Group
- Member of the British Council of Churches
- Observer at British/Irish Inter-Church Process
- Member of Irish Christian Aid Committee
- Member of the Churches Initiative Group, facilitated by ECONI.

At a practical level, in Ballyholme this has involved Inter-Church meetings and seminars; shared worship and exchange of pulpits.

Development**Academic Publications (Title and Date)**

- Biblical Section of World Development Handbook (PCI, 1982)
- "Outside the Camp", Lion and Lamb (ECONI, Summer 1998)

Use of Information Technology

I use a PC for general word-processing, records, email and access to the Internet. I have completed a basic course at the North Down and Ards Institute, and am continuing to expand my knowledge and experience.

Current Study (institution, course, date of commencement, anticipated completion and qualification)

None

Community Interests, Hobbies etc.**Level of involvement in non-church organisations****Education**

I have been a member of the South Eastern Education and Library Board since 1998 and serve on its Education, Finance and Property Services, Youth, General Purposes, and Strategic Issues Committees. I was elected vice-chairman of the Education Committee in 1999. As a Board member I am also involved in the Northern Ireland Association of Education and Library Boards and the

Transferors' Representative Council. Locally I serve as chairman of Ballyholme and Towerview Boards of Governors.

Broadcasting

I acted as religious adviser to Downtown Radio for 6 years. This included producing "Just a moment": short talks presented by a variety of contributors and "Church Window": a magazine programme. As well as presenting material I was involved in interviewing and editing. For training I attended a course in radio and video production.

Since the early 1980's I have from time to time presented Morning Worship on BBC Radio Ulster, Radio 4, World Service and RTE Radio 1. I regularly contribute to "Thought for the Day" on Radio Ulster, and occasionally to "Sunday Sequence" and "Talk Back".

Community Relationships

My interest in reconciliation has involved work with various community groups, not all of which would be church based. Through Peace and Peacemaking and Church and Government Committees I have been involved in recent political initiatives, particularly in "New Agenda" discussions prior to the setting up of the Civic Forum. I also gave evidence to a "Believers' Enquiry" organised by the Glenree Community.

Interests, hobbies, sports, social activities

I enjoy walking, reading, music, gardening and travel, but time is limited. I also have pleasure watching our sons play their sports, particularly rugby, and attend matches with them.

Health

Have you had any serious illnesses/operations over the past three years and have these resulted in absence from employment? No

Have you any current health problems for which you are being treated? No

How many days have you been absent from work for any medical reason over the last year? No days

Do you have a disability? No

Driving Licence

Do you have a current driving licence? Yes

Other Relevant Information

I have a deep affection for and commitment to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, having grown up in Newcastle Congregation under the influence of the late Rev Dr A C Anderson. As the job description suggests, I believe that in the next few years the mission of our church will face considerable challenge and the context in which we proclaim the eternal message will rapidly change. I

suggest that my experience in the following fields may be of particular relevance.

Pastoral Ministry

I have been the Minister of Ballyholme for 21 years, during a time of change and expansion. The experience of enabling a Kirk Session to work through issues has been a valuable one. I also believe my pastoral experience to have a continuing relevance.

Presbytery Clerkship

As Clerk of a fairly large Presbytery for 11 years, I have had to ensure that the administration is carried out effectively. I have also been consulted on many of the more difficult interpretations of the Code. At times I have been invited to mediate in congregations where there are disputes and have found that through patience and a willingness to listen my interventions have usually been welcomed. As a member of the Moderator's Advisory Committee I have been asked on occasions to assist other Presbyteries with difficult issues.

Conciliation

I have been a member of the Conciliation management panel since it was set up and continue to encourage the promotion of a culture of conciliation throughout the church. On a community level this has also been a major thrust of my work in peace and peacemaking.

Communication

I believe that the communication of the gospel and of our church's mission will increasingly be in a secular environment. My experience of the broadcasting media will be important. I also, of course, write sermons and articles that I hope are fresh and challenging.

Academic

While my full-time academic study was some time ago, the experience of research and writing a thesis has continuing relevance to assessing arguments and writing reports. My work was on a Christian Community coping with change and the main conclusions have motivated my thinking ever since.

1. A Christian Community must be governed by God's future and not its own past.
2. In Christ's love it is possible for different theological emphases to be held together and with respect. Diversity in a Christian Community is a sign of maturity and strength.

Confidential Referees

- (a) Very Rev Dr John Ross
24 King's Court
Templepatrick BT39 0EB

Senior Minister of High Street, Holywood

- (b) Rev Dr R S Tosh
 BBC Northern Ireland
 Broadcasting House
 Ormeau Avenue
 Belfast BT2 8HQ
- Senior Producer, Religion
- (c) Mr J B Fitzsimmons
 South Eastern Education and Library Board
 Grahamsbridge Road
 Dundonald
 Belfast BT16 2HS
- Chief Executive

APPENDIX III

FORM OF APPLICATION

Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly

Full Name Wilfred John Orr
 Address 6 Hampton Park
 Belfast BT7 3JL

I submit this application for the post of Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly

Signed Wilfred J Orr
 Date 1st February, 2001

Personal and Family Background

Date & Place of Birth 25 March, 1947 – Belfast
 Marital Status Married to Jennifer (School Teacher)
 Family Details Andrew (A Graduate 23 years old)
 Elspeth and Heather (Both students – Edinburgh
 and Cambridge)
 Duncan (At Methodist College)

Home Congregation Bloomfield and son of the Manse.

Education

Post Primary Education Campbell College, Belfast, 1959-65
 Tertiary Level Education Queen's University Belfast 1965-69
 BA (Hons Modern History) 1969

Training for Ministry	Assembly's College (Union Theological College) 1969-70 University of St Andrew's 1970-72 BD (Hons Ecclesiastical History specialising in the doctrine and polity of the Scottish Reformation) 1972 ThM (Christian Education) – Princeton Theological Seminary 1973 – (I was awarded a Princeton Fellowship through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches – 1972-1973)
Date of Licensing	17 June, 1973
Date of Ordination	February, 1974

Career

Spheres of Ministry or other appointments with dates

1973-76	First Bangor Assistant Minister
1976-77	Assistant to Acting Clerk of Assembly
1977-83	Hydepark and Lylehill (first minister of newly united charge)
1983-present	Newtownbreda (St John's) – since 1983 – and working with a team comprising of assistant minister/associate minister, part-time minister for pastoral visitation and part-time youth leader.

Responsibilities in Church Courts, Boards and Committees

Moderator of East Belfast Presbytery 1994-95: sundry convenerships and service on commissions and committees.

Full time Assistant to the Acting Clerk of Assembly 1976-77

This brought responsibilities within many Boards and Committees of Assembly, provided opportunity to visit a number of Home Mission charges and to undertake deputation work, as well as providing insight into the duties of the Clerk's Office.

Subsequently

Church Education Committee
Public Worship Committee
Union College Management Committee (Chairman 1995-97)
Service on interviewing panels for four years in selection of candidates for the ministry

Union Commission

I have served on the Commission since 1976, with one brief absence:
1976-77 Secretary of Allocation Committee
1979-84 Secretary of the Commission
1992-95 Convener of Manses
1995-97 Chairman of Commission
1997- Convener of Commission

This has given me an opportunity to serve Presbyteries and congregations throughout the Church for almost twenty-five years. The Convener'ship brings with it ex-officio membership of CMF Committee (Board of Ministry and Pensions), Home Mission (Board of Mission in Ireland), Business Board, General Board. I frequently chair the Panel on the Overview of Funding under the General Board, keeping me briefed on planning and strategy within various agencies of the Assembly.

Tyrone Memorial Committee

Co-Convener 1997-98

Inter-Church and Community

Management Committees of Templepatrick and Mallusk Primary Schools, BELB rep. Holy Rosary Primary School Management Committee and vice-chairman for the last ten years. Inter schools work with Wellington College and St Aquinas Grammar School. Active member of Ballynafeigh Clergy Fellowship for eighteen years, chairman for several years and involved with community negotiations on the Ormeau Road. Chairman of Presbyterian Residential Trust Homes at Denegarath, Rockview and Lowry House.

1989 – Chaplain, by invitation, to the St Andrew's University Summer School of Theology on the 450th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's College.

1991 – Joint speaking tour in USA at the request of the Church with Monsignor Tom Toner – currently of St Peter's Cathedral.

1998 – Guest preacher, Diocese of Down and Connor inter-church Pentecost Service.

Ad Hoc Inter-Church Groups on Community Issues

Ad Hoc Links with Irish School of Ecumenics; Corrymeela; Columbanus Community.

Media

Radio Ulster Sunday morning service on three occasions.

Sundry interviews:- local and national radio, local TV and USA radio on subject of "the troubles".

Development

Academic Publications None

Use of Information Technology

CLAIT ONE 1997 – Basic word processing – spread sheet etc.

e-mail facility – adequate to my current requirements

Current Study

None (save occasional short conferences/opportunities for In-Service Training for Parish Ministry).

Confidential Referees

- (a) Very Rev Dr Andrew R Rodgers, MA,
 33 Gortnaskea Road
 Stewartstown BT71 5NY

Senior Minister (Dungannon) and Former Moderator of General Assembly

- (b) Very Rev Dr T J Simpson, MA, LLB, DipEd,
1 Wood Island Park
Newtownards BT23 7BJ

Clerk of Assembly (Emeritus) and Former Moderator of General Assembly

- (c) Mr Bruce Robinson, BSc, FCA,
3 Deramore Drive
Belfast BT9 5JQ

Session Clerk (Newtownbreda) and Permanent Secretary, Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Rev W S Marrs be appointed Secretary-Designate of the Overseas Board.
3. That be appointed Clerk-Designate of the General Assembly.
4. That the experimental method of interviewing and nominating by a 10 member Panel be retained in the meantime as an alternative to the procedure set out in Par 276 of the Code, the General Assembly (or the General Board) to determine the method to be used for any particular appointment.
5. That the Nomination Board be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 276 of the Code as follows:

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS BOARD

Convener: Rev R HERRON

1. The Board met on two occasions during the past year. The main items of business are included in the Committee reports.

Rev David Campbell

2. Rev David Campbell has completed almost six years as Convener of the World Church Relations Committee. In March he left Ireland to become a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Australia. During his convenership he was Secretary of the Bible Society which involved visits to many Christians and churches in various parts of the world. He always took the opportunity to bring greetings from the World Church Relations Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Board expresses thanks to him for his contribution to the work of the Committee and wishes him well in his future ministry.

Ministers in Recognised Service

Rev Andrew Gibson reports:

1. This has been a year of contrasts for Belfast Bible College. We have our largest ever full-time student body (140 full-time and 300 part-time students) and there is a buzz about the place that is exciting and invigorating. I have been involved in developing and teaching Masters level courses, which are enabling both young graduates and seasoned ministers and missionaries to think radically and creatively about contemporary mission in Ireland and overseas. I have also been involved in the development of our Institute of Christian Studies in which we seek to deepen the faith, sharpen the spiritual gifts and increase the Biblical understanding of people of all ages and backgrounds who study with us on Tuesday evenings.

2. On the other hand, as a community we have had a number of tragedies including serious illness and untimely bereavement. We are more aware than ever of the reality of spiritual warfare. I would encourage all in PCI, who are interested in the work of BBC, to join prayerfully with us as we serve not only PCI but the rest of the churches in Ireland and many throughout the world.

Rev Desmond Maxwell reports:

1. After fourteen years at Belfast Bible College there is something of an inevitable predictability about this annual paragraph. On the one hand there is a certain regularity about my primary responsibility of lecturing, but there never fails to be a sense of excitement and fulfilment as students from over thirty countries gather on campus to be equipped for Christian service all over the

world. Increasingly those of us who work at BBC see the bridge at the campus entrance as not merely our link to Dunmurry but to the whole world. During the past summer I also had occasion to be back teaching in Ukraine as well as ministering in various churches nearer home.

Rev Ruth Patterson reports:

1. This year in Restoration Ministries we are focusing on the theme Restoring Understanding. We have had a joint initiative with ECONI, where we have been exploring the nature of sectarianism, cultural identity and reconciliation and how religion and history in this country have shaped our present difficulties. We have been greatly encouraged by these monthly gatherings.

2. Once again opportunities have opened up in different parts of the world to share the message of healing and reconciliation. We are privileged to have a mutually supportive friendship with the international movements of L'Arche and Faith and Light (founded by Jean Vanier).

3. Prayer continues to be central to the Ministry and a new venture this year is a weekly drop in time for Listening Prayer and Prayers for Healing.

ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

Rev Samuel Millar reports:

1. During the past year, the Panel has met in various locations. The venues have included Ballymena, Belfast, Castleblayney, and Irvinestown. The Panel is grateful to kirk sessions for allowing it to meet in their premises and to the management of the ECOS centre in Ballymena for an enlightening conducted tour.

2. The local environment has seen few major improvements in the last year, and the Panel members are keen to support the efforts of the state conservation agencies in both parts of Ireland as they seek to implement policies to positively influence our environment. On the global scale, the Panel was very disappointed by the lack of progress at the Hague summit, and one of our members, David Boyd, was interviewed on BBC Northern Ireland's Sunday Sequence programme when he spoke of some of the Panel's concerns.

3. One very positive step has been the launching in London of the Eco-congregation project, by which individual congregations are encouraged to manage their property in an environmentally friendly manner. As part of the pilot operation for this project, First Ballymoney congregation enthusiastically participated, thanks to the efforts of Rev Albin Rankin and his youth worker, Alex Patterson. The Panel would encourage other congregations to participate in this project, and members are available to assist in setting up such exercises.

4. The Panel was disappointed at the small number of congregations who planted trees for the Millennium, and would encourage others to do so - there is no need to wait for a specific occasion. Trees help maintain a healthy environment, provide shelter and food for many mammals, birds and insects, and are a delight to the eye.

5. At Panel meetings, among other issues, members have discussed incineration, particularly as it affects Derry/Strabane and Donegal Presbyteries, and recycling. Much more can be achieved countrywide through recycling than is currently the case, and again the Panel encourages all our members and congregations to be more pro-active in this exercise. The Panel is encouraged that an increasing number of local authorities are providing recycling points or introducing special bins to hold recyclable materials. It was a delight to be invited to participate in a survey to establish the future waste disposal needs of Northern Ireland. The Panel chose to look at waste disposal from Church House and was surprised to realise the weight of waste leaving the building each week.

6. The Panel welcomes the inclusion of environmental issues in the new Presbytery Consultation procedures. It is felt that this will encourage congregations to give greater consideration to the handling of environmental issues within the life of the congregation and its parish boundaries, and highlight care for the environment as part of the ministry and mission of the Church.

7. Finally, the Panel has been considering how Creation can be celebrated in our church services. Following the example of several European churches, the Panel has produced an outline of a service, with suggested readings and singings, which can be used at any time of year as part of a Creation Day service. Some European churches set aside a particular Sunday for such services. The Panel feels that individual congregations should be free to decide when such a service is held. It is suggested that there may be advantages in holding such a service close to harvest thanksgiving or rogation services. Copies of the suggested form of service are available.

IRISH CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Irish Council of Churches

1. The Autumn Gathering of the Irish Council of Church was held in Dundalk, 19 September 2000, and the theme was 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Republic of Ireland.' The main speaker was Mr Jerome Connolly of the Irish Commission of Justice and Peace who outlined a range of issues in relation to the increased immigration to Ireland. Rev Noel Fallows, Sutton Methodist Church, spoke about his experience in successfully integrating African asylum seekers into the congregation where he is minister. Mrs Agnes Aderanti of the Church of the Cherubim and Seraphim Rock of Ages Church, Dublin, told her story of the experience of coming to Ireland and trying to establish a congregation.

2. The Executive Committee met members of some of the New Churches in the Dublin area for the exchange of information. The meeting was deemed to be useful and another meeting is planned. The General Secretary of ICC has also met with a representative of Galway Christian Fellowship, which has a number of churches in the Republic.

3. The Cherubim and Seraphim Church, Dublin, has applied for observer status of the ICC. This church is a member of Churches Together in England (CTBI).

4. The Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland have agreed a Draft Covenant. The Covenant states: 'We believe that God is calling us into a special relationship in which we commit ourselves - to share a common life and mission - to work towards visible unity'. Members of the two churches were to speak about the Draft Covenant at the ICC Annual Meeting on 23 March 2001 but the AGM has been postponed until September 2001.

Irish Inter-Church Meeting

5. The Irish Inter-Church Meeting was held on 10 November 2000 and the theme was 'Being the Church in the New Millennium'. At the morning meeting the Department of Theological Issues report on 'Being the Church in the New Millennium' was discussed and in the afternoon there was a presentation on the Building Bridges of Hope Project for local congregations and parishes.

6. The publication of the Roman Catholic document 'Dominus Iesus' has set the tone for Irish church relations this year. In the context of a drive to pluralism in a post-modern age it is seen as an attempt to argue the importance of truth claims. However to identify the presence and authority of Christ in his church through participation in an institution with a certain type of historical continuity and specific interpretation of the mystery of the Eucharist is for Presbyterians exegetically and historically untenable. A seminar was held on 5th December 2000 to discuss 'Dominus Iesus'. Rev Bernard Longley (Roman Catholic Church) introduced the document, and Archbishop Robin Eames, Rev Dr Norman Taggart and Rev Dr Trevor Morrow responded. In his conclusion Dr Morrow said, '*Dominus Iesus does not cause alarm to Irish Presbyterians. It is clear in its statements, which ensure that inter church dialogue does not take place in a fog. It is unequivocal in its affirmation of the centrality and sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ. It indicates that we have not come as far in our ecclesiological discussions as some have imagined but there is no indication of a desire to undo the ecumenical co-operation both locally and nationally to take us back to the polemic of pre Vatican II days*'.

7. A seminar on the Roman Catholic/Lutheran Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification is planned for Monday, 3rd June 2001. Rev Drew Gibson has agreed to present a response to the document.

8. The Department of Social Issues continues to serve as a meeting point for people with some responsibility for social issues in the participating churches. The following items have been on the agenda of the Department: the plight of farms, genetic modification of food, victims of violence, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, racial equality, infertility, domestic violence and Sunday trading.

Review of ICC and IICM Structures

9. As it has not been possible to proceed with the setting up of the Conference of Churches in Ireland, discussions have taken place on what changes are appropriate to meet the needs of the participating churches. The discussions have been held within the ICC and the IICC. Some of the issues have been inter-linked because they affect both bodies.

10. As the number of smaller churches in ICC has increased it has been agreed by the Irish Inter-Church Committee that the number of places for the smaller churches be increased from one place to two. It was also agreed to have a meeting of the Irish Inter-Church Committee once a year to which all the churches in the Irish Inter-Church Meeting would be invited. The first meeting to which all the participating churches are invited was held on 31 January 2001.

11. The Board of Inter-Church Affairs of the ICC is to be stood down, as there is duplication of agenda between this board and ICC Executive Committee. As a result of this change the number of meetings of the Executive Committee is to be increased to four meetings per year.

12. The Roman Catholic Church has agreed to increase its financial contribution to the work of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. As the IICM works on a 50/50 basis between the Roman Catholic Church and the ICC member Churches, the ICC member Churches are being asked to meet this increase. However, as the main cost incurred by both bodies is staff related and the staffing costs are shared between the two bodies this has resulted in a significant decrease in budget for the running of the ICC. For PCI the overall reduction is £5,200 in 2001. The funding of ICC and IICM is calculated on a fraction basis.

Contributions to ICC & IICM for 2001

ICC

Presbyterian Church	£16,400
Church of Ireland	£16,400
Methodist Church	£4,100
Other Churches	£2,400

IICM

Roman Catholic Church	£19,500
Presbyterian Church	£8,000
Church of Ireland	£8,000
Methodist Church	£2,000
Other Churches	£1,500

13. A protocol between ICC and IICM has been drawn up setting out the duties and responsibilities of staff to the two bodies.

TONY DAVIDSON, Convener

APPENDIX I

INTER-CHURCH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee met in January, 2001. The members of the Committee are:

Church of Ireland	Methodist	Presbyterian
Rev W Ritchie	Rev D C Bain	Rev A D Davidson
Rev I J E Knox	(Chairman)	Rev R Herron
Ven G A McCamley	Rev T M Kingston	Mrs E Cobain
Canon J Mayes	Rev E T I Mawhinney	Rev R F S Poots OBE
	Mrs H O'Neill	

2. The Rev D C Bain was elected Chairman for three years in succession to the Rt Rev E F Darling, who has retired.

3. The Committee considered the Methodist/Presbyterian Scheme at St. Columba's and decided to request the Lisburn Methodist Circuit and the Dromore Presbytery to consider the continuing usefulness of the Scheme and to present an agreed report to the appropriate Committee of each denomination.

Brownlow, Lurgan

4. A Church Army Officer had been appointed to St Saviour's, Brownlow, and the Church of Ireland and Methodist Congregations are exploring the use of St Saviour's by both denominations and a sharing of worship as well as buildings.

Galway and Ballinasloe

5. The Galway congregation, while nominally Presbyterian/Methodist, is made up of different religious groupings and has become a "user friendly" congregation which can comfortably embrace a considerable number of visitors and temporary members from other parts of the world who join with a weekly core attendance of thirty. The worship style mingles the old with the new. The ministry seeks to reach into the community through contact with members of the Corporation and a university chaplaincy.

6. There is potential for ministry to young people who congregate in the city centre, a short distance from the church building. A practical ministry to refugees and asylum seekers has been developed and the mothers-and-toddlers group is thriving. Financial resources tend to fluctuate in relation to the number of temporary members.

7. Relationships between all the major Churches is very good.

8. Attendance at the Bible study group in Ballinasloe has waned but a small number meet in St. John's, Church of Ireland, whose rector, Rev Trevor Sullivan, has made them most welcome and has sought to involve the Presbyterian minister in community affairs.

9. The Presbyterian and Methodist Churches need to assess and define their aims for Ballinasloe where it might be possible to see development, especially in joint youth work with the Church of Ireland, if a worker was placed in the community.

10. It was noted that people in the area relate better to Christian work in a Church building rather than in an hotel.

Church of Ireland/Methodist Church Draft Covenant (2000)

11. The Committee considered the Draft Covenant produced by a joint Church of Ireland and Methodist Theological Working Party which was established following the winding up of the Tripartite Consultation.

12. The respective governing bodies committed both Churches to "a special relationship with each other" whose terms were expressed in the Covenant.

13. The Committee decided that it would be inappropriate to make specific comments at this stage but recognised that developments towards

“visible unity” between the two Churches and to “fully interchangeable ministries” could impact on the Methodist/Presbyterian Alternating Ministries Scheme.

RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. **Remit.** The Committee, having been requested to review the scope of their responsibilities with a view to including in their agenda human rights, gender and religious persecution, have come to the conclusion that they should continue to concentrate on race relations and asylum seekers. These other issues, they believe, fit more naturally within the purview of the General Board.

2. The Race Relations Committee will continue their small involvement in South Africa mainly through an annual grant to the Diakonia Council of Churches. The annual grant of the General Assembly is always warmly acknowledged, with excellent information on their ongoing programme. The Committee have been impressed with one of the most recent publications received from South Africa: a study of ‘Diakonia’.

3. **In the United Kingdom** matters of race are rarely out of the headlines: reform of policing practice as a result of the Stephen Lawrence enquiry, the alarming incidence of racially-motivated attacks, the numbers of young black men engaged in criminal activity, attacks of black on blacks, and the attempt by the Government to introduce new legislation and procedures both to stem the flow of illegal immigrants and the processing of applications for asylum or refugee status are the constant subjects of media comment, public dialogue and political debate. The Committee note that Britain is not only the preferred country for many seeking asylum but is apparently the most generous of the western European countries in terms of the numbers granted visas. Nonetheless the desperate plight of those held in camps at continental channel ports or seeking illegal entry to Britain, often by dangerous means and subject to exploitation, is a challenge to the value system of the European community. Equally the twilight situation of those who have gained entry to Britain illegally poses a real dilemma for the authorities. Without visas they are subject to exploitation by unscrupulous employers who pay minimal wages; and they are entirely without legal rights or social provision.

4. While numbers seeking asylum directly **in Northern Ireland** remain small they are expected to increase. Currently they are mainly Romanian and Chinese. The practice of detaining them in prison while their applications are being processed is insensitive and inhumane. In the period 1January 1999 - 30 June 2000 there were 62 male asylum seekers in Magilligan prison and 13 female in Meghaberry. There is no separate provision for them. The Methodist chaplain at Magilligan, who has responsibility for their pastoral care, nonetheless pays tribute to the prison authorities for their efforts to minimise their problems; for example, by providing a telephone link-line to an interpreter while interviews are taking place with those who speak no English.

5. In October 1998 the Law Centre (N1) was awarded funding by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust to conduct research into the detention of asylum seekers in Northern Ireland. They examined the cases of the 75

individuals detained in prison under immigration legislation between 1 January 1999 and 30 June 2000. The resultant document, *'Sanctuary in a cell'*, available from the Law Centre (NI), is too detailed and extensive to summarise, Their key recommendations can however be summarised, as follows:

- An advisory body on immigration detention should be established
- As a general rule asylum seekers should not be detained; non-custodial alternatives permitting close supervision and practical support should be developed
- Asylum seekers should not be detained in prison and 'In particular should never be detained with sentenced prisoners'

The Race Relations Committee would again emphasise the need for local congregations to be alert to the presence in their localities of such 'strangers' and seek to accord them a welcome, befriend them and offer active and practical support, not least because a number of such persons will be brother and sister Christians.

6. **The Republic of Ireland** is faced with a much bigger number of asylum seekers and refugees. The total number of asylum applications for the year 2000 was 10,938 - significantly below prior official estimates of 12 - 15,000. However at 31 December 2000 there was a backlog of 12,067 applications. Regular information may be found in *Sanctuary* a newsletter produced by the Refugee Project of the Irish Bishop's Conference and obtainable from the ICJP, 169 Booterstown Ave., Blackrock, Co. Dublin. The Presbyterian Church is represented on the Churches Asylum Network, based in Dublin. Regarding the dispersal policy of the Republic's Government they note: 'The movement in and out of allocated accommodation continues, and people are ready to forego their limited social welfare entitlement to be with relatives or compatriots. Some 200 asylum seekers are currently living at the holiday centre at Mosney, which may eventually house up to 500. The General Assembly's Committee was represented at a Conference on Asylum Seekers and Refugees organised by the Irish School of Ecumenics in December 2000 by the Rev Denis Campbell. He reports, "*In 1997 Ireland admitted 3,883 asylum seekers; in 1998 the figure had increased to 4,626; the upward trend continued in 1999 to 7,724 and in 2000 reached a total of 10,938. Ireland needs newcomers because of the economic boom. Irish people are no longer willing to take lower paid jobs. Indeed one newspaper report in the year 1999 claimed that Ireland needed 200,000 new people to enable the rate of growth to continue. However, the government's processing of these newcomers is slow. Applications for permission to work in Ireland take from two months to four years to process. While waiting aliens are not permitted to work, some work illegally and some sell 'The Big Issue' on the streets. During this time of limbo, aliens are vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous employers.*"

7. **Conclusion** From the time of the Ten Commandments onwards how a society treats the *'stranger'* has been listed as one of the fundamental criteria of its moral standards. The issue is both complex and simple: complex, in that various and competing social, political and economic criteria have to be taken into account; but simple, in that always there is a divine mandate to treat such persons with acceptance, respect and compassion.

8. But why should the increasing presence in this country of those of different race, whether native born, immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers, be seen primarily as a threat and a challenge? Can we not see them as offering an immeasurable enrichment to the indigenous cultures of this island - an island whose sons and daughters have for centuries sought and received the sanctuary of other lands, and to which they and their descendants have made and continue to make a dynamic contribution?

GORDON GRAY, Convener

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. The Committee has continued to be actively involved in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), the Conference of European Churches (CEC), and the Leuenberg Church Fellowship (LCF). The Committee appreciates the prayer support of partner churches in England, Scotland and Wales, namely the Church of Scotland (C of S), the United Reformed Church (URC) and the Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW), and continues to build relations with these churches.

Consultation of UK Reformed Churches

2. Delegates representing various boards of PCI were selected and preparations for a consultation between the UK Reformed Churches to be held from 27-29 March 2001 at the URC Windermere Centre were complete. However, in light of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, it was considered better to postpone the meeting until later this year. The proposed date is now 4-6 December 2001. The purpose of the consultation is to explore the theme of Identity and Partnership with the Reformed Churches.

United Reformed Church

3. Rev Colin McClure attended the URC Assembly held in London in July 2000 as a voting delegate. Rev David Campbell attended two meetings of the Ecumenical Committee of the URC at Edinburgh in September 2000 and Leeds in January 2001.

Leuenberg Church Fellowship

4. The Fellowship is made up of Reformed Churches, Methodist Churches and Lutheran Churches. The Committee is pleased that the Leuenberg Church Fellowship Assembly is to be held in Belfast from 19-25 June 2001. A sub-committee has been making preparations and arrangements for the past two years. The opening worship of the Assembly will be held on Tuesday 19th June in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church and is open to the public. Delegates will bring greetings to a number of churches on Sunday 24 June 2001. The Committee commends the Leuenberg Assembly to your prayers.

5. Professor Cecil McCullough attended the Leuenberg Executive Committee, which met in Zurich, 18-20 January 2001. He reported that work on preparation of a liturgy for a yearly Leuenberg Sunday is nearly complete.

World Alliance of Reformed Churches

6. Rev John Kirkpatrick, a member of the European Area Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, attended a meeting in Malaga, 17-19 March 2001.

Conference of European Churches

7. The 12th Assembly of CEC will be held in Norway, 3-9 September 2003.

General

8. The Committee Convener, Rev David Campbell, established contacts with the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Syria and Lebanon. He visited several individual churches in this denomination during a tour of the Middle East. During the year the Convener also met with representatives of some of the Reformed churches in Bahrain and Kuwait.

GABRIELLE ELLIS-FARQUHAR, Acting Convener

WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. The third and final year of the World Development campaign "*Let my people go...free from hunger, free to be healthy, free to learn*" focused on education. The word "education" means "to lead out" and the entire campaign has been based on the Exodus story of God leading the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to freedom and a better life in their own land. Education is vital for the development of an enlightened and civilised society. In poorer countries those adults who have had even a few years primary education are better able to care for and provide for their families. Education enables people to make informed choices about their lifestyles, to learn about family planning and AIDS prevention. It improves their ability to earn their own living, to progress, to reach their best potential and to educate their children in turn.

2. The annual appeal has raised £409,054 to the end of March. Shared between Christian Aid and Tearfund this will fund projects such as primary education in Haiti, training for volunteer teachers for the bush schools in Southern Sudan, elementary education and farming methods in the Deccan and the AIDS prevention and awareness counselling service run by the Fellowship of Christian Students in Nigeria.

3. One of the main reasons that one quarter of the world's population remain illiterate and condemned to a continual spiral of poverty is that governments cannot afford to provide free education to all their children. The Jubilee 2000 Coalition, now Jubilee Plus, has campaigned for the total cancellation of poor nations unpayable debt so that more money would remain within a country to be spent on basic infrastructure, healthcare and education. Approximately one billion dollars or one third of the total debt has been cancelled but much more remains to be done. The Committee supports the

continuing campaign to keep debt cancellation on the agenda at the next summit in Genoa on the 21 July 2001.

4. Following the devastating earthquakes in El Salvador and in Gujarat during January the Committee made available a grant of £10,000 to the Overseas Board for relief work in Ahmedabad.

5. The Committee commends Christian Aid and Tearfund for their expertise and professionalism in an increasingly complicated global arena. As well as relief and development, the agencies also advocate justice in national and individual relationships with the poor. For example, there has been a rapid growth in tourism from UK and Ireland to the so called Third World; Tearfund is concerned that Christians adopt an ethical approach to tourism and thus show concern for their neighbours in the land they are visiting. Before travelling Tearfund suggests asking the travel agent questions such as: Is the low cost of a holiday made possible through the exploitation of workers in the host country? Does any of the money paid for the holiday go into the local economy or is it all leaving the host nation to go into Western pockets? The Committee would urge support for Ethical Tourism.

HAZEL McCALL, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.

Irish Church Relations

2. That the following appointments be made:

To the Irish Council of Churches - Revs S Anketell, C J Aitcheson, S J Campbell; Mr N Chambers; Rev R Cobain; Mrs P Crossley; Revs A D Davidson, G A J Ellis-Farquhar; Miss D Gilmour; Revs Dr R J G Gray, R Herron, Dr S Hutchinson; Mrs M Irwin; Revs D B Knox, C D McClure, D Nesbitt; Mr J A Patterson; Rev R F S Poots; Mr I Scott, Mrs E Sheppard.

To the Irish Inter-Church Committee - Revs A D Davidson, Dr H A Dunlop.

World Church Relations

3. That the resignation of the Rev David Campbell as Convener of the World Church Relations Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev Gabrielle Ellis-Farquhar be appointed in his place.

4. That Rev C D McClure be appointed to serve for the next three years as the PCI representative on the Ecumenical Committee of the URC and as a voting delegate at the URC General Assembly.

5. That the General Assembly welcome the members of the Leuenberg Assembly to their meeting in Belfast from 19-24 June 2001.

World Development

6. That the General Assembly support the Tearfund campaign to encourage 'Ethical Tourism'.

Race Relations

7. That Sunday 9 September, 2001 be observed as Racial Justice Sunday on the theme “One Race: The Human Race”.

Grants

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

Irish Council of Churches	£16,400
Irish Inter-Church Meeting	£8,000
Conference of European Churches	£3,350
Leuenberg Consultation	£1,000
World Alliance of Reformed Churches	£9,785

Race Relations Grants:

(i) Multi-Cultural Resource Centre, Bryson House, Belfast	£750
(ii) Diakonia Council of Churches, Durban, South Africa	£1,500
(iii) Churches Council for Racial Justice (Refugees and Asylum Seekers UK)	£375
(iv) Christ Holiness Assembly International (Dublin)	£375

General Work of the Board	£5,000
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General

9. 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:

OVERSEAS BOARD

Convener: Very Rev Dr S J DIXON
 Secretaries: Rev R J T McMULLAN
 Mrs MARGARET MYERS

THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

1. In the past year we have experienced a period of rapid change which has challenged us to consider how we prepare for change and how we manage it for the extension and building up of the Kingdom of God and the good of all our people working overseas.

2. This rapid change affects how our members are educated regarding the mission of Jesus Christ in all the world, how our personnel are prepared for their service overseas and how they respond to the rapid change that is taking place in the contexts in which they witness and serve.

3. We also have to develop a strategy to manage change, so that we will be equipped to use it for the furtherance of the Gospel at home and overseas, otherwise we will be swamped by it.

4. The Board has developed such a strategy and is implementing it in the following ways so that we will move with confidence into the future with Christ:-

- Developing an administrative structure which will provide adequately for the Board's work at home, in education in mission, and overseas where our personnel witness and serve.
- Reviewing the ways in which we prepare our personnel for overseas service spiritually and practically, give adequate support to them in their places of service, and enable them to access pastoral care and advice as and when they require it.
- Engaging on a regular basis with our partner Churches to discuss how best we can share our personnel, spiritual and material resources for the extension and building up of the Church of Jesus Christ.

5. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is engaged in the mission of Jesus Christ at home and overseas. The Board is responsible for all that PCI does in the world outside these islands and we relate to partner Churches and United Missions in some twenty countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America and in the Middle East.

6. These partner Churches and United Missions, and by implication the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, are having to face up to some of the greatest challenges of all time in respect of

- civil war, religious intolerance and persecution
- the rise of nationalism and the emphasis on language and culture by the many ethnic groupings
- the need to respond effectively to moral issues so that nations and peoples will be able to order their lives in a God-honouring way

- the effect of capitalism on the lives of the majority of the people in developing countries and their continuing descent into a deepening poverty which threatens their lives and livelihoods
- the need for the Church to be a witnessing, caring and serving community bearing authentic witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in an age of relativism
- the response made to earthquakes, drought and floods which result in famine, disease and often death, and to the cries for help and healing received by our partner Churches with increasing frequency.

7. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, through its Mission Board, must be seen to be standing alongside and with our partner Churches and United Missions as they face these challenges and support them as they move forward in mission and ministry to the establishment of a vibrant and mature church in each situation.

8. Over the past year we have worked closely with the office bearers of the Presbyterian Women's Association to discover further areas of cooperation between the Board and the Association. We are gradually putting into place systems which reflect that growing cooperation and we record our sincere thanks to the PWA for the resources in personnel, prayer and finance that are being made available for the overseas work of our Church.

9. It is inevitable that as we recruit, prepare and send more men and women - some with families - to serve in most parts of our world, finance becomes a crucial factor. In the years 1999 and 2000 the Board has ended up with deficits totalling over £60,000. A Strategic/Business Plan for the years 2001 to 2005 was drawn up at the request of the Panel on the Overview of Funding and was received with approval by the Panel. We wish to record our thanks to the Panel and to the United Appeal Board for their willingness to understand the situations in which our work is carried out and the often unpredictable additional costs with which the Board is faced.

10. One such situation is in relation to the increasingly insecure and violent societies in which our personnel live and work overseas. Our response has been to provide the necessary security systems for those who are at risk and the rapid response that is necessary by the Board and our partner Churches.

AFRICA

11. The wonderful continent of Africa, particularly south of the Sahara, makes headline news for a short time when disasters strike, but the consequences of these disasters, and the less dramatic but equally devastating ongoing problems, continue to cause unimaginable hardship and suffering for millions long after the news value has passed. Ignorance, poverty, disease and the consequences of sin cast a dreadful shadow over people who, in the face of huge obstacles remain resilient, cheerful and generous.

12. Economically many of these countries are bound by international debt, the value of their currencies continues to fall, the stringent measures imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund serve to hurt the poorest most, and what national wealth there is, is concentrated in the hands of a tiny proportion of the population.

13. AIDS carries on depleting the nations of their best human resources and the legacy is an ever increasing number of orphans. Social and moral traditional standards are being eroded as urbanisation advances. Political instability, community tensions, and physical insecurity add to the difficulties. Environmentally the continent is being impoverished as the demands on the land intensify, deforestation continues and climatic extremes are experienced.

14. In **Kenya** we continue to work in partnership with the **Presbyterian Church of East Africa** (PCEA). It is a growing church in a large country and resources are strained to the limit. We are privileged to work with them in training people for the ordained ministry at the Presbyterian College at Thogoto near Nairobi. Plans have been made to upgrade and expand the College but progress is slow. Under the PCEA Training and Personnel Committee we are involved in the Continuing Theological Education Programme (CTEP) for post-ordination ministers, evangelists and lay people, and in the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) programme.

15. The PCEA makes a significant contribution to meeting the ever increasing demand for education in a developing society. One aspect of this is through the Presbyterian Teachers College at Rubate. The work of the Board of Social Responsibility of PCEA especially in the remoter parts, is a long term work and we are committed to assisting the PCEA in this area through personnel and resources. In the area of health care PCEA continues its provision through the hospitals in Chogoria, Kikuyu and Tumutumu. All the PCEA work is set in the context of worship and witness, evangelism and training and we rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kenya at how God is blessing their faithful service.

16. The exchange of personnel is of mutual benefit in the partnerships of world mission. This involves movement into our context as well as out of it. Hence during the past year the Rev David Kiarie has been offered by PCEA to come to Ireland to minister here for two years. We are hopeful that a suitable congregational placement will soon be found for him.

17. In **Malawi** there are three Presbyterian Synods reflecting the geographical regions and the history of the early mission activity. We have strong partnership relations with all three synods and are privileged to have opportunities to exercise a ministry in encouraging good relationships between them. These three synods together with a Synod in Zambia and one in Zimbabwe form the General Synod of the **Church of Central Africa Presbyterian** (CCAP). The past year has seen significant steps in strengthening the unity of the CCAP and in the partnership of each Synod with overseas churches, including our own.

18. Through the Christian Health Association in Malawi (CHAM) the Churches, of which CCAP is the largest Protestant Church, provide a major proportion of the total health care in this densely populated country burdened by an AIDS epidemic on top of the other diseases arising from the tropical climate, poverty and limited health care provisions.

19. The rapid expansion of the education system in Malawi in recent years, without the existence of the necessary human and material resources, has had a detrimental effect on the quality of the education provision. In an effort to address this the CCAP Synods have grappled with whether the way forward was

to go private with their schools. In general they have not taken this path because the school fees would be prohibitive. We have been able to respond to the desperate need for teachers in a small but very significant way and this has provided opportunities for Christian witness to young people in this very needy society.

20. John Stott has described the Church in the developing world as having “growth without depth”. The Churches in Malawi are addressing this problem through Zomba Theological College (ZTC), Theological Education by Extension in Malawi (TEEM), and continuing Theological Education and Lay Training. ZTC and TEEM have been making progress in upgrading and expansion but the financial demands, especially for the residential training at ZTC are too much for the churches and they are looking for new ways to go forward in theological education and preparation for ministry. We continue to assist and encourage the important ministry of providing Christian literature through the Christian Literature Association In Malawi (CLAIM).

21. The Student Christian Organisation in Malawi (SCOM) and Scripture Union have been going through a particular period of change in terms of staff and the scope of their ministries to children and young people. As well as being used to lead many to saving faith, and nurturing them in it, they have been addressing the AIDS crisis and the need for young people to have practical life skills.

22. **Sudan** is the largest country in Africa and continues to experience the ravages of the longest civil war on the continent. There are no signs of an end to this terrible war between the Arab mainly Muslim north and the African mainly Christian south. The Sudanese Government, economically strengthened by the oil revenue from the southern oilfields, does not seem to have the will or desire to seek peace, and has the confidence to resist what pressure is being applied by the international community.

23. Our partner church, the **Presbyterian Church of Sudan** (PCOS) is not only divided geographically, and has many of its people displaced because of the war, but it also is internally divided in the “liberated” areas of the south. As one of their overseas partner churches we have taken positive action to encourage healing and reconciliation in the church. Despite these human hindrances the PCOS continues to grow in every part, numerically and spiritually. The growth is due to the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of evangelists and pastors dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the spread of the gospel and the building up of the body of Christ.

24. The challenges facing the PCOS are for the training of church workers, the provision of the physical necessities of life, basic education and health care and the establishment of peace, which is vital if the displaced peoples are to return to their traditional lands. Even the international community recognises that the Church has an important role to play in the peace process at grass roots level.

25. Our partnership with **Église Évangélique Presbytérienne du Togo** (EEPT) has been continuing to develop and for the first time we expect to have personnel serving in it. Rod and Sheena Mulholland are soon to go to the Atakpamé region to teach in the EEPT’s Training School for evangelists and church workers at CEPROFORE.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

26. Our mission involvement in South America is in the vast and diverse country of **Brazil** which has a population of 160 millions. We continue to strengthen our partnership with two of the Presbyterian Churches in Brazil in mission and church planting work. It is mainly in these aspects of their work that our personnel are now involved. We received a delegation from the **Presbyterian Church of Brazil** (IPB) in November 2000, when a draft agreement between our churches was discussed. The Board plans to continue to explore how we can best co-operate in world mission with the IPB. We are expecting a delegation from the **Independent Presbyterian Church in Brazil** (IPI), our first partner church in that country, to visit Ireland in September 2001. The first part of a Youth exchange visit from PCI to IPI was mutually beneficial and we look forward to the second part of the youth exchange from Brazil to Ireland this summer.

27. Political, economic and social factors combine to make **Jamaica** an intricate mixture of class, colour and cultures. As a nation of three million people it struggles with social deprivation, and high rates of crime and violence due mainly to a weak economic base. Our partner church is The **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands**. It ministers in both urban and rural areas and seeks to address a wide range of spiritual and social issues affecting the lives of the people. There is a constant shortage of ministers and lay training and the work of the Institute for Theological and Leadership Development (ITLD) is vital. Through our personnel we are able to help in these areas and in the provision of education and care for children as well for senior citizens.

EUROPE

28. It is now over a decade since the revolution in Eastern and Central Europe brought change to many peoples and countries which for almost fifty years had lived under totalitarian regimes. These years have been long and difficult as countries struggled to develop more democratic forms of government and improve the economic lives of their peoples. They have also been challenging years for the Reformed Church, a Church with a strong tradition whose needs, after a generation of Communism, were for recovery, renewal and evangelism. We have been privileged to share in some small way with our brothers and sisters in Christ as they took up this opportunity for a new beginning and worked towards the realisation of their vision.

29. We continue to encourage, support and build relationships with Reformed and Presbyterian Churches in Hungary, Romania and Trans-Carpathia, the Czech and Slovak Republics and in France and Spain, through the exchange of personnel, through team visits and through a number of congregational twinning arrangements.

30. Our relationship with the Synod of the **Reformed Church in Hungary** continues to develop. This year we welcomed our first bursar from Bishop Hegedus' District. Zsofia Mucsi, a candidate for ministry in Bishop Hegedus' District, has come to study for a MTh degree at Union College. She has appreciated the support given to her and the hospitality offered after her name was included on 'Prayerline'. These visits to different congregations have

given Zsofia the opportunity to learn about the life and work of our Church. We have continued to work towards the establishment of a partnership with the Tiszaninnen District where Rev Dr Istvan Meszaros is Bishop. Dr Daniel Szabo is a lay deputy in this District and continues to work tirelessly as mediator among the different districts of the Reformed Church. Claire Maguire continues to teach in two institutions in Miskolc and witness to Jesus Christ through Bible Study groups. Last summer an all age team went to the Dorcas camp in Debrecen to look after children from Chernobyl and we hope that a team will go again this year.

31. We now have a formal partnership with both Districts of the **Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania**. The visit of Bishop Laszlo Tokes in June cemented the relationship between PCI and the Kiralyhagomellek District and last November Rev Terry McMullan attended their Jubilee General Assembly and signed a Partnership Agreement on behalf of PCI. This district which has 350,000 reformed members has recently set up a Directory Council which acts as the administrative body for the district. Part of their work is to run three high schools and a recently formed university which provides courses relevant to the needs of the Church. Nigel Craig continues to make a very valuable contribution to the work in this District. He teaches in the university and one of the high schools as well as sharing in the ministry to street children in Oradea. He assisted the team which went from PCI last summer to Oradea to teach English and share the gospel with children in the Micsa area. A return visit is planned for this summer.

32. At the end of January the Bishop of the Transylvanian District of the Reformed Church in Romania, Dr Kalman Csiha, retired after ten years of service. The new bishop, Rt Rev Geza Pap, was installed on 31 January and we look forward to continuing our good working relationship with the district. The 'Making a Difference in Europe' Sunday School and Youth Project contributed £5000 to assist a church-based home for disabled children in Marosbogst. Csaba and Ilona Veres with their daughter Jázmin returned to Romania in March. They will be contributing to the Church's ministry to young people and street children in Cluj.

33. We continue to develop our relationship with the very small **Reformed Church in Trans-Carpathia/Ukraine** whose Bishop is Rev Laszlo Horkay. This summer a small team is going from PCI to work in the Rivne/L'viv area and this should provide an opportunity for exchanging missionary experience and for relationship-building which will be of benefit in the future. We are also looking forward to welcoming in September our second bursar from this district Mr Zoltan Literaty. He is coming for one year to study Practical Theology at Union College and gain pastoral experience.

34. Our relationship with the **Church of the Brethren** is ongoing and we continue to share in the work and witness of the congregation in Ostrava where Susan Clarke is part of the ministry team. Susan manages the cafe outreach based in the church complex. Congregations of PCI assisted in the establishing of the Prague 6 congregation and it is encouraging that they are now in a position to move to new premises. The Children's Hospice, helped through the 1998/99 Sunday School and Youth Project is on target to open in 2001. We also rejoice at the establishment of a new congregation in Zilina under the leadership of

Pastor Tibor Mahrik. The Rev George Preston visited the Church of the Brethern with Mrs Preston from 6-17 October and spoke at the Pastors' Conference and in several of the congregations of the Church.

35. A number of our congregations have twinning arrangements with congregations in Central Europe and these have brought blessing and encouragement to the respective congregations. Others have shown an interest in the twinning programme and we look forward to further blessings in the future.

36. Over the past year we have developed our relationship with the **Église Réformée de France** (ERF) on a church-to-church basis as well as relating congregations and individuals into the situation. Principal McCullough represented our church at the National Synod of the ERF, 3-5 June 2000, which provided the launching pad for a year of mission to French society. Rev Rodney Cameron has been confirmed as a Pastor of the ERF and continues his ministry in Privas and Flaviac. Rev Gordon Campbell has contributed to theological education through the teaching of New Testament in the Free Faculty of Reformed Theology in Aix-en-Provence. Youth exchanges have proved a useful way of making contacts and we hope that friendships will be made and relationships build up through the three-week visit of a youth team to the Lamastré area in July.

37. The work among Jews in Paris is ongoing under the leadership of Stephen and Deborah Pacht. They were encouraged that the July outreach campaign went well and are now involved in follow-up work of folk who register their desire to learn more about the faith. Stephen is eager to buy new and more suitable premises to be used for offices and as a meeting place.

38. A number of years ago the **Spanish Evangelical Church** (SEC) asked for our suggestions and cooperation in developing initiatives which would re-vitalise their congregations and institutions. We continue to work in partnership with the SEC and have set up a two year exchange programme which will enable both Churches to have a better understanding of each other's life and work and be better equipped to support and encourage each other in the mission of Christ. Derek and Jane French went to Spain in February and will be helping to develop the work of evangelism and Christian training in the SEC but based in the Levante Presbytery. We also continue to provide a ministry to the SEC to help the small congregation in Torre del Mar.

MIDDLE EAST

39. The 'Peace Process' is now dead and since September there has been serious violence in Israel and the territories. Hundreds have been killed and the consequences in terms of human suffering, economic hardship and deepened political and social antagonisms have been enormous. At the time of writing (March) the newly elected Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, is seeking to form a national unity government. It remains to be seen when and under what circumstances negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will resume. Yet in the midst of such tensions Israeli and Arab believers often seek ways to be of practical and spiritual help to one another. We continue to remember and pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

40. On a recent visit to the UK the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Riah Abu El-Assal, told how Israeli Arab Episcopal congregations, realising that they are better off than their brothers and sisters in the West Bank and Gaza, have been collecting and sending food to families in those parts. Messianic Jewish congregations have also been raising money to send to some of the many unemployed Christians in the West Bank.

41. While Messianic Jewish congregations seek to live out their witness to Jesus Christ in **Israel**, it is difficult to establish exactly how many such congregations there are or to determine the exact number of Messianic believers. There is quite a wide diversity amongst these congregations and a willingness in principle to cooperate does not always translate into practice. But it is clear that overall there is growth. A bill to prohibit missionary activity and the dissemination of missionary material was introduced in the last Knesset by MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism). On 6 December 2000 it passed a preliminary reading, but it is hoped that such a measure will not become law.

42. The work at Stella Carmel continued throughout the past year with Avril Gracey continuing as housekeeper. The Centre hosted local and international groups. The first purpose-built Messianic worship centre is in the grounds and a small Arabic congregation meets in the Centre on alternate Fridays.

43. In **Lebanon**, the Near East School of Theology (NEST) continues to make available training for students for ministry and those who will engage in teaching. Dr Mary Mikhael (President) visited PCI during 2000. We continue to support a 'Sudanese' student and his family at NEST and we gave a further grant to the Middle East Reformed Fellowship for its Arabic language broadcasts.

ASIA

44. The home to over half the world's population, Asia is a cauldron of cultures, beliefs, and huge contrasts, with a growing population and ever increasing pressure on resources.

45. The influence of the Christian Church within the continent varies considerably and Christians, often as a recognisable minority in situations of local pressure, can be readily targeted for overt or covert persecution. The violent persecution of Christians has continued this year in Indonesia and in parts of India yet even from these countries there is news of the local church confidently sharing the Gospel and an increased focus on the urgency of the Church's work.

46. We share in the work and witness of our fellow believers in Asia through our partnership agreements with Churches in seven countries, and through our own missionaries who are involved in work of the highest calibre sharing the message of Christ with the peoples of this vast and diverse continent.

47. **India** has recently been stricken by the earthquake in Gujarat in which an estimated 50,000 people died and many more have been made homeless. Our Church's generous response to the call for help is being channelled through the **Church of North India**. CNI has responded by setting up Relief Aid Distribution Centres in places where the need is greatest. There are five such centres in Ahmedabad alone, and in many other places as well, including Bhuj, where the earthquake struck Gandhidam and Rajkot. The

process of rehabilitation and reconstruction should commence in early April, plans are already being drawn up and will take many months to implement.

48. The effects of the earthquake have been felt by Indian communities all over the world, not least in the **Wembley** area where many Gujarati families have relatives living in the epicentre of the earthquake. Christopher and Nivedita Macwan have been involved in ministering to anxious families and bringing prayer and comfort to those in distress.

49. The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Trevor and Mrs Morrow, visited India and Nepal in March. Most of their time in India was spent in Gujarat where they visited extensively in all areas and sought to bring encouragement to the Christian people in their mission and ministry.

50. Within parts of India overt and covert oppression of the Christian community remains a problem, particularly in areas such as Gujarat where the drive towards creating a “Hindustan” is strong and Hindu fundamentalism remains an expedient political card to play.

51. We are sad to report that the Most Rev Vinod Peter, Bishop of Nagpur and Moderator of the Church of North India (CNI), and Rt Rev Gerald Andrews, Bishop of Rajasthan, were both tragically killed in a car accident on 6th December whilst travelling to Jodphur. In the last eighteen months four Bishops of CNI have been killed in road accidents.

52. PCI’s involvement in education work in India has a long and faithful tradition which continues to this day: in Woodstock school where Linda Jackson, the Adair family and Brian Wilson all are serving; in the teaching and publishing ministry of Norman and Joan Duncan in Chennai and Gujarat; in the Bartons’ educational consultancy work and in training of leaders for church youth work; and in the training and development work in which Elizabeth Matthews is involved with her colleague, Rev Anita Templeton, in the Agra Diocese.

53. **China** continues to experience change. A recent address by the Prime Minister highlighted the problems of corruption and bandits and he apologized to the people for the government’s failures - a marked contrast to days when any response other than fervent respect for leadership was deemed an offence.

54. The Church’s growth continues with varying degrees of opposition depending on the attitudes of local community leaders. Stephen Graham has returned from four years of service in Shangrao working with the Amity Teacher’s programme. David Conkey continues to teach English to students in Tai’an Teachers’ College.

55. In the death of the Very Rev Dr Jack Weir our Church lost a man deeply concerned for and committed to the Church in China and the cause of Christ in that land over many years.

56. The news from **Indonesia** over the past year has continued to cause great concern and distress as we have learnt details of the ‘Jihad’ carried out against Christian communities.

57. In the Moluccan Islands over 300,000 people have been displaced and many are still hiding in the mountains. Desperate attempts to escape the region have led to an exodus into North Sulawesi. However with the exodus comes fear that the ‘Jihad’ will be extended until the goal of the islamization of the whole of the country is achieved. Hundreds in remote island communities

have been forced to convert to Islam, and there has been much destruction of Christian churches and institutions throughout the Moluccan Islands.

58. Church leaders have shown tremendous courage in speaking out to try and attract the international community's attention to what is happening. Such bravery has made them targets for violent retribution. They also want reconciliation between the two communities, and the exclusion of the 'Jihad' Warriors from the region is a key factor.

59. The scale and character of the violence over these past two years has left deep scars within communities in which so many horrific acts have been carried out. The possible long term implications of this in such a multi-cultural society are all too obvious. Yet in the face of this evil courageous initiatives towards reconciliation have been taken between Christian and Muslim communities in the Moluccan Islands and West Timor.

60. Incredibly elsewhere within the huge country that is Indonesia our partner Churches in Sumba and Timor continue to grow and thrive. Mervyn McCullagh has recently returned to continue his teaching work in Sumba.

61. **Nepal** has also continued to witness a growth in the Church, and our personnel in Nepal quietly share in this growth through involvement and support of the local Church families with whom they worship. The United Mission to Nepal (UMN), through which our personnel work, has recently completed the signing of a new five year agreement with the Nepali Government. This agreement allows the widely varied work in which UMN is involved to continue. The roles of our own personnel serving with UMN reflect something of this diversity, which in turn reflects the needs of the country.

62. During this year our personnel have been involved with educational, administrative, public relations and medical work, as well as with the completion of the Khimti hydroelectric power scheme providing electricity for the desperately power hungry Nepali grid.

63. The Executive Director of UMN, Jennie Collins, took up post last December. She has a wealth of previous experience in Nepal on which to draw. For positions of leadership, UMN needs to recruit people with experience so that their service in the Name of Christ will be valued and appreciated.

64. In **Pakistan** our partner Church, the **Presbyterian Church of Pakistan**, continues to develop its work and ministries often in difficult circumstances. Seeking further ways to support our partner Church in Pakistan in an effective manner remains a concern, though we continue to help with the rural pastor training programme.

65. Our partnership in **Thailand** is with the **Church of Christ**. For many years we have supported the Bible correspondence course run by the Church known as the Lamp of Thailand. It was thus a great joy and encouragement that last year we were visited by the Director of the Lamp of Thailand, Mrs. Supaporn Insaeng and her husband. The Lamp of Thailand courses continue to be well taken up all over Thailand and "The Lamp" team make follow-up visits to rural areas to meet with students.

66. In **Myanmar** (formerly Burma) the **Presbyterian Church in Myanmar** (PCM) continues its faithful ministry in the north of the country. During the year we have supported Soe Min and his wife, Puii, at the

International School of Theology in the Phillipines and Rev Pek Cuan at the Aizawl Theological Seminary in North East India.

MISSION EDUCATION

67. Mission education involves keeping members of PCI informed and up-to-date with the needs and opportunities in mission overseas and remains a high priority of the Board. The task, however, is not just about educating but also about challenging and encouraging individuals and congregations to become actively involved, as God guides and in ways that are appropriate to their particular gifts, circumstances and resources.

68. Presbytery mission agents (PMAs) have a vital role to play in helping to stimulate and develop an ongoing interest and involvement in the work of mission overseas. We welcome all new PMAs appointed in the past year and assure them that we are committed to helping them in any way we can with the challenging task they face. We thank those who have 'retired' for their commitment and for all they have done.

69. The one-day training seminar for PMAs held in May 1999, and generally felt to be helpful, is to be repeated again this year. Topics to be covered include – The Role of the Mission Agent, Promoting Mission Interest, Presbytery Mission Tours, Deputation, Mission Education Resources and an update on PCI's involvement overseas. The format will allow for open discussion and the exchange of views and experiences.

70. Ultimate responsibility for stimulating and encouraging involvement in the mission of Jesus Christ lies with congregational leaders. The need is for minister, Kirk Session and mission committee (if one exists) to give an enthusiastic lead, recognise God-given gifts and encourage their use in extending and building Christ's Kingdom. Overseas Board staff are available to provide practical advice and training. Others are willing to share their experiences of 'overseas mission' initiatives, at both presbytery and congregational level – some aimed at informing and encouraging, others involving going, seeing, and learning and then returning to share these experiences in local congregations.

71. Every Christian can and should be involved in prayer for the work of Christ's mission around the world. Prayer is most effective when it is informed and relates to specific needs or situations. To this end, we seek to keep PCI members informed through the annual Points for Prayer handbook, through the thrice-yearly publication of Prayer Update leaflets and through weekly Prayerline. Particularly encouraging is the increasing uptake of Prayerline. Last March, it was being sent to around 460 e-mail addresses each week – a year later, the total is almost 700. Prayerline continues to be available in printed form from Church House and also as a recorded telephone message.

72. We are grateful to many congregations for including all or part of Prayerline in their weekly printed announcements and to those using it regularly in their prayers of intercession. We would encourage individuals who receive Prayerline by e-mail to share its contents with as many others as possible.

73. World News provides timely and interesting information about the nature and extent of PCI's involvement overseas and helps illustrate how and where some of the United Appeal funds that go to the Overseas Board are used.

Our aim is that every family connected with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland should, if possible, receive a copy of World News. For the 2001 issue we will be asking for the precise quantity of World News required by each congregation to avoid unnecessary waste.

74. We are grateful to the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA) for the way in which Wider World magazine continues to inspire and educate members of PCI in the work of Christ's mission at home and overseas. We commend this excellent publication to all interested in keeping up to date with the latest overseas and home 'news and views'.

75. The Assembly Hall was almost full for the Millennium Missionary Rally, held on Tuesday 10th October 2000. With an estimated 1000 present, attendance was significantly up on recent years. It was an occasion for celebrating the past through 'Looking Back', hearing about 'Mission Today', and 'Looking Forward' to the challenges we face in world mission at the beginning of the 21st century. Taking part were Board staff, missionaries on home assignment, overseas bursars, members of the Youth Board's Kenyan team and visiting mission partners from Thailand. The evening concluded with a challenging address by the Moderator of the General Assembly. It is proposed to continue these annual missionary rallies and the 2001 rally will be held in the Assembly Hall, Church House, on Tuesday 23rd October.

76. Overseas Mission Tours were held in North Belfast, Dromore, Dublin and Munster and Newry presbyteries in the second half of 2000 and in Carrickfergus, Monaghan, Route and Tyrone in the spring of 2001. Further tours are due in Armagh, East Belfast and Iveagh in the autumn of this year.

77. We sincerely thank all missionaries on home assignment, and returned mission volunteers, members of overseas teams, relations and friends of overseas personnel and others, who willingly and enthusiastically engage in deputation in congregations and presbyteries throughout our church. Without their stimulating and informative presentations, and the sharing of often profoundly challenging insights, PCI members' knowledge and understanding of the work and needs of mission overseas would be very much the poorer.

78. We have recently updated and considerably enhanced our deputation equipment, using funds donated by a charitable trust. The Board now has good quality, portable, state-of-the-art presentational and PA equipment, which staff and missionaries on home assignment can use as they seek to educate and encourage the wider church in the task of mission overseas. The use of computerised presentations is already being well received, although it is recognised that more traditional presentations can be equally effective.

79. Further development of the overseas section of the PCI web site is still under discussion. Areas being considered include: a bulletin board with topical overseas news items, a calendar of important meetings and events, a home assignment list showing who is available for deputation and when, Portable Document Format files of selected publications for easy copying and additional hotlinks to "other mission" web sites. It is hoped that new web pages for some of these ideas will be in place before the end of 2001.

PERSONNEL VISITS AND VISITORS

80. During the year the following missionaries passed to higher service: Mrs Beth Brown, India 1948-59; Very Rev Dr A Jack Weir, China 1944-51; Dr Dorothy Faulkener, China 1927-49 and Rt Rev Dr Donald M Kennedy, India 1942-82.

81. We give thanks to God and record our appreciation for the faithful witness and service of Valerie Moore, Nepal 1998-2000; Dr William Rose, Nepal 1998-2000; Amanda Christie, Nepal 1995-2000; Peter Lockwood, Nepal 1996-2000; Mark Henderson, Spain 1999-2000; Don and Pat McNutt, Malawi 1998-2000; and Stephen Graham as an Amity teacher in China 1996-2000.

82. We would give thanks to God for the faithful witness and service of all of our missionaries during the past year. They face difficulties, frustrations and sometimes danger in the situations in which they live, work and bear witness to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and we thank them for their faithfulness to their calling to serve overseas. They and their national colleagues are experiencing increasing opposition to the proclamation of the Gospel and the growth of the Church of Jesus Christ from fundamentalist groups within Hinduism and Islam.

83. In the past year the following visits were made to attend consultations called by our partner Churches and the United Mission to Nepal and to meet with our missionaries to encourage them and listen to their pastoral and other concerns:

- Rev Terry McMullan to Kenya to attend a Round Table on theological education and to visit our personnel and to visit the Presbyterian Church of Sudan, to Romania to attend the Jubilee General Assembly of the Kiralyhagomellek District of the Reformed Church of Romania, to Pakistan and India to consult with our partner churches, and to Nepal to represent PCI at the annual meetings of the UMN Board and to visit personnel;
- Rev Prof Bill Adley to Brazil to consult with the leadership of our partner Churches the IPI and IPB;
- Rev John Kirkpatrick to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania to visit our partner Churches and our personnel working in these countries, and to Spain to visit and encourage the congregation in Torre del Mar; Mrs Maureen Patterson to Hungary to visit the Tiszaninnen Church District of the Reformed Church and our personnel working in Miskolc;
- Very Rev Dr John Dixon and Rev Robin Quinn to Malawi for consultations with the CCAP Synods and their partners and to visit and encourage our personnel;
- Mrs Margaret Myers to Jamaica to visit the United Church, meet with our personnel and attend the Synod meeting;
- The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Trevor and Mrs Morrow to India to visit the Dioceses of Agra and Gujarat, and to Nepal to visit the UMN and our personnel in the situations where they serve and to minister to their spiritual needs.

84. During the year seventeen missionaries were appointed to serve short or long term overseas in Brazil (1), Jamaica (2), Kenya (4), Malawi (2), Togo (2), India (2), Nepal (2) and Spain (2) (see Appendix A). We thank God for these

new missionaries and would encourage our people to pray for and support them as they and their families settle into their new locations. In addition six volunteers are serving for up to two years in Jamaica (1), Kenya (2) and Malawi (3).

85. The Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World (CSCNWW) is in the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Edinburgh. Dr Jack Thompson has been supervising international students and equipping them for church leadership in their home countries for the past eight years. Dr Thompson was appointed as Senior Lecturer in World Christianity in the University from 1 October 2000, and has been continuing his teaching and research work. We maintain our close association with Dr and Mrs Thompson who remain on our overseas staff until 2002.

86. Last summer nine young adults served as volunteers for between five and eight weeks in Jamaica and Malawi and several medical, nursing and physiotherapy elective placements were arranged in Kenya, Malawi and Nepal. During the year there were team visits to Misca, Romania, to the Alpes/Rhone area of France, to the Czech Republic to visit the Church of the Brethren, and to Ukraine for children's work in the Rivne/L'viv area. All-age teams visited Malawi from Ballycarry Presbyterian Church and Second Comber Presbyterian Church, and a team from the Blantyre Synod will visit PCI this summer hosted by Ballycarry Presbyterian Church. There was also a youth exchange visit with the PCEA in Kenya last July and August with a second youth team going to Brazil. We rejoice with these members of PCI in their overseas experiences and thank them for the deputation meetings they have taken throughout our Church during the past year.

87. During the year we were delighted to receive the following visitors from our partner Churches:

- Dr Mary Mikhael, Principal of the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon;
- Bishop Laszlo Tokes of the Kiralyhagomellek District of the Reformed Church in Romania;
- Rev Michael Chot Lul, Principal of the Nile Theological College, Khartoum, Sudan;
- Rev Dr Carlos Emilio Ham-Stanard from the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba;
- Rev Jan Henzel, Church of the Brethren, Levice, Slovakia;
- Rev Alfred Mtonga from the Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi;
- Sangster and Violet Nkhandwe from the Relief and Development Department of the Synod of Livingstonia;
- Mrs Supaporn Insaeng, Director of the Lamp of Thailand accompanied by her husband Cheewin;
- Rev Guilhermino Cunha, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Brazil together with Elder Custodio and Mrs Pereira;
- Sister Esther Lupafya from Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi;
- Kistone Mhango from the Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi;
- Rev Gabriel Gai Riam from the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency, Sudan.

THE HOME BASE

88. The Overseas Office, which is situated on the second floor of Church House, is the administrative centre of the overseas mission. We convey our thanks to our hard working and devoted staff for the efficient and courteous way in which they fulfil their responsibilities and the way callers are welcomed to the office. A second senior secretary is to be employed to cope with the increasing demands of our administration and we expect the Overseas Secretary Designate to commence in September at the latest. Mrs Margaret Myers, who is Associate Secretary of the Board, is learning about the widespread nature of the overseas work and is fully involved in all aspects of the Board's work.

89. The prayer and financial support of the members of the Presbyterian Women's Association continues unabated, and we thank PWA Executive for their willingness to contribute to the work overseas through their membership of the Board (seven members) and the Board's Committees. We commend members of PWA for the enthusiastic way in which they communicate the task of mission, and encourage prayer support for our overseas personnel.

90. Civil war, religious intolerance and persecution are on the increase especially in Sudan, Indonesia, India and Pakistan, and during the year we have asked the Church and Government Committee to make representations through the General Board on behalf of the people of these countries to the British and Irish Governments, the European Union and the United Nations. These representations have been received sympathetically and action taken where possible.

91. Apart from the staff in the Overseas Office, many members of the Board give of their time and gifts to serve on one of the seven Committees of the Board. In addition Conveners of the Board and its Area Committees attend consultations and visit missionaries in our partner Churches, and speak on behalf of the Board about the work overseas. We record our thanks for this voluntary but dedicated service of Board members and also to several Kirk Sessions and congregations who release their Ministers to share the workload and travel overseas.

92. We congratulate and offer our sincere thanks to the following:

- Children and young people of our church who contributed £10,000 for Christian Education materials in Brazil, Jamaica and Malawi and for engaging in a major project to help provide a training centre for the PCEA in Kenya to equip youth leaders and Christian education teachers in the current year;
- Presbyterian Women's Association for providing £55,000 from their Millennium Fund to enable our partner Churches in Malawi, Nepal, Thailand, Jamaica and Brazil to develop Christian witness in urban and rural communities and to provide emergency relief for India and Indonesia, also for making AIDS orphans and AIDS education the focus of their project for the current year;
- Young Women's Groups whose members contributed £11,500 to the Commodity Exchange Programme of the Presbyterian Church of Sudan in Upper Nile Province, also for undertaking to provide funds for the UMN Mental Health Programme and training for Nepali Doctors and Nurses through their current project;

- Junior Boys' Brigade who contributed £16,000 to build a Tutor's house for the Theological College in Halmahera, Indonesia (postponed until peace returns to the Moluccas), also for their current project which will provide funds for the development of tree nurseries and tree planting in Kenya, Malawi and Nepal.

93. We also thank individuals, PWA Branches, and congregations who have met their United Appeal targets of honour, for their extra mile giving to many different types of overseas projects and for the blessing and benefit it brings to our partner Churches. In the year 2000 this extra mile giving, together with the project giving mentioned above came to over £500,000. We are thrilled with the magnificent response of our Church to the several appeals for help in natural disasters in several situations around the world and especially the response for the victims of the Indian earthquake.

94. We value our membership of Global Connections (formerly the Evangelical Missionary Alliance) and the opportunity to meet with those who are taking new initiatives in world mission. Our attendance as observers at several of the Forums of the Church's Commission On Mission (CCOM) provides much useful information regarding the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. Our membership of the British and Irish Association of Mission Studies provides the opportunity to reflect upon and to discuss mission issues and concerns and to examine the methods being used to proclaim the gospel in different contexts.

95. In conclusion, this report has sought to tell the story of what God has enabled our Overseas Mission to do in the past year in response to the commission of Jesus Christ to his Church. We realise that "unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that build it". It remains our fervent prayer that all we have offered in witness and service to the peoples of the world in the name of Jesus Christ in the past year will be used for the extension of his Kingdom and the building up of his Church.

APPENDIX A

In the report most of the names of missionaries and volunteers-in-mission have not been mentioned but their names and spheres of service are listed below and are to be taken together with this report.

BRAZIL

Mabel Colson	1990	Caiuá Indian Mission, Dourados
Lynn and Heather Cochrane	1996	Independent Presbyterian Church National Mission in Paraiba State

INDIA

James and Willi Barton	1966	Education Consultants, Goa
Linda Jackson	1996	Woodstock School, Mussoorie
Norman and Joan Duncan	1994	Layman's Evangelical Fellowship and CNI
Brian Wilson	1996	Woodstock School and CNI,

Mussoorie		
Elizabeth Matthews	1998	Diocese of Agra, CNI
JAMAICA		
James and Pat Cameron	1990	Directors, Children's Homes
Leonora Wasson	1994	Associate Regional Director, Cornwall Council
Christine McMahon	1998	Director of United Church Senior Citizens' Home
*Joan and Malcolm Scott	2000	Discovery Bay Charge of United Church
KENYA		
Stephen and Angelina Cowan	1985/9	Outreach and Development Work, PCEA Tuum
Deborah Ford	1996	Teaching at Presbyterian College, Kikuyu. On study leave
Naomi Martin	1991	Teachers' College, Rubate, PCEA
Derek and Linda Roulston	1998	Development work: Honi Farm, PCEA
Paul and Anne Bailie	1998	Presbyterian College, TEE and teaching at Alliance Boys' High School
Andrew and Clerah Clenaghan	1999	Development work, PCEA at Zombe in Kitui District
*Gary and Mary Reid	2000	Rural Polytechnic, Chogoria
MALAWI		
Freda Algje	1969	Principal, Wives School, Zomba Theological College
Richard and Brenda Kerr	1991	Synod Health Co-ordinator and Education Department, Mzuzu
Margaret Young	1995	Midwife, Ekwendeni Hospital
Diane Cusick	1995	Wives School, Zomba Theological College
Dick and Moreen Gordon	1996	Zomba Theological College and St Luke's Hospital. Retired April 2001
Colin Dick	1996	Medical Officer at Ekwendeni Hospital. On study leave
Neil and Sara Kennedy	1997	Medical Officer and Teaching, Embangweni
Clare McIntyre	1997	Karonga Girls' Secondary School
Stephen and Ruth McCracken	1999	Chaplaincy in Synod Schools and teaching at Ekwendeni Girls' Secondary School
Maurice and Sheila McNicholl	1999	Projects Office, Blantyre Synod
John and Rosemary Hanson	1999	Chaplain, Blantyre Synod

TOGO

*Rod and Sheena Mulholland 2001 Teaching in Bible and Training College, Evangelical Presbyterian Church

NEPAL

Linda McKee 1985 Assistant to Executive Director, UMN
 Joy Gowdy 1992 Tutorial teacher, Butwal
 Pauline Orr 1993 Nurse/Tutor, Tansen Nurse Campus
 David and Sandra Rodgers 1995 Director, Amp Pipal Hospital
 Helen Johnston 1996 Acting Personnel Director, UMN
 Richard and Denise Ross 1996 Gandaki Boarding School
 Adam and Lorraine Coupe 1999 Communications and Patan Hospital
 *Peter and Åsa McDowell 2001 Coordinator, Language and Orientation Programme

ROMANIA

Csaba and Ilona Veres 2001/1993 Youth work and ministry to street children Cluj/Kolosvar
 Nigel Craig 1998 Teaching English and Church Work, Oradea

FRANCE

Gordon and Sandra Campbell 1989 Reader in New Testament in Free Faculty of Reformed Theology in Aix en Provence
 Rodney and Denise Cameron 1998 Eglise Réformée de France: Parish of Privas and Flaviac

GREAT BRITAIN

Jack and Phyllis Thompson 1970 New College, University of Edinburgh
 Christopher and Nivedita Macwan 1989 Working among Asians in Wembley

On home leave pending re-assignment

Shirley Rutherford 1998 Rural Development, on furlough

Short term missionaries serving for a minimum of two years, are supported in overseas locations. Their names and spheres of service are as follows -

BRAZIL

*Naomi Keefe 2000 Valley of the Lord Orphanage

CHINA

David Conkey 1998 Teaching English, Tai'an Teachers' College

INDIA

*David and Cheryl Adair 2000 Woodstock School, Mussoorie

INDONESIA

Mervyn McCullagh 1998 Teaching English and writing English courses

ISRAEL

Avril Gracey 1999 Stella Carmel Centre

KENYA

*Norman and Pauline Kennedy 2000 Lay Training and Literature, PCEA

MALAWI

Donald and Una Brownlie 1999 Livingstonia Hospital
 Jill Gibson 2000 Teaching at Robert Laws Secondary School, Embangweni
 Richard Gracey 2000 Teaching at Ekwendeni Girls' Secondary School
 *Claire Hayes 2000 Teaching at Bandawe Girls' Secondary School
 *Dibbie McCaughan 2000 Teaching at Wm Murray Secondary School, Nkhoma
 *Tracey Lamont 2001 Teaching at Wm Murray Secondary School, Nkhoma

CZECH REPUBLIC

Susan Clarke 1999 Managing Outreach Café, Ostrava

SPAIN

*Derek and Jane French 2000 Evangelism and Christian Training Spanish Evangelical Church

*Appointed 2000/2001

Volunteers-in-Mission are sent into overseas locations for up to one year and their names and spheres of service are as follows:

HUNGARY

Claire Maguire 1998 Teaching English in Miskolc

JAMAICA

*Michael Waring 2000 Staff Associate, Communications

KENYA

*Alison Bullous 2000 Outreach and Development work
PCEA Tuum

MALAWI

*Paul Braithwaite 2000 Teaching at Livingstonia Secondary
School
*David Currie 2000 Scripture Union, Malawi
*Michelle Evans 2000 Teaching at Karonga Girls'
Secondary School

Candidates for Ministry on overseas placement:

KENYA

Karen Campbell (nee Williams) 1999 Daystar University and PCEA
*Alastair Anderson 2000 PCEA TEE Programme

APPENDIX B**PARTNER CHURCH and MISSIONS**

We work together with partner Churches and United Missions and we list below those in leadership with their respective positions:

BRAZIL

Rt Rev Leontino dos Santos President, Independent Presbyterian Church
in Brazil (IPI)
Rev Eber Ferreira Silveira Lima Executive Secretary, Independent
Presbyterian Church in Brazil (IPI)
Rt Rev Guilhermino Cunha President, Presbyterian Church in Brazil
(IPB)
Rev Wilson de Souza Lopes Executive Secretary, Presbyterian Church in
Brazil (IPB)

CHINA

Bishop K H Ting Hon President, China Christian Council
Dr Wenzao Han President, China Christian Council
Rev Su Deci General Secretary, China Christian Council

CZECH REPUBLIC

Rev Pavel Cerny President, Church of the Brethren
Mr Karel Fojtik General Secretary, Church of the Brethren
Rev Pavel Smetana President, Evangelical Church of the Czech
Brethren

FRANCE

Pasteur Michel Bertrand	President, Eglise Réformée de France (ERF)
Pasteur Marc Richalot	General Secretary (ERF)
Pasteur Raphael Picon	Secretary: International Relations and Mission (ERF)

HUNGARY and ROMANIA

Bishop Gusztav Bolcskei	Presiding Bishop, Synod of the Reformed Church of Hungary
Bishop Geza Pap	Transylvanian District of Reformed Church, Romania
Bishop Laszlo Tokes	Kiralyhagomellek District of Reformed Church, Romania

INDIA

Most Rev Z James Terom	Moderator of the CNI Synod
Dr V S Lall	General Secretary of the CNI Synod
Rt Rev Vinod M Malaviya	Bishop of the Gujarat Diocese CNI
Rt Rev S R Cutting	Bishop of the Agra Diocese CNI

INDONESIA

Rev Dr Tobias Messakh	Moderator, Evangelical Christian Church in Timor
Rev A N Aesh	Moderator, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
Rev S S Duan	General Secretary, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
Rev Yosua Kodu Bili	General Secretary, Christian Church in Sumba

JAMAICA

Rt Rev Dr Gordon Evans	Moderator, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Rev Dr Maitland Evans	General Secretary, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

KENYA

Rt Rev Dr Jesse Kamau	Moderator, Presbyterian Church of East Africa
Rev Patrick Rukenya	Secretary General, Presbyterian Church of East Africa

MALAWI

	<i>Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP)</i>
Rt Rev Dr F Chingota	Moderator, CCAP General Synod
Rev Y A Chienda	Senior Clerk, CCAP General Synod

Rev H Mvula	Moderator, Synod of Livingstonia
Rev H M Nkhoma	General Secretary, Synod of Livingstonia
Rev T N Maseya	Moderator, Synod of Blantyre
Rev D Gunya	General Secretary, Synod of Blantyre
Rev C L Chimkoka	Moderator, Synod of Nkhoma
Rev A A Sasu	General Secretary, Synod of Nkhoma

MYANMAR (BURMA)

Rev Dr Lalengzaua	Administrative Secretary, Presbyterian Church in Myanmar
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NEPAL

Ms Jennie Collins	Executive Director, United Mission to Nepal
Pastor Robert Khartak	Senior Pastor of the Church in Nepal

PAKISTAN

Elder Sardar Feroze Khan	Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Pakistan
Dr Maqsood Kamil	Executive Secretary, Presbyterian Church of Pakistan
Rev Hanooock David	General Secretary, Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

SPAIN

Rev Enrique Capo	President, Permanent Commission, Spanish Evangelical Church
Rev Alfredo Abad	Secretary, Permanent Commission, Spanish Evangelical Church

SUDAN

Rev John Gatluok Chol	Moderator, Presbyterian Church Of Sudan
Rev Shawish Nyawelo Kir	General Secretary, Presbyterian Church Of Sudan
Vacant	Associate Moderator, Presbyterian Church Of Sudan/Akobo
Vacant	Executive Secretary, Presbyterian Church Of Sudan/Akobo

THAILAND

Rev Dr Sint Kimhachandra	General Secretary, Church of Christ in Thailand
Mrs Supaporn Insaeng	Director, Lamp of Thailand

TOGO

Pasteur Fatsema Amiou	Moderator, Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Togo
Pasteur Franck Adubra	General Secretary, Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Togo

ZAMBIA

Rev Victor Chilenje

General Secretary, Synod of Zambia of the
CCAP**RESOLUTIONS**

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly, recognising that we are going through a period of rapid change in our global village, encourage the Board to establish priorities for the mission of our Church in the world and to continue to review its administration, its training and preparation of personnel and its partner Church relationships.
3. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the faithful witness and service of our missionary personnel during the past year and commend them and their families to the whole Church for prayer and support as they witness for and serve Jesus Christ with their national colleagues in our partner Churches.
4. That the General Assembly, recognising the value of our partnerships in mission in Kenya, Malawi, Sudan and Togo, pray earnestly for leaders and people as they continue to address the economic, health, social and moral problems in their societies, and as they take up the opportunities for the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
5. That the General Assembly call upon our people to pray for peace in Sudan and request the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and the international community to urge, through diplomatic channels, the Government of Sudan and the liberation movements to take positive steps towards the establishment of peace in Sudan for the sake of its long-suffering people.
6. That the General Assembly give thanks for the vibrant ministry of the churches in Brazil and in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and pray that the Lord of the harvest will encourage them as they continue to be involved in urban and rural mission and in serving the poor and marginalised in their societies in the Name of Jesus Christ.
7. That the General Assembly rejoice in the strengthening of our partnerships with reformed Churches in the Czech and Slovak Republics, France, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain and Ukraine and encourage the Board to continue fostering these important relationships through exchange visits and congregational partnerships.
8. That the General Assembly rejoice in the courageous witness to the Gospel by Christians throughout the Middle East, including Israel, encourage the move towards greater unity in the body of Christ and pray that recent serious reverses on the diplomatic front will not prevent progress being made towards a just and lasting peace, nor obstruct the spread of the Gospel.
9. That the General Assembly give thanks for the response of the world community, including our Church, to the earthquake disaster in Gujarat and for the involvement of the Church of North India in the relief and rehabilitation of the victims, and encourage the Church in its outreach and service to the people

of Gujarat, praying that many will be brought to a living faith in Jesus Christ and be added to the Church.

10. That the General Assembly give thanks to almighty God for the witness to the Gospel by our partner Churches in China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand, often in the midst of opposition and persecution, and pray for leaders and people as they continue to serve Jesus Christ in the life of their nations and as they seek peaceful and just solutions to their religious, economic, political and social problems.

11. That the General Assembly thank congregations, organisations and individuals who have supported the mission of Christ in prayer and finance, in projects and in practical ways during the past year, and request the Board to continue its information sharing and its education in mission programmes throughout the Church, so that all may be fully informed about our role in world mission and pray and give for its fulfilment.

12. That the General Assembly thank most sincerely all who have given their time and talents to help fulfil our calling to mission in a needy world and promote this challenging task among our people, and thank the whole church for providing the necessary personnel and finance for this important work and for the prayer support and 'extra mile' giving during the past year.

13. 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:

BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND

Conveners: Rev Dr J B MOORE

Very Rev Dr D H ALLEN

Secretaries: Rev R F S POOTS, OBE

Rev D J TEMPLE

Mrs M MYERS

1. Ireland today is going through a period of unprecedented change.
2. The Republic is vibrant, economically booming, but showing signs of overheating, its life increasingly post-Catholic and pluralist and, at the time of writing, holding its breath over foot-and-mouth disease.
3. The North is politically uncertain and violent, still struggling to live with difference, its Protestant heritage fading fast.
4. In this 'new' Ireland the Church is called not to a holding operation or a few sorties into enemy territory but to mission; confronting growing secularism, increasing social problems and widespread indifference with the good news of Jesus Christ, which alone can transform human life, and calling men, women and young people to be 'salt' and 'light' in their communities.
5. It is an exciting challenge which calls for prayer, commitment and love, with more biblical ministries, conservative and radical in teaching and application, and alive with the power of the Spirit.
6. The Board of Mission in Ireland is committed to being a supportive and innovative influence to this end.
7. This new Board, which was formed in June 2000, has met on three occasions. We thank Almighty God that the Board is working smoothly and effectively, and that interest in the work covered by the two former Boards has widened and increased.
8. The Evangelism Committee keeps the vision for outreach to the forefront of its agenda. The Director of Evangelism, Rev Harold Boyce, has been encouraged by the contact made with numerous congregations.
9. The Irish Mission continues to reach out positively with the Gospel and is exploring new areas for service in the West of Ireland. We thank Rev David Temple and the Irish Mission staff for their ongoing and much valued work during the year.
10. Meanwhile, the Divine Healing Committee is currently examining the subject of 'Alternative Medicine'.
11. The Presbyterian Mutual Society continues its successful ministry of giving loans to approved applicants, and Church Extension stands by charges not yet fully constituted, keeps a watchful eye on areas of potential development and congratulates Movilla, Newtownards on its progress.
12. The Board continues to enjoy a close relationship with PWA, mainly through the PWA/Home Personnel Committee, and gives thanks to God for the work of the Deaconesses and Woman Worker.

13. Home Mission is also a cause for thanksgiving. Congregations, in certain areas, are showing signs of growth and there is evidence of significant spiritual work.

14. We pray that God by His Spirit will enable us to advance His Kingdom in our land in the coming days.

IRISH MISSION COMMITTEE

1. In the gospels we find Jesus saying, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.*" Luke 10 v 2-3. Reports from different parts of the Republic state that these are days of unprecedented opportunity. Our responsibility is to use these opportunities so that God will call people of all ages and from many backgrounds into His kingdom.

In Dublin's Fair City

2. Dublin is now an international city with a population similar to that of Northern Ireland and in which there are more Moslems than Presbyterians. The tiger economy has raised the standard of living for many people, but not everyone has benefited. People still face problems with unemployment, affordable accommodation, drink, drugs and suicide.

3. The Irish Mission's one city worker, Mr David Boyd, assists in the Dolebusters scheme, which was started by Adelaide Road/Donore congregation in the south of the city, near St Stephen's Green. Dolebusters is largely funded by the State to help unemployed people. The staff offer courses on computers, preparation of CVs and interview techniques to people seeking to enhance their self-respect and give hope for the future. Dolebusters has been in contact with refugees from 42 countries many of whom, especially women, speak little or no English, so English classes are provided. Staff noticed that many Moslem women did not attend regularly because of their culture and now some classes are being held in homes to allow these ladies to attend. This is a very effective outreach with no strings attached. Mr Boyd has been encouraged recently by the recognition of the work by the Republic's government agencies. Some of the staff members have started to attend a Bible study group.

Outside Dublin - Carlow

4. Most Irish Mission Workers live and work in small towns throughout the south eastern part of the island. Mr Philip Kelso is based in Carlow, (17,000 pop) about 52 miles from Dublin, and works alongside Rev Stephen Johnston, the Home Mission minister. His work is typical of what other workers do.

5. Several years ago the monthly service attracted a congregation of four. Today, there is a weekly Sunday service attended by 50 adults and children. The midweek attracts 15 people and there is a monthly Sunday evening focus. Work among the 3,000 students of the Carlow Institute of Technology is slow with the problem of finding suitable times for students to meet together.

Many have no interest in spiritual things but God is at work in this and other towns.

Children's Outreach

6. Most Workers have encouraging children's Bible meetings. Christmas nativity plays often attract a good number of parents who appreciate what is being done for their children. There are opportunities to befriend parents and get Christian literature into homes.

7. As an example, Dr Sam Francey (Portlaoise) reports that the special Christmas clubs went well this year. They told the Christmas story from the point of view of the different people involved and whether they thought the birth of Jesus was good news or bad news. While driving the children home in the minibus, one of the girls said, "*The birth of Jesus wasn't good news, it was great news because He came and died to save us.*" Our Workers could start more children's clubs but lack helpers to assist. Child protection regulations also mean that increased numbers would require extra staff. As well as regular weekly meetings there is the summer outreach, when our Workers appreciate the help and fellowship of Summer Outreach teams, mostly provided by the Youth Board.

Adult Outreach and Bible Studies

8. Work among adults can be very difficult but the Workers have encouragements. The Jesus video continues to be a great asset in visiting homes and allows for a follow-up visit. Hotel Bible Studies provide a neutral environment for inquirers and are advertised in the local press. Many people have been converted to Christ as a result. Workers are also involved in one-to-one studies.

Changes and Opportunities

9. During the past year two Workers – Mr John Chinnery and Mr Stephen McGoekin - resigned and are now involved in other Christian work. Recently we have been asked to consider placing Workers in Sligo and Letterkenny. There may be openings in Mullingar and the Greater Dublin area and discussions with Presbyteries will be taking place. There have also been initial soundings for Workers in different parts of N Ireland. At the moment no additional Workers are available to meet these needs, but advertising in the Bible College and the Christian Irishman for people with proven evangelistic gifts has brought some positive inquiries.

Mission Statement

10. A new mission statement clearly sets out the aims of the Mission and how we seek to achieve them. This has been discussed with the Workers, approved by the Board of Mission in Ireland and appears as Appendix I.

11. Together with the Home Mission Committee, a statement on Tentmaking ministries has been prepared which sets out how we would seek to support people in secular employment who wish to be engaged in evangelism and outreach in a specific community. This is a new concept for our Church but

it offers exciting possibilities for developing new forms of outreach. This statement appears as Appendix II.

The Christian Irishman

12. This monthly magazine continues to be enjoyed by a wide readership, but with a circulation of 9,000 copies per issue it is clear that the reading of the magazine is a minority interest among Presbyterians. We value and appreciate the efforts of congregational agents as they seek to increase its readership. It is clear that many of our readers look forward to the Workers' reports which give a positive impetus to prayer. The wide missionary focus of the magazine is also much appreciated.

13. Please continue to support the work of the Mission and all its staff in prayer.

D COWAN, Convener

APPENDIX I

THE IRISH MISSION

Mission Statement

(Based on the Coleraine Mission Statement 1992)

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures and exists to love and honour God, through faith in His Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The Irish Mission as a mission agency of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland exists to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ 'to people from all backgrounds and cultures within the island of Ireland.' As an agency of a Reformed Church under the Board of Mission in Ireland, the Irish Mission witnesses to biblical truth, especially to the truth of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT:-

God calls us to mission in contemporary Ireland – an ever-changing culture with an unchanging Gospel. By mission we understand the need to bring the full spectrum of Christian truth - "*Speaking the Truth in Love*" - to an increasingly secular community, by all possible means, with sensitivity and flexibility to build the Kingdom of Christ, including the planting of churches and encouraging growth in small churches. This mission is to be pursued '*amongst all the peoples of Ireland - those with whom we feel comfortable; those from whom we feel alienated and those who are in any way distant from us in culture and faith*'

God calls us prayerfully to place Irish Mission Workers as witnesses to Christ seeking to '*challenge the values of the world with the values of God's kingdom, winning men, women, young people and children to faith and discipleship.*'

God calls us as an agency of the church under the General Assembly, to co-operate and consult with the courts of the church and the other servants of the church. The Irish Mission, under the direction of the Board of Mission in Ireland, will seek to consult with the Home Mission and Presbyteries regarding the mission strategy being adopted in a particular region, and with Presbytery and local ministers in the location of Irish Mission Workers.

God calls Irish Mission Workers as servants of Christ under the authority and supervision of the Irish Mission Committee to work alongside and complement the local church, in mutual co-operation with Ministers and Kirk Sessions, to build the Church of Christ in a particular area. God also calls Irish Mission Workers to pioneer outreach in areas where there is no Presbyterian witness.

God calls Irish Mission Workers and Ministers with whom they work to co-operate together as brothers and sisters in Christ in mutual respect, honouring each others gifts and calling. As co-workers together with God, they are encouraged through prayer, planning and fellowship, to support and encourage one another, and co-operate with like-minded Christians in seeking to build the Church of Jesus Christ in their locality.

APPENDIX II

Tentmaking Ministry Scheme

Introduction

1. Tentmaking ministries are based on the example of the apostle Paul, whose primary motivation was the spreading of the Gospel, but who earned his living by exercising his trade as a tentmaker so as not to be a burden on the Church (Acts 18:3). The term ‘tentmaking’ is therefore applied to those who, at the call of God, work to provide their own livelihoods in order to engage in outreach ministry.

2. Tentmaking is normally exercised in communities where the witness of the Church/congregation is ineffective or non-existent or where there is opportunity to reach a particular social group.

Ministry

3. Tentmakers would be expected to engage in evangelism and church planting in a specific community, to set up Bible study groups and to direct contacts to the nearest Presbyterian congregation or congregation of a church in fraternal relations with PCI.

4. In exceptional circumstances contacts might be encouraged to attend other Christian groups approved by the Board.

5. Tentmakers would spend some of their time in secular employment.

Assistance

6. Financial support would be restricted to costs of the ministry. Assistance could be given to Tentmakers at three levels:-

(i) logistical support – appropriate help in mission strategy in a locality;

- (ii) practical support – supply of equipment, resources, premises;
- (iii) pastoral support – visitation and advice by the Irish Mission superintendent.

Recruitment

7. Tentmaking would be under the supervision of the Irish Mission and applicants would take the initiative in approaching the Irish Mission. They should show evidence of Christian maturity and the gifts required for their ministry. Practical experience and training would be assessed by the Irish Mission Committee.

8. Applicants must be full members of PCI or a related Church in good standing.

9. Applicants would be interviewed with references being sought, where appropriate, from the Kirk Session of the membership church, taking up other references as appropriate. Comments would also be sought from the Presbytery within whose bounds outreach is proposed.

10. Recommendations would be brought to the Board of Mission in Ireland, including the degree of support envisaged. This would include the level of support, supervision, reviews and length of support. The Tentmaker's work would be in harmony with the aims of the Irish Mission.

Accountability

11. Tentmakers would be required to adhere to the doctrines and practices of the PCI.

12. Tentmakers would be accountable to the Board approving them. Practically, supervision would be through the Irish Mission Superintendent and the Irish Mission Committee in much the same way as that of Irish Mission Workers. Tentmakers would present an annual report of their work to the Board/Irish Mission Committee.

Location

13. A Tentmaker could be located anywhere in Ireland, as the following examples would suggest:-

- (i) pioneering work in an area devoid of Presbyterian witness eg the Sperrins, or Connemara;
- (ii) assisting in a local congregation eg in Belfast, Londonderry or Dublin;
- (iii) assistant an Irish Mission Worker;
- (iv) assisting in the development of a local church/fellowship.

14. Whilst the location may be decided by the Tentmaker, it must be approved by the Irish Mission Committee before that individual can be appointed by the Board.

Other Issues

15. Presbytery would be consulted about the work and location of Tentmakers and, where appropriate, the nearest local Presbyterian Minister would be involved in the interview procedures leading to the approval of a Tentmaker by the Board.

16. If after a period of service a Tentmaker wished to be considered for appointment as an Irish Mission Worker the normal appointment procedures would be followed.

DIVINE HEALING COMMITTEE

1. Society is full of people who are hurting – not just physically, but emotionally as relationships and family life break down, and spiritually as secularism and materialism lure many away from Jesus Christ who alone can give real purpose and fulfilment. There is a proliferation of different individuals and philosophies which all claim the ability to create wholeness. In such a context we in the Church surely cannot stay silent. We need to be bold in our proclamation of the whole gospel for the whole person – and this includes Divine healing of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual problems.

2. Services of Divine Healing are held throughout the Church at both congregational and Presbytery levels. As a Committee we seek to offer help and encouragement to all involved in this ministry.

3. We are continuing to work on a set of guidelines to help people assess, from a Biblical standpoint, the appropriateness of the ever-increasing array of alternative therapies.

S D H WILLIAMSON, Convener

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

1. The Committee is delighted with the way in which Rev Harold Boyce has settled into the work of Director of Evangelism and is encouraged by the response to the Presbytery Evangelism Seminars being held for ministers. We are actively considering widening the focus to include elders and congregational evangelism committees. Much of the work of the Director is in consultation on an individual, congregational or presbytery basis. He is preparing material for presentation and publication as well as speaking at various meetings throughout the church.

2. Presbytery Evangelism Agents are an important link between the Committee and the local situation. After consultation with agents and the work of a small sub-committee, a “job description” for evangelism agents has been drawn up and agreed by the Evangelism Committee and the Board of Mission in Ireland. Copies are to be sent to Presbytery Clerks for their information and then to the agents.

3. The Committee convener has been involved in discussions, over the past eighteen months, with the Evangelical Alliance concerning a nationwide project for the year 2002 designed to raise awareness of Christian values. As the idea has developed it has taken on a new form in Ireland. “Power to Change” is a media campaign which will run up to Easter 2002 and provide opportunities for individual congregations or groups of congregations to reach out into their communities with the message of Jesus Christ and His power to change lives.

4. The Committee made grants again this year of £200 each to The Scripture Gift Mission, The Bible Society and The National Bible Society for Ireland. Following a suggestion made at the meeting of the Board, the amount of these grants will be reviewed in the coming year.

5. Evangelism is never easy but in the post-modern society in which we live there are both increased difficulties and increasing opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The Committee is aware of the need to bring the unchanging message of the Gospel to a rapidly changing world. Radical thinking is needed. Imaginative methods must be used. As always prayer is vital. We need to rise to the challenge and fulfil the mandate the Saviour has given to us.

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM

The Director of Evangelism, Rev Harold Boyce, reports:

1. My first full year in post has been a happy mixture of learning and teaching. I have appreciated the many invitations I have had and also the warmth of the reception I have invariably received. Many opportunities were given for me to preach on evangelism. While I am more than happy to respond to requests of this nature, let me encourage ministers to think of particular aspects of the subject I could profitably touch on in their pulpits.

2. Some of the most valuable times have been with elders in Session or joint Session meetings and in Presbytery Elders' Fellowships. Of value also have been the opportunities to speak to evangelism Committees. One of the aims of Life2 was to encourage every congregation to have such a Committee.

3. This year saw the beginning of the series of ministers' seminars that will eventually cover every Presbytery in the church. These one-day events attempt to give insights into the evangelism strategies of some PCI congregations, to help us see ourselves as others see us and to develop our understanding of particular aspects of congregational evangelism. The value of these events has been both in listening and discussing together. At the suggestion of the Evangelism Committee, I am investigating the viability of also holding meetings for elders.

4. The personal evangelism course, initially entitled "The Philemon File", will receive its first airing in the night class programme at Union College in the Autumn of this year. Following that, I will be amending it, if necessary, and hope to have it produced for use in congregations by Easter 2002.

5. Material like this, produced "in house", will hopefully commend itself to our people. However, I am also aware of the great amount of useful material available in the Christian market place. I have produced a basic list of such material and also of resource agencies and hope to add to this in the future. This resource list is available from my office in Church House. I have also produced a digest of the types of events held throughout our church during the Life2 year, which is also available from Church House.

6. Within our church, I have co-operated with the Director of Christian Training in promoting a new course called "Christianity Explored", worked on the production of a job description for Presbytery Agents and have been appointed convener of a task force within the Board of Mission in Ireland to

address the concerns raised by the responses to our falling member statistics. During the year I also attended the Evangelical Ministry Assembly in London, which looked at the subject of church planting.

7. I am indebted to all who have encouraged me in my work and also to my secretary, Mrs Mandy Higgins, and other members of the Irish Mission staff whose office space I share.

JOHN PARKES, Convener

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

PWA HOME DEPARTMENT

Mrs Margaret Myers reports:

1. In 2000/2001 PWA has continued to work in association with the Board of Mission in Ireland to “provide for the recruitment, training, organisation and support of deaconesses and a woman worker in the various areas of the Church’s life and interest”. Twenty-three deaconesses and one woman worker currently serve within PCI.

Personnel

2. Recommendations from the PWA/Home Department Personnel Committee enabled various appointments and decisions to be made.

3. Mrs Leta Halliday resumed full-time work in McQuiston Memorial for one year from 1 September, 2000.

4. The Board of Mission in Ireland pays tribute to three retiring deaconesses. Miss Sarah Swindle, deaconess in Chaplaincy work at Musgrave Park Hospital, who retired on 31 December, 2000 after 41 years service. Miss Rae Richmond has been given leave to retire from Wellington Street, Ballymena on 31 May, 2001 after serving as a deaconess for 14 years. Miss Anne Burrows has been given leave to retire from part-time Chaplaincy work at Belvoir Park Hospital on 30 September, 2001 after 36 years service.

5. Mrs Sharon Heron received permission to continue as deaconess in Strand.

6. Miss Roberta Irvine and Mrs Sadie McCullough continue with their deaconess training at Union College.

7. Mrs Ruth Henry resigned from South Belfast Friendship House on 31 March, 2001 to take up her new appointment as Pastoral Visitor in Orangefield. The Board of Mission in Ireland has granted Mrs Henry a 2-year secondment.

8. Representative deaconesses to the Board of Mission in Ireland will be Miss Evelyn Whyte and Miss Gillian Martin.

9. Retirement gifts were presented, at a lunch on 1 February, 2001, to Miss Sarah Swindle, Miss Frances Wright, Mrs Frances Martin and Miss Elizabeth Boyd.

10. Professional Indemnity Insurance covers currently serving deaconesses and those in training.

Events

11. Mrs M Myers, attended a Thanksgiving Service in Crumlin Road Church on 24 September, 2000 to give thanks for 30 years witness at The Vine Centre, where Mrs Lynda Gibson serves as a deaconess.

12. Miss Doreen Draffin, deaconess in Rathcoole, attended the Church of Scotland Diaconate Council, held in Crieff, from 23 - 25 June, 2000.

13. Miss Muriel Cromie, deaconess in City Hospital, attended the Diakonia, UK Liaison Group, which met in Newcastle, Co Down, from 10 - 12 October, 2000.

14. Deaconesses attended a training conference on "Managing Finances" held at the Christian Training Centre on 20 January, 2001.

15. The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr T Morrow, and Mrs Morrow attended an informal Reception for Deaconesses and Woman Worker on 22 January, 2001 in Church House, along with representatives of the Board of Mission in Ireland and the PWA Executive Committee.

16. The Executive Secretary, Mrs Myers, and representatives of PWA Executive Committee attended the opening of a new outreach Centre at Townsend Street on 31 January, 2001. The Deaconess, Miss Ruth Petticrew, was congratulated on her work as Manager.

17. The World Diakonia Conference will take place in Brisbane, Australia from 5 - 11 July, 2001. The theme is "Hearts on Fire in a New Time".

18. Deaconesses have been asked to host a 4-day conference, in June 2002, for the UK Liaison Group of the World Diakonia of which our deaconesses are members.

Status of Deaconesses in the Courts of the Church

The Rev Denis Bannerman reports:

1. A comprehensive Report on the Role of the Deaconess in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was presented to the Assembly in 2000 (Reports pp 197-202). However, the issue of the status of Deaconesses within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland still remains unresolved in spite of a number of reports to the Assembly over 20 years.

2. As things now stand "Deaconesses in PCI are not, of right, members of any of the Courts of the Church, although they are invited to 'sit and deliberate' in all of them. The Church of Scotland admitted deaconesses as full members of Assembly in 1990 and most other denominations have admitted them to voting rights within Church Courts. It would be for the Assembly to decide whether, as a Church, it would be advantageous to proceed in this direction". (Assembly Reports 2000 p202 par 30).

3. The Deaconesses would wish to have this issue addressed and the sub-committee of the Board of Mission in Ireland would support the idea of a definitive study being undertaken.

The present position is as follows:

4. A few deaconesses are elders and they are included among Business Board's nominees to the General Assembly of which they are full voting members. They may also be members of Kirk Session, but not usually members

of Presbytery or Synod unless serving as representative (or “corresponding”) elders.

Deaconesses who are not elders are (or should be) invited to sit and deliberate at all relevant church courts.

5. Code Par 182 (1) provides that “Special arrangements may be made for a Call to the office of a ruling elder under the General Assembly in the case of a person appointed to work under an Assembly Board”, while Par 182 (4) further provides that “Ruling elders ordained under these arrangements shall be members of the superior courts of the Church and shall be eligible for co-option or election to a local Session...”.

There is no knowledge of that provision ever having been used for deaconesses but the Assembly might favour its use for them. That would have the advantage of simplicity as few changes to the Code would be needed.

6. Alternatively, the Assembly might decide that duly commissioned deaconesses in full-time appointments would be full members of Church courts ex officio, though that would raise the question of other “commissioned” persons, such as Irish Mission workers, Overseas Missionaries, “additional pastoral personnel”, etc. How far do we go?

7. Another option would be to follow the example of the Church of Scotland and create a new all-inclusive Order of Deacons, both male and female. Very Rev Dr James Weatherhead, Principal Clerk Emeritus of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has given the following summary of the present position in that church.

(i) ***The Diaconate***

The Order of Deaconesses was originally formed to provide avenues of service within the Church for women who were not at the time eligible to be ministers or elders. The scheme has been revised several times, to include men in the diaconate, and to incorporate most of the lay missionaries. The latest scheme was approved by the Assembly (Reg III, 1993) and details may be obtained from the Secretary of the Diaconate Committee. In 1996 the Assembly agreed that all members of the diaconate should be referred to as “deacons”. There is a slight possibility of confusion with those who are deacons as members of Deacons’ Courts, but the sense in which the word is used will usually be obvious from the context.

Act III, 1992, lays down the conditions on which deacons may be members of Presbyteries, and corresponding members of Kirk Sessions; and Act X, 1994, provides for their appointment as commissioners to the Assembly.

(ii) ***Deacons***

A deacon working in a parish is entitled to be a corresponding member of the Kirk Session. Any other deacon who is a member of the congregation may be associated with the practical work of the Kirk Session. Although Act III, 1992, does not, in Section 23, specify the right to attend meetings and speak, as it does in the case of ministers, it would be possible to construe the additional part of Section 15 as being partially definitive of the meaning of being “associated” with the practical work. In practice this should not be a major difficulty, as

the Kirk Session can in any event invite such a person to attend and speak. The only difference between being a corresponding member and being associated with the practical work is that that corresponding member has this status ex officio, whereas association with the practical work is by invitation only.

8. In brief, the position in the Church of Scotland is that deacons/deaconesses have voice but not vote in Kirk Session, are full members of Presbytery and one in four are commissioned to be full members of Assembly (the Scottish Assembly being a “representative” court).

9. On this system the three categories, ministers, ruling elders, and deacons, are quite distinct and nobody can hold more than one office at any given time.

10. The creation of a third “Order” in Church Courts here, whether for PWA Deaconesses or for others as well, would be a major step requiring careful thought, some research and Barrier Act procedure.

11. Consideration of all the issues that might arise could easily turn into a very lengthy study involving eg the Doctrine Committee and/or the Judicial Commission pondering the meaning of Ordination, Commissioning, Ministry, “diakonia”, etc, the administrative and disciplinary functions of church courts, the parity of numbers between ministers and ruling elders, etc, though earlier Assembly Reports in 1973, 1977 and 2000 would provide a good foundation for such a study.

12. Consideration should also be given to the work of the ad hoc Committee on Deacons (1992-95). Their remit was more concerned with members of the congregation acting in a voluntary capacity than with full-time servants of the Church, though the review of the New Testament and other material on Deacons is valuable.

13. One way forward would be to offer the forthcoming Assembly a list of options, eg

- (a) leave things as they are;
- (b) ordain all deaconesses as ruling elders, with a slight adjustment of existing provisions of the Code to specifically include elder-deaconesses as members of Kirk Sessions. (A congregation does not elect or call its deaconesses);
- (c) to introduce new legislation to make all duly commissioned deaconesses members of church courts;
- (d) to introduce a new “Order” of deacons/deaconesses to include other commissioned church workers.

The Assembly could then be asked to select one (or two) of these options and ask for further study, so that firm proposals could be submitted in 2002.

14. On the other hand, in view of the magnitude and implications of the issues, it might be wiser to invite preliminary comments as set out in Par 11 (above) with a view to presenting a more focussed report to next Assembly.

PRESBYTERIAN MUTUAL SOCIETY LIMITED

Mr J W Russell reports:

1. The Directors are pleased to report that the Society has continued to make significant progress in its efforts to enlarge the membership. These efforts have resulted in £2.7 million of new investment during this financial year, bringing the total assets to £14.2 million.

2. Interest rates have remained very stable during most of the year and despite the downward move in the base rate in the latter part of the year, the Society has recorded a strong performance producing a gross profit in excess of £1 million. This enabled a dividend of 7% to have been declared on all shareholdings for the financial year ended 31 March, 2001.

3. The increase in the funds invested has enabled the Society to make additional capital available to borrowers for a wide range of purposes from car, house and land purchase to business expansion and bridging finance.

4. We conclude with our thanks to God for all that He has enabled us to do over the past year and pray for His continued blessing in the future.

HOME MISSION GENERAL

1. In the Home Mission we are grateful to God for the seventy ministers, deaconesses and Nightlight volunteers who every week are carrying the Good News of Christ to the people of Ireland. Their work can be characterised as being resilient, thoughtful, sensitive and always supported by prayer. Once again we commend the team of Home Mission personnel and their families to the prayers of the General Assembly.

2. **Church Planting:** In the Autumn of 2000 the Home Mission was pleased to welcome visitors from the Church of Scotland to stimulate our thinking at a conference on Church planting. The Revs Willie John McDonald, Fyfe Blair, and Martin Johnstone shared with us from the experience of the Church of Scotland in her attempts to do “a new thing” in communicating the gospel of Christ.

3. **Reconnecting:** At the same time the Home Mission, under the Board of Mission, published “Reconnecting with a Missing Generation” – a study of 10 congregations in Belfast at the end of the 20th century. This study confirmed what many of us knew in our hearts and by experience – that the 20-45s are very much a missing generation in contemporary church life. Among the findings and conclusions of the study were the following:

- that belonging will often come before believing;
- that it is a fallacy to believe that we will reach parents through their children. It is more effective to reach the children through the parents;
- that many “out there” view the church and therefore the gospel as irrelevant to them.

4. **Priorities:** Increasingly, and in common with the other Boards of the Church, the Home Mission finds itself caught between the opportunities which invite our support and the resources which limit our abilities. On the one hand, we see the desire and the need for new methods of approach, while, on the other hand, we have been committed to supporting small congregations, many with

property the state of which is far from inviting. If the current limited level of resourcing continues, the Home Mission will find itself facing some very difficult and unwelcome choices.

5. **Listing of Church Buildings:** Within the Republic of Ireland most historic church buildings have now been listed, not only in terms of the outer façade but also in terms of all the internal furnishings, a development that is making life difficult for all Church traditions. It could prevent the freedom to remove pews to create a dual-purpose building and to attract a purchaser for a redundant building. As one person put it, “Churches could find themselves maintaining buildings they do not need out of funds they do not have for people who do not go”. Representatives of the four main Churches have had talks with the agency responsible for heritage protection and we now anxiously await the publication of planning guidelines. Such a regulation has a bearing, in particular, for the Home Mission on our desire and attempts to facilitate the congregation of Waterford, which worships in a pre-Reformation building and which, rightly, wishes to move to a new building and a new location in the city.

6. **Tentmaking:** In response to the prompting of the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster the Home and the Irish Missions have drawn up a policy statement on Tentmaking. A composite report, under the Report of the Irish Mission, will be presented to the Assembly for approval. We know that scattered across Ireland are Christians in secular employment who are earnest in their wish to communicate the gospel. Where possible, we want to be able to show our support for them.

7. **New Opportunities:** For whatever reason, Ireland has in the last couple of years seen a steady influx of asylum seekers – many from Nigeria. They are unable to seek employment until a work permit has been issued at the end of one year’s residency. Several Home Mission congregations are finding new opportunities for showing Christian care and witnessing to asylum seekers, many of whom are in turn contributing to the life of the congregations. Gifts from two congregations and a small Home Mission contribution have been paid over to assist this work.

8. **Personnel:** The work of the Home Mission is carried on through personnel called by God to serve Him throughout Ireland. In the past year we have been much encouraged by being able to welcome into the family of the Home Mission – Rev Geoffrey Allen (Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and Newtownbutler), Rev Colin Gamble (Athy and Naas), Rev David Hagan (Carndonagh and Malin) and the Rev Dr Gary Millar (Howth and Malahide).

9. **Mission Priority Areas:** In keeping with our policy, mid-term reviews were carried out in Tullamore and Mountmellick (Rev Stephen Simpson) and in Cahir and Fermoy (Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney). Since the greater part of Dr Mawhinney’s work is centred now in Fermoy, it has been agreed that he be located there, rather than Clonmel. The Home Mission is very grateful to the Union Commission which has agreed to re-align the 3 point charge of Kells, Corboy and Mullingar. This will create a new 2 point charge of Corboy and Mullingar and we feel very positive about the potential of this. During the year we said farewell to the Rev David Allen and wish him God’s blessing on his ministry in Ballyrashane.

10. **Nightlight:** The outreach of Nightlight continues unabated, but volunteers are being drawn into even longer hours on the city streets due to increased hours of opening. In the circumstances, it is unreasonable to expect volunteers to go on for an unlimited period and, recently, some of the most committed who have given years of service have been forced to withdraw or reduce their time commitment. Additional volunteers are currently being recruited.

Mr Paul Jamieson, Assistant to the Director, has gone into training for the ministry and Miss Christine Brown, a social worker, is his successor.

The Home Mission gratefully acknowledges before God, the evidence of prayer support and financial support that comes from individuals, groups and congregations and gives thanks for the work of Mr John Luke, Mr Jamieson, Miss Brown and all who commit themselves as volunteers.

11. **Alternating Scheme:** The Rev Bob Cobain has served as Minister of Galway and Ballinasloe since 1993 and the Methodist Church will assume responsibility for ministry there following his retirement in June this year. At present a small group meet fortnightly in the Church of Ireland church for worship and we will be in discussion with the Methodist Church about the future of Presbyterian/Methodist work there. The old Presbyterian church is structurally in an extremely poor state of repair and will be offered for sale.

12. **Publicity:** At last year's General Assembly, the Home Mission was able to use the alternative form of presentation. We found that this drew a very positive response from members of the Assembly. In response to this, the Home Mission is in process of producing its own literature to be used in a promotional way – chiefly to arouse a greater awareness of and prayer commitment to the people and work of the Home Mission.

13. **Urban Support and Inner City Ministry:** Three congregations are in receipt of Urban Support Grants, each worth £25,000 over three years. Ballysillan is in process of appointing an outreach worker to care, specifically, for those in the 'lost generation' (20-35 year old) bracket. The worker appointed by West Kirk concentrates on young drug addicts and solvent abusers, seeking to win them for Christ, to assist them in skills training and to enable them to find a new self-respect through employment. The appointee at Strand will work among young people on the streets who are lost to the Church.

14. The Home Mission has recently entered into an imaginative scheme, involving the congregations of Westbourne, on Belfast's Newtownards Road, Bloomfield and the East Belfast Presbytery to bring an innovative outreach ministry, which will connect with the needs of the locality, to this area. Under the terms, Westbourne will form a linkage with Bloomfield, while both will retain their own independence. An Associate Minister will be called under Home Mission Procedures to engage in outreach to the Newtownards Road area under the guidance of the Rev Graham Connor (Bloomfield) who is Convener of a continuing vacancy commission for Westbourne. The Home Mission has pledged financial support for up to five years to enable the employment of additional outreach personnel for the area. The work will be reported on annually and will be subject to a full report after five years of ministry.

15. **Support:** Quietly behind the scenes the Home Mission is indebted to the office skills of the General Secretary's Office and, in particular to Mrs

Jennifer McClure and Mrs Joyce Anderson, as well as to the financial talents of Mrs Rosemary Thompson, Honorary Treasurer, to whom we say thank you.

Mission Priority Areas

Rev Stephen Johnston reports:

16. It is said that a boy at a Crusader camp run by the late Mr T S Mooney ran up to his parents saying, “You know, the great thing about Mr Mooney is that he isn’t a bit religious.”

17. In all our work here in Carlow we try to do it without being religious! In fact we often see how religion can get in the way of true Christianity! As part of the Reformed community our role is to demonstrate how Christ and His Word must be at the heart of all that we do in the Church.

18. The number of people gathering for weekly worship has continued to slowly increase which is very encouraging. Attendance at the Children’s Bible Club and Youth Club remain steady but good, and we have also been encouraged by the involvement in the local Institute of Technology, Carlow, where I am a part-time chaplain. Apart from the summer months, every second Sunday evening of the month sees some kind of event in the Church. We call this the Sunday Evening Focus and it has been a great blessing with very good attendance bringing in a lot of people from very diverse backgrounds. The highlight in the last year probably was when Dr Helen Roseveare spoke to a packed Church of well over 100 people – that’s big for us!

19. We are now at the stage in the work of trying to consolidate and thinking about issues like membership and leadership for which we value much prayer. Alongside this the main work of outreach and seeing people disciplined in Christ continues. As a family we continue to be settled here in Carlow and to value the partnership with Mr Philip Kelso (Irish Mission) and his family in the work.

20. So we are encouraged as we seek to progress joyfully in the work of the Gospel in this corner of Ireland and we are very grateful to all who remember the work in prayer.

Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney reports:

21. God has answered our prayers and graciously given us another term of five years to minister in Fermoy and Cahir. Our family are well, Peter has started school and Andrew starts in September. We are actively trying to buy a house in Fermoy to focus the work there. We are also seeking to purchase a hall in Fermoy which has come on the market so that we can engage the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ outside the Church building. We value the prayers of the wider Church for this venture.

22. The weekly services, children’s work, hotel Bible studies, and building improvements continue and attendance at all events continues to encourage us.

23. The partnership with the Irish Mission Workers is a source of encouragement and blessing and we thank God for Mr and Mrs Harry Moreland (Fermoy) and Mr and Mrs Peter Maitland (Cahir). Mr Maitland’s health has

deteriorated since Christmas and unfortunately he and his wife had to return to Belfast. We commit him to God, asking the Church to pray for his recovery and their restoration to us.

24. As we come towards the end of our fourth year, the realities of mission here are much clearer. It is God who sustains us in the difficulties and we have been helped by many who pray and support us both as Churches and individuals. The work is small and vulnerable but alive, and we continue to rely and seek the support of the wider Church in prayer, giving and visiting us. Our vision for the people in this area continues and we are very aware that He is the one who graciously gives us all things. This allows us to go forward into a new phase of the work with confidence despite our weakness and many failures.

R L CRAIG, Convener

CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE

1. The following is a summary of the work of Church Extension during 2000.

Belfast Area

New Mossley

2. It is encouraging to note an increase in specified sources in 2000.
3. The work with the Development Committee is progressing, though there is some concern that there has been no real growth in congregational numbers.
4. There is a positive approach to the future with the aim of being fully constituted as a Church.
5. A new store has been provided at a cost of £30,000.

Taughmonagh

6. There has been an increase of ten in the number of families.
7. The congregation decorated the inside of the church building at their own expense.
8. Work has been completed to the exterior of the manse – cost £1,725.
9. Some electrical work is required and the Committee agreed that this be done.
10. The possibility of a porch being built at the front of the church has been agreed in principle.
11. Rev Bill Moore reports that the congregation are in a “buoyant mood” at present and enthusiastic in their witness for Christ.

Coleraine

Ballysally

12. Specified sources increased in 2000.

13. A number of young people have been converted and are now involved in the life and witness of the congregation.

14. There is a problem with the ceiling and the electrics in the main building. The Committee agreed that this work be attended to and estimates obtained.

15. Rev John Coulter is encouraged in the work and is assisted by a group of committed people.

Londonderry

Strathfoyle

16. The Conveners met with the Rev Stanley Stewart and some members of Presbytery to discuss the situation at Strathfoyle. There are a number of possible ways forward. This is to be discussed by Presbytery and recommendations forwarded to the Committee.

Newtownards

Movilla

17. At a service held on 16 January, 2001, Movilla was constituted as a full congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The rapid growth and development of this congregation has been a great encouragement to all of us and we pray God's blessing on Movilla in the years that lie ahead.

Sites

Antrim

18. It was agreed, on the recommendation of the Templepatrick Presbytery, to sell this site.

Carrickfergus

19. The Conveners met with a Presbytery sub-committee to discuss the future use of the site. It was agreed that Presbytery examine the different possibilities and send a report to the Committee.

Finance

Wellington Street, Ballymena (Porting)

20. The congregation of Wellington Street, Ballymena are moving to a new location. This involves a considerable financial undertaking by the congregation. The move has the support of Ballymena Presbytery and meets the criteria re "porting" ie the new location would be a designated Church Extension area. This will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

21. Rev Derek Poots, speaking on behalf of the Home Mission, asked if Church Extension could offer some financial assistance to the Mission. Mr Poots

received a sympathetic hearing by the Committee. This will be raised again at the next meeting.

United Appeal

22. It was agreed there are sufficient funds in the account to finance projects for the next 12 months. In view of this no application will be made this year to the United Appeal Board. However, an application will be made for 2003 and we trust the Board will be understanding and supportive.

Bequests

23. Bequests received during the last financial year amounted to £6,945.

Support

24. The co-operation of Presbyteries and the prayerful and financial support from many people and various organisations is much appreciated by the Committee.

25. May all who serve in Church Extension Charges, Ministers, Interim Sessions, and working Committees be encouraged in their work and know God's guidance as they seek to extend His kingdom.

GEORGE MOFFETT, BRIAN KNOX, Conveners

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received

Evangelism Committee

2. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to support Bible Sunday on 9 December 2001.

3. That the General Assembly commend the work of the Director of Evangelism, particularly the Presbytery seminars and the personal evangelism course, and urge Ministers, Kirk Sessions and congregations to make full use of his services.

4. That the General Assembly commend the "Power to Change" initiative, of Spring 2002, to congregations for their consideration.

Presbyterian Mutual Society Limited

5. That the General Assembly congratulate the Directors of the Presbyterian Mutual Society Limited for the success of the Society and encourage them to continue expressing the care of the Church through the financial support provided for individuals, congregations and others.

Home Mission Committee

6. That the General Assembly appoint the Board of Mission in Ireland Conveners, Home Mission Convener, Home Mission Secretary, Mrs C Poynton and Rev S G Anketell to the Alternating Ministries Scheme Committee.

General

7. 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:

MEMORIAL TRANSMITTED

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, to meet at Belfast, on the 4th day of June 2001.

The Memorial of Sam Condell, Seymour Crawford, Roy Crowe, Kenneth Fleming, Jim Flynn, Maurice Graham, Robert Gray, Ross Gray, Maurice Groves, Jephson McCreery, Charlie Mills, Sandy Moore, Aileen North, Patrick Prior, Kenneth Walker, Derek Wright, Meredith Pollock, Elsie Moynan, Sidney Sharpe Respectfully Showeth:

That the Committee of The Irish Mission has decided to withdraw the Mission Worker from Cavan – Monaghan.

Memorialists now pray your Venerable Court, in consideration of the work of the Irish Mission Worker in the said area, that the General Assembly would ask the Committee of the Irish Mission to reconsider its decision; also that the General Assembly would request the Presbytery of Monaghan to discuss the matter with the Committee of the Irish Mission, with a view to its resolution.

And Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

SAM CONDELL
SEYMOUR CRAWFORD
ROY CROWE
KENNETH FLEMING
JIM FLYNN
MAURICE GRAHAM
ROBERT J GRAY
S R GRAY
MEREDITH POLLOCK

SIDNEY SHARPE
MAURICE GROVES
JEPHSON McCREERY
CHARLES MILLS
SANDY MOORE
AILEEN NORTH
PATRICK PRIOR
KENNETH WALKER
DEREK WRIGHT
ELSIE MOYNAN

Licensed and transmitted simpliciter by the Presbytery of Monaghan, meeting at Coranearry on 3 October, 2000.

BRIAN BLACK, Moderator
T D ALLEN, Clerk

Transmitted by the Business Committee of the Synod of Dublin meeting at Monaghan on 13 March, 2001.

STEPHEN REA, Moderator
MERVYN BURNSIDE, Clerk

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Executive Secretary: Mrs MARGARET MYERS

Theme for the year: "Forward with Christ"

(This report should be read in conjunction with the reports of the Home Board and the Overseas Board).

1. This has been a wonderful theme with which to enter a new millennium. As PWA members continue to serve Jesus Christ in the 21st century our confidence is in the One who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. We go **"Forward with Christ"**, the One who is our Redeemer, Saviour, Friend and King. We give God all the glory for His faithfulness to PWA during another year and for the privilege of serving Him in His world and in His Church.

2. Mrs Margaret Myers took up her post as PWA Executive Secretary on 1 August, 2000. The Presbytery of North Belfast held an Act of Commissioning Service for her on 22 October, 2000 in her home congregation of Whiteabbey.

PWA Executive Committee

3. Mrs Margaret Thompson has served as Central President during 1999/2001. During these two years she has given generously of her time in attendance at meetings of Boards and Committees as well as undertaking 76 speaking engagements. Mrs Thompson, together with her husband, Rev Dr J Thompson, had the joy of revisiting Malawi where she served as a nurse 30 years ago. PWA would take this opportunity to thank her for her dedicated service during her period in office.

4. The Executive Committee, which is responsible for progressing the work of the Association, met on nine occasions throughout the year.

5. The sub-committee under the convenership of the Central President has completed a review of the PWA Constitution and the new PWA Handbook has been published. The help and advice of the Clerk of Assembly, Very Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson, has been invaluable and much appreciated.

6. The Executive Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Mrs Rita Maguire, Miss Margaret Young and Miss Naomi Campbell for their dedicated service, given daily through the office, to ensure the efficient administration of the Association.

7. Office Bearers 2000/2001

Central President:	Mrs Margaret Thompson
Overseas Vice-President:	Mrs Maureen Patterson
Home Vice-President:	Mrs Hilary Hull
Overseas Treasurer:	Mrs Gwen Irwin
Home Treasurer:	Mrs Marbeth Russell

8. Office Bearers to be installed at the Annual General Meeting on 10 May, 2001:

Central President:	Mrs Maureen Patterson
Overseas Vice-President:	Mrs Gwen Irwin
Overseas Treasurer:	Mrs Doreen McMullen

9. Members of Executive Committee 2000/2001

Mrs Marbeth Russell (Ards)	Mrs Hilary Jess (Dromore)
Mrs Margaret Clarke (Ards)	Mrs Pat Colvin (Dublin & Munster)
Mrs Margaret Thompson (Armagh)	Mrs Gwen Irwin (Foyle)
Mrs Eileen Greenlee (Armagh)	Mrs Valerie Stewart (Foyle)
Mrs Annie Erwin (Ballymena)	Mrs Maureen Patterson (Iveagh)
Mrs Helen Murdock (North Belfast)	Mrs Jane McClure (Iveagh)
Mrs Doreen McMullen (South Belfast)	Mrs Gillian Drennan (Monaghan)
Mrs Lois Robinson (East Belfast)	Mrs Christine Finlay (Newry)
Mrs Rosemary Cowan (East Belfast)	Mrs Amanda Blair (Omagh)
Mrs Zoe Valley (Carrickfergus)	Mrs Margaret Binnie (Route)
Mrs Hilary Hull (Coleraine)	Mrs Michele McClean (Templepatrick)
Mrs Sheila Fell (Derry/Strabane)	Mrs Pat Orr (Tyrone)
Mrs Pearl Johnston (Donegal)	Mrs A McCaughan (ex officio)
Mrs Mary Boggs (Down)	Mrs Carys Morrow (ex officio)
Mrs Pamela Martin (YWG)	Mrs Rita Maguire (ex officio)
	Mrs Margaret Myers (ex officio)

10. New members for Executive Committee 2001/2002:

Miss Elizabeth Smyth (Coleraine)
Mrs Barbara Thompson (Route)
Mrs Sandra Fleck (Tyrone)

11. Executive Committee members represent PWA on the following bodies:

Young Women's Groups Central Committee	Mrs Annie Erwin
Union Commission	Mrs Annie Erwin
Women's Link	Mrs Annie Erwin
Women's Forum	Mrs Hilary Jess
Sudan Support Group	Mrs Margaret Binnie

12. Management Committees:

Vine Community & Advice Centre	Mrs Helen Murdock
South Belfast Friendship House	Mrs Doreen McMullen

13. Executive Committee members now serve on the following Boards of our Church:

The Overseas Board
The Board of Mission in Ireland
The Board of Social Witness

Events 2000/2001

14. The Deaconess Carol Service was held on Friday, 8 December, 2000 in the Kinghan Church, Belfast.

15. The Annual Prayer Meeting was held on 6 April, 2000 in the Board Room, Church House. Prayers were led by Mrs Margaret Thompson.

16. The Annual Meetings were held on 4 May, 2000 in the Assembly Hall, Church House. The Guest Speaker, Mrs Claire Dixon, gave a challenging address on the theme "Forward with Christ".

17. The Executive Committee hosted a Coffee Morning in the Minor Hall on 1 June, 2000 for PROP and retired personnel. The speaker was Mrs Lynda Gibson, Deaconess, The Vine Centre. The Executive Committee wish to express their sincere thanks to the members of PROP for their continued help in many practical ways.

18. The Rev Nigel McCullough, Ballygrainey, was guest speaker at the Executive Committee meeting held in Malone Church Hall on 7 September, 2000.

19. The PWA Annual Conference was held on 16 September, 2000 in Stormont Church Hall. Both Home and Overseas personnel highlighted issues of service and joined in fellowship with members of General Committee. Particular prayer was offered for deaconesses, serving in North Belfast, during a period of community unrest.

20. The Executive Secretary attended a Thanksgiving Service in Crumlin Road Church on 24 September, 2000 to give thanks for 30 years of witness at The Vine Centre.

21. PWA Executive Committee was represented at the opening of The Square Centre Coffee Bar in Kilcooley, Bangor, on 23 January, 2001.

22. The Executive Secretary and representatives of PWA Executive Committee attended the opening of a new Outreach Centre at Townsend Street on 31 January, 2001.

23. A conference for Executive Members was held on 26/27 January, 2001 at Loughry College, Cookstown. Guest speakers were The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Trevor Morrow, and Mrs Carys Morrow.

Home Personnel

24. PWA values the advice and willing support given by Rev Derek Poots, Secretary of the Board of Mission in Ireland.

25. PWA Office Bearers and Office Bearers of the Deaconess Association continue to meet at regular intervals.

26. The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Trevor Morrow, and his wife Carys attended an informal Reception for Deaconesses and Woman Worker on 22 January, 2001 in Church House.

27. Mrs Leta Halliday, Woman Worker, McQuiston Memorial, resumed full-time duties on 1 September, 2000.

28. The Association pays tribute to Miss Sarah Swindle, part-time Deaconess in Chaplaincy work at Musgrave Park Hospital. Miss Swindle retired on 31 December, 2000, after 41 years service.

29. Miss Rae Richmond has been given leave to retire from Wellington Street, Ballymena congregation on 31 May, 2001, after 14 years service.

30. Miss Anne Burrows has been given leave to retire from part-time Chaplaincy work at Belvoir Park Hospital on 30 September, 2001 after 36 years service.

31. Mrs Ruth Henry resigned from South Belfast Friendship House on 31 March, 2001 to take up her new appointment as Pastoral Visitor with Orangefield congregation. The Board of Mission in Ireland has granted her a two-year secondment.

32. Congratulations to Mrs Ruth Henry on obtaining a BA Degree in Child Management.

33. Congratulations to Miss Ruth Petticrew on obtaining a Masters Degree in Education.

Bereavements

34. Throughout the year PWA was saddened by the following bereavements and offers sympathy and prayerful support to family members.

35. The father of Miss Jenny Clegg, Deaconess in Ballycrochan, died on 26 July, 2000.

36. Miss Lily Hogg, former Deaconess, died 20 November, 2000.

37. Mrs Jean Pierpoint, former Woman Worker, died 3 February, 2001.

38. The mother of Miss Muriel Cromie, Deaconess in City Hospital, died on 20 January, 2001.

Overseas Personnel

39. PWA continues to be involved with the Overseas work of the Church and would pay tribute to Rev Terry McMullan for his wise counsel.

40. Mrs Maureen Patterson, Overseas Vice-President, has been appointed Convener of the Europe and Middle East Committee.

41. The Executive Secretary attended the Global Connections Conference in London, 15-18 November, 2000.

42. Miss Esther Lupafya, a member of the Edwendeni Hospital Aids Committee, visited Executive Committee on 7 December, 2000.

43. PWA Office Bearers were pleased to meet Rev Peter Phillips, Moderator of the Victoria Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and his wife Lorraine during their visit to Ireland 24 February – 5 March, 2001. It was encouraging to share information and ideas together and to gain an insight into the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Finance

44. PWA continues to receive the generous financial support of its branches. The Executive Committee acknowledges, with a deep sense of gratitude, the faithfulness on the part of individual members that enables PWA to meet its financial commitments.

45. Branches are asked to remember that all accounts close in the Financial Secretary's Office at the end of December. This means that all finance should be lodged with the Financial Secretary's Office **in advance** of that date.

46. Branches are encouraged to make use of Gift Aid for all tax paying members.

47. PWA gave a grant to the Overseas Board of £275,000.00 to provide financial support in part to all missionary personnel. The PWA Executive Committee will determine the amount annually.

Millennium Thank Offering Fund

48. The final total of the Millennium Thank Offering was £110,000.00. Members of Executive Committee are grateful to the generosity of members and praise God for their sacrificial giving.

49. This fund is being used to develop Christian Training and witness in urban and rural communities in Brazil, Jamaica, Malawi, Thailand and Nepal and for Deaconess training in Ireland. Emergency aid was also sent to the Church in Indonesia and India to help alleviate the suffering of people living in disaster areas.

50. The Executive Secretary presented Mrs Supaporn Insaeng, Director of the Lamp of Thailand, with £5,000.00 at the Overseas Rally on 10 October, 2000. As part of the Millennium Fund this money has been used for printing Bible lessons for young children.

51. The 2000/2001 Birthday Thank Offering to date (16 March) amounts to £12,194.49 and will be used to support AIDS orphans in Malawi and to furnish a sitting room in the new Vine Centre, Belfast.

Bequests and Gifts

52. PWA acknowledges with thanks the following bequests:

Mrs Anna H Hunter £3,000.00

May Elizabeth McClenaghan £200.00

53. PWA wish to express their sincere thanks to an anonymous donor for their generous gift of £3,607.50 received during the year 2000/2001.

Wider World

54. Wider World has enjoyed another excellent year and has included articles about our Church's work in Ireland and overseas, news of personnel together with articles which seek to inspire and challenge. The children's page, compiled by Mrs Adrienne Campbell, is a great favourite with our younger readers and we thank her for her work. We are grateful to Mr Raphael Sutter who produces beautiful photographs for the magazine covers.

55. Printed quarterly, copies of the magazine are sent to partner Churches on all five continents.

56. Sincere thanks are due to the editor, Mrs Alison McCaughan and all those who have contributed to the magazine and its wide promotion.

Young Women's Groups

57. The 2000/2001 theme "Forward with Christ" was shared by YWG and PWA. The YWG Annual Rally was held in Orangefield Presbyterian Church on 3 April, 2001. Rev Mairisine Stanfield, 1st Ballynahinch, gave the address. Cheques for £12,000.00 each were handed over to Rev Terry McMullan for Nepal and to Mrs Helen Harrison for Gray's Court.

58. Mrs Pamela Martin, YWG Chairman, visited Nepal from 23 April – 3 May, 2000.

59. Office Bearers 2000/2001:

Chairman:	Mrs Pamela Martin
Secretary:	Mrs Heather Aiken
Treasurer:	Mrs Daphne Caldwell
Magazine Editor:	Mrs Katrina McCullough

60. The YWG Home Project will provide funds to train new counsellors for the Marriage and Family Committee. The Committee, under the Board of Social Witness, offers confidential Christian counselling to couples experiencing relationship difficulties. Overseas YWG will support several development projects of the Christian Church in China. Teacher training, rural primary school libraries, wells, maternity and childcare and Church-run kindergartens are among the projects being considered.

RESOLUTION

1. That the Report be received.

BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS

Convener: Rev J M CATHCART
Secretary: Mr N J CHAMBERS

“Jesus mixed with sinners and showed them love. He knew that many would find the gospel too hard and would walk away, but he fed and healed them just the same, because God is love and when love sees a need it tries to meet it.” (Sir Fred Catherwood, “Engaging With The Community – The Challenge of Mission in the 21st Century”.)

1. The Board of Social Witness is required by the Code (Par 281), inter alia, to concern itself with all questions affecting the social welfare of the Church and the community, and all questions affecting the Church and industry, and may undertake activities to further the Church’s witness in these fields.

2. Throughout 2000, the Board and its committees have sought to implement a programme of work that is consistent with the objectives that it had set. These are:

- To develop social concern throughout the church both for people in the church and those in the wider community.
- To provide support and rehabilitation for vulnerable people.
- To offer informed comment to the church on complex social and ethical issues.
- To assist congregations in developing their social witness in the community by offering advice and education and by providing information about resources that are available.

3. Accounts of work undertaken and progress made are included in the reports of committee conveners and chairpersons.

Funding

4. Total income for the year was derived from the following sources:

	£000
Income from services	3,150
United Appeal	190
Donations and Bequests	90
Grants	130
Other	160
	<hr/>
Total Income	3,720
	<hr/>

5. Total expenditure incurred in 2000 was £3,650,000. The breakdown of expenditure was as follows:

	£000
Older People	2,560
Addiction and Education Services	450
Ex Prisoners	217

Student Accommodation	170
Unemployed People	30
Deaf People	77
Relationship Counselling	4
Publications	2
Management Costs	140
Total Expenditure	3,650

6. The Board's ability to undertake this range of work is heavily dependent on its allocation from the United Appeal, the generosity of those who make donations and bequests and grants received from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. In addition to income derived from these sources, the Board and its agencies are paid for services provided to Health and Social Services Trusts and other statutory agencies. It is, therefore, clear that income from the Church and private individuals enables the Board to undertake a great deal of work in partnership with other organisations and to maintain a witness through providing much needed services. While some of the services are used by members of the Presbyterian constituency, services are offered unconditionally on a 'whosoever will may come' basis.

Efficiency

7. The Board is a complex organisation that is sustained by its members and a range of committees. During 2000, the Board has sought to streamline its system of committees, some of which are stated committees of the General Assembly, with others being business committees that report to the Board. The total number of committees with executive responsibility has been reduced from some 18 to 10, with a total of 110 serving members.

8. The Board has continued to work with the Board of Finance and Administration in the improvement of accounting and personnel procedures. The Board is grateful for the support it has received from honorary treasurers in implementing the centralisation of some accounting procedures. This process, which will be continued throughout 2001, should result in improved financial management and other information.

9. The Board is indebted to the Committee on Finance and Staffing and its Personnel Officer Mrs E McClenaghan for their help in up-dating personnel policies and procedures and for advice on complex employment-related matters.

Vision

10. The Board of Social Witness is more than an efficient business organisation. It seeks to engage with a section of society that is often not in touch with congregations, and to be part of the mission and outreach of the Church. The Board has been challenged by the report **Reconnecting with a Missing Generation (Presbytery of North Belfast and the Board of Mission in Ireland)**. It has sought to contribute to this general discussion by publishing a

document **Engaging with the Community: the Challenge of Mission in the 21st Century**. This document acknowledges that

“We live in a time of frighteningly rapid change. We live in a context where the church’s past influence (even dominance) is quickly eroded. No longer is the church seen as the bedrock of Irish society. No longer is the church allowed the final word in matters of morality. No longer is the church’s opinion sought on every matter of importance to our community.....It is this earth shattering change which Engaging with the Community seeks to begin to address.

This collection of papers has been put together in an attempt to help local congregations think through what re-establishing this link might mean - what faithfulness to Christ will look like in their context”. (Rev Dr Gary Millar)

11. The Board believes that social witness is widely accepted as a legitimate and vital part of mission. But there is concern that this acceptance is often not translated into active engagement in the community, with the community. Evangelistic efforts often still assume that reaching the unchurched will take place on church premises, if not in the church building itself: that evangelism is an event, rather than a process of engagement and relationship building. The priority of good works is often not evidenced in mission strategy statements and in teaching about evangelism and discipleship. The Board therefore wishes to contribute to discussion within PCI about the nature of mission, engagement with the community as a basis for gaining community acceptance and the right to minister to people from the perspective of our beliefs and experience of Jesus Christ.

Development

12. Significant new developments have taken place in a number of areas. After several years of discussion and searching for a site on which to build a new facility for learning disabled adults, a suitable location has been found in Coleraine. Building will commence in March 2001. This mission to learning disabled people was commenced some years ago at congregational level by Rev Jim Waring, while he was Minister of Ballyrashane congregation. The Board looks forward to a close working relationship with the Coleraine Presbytery and the Causeway Health and Social Services Trust as this new work develops.

13. Responsibility for the Marriage and the Family Committee and the Panel on Re-Marriage passed from the Board of Evangelism to the Board of Social Witness in 2000. The Board has begun to implement some of the recommendations adopted by the previous Board and has appointed a part-time Co-ordinator/Administrator. A partnership is developing with Christian Guidelines in the training of new relationship counsellors.

14. Carlisle House, in partnership with the Habinteg Housing Association, has extended its work by opening a small complex of flats for men and women who need a period of supported housing following their treatment for addictions.

15. The Residential Trust commenced the building of new sheltered housing for older people at Tritonville Close in Dublin.

16. The War Memorial Hostel Committee assisted the refurbishment of part of the Presbyterian Chaplaincy so that some of the students at Derryvolgie Hall could operate a live arts programme there each week. This provides a point

of contact with the wider student population, which would not otherwise take place.

17. PCI Enterprises opened a new job shop at 112 York Road Belfast to assist long-term unemployed people to find necessary training and suitable employment. This is a valuable contribution to urban mission in that area.

18. Each of these initiatives is small, but significant in the overall work and mission of the church. The Board wishes to thank all who have encouraged and supported these particular endeavours, both personnel within PCI, volunteers and staff in a wide range of external organisations.

Thanks

19. It is important to record our thanks to those whose professionalism, commitment and support has contributed to the ongoing work of the Board.

- The Management Team: Norman Chambers, Linda Wray, May Gordon, Richard Gamble and Arlene Wilson.
- The Office Staff: Ellen Wilmont, and Jennifer Patton.
- The Residential Trust staff: Patricia Large, Jean Gourley and Mary Tobin.
- The Personnel Officer: Eileen McClenaghan for her guidance on employment matters.
- The Government Departments and agencies without whose financial backing we could not function.
- Committee and Board members.
- Conveners and managers of projects.

Mr Norman Chambers, Director of Social Service, writes:

20. It has been a privilege to work under the enthusiastic and visionary leadership of Rev Maynard Cathcart, as Board Convener. He has consistently shown compassion to the Board's staff and encouraged us not to grow weary or to become disillusioned by the enormity of the task of promoting social witness. We are indebted to him for his sacrificial contribution of time and emotional support, for his wisdom, patience and understanding. We pray God's richest blessing for his ministry at Waterside and Fahan churches.

Minister in Recognised Service – (Called by the Board of Social Witness under Code Par 281.3)

Rev Douglas Baker, The Mediation Network for Northern Ireland, reports:

1. In the course of the past year my work as Development Officer for the Churches' Programme of the Mediation Network has involved actual mediation in a number of church and organisational disputes and preventative training with clergy and lay leaders from all denominations. I am particularly pleased to be able to report that this has included training with PCI licentiates, Methodist probationers, and post-ordination training for both Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic dioceses. Feedback from all of this indicates that training for handling conflict in the church and in society needs to be an integral part of ministerial preparation and in-service training.

2. Mr Joe Campbell, Assistant Director of The Mediation Network, and I continue to work with the PCI Conciliation Committee and are currently developing modules on “Handling Conflict,” “Facilitating Decision-Making” and “Managing Change” for use with ministers, Kirk Sessions and other leaders.

3. In partnership with Dr Cecelia Clegg of the Irish School of Ecumenics I have been developing and leading a course titled “Skills for Transformation” which is particularly aimed at those working with groups in an inter-church context. As part of my work I also have assisted a number of local inter-church initiatives with strategic planning or programme development.

4. Finally, I continue to serve as Convener of the Peace and Peacemaking Committee.

THOMPSON HOUSE

1. As we reflect on the work of Thompson House over the past year we have had quite a number of encouragements. We need to remember that the residents are men who have many problems coping with life. The help that they need is more than a hostel. The Director and Staff continue to carry out their responsibilities in a sensitive, understanding and loving manner, which we trust will have an influence for God and for good in the lives of these men. The Committee expresses its gratitude for the dedication and commitment of all staff and volunteers at Thompson House.

2. We covet the prayers of the Church for this outreach to a very needy section of our community.

3. This year the majority of residents have been over 25 years of age. Occupancy in Thompson House ranges from 85-90%, fulfilling the requirement of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland set at 85%.

4. Bible study is held on Wednesday mornings. Rev Jackson Buick and Mr Bryan Marshall facilitate this group using the What the Bible Teaches booklet from the Emmaus Bible school. The study is attended by 3-4 residents.

5. There has been an increase in referrals arising from alcohol related crime resulting in more residents having to be admitted on a “dry house” rule, where they are unable to return to the hostel if they have consumed alcohol.

6. The Management Committee and staff are grateful for the support received from the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and from individual Probation Officers. An excellent working relationship exists which is based on mutual trust.

7. The Committee and staff are also grateful for the support and encouragement they receive from the General Assembly and from the wider Church. In visiting congregations and church groups to talk of the work, we are aware of the prayerful support undertaken, without which the work could not be done.

8. The Committee is concerned to clarify its responsibility for the Thompson House Hostel and the Boys’ Residential Club/Trust respectively. Resolutions 10-12 will, if approved, place responsibility for both with the Thompson House Management Committee, under the supervision of the Board of Social Witness.

J C BUICK, Chairperson

PCI ENTERPRISES

1. The year 2000 was one of new beginnings as PCI Enterprises reinvented itself in order to continue to meet effectively the needs of unemployed men and women in the lower north Belfast community. Decisions were taken and new services formulated in response to emerging trends. A locally based, community model of service delivery was initiated, one which could be adapted and used in other places.

2. Thus the organisation relocated to 112 York Road Belfast, where it now provides a one stop Job Shop to meet local needs. The premises are strategically placed to ensure ease of access for the local community. The Job Shop is adjacent to the First Step Drop-In Centre, a Methodist project with whom a close working relationship has developed. The area, which previously had no such service, is one of high unemployment with all the social problems associated with the inner-city.

3. The Job Shop will seek to resource and equip individuals for employment through a wide variety of initiatives and programmes. It will also be proactive in endeavouring to remove barriers to employment and ensuring local people are 'job ready' for any new employment opportunities that present themselves.

4. PCI Enterprises would like to thank the funders involved in supporting the Job Shop, including United Appeal; Belfast European Partnership Board; Belfast Regeneration Office and Lloyds TSB Foundation.

5. The Committee welcomes Myna McCullough, Job Shop Manager and Elaine Bryson Administration Assistant to the staff. Their enthusiasm for and commitment to the work has already shown dividends in the quality and breadth of the services provided.

6. The task of locating resources to promote and encourage volunteerism within churches and in assisting churches to become involved in local community development, both in the context of emerging government policy, remains ongoing.

M GIBSON, Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING DISABILITY

1. The Committee on Learning Disability has been meeting to forward the project to provide sheltered accommodation for 9 people with a learning disability.

2. Building work commenced in Coleraine in mid-March 2001 with completion expected in early 2002.

3. Interest in the project is growing throughout the Church and already the Presbyterian Women's Association and Sunday Schools have promised their financial support.

4. The Committee is conscious of the need, not only to provide accommodation for learning disabled people, but to find ways of helping the Church at large to minister to the spiritual needs of that vulnerable group within our Church.

W J WARING, Convener

ADDICTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

1. The Addiction and Education Services Committee continues to promote positive Christian thinking and lifestyle through its programme of education and discipleship. The Insight Resource Shop at Upper North Street offers a wide range of useful literature on the many forms of addiction. Miss Louise Kane, Development Worker, provides on site advice and counsel to callers and co-ordinates a highly successful volunteer education programme.

2. The volunteer programme is entering its fourth year. There are now 20 volunteers trained and available to address meetings of church, school and community groups. This programme aims to educate and advise young people of the adverse effects of drug use, and provides useful information for those who have family members suffering from addiction.

3. The Committee expresses its gratitude to Dr Anne Watts who resumed responsibility as Acting Director of Carlisle House in the absence of Mrs Helen Harrison who was ill.

4. Carlisle House is now into the ninth year of providing professional help and care for men and women facing the challenge of drug or alcohol addiction. An increasing number of young people referred are addicted to heroin. One of their greatest problems on returning home after the eight-week programme is finding drug-free environments in which to socialise. The opportunity exists for churches to be at the forefront, showing young people that they care, through providing drug free venues where they can meet together.

5. A long identified need was fulfilled when Gray's Court, called after the much loved first chairman of Carlisle House Management Committee, was officially opened by the Moderator in October 2000. The project is a joint one with Habinteg Housing Association, and consists of seven self contained flats. People who have undergone rehabilitation from addiction, but who for various reasons are homeless and still vulnerable, can be accommodated in this supportive drug and alcohol free environment.

6. As well as overseeing the day to day running, the Project Worker, Mr Jackie Skilling, does a sterling job in enabling residents to get involved in training or work and to move on, after about six months, to independent living. Dr Anne Watts runs a weekly support group for residents. Despite the problems inherent in such work there has been great satisfaction in seeing lives changed and people moving on with renewed hope and self-respect.

7. The Committee is grateful to those who have supported this new venture, particularly the Young Women's Groups who donated a magnificent £12,000 towards the cost of furnishing a residents' lounge and other rooms at Gray's Court.

8. Spiritual input continues to be provided in both Carlisle House and Gray's Court with most residents and staff now attending weekly devotional times and with many residents making use of Chaplaincy services on a regular basis.

A BEATTIE, R LOVE, Co-Conveners

KINGHAN MISSION COMMITTEE

1. Over 30 years ago the late Dr Austin Fulton described the Kinghan Mission as a foreign mission at home. This is as true today as it was then. A foreign language - British Sign Language, a different culture and many deaf people in Ireland who have never heard of Jesus.

2. Communicating with deaf people means learning a different language - a visual language. While there is still stigma attached to the language of sign, deaf people are becoming more proud of their own language and are eager to learn its syntax. Many hearing people now take classes in sign language and are learning to communicate with this often forgotten part of society.

3. There are over 800 families in N Ireland with at least one child with a hearing loss. Some of these children will mainstream in their local school, many will attend partially hearing units in ordinary schools, 39 attend Jordanstown School and 41 go to schools in England for their education. Few attend any of the recognised churches for the deaf and many young deaf people have never heard of Jesus.

4. The Kinghan Mission is in a unique position to minister to deaf people. We have a central, purpose-built church and use the most modern visual aids in our weekly services. Teaching is provided on a range of topics on Wednesday nights. Pastoral care is available for those who need support and counselling, irrespective of church membership. Exciting and innovative ways are being tried to connect with young people. Interpreting is provided in other Christian settings. Deaf awareness is taught throughout the Church. We are involved in mission.

5. Rev Dr George Grindle, Superintendent, is due to retire in 2003 and the Committee is looking forward to continuing its mission work, with a new leader. It is hoped that this person will be appointed soon and have some time to experience the culture and learn the language of the deaf community before taking up office in 2003.

6. Mrs Anne Rodgers, Lay Assistant, is now in her fourth year of service and is already an experienced worker who has gained much respect in the deaf community.

7. The Committee is grateful to the large number of friends who regularly support the Kinghan Mission by prayer and giving. Without their help and the generous support of the United Appeal it would certainly not be possible to continue this special aspect of the Church's work.

8. This is God's work. He has given us the vision. He calls us to enter a land of good things. The best years of the Kinghan are yet to come. We go forward with Him.

J McCLUNE, Convener

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY COMMITTEE

1. Since its move to the Board of Social Witness in 2000, the Committee has been helped to implement recommendations made in last year's report. A

new Co-ordinator/Administrator, Mrs Stephanie Windrum, was appointed at the beginning of January 2001. A dedicated phone line is available during office hours. Telephone Number 028 9261 0586

2. The Marriage Care Counselling Service provides a greatly needed service to the community – to a cross section of people in distress, from varying backgrounds and denominations. Much work has been done in the area of physical and emotional abuse, sadly a subject which people are either too embarrassed or ashamed to talk about; the guilt and distress caused by this has to be addressed seriously. The need for counselling has increased – in many ways thanks to a more open and healthy admission of the need for help. In response to this need the Committee agreed that more counsellors were required. There was a good response to publicity and advertisements by people interested in being trained as counsellors. The process of selection and training is ongoing.

3. The search for alternative accommodation for some counselling sessions has continued and various possibilities explored. It is hoped that in the next few months some counselling sessions will take place in a suitable environment outside Church House.

4. The Panel on Remarriage has continued its valuable work under the administrative care of Rev James McAuley. The Committee would like to place on record its sincere thanks to Mr McAuley for his years of diligence and dedication to the sensitive area of re-marriage. He has worked for some 12 years as panel co-ordinator and all his work has been greatly appreciated. Mrs Windrum has now assumed responsibility for the administration of the work of the Panel on Remarriage.

5. The Committee propose that a review of the work of the Panel on Remarriage be undertaken. This should assist the Panel in providing an improved service to Ministers.

6. The Committee wishes to thank Rev Maynard Cathcart and the Board of Social Witness for the warm welcome its Convener and members have received. The sincere interest shown in our work has been most encouraging. Thanks are also due to Mr Norman Chambers, Mrs Ellen Wilmont and the staff of the Board of Social Witness office who were most helpful during the transitional period.

7. The Committee would like to stress the need for the support of Ministers for our efforts – if counsellors are to help couples in distress, it is vital to see them as early as possible when problems arise. Ministers are requested to encourage members of their congregations to ask for help, assuring them of the confidentiality of the Counselling Service.

8. Areas of concern which may be considered by the Committee in the future are a Listening Service, Telephone Counselling, Marriage Preparation and the provision of a support mechanism for people who have been separated or divorced.

9. In conclusion, the Committee asks for the continued prayers, support and interest of the General Assembly in the work of marriage care counselling.

10. A report of the Annual Meeting of the Inter-Church Standing Committee on Mixed Marriage is appended. In view of the inter-church nature of this Committee's deliberations, it is proposed that responsibility for nominating representatives from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to it pass

from the Marriage and the Family Committee to the Inter-Church Relations Committee.

R SIMPSON, Convener

APPENDIX

REPORT ON THE INTER-CHURCH STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIXED MARRIAGES – 2000

Rev John Brackenridge reports:

The Inter-Church Standing Committee on Mixed Marriages met in Mount Oliver, Dundalk on 17th November 2000. Most Rev Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor, Co-Chairman of the Committee, chaired the Meeting.

1. Changes to the Committee Membership

It was noted that there are no changes to the Committee membership.

The Committee heard apologies from Very Rev Brendan Murray who was unavoidably absent. Mons Vincent Connolly attended the meeting in his absence.

Bishop Farquhar extended the good wishes of the Committee to Bishop Michael Mayes on his translation from Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh to Limerick and Killaloe.

2. Report on the Meeting of the Inter-Church Standing Committee on Mixed Marriages 1999

There was a brief discussion of last year's Report and it was noted that the Report had been distributed and approved by each of the Churches.

Under matters arising, some clarification was sought regarding approval by the Holy See of *One Bread, One Body*, the joint document from the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland on the Eucharist and norms for sacramental sharing. In reply, the Roman Catholic members affirmed that the document had received the 'confirmatio' of the Holy See. It was noted that on 30 November 1999 an Inter-Church Meeting took place to discuss *One Bread One Body*, at which Fr Bernard Longley, Assistant General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, made a presentation on the document. The clarifications offered by Fr Longley were welcomed by those present.

It was highlighted that the Catholic Church's teaching on Inter-Communion in the context of Inter-Church couples is often a source of hurt and pain – indeed to both parties. The importance of Inter-Church couples discussing this matter prior to marriage was emphasised.

3. Joint Preparation for Inter-Church Marriage

The Rev John Brackenridge and Ken Dunn reported on recent pre-marriage courses held in the Greater Belfast area for couples preparing for Inter-Church

marriage. A similar course also took place in Downpatrick, Co Down. Much of the subject matter and questions dealt with throughout these courses were broadly similar to the issues dealt with at Inter-Church preparation courses held elsewhere. These courses continue to be well received by participants. It was noted that only a small percentage of the total number of Inter-Church couples avail of the courses with only one course taking place in Belfast last year.

It was felt that every effort should be made by each church to publicise the dates of the courses in an effort to support and commend them to all engaged Inter-Church couples.

It was also noted that the initial concerns couples may have had at the outset of the courses were largely dispelled very rapidly and feedback received after the courses had finished were both positive and encouraging.

Difficulties in organising courses outside Belfast and Dublin were highlighted. In this regard, the initiative to host a course in Downpatrick was welcomed. Given the sensitivities involved, however, some couples welcome a degree of anonymity. Consequently, couples preparing for Inter-Church marriage wishing to participate in one of these courses are reasonably happy to travel to Belfast.

Some discussion took place regarding further publicity for these courses. It was felt that every effort should be made by each church to publicize the dates of the courses in an effort to support and commend them to all engaged Inter-Church couples. It was decided that a contact name and telephone number should be included with the Minutes of this meeting. [Harcourt Street, Dublin, Tel. Dublin 780866 and Belfast, Tel. Belfast 9023 3002].

The members of the Committee expressed their grateful thanks to all those involved in the preparation of Inter-Church couples for marriage.

4. Recent Trends in Inter-Church Marriage

It was generally agreed that there are no trends particular to Inter-Church marriage couples giving rise to major concern. The difficulties which periodically do arise seem to emerge due to isolated problems at local level. A small number of instances regarding assurances sought concerning the baptism of children were discussed and the Committee expressed a shared sense of anxiety that the approved regulations may not have been followed in these cases.

The Committee referred to the section on 'The Baptism of Children of Inter-church Couples' in the document *Dealing with Inter-Church Couples* published by the Inter-Church Meeting.

It was noted that, where there is a good working relationship between the clergy and the couple involved, this is a source of help and encouragement to the couples and their families.

The Committee continues to express concern over the growing numbers of couples within each of the traditions who choose co-habitation before, or in place of, marriage.

It was acknowledged by the Committee that Inter-Church marriages are occasions for pastoral care and sensitivity and all strategies should be used to help renew couples in their commitment to their own churches.

5. Pastoral Care of Inter-Church Families

During a discussion on the pastoral care of Inter-Church families, it was noted that many couples move to a different parish after their marriage which makes it difficult to organise visits from clergy and ongoing pastoral care.

A worrying trend may also be emerging as to couples' level of interest in or commitment to ongoing pastoral care by the clergy of their respective Churches.

Very often the celebration of the baptism of a child is the only contact between couples and clergy. It was agreed that this celebration is a unique opportunity for further catechesis. In this regard, the work of baptismal teams in preparing couples for the baptism of their children was commended. The work of local Clergy fraternities in this regard has also proved very helpful.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that next year's meeting of the Inter-Church Standing Committee on Mixed Marriages take place in Mount Oliver, Dundalk on Friday, 16th November 2001 at 2 pm.

Members of the Committee

Rev John Brackenridge
Most Rev Gerard Clifford
Rt Rev Mons Patrick Devine
Mr Kenneth Dunn
Most Rev Anthony Farquhar (Co-Chairperson)
Mrs Olive Marshall
Rt Rev Michael H G Mayes (Co-Chairperson)
Very Rev Brendan Murray
The Rev Ronnie Nesbitt
Rev Aidan O'Boyle
Rev David Turtle

PRESBYTERIAN RESIDENTIAL TRUST COMMITTEE

1. The work of the Presbyterian Residential Trust is part of the caring ministry of the Church. To be God honouring and effective we must maintain the highest possible standards in both personal care and business practice. The continuing high levels of occupancy in all our homes indicates that the high standard of care, within a Christian ethos, is desired and appreciated by residents and their relatives. A recent survey revealed that many of our new residents had visited up to ten other homes before choosing a Presbyterian Residential Trust home.

2. Registration and Inspection Unit reports continue to commend staff for their diligence and dedication. The Committee recognises that staff represent our most valuable resource and are appreciative of the high professional standards they maintain. The Committee has also been mindful of the additional

stress caused by staff shortages, and have endeavoured to maintain appropriate staffing levels, although there continues to be considerable difficulty in recruiting nurses. The Residential Services Manager, Mrs Linda Wray, amongst her many other responsibilities has continued her enthusiastic commitment to staff training and has now received her NVQ Internal Verifiers Award. The appointment of Mrs May Gordon to the post of Assistant Residential Services Manager will not only ensure adequate supervision and support of the homes, but will also facilitate further in-house training for staff.

3. The Presbyterian Residential Trust operates within an increasingly complex care sector. The requirements of Registration and Inspection Units, employment legislation and financial management have led to the review of our management structure and the role of House Committees. It is hoped that the increased pastoral role of the House Committees and their more active involvement with the Presbyterian Residential Trust Committee will appropriately and effectively utilise the expertise available.

4. Work on the erection of an additional 16 flats at Tritonville Close, Dublin commenced in August 2000 and is expected to be completed by June 2001. The Moderator, the Right Rev Dr T W J Morrow, laid the foundation stone in September 2000 and it is hoped that the Official Opening will be held in November 2001. The Committee records its appreciation of the project team under the leadership of Dr John Reid.

5. The replacement of Corkey House has demanded both creative thought and patience. Our partner in the project, Oaklee Housing Association, has been successful in arranging a funding package, but finding a suitable site in the area has been more difficult. It is hoped that progress on site purchase will be made before the summer of 2001 so that building work may commence in early 2002.

6. Previous reports to the General Assembly have indicated that the majority of our properties are not purpose built and that several will either need to be refurbished or replaced. Recognising that the Presbyterian Residential Trust does not have capital resources, the Committee met with several Housing Associations to discuss partnership funding to develop new schemes. The Committee has agreed that its major partner should be Fold Housing Association. We have had helpful discussions on the replacement of Sunnyside House, Bangor and initial discussions regarding Ard Cluan, Londonderry.

7. The Committee has continued to monitor both Government's and the Northern Ireland Assembly's response to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Long Term Care of Elderly People. The Presbyterian Residential Trust believe that full implementation of the Commission's proposals are fair and achievable.

T J McCORMICK, Convener

SOCIAL ISSUES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. The Social Issues and Resources Committee continues to provide a Christian perspective on issues that confront our church today. The Committee initiates discussion and provides resources on various topics and sometimes it

responds to requests from the wider church membership to address a certain pressing issue. During the past year the Committee has focused on three issues.

2. *The Church and the Local Community:* The Board of Social Witness is committed to mission in its broadest sense. If the Church is to evangelise our world today congregations need to engage meaningfully with local communities. The Committee has produced a booklet to stimulate discussion and to provide ideas for those who want to share the gospel in the context of practical loving concern. The booklet entitled "Engaging with the Community" has articles from a variety of people who have something important to say on this issue, backed up by experience. From the Foreword of the Booklet, written by Gary Millar: "*There are two compelling reasons for engaging with the community. First our proclamation will ring hollow if it isn't backed up with practical concern...Second we must engage because we are called to care for those around us. This is caring with no strings attached. This booklet rests on the premise that evangelism and social action are inextricably linked in the purposes of God. They are not the same thing – neither are they alternatives.*" We commend the booklet to the Church for study and action.

3. *Disability:* The Committee continues to receive positive comments in relation to the video on disability *May I Come In?* produced last year. The Committee would encourage congregations which have not viewed it to do so soon. The video has been produced with Kirk Sessions, Congregational Committees, PWA and other organisations in mind. To augment the video, a Bible Study on disability is now available. This Bible Study and the video are aimed at helping congregations to examine their attitudes towards disability and those who are affected by it, and the guidance provided for us in the Scriptures. The Committee hope that it will be a positive contribution to affirming members of our Church who are disabled and will encourage those who are able-bodied to respect and better understand the needs of disabled people.

4. *Eating Disorders:* In response to growing awareness of eating disorders the Committee have prepared an information pack aimed at helping those suffering from these conditions. The pack will also be useful for carers, relatives and church leaders as they seek to come to terms with an illness that is not actually about food but about how a person uses food to try to cope with life's problems. Eating disorder is, in part, a psychological disease requiring specialised counselling. The information pack will help those beginning to look for a way out of the problem and others to have a better understanding of an area that is fraught with misconceptions. It is a first stage, but the Committee believes a good first stage, in helping people address this vital issue. Our thanks go to those who specialise in this area and who helped to compile the pack. Copies are available in the Board Office.

5. The Committee has been busy over this past year and wishes to record its thanks to those who have helped to produce the above publications, to Norman Chambers and the office staff for all their help and advice.

6. The Committee wishes to encourage ministers and other members of the Church to contact us if they believe that our Church needs to address a certain issue. Despite limited resources and expertise, we are committed to

producing resources of a high standard that will help our church membership live out the commission of Christ in a fast changing world.

N A L CAMERON, Convener

CHILD PROTECTION MONITORING GROUP

1. The Monitoring Group continues to provide advice, help and training to congregations in this important area. We are indebted to Norman Chambers and Stephanie Windrum whose wisdom and specialised experience continue to be invaluable in addressing issues and concerns that are referred to us.

2. Trainers in child protection are available to help congregations and Presbyteries raise awareness of this issue. Please contact the Board office if you would wish training to be carried out locally.

3. It is now five years since the Child Protection Guidelines were introduced. The Monitoring Group has reviewed the Guidelines and a reprint is now available. The new Guidelines are substantially the same but will incorporate the Explanatory Notes, which had been issued separately.

4. In the Report of the Child Protection Monitoring Group to last year's General Assembly, the Assembly was made aware that it would be appropriate to place a duty upon Ministers to declare to the Clerk of Assembly, in confidence, any future investigation, summons, arrest or conviction for a serious offence. The General Assembly noted that an obligation upon Ministers to notify the Clerk should be provided for by an amendment to the Code.

5. The need for this change arose initially in the area of child protection, but it is by no means confined to that. At present candidates for the ministry have to make a declaration regarding any past and "spent" convictions. In the interests of consistency, the Child Protection Monitoring Group believes that this obligation to declare previous convictions should be extended to an obligation to report any future investigation, summons or conviction.

6. Furthermore, this obligation should relate not only to child protection matters, but also to matters affecting the general integrity and conduct of ministers, licentiates, accepted students for the ministry, deaconesses and deaconesses in training, in performing their duties. Accordingly, the duty to report would relate to investigations, summons and conviction relating to serious offences, for example an offence involving dishonesty, indecency, violence, alcohol or drugs. It would not apply, say, to a minor traffic offence.

7. The General Assembly will appreciate the sensitivity of these matters and will wish to be assured that they will be dealt with appropriately and in strict confidence.

8. The obligation to report should not be confined to Ministers but should also be placed upon Licentiates, accepted Students for the Ministry, Deaconesses and all appointed to, or training for, posts of Ministry or Mission.

9. Because of the sensitivity of these matters, the Clerk of the Assembly should be promptly notified in the first instance. The Clerk will treat the matter in strict confidence and he will be best placed to determine what action, if any, needs to be taken, and who should be informed.

10. The obligation to notify the Clerk should relate to future investigations or convictions for serious offences. It will apply retrospectively only in respect of the obligation to declare past convictions, not investigations.

11. Three resolutions are appended. The first two refer to the obligation to disclose to the Clerk information about serious offences. The third resolution calls for overtures to be prepared for the General Assembly 2002 to give legislative effect to this obligation.

N A L CAMERON, Convener

PRESBYTERIAN WAR MEMORIAL HOSTEL COMMITTEE

1. Derryvolgie Hall provides a home for 88 young people, mainly students studying at Queen's University Belfast. Demand for places remains high with 81 applications received for 37 first year places last year.

2. The Committee pays tribute to the work of Rev Steve Stockman and his staff at Derryvolgie Hall who seek to make it a place where the truths and lifestyle of Biblical faith are encouraged to be thought through and lived out in a twenty-first century world.

3. The programme has included looking at pivotal moments in the Old Testament and the Gospels, working through a 'back to basics' programme on Christianity, resourcing students on how to reach out to their friends and wider community. A series on money, materialism and Biblical justice in trade issues has also taken place.

4. As the Derryvolgie site is full the Committee is seeking to further develop ministry in the Queen's University area. An ad hoc committee has been set up to investigate ideas with one possibility being to focus on post-graduate students and young professionals.

J H MARTIN, Convener

OLD AGE FUND, WOMEN'S FUND AND INDIGENT LADIES' FUND

1. The year 2000 brought sorrow, for the death took place of Sir Josias Cunningham, who served ably as a Director of the Funds from 1981 and as Honorary Treasurer from 1982. Sadly, Mr Ronald Jess also died, having served faithfully as Secretary of the Funds from 1974 to 1991 and as a Director from 1991. The Directors remember these colleagues with warm affection and sincere thanksgiving.

2. The Directors thank Mr Hilton Henry for his valuable contribution as Secretary since 1991 and wish him good health and happiness in his retirement. The Directors welcome Mr Clive Knox as the incoming Secretary.

3. The Directors report that, during the last financial year which ended 31 December 2000, 144 beneficiaries (36 in the Old Age Fund, 85 in the Women's Fund and 23 in the Indigent Ladies' Fund) received grants.

4. The total distribution of the Funds in Grants, Donations and Gifts was £81,311 (£19,946 from the Old Age Fund, £47,380 from the Women's Fund and £13,985 from the Indigent Ladies' Fund).

5. During the year 22 grants ceased because of the deaths of beneficiaries and 5 beneficiaries withdrew because of improved financial circumstances. Nine new beneficiaries were added to the roll.

6. A 'Special Gift' of £140 was sent to every beneficiary prior to Christmas.

7. During the year the Directors responded sympathetically to various problems which had been brought to their attention. They gave one-off donations, as needed, to assist in particular cases where immediate financial aid was more appropriate than annual grants. Ministers are asked to bear in mind the possibility of help from these funds.

8. The Directors assure the Church that all monies that come to the Funds are carefully and wisely spent.

9. The Directors of the Funds deeply appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness of those who have remembered the work of the Funds either by gift or bequest, and hope that their example may encourage others to support this vital aspect of the Church's outreach.

10. The Directors of the Funds wish to thank the staff for the sensitive and sympathetic way in which they carried out the efficient administration of the Funds during the year.

W P H ERSKINE, Hon Sec

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the resignation of Rev J M Cathcart as Convener of the Board of Social Witness be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev R Vally be appointed Convener.
3. That the resignation of the Rev J W McAuley as secretary of the Christian Marriage Panel be noted and that he be thanked for his services.
4. That the General Assembly commend to the wider Church the booklet "Engaging with the Community - The Challenge of Mission in the 21st Century" for its prayerful consideration.
5. That ministers, licentiates, accepted students for the ministry, deaconesses and all appointed to, or training for, posts of Ministry or Mission be required to disclose promptly to the Clerk of the General Assembly, in confidence, any past conviction for offences against children or other serious offence involving eg dishonesty, indecency, violence, alcohol, or drugs.
6. That ministers, licentiates, accepted students for the ministry, deaconesses and all appointed to, or training for, posts of Ministry or Mission be required to disclose promptly to the Clerk of the General Assembly, in confidence, any future police investigation, summons or conviction for offences against children or other serious offence involving eg dishonesty, indecency, violence, alcohol, or drugs.
7. That overtures be prepared for the next General Assembly to give legislative effect to resolutions 5 and 6 above.

8. That the Marriage and the Family Committee review arrangements for interviewing divorced persons who wish to remarry, in the light of the experience of the Panel on Remarriage, and report to next Assembly.

9. That responsibility for nominating representatives to the Inter-Church Standing Committee on Mixed Marriages and reporting thereon pass to the Inter-Church Relations Committee.

10. That the Boys' Residential Club/Trust and Thompson House be known as the Thompson House Hostel.

11. That the Thompson House Hostel be managed by the Thompson House Management Committee under the supervision and direction of the Board of Social Witness.

12. That the Thompson House Management Committee be appointed annually by the Board of Social Witness.

13. That the customary grant made by the Social Issues and Resources Committee up to a total of £1,500 be met from the Incidental Fund.

14. 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:-

SHANKILL ROAD MISSION COMMISSION

Convener: Rev J S DALLAS

Superintendent: Rev W M CAMPBELL

1. “We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed; Perplexed but not in despair ...” (2 Cor 4:8)

This would be the testimony of the Shankill Road Mission staff since the meeting of the General Assembly in June 2000.

2. Many anxious days were experienced in the summer as evil stalked the Road, but the prayers of many within and without the area enabled us to carry on the work God has given us to do, without closing the doors of the Mission at any time.

Mission Worker

3. ‘Work in Progress’ would sum up Mr Albert Lofthouse’s year.

4. The Children’s Meeting is held weekly and attracts up to a dozen on a fairly regular basis. These children mainly live in the Lower Shankill Estate and it is a tribute to Mr Lofthouse that they continue to support his work.

5. The Men’s Club has developed slowly but surely over the year. The men come into the Café for a meal, then on into the Games Room where an organised programme has been arranged.

6. Around 10 men meet with Mr Lofthouse on different days during the week and relationships are being strengthened. He is able to conduct a short epilogue at the meetings.

Door to Door Visitation

7. Mr Lofthouse and a small visitation team have visited in the Lower Shankill, leaving Christian literature and inviting residents to the Mission’s facilities.

8. As a result Mr Lofthouse was able to show the JESUS video on several occasions to small groups of interested people.

9. By his own warmth of personality and faith, Mr Lofthouse has made very valuable contacts, some of whom are beginning their spiritual pilgrimage, while others are renewing their covenant with the Master.

10. Mr Lofthouse’s ministry in the face of general hardness, apathy and indifference is one deserving again of the prayers and support of the General Assembly.

Hostel

11. The Shankill Road Mission’s involvement with single homeless people, some recovering from alcohol abuse, ended in June 2000.

12. A combination of factors, including changes in legislation, brought about the sad decision after more than ten years of work with this needy section of the community.

13. The sadness was tinged with anger due to the involvement by sinister elements who 'hi-jacked' the premises in Shankill Parade resulting in the loss of valuable equipment belonging to the Mission.

14. There is a definite need to bring a Christian witness and care to this vulnerable group of people, which is increasing in size every year, but the task ought to be addressed by the Assembly and undertaken by properly qualified individuals in a custom-built hostel solely devoted to that purpose.

15. The Mission facility of a Café and a Coffee Shop continues to prove popular with Shankill people. The warm Christian environment, well-cooked and beautifully presented meals, the opportunity for customers to listen to christian music and to chat to Albert Lofthouse, the Mission Worker, are all much appreciated.

16. Mrs Rosalind Wilson and her staff are to be commended for the excellent service which they provide under her able management.

Shops

17. The Charity shops have inevitably suffered due to the tension on the Shankill. Many people were too frightened to come down to the shops and this has had a negative impact on the revenue usually generated by the three shops.

18. Mrs Irwin and her staff have been working very hard to regain customers and establish confidence in regular visitors.

Pathways Project

19. In September 2000 the Pathways Project for disaffected young people at Key Stage 4 (age 12-16), funded by Extern and the Belfast Education and Library Board set up a mixed group within the Mission buildings. It meets Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday using the Café and Games Room.

20. Shankill Road Mission is proud to be part of this attempt to reach out and help educationally disadvantaged young people in the community.

Thanks

21. The Commission would once again commend and thank all the Mission staff for their faithful and enthusiastic work during the year.

22. The Commission is indebted to all those Congregations, organisations within Congregations and individual members who continue to support the work of the Mission by prayer and by practical giving. Without this expression of good will and spiritual solidarity, the work of the Mission would become more untenable and difficult than at times it is.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Mr Albert Lofthouse be commended to the prayers of the General Assembly in the difficult role he undertakes.
3. That the Shankill Road Mission Commission be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 129 of the Code as follows:

YOUTH BOARD

Rev R JAMES HYNDMAN, Convener
Miss ROSALIND STIRLING, Youth Officer

1. The Youth Board seeks to support, facilitate and encourage the work that is done in local congregations, continuing that same urgent ministry of bringing Jesus to the young people of today, the young people of the 21st Century. The Board realises the difficulties and problems faced by youth leaders working with post-modern young people in a post-Christian society, but there are many opportunities for outreach and discipleship too. Obviously we cannot, in these short paragraphs, present everything that the Youth Board offers in the way of help and resources for youth ministry. To find out more look up the website (www.pciyouth.org) or contact the Youth Office; the staff would love to help you.

2. The Board wishes to record its gratitude to the vast number of volunteer youth leaders and full-time youth workers in local congregations for the excellent work that they do. Working many unsociable hours with sometimes little thanks is a sacrifice that is often overlooked. Without their dedication and perseverance youth ministry would not be possible.

3. The Board is deeply grateful to those who are employed on their behalf to serve the church through the Youth Office. To Miss Roz Stirling, Youth Officer, and the team of efficient administrative staff, Miss Lois McIlrath, Mrs Claire Child, Miss Pamela Patton and Mrs Helen Bruce, we extend our deepest and sincerest thanks. The Youth Office staff ensures that the ever-growing work of the Board is effectively planned and executed. During the year the office said goodbye to Mrs Ann Creighton; we extend our sincere thanks to her for her valuable contribution and wish her, her husband David and their new family God's richest blessing in the future.

4. Many congregations have benefited from the support and training of the Youth Development Officer for Northern Ireland. We extend our gratitude to Mr Graeme Thompson for the insight, vision and enthusiasm he has brought to the task and would encourage Kirk Sessions and congregations to make use of the training, resources and advice he offers. The Board continues to seek the appointment of a Youth Development Officer in Dublin and Munster. The Board welcomes the appointment of Mr Richard Houston as Regional Youth and Support Worker in Donegal and Monaghan Presbyteries. We pray for God's blessing on him as he settles into this new post.

5. The Board continues to be indebted to Mr Ian Scott and the staff at the Lucan Youth Centre who provide such an excellent residential resource. Ian Scott also continues to develop the work of the 'Preparing Youth for Peace' Programme, with the support of an enthusiastic Working Group. This single identity programme, which will assist leaders and young people to explore what it means to be a Presbyterian, is making consistent progress.

6. Mr Maurice Kennedy continues, through his role as Youth Board Development Officer, to be a considerable asset to the work. His oversight of the

Gusymere and Rostrevor centres and his tireless work in searching out sources of financial support for the work of the Youth Board is deeply appreciated.

7. The Nexus Ireland project continues to enjoy capital support from the United States. The Board also wishes to record its gratitude to Mrs Helen Kennedy for her support of the Nexus project through her role as secretary.

8. The Youth Board wishes to thank all those who supported and continue to support the 'The Same Sky' Youth and Sunday School project 2000/2001 which highlighted the youth work in Kenya, the Loft project and the 174 Trust.

9. The Board welcomes the development of a new strategic plan by Youth Link NI. The member churches have greatly welcomed this process and are confident that it will bear good fruit.

10. The Youth Board continues to be indebted to our Church for the finance received through our United Appeal allocation which permits our work to continue. We deeply appreciate the effort required by congregations to meet their allocations and record our gratitude. The Board continues to seek to use this financial assistance with great prudence.

Rev David Stanfield

11. The Youth Board also records its sincere gratitude to the Rev David Stanfield for his commitment to the work of the Youth Training and Resources Committee. Under his direction the Youth Training and Resources Committee has flourished in the development of significant training opportunities for young people and leaders. We thank him for his vision and wish him well in his new post with Youth Link.

YOUTH HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

Summer Outreach

1. Summer Outreach continues to provide an opportunity for people from 16 years upwards to serve God, people of all ages to be reached with the Gospel and congregations to be assisted in their work for a short period each year. The interest in receiving a team has increased over recent years. As a result, steps have been taken to access the usefulness of existing teams and the assigning of new teams so that the effectiveness of limited human resources can be maximised. Congregations wishing to apply for teams should now do so by March in the year prior to a team commencing work, eg application for a team commencing in July 2003 should have an application with the Youth Office no later than 31 March, 2002.

2. Summer Outreach teams are not just for young people but are open to everyone over the age of sixteen. Congregations are encouraged to recommend people of all ages to serve God on summer outreach teams.

Year Team

3. The Year Team continues to play an important role in the congregations in which they have been placed. They help in many ways, as

deemed necessary, under the direction of each Kirk Session, with advice and guidance from the Year Team Working Group. Members of the Team continue to benefit greatly from their work, developing their spheres of service both as individuals and as a team.

4. Work is already well under way to establish a team for the year from September 2001. Congregations are encouraged to recommend young people to serve on the Year Team as well as considering having the year team placed within their boundaries.

Evangelism and Social Action

5. Following requests and interest expressed by both young people and youth leaders, a need has been identified to train our young people in sharing their faith and to stimulate them socially within the Christian context. A new working group will be set up to examine the areas of training needed to help our young people share their faith. This group will initially organise a pilot training event to judge the needs and interest throughout Ireland.

6. A second new working group will be set up to investigate ways which will be of benefit to our young people with regard to social action.

Ethnic Minorities

7. Concern has been voiced regarding our attitude to the witness to ethnic minority groups. Such groups are increasing in number considerably and only in a few places are efforts to evangelise apparent. The committee is encouraging all its working groups to consider what can be done in each area.

General

8. The Committee wishes to express thanks to the working groups, chairpersons (Revs P Dickinson and J Flaherty), Youth Officer and Youth Office staff for all their hard work and dedication, often beyond the call of duty.

9. The prayerful support of all our members is sought that God might continue to use our efforts in His service and that His blessings might continue to flow upon us.

D J PAUL, Convener

YOUTH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

1. The Overseas Committee has continued to evaluate its role within its meetings and also in the Working Groups. It seeks to continue to provide opportunities for young people to be exposed to the Lord's work in other cultures and contexts by sending teams to and receiving teams from various locations around the world. Those who serve on the Committee are deeply passionate about this area of the Board's work and believe it can make a lasting impact on the lives of young Christians. We thank God that we have seen blessing in and through young people on teams and who have received help from the Project Concorde Fund and also in the congregations who have hosted visitors from overseas. It is regrettable that our working groups, whilst numerous

on paper, actually have to operate with small numbers. We would encourage as many members as possible to support this important work.

Outgoing Teams Working Group

2. In 2000, we sent two teams on long haul trips to Brazil and Kenya. These teams had a preparation weekend in Portrush in the spring when they focused on the challenges that lay ahead of them and were involved in team building exercises. In June, there was a Commissioning Service for all who were serving God through the Youth Board during the summer. This was well supported by the various young people travelling out during June to September. They were encouraged by the challenge brought from God's Word by the Moderator.

3. In Brazil, under the leadership of Judith Addley and David Laney, our team linked up with Mabel Colson at the Caiua Mission, visiting Indian villages and working on some maintenance work at a local church; and then to Lynn and Heather Cochrane in Cruzeta where they observed and also participated in evangelism ranging from children's work to street work. A final stop at Sao Paulo to visit projects dealing with inner city problems ie juvenile delinquency, victims of domestic abuse, teenage pregnancies. In Kenya, under the leadership of Roz Stirling and William Crawley, the team was based in Kikuyu with Paul and Anne Bailie. They had a wide and varied experience in visiting local church community based projects. They were also involved in the building of some new premises for a local congregation working alongside some of the local people. The team to Wembley did not take place in 2000 as the Macwans had returned to India for a period and the two congregations which we normally work with requested that in the Macwan's absence we postpone our usual visit for one year.

4. We also contributed to young people who travelled under other programmes to Asia, Africa, Europe, North & South America through the Concorde Fund.

5. Bushfire, the report-back day, was held in September and the various groups who had travelled out during the summer met together and reflected on their experiences and put their reflections into a programme which many have used in congregations, youth groups and PWA's throughout the winter session. The feedback was very positive from the teams.

Incoming Teams Working Group

6. We had two visits from overseas teams during 2000. The first was a team from Hungary. They visited Lucan in Dublin, where they learned about youth work and how it is facilitated here in Ireland. In Cookstown they went along to the Bible School, Route 66, and then finished off their time in Portrush with some sightseeing of the north Antrim coast. The second group received was from Kenya. They were involved with a number of churches in the Tyrone and Belfast areas. They also attended Route 66, linking up with the Hungarian team. They also had the opportunity to be involved in Holiday Bible Clubs in Castlecaulfield, Maghera and Cullnady.

Plans for 2001

7. Plans are well under way for the summer with teams going to Thailand, France and Wembley. This will expose young people from our Church to a wide variety of experiences and cultures. They will have the chance to observe how Christians work in circumstances very different from our own in Ireland and will also have an opportunity to participate in the different spheres of work being carried out. We are looking forward to receiving a team from Brazil in 2001.

P C LYLE, Convener

YOUTH CENTRES COMMITTEE

1. The Youth Centres Committee continues to be encouraged by the activities held each year in our various centres in Guysmere, Castlerock, Lucan, Co Dublin and Rostrevor, Co Down and are pleased to report that during the past year a large number of young people and leaders have benefited from the facilities.

2. It is the constant prayer and aim of the Committee to seek to develop our facilities where young people can be challenged by the claims of the gospel, taught in the Word of God and instructed in how to use the gifts and talents God has given them for the benefit of the Church of Jesus Christ and their fellow citizens throughout the length and breadth of the land and further afield.

3. Our centre at Lucan continues to thrive under the directorship of Mr Ian Scott and his staff, whose commitment to its aims and objectives throughout the past year has enabled its ministry to impact the lives of many within the local community and beyond.

4. As in past years, our centres continue to be used to facilitate various camps in keeping with our objectives as centres of ministry. Rostrevor continues as a weekend centre for youth groups. The Lucan and Guysmere centres, with their sports halls, provide adequate facilities for weekend groups and additional opportunities during the week for local groups to use the facilities. The Youth Centres Committee is encouraging the development of the centres in order that they may be used as bases for local witness within their surrounding communities. The soccer camps in Guysmere and Lucan are heavily subscribed by young people living in the local area. The Guysmere Soccer Camp provides an additional facility for holidaymakers in the Castlerock area. Last year, the soccer camp based at Guysmere was repeated in Ballymoney. Lucan continues to host the annual Summer Camp and Senior Summer Camp. The Boys' Camp and the Girls' Camp at Guysmere continue to have a significant impact in the lives of many young people who attend annually. The Adventure Camp at Bushmills is being transferred this year to Rostrevor Youth Centre.

5. The summer activities for 2001 begin with the Guysmere Boys Camp from 6– 14 July and the Girls Camp will take place 28 July – 4 August. They are for boys and girls respectively aged 12 and over. The Lucan Soccer Camp from 29 July – 3 August is aimed at 11-15 year old boys and girls. The Adventure

Camp with its new venue will take place from 5–11 August for 14–16 year olds. Lucan Senior Summer Camp is from 6 – 10 August and geared towards 16 – 18 year olds. The Castlerock and Ballymoney Soccer Camp (non residential) is again for boys and girls and will be from 13–17 August for 8–16 year olds, and finally Lucan Summer Camp for 12–15 year olds will take place 14–19 August. An additional extra this year is a Surf Camp being held at Guysmere, Castlerock from 29 June – 3 July.

6. Mr Maurice Kennedy, our Youth Board Development Officer, continues to focus his attention on developing and expanding the work of our centres at Guysmere and Rostrevor, and as a Committee we place on record our appreciation to him and his wife Helen for all the energy expended in respect of the work.

7. It is the Committee's desire to continue to develop high standards of service to young people through our three centres. We thank God for the facilities that we have, for those who over the past year have come to faith and for young Christians who have been challenged into further avenues of service as a result of ministries within the centres.

8. Thanks are extended to individual members at local level who serve on the Guysmere, Rostrevor and Lucan Management Committees and also to the staff of the Youth Office for their willingness to promote the work with graciousness, competence and enthusiasm.

D I J McNIE, Convener

YOUTH TRAINING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. In the midst of development and change the vision remains the same. 'To enable local churches to develop youth ministry that is effective in reaching, nurturing, challenging and equipping young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ.' This year has seen an expansion in the opportunities offered by the Committee in pursuit of this vision.

Youth Ministry Certificate

2. This certificate is now well established as a thought-provoking and challenging introduction to the philosophy and practice of Youth Ministry. Courses were offered in Belfast (Union Theological College) and Coleraine (University of Uster) during the Autumn Semester, making it more widely accessible (one participant even came from Donegal). Fifty leaders completed the course, including a number of ministers who registered through the Ministerial Development Scheme. Discussions are on-going about the development of a more comprehensive Diploma in Youth Ministry.

Training Trevor

3. Held in November 2000, the event included an extra day considering 'Critical Concerns'. These proved their usefulness with nearly 100 attending. The Saturday programme contained an extra dimension with an evening event

geared towards 'emerging' leaders. The main bulk of the Saturday programme followed our tried and tested formula with a keynote address from our Moderator, which set the tone for the day, and a wide range of seminars offering significant contributions from a host of local speakers as well as Mike Yaconelli and Mark Oestreicher from Youth Specialties and John Middledorf, also from the USA. As part of the Board's on-going strategic review no Training Trevor is planned for 2001.

Youth Link

4. Youth Link is increasingly able to support and complement the Youth Board in the development of its strategic plan. This year Youth Link enabled Presbyterian leaders to receive training in Germany and the USA alongside assisting in the development of the Year Team and training partnerships with other churches.

Website

5. The website continues to expand its content and sphere of influence; check it out at www.pciyouth.org

Resources

6. A recent issue of Youth in Focus demonstrated some of the work of this Working Group with a series of resource reviews. The resource library in the Youth Office continues to expand and the staff are always willing to offer advice.

Preparing Youth for Peace

7. The audit conducted by Gareth Higgins has been completed and its results are encouraging. The Working Group is currently assessing the next developments in the light of its findings. A number of regional facilitators are being identified, who will be trained to work with youth leaders and young people in local churches. Programme Officer who would be responsible for the development and delivery of such training is being appointed using money secured from outside sources.

D STANFIELD, Convener

YOUTH EVENTS COMMITTEE

1. The Youth Events Committee continues to plan four major events each year, namely two General Assembly Youth Nights in June, the Route 66 Bible Conference in August, the 'MAD' Weekend in October and TGI Christmas in December.

Youth Night

2. At Youth Night 2000, the Rev Rico Tice (Associate Minister in All Soul's, London) addressed two congregations of young people on a theme based on Ecclesiastes Chapter 2. On 8 and 9 June 2001 we look forward to a return

visit from Mark Oestreicher, from Youth Specialties, USA, who will address the theme of Spiritual Transformation in a Presentation entitled 'Finders Weepers, Losers Keepers'. Singer-song writer, Sarah Mason (USA), will also take part.

Route 66

3. The committee is pleased to report that the recently established Route 66 Bible Conference, held at Loughry College, continues to provide a high quality and relevant teaching programme for young people who are seriously pursuing Christ. The name 'Route 66' is borrowed from the Route 66 in the United States of America reaching from coast to coast. It reflects the Conference aims to assist young people make the journey from cover to cover through the sixty-six books of the Bible. In August 2000 the main conference speakers were Rev John Woodside and Rev Dr Gary Millar. In August 2001 the main speakers will be Dr Gordon Hugenberger (Gordon Conwell Seminary and Park Street Church, Boston) and Rev Dr William Crawley (Chaplain, University of Ulster).

MAD Weekend

4. The second MAD weekend, held from 27-29 October 2000, built upon the success of the first. The keynote speaker was the Rev Steve Stockman (Dean of Residences, QUB). The initiation and consolidation of relationships among young people remains a key factor in ministry. One aim of the MAD weekend is to relieve leaders of much of the responsibility of planning a youth weekend, thereby enabling them to have quality time for meaningful interaction with their own young people. The overwhelming demand for places at this weekend event, held in the University of Ulster at Coleraine, is indicative of the high quality programme of spiritual, social and recreational activities on offer. It was again very encouraging to see so many Presbyterian young people fill the University area as they united in times of worship, teaching, and recreation. The next Mad weekend will take place at the same venue from 26-28 October 2001, when the Rev Jonathan Moxen will speak on the theme of 'Let Jesus make a difference'.

TGI Christmas

5. Due to the History Makers Conference TGI Christmas did not take place in 2000. However this pre-Christmas event will resume again in 2001. While this event differs slightly in style from other youth events, the strongly Christian ethos clearly presents young people with the reality of God incarnate and the implications of the Christmas message.

J W P McCONNELL, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Revs R J Hyndman, Dr William Crawley, John Peacock and Mr Trevor Long be appointed as representatives on the Youth Link NI Council and the Board of Management of the Churches Youth Service Council.
3. That the following grants be paid from the Incidental Fund:

- Youth Link NI - £6,500
- PCI Family Holiday - £6,000

4. That the resignation of the Rev David Stanfield as Convener of the Youth Training and Resources Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev Jonathan Moxen be appointed in his place.

5. 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:

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Convener: Rev JAMES McALLISTER, OBE

Secretary: Rev R F S POOTS, OBE

1. In a society beset by countless problems, the greatest dangers to children seem obvious enough: poverty, violence, neglect, disease, abuse and more. Visible and invisible, suffered or only seen, these evils have been about always, and it is universally agreed that they are terrible things. To overcome them time, money, thought, and effort have to be spent lavishly and consistently.

2. In an Essay written as long ago as 1919 Herman Hesse suggests that the first step is to recognise that the root cause of all such ills is our lack of reverence for life. He writes, "All disrespect, all irreverence, all hard heartedness all contempt is nothing less than killing ... With just a little witty scepticism we can kill a good deal of a future in a child or young person."

3. Irreverence for children, he asserts, pervades almost everything in our culture, including our speech; the sarcasm that allows us to laugh at their expense, the disdain we have for their feelings when we discuss their short comings in front of them, and – we should note this with particular attention – the way we gloat over one child's achievements and sigh over another child's lack of achievement.

4. At the very heart of the Education Board's commitment to the growing person is our reverence for the "child", and that in the spirit of Jesus who reversed the normal practice of taking a group of children and placing a 'teacher' in the middle of them. Instead he began by taking a group of floundering adults, placed a child in the middle of them and said, "Learn from the child".

5. Your Board, through its Committees and through individuals under its jurisdiction, has been exercising itself to promote growth among children, young people, parents and church members generally, mentally, socially, morally and spiritually, in the name of, for the sake of and by the enabling of that same Jesus Christ.

Resignations

6. The Church is indebted to Prof R H Mitchell who, having completed seven years as convener of the University Education Committee, will tender his resignation in June.

He brought to the task his lifetime's experience of students and the university environment, proved himself an able negotiator with management authorities and with other Churches and was motivated by a love for Christ which created in him a deep pastoral concern for students, staff and chaplains alike.

Prof Mitchell won respect for his approachability, clarity of thought and administrative skills which contributed to the further development of The Bush and the advance of the ministry at Derryvolgie Hall. Perhaps his greatest achievement has been the leading of negotiations with the Methodist Church,

which has resulted in a scheme of joint Presbyterian/Methodist chaplaincy ministry in the universities and colleges at Dublin.

7. The Rev W T J Richardson has also tendered his resignation as Organiser of Religious Education in day schools.

For eighteen years he has been meticulous in the collection and collation of information about the denominational enrolments of primary schools, has sought to allocate ministers to take classes and conduct assemblies in certain schools, to encourage the teaching of RE in terms of the Northern Ireland RE Core Syllabus and to provide support for staff and ministers alike.

Mr Richardson carried out these duties with typical commitment in spite of a heavy load of congregational responsibilities and with gentle determination which achieved results where a more forceful approach would have failed. He gained enormous personal satisfaction from the teaching of the Word of God to pupils and from the continuing good relationships between schools and local clergy.

Recognised Ministries

Rev David Bruce, General Secretary of Scripture Union (Northern Ireland) reports:

1. Scripture Union in Northern Ireland looks back with thankfulness to God for another year of growth in ministry. Whether in Schools, Holiday Activities (CSSM and Camps) or working with the Churches through resources and training, we have been acutely conscious of God's help.

2. Looking ahead, we will be approaching a number of congregations as part of our strategy in schools over the next three years. Our intention is to employ a number of co-ordinators (part time in the first instance) in up to twelve districts around Northern Ireland. This project starts in the Lisburn area in September. These new staff will work with local churches to develop Christian witness in schools. If trends identified in other parts of the UK are replicated in Northern Ireland, there is likely to be an increasingly secular agenda being promoted in our schools. Currently, we enjoy great freedom in both the RE curriculum and through after school clubs organised by SU and other groups to introduce biblical witness. Developments elsewhere indicate that this privilege could easily be lost. Our strategy will put some extra staff hours each week into schools themselves to ensure that the need to keep Christian witness to the forefront in our schools is on everyone's agenda. In the meantime, the SU Council will seek to make representations, where appropriate, on this crucial matter. We commend this to the prayers of the Assembly.

3. I would like to thank the many ministers and congregations who make SU teams so welcome over the summer months either through CSSM or SU Camps. Their support is crucial to the future fruitfulness and success of this ministry.

Rev Patricia McBride , Chaplain at the Royal and Prior Comprehensive School, Raphoe, Donegal, reports:

1. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to minister as school chaplain in the Royal and Prior School. As a minister it is good to be able to meet young people in their own school setting, thus conveying a message that the church and the school believe that Christian Spiritual Development is an important part of full education.

2. Daily year-group assemblies provide a regular short time of worship. We have been honoured to have had the Moderator, Dr Trevor Morrow, as one of our occasional guest speakers at assembly. Dr Morrow was also our guest speaker at this year's Prize Day. Special services to mark the start of the academic year and to ask God's blessing on our leaving Certificate students, as well as the annual Carol Service, are further opportunities to worship as a school community.

3. At Scripture Union meetings a small number of staff and pupils gather for times of informal Bible Study, learning about various forms of Christian ministry through visiting speakers and prayer together.

4. Religious Education has just become an examination subject. We hope to begin following the new syllabus, which is designed to promote spiritual and moral development, as well as knowledge about Christianity and some understanding of other world religions.

5. My integration into the full life of the school is facilitated by a few hours per week teaching other subjects. This, together with leading a cross-border project with Transition Year Students, helps me in developing relationships with students, staff and parents.

6. The pastoral care of students and staff is an important on-going part of my role as chaplain.

7. I very much value the continued prayers of the Assembly in my ministry.

STATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. The pace of change is fast in our world today. This is nowhere more apparent than in the world of education to the extent that it is not always easy to keep abreast of what is taking place and to offer informed comment. Much change is the consequence of advances in technology as knowledge and skills frequently become out-of-date. Other change is imposed by government, often with unnecessary speed. The State Education Committee continues to ensure that our Church's interest in and influence on the education provided for our children is not diminished whatever changes are taking place.

Representation of the Churches

2. Recognition is increasingly being given to the legitimate voice of the Churches in educational affairs. The Transferor Representatives' Council has been invited to comment on the "Education for Industry" consultation document. Church representatives will attend the Irish National Teachers'

Organisation “Forum on Selection”, the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and a Department of Education Strategy for Education seminar. Representatives have met with the Northern Ireland Assembly’s Education Committee, with representatives of Area Boards, with the Minister of Education, with the Area Board Chief Executives and with the chairman of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment. One representative has served on the Working Party on Integrated Education.

www.faithinschools.org

3. The Website, introduced last year, is being visited increasingly. The highest number of hits was 138,194 in October, 2000 made by 5,456 users.

NICIE Resolution to DENI

4. The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education has forwarded the following resolution to DENI:

That both trustee and transferor representatives on transferring schools be increased from two to three, thus bringing the Board of a CIS school to 16, in line with GMI, provided that one trustee and one transferor seat be given to a parent or guardian of a child attending the school in question at the time of appointment.

The Committee welcomed the NICIE decision and encouraged further co-operation.

General Teaching Council

5. The Rev R F S Poots has been appointed to represent the Churches on the Advisory Group for a Northern Ireland Teachers Council and later, on the Council, for a period of two years. The TRC has agreed to appoint from the three Churches in two yearly cycles.

Transferor Representation

6. Representation has continued to be made for a new method of the nomination of transferors to serve on the boards of secondary schools and, also, for action to be taken to ease the pressure on the two transferor representatives on the Western Board. As a result the Minister has granted one additional transferor place on that Board and it has been agreed to bring a joint TRC/Area Boards scheme to the Minister for nominations to secondary boards of governors.

Education and Library Boards

7. The Rev T C Morrison was appointed to the Belfast Education and Library Board in place of the Rev J R Dickinson, who resigned. The Rev Dr D Patton has since resigned and it was decided, after consultation, not to nominate a successor so late in the Board’s term.

8. An invitation to nominate to the five Boards and to prepare for the reconstitution of boards of governors is imminent.

Harrogate Visitors

9. Visits were paid to a number of schools and a significant event, to which other interested parties in education were invited and at which the visitors spoke about their schools, was held in Stranmillis University College. A dinner was also hosted by the TRC.

Compulsory Lottery-Funded Teacher Training

10. The Committee wrote to the Minister following concerns expressed by the Rev Lindsay Blair about teachers who were facing a crisis of conscience over compulsory training which was funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery. A response from the Permanent Secretary stated, "... careful consideration has been given to ways of paying for the costs of this training from education funds where a teacher does not wish them to be met by the New Opportunities Fund. I am glad to be able to confirm to you that in circumstances where a teacher is opposed to the use of lottery money for reasons of conscience, the bills will instead be forwarded by each Board to the Regional Education Technology Project Co-Ordinator. He will then arrange for them to be paid from separate money provided by this Department for this purpose." A significant point of principle has been established!

Transfer Procedure Review

11. Two reviews going on at the moment are the main focus of discussion by educationalists – the review of the NI Curriculum and the review of the process of transfer from primary to secondary education.

12. The Transferor Representatives' Council, after analysing the responses to a survey which they conducted, has prepared a response to the consultation on the transfer procedure. They emphasise that each child and type of school should be held in equal esteem and that each child is entitled to access high quality education which is best suited to the child's ability and current and future needs.

13. They agree that the current method of selection at 11+ is unsatisfactory and recommend that it be discontinued. A gradual change is recommended using key stage two assessment and continuing research.

14. It is accepted that differentiation or selection in one form or another is unavoidable. Further research could be done on selection at 14+ but this must be prior to any change.

15. The TRC recommended that a strong lead be given by politicians, community leaders, the churches, the media, the department of education and Education and Library Boards to change community perceptions away from "selection" with its mental legacy of "pass/fail".

16. Having concerns about the present NI curriculum the TRC recommends that change in the curriculum should precede changes in structure of post-primary schools.

17. It is important that all our people avail themselves of every opportunity to become more informed about proposals whatever the outcome of the present review. We are aware that there is a wide divergence of opinion and that the Minister of Education has put his cards clearly on the table. It is

important that governors and teachers continue to work positively for the benefit of all our children. Parity of esteem for children with equality of opportunity are the essential priorities.

18. Radical changes to the structure of our system of education and to the curriculum have financial implications:- capital finance for new or improved buildings, finance for new resources, finance to facilitate re-training of teachers. If the government is unable or unwilling to meet this essential extra funding the changes will result in a deterioration, not an improvement, in the educational provision for our young people. The financial implications of any proposed change must be carefully costed by the Department of Education and the people of our province must understand the effects of this on the overall budget of our Assembly. Good education cannot be delivered “on the cheap”.

Curriculum Review

19. The other review being conducted at the moment is a review of the NI Curriculum undertaken by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment. The CCEA proposals are now out for consultation. They propose a radical revision of the curriculum. Much is very good as it allows more flexibility to secondary schools to tailor the statutory curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils. There is an increasing emphasis on personal and social education. It is important that Christian people respond to any consultation, ensuring that the moral and spiritual content in the curriculum is retained.

Religious Education

20. The teaching of Religious Education remains a main interest on the part of PCI. With the approval of the chief executives we have established a Religious Education Group which brings together the Education and Library Board Advisers in RE and representatives of the Churches jointly to promote effective support for the teaching of RE – and in particular the core syllabus. We have been pleased to be consulted on the production of some very impressive materials.

21. On the local front we encourage governors to ensure that RE is properly timetabled and fairly resourced out of the school’s budget; that, as far as possible, an RE specialist is appointed to the staff of post-primary schools and an RE co-ordinator appointed in other cases. We also encourage boards of governors to request DENI to include RE in its inspection of each school.

Pre-School Education

22. Some other issues are also receiving attention at the moment. The increase in provision of pre-school education is well advanced. Government has put a lot of money into this and local Pre-School Education Advisory Group Committees have worked hard to implement the initiative. There are some concerns that the ideal of community pre-school provision in “neutral” premises has been lost. This has resulted in real difficulty in certain areas where the provision has been placed in a school associated with one section of our community leaving too few children for a previously thriving community

playgroup. Unfortunately, we appear now to be too far down this road for a change to be made.

Review of the RE Core Syllabus

22. The Minister of Education wrote recently to the four Church leaders indicating a review of the RE Core Syllabus. This Syllabus was drawn up in 1991 by a group composed equally of representatives of the Roman Catholic and the main Protestant Churches and it sets out what must be taught in all grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland. Its great strength is that it is entirely biblically based.

23. The four main Churches maintain that the Core Syllabus is in their ownership and that any review must be carried out by a review group appointed by the Churches and not handed over to some other body. The Churches have already taken preliminary steps to set up a review body.

24. The Drafting Group, in 1991, resisted pressure to include material on other world religions in the Core but left it optional for boards of governors to have world religions, or any other relevant topic, taught in their schools. The Churches anticipate even greater pressure to include world religions in the revised Core Syllabus.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Primary Schools

Rev J S B Drennan, Director of Primary Education in the Republic of Ireland, reports:

1. In the Republic of Ireland, National School Boards of Management are a partnership between parents; the patron, usually a mainline denomination and the Department of Education as well as community representatives. Sixteen of the 200 schools under Protestant management are Presbyterian, a small but not insignificant 8% of Protestant managed schools.

2. The PCI enjoys a good relationship with the Church of Ireland Board of Education in Dublin on which the Rev Nancy Cubitt is our representative.

3. A continuing source of complaint is the requirement for each Board of Management to make a contribution to the running costs of the school and the per capita payment from the Department is not paid over until the school's contribution has been lodged in the bank. The contribution has been set at £7.50 per pupil, £4 in disadvantaged areas, and cannot be demanded from parents though, in reality, it is the parents who pay.

4. Parents may now claim a transport grant where a pupil lives more than two miles from the nearest school and no bus service is suitable.

5. Teacher shortages in the Republic make it difficult to find suitable substitute teaching cover. Prayer is needed for the supply of Christian teachers.

Secondary Schools

Mr B Duffy, Director of Secondary Education in the Republic of Ireland, reports:

1. In the Republic of Ireland there are currently 26 post-primary schools recognised as being under Protestant management, though of this group only a very few have a Presbyterian input to their management. Those schools are situated in 12 of the 26 counties and provide places for upwards of 10,000 pupils.

2. The Secondary Education Committee, representative of the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches as well as the Religious Society of Friends, was brought into being in 1965. As well as distributing grants of about £3m to Protestant families, it acts as the policy co-ordinating body for Protestant post-primary education. PCI is represented on the SEC by Brian Duffy and Rev Mary Hunter.

3. The Education Welfare Act has recently been passed which will provide a new statutory agency and new measures to ensure that all children receive their statutory entitlement to education. PCI welcomes the commitments in the Act to ensuring that children do not “drop out” of the education system while expressing concern at the increased administrative workload for schools in implementing the provisions of the Act.

4. The Secondary Education Committee welcomes the recent increase in the allocation of funding from the state. There had been a long gap since the last substantial increase and this will enable the committee to increase the maximum grant to families most in need and also to address the particular problems of middle income groups. The committee continues to urge the government to provide annual increases through an agreed formula.

5. A number of schools are now offering the new Junior Certificate Religious Education syllabus which was inaugurated in September 2000.

6. The industrial action which has affected secondary schools in the Republic throughout the year has caused considerable disruption as well as distress to examination candidates. PCI hopes that the teachers and the government will bring this dispute to a conclusion in the near future, in the interests of the well-being of the pupils.

Religious Education in Day Schools

Rev W T J Richardson, Organiser of Religious Education in Day Schools, reports:

1. I have considered it a privilege to fulfil this role for eighteen years and have depended on the co-operation of Presbytery Agents for the collection of statistical information about school enrolments. It has also been my responsibility to encourage ministers to play a full part in the life of the local schools and to insure that RE is being competently delivered at all levels.

2. The vast majority of schools maintain a Christian ethos and deliver the biblically based RE Core Syllabus, an emphasis which must be preserved as

of primary importance in an age when fewer young people attend Sunday School.

3. Ministers report an excellent relationship with schools and that RE is delivered relevantly with the help of modern aids which create greater interest in the pupils.

4. In some areas the collection of statistical information has virtually ceased and, overall, it has become increasingly difficult to collect. The Education Board is seriously considering whether the practice is to be continued.

5. I have already intimated by resignation from this post, effective from the date of the General Assembly. I wish to place on record my indebtedness to all who have assisted me, particularly Presbytery Agents and the various secretaries of the Board of Education.

R F S POOTS, Convener

CHURCH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. The Sunday School Organiser has continued to lead training classes for Sunday School teachers, Bible Class leaders, Holiday Bible Club leaders and Children's Church leaders at congregational and at Presbytery level and has delivered a series of ten lectures on Christian Education to ministerial students, during the first semester, in Union Theological College. Training in the use of the new Sunday School Teacher Training Manual has been given and is still available at Presbytery level.

2. Other events taken by the Sunday School Organiser during the year included children's and youth leaders' dedication services, services based on the theme of Christian Education and many children's and youth services.

3. The Sunday School department published four Teachers' Guides and Worksheets with a 'Presbyterian flavour': i. **The Bible** - in Presbyterian Worship; ii. **The Home Mission** - in the South and West of Ireland; iii. **India** - our Church and Woodstock School; iv. **Presbyterians** - the same only different! However, the uptake of these guides in recent years has continued to fall and the Board has decided that continued production would serve no good purpose. Instead, the Sunday School department could publish resource materials for Sunday Schools on topics such as Presbyterianism and Sacraments.

4. The *MAD* Sunday School and Youth Project, 1999/2000, raised money for the Northern Ireland Hospice Children's Service, for the purchase of a specially adapted bus for Stewart's School, Dublin, and for the production of teaching materials for our missionaries in Brazil, Malawi, and Jamaica. The magnificent sum of £82,703.50 has been received. Sunday School and Youth Groups which contributed so generously to this project are thanked for their support.

5. The Sunday School and Youth Project for 2001/2002 will have a twofold focus – first assisting in a, as yet to be determined, rebuild project with our partner Church in India at Gujarat. The second part to the project will assist with the development of Supported Housing for people with a learning disability at Millbrook Road, Coleraine.

6. The Sunday School Organiser led a team to prepare for a Fun Day at Cultra on Saturday 19 May 2001 - the *Same Sky* Sunday School and Youth Project 2001, to be the beneficiary.

7. The Committee expresses thanks to the administrators of the Local Bible Fund for enabling it to make the following awards of Bibles during the year:

- 12 teachers with 30 years or more service
- 49 children with 5 years or more unbroken attendance
- 1 child for repeating the Shorter Catechism

8. The Committee expresses thanks to Mrs Donna Thompson and Mrs Valerie Moore for the great job they both do in ensuring the smooth running of the Sunday School Office.

9. The Education Board, in partnership with Union College, continues to provide in-depth training over a ten week period for those who are working with children - in the Autumn of 2000 at High Kirk, Ballymena, and in the Spring of 2001 at Union College. Certificates were presented by the College Principal at a special ceremony in May 2001 at which the Moderator was the special speaker. The next course will be held in Dungannon in the Autumn of 2001, followed by a further course at Union College in the Spring of 2002.

I T McKEE, Convener

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. Since the time of last year's Assembly Report the Committee have been working hard to bring to fruition the joint Presbyterian/Methodist Chaplaincy Scheme for the main Dublin Colleges. We have agreed that the start date for the Scheme should be September 2001, that our Church should take responsibility for providing joint chaplains for Trinity and Dublin City University/Royal College of Surgeons, and that the Methodists should do the same for University College and Dublin Institute of Technology. At present the arrangements are being finalised.

2. In Dublin, Rev Keith McCrory resigned from his post as chaplain to DCU and DIT in order to serve in Lucan Congregation. The Committee would wish to record its thanks to him for his excellent contribution to chaplaincy work and wish him God's blessing in his future career.

The Church is fortunate to have Rev Katherine Meyer filling the gap left by Mr McCrory, as well as continuing to work in Trinity. She has been very active in serving students and staff in her charges.

3. At Queen's, the Bush and Derryvolgie Hall continue to flourish. Both have had considerable impact on the witness to students and staff. A student-led initiative in the Bush has led to an active Christian Arts programme being started. It is called 'The Boosh' and attracts large audiences. Revs Noel Williamson and Steve Stockman continue to lead in advancing Christ's Kingdom on the Queen's and Stranmillis campuses.

4. In the Summer of 2000 Rev David Stanfield resigned from his post as University of Ulster chaplain. He has served the Church and the University in

exemplary fashion and is missed. The Committee wishes him well in his new post.

Rev Dr William Crawley has been appointed as the new UU chaplain and he is already making a considerable contribution in his new position. He leads the chaplaincy team that consists of Rev Peter Lyle (Coleraine) and Rev Joe McCormick (Magee). The Springvale Campus has now been approved, and this may mean an extension of chaplaincy input to the university.

5. Our parish ministers in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick are also involved in University and other third level chaplaincy work. They are always pleased to hear of students or staff who come to any of these Institutions. With growing numbers at third level these are important points of witness.

6. We commend to your prayers the work of all those who have pastoral responsibilities in the third level institutions in Ireland. Please pray that our plans for Dublin will be realised in the next academic year.

Queen's University

Rev Noel Williamson reports from Queen's University:

1. Recent trends to increase and broaden access to third level education have continued this year, with a total student body of just over 22,000 at Queen's. In September some 370 Presbyterians enrolled with the chaplain, in what is now a clearly voluntary process.

2. The pressures on students continue to be dominated by financial concerns during their studies and employment opportunities at the end.

3. Chaplaincy continues to present varied and unpredictable challenges and opportunities, particularly in an environment where many staff members find the rapid changes of recent years difficult to appreciate.

4. At "The Bush" our team of Maureen, Elizabeth and Margaret, maintained a welcoming atmosphere and good food.

5. The Wednesday evening student-driven programme "The Boosh" has been a great success.

6. We continue to co-operate happily with the other Elmwood chaplaincies in a mixed programme of events.

7. Many thanks once again to the Committee for their support and to our Convener, Prof Hasley Mitchell, in particular for his years of interest and wise guidance.

University of Ulster

Rev Dr William Crawley reports from the University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus:

1. I took up my current position as Chaplain to the University in mid-October 2000 and was formally installed in mid-January 2001 by the Presbytery of North Belfast.

2. My appointment followed soon after the closure of "Mixers", the chaplaincy café located in the student village, which after twelve years had ceased to be financially viable. This leaves two centres for chaplaincy ministry:

the chaplaincy suite, located on the Mall, which accommodates five fulltime personnel (drawn from four churches) and functions as a fulltime drop-in centre; and a small, well-furnished chapel for more formal worship opportunities.

3. Our chaplaincy team maintains a wide-ranging programme of opportunities for Christian education and faith formation, including an Alpha Course, a Bible Study/Reflection group, and planned worship opportunities. A weekly “Hunger Lunch” is both an excellent socialising point for students and also helps to raise funds for developing world causes. In addition to these regular activities, I am developing “EyeMax”, a movie club which gives students the chance to watch a film on a large screen then meet afterwards for a discussion of the issues and ideas raised by the experience. I am also building a small-group reading circle to explore classic and contemporary literature from a Christian perspective.

4. I have formed a staff-based Forum on Science and Christian Faith, meeting monthly to reflect on the relationship between Christianity and the world of science. In addition to papers, presentations and discussions, we joined with the UUJ Philosophy Department in hosting a lecture by Professor Paul Helm (King’s College, London) on God’s relation to time and immortality. Other very positive links with University teaching staff have been shaped through informal encounters at chaplaincy parties and events. I was pleased to be invited to give a lecture to the University’s American Studies Department on Christian ethics and the American abortion debate.

5. Two weekend retreats are organised each semester, enabling students to make new friends while exploring the wider horizons of Christian faith in seminars and workshops. Our retreats this academic year have been based in Dundrum, County Down; Downhill, County Londonderry; and near Arbroth in Scotland.

6. During the summer of 2001, the chaplaincy will send two student teams to work in *Habitat for Humanity* Global Village projects: a team of 14 students, jointly led by the Catholic and Methodist chaplains, will work in Nicaragua (July); and a team of 10 students, which I am leading, will work in Sri Lanka (June-July).

7. I have been able to establish very positive links with the University’s Students’ Union, and these have proven very helpful in cultivating a pastoral role within student life. Regrettably – because of the interdenominational nature of our chaplaincy ministry – the leadership of the Christian Union at UUJ remains unwilling to develop more co-operative links with our team. This attitude has the effect of discouraging many CU members from participating in chaplaincy events or programmes. I continue to explore ways to create healthier relationships with Christian Union members at a more personal level.

8. My thanks to the members of the University Education Committee – and particularly to the Rev Derek Poots and Prof Hasley Mitchell – for their encouragement and support during this year of ministry.

Coleraine Campus

Rev Peter Lyle reports from the University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus:

1. The past year has seen many encouragements. The core group with which I work have been very faithful in their support not only for events that I run but also in playing their part in the wider chaplaincy work. The work has continued, built around the main focus of Bible study on a Wednesday lunch time. The group has a strong interdenominational flavour with young people from a variety of church backgrounds of differing theological views. This has added to the discussion. This spiritual dimension only operates because of the ongoing social dimension that includes lunches in the University and evenings at our home.

2. Since October 2000 the number of students calling in to discuss things with me has increased. Sometimes they are of a personal nature and other times they are of a spiritual searching nature. It certainly shows that by no means has youth culture abandoned its quest for spiritual reality. What is worrying is that they are prepared to search for it in other faiths and sometimes claim to have found it in them.

3. I continue my role within the Christian Union Advisory group that meets regularly in Coleraine. I also continue to represent the Church at various events that take place on Campus and in particular the public occasions when the Chaplains play a visible role i.e. Graduation Thanksgiving services, Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

4. The number of students registering with chaplains has shown a decline which is a concern for all Churches and makes it harder to make contact with first year students. Congregations are encouraged to inform the chaplain about Church members going to university.

5. The Chaplaincy enjoys the very active support of the Provost, Prof Peter Roebuck, which is not a very common thing in universities in these days. I continue to give much thanks to God for giving me this opportunity to share in this important work with all its challenges and encouragements.

Magee Campus

Rev Joe McCormick reports from the University of Ulster, Magee Campus:

1. Chaplaincy facilities continue to be made available but to a decreasing number of Presbyterian students at Magee. In both challenging and exciting times in the history of the city and the expansion of the university campus it is disappointing that so few of our young people make either Magee or the North West Institute their choice for third-level education.

2. It was encouraging to welcome a number of overseas students, some Presbyterian, but all who were happy to find a spiritual home in Second Derry, and contribute to the life and worship of the local church. One young woman plans to return to Derry in the summer of 2001 for Christian outreach.

3. Fr Finton Digenis, RC chaplain, and I continue to work together for the benefit of both students and staff.

Dublin*Rev Katherine Meyer reports:*

1. From January-September, 2000, I continued as half-time Community Minister in Abbey Church, Dublin and half-time chaplain in Trinity College. From October, 2000 I have been serving full-time in university chaplaincy in Dublin, with one day per week spent in Dublin City University, one day per week in the Dublin Institute of Technology, and the remainder of the week in Trinity. Since March, 2000 I have also been serving as Moderator of the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster.

2. Events in Trinity in which I was involved during the year 2000 included: a guest lecture by Dr John May entitled "European Unity, Christian Division? Christianity's Responsibility for Europe's Past and Future"; an evening seminar series exploring, among other topics, Christian faith and broadcasting; orientation week and welcome events for new students, including a walking tour of Dublin; a student weekend with the Rev Sahr Yambasu, a Methodist minister from Sierra Leone, in which we explored the roots of the conflict in his country, the role of the churches and the practice of forgiveness; Moviewatch 27: Faith in Film, a series of informal evenings on faith and popular culture; an experimental weekly service of evening prayer which combines movement, scripture reading and reflection, prayer, and songs from the world church; and bereavement support groups for staff and students.

3. I received the names of 14 first year students who registered as Presbyterians at the beginning of the year, and I made contact with them all several times before Christmas. However, as only a fraction of students record their religious affiliation, if any, at registration, I continue to be grateful to students, parents, and ministers who contact me themselves, with a student's permission, in order to give me a student's name and local address in Dublin.

4. I currently spend one day per week at DCU, helping to maintain a pastoral presence in the inter-faith centre. I have met on several occasions with members of the Christian Union at DCU. I also spend one day each week in two of the DIT colleges, helping to staff the chaplain's offices in Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street. I have assisted with a DIT reception for international students and with an Advent service of prayer and I am involved with other chaplains in a pastoral reflection group. I have also been asked to take part in a faith reflection day for staff later this year.

5. The extra hours which I am able to devote to Trinity this year have made an enormous difference in my involvement with students and staff, with the result that this academic year, in spite of its continuing uncertainties, has been particularly rewarding. In addition, my colleagues in DCU and DIT have been very supportive of me and understanding of my part-time situation, and I am grateful to them all. I would also like to express my thanks to the members of the University Education Committee for their continuing prayers as I go about my work here in Dublin, seeking to develop further a ministry among students which is creative, contemporary and strongly rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, and to represent the Reformed tradition within the Church of Jesus Christ with integrity and openness.

University College Dublin

Rev Denis Campbell reports:

1. The growth in the number of Presbyterians at UCD has been maintained. Chaplaincy work continues to be demanding and challenging.

2. Contact with students is made largely through home visitation and through attending student societies.

3. This year I co-operated with the Church of Ireland and Methodist chaplains in organising a reception for students in the chaplaincy.

4. Chaplains' Week, a week of special events, took place during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was marked by events pointing out the relationship of Christian faith to our culture. The climax was a gospel concert by a well know musician who spoke openly and unashamedly of her faith.

5. Along with all other departments the chaplains have been required to submit to Quality Assurance, an inspection of our work on the campus. The subsequent report commended the work of the chaplains and their contribution to the life of UCD.

6. Chaplains of all denominations continue to meet for prayer and planning on Wednesdays.

R H MITCHELL, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.

State Education Committee

2. That the State Education Committee be authorised to co-operate with the other three main Churches in a review of the R E Core Syllabus.

3. That the resignation of the Rev T W J Richardson, as Organiser of Religious Education in Day Schools, be noted and that he be thanked for his services.

Church Education Committee

4. That the General Assembly thank Sunday Schools and Youth Groups for their generous support for the current Same Sky Project 2001 and commend the new Project focusing on rebuilding an Irish Presbyterian Mission Girls School in Rajkot, Gujarat and the Supported Housing development in Coleraine.

5. That the General Assembly approve the discontinuation of the Sunday School Department publishing four new Sunday School Lessons annually, and approve the publication of a series of lessons which will not date, and cover important topics eg baptism, communion, children in the church, evangelism, leadership, on being a Presbyterian etc.

University Education Committee

6. That the General Assembly commend the work of all those involved in chaplaincy activity and in the pastoral care of students to the prayers of the Church, and urge all of our young people attending Universities and Colleges in

Ireland to actively participate in the opportunities provided within the Chaplaincies.

7. That the resignation of Prof R H Mitchell as Convener of the University Education Committee be received, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev Dr T R Buick be appointed in his place.

General

8. 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:

BOARD OF STUDIES AND CHRISTIAN TRAINING

Convener: Very Rev Dr A W G BROWN

Secretary: Rev J H ROBINSON

1. The new title of this Board was brought about by decision of last year's General Assembly, and indicates a new direction and emphasis in our work. It has been both enjoyable and significant to be involved in the incorporation of the new Committee on the Resourcing of Christians for Ministry (formerly Christian Training Committee), and the Assignment Committee into the work of the Board.

2. The appointment of the new College and Magee Management Committee, with responsibility for the oversight of both schemes has made for greater efficiency, and appears to be working well. As reported by the Committee, we have had several consultations regarding the use of the Magee Fund for capital expenditure in the College. A submission is being made to the Department of Social Development, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, and it is hoped that with minimum variation of the present scheme, it will be possible for this to go ahead.

3. The Magee Director has done much valuable work this year in launching the Ministerial Development Scheme. It is hoped that each Presbytery will promote the scheme vigorously amongst its own ministers, and authenticate their expenses claims, and that ministers will make use of the possibilities both for In-Service Training, and, where eligible, for Sabbatical leave. We are endeavouring to build up knowledge of really good courses and study opportunities, as well as providing some courses of our own.

4. The forthcoming renovation of the College building has been an absorbing and on-going task, and planning approvals are presently being sought. It seems likely that we shall proceed first with the new build in the quadrangle of the college. The possibility of new and more favourable regulations for grant-aid for the renovation of the existing building means that we may decide to hold back on this part of the work for a little longer.

5. A valuable feature of College life this year has been the opportunity to train our future deaconesses. It has been a privilege to have two full-time candidates and another part-time candidate, all of whom have contributed positively at every level to the College community. We look forward to training more deaconesses for their invaluable service in our Church.

6. The Board continues to keep under review the number of applicants for our ordained ministry, and to respond to the recent shortfall. An informal Information Day for those in any way interested in exploring a call to the ordained ministry was held in April, attracting almost 60 participants, and we were represented again this year at a number of careers days for schools and at the Christian Resources Exhibition. We had intended to look more closely at

models for auxiliary ministry, and we plan to set this study in motion in the near future.

7. We are constantly concerned to widen the interest in and support for Union College, not least within the wider membership of our own Church. We have been encouraged by a number of visits by PWA groups to the college buildings, and anticipate that this will greatly increase when the renovation work is eventually completed. We also welcome opportunities to speak about the College and its future plans to PWA and other groups.

8. The value of having students from overseas has long been recognized, and has been a feature of College life over many years. If we are to expand this work, however, there is a need for more scholarships from congregations and individuals that can be made available to suitably qualified students from partner Churches overseas, so that they can benefit from the teaching, library and supervision facilities we have to offer, and also that they can contribute to the widening of understanding within our own student community.

ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson reports:

1. Interviews for fifth year students, and some others who are taking theological courses outside Ireland, were held on 18 December, 2000.
2. Twelve requests were received for assistants, but only four students were available, all of whom were placed. Current projections for the future are
2002 - eight students
2003 - ten students
3. Consideration has also been given to the possible assignment of two Memorialists, and to the position of two licentiates without charge who did not complete the minimum period of assistantship.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STUDIES

1. The Committee met three times during the year.
2. Through the Director of Ministerial Students it continued to give advice to prospective candidates and to set courses and administer examinations in accordance with the Regulations of the General Assembly and the direction of the Board of Studies and Christian Training.
3. The phasing in of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Theological Education continues. During the year, the first batch of Learning Covenants was drafted and signed.
4. At the request of the Child Protection Monitoring Group it was agreed that a Pre-Employment Consultancy Check should be carried out on all future candidates for the ordained ministry, who should also be asked to declare any previous convictions.
5. In the academic year 2000/2001 there were 22 students under the care of Presbyteries as listed in the appended Schedule.

6. Four students were granted permission to study at Universities/Colleges other than Union: one at Princeton, one at Oxford, and two at Westminster.

7. The Committee expresses its thanks for the work of the following external examiners:

OT Language and Biblical Theology - The Rev I J Patterson, BA, MTh.

NT Language - The Rev W P H Erskine, MA, BD.

NT Greek (Qual) - The Rev W P H Erskine, MA, BD.

Systematic Theology - The Rev D Bradley, BA, BD.

Church History - The Rev T N Hamilton, BA, BD.

Homiletics, Public Worship and Pastoral Work - The Rev Dr D C Irwin, MA, BD.

Study in a Missionary Partnership

Rev Dr Ian Hart reports:

8. Students who are studying for the ministry of our church at Union College are encouraged to spend one of the 3 theological years (or, if they prefer, a “year out”) studying theology in a country where we have a missionary partnership. Such a time can be a very enlightening and stimulating experience. For example, overseas churches are often struggling with very different issues from those we are preoccupied with in Northern Ireland. We sometimes need to be freed from localistic practices, and we may realise that we have been following social conventions rather than the gospel. In recent years students have taken up this opportunity in Kenya (St Paul’s United Theological College, Limuru), in Jamaica (United Theological College, Kingston), and in Singapore (Trinity Theological College).

Pre-Theological Summer School & Phase I Interview

9. The Pre-Theological Summer School and Phase I Interview was held in Union College from Monday 19 to Friday 23 June 2000. The Interviewing Panel comprised: The Revs W D Patton, D B Knox, D I J McNie, S P Moore, R L Craig, F A Bradley, R Lockhart, Miss M McVeigh, Miss J Gywn, and Mr H Plester, together with the Very Rev Dr A R Rodgers (Director), the Rev J H Robinson (Secretary), and Dr D E Eagleson MA, DipVocG and Mrs H Mullan BSc PGCE (Vocational Consultants acting as advisors to the Panel).

Six candidates were in attendance and completed the normal aspects of the interviewing process. All are being recommended to this General Assembly, together with two other candidates from previous years whose Applicants’ Courses had been extended.

10. The 2001 Pre-Theological Summer School and Phase I Interview is planned for 18 to 22 June. The size and personnel of the Interviewing Panel have been approved by the Committee.

STEPHEN P MOORE, Convener

APPENDIX**SCHEDULE OF STUDENTS**

ARDS	Christoph Ebbinghaus	Union
	Cecil A Grant	Union
	Paul Jamieson	Union
	Chris W P Kennedy	Westminster
ARMAGH	S J Mervyn Lindsay	-
NORTH BELFAST	William G Hamilton	-
	William J Hayes	Union
COLERAINE	Darran B McCorriston	Union
	Philip B Wilson	-
DERRY & STRABANE	Roy A Campbell	Westminster
	Paul E Linkens	Union
DOWN	Samuel Newell	Union
DROMORE	Niall S R Lockhart	Union
	Michael McClenahan	Oxford
	William J M Parker	Union
NEWRY	David S Henry	Union
OMAGH	David J Irvine	Union
ROUTE	Glenn A Chestnutt	Princeton
TEMPLEPATRICK	Louise J Duncan	-
	Angus V Stewart	Union
TYRONE	Knox A Jones	-
	Adrian T S McAlister	-

COLLEGE AND MAGEE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Since last General Assembly the Committee has met four times.
2. The Departments of Old Testament and Systematic Theology have been visited this year. Under the leadership of Rev Prof Patton Taylor and Rev Prof Stephen Williams, these departments offer effective teaching and study in their respective fields. A wide variety of useful courses are offered to ministry students, non-ministerial theology and arts students at Queen's, along with those studying part-time, including both under- and postgraduate students. Both departments earth the material in our modern world setting. The Faculty minute book has been inspected.

The Principal reports:

3. "During the spring, Theological Education at Queens underwent a Teaching Quality Assessment. This involved our staff in yet more administrative work. We are happy to report that the results were excellent and that the Institute was judged to be among the top ranking theological providers in the United Kingdom.

In the Academic Year 2000-01 there are 51 full-time students (12 ministerial), and 58 part-time (2 ministerial) students. 94 students are studying PTFI certificate courses, and there are 29 postgraduates on part-time study. The first module of the new Master of Ministry course has been delivered.

In response to the application of the PTFI to the Privy Council for a Supplemental Amending Charter which would enable the offering of degrees in Ministry, a letter was received from the Privy Council saying that there was no need to have such a Supplemental Amending Charter as the PTFI had such powers already through the Charter. There is ongoing discussion with the legal team concerning the bringing of the entrance requirements for candidates for PTFI degrees into line with the practice in other universities. This may require a resolution from the General Assembly, which will appear, if necessary, in the Daily Minutes. Discussions are also taking place as to how PTFI degrees could be made available more widely especially to partner Theological Colleges overseas. We have also had an approach from Monkfield College in England.”

4. During the year, plans for the redevelopment of the College site were finalized. As of mid-March they are awaiting planning approval. It is hoped that work can start on the site in the early Autumn. The necessary phasing of the work to cause least disruption will mean completion in Autumn 2003.

5. Representatives of the Committee met with the Trustees of the Magee Fund Scheme in relation to the redevelopment. The full text of the Magee Fund Scheme is set out in Reports 1979 pp 38-40. To put beyond doubt the authority of the Trustees to expend Magee monies on adapting and maintaining Union College it is recommended that the Scheme be amended as follows:

that clause 8(a) be renumbered 8(a)(i), and that the following be inserted after it:

“(a)(ii) Without prejudice to the preceding sub-clause, to contribute, whether by way of loan or otherwise, to the cost of adapting and maintaining Union College.”

Any such amendment to the Scheme requires, inter alia, the approval of the General Assembly, and an appropriate resolution is appended.

6. The Committee is developing principles and procedures for the smoother running of the work currently carried out on both the College and Christian Training Centre sites.

7. It records its appreciation of the work of the Christian Training Centre and College, the academic and administrative staff for their interest in the students and in the delivery and promoting of courses within a warm fellowship of pastoral concern.

GRAHAM CONNOR, Convener

STUDENTS' BURSARY FUND COMMITTEE

1. The Committee met three times during the year.
2. There are 16 students for the Ministry who received benefit from the Bursary Fund. Two part-time students had their fees paid.
3. Our total expenditure for the year 2000 was £129,497. Our total income for the year was £107,675, of which £50,592 came from offerings at

services of Ordination, Installation etc. Another £1,407 came from the Pulpit Supply Association which has ceased to function for the meantime.

4. We express our thanks to all who have contributed to the Fund during the year, either by direct giving or through offerings at services of Ordination, Installation etc.

5. We are in the process of updating our leaflet which may be used at services to publicise the Fund. We would ask Conveners of vacancies and Clerks of Presbytery to make use of this means of drawing the needs of the fund to the attention of the wider Church.

GEORGE MOORE, Convener

THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCING CHRISTIANS FOR MINISTRY

1. A great deal of the Committee's time has been taken up exploring how we can help Christians serve Jesus more effectively in their congregations and communities. We are seeking to develop a three-strand approach – publications, events and learning-modules.

2. This year has seen the publication, in conjunction with Christian Focus Publications, of *The Good Book Guide*. This is a book for new Christians and those wanting to find out more about the Christian message. It tries to set out the main themes of the Bible and relate these ideas to everyday life. Through the generosity of many individuals and PCI congregations, it has been possible to send 4,000 copies to missionaries in India, Kenya, Nigeria and Malawi. At present plans are underway to translate *The Good Book Guide* into Russian and possibly Spanish.

3. In the past year, in conjunction with other groups, the Committee has co-sponsored two events. In October, Gordon and Gail MacDonald led two-day conferences in Lucan and Dungannon on developing leadership. In May, Rico Tice held day conferences in Londonderry, Enniskillen, Dublin and Belfast on church-based evangelism.

4. From September 2001, we will be attempting to pilot several six-week learning modules. The subjects covered will be a mixture of practical and theoretical, possibly including topics such as personal evangelism, prayer, understanding how the Old Testament points to Jesus, identifying our spiritual gifts and leading a small group Bible study. It is hoped that these learning modules will help Christians to grow in their understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith; equip them with the practical skills necessary to help them be more effective in their witness to Jesus in the community and more effective in their service in the church; encourage their spiritual development; and enable them to understand how contemporary society thinks and how the gospel relates to it.

RODGER CROOKS, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Rev T J Conway be appointed as Joint Convener of the Students Bursary Fund Committee.

3. That the following grants be paid from the Incidental Fund:	
Information Day for Enquirers	£650
June Residential Course and Interview	£2,075
Pre-Term College Retreat	£1,080
Applicants' Study Day	£200
Licentiate Courses	£585
Meetings for students and spouses	£300
Honoraria for Extern Examiners	£300
Communication Skills for students outside Ireland	£85

TOTAL	£5,275
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4. 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:

Amanda Best	Ballywalter	Ards
David Henry Brown	First Cookstown	Tyrone
Karen Campbell	Adelaide Road, Donore	Dublin & Munster
Richard Cameron Kerr	Dundalk	Newry
David Jonathon Laney	Carnmoney	North Belfast
Barry John McCroskery	West Church, Bangor	Ards
James William David Rogers	First Bangor	Ards
Jonathan Edward Sloan	Kells	Ballymena

5. That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme in 2001 be 1.75p per £ of stipend.

6. That the General Assembly approve the following amendment to the Magee Fund Scheme:

that clause 8(a) be renumbered 8(a)(i), and that the following be inserted after it:

“(a)(ii) Without prejudice to the preceding sub-clause, to contribute, whether by way of loan or otherwise, to the cost of adapting and maintaining Union College.”

7. 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:-

COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES

1. During the year the Committee received applications from two ministers to be received as ministers without charge. In addition the convener supplied information to two other ministers who inquired about the procedure for making application.

2. Both applicants had been ordained in churches not members of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and were dealt with under the provisions of Par 285(3)(d) of the Code.

3. The Committee appointed a sub-committee to interview both applicants.

Rev Christina U R Bradley

4. The Committee supports the application of the Rev Christina Ursula Ruth Bradley, MTh, MDiv, a minister of the Lutheran Church in Germany, to be received as a minister without charge.

Rev Stephen C Calder

5. The Committee supports the application of the Rev Stephen Charles Calder, BD, a minister of the Anglican Church in Australia, to be received as a minister without charge.

Church of Scotland

6. The Committee has been made aware that the Church of Scotland will consider a proposal to modify procedure by which ministers from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland are declared eligible to receive calls to positions within that Church. A reciprocal alteration in our procedure for receiving ministers from Scotland may be advisable, but we await the decision of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

R BRIAN SAVAGE, Convener

RESOLUTION

1. That the Report be received.

MEMORIALS TRANSMITTED

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, to meet in Belfast, on the 4th day of June 2001.

The Memorial of the Rev Christina Ursula Bradley Respectfully Showeth:

That she is 48 years of age; that she married in 1982 and had two children, now aged 16 and 18; that following the dissolution of her first marriage she married the Rev. F. A. Bradley in 1999; that she is in good health; that she was regularly ordained in February 1986 to the Christian Ministry by the Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg, Southern Germany; that she is a

minister in good standing with her church body; that she is in full accord with the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

That she served her assistant ministry in Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Im Lauchhau, Stuttgart-Vaihingen and in in-service training at Pädagogisch-Theologisches Zentrum Stuttgart-Birkach and Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll (1983-86); that she served as minister to the united congregations of Raidwangen and Altdorf (1986-88) until she was called into Radio Ministry and Public Relations work in the wider Stuttgart region, which in addition involved teaching, preaching and also pastoral care to Voller Brunnen old people's home in the town of Reutlingen (1988-93); that she was involved in training lay people and ministers for radio messages and PR work; that she was engaged in winning and training youth and other leaders in congregations; that she was called into parish ministry in Hildrizhausen (1993-99), where she served until moving to Northern Ireland; that she is presently employed part-time by the North Eastern Education and Library Board as International Links Officer-German.

That she holds the following earned degrees: M.Th. (University of Tübingen); M.Div. (Pädagogisch-Theologisches Zentrum, Stuttgart-Birkach); that, having worshipped in Whitehead Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Carrickfergus since autumn 1999, she would be desirous of being accepted as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; that she is willing to serve the Church in whatever location or capacity the Church may deem appropriate.

That she has applied to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates and that, if accepted, she will undertake any additional studies required by the Board of Studies and Christian Training and will serve the Church for at least one year as an Assistant Minister as required by Par. 193 (1) (d) of the Code.

Memorialist therefore prays your Venerable Assembly to receive her as a Minister Without Charge and to place her under the care of the Presbytery of Carrickfergus.

And Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.

Whitehead, 24th January 2001.

CHRISTINA URSULA RUTH BRADLEY

Licensed by the Presbytery of Carrickfergus and transmitted with the strong recommendation that its prayer be granted. Dated this 6th day of February, 2001 at Ballynure.

STEPHEN P MOORE, Moderator
W J JOHNSTONE, Clerk

Transmitted by the Business Committee of the Synod of Ballymena and Coleraine. Dated this 13th day of March, 2001.

LAMBERT McADOO, Moderator
Wm J LAMONT, Clerk

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet at Belfast on the 4th Day of June 2001.

The Memorial of the Reverend Stephen Charles Calder Respectfully Showeth:

That he is 33 years of age, that he is married with one child, that he is in good health, that he was regularly ordained to the Christian Ministry by the Anglican Church of Australia, that he is a minister in good and regular standing with his church body, and that he is in full accord with the Doctrinal Standards of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

That he served his Assistantship in St Alban's Anglican Church, Lindfield, Sydney, that he holds the following earned degrees BSc (Macquarie University, Sydney), BD (Moore Theological College, Sydney) DipMin (Moore Theological College, Sydney) and that, having had contact with Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Bangor, he would be desirous of being accepted as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

That he has applied to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates and that if accepted he will undertake any additional studies required by the Board of Studies and Christian Training and will serve the Church for at least one year as an Assistant Minister as required by Par 193(1)(d) of the Code.

Memorialist therefore prays your Venerable Assembly to receive him as a Minister Without Charge and to place him under the care of the Presbytery of Ards.

And Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.

STEPHEN CHARLES CALDER

Licensed by the Ards Presbytery meeting at Bangor on the 6th day of February, 2001, and transmitted to the Synod of Armagh and Down with the recommendation that its prayer be granted.

STEWART R JONES, Moderator
DONALD J WATTS, Clerk

Transmitted simpliciter by the Commission of the Synod of Armagh and Down meeting at First Lisburn on the 8th Day of March, 2001.

W J PATTERSON, Moderator
E P GAMBLE, Clerk

COMMISSION ON TRUSTS

1. Attention is drawn to the Capital Account of the General Investment Fund. The Commission advised the acceptance of the Trust Funds.

A J RANKIN, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

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:-

BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Convener: Mr FRANKLIN ADAIR

1. The Board met four times during the year.
2. Mr Clive Knox took over as Financial Secretary from Mr Hilton Henry who retired from the end of 2000. The Board prays that Mr Henry will have a long and blessed retirement. Mr Knox has settled in well and is already initiating some of the change that will be necessary to keep the Finance Department up to date.
3. The Board was saddened to learn of the death of Mr Ronald Weir Jess, former Financial Secretary and a devoted servant of the Church. He died on 24 July, 2000 after a long and taxing illness that he bore with fortitude and quiet cheerfulness. He was appointed as Financial Secretary in 1969 and retired from that position in 1990. His dedication to his work and his thoughtful contribution to debate were highly valued. He will be greatly missed as a colleague and friend. The Board prays that God will bless his wife Hilary and the family circle.
4. To assist congregations a Handbook for Treasurers has been produced. The work involved was significant and the Board thanks Messrs Michael Fitch, David Lamb and Clive Knox and others who were involved in the task. The Board would welcome comments on the Handbook, as it is the intention to up-date and improve it on a regular basis. The Handbook is for guidance and should not be treated as a rulebook.
5. The Code provides for the Audit of Congregational and Organisational accounts. It is generally understood, and regarded as good practice, that the Auditor should be independent of the person/s preparing the accounts. An overture is on the books to make the independence of Audit and the Auditor explicit in the Code. The purpose of the change is to:
 - (a) clarify the position;
 - (b) protect congregations and organisations against error or fraud; and
 - (c) protect Treasurers, Auditors and others against any misunderstanding.

The difficulty that may arise in congregations/organisations where this is not already the practice is in finding appropriate people to fulfil the independent roles of the preparation of the accounts and their audit. The Handbook gives further guidance but does not lay down rules on this issue. It is important that at least two people in each congregation have the ability and experience of preparing and auditing accounts. If not, then outside help may be the solution and a pragmatic resolution of the issue may be to use someone from another/neighbouring congregation as Auditor.

It is important that the accounting processes within the Church are transparent and are of the highest quality, as any risk of error and particularly of fraud could result in serious damage to the cause of Jesus Christ.

6. The Board, which looks after the statistics for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ('PCI'), has raised, in recent years, the issues of declining numbers of members and the falling off in attendance among particular groups such as 25-44 year olds and males. The Board welcomes the initiative taken by the Presbytery of North Belfast and the Board of Mission in Ireland to try to determine what action can be taken by commissioning the report 'Reconnecting with a Missing Generation' and commends the report to all Kirk Sessions for serious study. Statistics can appear to be academic and unimportant but each number represents a human soul.

7. The Board thanks all those involved in the production of accounts and statistical returns for PCI and requests that these be as accurate as possible, as the Church will need to make important decisions based on the data supplied.

8. The Board has taken on board comments regarding the possible inappropriateness of the timing of the Census at the beginning of January and has therefore proposed that it be changed this year to a Sunday in April as possibly being more representative. This may also provide comparability in Northern Ireland with the UK census if it is held on the proposed date. The Board hopes that this will be a convenient date for congregations but warns that comparability with previous data from the January census needs to be treated cautiously.

9. The Board notes that financial giving has continued to hold up well in recent years despite the falling numbers of members and commends this sphere of service to God's people.

10. There is a significant challenge facing PCI as expenses increase due to various factors and as it is proposed that a number of new initiatives is taken. While income has been maintained or improved, it is not sufficient to meet all the needs, so difficult but essential choices need to be made about the areas to which funds are allocated. This could become a significant area for decision making over the next few years, so it is important that the Church has a clear view of its priorities and that the Biblical principles on Christian giving are clearly taught.

11. The Board has approved new allowances for Travelling and other Expenses for General Assembly, Board and Committee members to keep them broadly in line with costs and will bring in similar changes for Church House staff.

12. The Board considered the issue of insurance for individual PCI members who serve on outside bodies on behalf of PCI. After consulting the Church's insurance brokers the Board advises members that, since PCI does not have insurance to cover this area eg for matters such as defamation and other potential liabilities, they should ensure that the outside body on which they serve has appropriate cover in place for all its members as the Church cannot accept liability.

13. Following a suggestion that it would be more convenient for congregations, the Board is considering the merits of changing the levying of assessments from quarterly to monthly. If anyone has a relevant comment on this proposal the Board would welcome it at an early stage.

14. The Board is very supportive of the Trustees as they address the issues that arise from having more than one Pension Fund, and as they also

ensure that the pension funds are structured to meet the needs of their members into the future.

15. The Board approved a contribution rate of 19% for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (The Staff Scheme) following receipt of the triennial actuarial valuation.

16. During the year the Board approved the appointment of Kerr Henderson Bacon and Woodrow as advisers and administrators to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension and Life Assurance Plan.

17. Under Par 286 of the Code the Board of Finance and Administration has primary responsibility for contracts of employment. Staff are presently employed by 'Employing Agencies' but this may not clearly establish in law who is responsible for fulfilling contract terms and conditions. Legal opinion obtained by the Board recommends that such responsibility should be defined clearly. The Board therefore wishes to investigate the matter fully. The findings may have implications for other contracts into which Board and Agencies enter.

18. The Board expresses its thanks to all its staff for the efforts that they are making to ensure that the policies, procedures and practices of Church House and the Church in general are up-to-date, effective and efficient.

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

1. The Committee is pleased to report another successful year's trading, resulting in the overdraft being reduced from £234,277 to £34,915.

2. One unit is not let at present, but it is anticipated that this will not be for long as the Letting Agents are already receiving serious enquiries.

3. Income from the letting of the Minor Hall has increased significantly, whereas we are feeling the competition from other sources in regard to the Assembly Hall. The Committee is actively pursuing several new options in an attempt to remain among the leaders in this field.

4. The Committee is experiencing some difficulty in recovering one particular bad debt. However, we anticipate being able to finalise this before the end of 2001.

5. In the course of our on-going renovations, we have discovered the outside walls of the Church House complex to be in a state of deterioration, with several areas in immediate need of repair. This will involve a heavy financial commitment in the future and the Committee is seeking to monitor this carefully.

6. We are pleased to report that the level of outstanding rent and service charge costs has been reduced to a more acceptable level.

7. The Committee is indebted to Mr Harry Orr (Buildings Manager), his assistants and the reception staff for their loyalty and hard work throughout the last year.

8. The Committee thanks the Letting Agents, Lambert Smith Hampton, the Architects, Gordon McKnight Partnership, and the Legal Advisers, Cleaver Fulton and Rankin, for their support, advice and good offices during the last year.

INCIDENTAL FUND COMMITTEE

1. The Committee met on three occasions during the year.
2. The Incidental Fund Account (including General Purposes Fund) confirms a credit balance at the year end 2000 of £10,797. The Committee were concerned about the extent of the deficit amounting to £51,963 which occurred during the year.
3. The Ministerial Development Fund Account confirms a credit balance at the year end 2000 of £116,042.
4. During the year 2000 £28,000 was allocated from the agreed £30,000 towards funding of Millennium projects.
5. The Committee reviewed applications for funding and recommends that the following grants be paid in 2001.

	£
Arrangements	10,500
Inter-Church Relations	51,535
Social Witness	1,500
Youth Board	6,500
PCI Holiday	6,000
Church Architecture	500
Peace and Peacemaking	2,500
Historical Society	13,700
Church and Government	3,000
Environmental Panel	150
Board of Studies & Christian Training	5,275
Conciliation Panel	3,000
	£104,160

6. Due to an increased allocation of expenses relating to the General Secretary's Office, additional costs in connection with the Clerk-Designate appointment and increased legal costs the Committee recommends that the assessment be increased by 0.25p to 4.75p.

7. Thanks are recorded to all who have served on the Incidental Fund Committee and also to members of staff at Church House for their help during the year.

M C FITCH, Convener

APPENDIX

TRAVELLING EXPENSES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mileage Allowance

- A mileage allowance of 12 p per mile can be claimed for **one** return trip to the Assembly.

- An additional 1p per mile can be claimed for each additional person travelling in the same car who is also attending the Assembly.

Train or Bus Fare

- A claim for the cost of second class travel by train or bus or both, as with the mileage allowances, may be made for **one** return journey.

Travel Over 200 Miles

- Where a member has travelled more than 200 miles **to** the Assembly (one way) a claim may be submitted for twice the car allowance rate (in effect 24p per mile). This amount is to cover whatever means of transport has actually been used.

DAILY ALLOWANCE

- Each member attending the morning and afternoon sessions on any particular day can claim a daily allowance of £5 per day.
- Where more than 60 miles has been travelled to the Assembly an additional £5 per day may also be claimed.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mileage Allowance

- An allowance of 12p per mile may be claimed for travel to and from meetings at Church House.
- And additional 1p per mile can be claimed for each additional person travelling in the same car who is also attending the Meeting.

Train or Bus Fare

- Second class fares will be reimbursed on the presentation of the appropriate receipts.

Travel Over 200 Miles

- Where a member has travelled more than 200 miles **to** a meeting (one way) a claim may be submitted for twice the car allowance rate (in effect 24p per mile). This amount is to cover whatever means of transport has actually been used.

Car Parking

- Where a Committee or Board member attends more than 10 meetings in any one year car parking will be reimbursed on presentation of valid receipts.
- Where such a claim is made, the first claim should be for the previous 10 parking receipts. Subsequent receipts may be claimed on an individual basis per meeting attended.

Honorary Assembly Conveners

- Travelling expenses may be claimed on the same basis as for Board and Committee members.
- In addition other costs incurred in connection with the fulfilment of the duties of the position will be fully reimbursed.

FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE

1. An IT strategy document was produced during the year by the staff in the Financial Secretary's Office. This is being used as the basis on which to address the various issues arising from the computer infrastructure within Church House. One of the issues is in respect of the need to have the appropriate resource to support and develop new and existing IT systems. This matter is currently receiving attention.

2. Work has been continuing in respect of our Human Resources strategy and the development of sound policies and procedures. The level of activity in respect of personnel matters was very high again throughout the year and we continue to be indebted to our Personnel Officer, Mrs Eileen McClenaghan. Changes to HR policies and terms and conditions of employment are progressed through the regular heads of department meetings with the aim of providing appropriate HR arrangements for our staff, which look favourable when compared with those offered by other organisations, while exercising good stewardship of Church resources.

3. During the year the problem of inconsistent closing and opening balances in the statistical returns was drawn to the attention of Presbytery Finance Conveners. Time will tell if this has been fruitful. Despite the usual late and incomplete returns, the staff in Church House managed to collate the information from congregations to meet the deadline for Assembly reports.

4. Statistical and financial data for 2000 is summarised in the appended tables, together with comparative figures for the preceding year.

5. The headline statistics over the last 25 years are shown by way of line graphs and the Committee would ask all other Boards and Committees to note the trends which are exhibited.

6. A census of the entire church has been arranged for April 2001 to coincide with the national exercise. It is hoped that an increased number of congregations will participate this year. Analysis of the results will be available later in the year, possibly for the meeting of the General Assembly.

7. The first edition of the Handbook for Treasurers is being sent to congregations and Presbyteries at the end of April 2001. This impressive production has been the result of much work by Michael Fitch and our thanks are due to him.

8. Ernst and Young have stated that, during 2001, they are intending to transfer their business to a limited liability partnership, incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000, to be called Ernst and Young LLP. If this happens, it is the current intention to treat the appointment of Ernst and Young as extending to Ernst and Young LLP.

DAVID LAMB, Convener

TABLE ONE**PERSONS AND AGENCIES**

	1999	2000	Increase	Decrease
Retired Ministers	193	203	10	
Ministers in Active Duty	422	410		12
Retired Missionaries	4	2		2
Missionaries in Active Duty	77	85	8	
Total Ministers and Missionaries	696	700	4	
Licensures	14	9		5
Congregations	557	555		2
Total Families	115,071	114,439		632
Persons of All Ages	284,704	281,324		3,380
Contributors to FWO or Stipend	94,715	94,369		346
Baptisms	2,221	2,229	8	
Admitted to Lord's Table for First Time	1,929	1,849		80
Communicants	118,421	117,719		702
Attended at Least One Communion during year	77,051	76,319		732
Ruling Elders in Kirk Session	7,288	7,251		37
Number on Rolls in Sunday Schools and Bible Classes	34,291	33,056		1,235

TABLE TWO
CONGREGATIONAL INCOME

	1999		2000		% Difference		R. of I.
	£	IR£	£	IR£	N.I.		
Specified Sources	20,496,096	1,133,800	22,028,828	1,224,980	7.5%+	8.0%+	
Building Fund etc.	8,921,519	937,757	9,708,218	685,691	8.8%+	26.9%—	
“For Others”	4,849,710	274,432	5,149,911	300,843	6.2%+	9.6%+	
Raised from other sources	3,931,238	704,451	3,835,166	564,054	2.4%—	19.9%—	
Bequests etc.	4,843,590	204,681	3,872,321	270,543	20.1%—	32.2%+	
Total Receipts	43,042,153	3,255,120	44,594,447	3,046,110	3.6%+	6.4%—	
Total Receipts Less							
Bequests etc.	38,198,563	3,050,439	40,722,126	2,775,567	6.6%+	9.0%—	
Bequests	863,033	67,353	1,437,436	62,226	66.6%+	7.6%—	

TABLE THREE
CONGREGATIONAL EXPENDITURE

	1999		2000		% Difference	
	£	IR£	£	IR£	N.I.	R. of I.
Paid to ministers, other salaries and wages, allowances to ministers and others	11,389,462	680,005	11,864,286	741,224	4.2%+	9.0%+
Payments under Assembly Assessments	4,947,188	292,584	4,539,840	281,223	8.2%-	3.9%-
Building, Repairs, etc.	8,960,934	1,089,603	8,380,071	854,049	6.5%-	21.6%+
United Appeal Schemes	2,515,171	104,157	2,643,193	111,984	5.1%+	7.5%+
Supplementary Schemes						
Other Religious and Charitable Objects	3,192,398	228,417	3,456,691	250,998	8.3%+	9.9%+
General Expenses	5,854,199	582,128	6,146,235	646,831	5.0%+	6.1%+
Total Payments	36,859,352	2,976,894	37,030,316	2,786,309	0.5%+	6.4%-

TABLE FOUR
CONGREGATIONAL BALANCES

	Closing 1999		Opening 2000		Closing 2000		% Difference	
	£	IR£	£	IR£	£	IR£	N.I.	R. of I.
Credits	18,872,128	1,728,217	19,499,064	1,592,912	23,025,265	1,591,093	18.1%+	0.1%-
Debits	3,271,101	60,549	3,373,320	68,235	2,824,411	59,206	16.3%-	13.2%-
Net Credits	15,601,027	1,667,668	16,125,744	1,524,677	20,200,854	1,531,887	25.3%+	0.5%+

Graph 1
Families



Graph 2
Persons

**Graph 3
Baptisms**



Graph 4
Communicants

APPENDIX

Salary Scales of Executive and Administrative Posts. (The undernoted figures are inclusive of a 3% increase applied as from 1 January, 2001 following the annual review).

EXECUTIVE POSTS**Scale 1 (£17,439 - £20,868)**

Building Manager
Youth Development Officer

Scale 2 (£19,797 - £23,973)

Dean of Residence
Director of Nightlight
Financial Manager
Assistant Residential Services Manager

Scale 3 (£22,242 - £27,282)

Executive Secretary, PWA
Secretary for Education in Mission
Director of Evangelism
Sunday School Organiser/Christian Education Secretary
Financial Accountant

Scale 4 (£24,597 - £30,924)

Youth Officer
Superintendent of Irish Mission
Residential Services Manager
Personnel Officer

Scale 5 (£27,282 - £33,417)

Deputy Financial Secretary
Director of Ministerial Students
Director of Social Service
Information Officer
Director of Christian Training

Scale 6 (£29,358 - £35,940)

Deputy General Secretary
Convener of Overseas Mission

Scale 7 (£33,417 - £43,209)

General Secretary
Financial Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS**Scale 1 (£8,838- £10,377)**

Junior Secretary
Telephonist
Clerical Officer/Receptionist

Scale 2 (£10,377 - £12,123)

Secretary
Telephonist/Receptionist
Information & Technology Assistant
Information Assistant
Clerical Officer

Scale 3 (£11,739 - £13,698)

Senior Secretary
Deputy Building Manager
Clerical Officer
Wages Clerk

Scale 4 (£13,407 - £15,558)

Personal Secretary
Administrative Assistant
Personnel Assistant
Financial Assistant

Scale 5 (£14,742 - £17,139)

Personal Secretary
Computer Controller
Administrative Assistant
Production Manager
Financial Assistant/Payroll Administrator
Personal Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Senior Secretarial Assistant
Youth Board Development Officer
Year Team and Volunteers Co-ordinator

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly request the Board of Finance and Administration to bring a report to the General Assembly in 2002 to clarify the issues regarding contracts into which the Church and the Assembly Agencies enter, in particular to ensure that under Par 286(3)(c) of the Code all steps are taken as 'considered necessary by the Board for the protection of the assets of the Church against all classes of risk'.

3. That Ernst and Young be appointed as auditors for all the Committees, Boards, Trusts, Commissions and Agencies of the General Assembly for the year 2001.

4. That the assessment for the Incidental Fund for 2001 be 4.75p in the £ of stipend.

5. 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:

OVERTURE ON THE BOOKS

Anent Par 137 of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 137 of the Code after the words “under Chapter VII” there be added the additional words

“audit” and “auditors”, when used in relation to a congregation, mean respectively the independent inspection of the accounts and financial statements, and the persons appointed to carry out such an inspection.

D W LAMB

UNITED APPEAL BOARD

Convener: Mr HAL STEWART

Secretary: Very Rev Dr SAMUEL HUTCHINSON

1. The Board wishes to express its thanks to all congregations who supported the United Appeal in the year 2000. We are especially pleased to note that a number of congregations were able to exceed their target. The Board is also pleased to report that the target set for the year was exceeded by £231,264 reversing the shortfall in the contributions of the previous year of £67,886. Regretfully some 50 congregations paid over contributions in excess of £150,000 too late to be included in the accounts for the year 2000.

2. As a result of the excellent figures the Board was pleased to be able to pay in full the proposed allocation of grants for the year 2000.

3. During the year the Board met with representatives of the Home and Irish Missions and the Overseas, Social Witness and Youth Boards as well as Union Theological College Management Committee concerning their requests for grants.

4. The Board examined the Financial Statements and Budgets of each agency requesting grants and consulted with the Panel of the Overview of Funding on a number of matters. After consideration the Board has proposed a Target for the Year 2002 as set out in Schedules III and IV. In setting the Target for 2002 the Board was mindful of the difficult economic conditions presently affecting the farming and other industries, the low rate of inflation, the improvement in cash flow which will arise from earlier payment of grants and the steady decline in the number of contributing families. The Board is presently considering alternative ways of apportioning the total target between Presbyteries in the future and how best any changes may be implemented.

5. In the year 2000 the Board paid 10% of each agency's grant for that year quarterly in arrears commencing on 31 March, 2000. This year the Board proposes to increase this to 15% at the end of each quarter, leaving the balance of 40% to be allocated when the final receipts for the year are determined. This improvement in the cash flow of agencies will reduce their need to hold large sums of cash or to borrow from central funds, thereby reducing interest costs.

6. We appealed to congregations last year to consider supporting the United Appeal on a more regular basis, say quarterly or even monthly, and paying over such monies on a quarterly or more frequent basis. In the past year there has been a limited response to this request, with 70% of contributions or £1.8m being paid after the end of November. We would again appeal to congregations to pay over contributions on a more timely basis, enabling us to support agencies with their cash flow and eventually reducing the need for the Board to hold such a large contingency fund.

7. We are indebted to Mr Stephen Lynas and the Communications Board for the production of the "United Appeal Briefing" in connection with which we have received very favourable comments. We have had some complaints about its timing and it is hoped that in future it will be available at

the end of January and August. The Board will continue to consider how best it can improve its literature, and educate and encourage members to improve their contributions to the United Appeal. Comments and suggestions, preferably in writing, would be welcomed by the Convener.

SCHEDULE I

Presbytery	Contributing Families 1999	United Appeal 2001 £
Ards	10,095	278,341
Armagh	4,024	110,951
Ballymena	7,925	218,510
Belfast North	7,348	202,600
Belfast South	4,092	112,825
Belfast East	9,238	254,712
Carrickfergus	6,030	166,260
Coleraine	4,637	127,852
Derry & Strabane	3,656	100,804
Donegal	1,318	36,340
Down	4,922	135,710
Dromore	5,243	144,561
Dublin & Munster	1,221	33,666
Foyle	3,009	82,965
Iveagh	3,604	99,370
Monaghan	1,000	27,572
Newry	2,692	74,224
Omagh	2,527	69,675
Route	3,462	95,455
Templepatrick	4,655	128,349
Tyrone	4,017	110,758
	94,715	2,611,500

SCHEDULE II

	Requested 2001 £	Proposed Grant 2001 £
Home Mission.....	200,000	200,000
Church Extension.....	0	0
Christian Training & Evangelism.....	82,000	82,000
Irish Mission	329,000	300,000
Education Board	235,000	235,000
Students Bursary Fund.....	25,000	20,000
Chaplains Committee.....	22,000	22,000
Youth Board.....	223,204	223,000
Rostrevor Centre.....	8,000	8,000
Guysmere Centre	8,500	8,500
Lucan Centre.....	2,500	1,500
Social Witness Board.....	60,000	50,000
Social Issues & Resources Committee ..	5,000	4,000
ADE Committee	17,500	17,500
Thompson House	15,000	15,000
PCI Enterprises	15,000	15,000
Carlisle House.....	25,000	15,000
Residential Trust.....	145,000	145,000
Shankill Road Mission.....	10,000	10,000
Overseas Board.....	941,302	900,000
Department of Communications.....	140,000	140,000
TV/Broadcasting Committee	10,000	10,000
Union Theological College.....	216,500	200,000
Kinghan Mission.....	15,000	15,000
Board of Studies	55,000	55,000
		2,691,500
Currency losses		20,000
Contingencies.....		200,000
	2,805,506	2,911,500
Less ½ of Miss Salter's Bequest		*300,000
	2,805,506	2,611,500

* Miss Salter's Bequest ceases in 2001.

SCHEDULE III

Presbytery	Contributing Families 2000	United Appeal 2002 £
Ards.....	10,163	295,029
Armagh.....	4,058	117,802
Ballymena.....	7,948	230,728
Belfast North.....	7,128	206,923
Belfast South.....	3,992	115,886
Belfast East.....	9,033	262,225
Carrickfergus.....	6,019	174,730
Coleraine.....	4,549	132,056
Derry & Strabane.....	3,593	104,304
Donegal.....	1,309	38,000
Down.....	4,819	139,894
Dromore.....	5,374	156,005
Dublin & Munster.....	1,226	35,590
Foyle.....	3,015	87,524
Iveagh.....	3,609	104,768
Monaghan.....	1,008	29,262
Newry.....	2,680	77,799
Omagh.....	2,549	73,997
Route.....	3,676	106,713
Templepatrick.....	4,646	134,872
Tyrone.....	3,975	115,393
	94,369	2,739,500

SCHEDULE IV

	Requested 2002 £	Proposed Grant 2002 £
Home Mission.....	750,000	270,000
Church Extension.....	-	-
Christian Training & Evangelism.....	-	-
Irish Mission	345,000	320,000
Education Board	255,000	230,000
Students Bursary Fund.....	-	-
Youth Board.....	191,436	190,000
Rostrevor Centre.....	4,000	3,500
Guysmere Centre	8,000	8,000
Lucan Centre.....	10,400	10,000
Social Witness Board.....	110,000	70,000
Social Issues & Resources Committee ..	4,000	4,000
ADE Committee	20,000	20,000
Thompson House	15,000	15,000
PCI Enterprises	15,000	14,000
Carlisle House.....	10,000	5,000
Residential Trust.....	145,000	5,000
Kinghan Mission.....	15,000	5,000
Shankill Road Mission.....	20,000	5,000
Overseas Board.....	930,000	930,000
Department of Communications.....	140,000	140,000
TV/Broadcasting Committee	35,000	30,000
Union Theological College.....	200,000	200,000
Board of Studies	65,000	65,000
Chaplains Committee.....	15,000	5,000
	3,302,836	2,544,500
Currency losses	20,000	
Contingencies.....	175,000	
	3,302,836	2,739,500

* Miss Salter's Bequest ceased in 2001

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Board be given permission to include an amount for contingencies of £175,000 for the year 2002.
3. That the United Appeal for 2002 be as set out in Schedules III and IV.
4. That the United Appeal Board for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 287 of the Code as follows:

BOARD OF MINISTRY AND PENSIONS

Convener: Rev D S GRAHAM

1. We express our thanks to Mr William Alexander for agreeing to continue in office as Co-Convener of CMF for an additional year in the exceptional circumstances that we faced in 2000.

2. The Board responded to the request of the Synod of Dublin and examined carefully payments to Ministers and others in the Republic of Ireland. Changes were duly implemented during the year.

CENTRAL MINISTRY FUND COMMITTEE

1. At the end of the year the C.M.F. had a retained balance of £2,308,919, an increase on 1999, though again there has been a reduction in the assessment.

2. The Basic Ministerial Minimum for 2001 has been increased to £16,620, with comparable increases in the scale of increments.

3. The CMF is again proposing a reduction in the scale of assessment, this year from 25p in £ of stipend to 23.5p in £. While maintaining an adequate stipend, this reduction enables Congregations to have more funds available for congregational purposes. The CMF gladly acknowledges the generosity of members of the Church in support of congregational funds, and is aware of the pressure which will come on congregations in the rural areas arising from the outbreak of foot and mouth disease and the restrictions and loss which that will bring to families and congregations.

4. The CMF engaged in discussions with representatives of the Synod of Dublin on the matters raised in correspondence and at the 2000 General Assembly, and agreement was achieved on the following matters:-

- (a) Ministers serving in the Republic of Ireland will receive stipend in IR£ (terms of Call) as at present, but in future CMF Incremental, and Augmented Grants will be paid at the level of Sterling payments converted to IR£ on the basis outlined in (d) below.
- (b) The introduction of these proposals means that the Eire Differential will no longer apply. (Code Par 315(5)).
- (c) The CMF "Bonus" will continue to be paid on the basis of IR£30 per month, with the end of year adjustment being made in accordance with (d) below.
- (d) The exchange rate for payments will be the average daily exchange rate for the previous six months (at Northern Bank local rate). Payments during January to June will be at the average rate for the six months to 31 December, and payments during July to December will be at the average rate for the six months to 30 June. This will avoid

monthly fluctuations in payments to Ministers as a result of daily exchange rate movements. Any adjustment as a result of changes in the average rate of exchange for July to December as compared with January to June will be shown separately on the pay advice as a positive or negative adjustment. Individual categories of pay will not be amended.

- (e) Payments of Bequests, Manse Farm income, Clerkships, part-time Chaplaincies, Teaching, etc will continue to be received in IR£. For the purpose of calculating Augmented Grants etc., the amount will be converted to Sterling as in (d) above.
- (f) Family Grants will be decided annually and paid in IR£ to Ministers living in the Republic.
- (g) Union Commission Grants, Travel Grants, Inadequate Expenses Grants, Manpower Grants etc will be decided annually and will continue to be paid in IR£.
- (h) Supply fees, payments to Conveners of Vacancies, Clerks of Presbytery and Synod, etc. will continue to be paid in IR£.
- (i) Ministers with joint charges will receive the IR£ part of their remuneration converted to sterling on the same basis as referred to in (d) above. Arrangements for the collection of existing arrears and the impact of this proposal will be discussed and agreed with individual Ministers.
- (j) The matter of PRSI/National Insurance contributions in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland will be kept under review.
- (k) Congregational Assessments will be calculated in IR£ as at present.
- (l) These proposals will take effect from 1 January 2001.
- (m) Payments in Euros will follow at an appropriate time as decided by the Board.

5. The payment of Family Grants on the basis of Total Family Income is being implemented this year for the first time. The Committee will keep it under review.

- (a) Grants in 2001 will be payable in full if the Total Family Income for 2000 (as defined in the 2000 Reports (page 295, par 5(b)) is less than £19,330, (RoI IR£23,830).
- (b) If the total family income is less than £26,000 (RoI IR£30,500) the grants payable will be reduced by £1 for every £5 by which the total family income exceeds the permitted income.
- (c) If the total family income exceeds £26,000 (RoI IR£30,500) but exceeds the permitted income the grants payable will be calculated as in (b) above up to £26,000 (RoI IR£30,500) and then reduced by £1 for every £2 by which the total family income exceeds £26,000 (RoI IR£30,500).
- (d) Grants payable will be reduced by £1 for every £1 over £1,000 received per child over 16 years of age by way of Scholarship or other monetary grant.
- (e) The amount of Grants payable shall be determined by the age of the child on 1 January of the year of the claim.

6. The following recommendations were approved by the Board for 2001:

(a) MINISTERIAL MINIMUM	£16,620	(£16,080)
After 5 years service	£17,037	(£16,482)
After 10 years service	£17,451	(£16,884)
After 15 years service	£17,868	(£17,280)
After 20 years service	£18,282	(£17,688)
After 25 years service	£18,696	(£18,090)
After 30 years service	£19,113	(£18,492)

(b) **Family Grants**

	Northern Ireland		Republic of Ireland	
birth to 10 yrs	£220	(£200)	IR£500	(IR£460)
11 to 15 yrs	£330	(£300)	IR£780	(IR£720)
16 yrs and over				
at School	£500	(£450)	IR£1,450	(IR£1,350)
at University	£1,500	(£1,300)	IR£2,500	(IR£2,400)

- (c) The grant in respect of any child who is 16 years of age or over falling into category (b) and who is in receipt of a maintenance or training grant shall be reduced by £1 for every £1 by which such maintenance or training grant or other sponsorship or scholarship exceeds £1,000.
- (d) That the amount a Minister may earn, apart from Congregational work, without the Augmented Grant being affected shall be £2,850 under Par.316(2)(d)(i) of the Code, or £1,700 under Par 316(2)(d)(ii), the total in no case exceeding £2,850.
- (e) Bequests: a Minister may receive up to £750 per annum from bequests received during his/her ministry without grants being affected.
- (f) That in reckoning Augmentation for 2001, the Central Ministry Fund shall not take account of a sum not exceeding the Annual Bonus, being income from the Commutation, Sustentation and Central Ministry Funds (Code Par 316(2)(e).

Rev John McVeigh writes:

7. The CMF Committee has greatly appreciated the leadership of Mr Wm Alexander during his period as Convener, including his willingness to “go the extra mile” when he continued for an additional year as Convener due to other changes in Conveners within the Board which occurred around the time of the Assembly last year. With his grasp of Church finance, and through the clear and sensitive manner in which he approached the issues, he has made a major contribution to the work of the CMF and the Board. We heartily thank him.

JOHN McVEIGH, W J ALEXANDER, Co-Conveners

COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENTS AND PENSIONS

WIDOWS OF MINISTERS' FUND

1. The Fund showed a surplus for the year of £44,589 and a retained balance of £169,276.
2. The Board approved the following recommendations for 2001.
 - (a) Widows' Pension - £4,155
 - (b) Widows not in receipt of Northern Ireland State Pension - £4,155 plus £475
 - (c) Widows not in receipt of Northern Ireland State Pension or PWFA - £4,155 plus £500
 - (d) Widows whose husbands were not eligible for Northern Ireland State Pension - £4,155 plus £3,770
 - (e) There is now no Eire Differential but it was agreed that no recipient of benefit at 1 January, 2001 would suffer financially as a result of its removal.

Presbyterian Widows' Fund Association

All ministers join this Association at ordination and membership provides an annuity to widows which is presently £1,164. The annuity and other payments to widows, from the Widows of Ministers Fund, the Ministers Pension Scheme and the Southern Association Widows' Fund, were distributed through the Association. The Committee is grateful to the Directors and Officers of the Association for their services.

RETIRED MINISTERS' FUND

1. The Fund showed a surplus of £92,403 for the year and a retained balance of £436,741.
2. The Board approved the following recommendations for 2001.
 - (a) Basic Retirement Allowance - £8,310
 - (b) Supplemental Grant for those living in the Republic of Ireland with no State Pension - £6,027 (married), £3,770 (single)
 - (c) There is now no Eire Differential and payments to those living in the Republic of Ireland will be made in sterling converted to Irish £ on the date of payment. Care was taken to ensure that, at the change on 1 January, 2001, no recipient was worse off as a result. Thereafter, there may be variations in amounts received due to exchange rate fluctuations.
3. The Committee was unable to grant a pension in respect of an application under Code Par. 321(5). This matter is the subject of a complaint to the Pensions Ombudsman.

MINISTERS' PENSION SCHEME (1978)

1. The Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2000, are included in the published accounts.
2. An actuarial valuation at 31 December, 2000, is in course of preparation.

3. The Trustees have awarded a discretionary increase of 3.3% on pensions in payment (pre 1997, in excess of the guaranteed minimum pension) for the year commencing 1 April, 2001.

4. The Committee introduced new documentation and guidelines on Retirement Procedures. These are designed to ensure that Presbytery approval has been received prior to submission of applications to the Committee. Initial indications are that the procedures are working well.

5. The Committee organised a seminar, with our advisers, Kerr Henderson Bacon and Woodrow, for ministers approaching retirement in the coming 12 months. This was well received and further events of this nature are planned.

6. A working party is currently investigating options for dealing with early retirement on health grounds and on long-term illness. This is a complex area and progress has been slow but work is continuing.

7. The Committee granted leave to retire (Code Par. 222 (3)) to Rev W T Coburn (Molesworth, Cookstown) on 31 August, 2000, and Rev W J R Robinson (McQuiston Memorial) on 31 October, 2000.

D BODEN, J MILLAR, Co-Conveners

RETIRED MINISTERS' HOUSE FUND

1. The Committee continues to provide assistance to ministers, widows and deaconesses who are seeking accommodation for their retirement. There are three alternatives which we offer. A loan of up to £20,000 to assist in the purchase of a house, or a house or apartment to rent, or the equity sharing scheme whereby the purchaser owns up to 50% of the property and the fund owns the rest. The purchaser then pays rent on the part of the property owned by the fund.

2. During the year loans amounting in total to £120,000 were made to 7 applicants, and two houses were bought and rented out to members. In addition two of the properties owned by the Committee are in the process of being sold and two others under the equity sharing scheme are also on the market. The income from these sales will be used to finance the purchase of two properties for retired ministers who have indicated a desire to rent accommodation from us.

3. The increase in requests for rented accommodation has led us to examine our leases and these have been redrafted in the light of current legislation. We are grateful to our co-convenor Mr Noel McLaughlin for his valuable contribution in this matter as well as his expert advice on the sale and purchase of properties.

4. The fund is also indebted to Mr Ted Jackson and his colleagues in the Financial Secretary's Office for their careful management of the finances of the fund.

5. While our resources are limited the conveners are always willing to offer advice and practical assistance to those who are preparing for retirement.

N McLAUGHLIN, L CASEMENT, Co-Conveners

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.

Central Ministry Fund

2. That Retired Ministers with pre 1978 service be paid in the current year a special grant, Code Par 315(5), of £15 per month from Central Ministry Fund.
3. That the rate of Assessment for CMF in 2001 be 23.5p in £ of Stipend.

Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978)

4. That the rate of Assessment for the Ministers Pension Scheme (1978) for 2001 remain at 16.25p in the £ of Stipend as shown in the column 'Stipend paid to the Minister' or as fixed by the Union Commission in the case of a vacancy.

Retired Ministers' Fund

5. That the rate of Assessment for the Retired Ministers Fund for the Retired Ministers Fund for 2001 remain at 12p in the £ of Stipend.

Widows of Ministers' Fund

6. That the rate of Assessment for the Widows of Ministers Fund for 2001 remain at 6.75p in the £ of Stipend.

General

7. That the retirement of Mr William Alexander as Co-Convenor of the Central Ministry Fund be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that Mr Jack Hutcheson be appointed in his place.
8. 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:

TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

1. The following is an extract from the Minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees at their Annual General Meeting held in Church House, Belfast, on 5 April, 2001.

2. The Report of the Executive Committee and the Statement of audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2000 of the following were laid before the Trustees, and were adopted by them:

The General Investment Fund

The Commutation Fund

The Non-Participating Trust Funds

The Magee Fund

The Tops Wilson Trust Fund

The Fire Insurance Trust Fund

The Fortune Mission Bequest

3. Moved by Sir Eric McDowell, seconded by Mr J I Bill and unanimously agreed, that the Report and the Statements of Accounts be adopted, signed by three Trustees, inserted in the Appendix to the Minute Book and lodged with the Clerk of Assembly to be laid before the Assembly in June. The Report and the Statement of Accounts were, therefore, signed by Mr N H McClean, Mr W H Scott, and Mr A Speer and lodged in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

4. It was reported that the Executive Committee had also received and examined the audited Accounts for 2000 of the Getty Trust and had accepted these for inclusion in the volume of Accounts to be submitted to the General Assembly. On the proposal of Rev James McAllister, seconded by Mr J I Bill, this report was received.

5. Three retiring members of the Executive Committee were re-appointed for a further three years, these being Sir Eric McDowell, Mr A T Ross and Mr J I Bill.

6. Mr J I Bill and Mr Wilson Ervin were nominated members of the General Assembly, according to the provision of the Code Par 97 (h) (iii).

7. The Trustees were saddened to learn of the death of the Very Rev Dr A J Weir, who had served as a Trustee and on the Executive Committee for many years.

Trust Funds

8. **Mrs A M Davidson Trust.** The total income available in 2000 for distribution was £7,137.20. The following recommendation is made to the General Assembly:

Union Theological College	£3,100.00
Church House Redevelopment	£3,100.00
Nexus	£937.20
	<hr/>
	£7,137.20
	<hr/>

9. **Sir Wm V McCleery Estate.** The total income available for distribution is £37,263.52. The following recommendation is made to the General Assembly:

Central Ministry Fund	80%
Retired Ministers' Fund	10%
Widows of Ministers' Fund	10%

10. **Estate of Miss Irene Scott:** The total income for 2000 available for distribution amounts to £7,720.72. The Board of Trustees recommend to the General Assembly that this be allocated as follows:-

PCI Enterprises	£3,720.72
Church House Redevelopment	£4,000.00
	<hr/>
	£7,720.72
	<hr/>

11. **Estate of Miss Ida Mary McGeown.** The total income for 2000 available for distribution amounts to £4,954.88. The Board of Trustees recommend to the General Assembly that this amount be paid to the Church House Redevelopment Account.

GENERAL INVESTMENT FUND

12. Declaration of Dividend	15.4.00	15.10.00
Number of shares qualifying	4,789,506	4,868,035
	£	£
Income from investment for distribution and income tax recoverable less administrative charge and Investment Advisers' Fees	597,611	772,298
Dividend per share	11.50p	16.50p

In the year 2000 £137,000 was transferred to the Dividend Equalisation Reserve and the balance on the Dividend Equalisation Reserve at 31 December, 2000 is £621,500.

13. The combined annual Dividend of 28.00p per share is to be compared with 27.00 per share for 1999; 25.00 for 1998; 23.50 for 1997; 22.00 for 1996; 21.50 for 1995; 21.00 for 1994; 22.00 for 1993; 25.50 for 1992; 25.00 for 1991.

14. Valuation	15.4.00	15.10.00
	£	£
Valuation of Investments	31,469,383	32,385,472
Cash on Deposit	1,392,862	1,467,840

Dividend Equalisation Reserve	531,500	501,500
Property and Ground Rents	2,910,138	2,301,145
	£36,303,883	£36,655,957
No of Shares Issued	4,856,923	4,868,329
Share Value	£7.4747	£7.5295

15. The Trustees have agreed that the accounts of the General Investment Fund will from the year ended 31 December, 2001 be prepared including investments in the balance sheets at market value. A supplementary balance sheet prepared on this basis has been included with the Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2000.

Crescent Church Loan Fund

16. The Committee considered applications from congregations seeking loans from the Crescent Church Loan Fund. Loans totalling £28,000 were made.

Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978)

17. The joint sub-Committee, representative of the Trustees and the Board of Ministry and Pensions, continues to monitor the investments, meeting regularly with the Fund Managers. In accordance with statutory requirements the Report of the Trustees and the Ministers' Pension Scheme (1978) together with the Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2000 are included in the Volume of Accounts.

18. In 1999 20% of the investments of the Ministers' Pension Scheme were transferred from Philips & Drew Fund Management Limited to the Legal & General Consensus Index Fund. In the course of 2000 a further 20% was transferred to Friends, Ivory & Sime and 30% to Baillie Gifford. 30% of the investments have been retained by Philips & Drew Fund Management Limited.

19. In addition to the Ministers Pension Scheme (1978) the Trustees have responsibility for the PWA/Overseas/Irish Mission and the Staff Pension Schemes. The Trustees have asked their Pension Scheme Advisers, Kerr Henderson Bacon and Woodrow to undertake a review of all these Pension Schemes to establish aspects which are common to each scheme and areas where administration could be made more efficient.

Getty Bequest

20. The allocation of grants out of the income of the Trust Estate of John Getty for the year ending 31 December, 2000 was as follows:

Overseas – Foreign	£1,287
Overseas – Jewish	644
Home Mission	1,800
Belfast City Mission	5,269
TOTAL	£9,000

Overtures

21. Overtures were approved for submission to the General Assembly to bring the provisions for signatures to cheques and legal documents into line with modern practice.

RESOLUTIONS

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 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 J McAllister, OBE, W D F Marshall, R J A Bell, W J Orr; Mr Wilson Ervin, Sir Eric McDowell, Mr David Bell, CB, Mr A T Ross, Mr John Millar, OBE, Mr J I Bill, OBE,

OVERTURES TRANSMITTED**Anent Assembly Trustees Bye-law XIII**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that Assembly Trustees Bye-law XIII be deleted and that the following be substituted in its place:

"All cheques shall be signed, and other payments by any means shall be approved by two signatories on the following basis:

- (a) for sums up to £25,000 (or such sum as the Executive Committee may from time to time decide):
by the Clerk of Assembly (or the Deputy Clerk) and the Financial Secretary (or any deputy authorised by the Executive Committee):
- (b) for sums over £25,000 (or such sum as the Executive Committee may from time to time decide):
either by a member of the Executive Committee and the Financial Secretary, or by two members of the Executive Committee."

Anent Assembly Trustees Bye-law XIV

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Assembly Trustees Bye-law XIV the words "signed by one of the Executive Committee and by that Committee's Secretary for the time being" be deleted, and that the following be substituted:

"signed either by a member of the Executive Committee and the Financial Secretary, or by two members of the Executive Committee."

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON

APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

Nomination of the Synod of Ballymena and Coleraine – Rev David Clarke.

RESOLUTION

That Rev David Clarke be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Rev John Williamson, deceased, and of the due appointment of Rev David Clarke as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

Nomination of the Synod of Belfast – Rev Wilfred John Orr.

RESOLUTION

That Rev Wilfred John Orr be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Rev Herbert Courtney, resigned, and of the due appointment of Rev Wilfred John Orr as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

Nomination of the Synod of Derry and Omagh –
Rev David Selwoode Graham.

RESOLUTION

That Rev David Selwoode Graham be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Rev Richard Graham, deceased, and of the due appointment of Rev David Selwoode Graham as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

Nomination of the Synod of Dublin – Rev Robert Cobain.

RESOLUTION

That Rev Robert Cobain be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Rev Desmond Black, deceased, and of the due appointment of Rev Robert Cobain as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of

the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

Nomination of the Synod of Dublin – Mr Leslie McKeague.

RESOLUTION

That Mr Leslie McKeague be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr George Wilson, deceased, and of the due appointment of Mr Leslie McKeague as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE TYRONE MEMORIAL

Convener: Rev R KELLY

1. Last year the General Assembly gave approval to the scheme proposed by the ad hoc Committee on the Tyrone Memorial. The committee was instructed to prepare and submit to this General Assembly legislation to permit the implementation of the scheme. Therefore the two-fold purpose of this report is firstly, to clarify how the scheme might be implemented in January 2002, and secondly, to introduce legislation to permit its implementation.

THE PROPOSED SCHEME - How it would work.

2. At the close of each year the Board of Ministry and Pensions would send to each congregation a table outlining the annual percentage increases to be paid on stipend and the level at which they are introduced. The congregational committee would implement this change for an incoming year.

Example:

Present Stipend 2001	Increase Payable
£	%
0 – 20,999	3.2
21,000 – 21,999	3.1
22,000 – 22,999	3.0
23,000 – 23,999	2.9
24,000 – 24,999	2.8
25,000 – 25,999	2.7
26,000 – 26,999	2.6
27,000 – 27,999	2.5
28,000 – 28,999	2.4
29,000 – 29,999	2.3
30,000 – 30,999	2.2
31,000 – 31,999	2.1
32,000 – 32,999	2.0
33,000 – 33,999	1.9

3. In the above example the proposed increase is 3.0% introduced at the stipend level of £22,000.

4. The stipend to be paid in 2002 would then be calculated as in the following examples:

Present Stipend 2001	Increase	Calculation				New Stipend 2002
£	%	£		£	=	£
8,500	3.2	8,500	+	272	=	8,772
16,000	3.2	16,000	+	512	=	16,512
24,000	2.8	24,000	+	672	=	24,672
32,000	2.0	32,000	+	640	=	32,640

NOTES

- (i) The percentage increase awarded, as calculated by the Board of Ministry and Pensions, would reflect the rate of inflation, average wage increase and other relevant economic factors.
- (ii) The ministerial minimum and associated incremental payments would remain in place.
- (iii) Congregations would retain all income received above that required to service the increase in stipend and the associated assessments.
- (iv) If a congregation experiences a dramatic change in its congregational base eg growth or decline, the stipend could be reviewed on request to the Union Commission. Such a request could be initiated by the Congregational Committee or by the minister to the Presbytery Finance Committee at its annual review of congregational finances.
- (v) As at present the Union Commission would review stipend being paid by a congregation at a time of vacancy and in the 7 year review process.
- (vi) Where the Union Commission makes a new settlement with a congregation during this current year, the Call figure agreed will be used in the calculation of the stipend for the following year.
- (vii) Special arrangements which have been set in place by the Union Commission will continue to operate until the Union Commission ends such an arrangement.
- (viii) Congregations would be permitted to pay above the calculated stipend figure, if they so desired. However, assessments would continue to be calculated on the basis of actual stipend paid.
- (ix) Congregations within unions would be treated as individual congregations in calculation of stipend, as is the situation at present.
- (x) While this proposed scheme removes the necessity of calculating "Specified Sources", it would be beneficial to all involved if such a figure were maintained in the initial years of the new scheme's implementation.
- (xi) Presbytery have the responsibility of ensuring that the annual increases announced by the Board of Ministry and Pensions are applied in the congregations within its bounds.
- (xii) If serious difficulties should arise within congregations, such as exceptional changes in the overall statistics (numerical or financial), or the requirement to employ additional paid staff, then the Union Commission would have the power to review the stipend.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Scheme submitted by the Committee on the Tyrone Memorial come into operation on 1 January, 2002.
3. That stipends for the year 2002 be at the rate of the stipend for the year 2001 plus such increases as the Board of Ministry and Pensions may fix, unless the Union Commission determine otherwise in any particular case.
4. That the ad hoc Committee on the Tyrone Memorial be reappointed for a further year as follows:

OVERTURE TRANSMITTED**Anent Par 236 of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that Par 236 of the Code be deleted and that the following be substituted in its place:

- 236 (1) In a congregation's call to a minister, the promise of stipend "with increase" shall be interpreted as meaning that the minimum stipend to be paid in each year shall be the stipend promised in the call together with the annual percentage increases fixed by the Board of Ministry and Pensions.
- (2) Should the application of this rule give rise to serious difficulty, or as part of a seven year review, the Union Commission shall have power to vary the amount payable so that an equitable arrangement may be made.

RAYMOND KELLY

2003 ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Convener: Rev TREVOR D GRIBBEN

1. As a Committee we noted our remit, as determined by the General Assembly in June 2000 :

“That an Assembly Conference be held in the summer of 2003.” (Minutes page 56 – Resolution 14)

“That the ad hoc Committee present to the 2001 General Assembly a proposed structure and programme for the conference including budget and proposals for financing.” (Resolution 16)

Consideration was also given to the background to our work, namely the Coleraine Assembly of 1990 and the ‘2020 Vision’ Assembly Conference of 1997.

2. After much initial prayer and discussion, the following points came very much to the fore:

- Desire for the Conference to facilitate understanding of the challenges of the culture and context in which we find ourselves today, and also to point us afresh to the greatness of our God as we seek to meet those challenges.
- Desire to enable biblical reflection on how to live as individual Christians in our day and age, how to ‘be church’ in the culture and context we find ourselves, and how to reach out in faithful, appropriate and effective ways. In all of this, the need to ask hard questions about what we are doing at present, in the light of both scripture and the context of the world around us. There is a need to identify the areas that urgently require to be changed, and to consider the most effective ways to manage that change.
- Desire for the Conference also to be an ‘oasis’ for those who gather – the need for encouragement and affirmation; the need, through worship and waiting upon God, to know his strengthening and his leading.
- Desire to enable local Congregations to send the delegates that they feel are appropriate, and for the Conference also to facilitate wider participation if possible.
- Desire to facilitate a process of follow-up to the Conference to help Congregations and others benefit as fully as possible.

3. As a result of this initial discussion, and to give focus to our work, the Committee has adopted the following **Statement of Purpose** for the 2003 Assembly Conference :

‘Under the Lordship of Christ, guided by God’s Word and dependent upon the Holy Spirit, we gather:

- *to focus afresh on God’s greatness and grace, so that we may renew and deepen our relationship with him and with each other*

- *to seek to understand better the challenges of the cultures and the contexts in which we find ourselves*
- *to explore how we can engage in, and equip ourselves for, meaningful worship, authentic fellowship and effective witness in today's world'*

4. On the basis of our Statement of Purpose, and taking into account the lessons learnt from previous Assembly Conferences, we have begun to evolve an outline structure for the 2003 Conference.

It is envisaged that the Conference will run from a Monday evening until a Thursday evening, probably during the first week in August 2003 i.e. Monday 4 to Thursday 7th August 2003.

The Evening Sessions, set in the context of adoration and praise, are to focus us on God and His Gospel, taking into account the world in which we live.

The Morning Sessions are to help us to understand the culture and context in which we find ourselves, and to explore how we can engage in meaningful worship, authentic fellowship and effective witness in the light of that culture and context.

The afternoons are to help to equip us for meaningful worship, authentic fellowship and effective witness in today's world. It is envisaged that a range of 'seminars' would be offered.

5. In the light of this outline structure, and of our overall purpose, the Committee are beginning to explore main speakers for the morning and evening sessions. The structure will continue to be expanded and refined, though we would like to have some feedback on our initial planning during this Assembly, before proceeding with the more detailed work necessary. One slightly worrying factor is that nearly every Board and Committee of the Assembly feel that their work should be highlighted and given prominence at the 2003 Assembly Conference. This obviously is not possible, and it is the Committee's view that our main task is to continue to work towards our overall purpose.

6. With regard to venue, our final location will be dictated both by the availability of facilities and also by the need to most effectively fulfil our aims. At the time of writing, several possible venues are still being explored; however the option of using the New Horizon Marquee based at the University of Ulster Coleraine will not be open to us. The University are not able to facilitate the New Horizon Marquee on their campus after 2001. It is hoped to finalise our discussions about venue, and indeed timing, over the coming weeks, to enable a full report to be brought to the Assembly via Daily Minutes

7. Steps continue to be taken to put in place an initial budget and to consider issues of financing. This can only begin to be firmed up when the issue of venue is clearer. As a result an outline budget will also be reported to the Assembly via Daily Minutes.

8. As a Committee we are aware of both the privilege and the responsibility that is ours. We are excited about the potential of the 2003 Assembly Conference for our denomination as a whole. We are also aware that it is only as we seek to walk in God's will and know his mind that this potential will be fulfilled. We therefore ask for prayer that we might continue to know our Lord's leading in these early, yet important days.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received
2. That the General Assembly approve the Statement of Purpose (Par 3 above) for the 2003 Assembly Conference
3. That the ad hoc Committee for the 2003 Assembly Conference be reappointed for a further year as follows :

MEMORIALS TRANSMITTED 289

MEMORIALS TRANSMITTED

Rev C U Bradley re Reception as Minister 243
Rev S C Calder re Reception as Minister 245
Mr Sam Condell and Others re Irish Mission Worker 184
Synod of Armagh and Down re Synods 26

OVERTURES ON THE BOOKS

Par 19(4) 58
Par 137 263

OVERTURES TRANSMITTED

Par 65(2) 26
Par 97(h) 26
Par 193(1)(a)(i) 78
Par 193(2)(a) 79
Par 236 285
Par 250(4) 26
Par 274(4) 79
Trustees Bye-Law XIII 280
Trustees Bye-Law XIV 280

MOTION ON THE BOOKS

Very Rev Dr S Hutchinson re Mr H W Templeton 98

INDEX TO REPORTS

Accounts 2000 – Preface	1	Central Ministry Fund	271
Additional Pastoral Personnel	78	Chaplains	22
Alternating Ministries	179	Church and Government	27
Assessments		Church Architecture	105
Associate Ministers	76	Church Education	228
Church Extension	71	Church Extension	181
Incidental Fund	250	College and Magee Management	239
Licentiatees	72	Communications Administration	100
Ordained Assistants	75	Divine Healing	171
CMF	276	Doctrine	20
MPSF (1978)	276	Europe and Middle East	145
RMF	276	Evangelism	171
WMF	276	Finance and Staffing	252
Assembly Boards		Forces	20
Business	91	Historical Society	101
Communications	99	Home Mission	177
Education	220	Incidental Fund	250
Finance and Administration	247	Irish Church Relations	131
General	5	Irish Mission	166
Inter-Church Relations	129	Kinghan Mission	198
Ministry and Pensions	271	Marriage and Family	198
Mission in Ireland	165	Media	100
Nomination	114	Ministerial Studies	237
(Overseas Secretary-Designate		Moderator's Advisory	23
Clerk of Assembly-Designate)		Peace and Peacemaking	23
Overseas	141	Personnel and Planning	77
Social Witness	191	Presbyterian Residential Trust	202
Studies and Christian Training	236	Public Worship	102
United Appeal	264	Race Relations	135
Youth	211	Reception of Ministers and	
Assembly Commissions		Licentiatees	243
Judicial	52	Recognised Ministries	50
Shankill Road Mission	209	Resourcing Christians for Ministry	241
Trusts	246	Retired Ministers House Fund	275
Union of Congregations	59	Retirements and Pensions	274
Assembly Committees		Social Issues and Resources	203
Addiction and Education Services	197	State Education	222
African, Caribbean and Latin		Students Bursary Fund	240
America	142	Tyrone Memorial – Ad Hoc	283
Arrangements	97	University Education	229
Asia Committee	148	War Memorial Hostel	206
Assembly Buildings	249	World Church Relations	137
Assembly Conference 2003 –		World Development Committee	138
Ad Hoc	286	Youth Centres	215
Assignment	237	Youth Events	217

Youth Home Mission	212	LWH Hilditch (80), SE Hughes (86), TJ Laverty (84), DJ McCarthy (87), K McConnell (86), DK McCrory (89), AA McCullough (90), RJ Mattison (82), JG Millar (90), JP Moxen (84), WL Orr (82), DC Porter (82), DW Reid (88), AJA Rosborough (88), J Scott (87), AJMcL Smith (90), MM Stewart (81), DH Thompson (87), AE Tolland (84), FW Vincent (86), JH Wilson (87), TJ Wilson (87), JM Wylie (82).
Youth Overseas	213	
Youth Training and Resources	216	
Boards and Committees Panel	10	Inter-Church Consultative Committee 133
Child Protection Monitoring Group	205	Inter-Church Committee on
Church House Staff	16	Mixed Marriages 200
Church Hymnary Trustees	112	Inter-Church Committee on N.I. 15
Clerk of Assembly (Job Description)	16	Inter-Church Meeting 132
Conciliation Panel	13	Licensed
Conveners Retiring		JM Casement (80), LH Eagleson (83), SD Finlay (83), M Jones (86), CK McDowell (83), CWA Martin (89), S Richmond (83), DJ Steele (85).
W Alexander (273), D Campbell (129), JM Cathcart (194), RH Mitchell (220), JA Scott (5), D Stanfield (212), R Valleyly (92).		Lottery-Funded Training 224
Criminal Justice System, Review of	38	Manse Guidelines 67
Deaconess, Status of	174	Memorial Record 106
Deaths		Memorials Transmitted 289
JD Ayre (80), WR Brown (81), RG Doherty (88), W Erskine (80), RC Graham (88), R Houston (80), DM Kennedy (89), W Knox (88), CPA Logue (89), S McCartney (85), JR Watt (88) AJ Weir (87), SH Williamson (82), JL Wynne (89).		Ministers Pension Scheme (1978) 274
Delegates Reports	94	Ministers without Charge etc 50
Elders as Presbytery Clerks	6	Ministerial Minimum 271
Employment Appeals Tribunal	55	Mission Statement, Irish Mission 168
Environment Panel	130	Mutual Society 177
Expenses		Notice of Motion 289
Locomotory 77		Old Age Fund 206
Inadequate 77		Ordained
Familybooks	101	GD Allen (89), BD Colvin (84), WHG Crawley (86), CJ Gamble (90), TD Hagan (88), JRI Harbinson (82), M Henderson (80), AA McCullough (90), JP Moxen (84), DW Reid (88), AJA Rosborough, (88), MM Stewart (81), AE Tolland (84), JM Wylie (82).
Family Grants	273	Organised Crime 31
Funding, Overview	8	Overtures
General Investment Fund	278	On the Books 289
Getty Bequest	279	Transmitted 289
Home Mission PWA	173	Presbytery Reports 80
(Home Department)		Prioritising the Central Work of PCI 9
Human Rights Commission		PWA 185
(Bill of Rights NI) 44		Recognised Ministries
Hymn Book (Book of Praise) 102		BBC Religious Programmes
ICC and ICCM Structures 132		Producer 99
Indigent Ladies Fund 206		Belfast Bible College 129
Installed		Mediation Network 194
LJ Addis (84), CJ Aitcheson (84), GD Allen (89), RT Anderson (87), BD Colvin (84), WHG Crawley (86), JJ Currie (83), AK Duddy (82), CJ Gamble (90), TW Gordon (81), TD Hagan (88), JRI Harbinson (82), M Henderson (80),		Restoration Ministries 130
		Scripture Union 221

Resigned		Synod Reports	80
LJ Addis (83), DJ Campbell (80), JS Carson (86), JF Crawford (81), IW Crooks (83), JJ Currie (89), TR Davey (88), V Dobbin (86), A Gordon (83), TW Gordon (87), LWH Hilditch (81), SE Hughes (80), RJ Hyndman (83), RA Knox (82), TJ Lavery (80), DJ McCarthy (87), K McConnell (81), DK McCrory (90), JG Millar (80), DC Porter (80), J Scott (87), JC Simms (84), AJMcL Smith (84), T Steele (81), JC Teeney (88), DH Thompson (85).		Tentmaking Ministry Scheme	169
Retired		Training Centre, Christian	239
R Allen (86), WER Barton (85), J Briggs (82), DC Caskie (89), J Clarke (88), WT Coburn (89), J Frazer (84), WM Gray (80), JB McCormick (89), JT McCullough (85), A O'Neill (88), WJR Robinson (87), J Ross (80), AA Sleith (87), ED Smith (87), HB Wallace (85).		Travelling Expenses (Assembly etc.)	250
Retired Ministers Fund	274	Trustee Appointments	281
		Trustees of the Church	277
Statistics	253	Visitations of Presbytery	14
Students, Schedule of	239	Westbourne – Bloomfield Linkage	65
Supply Fees	77	Widows of Ministers Fund	274
		World Alliance of Reformed Churches	138
		Young Womens Groups	190