

CONFERENCE 2012

Monday afternoon: July 2nd

Devotions

The retiring President (Mr Graham Evans) welcomed everyone to Conference and opened the session devotionally. We sang the hymn 'Jesus is King' The President led in prayer and then read from James 2 v 14 – 17. He commented that we need to be people not just of faith but of action too.

Names of Representatives (taken as read)

Miss Jean Handley is not able to attend, no substitute has been appointed by the Sheffield Circuit.

Apologies for absence

Jean Handley

Appointment of:

- Secretaries to Conference:
Rev C Braithwaite & Mrs L Taylor
- Recorders of Minutes
Bernard Oldman & Phil Hearson – Monday afternoon
Daphne Hodgkinson & Stephen Griffiths – Tuesday morning
Peter Norton & David Rooksby – Tuesday afternoon
Paul Busby & Sam Downing – Wednesday morning
- Letter-writers
Pauline Downing and Carol Nicholls
- Scrutineers
Judith Darby, Brenda Busby, Margaret Kay & Phil Hartshorn

Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors.

This was agreed

Standing Orders were agreed as below:

Discussion only allowed on a motion duly moved and seconded.

No delegate to speak more than once on any subject, except the mover of the Resolution, who has the right to reply.

The mover of a Resolution must not exceed ten minutes, and the seconder five minutes.

Subsequent speakers and the reply of the mover, not to exceed five minutes.

All printed reports and statements to be taken as read.

Only Representatives have authority to vote. No others must accept or use voting privileges.

Obituary List

Conference stood to remember those who had died since last Conference. Particular mention was made of Mr Arthur Fisher and Mr John Hunt. The President led in prayer.

Read Correspondence for Conference

CONFERENCE 2012

There was no correspondence to Conference

Election of President

The nomination of Rev Ian Fall for the position of President was prepared by Rev P Hearson. This nomination was warmly and unanimously accepted. Ian replied briefly and asked for our prayers.

Election of President-Designate

The nomination of Rev Michael Alderson as President Designate was moved by Rev P Norton and enthusiastically agreed by Conference. Michael replied briefly.

Appointment of Guardian Representative

On the recommendation of General Committee and with the full approval of Conference, Mrs Emma Wilcock was appointed a Guardian Representative. The President led in prayer for the Guardian Representatives.

Appointment of Trustee

Mrs Daphne Hodkinson was appointed a Union Trustee

Appointment of Union Tutor

Pastor Adelbert Rugeruzza was appointed Union Tutor, this had been proposed by the Ministerial Committee and endorsed by the General Committee.

Rev. Geoffrey Lee will become Tutor Emeritus. He spoke to Conference, fully endorsing the decision concerning Pastor Ady, speaking of his skills and commitment. He encouraged Conference to use these skills. Ady replied, asking for prayers in order that we might 'walk together'.

The President led in prayer for both Geoff and Ady.

Nominations for General Committee

In presenting the nominations for General Committee, it was noted that two long-standing members of General Committee will not be standing for election and have tendered their resignations from the Committee. Faith Sharp and Michael Mumford had both served the Union for many years as members of General Committee. We are grateful to God for the wisdom, insight and vision that they brought to Union affairs over the years. We thank them for their service and fellowship and assure them of our prayers for their future plans.

ALDERMANS GREEN	Rev P H Norton
ARNOLD	
ASHBY CIRCUIT	Mr P Busby
ASHINGTON	
ATTLEBOROUGH	
BAKEWELL CIRCUIT	Mr S D Allen
BARNSELY CIRCUIT	Mrs M Mottershaw, Mrs E Wilcock
BEDWORTH	
BIRDS EDGE	
BRADFORD CIRCUIT	
CAWSTON CIRCUIT	
CHOPPINGTON	
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	
CLYDEBANK	

CONFERENCE 2012

DEDDINGTON	
DENBY DALE CIRCUIT	
DORRINGTON	
FRICTWELL	
GRIFFYDAM	Mr C A Darby
HAZLEMERE	Rev M G Alderson
HEATH END	
HECKINGTON	
HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT	
HUCKNALL	
IVINGHOE	Pastor D Clifford
LOWESTOFT	
NUNEATON	Mr S Downing
OLDBURY	
OLD HILL	
ROTH, MEX & DONC CIRCUIT	Mr B England
SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT	Mr B Oldman, Mrs M Stonehewer, Mrs C Parkinson
SLEAFORD CIRCUIT	
SOULDERN	
ST. JUST	Rev S Griffiths
SYRESHAM	
WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT	Rev P Hearson, Mr D Rooksby

Ministerial Committee Report

Report by Rev C Braithwaite

Since this report was prepared, a number of things have happened. Firstly, Stephen Griffiths has been appointed to be Minister at our Bedworth Church and his Induction will be 1st September 2012.. The St James Church, Oldhill has appointed Colin Bolton to be their new Minister and his Induction is planned for October 6th. In the days prior to Conference, the Ashington Church have invited Sian Edwards to be their Pastor.

For the last couple of months, the Ministerial Committee have been in contact with a gentleman by the name of Irvine Grey who has a desire to plant a church in the Craigavon area of Belfast under the auspices of the Wesleyan Reform Union. After two interviews with Irvine (one with the interview panel followed by another with the full Committee) it was agreed that:

We recommend to Conference that we would welcome a formal approach from the newly formed fellowship for entry to family of the WRU at a point when they consider that a more structured church is developing.

We, the WRU, should actively pursue relationships with them.

We recommend Irvine Grey be accepted and trained for possible ordination once the necessary qualifications have been met.

In addition to the above, we have also been approached (via Ishaku) by Eddison Mubengo for ministry in the Union. Eddison is currently studying in Glasgow for a Master's degree in Biblical Interpretation and is also a

CONFERENCE 2012

part-time pastor of a small church. His desire is to bring his existing congregation into the Union with him. Eddison will be meeting with the interview panel during Conference.

Both Irvine Grey and Eddison Mubengo are with us at Conference and we warmly welcome them.

Since Conference 2011, we have interviewed two men for possible ministry in the Wesleyan Reform Union and were happy to recommend one for acceptance onto the ministerial list. He was introduced to one of our churches but subsequently withdrew from the Union.

Steve Blyth is continuing his studies with the Union Tutor.

Emmanuel Ijioma had been invited to be Minister of one of our Churches but we have, so far, been unable to obtain sponsor status with the UK Border Agency.

Ady Rugeruzza and Steve Karma have both met with the Committee to discuss their dissertations. The Committee was happy to recommend that both of them go forward for recognition at Conference once they have served for the qualifying period.

Ishaku Bitrus has, at the suggestion of the Committee, applied for formal recognition, and will prepare his dissertation during this next year.

Ken Goreham retired from his ministry at Church on the Rock during the last year and Faith Sharp will be retiring from the work at Syresham once she has completed the practical arrangement for her move to St Ives. We thank both Ken and Faith for their years of faithful service to the Union and to the Lord.

For many years, the name of Rev David Allcock has been missing from the list of accredited ministers and, with our sincere apologies to David, his name has now been added to the current list.

Warren Evans, Peter Hems and Martin Owens have left the Union and have therefore been removed from the list of Ministers. At the time of writing, Stephen Griffiths and Sian Edwards are both seeking to move from their present situations.

We currently have five churches (Bedworth, Ashington, Bethel Community Church, Staincross and St James Oldhill) who are seeking to appoint a Minister.

The Cawston, Hucknall and Skelmanthorpe churches have all (sadly) taken the decision to close during the last year and The Pastures church has taken a decision to leave the Union.

The role of Union Tutor is currently being shared between Geoffrey Lee (who continues to be responsible for biblical studies) and Ady Rugeruzza who is responsible for the theological studies and will be updating the study material as well as ways in which the courses are presented.

We are grateful to all our ministers and leaders for their willingness to serve the Lord and His people in this way and would ask that you continue to remember all of them in prayer.

Election of Committee

The President, The General Secretary, Rev P Norton (Chairman) Mr P Busby, Rev I Fall, Rev P Hearson, Rev G Lee, Rev M Nicholls, Mr G Phillips, Pastor A Rugeruzza, Mrs M Stonehewer, Pastor A Wilcock.

Present List of Ministers

In presenting the list of Ministers, it was noted that it was the wish of the Ministerial Committee that all ministers (both official and independently appointed) be identified by name rather than initial

CONFERENCE 2012

LIST OF MINISTERS

(Figures in brackets denote years in Present Charge)

Year Ordained

- 1956 Geoffrey D Lee BD ALBC
"Rosebank", 1 Abbey Road, Simpson, Milton Keynes. MK6 3AE
Tel: 01908 395246 E-Mail: geoffdlee@talktalk.net
BOZEAT CHURCH (13)
- 1960 Reginald Taylor (retired)
3 Ladyslaud Court, Bramly Way, Bedford. MK41 7FX
Tel: 01234-266544
- 1960 John W Goulder ThM (retired)
35 Dumas-Cul-de-Sac, Brackley, Northants. NN13 6LL
Tel: 01280 841469 E-Mail: revgoulders@tiscali.co.uk
- 1969 David Allcock (retired)
23 Darrell Place, Norwich, Norfolk, NR5 8QW
Tel: 01603 501040
- 1970 A John Williams (retired)
2 Bunyan Road, Bicester, OX26 2YB
Tel: 01869 388707 E-Mail: austin.williams@talktalk.net
- 1971 Anthony E Hodkinson (retired)
30 Beaumont Avenue, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester. LE65 2NF
Tel: 01530 416521 E-Mail: daphton@sky.com
- 1974 Ralph S Thompson (retired)
Bethesda, 51 Queens Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA6 6EQ
Tel: 01278 425746 E-Mail: hazel.thompson2@virgin.net
- 1974 Maurice Nicholls JP (retired)
29 Willow Court, Uplands Drive Markfield, Leicester, LE67 9WF
Tel: 01530 242422 E-Mail: carol@carolnicholls.wanadoo.co.uk
- 1976 Frank Robinson (retired)
5 Emery Close, Sheringham, Norfolk. NR26 8YB
Tel: 01263 822335
- 1988 Peter H Norton
56 Silverdale Close, Coventry CV2 1PX
Tel: 024 7668 5230 E-Mail: revsnorton@btinternet.com
ALDERMANS GREEN (6)
- 1989 Gordon C Gordon MA (retired)
3 Lightlands Terrace, Wigtown, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire. DG8 9DY
- 1997 John M Leslie (retired)
14 East Avenue, Bedworth, Warwickshire. CV12 9EH
Tel: 024 7631 6167
- 1998 Philip J Hearson
11 South Park, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9LY

CONFERENCE 2012

Tel: 01933 312392 E-Mail: p-j.hearson@sky.com
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET (6)

1998 Michael G Alderson
6 Vine Close, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 7UT
Tel: 01494 814530 E-Mail: Malderson@btinternet.com
HAZLEMERE CHURCH (9)

1980 Colin Braithwaite
58 Cardwell Avenue, Sheffield, S13 7XA
Tel: 0114 269 4035 E-Mail: gen.sec@thewru.co.uk
GENERAL SECRETARY (6)

2004 Ian Fall
161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9TA
Tel: 01933 312919 E-Mail: ian.fall@virgin.net
RUSHDEN MISSION (6)

1985 Stephen Griffiths
11 Bosorne Terrace, St Just, Penzance, Cornwall. TR19 7LY
Tel: 01736 786051 E-Mail: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk
ST JUST CHURCH (9)

MINISTERS AWAITING ORDINATION

Ishaku Bitrus
76 Barns Street, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire, G81 1QY
Tel: 0141 952 2293 E-Mail: ajibauka@googlemail.com

Stephen Karma
63 Prince's Road, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2LS
Tel: 07967 345754 E-Mail: ebenezerchurch@hotmail.co.uk
OLDBURY CHURCH

Adalbert Rugeruzza
696 Bradford Road, Oakenshaw, Bradford, BD12 7DY
Tel: 07974 531258 E-Mail: adyrugeruzza@hotmail.co.uk
LOW MOOR CHURCH

Stephen Blyth
6a The Green, Attleborough, NUNEATON, Warwickshire, CV11 4FJ
Tel: 024 637 3180 E-Mail: steve@youth-180.org

MINISTERS ACCEPTED BY THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

William Hartwell (retired)
"Cranford", 175 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. GL53 7DW
Tel: 01242 520723

MINISTERS INDEPENDENTLY APPOINTED BY CHURCHES (in alphabetical order)

James Braddock RICHMOND CHURCH
26 Cardwell Drive, Sheffield S13 7XD
Tel: 0114 293 9677 E-Mail: jim.braddock@btinternet.com

CONFERENCE 2012

Paul Busby
12 St Margarets, Lower Outwoods, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 0QH
Tel: 01283 548800 E-Mail: ppaulbusby@aol.com

David Clifford
12 Windsor Road, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 9GD
Tel: 01296 660023 E-Mail: davidclifford954@btinternet.com

Sian Edwards
8a Town Lane, Aylsham, Norwich, NR11 6HH
Tel: 01263 735635 E-Mail: CawstonCircuit@aol.com

Stanley Liffen
138 Raglan Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2JT
Tel: 01502 517395

Robert Nuttall
1 Sunnybank Court, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD8 8TJ
Tel: 01484 863406 E-Mail: rnuttall40@btinternet.com

Brian Pratt
90 Pytchley Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JA
Tel: 01536 520844

Ian Relf
25 Cumbrian Way, Shepshed, Loughbrough, Leicestershire, LE12 9BP
Tel: 01509 829166

Ronald Stockley
84 Buttershaw Lane, Wibsey, Bradford, BD6 2DA
Tel: 01274 393351 E-Mail: stockleyj2@aol.com

Isobel Walton
The Wesleyan Manse, 3 Castle Street, Deddington, Banbury, OX15 0TE
Tel: 01869 337157 E-Mail: Pastorissy@hotmail.com

Andrew Wilcock
29 Daniel Hill Street, Walkley, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S6 3JH
Tel: 0114 233 4852 E-Mail: hampden@blueyonder.co.uk

Jonathan & Susannah Youdan
159 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield, S4 7AU.
Tel: 0114 242 4639 E-Mail: jyoudan06@aol.com or syoudan@aol.com

The above list of Ministers and Pastors was proposed, seconded and agreed

2. CESA Report

CONFERENCE 2012

Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson

The UK is in the midst of a rampant crime, family and social breakdown. Our prisons are full, even though the legal system sometimes fails to convict or deliver appropriate justice. It seems that there is corruption in all walks of life and last year we witnessed wide scale rioting and looting in our cities. The spectre of gay marriages is nearly upon us, and people are again advocating euthanasia and assisted suicide as an acceptable practice. Whatever next!

Bible reading, preaching, prayer and Christian worship are viewed by most people as irrelevant and "the man of God" as a joke! All these facts, and many more not mentioned here, should stir us up to watch and pray and serve the Lord more fervently. We thank God that the first Sunday in February was chosen for our Values Day and the subject was "The value of Christian marriage". The notes were again prepared by Rev. Geoffrey Lee. It was a very relevant subject in the light of the proposal by the Government to redefine marriage. I was heartened to read Ann Widdecombe's comments when she said "Marriage is a unique institution which should not be redefined for same sex marriage.....the law should always give a privileged and unique place to marriage as currently defined" She may not be able to dance, but she certainly speaks out.

When the consultation is open please urge your congregations to visit their Members of Parliament to object to the proposal. Write letters to the Government and let us show that we will not sit back and allow these minority groups to dictate to us.

We thank all the members of the CESA Committee who actively present the Christian viewpoint on important issues. Thank you, too, to all those who provide articles for the Contact magazine. They have been very thought provoking and helpful.

Thanks to all Churches who support us financially. A list of the allocated gifts can be found in the financial report.

The report was accepted by Conference.

Election of Officers: Secretary, Treasurer & Chairman

Ian Fall (Chair), Daphne Hodkinson (Sec), Stuart Allen, Sam Downing, Marjorie Mottershaw, Bernard Oldman
Carol Nicholls

This was agreed by Conference

Accounts by Mrs A Marshall

CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION	2011/2012	2010/2011
Income		
Balance brought forward	1430	1041
Donations	1939	2094
Conference Contribution	31	28
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,400	3,163
Payments		
Fees	141	128
Hope UK	400	225
Care	0	275

CONFERENCE 2012

L.D.O.S.	500	400
Caring for Life	550	325
Christian Institute	550	350
Postage Stationery Copying	30	30
Balance (Nat West) C/F	1,229	1,430
	<u>3,400</u>	<u>3,163</u>

The accounts, as above, were approved and accepted by Conference

Greetings from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion

Greetings from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion were brought by their President, Pastor Gordon Hamilton. He read Psalm 117 and commented that God will carry us while we lean on Him.

Greetings from the Leader's of Worship and Preachers Trust

Greetings from the LWPT were brought by Mr John Witt. He gave some details of the work of the LWPT. A network of local contacts is being set up.

Statistics and discussion

The following statistics were briefly presented by the General Secretary.

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
ALDERMANS GREEN	-	68	1	27	6	-	-	2	-	70
ARNOLD	-	16	-	9	1	6	3	3	-	12

ASHBY CIRCUIT

ELLISTOWN	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7
IBSTOCK	-	18	-	-	3	-	-	4	10	20
MOIRA	-	14	3	-	-	-	-	2	10	20
NEW SWANNINGTON	-	15	-	-	-	9	6	1	-	15
	-	51	3	-	3	9	6	9	20	62
ASHINGTON	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
ATTLEBOROUGH	-	11	-	7	1	-	-	1	15	15

BAKEWELL CIRCUIT

BONSALL	-	18	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	24
CURBAR	-	12	4	3	1	1	2	1	-	10
FROGGATT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OVER HADDON	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STONEDGE	-	32	1	4	2	1	13	4	-	30
STONEY MIDDLETON	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
WINSTER	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	15
YOULGRAVE	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	14
	-	89	7	7	3	9	15	8	-	97

BARNSLEY CIRCUIT

CONFERENCE 2012

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
BARNSELY	-	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
CLIFFE BRIDGE	-	6	2	4	4	-	7	1	-	16
CUDWORTH	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
DODWORTH	-	11	3	-	-	30	15	1	3	13
HOYLE MILL	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
HUNNINGLEY	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
SMITHIES	-	9	1	6	3	8	8	2	6	12
STAINCROSS	2	14	5	4	1	2	2	2	8	15
WORSBROUGH	-	15	1	-	-	-	-	5	12	16
	2	93	17	14	8	40	32	11	29	109
BEDWORTH	-	21	2	10	3	-	2	3	6	15
BIRDS EDGE	-	11	2	12	2	2	10	-	-	20
<i>BRADFORD CIRCUIT</i>										
ADDINGHAM	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	30
BEACON COMMUNITY	-	36	3	11	6	1	10	4	-	42
BETHEL COMMUNITY	-	13	2	-	-	20	-	7	5	20
LOW MOOR	-	15	1	6	3	22	-	3	13	25
MUFF FIELD	-	38	1	5	7	-	-	-	-	23
	-	131	7	22	16	43	10	16	18	140
<i>CAWSTON CIRCUIT</i>										
CAWSTON	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
COLBY LONG ROAD	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
SMALLBURGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWANTON ABBOTT	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	20
CHOPPINGTON	2	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	-	11	4	10	2	5	17	1	15	30
CLYDEBANK	-	26	-	8	3	-	5	3	14	55
DEDDINGTON	-	9	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	14
<i>DENBY DALE CIRCUIT</i>										
DENBY DALE	-	10	1	6	1	5	-	1	-	12
SKELMANTHORPE	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
	-	16	2	6	1	5	-	1	-	21
DORRINGTON	-	6	1	6	2	-	-	1	-	18
FRICTWELL	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
GRIFFYDAM	-	14	8	16	7	43	2	5	-	40
HAZLEMERE	-	25	-	10	4	57	7	3	-	50
HEATH END	-	23	4	7	3	12	30	3	-	34
HECKINGTON	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	14

CONFERENCE 2012

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
<i>HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT</i>										
BEACONSFIELD	-	16	-	4	2	20	3	4	7	12
FARNHAM COMMON	-	9	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	10
THE PASTURES	-	46	2	28	16	70	18	7	15	89
WYCOMBE MARSH	-	6	1	-	-	6	10	4	12	30
	-	77	4	32	18	96	31	17	34	141
HUCKNALL	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17
IVINGHOE	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	14
LOWESTOFT	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	7	8
NUNEATON	-	8	-	8	4	-	-	1	8	15
OLDBURY	-	40	-	2	2	30	10	3	-	57
OLD HILL	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	3	18	21
<i>ROTHERHAM MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT</i>										
BOWBROOM	9	20	-	9	3	6	3	1	-	17
CORNERSTONE	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	14
ELSECAR	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
HIGHTHORN	-	20	-	-	-	(joint with New Oxford Road)		-	-	20
HOUGH LANE	-	19	2	9	2	-	-	2	-	21
JUMP	-	27	2	6	1	35	10	8	9	28
MEXBOROUGH	30	50	8	30	6	30	20	6	-	80
MOUNT TABOR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEWHILL	2	10	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
ROTHERHAM	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	5
WARMSWORTH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WATH	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	41	180	16	54	12	71	33	21	25	213
<i>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</i>										
COAL ASTON	-	9	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	14
GREENHEAD	-	8	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	7
GRIMESTHORPE	-	21	1	3	-	3	-	-	-	20
HAMPDEN VIEW	-	6	1	4	2	25	6	2	10	26
MAYFIELD	-	18	4	-	-	-	-	2	15	15
OUGHTIBRIDGE	-	59	-	22	6	-	15	6	-	54
OWLERTON	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	4	14	20
PHILADELPHIA	-	9	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	10
RICHMOND	-	36	4	6	3	8	-	4	10	50
SHARROW VALE	-	30	2	25	18	-	-	-	-	180
ST. MARYS	-	9	-	12	2	-	-	1	-	12
WOODSEATS	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	20
	-	221	13	79	39	43	21	23	49	428
<i>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</i>										

CONFERENCE 2012

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
BRANT BROUGHTON	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
LEASINGHAM	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
RUSKINGTON	-	9	1	3	2	-	-	1	8	16
RUSKINGTON FEN	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
	-	24	2	3	2	-	-	1	8	47
SOULDERN	-	7	2	7	1	-	-	1	-	7
ST. JUST	-	15	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	13
SYRESHAM	2	20	-	5	2	12	7	2	-	21

WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT

ALMA STREET	-	17	1	-	-	-	-	2	15	27
BOZEAT	-	18	1	-	-	10	-	1	10	17
DICKINS MEMORIAL	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
ISHAM	-	7	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	17
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET	-	49	1	19	4	16	10	3	24	54
RUSHDEN MISSION	-	38	1	11	5	-	12	3	-	70
WYMINGTON	-	10	-	10	4	-	-	1	-	20
	-	147	5	41	14	26	22	10	49	213

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

TOTALS FOR 2012	47	1453	105	402	159	509	263	166	315	2084
TOTALS FOR 2011	27	1459	110	392	167	490	301	163	362	2164
INCREASE	20	-	-	-	-	19	-	3	-	-
DECREASE	-	6	5	10	8	-	38	-	47	80

Cliff Darby presented a paper with thoughts about the Union. In particular, he reiterated the following

'Let us not leave this year's Conference without at least together; boldly, openly, penitentially, sacrificially, unconditionally, lovingly and caringly, come together before the Lord. This may be our last opportunity'

Cliff read from Psalm 105 and then called Conference to praise, worship and prayer, broadly following this pattern (many contributing openly).

Praise and worship

Thanksgiving

Confession and penitence

Supplication

Praise and worship

This time concluded as we prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

The President closed the session with prayer – this ended business for the day.

CONFERENCE 2012

CONFERENCE 2012

Tuesday morning: July 3rd

Devotions

The President, Rev Ian Fall, opened the session devotionally by reading 2 Peter Ch.1:1-11

Resolution of Loyalty to be moved by The President, Rev Ian Fall

"May it please your Most Gracious Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to accept the heartfelt and sincere greetings of the members of the 163rd Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches assembled at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We give thanks to God for your long reign over us and rejoice in this year of Jubilee celebrations.

Be assured of our prayers and support for you, and your family that God would continue to guide, strengthen and sustain you as you reign over our nation and commonwealth"

Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee

The following were appointed to serve on General Committee for the forthcoming year:

Rev M G Alderson, Mr S D Allen, Pastor P Busby, Pastor D Clifford, Mr C A Darby, Mr S Downing, Mr B England, Rev S Griffiths, Rev P Hearson, Mrs M Mottershaw, Rev P H Norton, Mr B Oldman, Mrs C Parkinson, Mr D Rooksby, Mrs M Stonehewer.

Local Preachers' Fellowship

The following Report by Carol Nicholls and Accounts by Emma Wilcock were approved by Conference

Percy Johnson has been a member of LPF since 1956 when he was the instigator - putting forward at Conference the suggestion to have a retreat. He has attended all the meetings until last year. We are delighted that Percy has settled into his new home near family. We thank God for his faithful service and the encouragement we have all received from him.

Faith Sharp has decided to resign from the committee as she plans to move to a new area. We thank God for her faithful service and pray God will continue to bless her.

Our annual retreat was held on Saturday October 20th when our speaker was Pastor Chris Hand, from Derbyshire. His theme was "Preaching Christ in the 21st Century". We are grateful to God for ministry received. Over 50 people attended.

Full manuscripts are available, via e-mail, from me at carol@carolnicholls.wanadoo.co.uk.

Details of the Retreat to be held on October 20th 2012 are as follows:

Cost: £13 for the day
Venue: Aldermans Green Free Methodist Church
Speaker: Rev B Patterson, Hinckley whose subject will be "In Christ Alone"
Sessions: The Person of Christ, The Power of Christ and The Proclamation of Christ.
Time: 10.00am to meet for coffee with the sessions commencing at 10.30am through to 4.00pm after which the Annual Committee Meeting will be held.

CONFERENCE 2012

In 2013 the retreat will be on October 19th when the preacher will be Rev D Cleave of Long Ashton. The venue has yet to be arranged but the details will be announced in the Contact magazine.

We are grateful to all our local preachers who serve God so faithfully and we pray that their ministry will be blessed.

Chairman Mrs E Wilcock
Secretary Mrs C Nicholls
Treasurer Mrs E Wilcock
Committee Mr R Evans, Mr M Mumford, Mr R Marshall, Mrs A Marshall.

LOCAL PREACHER'S FELLOWSHIP	2011/2012	2010/2011
Income		
Retreat Fees	741	734
Donations	-	50
Retreat Offering	-	61
Interest	4	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	745	848
Payments		
Retreat		
Gift to Speaker	170	150
Catering	378	278
Returned Fees	65	-
Secretarial Expenses	126	124
Conference Expenses	137	-
Deficit/Surplus	-131	296
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	745	848
Fund Balances		
Current Account	220	355
Reserve Account	1397	1396
Trust Fund	1592	1589
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,209	3,340

Young People's Department

The following Report by Mr S Blyth was approved by Conference

The YPD Committee have been focused on a number of activities since Conference 2011. These activities have been guided by our aim to inform and resource the children's and youth work within the WRU as well as actively partnering with churches to promote a Godly and positive service to young people. These include the YPD support worker, the safeguarding policy and resources for practitioners of children and young people.

Martin Ludbrook continues as the support worker and has been involved in a few activities with different churches throughout the Union. Since last conference, Martin has facilitated holiday clubs in Syresham, Swanton Abbott, and Bethel Community Church. These have been well received. Martin also went with a team to a Family Fun Night in Low Moor and led a short gospel talk. Over 60 parents and children attended with one parent commenting that this is "exactly the kind of event their community needs." Since January 2012 Martin facilitated a holiday club at Moira Church, partnered with Bierley Church with their kids club and had a second

CONFERENCE 2012

visit to Clydebank. As a committee we believe that Martin is fulfilling an important role within the WRU. Through Martin, young people and children are hearing the gospel and learning more about God. We would invite you to join us in supporting Martin in prayer as he continues this essential role.

One of our main aims as a committee has been to produce online resources freely available to members of the Union who are involved in children's and youth work. Martin has been initiating a 'blog' (online magazine) filled with information about what he has been doing and resources for children and youth work.

The blog is available from <http://wru-ypd.blogspot.com/>

The Young People's Department have been blessed to welcome Beth Ely and Marjorie Nicholls to the meetings. Their input has been valuable and we have benefitted from their wisdom. We were sad to accept Helen Pardoe's resignation from the Committee due to further commitments in her local context. We have been very grateful for her leadership as Chair and for her input. We have appointed Beth Ely as Chair of the YPD.

For the past few meetings we have been considering a safeguarding policy statement designed to complement the children's and youth work happening throughout the Union. We have done this so that practitioners within the Union have the option to download the document and edit it to make it work for their context. It contains appendices revised especially for children's and youth work in mind. This policy is in its first draft and will be available for download from the YPD section of the WRU website soon.

Election of officers: Secretary, Treasurer, Committee, Representative to General Committee

The President, The General Secretary, , Beth Ely (Chair), Cliff Darby (Sec) (*), Steve Blyth, Martin Ludbrook, Marjorie Nicholls, Peter Norton (*), Andy Wilcock
(*) Representatives from General Committee

Home Missions Department Report

The following reports by Paul Busby and Andy Wilcock were accepted by Conference

Report by Mr P Busby

The Home Missions Committee has this year had a vision to sit alongside churches, build relationships with them, share in prayer and help them to seek God's will for the future.

With each church being very different in its circumstances and needs, the committee members have not visited armed with solutions but with a desire to understand, pray and offer support over an extended period of time. There is no financial cost to the Union or individual churches for this activity but there may be a cost to individuals and churches who subsequently discern God's direction and face up to the challenges before them!

Around ten churches have indicated a desire to work with committee members and other kind volunteers in this way. The results have been interesting, to say the least – ranging from wonderful displays of God's rich blessings to total sadness at the closure of churches, one of which had money in the bank, a good congregation but were tired and lacking in people willing to step forward and take responsibility for the future.

In two of the most encouraging situations, where the churches had not been able to replace or appoint a minister, the members have realised that God has specific plans for them as individuals to take the work forward. How exciting! People have signed up for pastoral and preaching training, church administrative roles, etc. in the knowledge that God has called them to help extend His family.

CONFERENCE 2012

In other situations, the committee members have sought to support churches that face complex and difficult circumstances. Sadly some of those churches have found it difficult to face up to their continuing decline and, whilst having asked for help, have been reluctant to change or step out in faith when challenged. As a result our denomination faces inevitable decline in many areas whilst growing in some unexpected places.

I suspect the work of the Home Missions Committee, along with our Ministerial Committee, with whom it is closely linked, will continue to develop over the coming months – I hope so!

Report by the Development & Outreach Consultant

I am really encouraged by the invitations I have received from a number of our churches, to help them plan ways to reach out to their community. An email or phone call may well go along the lines of “We really want to make more connections with our local community” or “We have made lots of connections with our community, but would love to explore how we can share Jesus with them”. It’s so good to see a desire to do something - and that thought has already gone into how this might be achieved. What I can offer are extra ideas, lots of encouragement and a lot of listening. Also I would love to have the opportunity to join in and help.

When I visit the churches we first have an ideas / prayer meeting. I usually ask lots of questions, to try and fully understand the situation. We then explore together ways in which other churches have done things in the past. After that, we discuss how they might be tailored to this particular situation. These have been great times of blessing and encouragement, and out of the meeting have come some great projects.

This year is providing lots of opportunities to get involved with your local community. A number of our churches have already joined in with Jubilee celebrations, or helped co-ordinate a street party with local residents. There were also opportunities around the European Cup Final. We currently have the Olympic Torch Relay, as well as the Olympics and Paralympics. These are great opportunities to spend time with the people who live around your church. Maybe attend an open air event together, or join them to watch an event on their TV or yours. With the Olympics, why not find a particular sport you and your friends are jointly interested in and offer to bring some food round and watch together. Sit and enjoy some good quality friendship and see where it takes you next. Maybe, if they are from another country, find out when their athletes are competing then take an interest and follow their progress together. If you both hate sport, go out somewhere, visit a stately home, go to the theatre or cinema. But above all share some of your social / free time with the neighbours of your church and pray that God will show you how to take the friendship further.

You could also get every group in your church to ask the question “how can we creatively reach out?” How do we as a group have an outward dimension into our local community?

I would love to hear from you, and come and meet up with your Church soon. If you are holding a planning meeting, please invite me along or tell me what you’re hoping to do and I can at least send you some extra ideas to throw into the melting pot.

CONFERENCE 2012

The Treasurer, Mr G Phillips presented the accounts as below

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012		2011/2012	2010/2011
Employment of Funds			
LAND AND BUILDINGS		485,000	485,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	27,332		26,062
Less: Depreciation to date	23,892	3,440	21,864
			4,198
INVESTMENTS		1,019,116	998,601
LOANS TO CHURCHES			
Chapel Loan Fund	18,100		100
Extension Fund	88,750	106,850	102,750
			102,850
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors:			
Resource Centre	118		465
Magazine	405		651
Sundries			887
National Westminster Bank plc			
Deposit Account	176,941		169,901
Current Account	1,642		5,275
Cash in Hand	418	179,524	474
		<u>1,793,930</u>	<u>1,768,302</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors:			
Church House Expenses	150		346
Union Expenses, etc.	2,955		3,700
Actuarial Fees	1,900		2,440
Magazine	697		697
New Connexions	305	6,007	345
		<u>6,007</u>	<u>7,528</u>
		<u>1,787,923</u>	<u>1,760,774</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Property Fund		485,000	485,000
Chapel Loan Fund		115,534	112,716
Manse Loan Fund		22,401	21,855
Extension Fund		731,533	666,759
Pastoral Aid Fund		5,467	4,620
Ellis Crossley CE Fund		3,843	4,569
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust		1,781	1,738
Leasehold Redemption Fund		1,000	1,000
Home Missions Account		1,422	1,464
Young People's Department Account		3,832	6,090
General Reserve		83,785	114,970
Holdback Policy Capital Account		332,325	339,993
		<u>1,787,923</u>	<u>1,760,774</u>

CONFERENCE 2012

CONFERENCE 2012

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT		2011/2012		2010/2011
Income				
Assessment		44,731		43,800
Interest		21,138		18,869
Insurance Commissions		1,128		3,283
Profit from Resource Centre		561		551
Connexional Plan		1,740		2,292
Year Books		554		675
Child Protection Fees		500		440
Sundries		671		515
From General Reserve		16,426		25,980
		<u>87,449</u>		<u>96,405</u>
Expenditure				
Salaries etc		39,317		43,009
Gen Sec's House, Car, Telephone		<u>6,555</u>	45,872	<u>7,851</u>
Pension Fund			12,597	14,161
Church House Expenses			4,947	4,562
Training Department			2,536	2,429
Year Books			482	531
Magazine			1,562	3,083
Conference			598	4,953
Administration: Telephone		1,385		1,504
Postage		1,225		540
Stationery		2,260		1,189
Insurance		<u>1,544</u>	6,414	<u>838</u>
Travelling - Conference		475		642
Half Yearly		284		404
General Committee		<u>4,324</u>	5,083	<u>2,499</u>
Sundry Expenses- Subscriptions		215		931
CAS		560		420
Sundries		220		774
Legal Costs		470		
Bank Charges		<u>810</u>	2,275	<u>585</u>
Depreciation			2,028	2,081
Accountants			1,098	1,069
Actuaries			<u>1,957</u>	<u>2,350</u>
		<u>87,449</u>		<u>96,405</u>

CONFERENCE 2012

RESOURCES CENTRE ACCOUNT	2011/2012	2010/2011
<u>Sales</u>	4,832	4,260
Purchases	4,084	3,443
Postages	187	266
Profit/Loss transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>561</u>	<u>551</u>
	<u>4,832</u>	<u>4,260</u>
CONNEXIONAL PLAN	2012/2012	2010/2011
Income from Churches	1,857	2,373
Less Postage and Travel	117	81
Transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>1,740</u>	<u>2,292</u>
MAGAZINE ACCOUNT	2012/2012	2010/2011
Sales	3,226	4,984
Printing	4,135	7,024
Postage	653	1,043
Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>-1,562</u>	<u>-3,083</u>
	<u>3,226</u>	<u>4,984</u>
BIBLICAL STUDIES AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT	2012/2012	2010/2011
Tutors Salary	2,531	2,500
Tutors Expenses, Resources, etc.	<u>30</u>	<u>79</u>
	2,561	2,579
Less: Cash Received	<u>25</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>2,536</u>	<u>2,429</u>
HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	1,464	1,550
Donations	6,403	6,076
Interest	37	40

CONFERENCE 2012

Transfer from Extension Fund	18,500	28,500
	<u>26,404</u>	<u>36,166</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant	12,532	12,428
Travel	1,550	1,374
Grants	10,900	20,900
Balance 31st March 2012	1,422	1,464
	<u>26,404</u>	<u>36,166</u>
YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	6,090	5,404
Donations	2,715	2,258
Interest	152	140
Events		960
	<u>8,957</u>	<u>8,762</u>
Salary, etc.	3,902	1,282
Travel	1,223	266
Events		1,112
Sundries		12
Balance 31st March 2012	3,832	6,090
	<u>8,957</u>	<u>8,762</u>
PASTORAL AID FUND	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	4,620	4,360
Donations	1,131	1,126
Interest	116	113
	<u>5,867</u>	<u>5,599</u>
Service Increments	400	400
Grants		579
Travelling Expenses		
Balance 31st March 2012	5,467	4,620
	<u>5,867</u>	<u>5,599</u>
EXTENSION FUND	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	666,759	648,471
Sales of Churches	93,986	
		46,029
		40,097
Sundries		667
	<u>760,745</u>	<u>735,264</u>

CONFERENCE 2012

Transfer to Home Missions		18,500	28,500
123 Queen Street Freehold purchase			34,700
Cawston LEP			5,000
Grants	Clydebank	10,000	
Sundries		712	305
Balance 31st March 2012	Investments	642,783	522,179
	Cawston LEP		41,830
	Loans	88,750	102,750
		<u>731,533</u>	<u>666,759</u>
		<u>760,745</u>	<u>735,264</u>
HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT		2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011		339,993	256,804
Sales of Churches	Foolow	69,838	
	Wolverhampton		43,645
	Eyam Church & Cottage		96,483
		<u>409,831</u>	<u>396,932</u>
Grants	St James	3,375	
	Langley	11,673	
	Church on the Rock	13,173	
	Curbar	1,777	
	Stoney Middleton	11,594	
	Youlgrave	732	
	Winstar	2,470	
	Cawston	15,000	
	Isham	1,360	
	Dodworth	1,000	
	Rotherham	1,183	
	Muffield	14,169	
		<u>77,506</u>	56,939
Balances 31st March 2012			
	Barnsley Circuit	1,716	2,716
	Bakewell Circuit	199,718	146,453
	R,M & D Circuit	1,110	2,293
	Cawston Circuit	14,497	29,497
	Wellingboro Circuit	17,303	18,664
	Bradford Circuit	71,231	85,400
	Nottinghamshire Circuit	24,331	24,331

CONFERENCE 2012

Birmingham	2,419	30,639
	<u>332,325</u>	<u>339,993</u>
	<u>409,831</u>	<u>396,932</u>
CHAPEL LOAN FUND	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	112,716	109,860
Interest	2,818	2,856
Collections		
Balance 31st March 2012	<u>115,534</u>	<u>112,716</u>
MANSE LOAN FUND	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	21,855	21,301
Interest	546	554
Balance 31st March 2012	<u>22,401</u>	<u>21,855</u>
ELLIS CROSSLEY FUND	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	4,569	4,916
Interest	114	128
	<u>4,683</u>	<u>5,044</u>
Training	840	475
Balance 31st March 2012	<u>3,843</u>	<u>4,569</u>
	<u>4,683</u>	<u>5,044</u>
PERCY AND RUTH JOHNSON MEMORIAL TRUST	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	1,738	1,855
Interest	43	48
	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,903</u>
Conference 2010		165
Balance 31st March 2012	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,738</u>
	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,903</u>
NEW CONNEXIONS ACCOUNT	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	345	316
Sundries		49
	<u>345</u>	<u>365</u>
Church Hire	40	20

CONFERENCE 2012

Balance 31st March 2012	<u>305</u>	<u>345</u>
	<u>345</u>	<u>365</u>
GENERAL RESERVE	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April 2011	114,970	94,239
Collections		650
Sale of Eyam cottage		59,024
Rent from Thornbrook Close	3,480	3,610
Less costs	<u>3,239</u> <u>241</u>	<u>1,573</u> <u>2,037</u>
	<u>115,211</u>	<u>155,950</u>
Additional Pension Scheme Costs	15,000	15,000
Union Expenses	16,426	25,980
Balance 31st March 2012	<u>83,785</u>	<u>114,970</u>
	<u>115,211</u>	<u>155,950</u>

CONFERENCE 2012

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION	2011/2012	2010/2011
Interest from Investments	24,916	22,723
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	<u>21,090</u>	<u>18,844</u>
	<u>3,826</u>	<u>3,879</u>
Distribution:		
Home Missions	37	40
Young People's Department	152	140
Pastoral Aid Fund	116	113
Chapel Loan Fund	2,818	2,856
Manse Loan Fund	546	554
Ellis Crossley Fund	114	128
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust	<u>43</u>	<u>48</u>
	<u>3,826</u>	<u>3,879</u>

INVESTMENTS	Invested at 31/03/2011	Invested 2011/2012	Repaid 2011/2012	Invested at 31/03/2012
National Savings Bank Investment Account	38,101	115		38,216
Income Bonds	250,000			250,000
Nat West Bond	307,000	8,400		315,400
Nat West Bond	403,500	12,000		415,500
	998,601	20,515	0	1,019,116

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/12	Balance 31/03/11	Repaid Year to 31/03/12	Balance 31/03/12	Collection Received 31/03/12
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000	18,000			18,000	
	21,000	18,000	100		18,100	0

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/12	Balance 31/03/11	Repaid Year to 31/03/12	Balance 31/03/12	Collection Received 31/03/12
2007 Farnham Common	15,000		10,250	1,500	8,750	
2008 Salem Barnsley	10,000		10,000		10,000	

CONFERENCE 2012

2008 Attleborough	25,000	22,500	2,500	20,000	
2009 Clydebank	60,000	60,000	10,000	50,000	
		0	102,750	14,000	88,750
					0

It is proposed to merge the Ellis Crossley Fund and the Pastoral Aid Fund to form the Ellis Crossley Training and Pastoral Aid Fund. This fund will support the work of the Union Training Department, training requests from churches and pastoral aid issues and will be underpinned by the Extension Fund.

It is also proposed to merge the Chapel loan Fund and Manse Loan Fund to form the Church Loan Fund.

These proposals were accepted

Discussion on the Assessment

The Treasurer's recommendation of an increase in assessment of £1 was accepted and a discussion followed as to other ways of raising finances for our central administration. Three possible alternatives were presented to Conference:

Alternative One

This is similar to the present system but the levy should be based on the attendance declared on the statistical return rather than the membership figure.

Alternative Two

Some organisations, such as the Evangelical Alliance, levy a Church fee calculated in bands based on the size of Church in terms of attendance with a maximum fee for those with high attendance. An example is set out below.

1-10 attenders	Band A
11 – 25 attenders	Band B
26 – 50 attenders	Band C
51 – 80 attenders	Band D
Over 80 attenders	Band E

The level of fee for the bands would need to be determined based on the required by Union cost (similar to present assessment income).

Alternative Three

One suggestion has been that a levy on offerings rather than on membership would be a fairer system. This would work by a declaration by Churches of average weekly or annual offerings and then the Union assessment being levied as a percentage. The percentage would be calculated by comparing the required Union cost (similar to present assessment income) as a proportion of the total declared giving from all the Churches.

After discussion, it was finally agreed that there would be no change in the present system of assessment.

This session ended with a time of corporate prayer.

CONFERENCE 2012

CONFERENCE 2012

Tuesday afternoon: July 3rd

Opening devotions led by Miss Judy Land – WA President

Overseas Missions Department

The following Report by Mrs J Shepherd and accounts by Mr G Evans were accepted by Conference

Overseas Mission

Global Vision, Local Insight, Personal Touch

During the past year, it has been a joy to meet with Margaret, Jacky, Helen, Phil and Diane as they have been working or resting at “home”. I have also been able to speak freely on the phone to Mark and Angie and to Rob as they have visited family here. It was really good to be able to catch up with them in this way. We are very blessed that technology allows us to have regular, up to date information and prayer requests from all of them, but actually spending time with or speaking with them has been wonderful. Our team have been asked by a number of Churches about sharing more news and so we considered possible ways to do this. We therefore plan to send out a quarterly prayer letter to all of our Churches beginning in October. It will be sent out by email, but do not fear, any church which does not have access to emails will get a paper copy.

We have been very excited about the way in which the Lord has encouraged our fellowships to give to Mission over the last few years when times have been very hard for many people in this country. We thank everyone for their sacrificial giving and for enabling, yet again, our project to be a blessing to many families in Burundi. It may be that we could all lift up that project before our Father every time we visit that small room in our homes, thank Him for His great blessings to us and lift before Him those people whom we are seeking to help along with many, many others who do not have such luxuries – I use that word cautiously – as we do.

Finally, we are planning to hold an Away Day on 18th May 2013 when we will seek to make our Churches aware of the amazing things that our Missionary Organisations are doing with “technology”. We are talking to a number of organisations whose main thrust in evangelism is via the internet. We hope that lots of people will come and share that day with us. Also, to that end, we are recommending for our next project, in partnership with The Bible Society, that we purchase as many “Proclaimers” as possible for use in areas where there is a high percentage of people who cannot read or write and where there is no written alphabet. To find more out about this, visit our stand at Conference.

An appeal was made by Jan for us to contribute towards unexpected emergency expenditure incurred by Ann and Johnny who need to come home to renew their visa. A collection box will be put out for people to make a contribution.

Accounts, by Mr G Evans

OVERSEAS MISSION

CONFERENCE 2012

General Fund	2011/2012	2010/2011
Income		
Balance 1st April	9391	8682
Donations		
General Fund	3848	3389
Enterprise Project 10/11	1696	2529
Samaritans Well Project 10/11	-	12995
Burundi Toilets	4356	-
Interest from Reserve Account	2	2
Interest from Investment Accounts	6	6
Gift Aid Tax Return	262	526
	<u>19,561</u>	<u>28,129</u>
Expenditure		
Conference Fees	106	112
Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses	50	25
Away Day Expenses		200
Half Yearly Expenses	10	
Interest to Training & Fairhurst	2	1
Annual Gifts		
WEC	2,300	1,050
Wycliffe Bible Translators	1,100	750
Radstock Ministries	1,300	600
J Taylor	1,300	600
R Moorin	1,300	600
Arab World Ministries	1,300	175
Bible Society		175
OMF International	200	175
J & A McClean	1,300	
Life Works		175
Projects		
Samaritans Well 10/11		14,100
Enterprise Project 10/11	4,125	
Balance 31st March	<u>5,168</u>	<u>9,391</u>
	<u>19,561</u>	<u>28,129</u>

Note: Because of the change of schedule of Union Meetings the annual gifts for year end 2011 and 2012 are both included in this year's figures

Irving & Edith Fairhurst Memorial Fund	2011/2012	2010/2011
Balance 1st April	1129	1128
Interest	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Balance 31st march	<u>1130</u>	<u>1129</u>

Training Fund	2011/2012	2010/2011
---------------	-----------	-----------

CONFERENCE 2012

Balance 1st April	2190	2189
S Youden	-77	
Interest	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Balance 31st march	<u>2114</u>	<u>2190</u>

Summary	2011/2012	2010/2011
General Fund	811	9391
Project Fund	4356	
Fairhurst Memorial Fund	1130	1129
Training Fund	<u>2114</u>	<u>2190</u>
Total	<u>8411</u>	<u>12710</u>

Balances	2011/2012	2010/2011
Current Accounts NatWest	2021	5828
Reserve Account NatWest	3280	3778
National Savings Investment Accounts	<u>3110</u>	<u>3104</u>
Total	<u>8411</u>	<u>12710</u>

The following List of Missionaries, presented by Mrs J Shepherd was approved

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2012 – 2013

- 1986 Margaret c/o Wesleyan Reform Union
Church House,
123 Queen Street,
Sheffield, S1 2DU.
- 1995 Mark & Angie Barnes via Mr G Evans
10 Carr Road,
Wath upon Dearne,
Rotherham, S63 7AA.
- 1996 Helen Grimshaw c/o Pastor N Lugg
28 West View Road
Mexborough,
S Yorks, S64 9BE
- 2002 Jackie Taylor c/o Mrs A Chattaway
82 Wren Road,
Sidcup,
Kent, DA14 4NF
jacky2010@mailforpeople.com
- 2003 Rob & Grace Moorin c/o Mr & Mrs R L Moorin
Coates Lane,
High Wycombe,
HP13 5EY.
rmoorin@yahoo.com

CONFERENCE 2012

2003 Helen, Arab World Ministries c/o Wesleyan Reform Union
Church House,
123 Queen Street,
Sheffield, S1 2DU

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2012 – 2013

1990 Stephen & Gillian Bryant 67 Budbury Tynning,
Bradford on Avon,
BA15 1QE.

1995 Philip & Diane Benstead c/o Wesleyan Reform Union
Church House,
123 Queen Street,
Sheffield, S1 2DU.

1995 Stephen & Nessie Levinsohn 60 Falcon Avenue,
Brickhill, Bedford,
MK41 7DX.

1996 Graham & Jean Womersley Sunnymeads,
Ashlett Road,
Fawley,
Southampton,
SO45 1DS

1998 Jonathan & Ann McClean c/o 145 Farringdon Road,
Swindon,
Wiltshire,
SN1 5DL.
mccleansinthailand@gmail.com

Election of officers:

Chairman: Muriel Stonehewer, Secretary: Jan Shepherd, Treasurer: Graham Evans

Women of Action Report

The following Report by Mrs S Fall and accounts by Mrs D Hodgkinson were accepted by Conference

The Women of Action have been very blessed throughout 2011. The highlight was, of course, being able to celebrate our centenary during last conference. It was good to see so many past Presidents all together, what a celebration it was. God has truly blessed this work within our Union, and what a privilege it is to be a part of it now in 2012.

We would like to thank Mrs Pauline Downing, our past President for representing the Women of Action as she served God throughout her year of office. Pauline was able to visit many churches and groups throughout the Union, and would like to thank everyone for their prayers, and hospitality, everyone has been so friendly and kind. We thank Pauline for her ministry during the year and pray that God will continue to bless her and use her in all that she seeks to do for Him.

CONFERENCE 2012

We welcome Miss Judy Land as our incoming President and pray that she will know God's presence and guiding as she ministers, and travels around the Union. Please continue to pray that God will enable Judy, protect her and bless her in all that she does on behalf of the Women of Action.

The Spring Event in March, at Rushden Mission Church, was a great success. There were about 50 ladies from around the Union which included a lot of new faces, as well as a few from other churches in the town. It was good to join together for a day of teaching and inspiration as we took part in different activities. The theme was 'God's gloves'. Faith Sharp spoke about us being God's hands, and how we wear different gloves from time to time depending on what we are doing for Him as we live out our lives. Many ladies spoke of how they had been blessed throughout the day, and God's presence was very evident as we worshipped, chatted, and made new friends.

At the time of writing we are still yet to have the AGM, so more details will follow about the ladies quiet day.

As we look towards another year, we would ask for your prayers as we seek to obey God in whatever he calls the Women of Action to do.

Officers for the year are:

President	Judy Land
President Elect	Abigail Karma
Secretary	Sandra Fall
Treasurer	Daphne Hodkinson
Contact Secretary	TBA
Rep to Women's World Day of Prayer	Muriel Stonehewer
Representatives to General Committee	Judy Land, Pauline Downing

The ladies quiet day has been arranged for Saturday the 22nd September at Oldbury

Accounts by Mrs D Hodkinson

WOMEN OF ACTION	2011/2012	2010/2011
Income		
Balance brought forward	1095	936
Spring Event Donations	150	-
Offerings	128	281
Donations	414	503
	<u>1,787</u>	<u>1,720</u>
Expenditure		
President's gift/Insurance	110	110
President's Expenses	-	-
Conference Fees	336	372
Half Yearly Fees	20	36
Secretary's Expenses	70	57
Quiet Day Expenses	-	-
Spring Event Expenses	125	50
Balance carried forward	<u>1,126</u>	<u>1,095</u>
	<u>1,787</u>	<u>1,720</u>

CONFERENCE 2012

There is an outreach account which churches are encouraged to make use of, this fund which currently stands at £630.

Summary	2011/12	2010/11
General current account	1126	1095
Outreach account	630	630
All held in Lloyds bank	£1756	£1725

CONFERENCE 2012

Wednesday morning: July 3rd

Approval of Union Committees for 2012-2013

The following Union committees for 2012 – 2013 were approved:

MANAGEMENT

The President, The Treasurer (Chair), The General Secretary, Graham Evans, Emma Wilcock, Phil Hearson, Daphne Hodkinson, Peter Norton, Michael Alderson.

HOME MISSIONS

Paul Busby (Chair), Andy Wilcock (DOC), Cliff Darby, Steve Blyth, Stephen Griffiths, Geoffrey Lee, Dave Clifford, David Rooksby, Marjorie Mottershaw, Pauline Downing

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Muriel Stonehewer (Chair), Jan Shepherd (Sec), Brian England, Carol Nicholls, Percy Johnson, Bernard Oldman, Stuart Allen, Sam Downing, Carole Parkinson, Judy Land

CESA

Ian Fall (Chair), Daphne Hodkinson (Sec), Stuart Allen, Sam Downing, Bernard Oldman, Marjorie Mottershaw, Carol Nicholls

MINISTERIAL

The President, The General Secretary, Peter Norton (Chair), Ian fall, George Phillips, Paul Busby, Muriel Stonehewer, Andy Wilcock, Maurice Nicholls, Geoffrey Lee, Phil Hearson, Ady Rugeruz

YPD

Beth Ely (Chair) Cliff Darby (Sec), Peter Norton, Andy Wilcock, Martin Ludbrook, Steve Blyth, Marjorie Nicholls

New Connexions Report by Rev P Hearson

The New Connexions Report by Rev P Hearson was approved by Conference

On November 1st 2011 the New Connexions team (augmented by co-opted individuals from both denominations) met to pray together and seek God's will for the future of this group. This proved to be a very helpful and profitable time and another such meeting was arranged for January 21st this year.

However, on January 18th the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion informed us that they felt that, as a denomination, they needed to put their involvement with "New Connexions" on hold for the foreseeable future to enable them to concentrate on pressing internal matters.

It is with regret, therefore, that, for the moment, New Connexions has come to an end. There is always the possibility of commencing joint activities again in the future. In the meantime, we, as a denomination continue to hold to the six core values of biblically disciplined, spiritually authentic, clearly prophetic, community focused, culturally relevant and mutually committed. The report was

CONFERENCE 2012

followed by a time of prayer reflecting on Conferences desire that New Connexions may come back together if it is the Lord's will.

Report of the Wesleyan Reform Union Housing for Retired Ministers Fund

The Report and accounts by Rev C Braithwaite were approved by Conference

It is some years now since the Housing Trust was set up in our Union in an effort to assist our ordained Ministers financially, particularly at the time of their retirement when sometimes they have problems with housing and other needs. In addition it has been a joy to be able to help several of the Ministers over the years in different ways and certainly during the past year.

The Trustees of the Scheme (Brian Kay, Paul Busby, Brian Pratt and Neil Sowerby) are always ready to discuss problems with our retiring or retired Ministers and to help where they can. In the first instance they would encourage any of our retired Ministers to contact the Secretary of the Fund to request an application form. Any requests will receive a sympathetic ear.

During this year, Brian Kay felt it necessary to relinquish his position as Secretary to the Fund and it has been agreed by the Fund Trustees and the Management Committee that this role should now be the responsibility of the General Secretary.

Since last Conference the Trustees have received donations from several of our Churches and this has been very encouraging. Thank you to every Church who has helped in this way, it is much appreciated and we look forward to new and continued support. If any Church feels able to support the work, even in these uncertain days of economic crisis, kindly send donations to Church House.

a. Accounts by Rev C Braithwaite

HOUSING FOR RETIRED MINISTERS	2011/2012	2010/2011
Income		
Interest - Northern Rock Building Society	154.67	159.20
Donations	1588.00	1613.00
	<u>1742.67</u>	<u>1772.20</u>
Expenditure		
Grant towards rent	1200.00	1200.00
Grant towards repairs	-	4300.00
Net Incoming resources	<u>542.67</u>	<u>-3727.80</u>
Building Society Balance 1st April	<u>61972.05</u>	<u>65699.85</u>
Building Society Balance 31st Mar	<u>62514.72</u>	<u>61972.05</u>
Summary		
Building Society Account (Northern Rock)	62514.72	61972.05

CONFERENCE 2012

Secured Loans

17000

17000

Ministers' Provident Society

The Report by Rev P Hearson and accounts by David Rooksby were approved by Conference

Firstly may we give our grateful thanks to all those who have supported the work of the Ministers' Provident Society over the past 12 months – churches, circuits or individuals who have either given financially or prayed for our work.

During the year we have supported nine ministers and three widows. This sadly reduced to two widows just before Christmas with the passing to Glory of Mrs. Jean Barton, widow of Rev. Jack Barton. Annuities were paid at the same rate as the previous year.

We are pleased that David Rooksby of the Rushden Mission Church has taken the role of treasurer. Many thanks are due to Faith Sharp who held this important role for many years; for the diligence, care and love she put into her work.

You will note from our financial report that the balance of funds has reduced by around £8,000 over the year. Interest received is still significantly lower than several years ago due to the general prevailing interest rates. We are able to give so generously to our annuitants due to a substantial legacy given to us. May we gently ask once again that this is something that our supporters might prayerfully consider. Thanks on behalf of retired ministers and their families were expressed by Rev. Maurice Nicholls. It was announced that every 5 years the Rule Book has to be reviewed. The following changes were proposed by the Board and officers and accepted by Conference.

1. Ministers will join the MPS on joining the full list.
- 2 As we no longer have probationers the reference to them joining the Society will be removed.
- 3 Gifts for removal expenses will no longer be given.
- 4 If there is no immediate family on death the board members and officers have discretion as to how to deal with the funeral gift.

Rev. Ian Fall – Chairman

Mr. David Rooksby – Treasurer

Rev. Phillip Hearson – Secretary

CONFERENCE 2012

b. Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

MINISTERS PROVIDENT SOCIETY	2012/2012	2010/2011
Income		
Balance Brought Forward	95625	104341
Donations	1844	1509
Subscriptions	84	48
Interest		
National Savings*	5	14
HSBC Money Manager	4	5
CAF Birmingham	144	1521
Midshares*		
CAF Scottish Widows	1059	0
Anglo Irish*	705	868
(* indicates account now closed)	<u>99,470</u>	<u>108,306</u>
Expenditure		
Annuitants	11,500	12,600
Sundries	24	81
Funeral Gift	500	0
Balance Carried Forward	<u>87,446</u>	<u>95,625</u>
	<u>99,470</u>	<u>108,306</u>
Balances		
HSBC Money Manager	239	2490
HSBC Community account	1148	171
CAF Scottish Widows	86059	0
CAF Birmingham Midshares	0	50000
National Savings	0	7096
Anglo Irish	0	35868
	<u>87,446</u>	<u>95,625</u>

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Ian Fall, Secretary: Phil Hearson, Treasurer: David Rooksby. Board members Rev.Maurice Nicholls, Rev.Peter Norton, Cliff Darby, Emma Wilcock.

Safeguarding Issues

The Union safeguarding Officer, Marjorie Mottershaw, reported on the following matter and accepted by Conferences:

The Protection of Freedom Act which received Royal Assent in May. The key principals were to make the legislation more simple in relation to safeguarding issues. Consultation and input into the revised legislation has been provided by a range of organisations and revised guidelines will be introduced subsequently. Once those guidelines have been formally introduced they will be shared with our churches.

CONFERENCE 2012

Half Yearly Meetings 2012 & beyond

The 2012 Half Yearly Meetings were agreed as 17th to 19th November at Syresham. Discussion followed and it was agreed that in future (including 2012) the Half Yearly Meetings be held for one day only on the third Saturday in November.

Conference 2013

This was agreed as 27th to 29th June, at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

Any Other Business

Graham Evans proposed that the Conference Journal could be placed on the website This was accepted.

Paul Busby fed back that as a result of offers of help that he has received to forward the work of Home Missions he will be meeting various people over the coming weeks.

Vote of Thanks

The General Secretary gave a vote of thanks to all who had taken part or helped in any way with Conference.