

# Annual conference 2018

## MONDAY AFTERNOON – JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

---

Conference opened with a time of prayer and praise followed by an encouragement to persevere in the work of sharing the Gospel with those who do not know Jesus and bringing Glory to our God who is faithful in all His ways.

### 1. Names of Representatives

The names of all present were read. It was noted that [REDACTED] is the delegate for Bakewell Circuit in lieu of [REDACTED].

### 2. Apologies for absence

Appointment of: Secretary to Conference  
Recorders of Minutes  
Letter Writers  
Scrutineers

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

Apologies were received from [REDACTED]. The following appointments were agreed:

- Secretary: [REDACTED]
- Recorders of minutes: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- Scrutineers: [REDACTED]
- Letter writers: [REDACTED]
- It was agreed that we would be willing to admit press if required.
- It was also agreed that we would be willing to admit visitors

### 3. Prayer for new members of Conference

There were several new people attending conference this year. Prayer was offered for them.

### 4. Decide as to Standing Orders as follows:

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.

All of the above was agreed unanimously

5. **Obituaries**

Conference stood to remember all who had died since last Conference. Particular mention was made of [REDACTED].

6. **Read Correspondence for Conference**

There was no correspondence

7. **Election of President**

Nomination to be moved by [REDACTED]

It was agreed that, on this occasion only, the appointment of President will be for a two-year term. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was nominated by [REDACTED]. There was a unanimous vote in favour of accepting [REDACTED] as President for two years.

8. **Election of President-Designate**

In view of the decision taken above there was no need for this agenda item

9. **Nominations for General Committee**

ALDERMANS GREEN	[REDACTED]
ASHBY CIRCUIT	[REDACTED]
ASHINGTON	[REDACTED]
ATTLEBOROUGH	
BAKEWELL CIRCUIT	[REDACTED]
BARNSELY CIRCUIT	[REDACTED]
BEDWORTH	[REDACTED]
BIRDS EDGE	
BRADFORD CIRCUIT	
CHOPPINGTON	[REDACTED]
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	
CLYDEBANK	
DEDDINGTON	
DENBY DALE	
DORRINGTON	
FRITWELL	
GLAZGOW ABUNDANT LIFE AND LIBERTY	
GRIFFYDAM	[REDACTED]
HAZLEMERE	
HEATH END	
HECKINGTON	
HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT	
IVINGHOE & PITSTONE	
LOWESTOFT	
NUNEATON	
OLDBURY	
OLD HILL	
ROTH, MEX & DONC CIRCUIT	[REDACTED]

<b>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</b>	
<b>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</b>	
<b>SOULDERN</b>	
<b>ST. JUST</b>	
<b>SWANTON ABBOTT</b>	
<b>SYRESHAM</b>	
<b>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</b>	

All the above were unanimously accepted onto General Committee.

#### 10. Half Yearly Meetings 2018 onwards

2018	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Ashby Circuit
2019	16 <sup>th</sup> November	Bradford Circuit
2020	21 <sup>st</sup> November	Sheffield Circuit, Greenhead Church

The above dates were agreed

#### 11. Conference 2019 onwards

2019	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Swanwick
2020	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Swanwick
2021	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> to Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Swanwick

The above dates were agreed.

#### 12. Appointment of Union Trustee

██████████ proposed that ██████████, Bakewell Circuit to be appointed a Union Trustee. This was unanimously agreed.

#### 13. Ministerial Committee Report

Report by ██████████

This year saw the Ordination of ██████████. This was the culmination of ██████████ having completed his studies and having been examined by the committee. In a change to the usual practice the Ordination took place at the Word of Life Church in Ashington. The Ordination service was presided over by the President ██████████ and representatives of the Union and local churches were also present.

There were 8 students this year, ██████████ and ██████████. ██████████ and ██████████ have completed all 3 sections of the Theology course. We thank ██████████ for all he has done in the last year in support of the students.

We thank God for our ministers and leaders for their willingness to serve in their local churches and we would ask that you remember them in your prayers.



# Ministers

---

## Ministers ordained by the Union

Year Ordained	<u>Active Ministers</u>
---------------	-------------------------

1956	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

BOZEAT CHURCH (19)

1998	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

RUSHDEN HIGH STREET (12)

2004	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

RUSHDEN MISSION (12)

1985	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

BEDWORTH CHURCH (6)

2013	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

2014	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

2015	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

ABUNDANT LIFE AND LIBERTY, GLASGOW (3)

2016	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

HAZLEMERE CHURCH (2)

2017	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
------	-------------------------------------

ASHINGTON WORD OF LIFE CHURCH (1)



### Retired Ministers

1960

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1969

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1971

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1974

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1976

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1988

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1998

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1980

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Ministers and pastors independently appointed by churches

(in alphabetical order)

[REDACTED] BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADDINGHAM CHURCH

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CLYDEBANK CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALDERMANS GREEN CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BEACON COMMUNITY CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CHURCH ON THE ROCK  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OWLERTON CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MUFF FIELD CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NEW SWANNINGTON & ELLISTOWN CHURCHES  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MEXBOROUGH LIFE CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HEATH END CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SWANTON ABBOTT CHURCH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

██████████	OLDBURY CHURCH
██	
██	
██████████	IBSTOCK CHURCH
██	
██	
██████████	DEDDINGTON CHURCH
██	
██	
██████████	LOWESTOFT CHURCH
██	
██	
██████████	HAMPDEN VIEW CHURCH
██	
██	
██	
██	MAYFIELD CHURCH
██	
██	
██	

Thanks were given to ██████████ for his many years of service to the Union. It was reported that the Ministers and Pastors retreat would be held at our Rushden Mission church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. The Ordination of ██████████ had taken place at his own church in November 2017. ██████████ spoke on the work of the students. Awards and certificates were presented to all students who had completed various areas of training. Everyone at Conference was urged to consider the courses. Conference unanimously accepted the report. Prayer was offered for all our ministers and Pastors.

#### 14. Christian Ethics and Social Action

Report by ██████████

We were saddened at the passing of ██████████ who had been a faithful member of the CESA committee for many years. Also, ██████████ and ██████████ left the Union this year, and ██████████ had also served for a long time on the committee and she will be missed, and so consequently our numbers are much depleted, but the task is getting greater.

Politicians at Westminster seem to be dreaming up various ways to undermine parents. They are foisting LGBT propaganda on our children without their parents' knowledge. The astonishing claim is made that children are not born male or female, but can choose to become a boy or girl if they feel like it. Activists are even pushing for schools to make all toilet facilities "gender neutral"!



Campaigners are pushing the LGBT agenda wherever they can get a foothold. In the new "Relationships education", a number of M.P.s have expressed concern that the lessons will be used to "stigmatise traditional marriage and promote alternative lifestyles to children against the will of their parents". In a recent consultation document, the CESA committee rigorously upheld the right of all parents to withdraw their child from all lessons and assemblies where unsuitable teaching is taking place, in accordance with their legal rights.

Servicemen and women were recently required to raise the LGBT "rainbow flag" in an army campaign, and in so doing replaced the unique regimental flag!

This is only one issue: there is the rise in people living on the streets; changes in benefits have meant that many people are really struggling to exist; knife crime has risen at an extraordinary rate; trusted sports coaches have been abusing young people and so it goes on.

We give thanks that God is always in control! He always has been and always will be. Praise His name!

We thank God for the organisations which reach out to help those in need and we are grateful that because of the generosity of our people, we have been able to donate £500 to "Caring for Life". We were challenged by [REDACTED] visit to Conference last year. Then we donated £400 to "The Christian Institute". How we thank God for their vigilance, and finally we gave £300 to DayOne. Thank you for your support.

The committee has continued to provide articles for Contact, which has raised some interesting issues.

This year our Values Day material took the form of a service of encouragement for those with mental health issues, and was very well received. We are grateful to [REDACTED] from The Church on the Rock who prepared the service.

We are grateful that [REDACTED] has been our Chairman, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have served on the committee this year with [REDACTED] as secretary.

Attention was drawn to The Ashers Bakery case and it was noted that the Supreme court had finished its hearing. Conference was asked to pray that the appeal will be successful. [REDACTED] urged representative to lobby their MP's about several issues and find out what they are voting for and why. The report accepted unanimously.

## 15. Statistics

Name of Church	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers Full & on Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
<b>ALDERMANS GREEN</b>		53	1	15	6			2		50
<b>ASHBY CIRCUIT</b>										
Ellistown		3						1		5
Ibstock		17								10
Moira		10	1					1	7	14
New Swannington		11						2		10
	0	41	1	0	0	0	0	4	7	39
<b>Ashington (Word of Life)</b>	1	20	3	5	2			4		36
<b>Attleborough</b>		12						1	12	13
<b>Beaconsfield</b>		13		6	3			1		14
<b>BAKEWELL CIRCUIT</b>										
Bonsall		14	1					1		20
Curbar		6	4							10
Stonedge		29	2		1			3		30
Stoney Middleton		4	1	2	1			1		7
Winster		4	1					1		12
Youlgrave		10						1		12
	0	67	9	2	2	0	0	7	0	91
<b>BARNESLEY CIRCUIT</b>										
Barnsley		12	3							9
Cliffe Bridge		4	2	4	3			1		18
Cudworth		2	1							3
Dodworth		8	2			10	6			10
Hoyle Mill*		3								4
Hunningley		8								9
Smithies		6								8
Staincross	3	10	3	3	1					16
Worsbrough		8						2		9
	3	61	11	7	4	10	6	3	0	86

Name of Church	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers Full & on Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
Bedworth		17	1	1	1			1		17
Birds Edge		15	3	4	1					20

*BRADFORD CIRCUIT*

Addingham		29								30
Beacon Community		44	4	5	5			3		46
Bethel Community		17	2	10	3	28		3		48
Muff Field		23	1	4	6			1		18
	0	113	7	19	14	28	0	7	0	142
Choppington	2	7	2							13
Church on the Rock		17	2	8	2	3	10			20
Clydebank*	5	38	1	6	3	4		1		35
Deddington		12								10
Denby Dale		6	1	3	2					16
Dorrington		6	1	3	2			2		19
Fritwell		6								8
Glasgow (Abundant Life and Liberty Centre)	5	6	1	2	1					11
Griffydam		14		16	7	15	13	3		38
Hazlemere		32	1	12	3			5		46
Heath End		21	2	7	2	12	18	3	13	48
Heckington		6						1		11
Ivinghoe		7								13
Lowestoft		1				1				7
Nuneaton		6			2			1	7	10
Oldbury		33		7	2			2		26
Old Hill		20							10	15

*ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT*

Bowbroom		24						1		20
Cornerstone		9								12
Elsecar		7	2							11
Hough Lane	3	16	1	3	1		3	1		18
Jump		21				45	16	5		25
Mexborough Life Church*	20	50	6	10	8		15	6		70
Newhill		10	1					1		10
	23	137	10	13	9	45	34	14	0	166



Name of Church	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers Full & on Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
<i>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</i>										
Coal Aston		6								16
Greenhead		7								8
Grimesthorpe		17	1	3	1					19
Hampden View		10	2	5	2	17	3	1	15	30
Mayfield		11						1	8	16
Oughtibridge		56		11	4			7		42
Owlerton		14						4	13	24
Philadelphia		7						1		12
Richmond		23	4	2	2	9	8	4	7	40
St Mary's		8	2	10	2			2		30
Woodseats		5						1		7
	0	164	9	31	11	26	11	21	43	244
<i>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</i>										
Brant Broughton		2								8
Ruskington	1	8	1						8	22
Ruskington Fen		3								10
	1	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	40
<b>Souldern</b>		3	2	6	1					6
<b>St. Just</b>		18	1					1		13
<b>Swanton Abbott</b>		7						1		12
<b>Syresham</b>		16		10	3	10				20
<i>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</i>										
Alma Street		8						1	7	15
Bozeat		14	2			12	32	1		10
Isham		4	1							8
Rushden High Street		44	2	21	3	28	9	3	15	53
Rushden Mission		41	1	8	2			5		45
Wymington		12		4	2					13
	0	123	6	33	7	40	41	10	22	144
<b>SUMMARY OF STATISTICS</b>										
TOTALS FOR 2017	42	1169	75	326	106	285	142	118	169	1751
TOTALS FOR 2018	40	1131	76	216	90	194	133	95	122	1499
<b>INCREASE</b>			1							
<b>DECREASE</b>	2	38		110	16	91	9	23	47	252

(\*) Please note that we have had to use last year's figures for these churches

The decline in membership is about the same as last year and is averaging 3.31% per annum. If we continue at this rate, we will be below 1000 members before 2023 and will be at zero by 2040. Our average attendance is lowest since we began to record this figure. Sunday School Teachers are the most stable statistic of all. There are 74 less devotional meetings than last year, and the number of young people had fallen yet again. The overall picture is one of decline.

Our Administration Manager reminded us that God has a plan for us -plans to prosper and not to harm us, plans to give us a hope and a future. We were urged to focus on God and regain a perspective on His plans. It was pointed out that two churches have left the Union and therefore, the figures break even if they are discounted. It was considered to be a positive year even though the figures do not actually show it. The Report was accepted unanimously.

#### **16. Greetings from the Independent Methodist Connexion**

██████████, President of the Independent Methodist Connexion addressed Conference and brought greetings.

#### **17. Greetings from the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust**

██████████, National Advocate, brought greetings and spoke of perseverance and challenge. He encouraged the Union to find a new trustee for this organisation due to recent resignation of ██████████.

## 18. Women of Action Report

### a. Report by [REDACTED]

How can we not give praise and glory to Almighty God for His guiding hand and the many blessings He bestows upon us His children?

This past year has been very blessed indeed as we have let go of traditions and format and had a blank sheet allowing God alone to fill it. We have met together to pray and God has spoken and directed us in the way that we should go. He has affirmed us in the work that we are to do and given us the wherewithal to fulfil His purposes. It has been an incredibly positive learning curve for each one of us and one that can only continue to encourage and enable us as we step forward into all that is to come through the work of the Women of Action.

We came to understand that God was calling us to stand by our mission statement: 'To encourage and support all women of the church community in their faith and witness' This is what we are about and is the purpose for our being.

Through prayer and discussion we realised that this could be achieved by having a programme that contained worship, teaching, discussion and prayer that could be taken in to the different areas where the ladies are. An event has been arranged that will be repeated in 4 different areas throughout this year - Stoney Middleton, Church on the Rock, Bedworth and Bozeat.

We will also look to do the same event in 4 different areas in 2019, understanding all the time that although the programme may be the same God will affect it to meet each of the women individually according to their own personal situations.

It was agreed that nominated roles will include a Co-ordinator/Secretary, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Magazine Secretary, WWDP representative and 2 representatives to General Committee. The role of Co-ordinator will be supported by decisions taken at the AGM and any other meeting that will be called.

There will be ladies available to speak at local WA annual events if requested. The constitution will be discussed and amended at next year's AGM to reflect the present work.

In 2016 Wednesdays were nominated to be a day of prayer (and fasting where appropriate) for the work of the Women of Action. It was felt that this had been a great foundation and of infinite value on this journey and we would like to invite and encourage everyone to continue to be a part of this united force all around our Union of Churches as we together bring the work of the Women of Action to God on Wednesdays.

We trust that our God will continue to direct us and bless the work of the Women of Action as we step out in obedience to all that He has put on our hearts to do to encourage the growing of relationships between the women but most importantly to encourage deeper relationships with our Father God through the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.' Eph. 1:3



## Election of Officers

Co-ordinator/Secretary	[REDACTED]
Treasurer	[REDACTED]
Minute Secretary	[REDACTED]
Magazine Secretary	[REDACTED]
Representative WWDP	[REDACTED]
Reps to General Committee	[REDACTED]

### b. Accounts by [REDACTED]

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income	2017-18	2016-17
Balance brought forward	1775	1635
Donations	95	300
Conference repayments	30	40
	<b>1900</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
President's gift	50	50
Conference fees	150	150
Half yearly fees	20	
Secretary's expenses	25	
Balance carried forward	1655	1775
	<b>1900</b>	<b>1975</b>

#### OUTREACH ACCOUNT

Brought forward	211	211
Evangelistic pens purchased	211	
Brought forward	0	<b>211</b>

#### SUMMARY

General Account	1655	1775
Outreach Account	0	211
All held at Lloyds Bank	1655	1986

[REDACTED] spoke about the events that were taking place across the Union. The first took place at Stoney Middleton on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Future events will be at Church on the Rock on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Bedworth on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and Bozeat on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be further dates for 2019 with events to be held in Bradford, Hazlemere, Lincolnshire and Ashby. The role of President is still vacant, but [REDACTED] holds the role of co-ordinator. The report was proposed, seconded and carried. A gift was presented to [REDACTED] from the WA. The accounts were also proposed, seconded and carried.

# Annual Conference 2018

## TUESDAY MORNING SESSION 1– JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

---

### 19. Resolution of Loyalty to be moved by The President, [REDACTED]

It is with great pleasure that we, the members of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches, presently assembled for their 169th Annual Conference held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, send our loyal greetings to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

In accordance with Holy Scripture, we commit ourselves to remember you in prayer asking that Almighty God will strengthen, support and sustain you as you continue to serve our country and commonwealth under His divine guidance.

Our specific prayer for you comes directly from scripture: *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace"*.

May that experience be yours as you continue to serve Him in the coming year.

Devotions started with singing "How great Thou art". The President reminded us that in order to be prepared for tomorrow we need to be prepared today. Our fight is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:13-17). In conclusion conference sang "O church arise and put your armour on".

The Resolution of loyalty was read and the National Anthem was sung.

### 20. Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee

The members of general committee were proposed, seconded and carried. Prayer was said for the members of general committee.

### 21. Local Preachers' Fellowship Report

Report by [REDACTED]

At the committee meeting following the "Day of Ministry for all", [REDACTED] as Chairman and [REDACTED] as Secretary resigned from those positions. [REDACTED] agreed to stand as Chairman and myself as Secretary.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] leadership and hard work on the committee and in making the "Day of Ministry for all" such worthwhile events, is much appreciated by all who have attended.

The Day of Ministry was held on 21 October 2017 at our Jump Church. 61 people attended.

Our speaker was [REDACTED] who was excellent and is well-known to many; this may be the reason why the attendance was high. His theme was "Refusing to be silent about Jesus - preparing for effective evangelism". [REDACTED] enthusiasm, energy, and love of His Lord are infectious, and he has the ability to use opportunities for reaching out to others that many of us would fail to grasp.





## 22. Overseas Missions Department Report

### a. Report by [REDACTED]

As yet another year goes by, there seems to be little changing in the world when looked at in respect of the many thousands who are suffering as a result of wars, ethnic cleansing and man's inhumanity to man.

We continue to see horrendous pictures via our TV screens. We read of the way in which people of many faiths are being victimised because of what they believe. We see areas of the earth ravaged by droughts, earthquakes, floods and fires. Even the most saintly of the earth must sometimes wonder where God is in all this and how long can it all go on.

And yet, on the other hand, we see things that we never thought we would see. Athletes competing from all parts of the globe together and apparently united by a common aim of being the best at their sport as they can. We see two men shaking hands and standing together on both sides of the great divide between South and North Korea. Who would have thought that could ever happen even at the beginning of this year.

And so, we must conclude that God is in control of things. He alone knows the end from the beginning and for our part, we must work alongside Him to alleviate what suffering we can and to share the Good News that Jesus loves us with as many as we can – what a privilege that is for each one of us.

For our part, we have been thrilled to be able to share a monetary gift to all of our Mission Personnel. We pray that it will enable them to be more effective in their work on the Mission Field or give them a treat as they relax in their retirement. We thank God for each one of them, for their work in the present and their work in the past and commit them to Him for their work in the future.

We were pleased to receive some feedback from the Mission Weekend information that was sent out last year. We know and thank those churches who used it either in part or the whole on one weekend. A considerable amount of money for our Annual project was raised as a result of some of those efforts. Thank you also to our Union President for using some of the material while he was out and about in the Union. As a team, we have decided that we will try and link the weekend this year with our project so that more of our Union members will know about the project and the work that we are supporting.

We are pleased to welcome to Conference to share more with us about our project two members of staff from AWM. They will be joining us for a meal on Tuesday and then speaking to us later about the work "Home to Home in Yemen"

Finally, let me mention some of our team. We are pleased to have [REDACTED] with us at Conference this year. If you don't know who she is, please come and meet her on the OM stand as she visits Conference for the very first time. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are no longer with our team. We thank them for all they have done on this committee and indeed, in the Union, over the years and wish them well for the future and finally, we thank God for the life and work of our dear friend and member of our team, [REDACTED], who passed to glory a short while ago. We pray for her family and fellowship as they continue to miss her and ask God to comfort and strengthen them in these days.

b. Present List of Missionaries, by [REDACTED]

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2017-2018

[REDACTED]

2003 [REDACTED]

2016 [REDACTED]

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2017-2018

[REDACTED]

1990 [REDACTED]

1995 [REDACTED]

1995 [REDACTED]

1996 [REDACTED]

1998 [REDACTED]

2002 [REDACTED]

2003 [REDACTED]

c. Accounts by [REDACTED]

Year	2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>Accounts</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Balance 1st April	579.82	671.96
<b>Donations</b>		
General Fund	2909.66	3292.40
Interest from Reserve Account	0.11	0.37
Interest from Investment Accounts	15.16	19.22
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	0.00	233.87
Total	<u>3504.75</u>	<u>4217.82</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Conference Fees	120.00	110.00
Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses	25.00	25.00
Interest to Training & Fairhurst	3.00	3.00
<b>Annual Gifts</b>		
WEC		750
UFM		250
[REDACTED]		250
Arab World Ministries		500
Partners		500
[REDACTED]		250
[REDACTED]		125
[REDACTED]		125
[REDACTED]		125
Friends - [REDACTED]		500.00
[REDACTED]		125.00
Balance 31st March	3356.75	579.82
Total	<u>3504.75</u>	<u>4217.82</u>

Due to the postponement of the meetings in February, gifts will be included in next year.

Accounts by [REDACTED] (continued)

	2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>Irving &amp; Edith Fairhurst Memorial Fund</b>		
Balance 1st April	1135.08	1034.08
Interest	1.00	1.00
I Fall	-500.00	
Balance at 31st March	<u>636.08</u>	<u>1035.08</u>
<b>Training Fund</b>		
Balance 1st April	2123.92	2121.92
Interest	2.00	2.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>2125.92</u>	<u>2123.92</u>
<b>Summary</b>		
General Fund	3356.75	579.82
Project Fund	2327.00	2542.22
Training Fund	2125.92	2123.92
Fairhurst Memorial Fund	636.08	1135.08
Total	<u>8445.75</u>	<u>6381.04</u>
<b>Balances</b>		
Current Accounts Nat West	4829.69	2130.25
Reserve Account Nat West	384.10	1033.99
National Savings Accounts	3231.96	3216.80
Total	<u>8445.75</u>	<u>6381.04</u>
<b>Fountain of Life 2015</b>		
Income 15/16	2660.26	
Income 16/17	2439.74	
Expenditure	-5100.00	
Balance	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Jessie's House 2016</b>		
Income 16/17	2542.22	
Income 17/18	3607.78	
Expenditure	-6150.00	
Balance	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Yemen 2017</b>		
Income 17/18	2327.00	
Income 18/19	0.00	
Expenditure	0.00	
Balance	<u>2327.00</u>	

[REDACTED] spoke about the life of [REDACTED] who was due to be with us at conference but was involved in a serious accident the week before and sadly died. We thank God for her life and witness. We paused to pray for her family and friends and for the life and witness of [REDACTED].



On the OM stand there was a presentation of all of the projects that have been supported over the years. The report and accounts were proposed, seconded and carried. The list of missionary personnel (with the removal of [REDACTED]) was also proposed, seconded and carried. The project this year for "Home to Home in Yemen" has reached £4,500 so far. It was proposed that we continue with this project for the coming year. This was seconded and carried. Prayers were said for our mission personnel.

# Annual Conference 2018

## TUESDAY MORNING SESSION 2 – JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

---

### 23. Union Treasurer's Report

Report by [REDACTED]

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2018

		2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>Employment of Funds</b>			
LAND AND BUILDINGS		658,000	485,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	4,308	27,332	
Less: Depreciation to date	3,769	539	27,332
			0
INVESTMENTS		997,646	995,271
LOANS TO CHURCHES			
Chapel Loan Fund	36,500	11,200	
Extension Fund	70,460	106,960	68,750
			79,950
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors:	Union	696	1,361
	Magazine	154	124
	National Westminster Bank plc		
	Deposit Account	229,666	183,300
	Current Account	9,205	37,922
Cash in Hand	640	240,361	213
		2,003,506	1,783,141
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors:	Union Expenses, etc.	3,330	3,963
	Actuarial Fees	2,700	2,700
	New Connexions	6,030	305
		1,997,476	1,776,173
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Property Fund		658,000	485,000
Loan Fund		138,285	138,185
Extension Fund		708,825	775,745
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund		4,345	4,827
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust		1,813	1,801
Home Missions Account		1,334	1,386

Young People's Department Account	6,526	5,782
Christian Ethics and Social Action	675	515
Local Preachers Fellowship	3,757	3,371
General Reserve	119,257	41,116
Holdback Policy Capital Account	354,659	318,445
	<u>1,997,476</u>	<u>1,776,173</u>

## UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

		2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>Income</b>			
Assessment		44,036	41,642
Interest		6,586	9,048
Connexional Plan		527	656
Year Books		538	682
Child Protection Fees		364	196
Sundries		222	446
From General Reserve		<u>10,201</u>	<u>28,703</u>
		<u>62,474</u>	<u>81,373</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries etc	29,990	46,351	
Gen Sec's House, Car, Telephone		<u>29,990</u>	<u>1,055</u>
Pension		7,711	7,543
Head Office Expenses		5,370	4,936
Year Books		524	457
Magazine		1,752	1,483
Conference		759	1,079
Administration -			
Telephone	2,601	2,838	
Postage	426	496	
Stationery	1,614	982	
Insurance	<u>1,328</u>	<u>5,969</u>	<u>1,291</u>
			5,607
Travelling -			
Conference	304	308	
Half Yearly	282	225	
General Committee	<u>1,666</u>	<u>2,252</u>	<u>1,911</u>
			2,444
Sundry Expenses-			
Subscriptions	749	639	
Child Protection	376	474	
Sundries	57	275	
Legal Costs	2,400	1,332	
Bank Charges	<u>602</u>	<u>4,184</u>	<u>667</u>
			3,387
Depreciation		135	

Accountants	1,128	1,128
Actuaries	<u>2,700</u>	<u>5,903</u>
	<u>62,474</u>	<u>81,373</u>



	2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>CONNEXIONAL PLAN</b>		
Income from Churches	670	861
Less Postage and Travel	143	205
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Transferred to Union Expenses Account	527	656
<b>MAGAZINE ACCOUNT</b>		
Sales	2,396	2,597
Printing	3,552	3,552
Postage	596	528
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account	-1,752	-1,483
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,396	2,597
<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>		
Balance 1st April 2017	40,116	61,623
Collections		
Holdback excess (Arnold)	80,334	
Sundries	35	
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	6,664	7,291
Less costs	<hr/> 551	<hr/> 1,030
	6,113	6,261
Rent from Thornbrook Close	3,600	3,600
Less costs	<hr/> 740	<hr/> 835
	2,860	2,765
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	129,458	70,649
Donations		1,000
Sundries		830
Union Expenses	10,201	28,703
Balance 31st March 2018	<hr/> 119,257	<hr/> 40,116
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	129,458	70,649

		2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		1,386	1,406
Donations		4,612	4,213
Interest		9	14
Transfer - New Connexions		305	
Transfer from Extension Fund		67,500	71,000
		<u>73,812</u>	<u>76,633</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant		14,462	13,920
Travel		126	272
Grants	New		
	Swan/Ellistown	4,200	
	Mexborough	6,125	
	Oldbury	5,000	
	Glasgow	15,000	
	Ashington	16,949	
	Hazlemere	<u>10,000</u>	
		57,274	61,055
Sundries		616	
Balance 31st March 2018		<u>1,334</u>	<u>1,386</u>
		<u>73,812</u>	<u>76,633</u>
<b>YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		5,782	4,279
Donations		705	1,460
Interest		39	43
		<u>6,526</u>	<u>5,782</u>
Salary, etc.			
Travel			
Balance 31st March 2018		<u>6,526</u>	<u>5,782</u>
		<u>6,526</u>	<u>5,782</u>
<b>CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		515	515
Donations		1,540	1,745
Interest		4	5
		<u>2,059</u>	<u>2,265</u>
Caring for Life		500	500
Christian Institute		400	500
Day One		300	300
Hope UK			300
Conference fees		150	150
Sundries		34	
Balance 31st March 2018		<u>675</u>	<u>515</u>
		<u>2,059</u>	<u>2,265</u>

		2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		3,371	3,367
Retreat		1,083	550
Seminar			
Donation		50	60
Interest		23	34
		<u>4,527</u>	<u>4,011</u>
Retreat		620	490
Seminar			
Conference		150	150
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2018	General Fund	2,110	1,724
	Trust Fund	1,647	3,371
		<u>4,527</u>	<u>4,011</u>
<b>ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING &amp; PASTORAL AID FUND</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		4,827	4,990
Donations		1,135	1,265
Fees		206	50
Interest		32	50
Transfer from Extension Fund		5,500	3,000
		<u>11,700</u>	<u>9,355</u>
Tutor Salary etc.		2,895	3,012
Pastoral Salary etc		2,176	
Service Increments		480	420
Training		750	549
Travelling Expenses		202	45
Removal expenses		774	422
Costs		78	80
Balance 31st March 2018		<u>4,345</u>	<u>4,827</u>
		<u>11,700</u>	<u>9,355</u>

		2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>EXTENSION FUND</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		776,745	649,237
Sales	Ashington	50,000	141,270
	Arnold	81,506	
	Wath		53,829
	Rotherham	472	23,725
	Leasingham	41,485	
Sundries		<u>950,208</u>	<u>868,061</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		67,500	71,000
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		5,500	3,000
Head Office - Jump		77,829	
Ashington cottage		73,796	
Costs	Arnold	1,172	
	Highthorn	1,879	
	Warmsworth	2,443	
	Ashington	10,407	
	Leasingham	294	
	Sundries	<u>563</u>	<u>17,316</u>
		16,758	
Balance 31st March 2018	Investments	638,365	707,995
	Loans	<u>70,460</u>	<u>68,750</u>
		708,825	776,745
		<u>950,208</u>	<u>868,061</u>



		2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		318,445	263,176
Sales	Leasingham	40,171	
	Wath		51,156
	Rotherham		18,239
		<u>358,616</u>	<u>332,571</u>
Grants	Bethel Bierley	3,957	12,410
	Barnsley Circuit		669
	Hoyle Mill		797
	Worsborough	<u>3,957</u>	<u>14,126</u>
Balance 31st March 2018	Sleaford Circuit	40,171	
	Bakewell Circuit	178,071	178,071
	R,M & D Circuit	70,505	70,505
	Guidepost	25,000	25,000
	Wellingboro Circuit	3,851	3,851
	Bradford Circuit	14,223	18,180
	Denby Dale	20,419	20,419
	Birmingham	<u>2,419</u>	<u>2,419</u>
		<u>354,659</u>	<u>318,445</u>
		<u>358,616</u>	<u>332,571</u>
<b>LOAN FUND</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		138,185	138,035
Collections		<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>
Balance 31st March 2018		<u>138,285</u>	<u>138,185</u>
<b>PERCY AND RUTH JOHNSON MEMORIAL TRUST</b>			
Balance 1st April 2017		1,801	1,783
Interest		<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>
		<u>1,813</u>	<u>1,801</u>
Balance 31st March 2018		<u>1,813</u>	<u>1,801</u>
		<u>1,813</u>	<u>1,801</u>

	2017/2018	2016/2017
<b>INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION</b>		
Interest from Investments	6,704	9,212
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	6,586	9,048
	<u>118</u>	<u>164</u>
Distribution:		
Home Missions	9	14
Young People's Department	39	43
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid	32	50
Christian Ethics and Social Action	4	5
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust	12	18
Local Preachers Fellowship	22	34
	<u>118</u>	<u>164</u>

#### INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2017	Invested 2017/2018	Repaid 2017/2018	Invested at 31/03/2018
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	493,624	2,375		495,999
National Savings Bank	1,647			1,647
	<b>995,271</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>997,646</b>

#### CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/18	Balance 31/03/17	Repaid Year to 31/03/18	Balance 31/03/18	Collection Received 31/03/18
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000		8,100	1,800	6,300	100
2013 Jump	5,000		3,000	500	2,500	
2017 Personal	8,000	8,000		400	7,600	
2018 St Just	20,000	20,000			20,000	
	<b>54,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>11,200</b>		<b>36,500</b>	<b>100</b>

#### EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/18	Balance 31/03/17	Repaid Year to 31/03/18	Balance 31/03/18	Collection Received 31/03/18
2007 Farnham Common	15,000		5,750	5,750	0	
2009 Clydebank	60,000		43,000		43,000	
2016 Hazlemere	20,000	20,000		10,000	10,000	
2017 Aldermans Green	190,000	190,000		172,540	17,460	
		<b>210,000</b>	<b>48,750</b>	<b>188,290</b>	<b>70,460</b>	<b>0</b>

This year there is no proposed increase in assessment. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed and seconded. The accounts were carried. Grateful thanks were expressed to [REDACTED] in his role as the Union Treasurer.

## 24. Home Missions and YPD Report

Report by [REDACTED]

Most of our effort in the past year, rightly or wrongly, has been in attempting to recruit one or more Regional Workers.

Our original plan was to place an advertisement on a national Christian web site in order to reach the widest possible potential audience.

This was partly successful in that we received six expressions of interest, all of whom were then sent application forms and detailed job specifications. None of these expressions of interest were taken up into formal applications.

At our next committee meeting it was agreed that we would wait until the beginning of this year before we re-advertised.

During the early part of this year there was an enquiry from another WRU circuit of churches into the possibility of recruiting for them. This made three potential worker posts.

At our last committee meeting, we discussed the best way forward and it was agreed that we would look at liaising with each church group as to identifying a more local way of advertising, in the hope that candidates from the immediate area might show interest.

At present this plan had been shared with two of the areas, one via a meeting and the other via correspondence.

To date there has been no further feedback.

The process of recruiting an area worker has seemed to be slow. This has been due to the difficulty in recruiting. There were some suggestions that the churches that have expressed an interest in an area worker should be encouraged to advertise locally. Subject to approval of the committee these adverts will be sent to the local areas. We are seeking God's will in what we do, looking to support and embrace the work in our local churches.

**Development and Outreach Consultant (DOC) report:** The DOC would like to come round to visit the churches and meet with the leaders. He recently visited the churches in the Bradford area. He gave a report on the work that is going on in the Birely church where they have started a meal and service on a Thursday evening which is proving to be a blessing to the church and the community. St Mary's in Sheffield now have a Chinese church meeting on their premises which is proving to be a great blessing. The DOC brought the book "A good old age" by Derek Prime as a resource that can be used in discipleship. It could be used for personal study or as part of a bible study. It teaches on how to encourage people to be involved in the local church. The DOC is going to be visiting Beacon and Birely church and will be running a holiday club at Elistown in August. If this is something that any church would be interested in they should contact the DOC. The Barnsley Circuit set up a Pilgrims progress event that can be used as a way of engaging the community.

The combined report was proposed and seconded. The report was carried.

25. **Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report**

a. **Report by** [REDACTED]

The Housing for Retired Ministers Trust continues to assist our ordained Ministers financially, particularly at the time of their retirement when sometimes they have problems with housing and other needs. The Trust has been able to help several of the Ministers over the years in different ways.

The Trustees of the Scheme 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 Administration Manager to request an application form. Any requests will receive a sympathetic ear.

As last year the Trustees remain: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Thank you to every Church who has sent donations in support of this fund, it is much appreciated, and we look forward to new and continued support. If any Church feels able to support the work, kindly send donations to Church House.



**b. Accounts by [REDACTED]**

	2018	2017
	£	£
<b><u>Receipt</u></b>		
Interest Virgin Money	195.13	459.47
Donations	<u>1,660.00</u>	<u>1,320.00</u>
	1,855.13	1,779.47
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Grant towards Rent	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Net Incoming Resources	655.13	579.47
Building Society Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	<u>39,315.57</u>	<u>38,736.10</u>
Building Society Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	<u>39,970.70</u>	<u>39,315.57</u>
<b><u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</u></b>		
Building Society Account		
Virgin Money	39,970.70	39,315.57
Secured Loan	50,000.00	50,000.00

An amendment was proposed to the report to change "Church House" to "Headquarters at Jump". With that amendment, the report and accounts were proposed, seconded and carried.

# Annual Conference 2018

## WEDNESDAY MORNING – JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

---

### 26. Safeguarding issues

██████████, our new Union Safeguarding Officer, was introduced following which a presentation was given by ██████████ CEO of the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS), who focused on what they do and how they do it - but mainly why they do it. He emphasised the importance of protecting vulnerable people. He further spoke of creating safer places and seeing the Church as a safe place. He shared an example of good practice. We need to leave a positive legacy for the next generation. They have four key departments: Disclosure, Policy and support (incorporating a 24/7 -365 Helpline), Training and Consultancy.

He asked, "What is our Biblical mandate?" and spoke about Proverbs 31:8, "Speak out on behalf of the voiceless and for the rights of all who are vulnerable". (Common English Bible).

They use a ten standards base approach, which is featured in the booklet – "Staying safe and secure." This booklet moves from policies to working safely, from communication to partnership. The whole Church needs to be informed and be aware. We are all dealing with life and life throws many things at us; we all need to be prepared.

### 27. Ministers' Provident Society Report

#### b. Report by ██████████

As always, it is a privilege to be able to report to Conference on another year of work by the MPS. This department was set up in 1924 to support Ministers and their wives in retirement. It also provides a gift on the death of either the Minister or spouse to help towards funeral expenses.

The past year has once again been one where our outgoings have exceeded our receipts by a large amount. Around 15 years ago we were blessed with a large legacy which enabled us to give very generously and we believe that we have used this in accordance with the desires of the donor. However, that has now largely been used and this meant that at Conference last year we had to take the difficult decision to reduce the amounts given in annuities for this year and in future years. We have also had another year of low interest rates and although donations this year have increased by 25% for which we are very grateful, the overall balance has reduced by over £10,000. If the receipts continue at the current level, the Officers and Board Members will need to consider prayerfully and carefully how the fund will be financed and administered – the reductions mentioned above in annuities will take us through the next three years but then the legacy will have been used and our only income will be donations and interest received.

We are currently supporting 8 retired ministers and 6 widows who are very thankful for the gifts they receive each quarter. On many occasions it seems that they arrive at just the right time to meet a particular financial need.

We want to thank individuals and churches who have supported us this year both financially and in prayer and we ask that you consider the Ministers' Provident Society when arranging your giving to the Lord's work.

██████████ – Chairman,  
██████████ – Secretary,  
██████████ – Treasurer

**c. Accounts by [REDACTED]**

	2017/ 2018	2016/ 2017
<b>Income</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	38,834	50,727
Donations	1,720	1,373
Subscriptions	24	78
Virgin Money Interest	180	417
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,757</b>	<b>52,595</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Annuitants	11,500	13,250
Funeral Contributions	500	500
Sundries	0	11
Balance Carried Forward	28,757	38,834
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,757</b>	<b>52,595</b>
<b>Balances</b>		
HSBC Community Account	1,909	1,165
Virgin Money	26,848	37,669
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,757</b>	<b>38,834</b>

The annuities had been agreed last year on a reducing level, currently £200, reducing to £175 for next year and £150 for the following year. The Board recommended keeping the funeral payment at the current £500, and this was agreed by Conference. [REDACTED] said that we were seeking the space for a longer meeting at Conference 2019 to give proper consideration for the future financial position of MPS.

**28. Approval of Union Committees for 2018-2019**

The Committees were approved as recommended by General Committee.

**29. Any Other Business**

There was no Any Other Business.

[REDACTED] shared on importance of GDPR for our Churches General Data Protection Regulation, this affects all organisations, (including charities and Churches which store data on individuals) and how to take care of it. We need to be aware and proactive. Faith and spirituality are classed as special data. GDPR is designed to give individuals more rights and control over how their data is held and stored in a digital age. Data is any information that is personal to an individual that identifies them. There are Six legal reasons for holding data.



Consent is required for holding information such as, name, phone, address, financial information for Gift Aid etc. Consent is also required for information that we pass on such as financial information to HMRC for Gift Aid. What should Churches do/not do - Don't share data unless you have consent to do so. There is online help for Churches at [www.gdprforchurches.org.uk](http://www.gdprforchurches.org.uk)

### 30. **Conversation on the Work of God**

██████ of Mexborough Life Church spoke to us of the cradle to grave vision of the Church at Mexborough, building bridges into the community, connecting people to Jesus, not to the Church, but to Jesus, who can transform lives. █████ spoke of the many Church activities taking place in the Church which was reaching out into the community. He read from Jeremiah 29:4-9, God had called them to be in exile for a reason, He has called us to be in our community for a purpose, to pray and to seek the welfare of our communities. In Mark 6:34-44, Jesus was moved by compassion. We live in difficult times and we need to be engaged in the community, acting with compassion.

### 31. **Vote of Thanks**

Grateful thanks were expressed by █████ to everyone who has supported her during the year by prayer and encouragement. Thanks to █████ as Administration Assistant for being there, to █████ for his consistent help for all that he does for her and the wider Union. Thanks to General Committee, █████ and the █████ for leadership. All that have served during Conference in any way were also thanked. The President paid tribute to █████ and thanked her for all that she had done in preparation for and during Conference.