

AGENDA OF BUSINESS

For The 173rd Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches

Monday, June 13th, 2022

Business Session 1

The President George Phillips gave a welcome and the hymn “Lord for the years” was sung. The President read from Ezekiel 47:1-12. This scripture will be revisited over the course of the conference. The first point was Procession. The river of God flows from the temple, representing the sustenance and giving of life that can only come from God.

1. Names of Representatives

The names of the representatives were read.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the Rev Colin Braithwaite, the Rev Stephen Blyth, Graham Evans, Carole Parkinson, James Rossell, Adam Shepherd, Paul Brown, and Eddison Mubengo.

3. Appointment of:

- Secretary to Conference
- Recorders of Minutes
- Letter Writers
- Scrutineers
- Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors

The appointments were confirmed.

Secretary to conference Mrs Alina Taylor

Recorders of minutes

Ian Fall, David Tuckett, Phil Hearson, Tracy Hamby, Martin Ludbrook, Lisa MacBeth, Cliff Darby, Phil Hartshorn, Sharon Hollamby, James Fenton.

Letter writers Daphne Hodgkinson and Muriel Stonehewer

Scrutineers Ian Sykes, Rita Allen, Maureen Robinson, Sandra Fall

It was agreed that Visitors and press would be admitted.

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.

The standing orders were approved and accepted.

5. **Obituaries**

Thanks were given for the life and service of Mrs Ann Downing. She was twice WA President and supported the Rev Ted Downing as General Secretary and served in other supporting roles. The President led us in prayer for those who had gone to glory in the last year.

6. **Read Correspondence for Conference**

There was no correspondence.

7. **Nomination of President**

Mr David Rooksby nominated Rev Michael Hedley as President designate for the years 2023 to 2025

8. **Conference**

2023 Mon 12th June to Wed 14^h June, Swanwick

Conference date was confirmed.

9. **General Meetings**

1st Saturday in March, Jump & Zoom

3rd Saturday in October, Jump & Zoom

It was felt presumptuous to agree these dates prior to the vote on the CIO.

See item 25 below for confirmation and special arrangement for 2022

Monday, June 13th, 2022

Business Session 2

10. **CIO Registration**

- a. Introduction
- b. Discussion
- c. Voting

The President, George Phillips, introduced this item outlining the main points concerning moving to a CIO, and the changes it will mean.

A referendum had been held among the churches regarding changing to a CIO. There were 29 responses, 27 were in favour with 2 not having an opinion.

It was recognised that some of the wording in the appendices will need refining at the earliest possible opportunity in order to clarify the intended meaning. An example was shown in the Ethical Statements (appendix C) regarding marriage.

There was some discussion concerning the way forward for Circuits.

Votes cast were as follows.

Convert to CIO and CIO Constitution YES - 47 NO - 0 ABST - 0
Main body of handbook YES - 47 NO - 0 ABST - 0
Appendix A – Confession of Faith YES - 47 NO - 0 ABST - 0
Appendix B – Doctrinal Distinctives YES - 44 NO – 2 ABST - 1
Appendix C – Ethical Statements YES - 46 NO - 1 ABST - 0
Appendix D – Church Membership & Practice YES - 47 NO – 0 ABST - 0
Appendix E - Ministerial Statement YES - 46 NO – 1 ABST - 0
All votes were therefore passed.

It was proposed that the Trustees should look at refining the wording in Ethical Statements regarding marriage and in the Doctrinal Distinctions regarding women in ministry. This was seconded and Conference voted unanimously in favour.

11. **Appointment of Union Trustees**

The following were nominated, this was seconded, and Conference voted unanimously in favour.

George Phillip
Phillip Hearson
Muriel Stonehewer
Colin Braithwaite
Stuart Allen
Graham Evans
Daphne Hodgkinson
David Rooksby

12. **Appointment of National Spiritual Coordinator**

Rev. Michael Hedley was proposed to Conference for this role for a five-year term by the General Committee. This was seconded and Conference voted unanimously in favour.

This concluded business for the session and Conference spent a time in prayer.

Tuesday, June 14th, 2022

Business Session 1

13. **Resolution of Loyalty**

to be moved by The President, George Phillips

It is with great pleasure that the members of the 173rd Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches assembled at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, send to your most Gracious Majesty their sincere and loyal greetings.

We give thanks to almighty God for your inspirational Christian witness to our nation and commonwealth. We congratulate you on this Platinum Jubilee year of your reign and express our thanks for your faithful service and devotion which remains as visible now as at the beginning.

We assure you and your family of our continued prayers that God will sustain you and continue to bless you as you reign over us under his divine guidance and authority.

This was read to conference. Seconded and accepted by the conference with no objections or abstentions. The President led the conference in prayer for the Queen and the national anthem was sung.

14. Statistics

Name of Church	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		40		7	3			1		38

<i>ASHBY CIRCUIT</i>										
Ellistown		4								10
Ibstock		6								
Moira		9								10
New Swannington		7						1		10
	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	30

Ashington (Word of Life)		35	6	8	2			4		30
Attleborough		9	0						10	16
Beaconsfield		10		4	2			2		10

BAKEWELL CIRCUIT										
Bonsall*		9						1		17
Curbar		6	3					1		16
Stoney Middleton		4	1							4
Winstar		4	1							10
Youlgrave		6						1		12
	0	29	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	59

<i>BARNSLEY CIRCUIT</i>										
Cliffe Bridge		5	1					1		15
Dodworth		8	2							12
Hoyle Mill		2								0
Hunningley		11								10
Staincross	4	9	3							15
Worsbrough		6								5
	4	41	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	57

Bedworth		13	1					2		11
Birds Edge		8	2							9

Name of Church	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>BRADFORD CIRCUIT</i>										
Addingham		11						2		15
Beacon Community		35	2	5	4			4		27
Bethel Community		10	2					2		25
Muff Field		19	1		1			1		12
	0	75	5	5	5	0	0	9	0	79

Choppington	1	5	2				2			15
Church on the Rock		12	3	4	1	1	1			8
Clydebank		15	1	6	2				10	15
Denby Dale		6	1							23
Dorrington		6	1		1			1		22
Fritwell		11								12
Glasgow (Abundant Life and Liberty Centre)	2	9	1			1	2	1		7
Griffydam		12		11	3			4		39
Hazlemere		27	1	5	2			3		40
Heath End		26		9	3	18	6	2		31
Heckington		6						1		10
Ivinghoe		7								7
Old Hill		20							9	20
Oldbury		17						1		14

<i>ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH, AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT</i>										
Bowbroom		24						1		20
Cornerstone		5								7
Hough Lane	2	29	3				15	1		25
Jump		25						1		25
Mexborough Life Church	11	33		12	1	6	1	1		34
Newhill		10	1					1		20
	13	126	4	12	1	6	16	5	0	131

Name of Church	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>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</i>										
Coal Aston		4								
Greenhead		6								6
Hampden View		9	2	3		16	8	1		18
Mayfield		11	2							12
Oughtibridge		13								13
Owlerton		19						4		29
Philadelphia		5						1		8
Richmond		19	3	8	3	20	2	1	8	40
St Mary's		6								16
Woodseats		3						2		12
	0	95	7	11	3	36	10	9	8	154

<i>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</i>										
Ruskington		9	1						6	17
Ruskington Fen		3								5
	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	22

St. Just		8						2		15
Syresham		12						1		12

<i>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</i>										
Alma Street		5								10
Bozeat		14						1		9
Isham		2								7
Rushden High Street		41	3	9	3	9	8	3		36
Rushden Mission		35	1	9	5			3		40
Wymington		10								12
	0	107	4	18	8	9	8	7	0	114

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS										
TOTALS FOR 2021	37	968	84	127	56	43	45	77	25	1123
TOTALS FOR 2022	20	825	51	100	36	71	45	60	43	1050

INCREASE						20			18	
DECREASE	17	143	33	27	20		0	17		73

No presentation of the statistics was made. Realistically they are only just settling down after the effects of COVID.

Decrease of 143 is less than was anticipated.

A number of churches have been lost, accelerated by not meeting together as result of COVID. As Michael Hedley commented on Monday, we need to look at things positively.

In the Sheffield circuit, the Oughtibridge church has merged with the local parish church. Members of this Church are still listed as union members to allow time to see that this move is successful and allow the trustees to remain eligible. This represents a significant proportion of the decrease in membership. The building is also on the reference deed.

These figures will be in the yearbook once it is published.

A time was set aside for questions and comment after the statistics were seconded. The new national spiritual coordinator role is in part a pre-response to these figures.

Correction to Aldermans Green (2 devotional meetings) and Owlerton (7 WA Members).

Figures are to March 2022.

The conference accepted the statistics.

15. **Women of Action Report**

Report by Mrs S Fall

It has been so lovely to be able to meet together in person again, to see each other and interact in a normal way and to hear the buzz of many conversations all happening at the same time rather than having to wait your turn on Zoom. We thank God for His care of us through the last 2 years and His faithfulness as He continued to lead and guide us through those challenging times.

We met together in September when we delved into a new bible study on Psalm 23 and asked questions of what it means for us today. It was a very positive and personal morning as everyone contributed and shared. (The study is available if anyone would like a copy).

We met in February to pray and discuss our upcoming events of 'He Restores My Soul' which was a very productive meeting. Our first event was at Dodworth on 19th March. Although numbers were less than expected due to holidays and covid all the ladies that attended were very blessed and appreciative of the morning. There was worship, teaching, and discussion around Psalm 23:3 and also a time to reflect and pray as we allowed Holy Spirit to minister to us and bring his restoration in to our lives.

Our next event will be at Hall End on 24th September, and we would encourage as many ladies as possible to attend and invite those from other denominations in the area to join with us.

We are planning to do three more events on this theme next year in different areas of the country so that we can encourage and support as many ladies as possible in their journey with Jesus. At the time of writing the dates and venues are still to be confirmed.

Prayer is still an important part of our journey together, so we have arranged several dates to meet to pray throughout the year:

Zoom prayer meetings 7pm on 11 July and 8th September

In-person prayer meetings 10:30am on 22nd October at Griffydham and 25th February 2023 at Stoney Middleton (10am coffee).

The AGM will be at Coal Aston on Saturday 22nd April 2023.

The conversation of our representation on the WDP committee is ongoing.

There are a number of pens left from our previous events and these are available to purchase.

Our desire is to continue being obedient to God's will for the Women of Action so please continue to pray for us and join with us. We are looking forward with excitement and eagerness to spread the good news of Jesus and allowing God to restore us.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Election of Officers

Co-ordinator/Secretary	Sandra Fall
Treasurer	Daphne Hodkinson
Minute Secretary	Ellie Minney
Magazine Secretary	Ellie Minney
Representative WDP	On hold until AGM 2023
Reps to General Committee	Sandra Fall & Anne-Marie Wilcock

“God is not finished with the WRU yet” and “We’re stronger together,” two lines from Michael Hedley’s presentation on Monday night have been key phrases in the work of the Women of Action over the last few years.

Sandra reminded conference of upcoming meeting dates and locations and announced additional dates/meetings:

Ashington March 2023 TBC

Greenhead 3rd June 2023

Syresham 23rd September 2023

Women of Action pens (leftover from other events) available from Sandra for a small donation (above £1!).

Anne-Marie presented Sandra with a gift of appreciation for all her work.

The report was seconded, and comments were received from conference, including expressions of gratefulness from various people/churches. Sandra and her team would love to hear about other events happening around the Union. There may be a venue change for the February prayer meeting.

Conference accepted the report with no objections or abstentions.

16. Safeguarding Report

Report by Mr S Sykes

Safeguarding as ever remains a very important part of our church life, safeguarding should still be on every church meeting agenda to make sure it is kept at the forefront of our minds.

The past year for me has been a much more advisory role for the Union. I have had a lot of changes and challenges to deal with at work in the last year so, I have not been able to spend as much time as I would like on safeguarding, but I have been able to advise a number of churches on different issues that they have had. I am aware that there is still a need for some more safeguarding training within our churches, but I understand that people have limited spare time and there seems to be less people to do more work. I am trying to look at a way of producing a short presentation that churches can use within their church meetings to cover the basics, but condensing safeguarding into a 20-minute presentation is not easy.

It has not been a big year for changes in Safeguarding this year but there are one or two things that have been coming through recently.

Many people will now have heard of FGM (female Genital Mutilation) and the effect it can have on young girls. But a new practice that is only just coming to light in the UK is IOM (Infant Oral Mutilation) unlike FGM which is done due to cultural beliefs, IOM is done more through medical ignorance but can still be just as devastating for a child. In brief IOM is most prominent in Africa but some cases have been seen recently in the UK, USA, France, and Norway. It is when children who are at teething age present with symptoms such as Sickness Fever or Diarrhoea, (usually caused by a simple childhood stomach bug). These children are taken to local healers who misdiagnose and see the emerging teeth buds in the mouth and assume they are Parasitic worms which is a condition that can also present with similar symptoms. The tooth buds are then Gouged out using unsuitable and unsterile tools and usually without any anaesthetic, this results in great pain for the child and possible future complications with mouth deformity and even death in some cases. This is not something I expect many people to come across at present, but it is something just to be aware of.

The education Department updated their keeping children safe document at the end of last year and there have been a few changes that are relevant to us as churches. One of the areas of change is clarifying guidance on Peer on Peer abuse, emphasising that everyone who deals with children and young people should understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between peers, we should recognise that downplaying certain behaviours as “just banter” or “kids being kids” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment for children and a culture that could normalise abuse.

The other main area of concern is around mental health, since the pandemic there seems to be more children and young people presenting with mental health problems. Do we know the signs, do we know what to look out for? Many mental health problems can manifest in behavioural problems and so can be misunderstood. Specific Mental health first aid courses are being delivered throughout the country and this may be something your church may want to look at if you have a number of children and young people using your building and services.

The IICSA published their final report about “Child protection in religious organisations and settings” at the end of last year, This is the independent investigation that has been ongoing for the last few years, it is a lengthy document (230 pages) so I won't read it out to you, you can just read the executive summary (5 pages), but jumping to the recommendations at the end of the report there are 2 main recommendations.

Firstly

All religious organisations should have a child protection policy and supporting procedures, which should include advice and guidance on responding to disclosures of abuse and the needs of victims and survivors. The policy and procedures should be updated regularly, with professional child protection advice, and all organisations should have regular compulsory training for those in leadership positions and those who work with children and young people.

This is something that our churches should already have in place and if not let me know and I can help you in putting things into place.

Secondly

The government should introduce legislation to:

- change the definition of full-time education, and to bring any setting that is the pupil's primary place of education within the scope of the definition of a registered educational setting; and
- provide the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) with sufficient powers to examine the quality of child protection when it undertakes inspections of suspected unregistered institutions.

This is designed so that churches that run educational settings do not fall outside the realms of government inspectors, I do not think this one will affect any of our churches, but it is something to bear in mind.

The full report can be read here [Child protection in religious organisations and settings Investigation Report | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)

The report also highlights the inconsistencies in organisations with regards to obtaining DBS checks for anyone working with children, it does acknowledge that it can at times be difficult to obtain a DBS check as the guidelines are not always clear about who should have them (the term “supervised activity” is not always understood). If churches have any concerns in this area or are unsure, I am always available to offer advice.

Simon reminded conference that despite the fear it generates in people’s minds, Safeguarding should be at the top of each church’s agenda. Safeguarding is about anyone who is vulnerable at any stage, not just children. Infant Oral Mutilation (detailed in the report) is becoming an issue in the UK.

Simon’s report was seconded.

Safeguarding training from employment is adequate.

Safeguarding policies protect the vulnerable and the church/organisation. Please take these matters seriously.

It is important to remain vigilant as we return to ‘normal’ programmes, groups, and activities after lockdown.

Conference accepted the report with no objections or abstentions.

Simon is available to answer questions.

Tuesday, June 14th, 2022

Business Session 2

17. Union Treasurer's Report

Report by Mr G Phillips

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	2021/2022	2020/2021
Employment of Funds		
LAND AND BUILDINGS	528,000	518,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	15,043	6,888
Less: Depreciation to date	7,143 7,900	4,861 2,027
INVESTMENTS	1,005,681	1,005,011
LOANS TO CHURCHES		
Chapel Loan Fund	13,350	17,731
Extension Fund	37,500 50,850	40,500 58,231
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors:		1,820
Union		
Year Books	13	
National Westminster Bank plc		
Deposit Account	467,313	602,599
Current Account	5,629	5,677
Cash in Hand	1,938 474,893	152 610,248
	2,067,324	2,193,517
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors:		
Union Expenses, etc.	1,128	1,128
Actuarial Fees	3,000 4,128	2,940 4,068
	2,063,196	2,189,449
REPRESENTED BY:		
Property Fund	528,000	518,000
Loan Fund	139,185	138,685
Extension Fund	699,101	788,097
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund	4,536	4,528
Home Missions Account	946	899
Overseas Missions		
General Fund	695	
Training Fund	2,367	
Project Fund	11,136	
Young People's Department Account	8,467	7,668
Christian Ethics and Social Action	405	385
Local Preachers Fellowship	3,067	3,441
Women of Action	893	
General Reserve	181,991	215,986
Holdback Policy Capital Account	482,407	511,760
	2,063,196	2,189,449

**UNION EXPENSES
ACCOUNT**

		2021/2022		2020/2021
Income				
Assessment		34,713		28,905
Interest		1,182		6,751
Year Books		571		
Sundries		677		325
From General Reserve		<u>28,604</u>		<u>20,394</u>
		<u>65,747</u>		<u>56,375</u>
 Expenditure				
Salaries etc		35,150		34,348
Pension		7,035		7,912
Head Office Expenses		1,850		2,865
Year Books		506		
Conference		6,531		125
Administration -	Telephone	1,614	1,471	
	Postage	198	271	
	Stationery	1,827	1,091	
	Insurance	<u>762</u>	<u>4,401</u>	<u>740</u>
				3,573
Travelling -	Conference	266		
	Half Yearly	266		
	General Committee	<u>1,358</u>	<u>1,890</u>	<u>23</u>
				23
Sundry Expenses-	Subscriptions	1,330	1,727	
	Sundries	145		
	Legal Costs		513	
	Bank Charges	<u>439</u>	<u>1,914</u>	<u>331</u>
				2,571
Depreciation		2,282		652
Accountants		1,128		1,128
Actuaries		<u>3,060</u>		<u>3,178</u>
		<u>65,747</u>		<u>56,375</u>

GENERAL RESERVE

	2021/2022		2020/2021	
Balance 1st April 2021		215,986		102,734
Collections				
Sale of 123 Queen Street, Sheffield				129,606
Sundries		786		
Legacy				1,001
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	6,621		6,127	
Less costs	<u>782</u>	5,839	<u>1,117</u>	5,010
Rent from Thornbrook Close	4,061		3,600	
Less costs	<u>964</u>	3,097	<u>957</u>	2,643
		<u>225,708</u>		<u>240,994</u>
Legal advice		6,422		4,614
Thornbrook Close refurbishment		8,691		
Union Expenses		28,604		20,394
Balance 31st March 2022		<u>181,991</u>		<u>215,986</u>
		<u>225,708</u>		<u>240,994</u>

		2021/2022	2020/2021
HOME MISSIONS			
Balance 1st April 2021		899	1,013
Donations		3,463	3,500
Interest		1	7
Sundries		641	
Transfer from Extension Fund		68,500	73,000
		<u>73,504</u>	<u>77,520</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant		17,695	17,402
Car		3,398	3,905
Travel		182	21
Grants	New		
	Swan/Ellistown	3,600	
	Oldbury		
	Glasgow	18,620	
	Bedworth	6,000	
	Ashington	19,313	
	Bethel, Bierley	3,750	
		<u>51,283</u>	<u>55,293</u>
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2022		946	899
		<u>73,504</u>	<u>77,520</u>
YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT			
Balance 1st April 2021		7,668	7,497
Donations		790	120
Interest		9	51
		<u>8,467</u>	<u>7,668</u>
Salary, etc.			
Travel			
Balance 31st March 2022		8,467	7,668
		<u>8,467</u>	<u>7,668</u>
CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION			
Balance 1st April 2021		385	432
Donations		1,315	1,050
Interest			3
		<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,485</u>
Caring for Life		500	500
Christian Institute		500	500
Day One		100	100
Conference fees		195	
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2022		405	385
		<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,485</u>

		2021/2022		2020/2021	
LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP					
Balance 1st April 2021			3,441		3,616
Ministry Day			180		
Interest			4		25
			<u>3,625</u>		<u>3,641</u>
Ministry Day			363		200
Conference			195		
Sundries					
Balance 31st March 2022	General Fund	1,420		1,794	
	Trust Fund	1,647	3,067	1,647	3,441
			<u>3,625</u>		<u>3,641</u>
ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND					
Balance 1st April 2021			4,528		4,543
Donations			1,630		1,175
Fees			15		
Ministers Fraternal fund			285		
Interest			5		31
Transfer from Extension Fund			2,000		2,500
			<u>8,463</u>		<u>8,249</u>
Tutor Salary etc.			180		154
Pastoral Salary etc			3,187		3,107
Service Increments			560		460
Balance 31st March 2022			<u>4,536</u>		<u>4,528</u>
			<u>8,463</u>		<u>8,249</u>
WOMEN OF ACTION					
Balance 1st April 2021			1,037		1,257
Donations			100		
Interest			1		
			<u>1,138</u>		<u>1,257</u>
Conference			195		
President Gift			50		50
Sundries					170
Balance 31st March 2022			<u>893</u>		<u>1,037</u>
			<u>1,138</u>		<u>1,257</u>

		2021/2022	2020/2021
OVERSEAS MISSIONS			
General Fund			
Balance 1st April 2021		1,356	1,725
Donations		1,191	2,508
Interest		5	24
Sundries		<u>326</u>	<u>326</u>
		<u>2,552</u>	<u>4,583</u>
Conference fees		15	
Postage		42	
Grants	People		
	International	250	
	UFM	350	
	Arab World		
	Missions	600	
	Hope House	600	
		<u>1,800</u>	<u>3,200</u>
Sundries			27
Balance 31st March 2022		<u>695</u>	<u>1,356</u>
		<u>2,552</u>	<u>4,583</u>
Training Fund			
Balance 1st April 2021		2,367	2,365
Sundries			2
Balance 31st March 2022		<u>2,367</u>	<u>2,367</u>
Madagascar Project			
Balance 1st April 2021		4,206	72
Donations		1,194	4,134
		<u>5,400</u>	<u>4,206</u>
Grant		5,000	
Balance 31st March 2022		<u>400</u>	<u>4,206</u>
		5,400	4,206
Minibus Project			
Balance 1st April 2021			
Donations		10,736	
		<u>10,736</u>	
Grant			
Balance 31st March 2022		<u>10,736</u>	
		10,736	

		2021/2022	2020/2021
EXTENSION FUND			
Balance 1st April 2021		788,097	659,020
Sales	123 Queen Street		129,607
	Elsecar		79,009
Ashington contribution to car park		5,000	
Sundries		144	
		<u>793,241</u>	<u>867,636</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		68,500	73,000
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		2,000	2,500
Grants		3,000	
Ashington car park		10,020	
Costs	Cudworth	3,475	
	Elsecar	447	
	Grimesthorpe	2,400	
	Lowestoft	206	
	Nuneaton	3,012	
	Over Haddon	480	
	Smithies	600	
		<u>10,620</u>	<u>4,039</u>
Balance 31st March 2022	Investments	661,601	747,597
	Loans	37,500	40,500
		<u>699,101</u>	<u>788,097</u>
		<u>793,241</u>	<u>867,636</u>

HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance 1st April 2021		511,760	473,428
Sales	Elsecar	144	75,662
		<u>511,904</u>	<u>549,090</u>
Grants	Elsecar	447	
	Hough Lane	9,000	
	Jump	3,500	
	Mexborough	2,550	
	Mount Tabor	3,000	
	Newhill	11,000	
		<u>29,497</u>	<u>37,330</u>
Balance 31st March 2022	Bakewell Circuit	174,976	174,976
	Bradford Circuit	14,223	14,223
	Denby Dale	20,419	20,419
	Guidepost	25,000	25,000
	Mexborough	50,632	53,182
	Mexborough Capital	53,182	53,182
	R,M & D Circuit	99,953	126,756
	Sleaford Circuit	40,171	40,171
	Wellingborough Circuit	3,851	3,851
		<u>482,407</u>	<u>511,760</u>
		<u>511,904</u>	<u>549,090</u>
		2021/2022	2020/2021
LOAN FUND			
Balance 1st April 2021		138,685	138,585
Collections		<u>500</u>	<u>100</u>
Balance 31st March 2022		<u>139,185</u>	<u>138,685</u>
INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION			
Interest from Investments		1,207	6,867
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account		<u>1,182</u>	<u>6,750</u>
		<u>25</u>	<u>117</u>
Distribution:			
Home Missions		1	7
Overseas Missions		5	
Young People's Department		9	51
Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid		5	31
Christian Ethics and Social Action			3
Women of Action		1	
Local Preachers Fellowship		4	25
		<u>25</u>	<u>117</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2021	Invested 2021/2022	Repaid 2021/2022	Invested at 31/03/2022
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	505,011	670		505,681
	1,005,011	670	0	1,005,681

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/22	Balance 31/03/21	Repaid Year to 31/03/22	Balance 31/03/22	Collection Received 31/03/21
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000		900	900	0	400
2013 Jump	5,000		1,500	1,500	0	100
2017 Personal	8,000		800	800	0	
2018 St Just	20,000		13,250		13,250	
2018 Church on the Rock	5,081		1,181	1,181	0	
	59,081	0	17,731	4,381	13,350	500

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/22	Balance 31/03/21	Repaid Year to 31/03/22	Balance 31/03/22	Collection Received 31/03/22
2009 Clydebank	60,000		40,500	3,000	37,500	
		0	40,500	3,000	37,500	0

It was emphasised that churches should look closely to ensure that their trustee appointments are up to date and properly recorded in minutes books. It is also vital that churches know of the location of their deeds.

The accounts were presented by the treasurer and seconded.

The accounts were unanimously accepted.

18. Overseas Missions Department Report

a. Report prepared by OM secretary Lindsey Hedley

The Overseas Missions team would like to thank you for all your support, both prayerfully and financially. We have been truly blessed. Once again, we have been able to send gifts to our missionary personnel, and our current minibus project.

Our minibus project appeal has gone very well. Thank you all for your kind donations, events, and prayers. The initial target was £10,000! We have exceeded that with monies received, well over £11,000, praise God for His provision. Little did we know at the beginning of this project that there would be a war with Russia and Ukraine. These are desperate times for both countries. Please continue to pray for this situation.

We are delighted to introduce to you our new project for the year ahead "Safe Haven" in Lebanon. This is a Christian outreach school for children (many Islamic) suffering from many years of war, trauma, malnutrition, and no education.

We as a Union of Churches will be raising funds for a hot meal programme for the children at the school, food is very expensive in Lebanon and the children often go with no food for days. The school programme is to provide education, food and encouragement also sharing the Word of God.

As an Overseas Missions Team, we are always looking for future projects, if you have a project that you would like the WRU to support, please get in touch with us we will prayerfully consider them.

The projects run for 1 year.

We are represented all over the world in the mission field united in Christ to our brothers and sisters who are called overseas. We as a Union can make a difference when we work together with our Overseas personnel and projects. If you would like to know more about the Overseas Missions outreach, please get in touch.

God bless you all and once again thank you very much for all your support from all the Overseas Missions team.

b. Present List of Missionaries

List of Overseas Missions Personnel 2022 – 2023

1995	Mark & Angie Barnes	WRU Head Office
2003	Helen	AWM - Arab World Ministries of Pioneers P O Box 51 Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 3WQ
2016	Dr Lesley Noghti	WRU Head Office
1998	Jonathon & Ann McClean	UFM c/o 145 Farringdon Road Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 5DL

Churches were encouraged to use the recipe book provided in connection with the current project.

The report was seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.

The list of missionaries was proposed, seconded, and accepted.

19. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report

a. Report by Alina Taylor

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.

If such needs arise, please contact the Administration Manager to request an application form. Any requests will receive a sympathetic ear.

As last year the Trustees remain: Muriel Stonehewer, George Phillips, Cliff Darby, and David Rooksby.

We thank all the Churches for their 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 this fund, kindly send donations to the WRU Head office.

c. Accounts by Mr G Phillips

	2022 £	2021 £
<u>Receipt</u>		
Interest Virgin Money	106.67	291.93
Loan repayment	15,000.00	10,000.00
Donations	<u>3,405.00</u>	<u>1,555.00</u>
	18,511.67	22,254.51
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Grant towards Rent	<u>200.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Net Incoming Resources	18,311.67	10,646.93
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2021	<u>72,574.45</u>	<u>61,927.52</u>
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2022	<u>90,886.12</u>	<u>72,574.45</u>
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2022</u>		
Building Society Account		
Virgin Money	90,886.12	72,574.45

Secured Loan

15,000.00

The report and accounts were presented, as written, and seconded.
There has been one enquiry recently. Otherwise there has been no activity in the last year.
The fund makes grants and interest free loans to retired ministers.
Conference accepted this report with no objections or abstentions.

Wednesday, June 15th, 2022

Business Session 1

20. Home Missions and YPD Report

a. Report by Rev Michael Hedley

Each Team Member has been in touch with our churches and the general feel is that majority have returned to almost full capacity. People returned with enthusiasm, and some churches have started new initiatives. Technology played a big role in church's life through COVID, and in some cases it has become an important part of how they do church today.

For some time, we have felt that there is a need for Home Missions to be able to look at ways in which we can better support the Churches in our Union. We need to be able to help to grow and even re-grow healthy Churches. So, we committed to spend some time to look at our YPD provision, sharing resources and prayer networks.

We thought about what youth or children's provision is being offered currently within our churches. Mainly because of Covid much of that provision has disappeared, although there is a return to Sunday Schools, Messy Church, Kids and Toddler groups, there is nothing that can be defined as Youth Provision. The challenge is that in many churches where numbers are low, there is no one to run these events. There have been attempts at sharing resources with other Churches in some areas, but unfortunately these tend to be unsuccessful as other Churches are fighting for the numbers so to speak.

It was suggested that instead of Youth Groups, where the attendees play ping-pong, pool, and other games, and with young people who run amok in some of the church halls, these types of youth groups are no longer viable even if we had the resources. So, the best way, if we have any young people in our Churches, is to involve them in Church life, so that they feel part of it. For example, having our young people running all of our tech provision, such as the cameras, live streaming, sound production, and this works tremendously well as young people are much more aware of tech and not as frightened to give something a try. But our young people can be involved in many other areas such as serving refreshments, welcoming visitors, putting together newsletters, etc. If we can get our young people engaged at this point, they are much more likely to invite friends as they can be seen as doing something positive in the church family.

Another suggestion is to contact Youth for Christ as they offer support with Youth Workers of which there is a charge, but not excessive. They will help to set up youth groups based around the Christian resources that they supply. Thrive is another organisation that can help with this. Michael also is available to help with bid writing to get funding to support the work.

What do churches want and how can we help? Perhaps a lot of Churches would not be able to answer the question as they do not know what they want to do. So, we have split all the Union Churches between the team members of HM and prayed for them. Andy Wilcock has been talking to a lot of the Churches and added prayer points for us to pray for. We will also be contacting the Pastors to ask them what we can pray into for them.

We hope that this will create and encourage a greater sense of interdependence between our Union of Churches, helping to promote good news via various means when there are answers to prayer. We will seek to utilise the Union Website to do this as well as the Contact Magazine.

Other ideas that we discussed were Community Café's and how the Cedarwood Trust has set up a community shop, to help overcome the reliance upon foodbanks. This is where someone pays £4.00 per week to join and then are able to access a food shop, giving them the opportunity to gain societal value by paying for something instead of a handout. Also, Greggs bakers are more than happy to give anything they haven't sold that day that is perishable to Community Café's, that are registered charities.

We can offer support for simple issues like helping to create leaflets for Church's coffee mornings, share board games if they would like to offer a board games afternoon as part of their outreach with refreshments provided by themselves. Joint project working and building relationships between our Union Church leaders is also seen as something that can help with disseminating good news stories, but also offering prayerful and listening support.

For now, our action points are to:

- Set up a HM Team WhatsApp group for prayer support for each other.
- Set up a prayer network where each HM Team Member will receive information on the Churches, they will commit to pray for with their prayer points.
- Contact Greggs for Community Café Provision in the area in which we serve, if that is what your church is doing.
- Contact our local YFC for Youth Support.

Comments:

There is good news out there as was heard during the sharing session last night.

Life Magazine is full of outreach activities and what your area is doing.

Affirmation of the statement regarding finding a new vision for our young people and getting them involved in Church life. We have a generation who really need us.

We need strategy – people who can lead and a discipleship.

Suggested alteration : It was suggested that the reference to Youth Group 'no longer viable' should read 'may no longer be viable. Michael Hedley clarified that he was referring to the ping-pong etc based Youth Clubs.

The report was seconded

All accepted.

21. **Ministers' Provident Society Report**

a. Report by Rev P Hearson

Firstly, as always, we would like to thank all those who have prayed for or given to the work of the Society over the past year, whether individuals, churches, or circuits.

The MPS supports retired ministers and widows – currently we have seven retired ministers and four widows. During the year Mrs Anne Downing was called home by the Lord. We thank God for her long service to the Union and her unwavering support for Rev. Ted Downing, former General Secretary.

Each quarter a gift is sent to the beneficiaries – it is a joy to be able to keep in touch with them all and to hear how very often the gift arrives at exactly the right time to meet a specific need which has arisen. Although the overall balance has reduced, we are very pleased to be able to report that donations have increased over the previous year. The amount given to the beneficiaries remained as the previous year – this is reviewed at each Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Conference.

Our chair, Rev. Ian Fall will be moving to a different sphere of service and so will be standing down from the position. We want to thank him for undertaking this role for the last 11 years and pray that he might know God's blessing in the next phase of serving the Lord.

Do please keep the Ministers' Provident Society in your prayers – the Officers, Board Members and of course the beneficiaries.

Rev. Ian Fall – Chairman

Mr. David Rooksby – Treasurer

Rev. Phillip Hearson - Secretary

b. Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

	2021/ 2022	2020/ 2021
Income		
Balance Brought Forward	24,261	16,880
Donations	1,960	1,735
Subscriptions	24	24
Legacy from Mrs Butler	0	11,559
Virgin Money Interest	28	63
TOTAL	<u>26,273</u>	<u>30,261</u>
Expenditure		
Annuitants	5,850	6,000
Funeral Contributions	1,000	0
Sundries	18	0
Balance Carried Forward	19,405	24,261
TOTAL	<u>26,273</u>	<u>30,261</u>
Balances		
HSBC Community Account	8,104	11,363
Virgin Money	11,301	12,898
TOTAL	<u>19,405</u>	<u>24,261</u>

Seconded.

Chair Sharon Hollamby, Treasurer David Rooksby, Secretary Phil Hearson

Four board members – Cliff Darby, Phil Hartshorn, Peter Norton, Colin Braithwaite

Five yearly rule review was conducted this year:

- Gift payments will begin from state retirement age.
- Honorary members may attend meetings but be non-voting.
- Quorum: seven reduced to five
- Annuities amended to gifts as that is what they are.
- Annuitants amended to beneficiaries as that is what they are

All accepted

The Rev Phil Hearson presented accounts

The Accounts are now to be managed within the overall Union Accounts due to bank charge being made by HSBC.

All accepted

22. Local Preachers' Fellowship Report

Report by Mr D Tuckett

Our last Day of Ministry took place on Saturday 16th October 2021 at Rushden Mission. Our speaker for the event was Ray Evans, who until recently was senior pastor at Grace Community Church in Bedford and is also Church Leadership Consultant for the FIEC.

Ray was recommended by Phil Hearson and stepped in at short notice after our original speaker had to step down due to a change in his role. We also moved the venue to Rushden Mission who were excellent hosts for the event and looked after us very well on the day.

Thanks also to two of our committee members, Cliff Darby who videoed the event and Daphne Hodgkinson who without me asking her to, wrote the article in Contact Magazine. It really is a privilege to have the wisdom and support of the LPF Committee!

There were eighteen of us on the day and we had some good discussion times. Ray's subject was "Communication – Passage, People and Prayer."

Ray had very helpfully prepared seven pages of notes including the many quotes he used which saved us taking notes on the day so that we could give him our full attention. The sessions were recorded and are still available in the "links" section of the Union Website together with the 2019 and 2020 Day of Ministry sessions so I would encourage you to view them if you haven't already done so.

Personally, I found this was a wake-up call! What am I preaching – the Gospel or my own ideas loosely linked to a Bible passage? Do the headings challenge or encourage people? Is what I say clear? If I write out my sermon in full it will probably be in "Latinised" English not "Anglo-Saxon" English and will be hard to listen to and understand. What does what I say mean to the hearer? Do I just confirm their "world view" and come over as being superior and smug? Do my PowerPoint slides or other aspects of my preaching distract – much of what people take in is visual not aural. Am I too loud? Too quiet? Too monotonous?

All of these questions challenged me, and I hope that they will improve my preaching and help me to avoid traps which distract from the Good News I'm trying to preach.

I am pleased to announce that **Rev Canon Tim Montgomery** has agreed to be the speaker at our Day of Ministry 2022. This will take place on **Saturday 15th October 2022**. Tim was our speaker at an online conference for Christians Against Poverty last year and I found him both inspiring and challenging.

"Tim Montgomery is Missional Leadership Development Officer in the Diocese of Liverpool, a post he took up after his ground-breaking work as Director of Mission in Wigan. Tim has a background in leading charities and churches through significant change beginning in Cambridge with Romsey Mill and then moving up to Cumbria to help set up The Kepplewray Project. In 2015 Tim moved to Liverpool Diocese to spearhead the 'Transforming Wigan' movement".

At our committee meeting on Zoom on 22 February we agreed that we would ask Jump Church to host this event. With the new facilities we have at Jump we hope to be able both to record and live stream the event, but we would encourage people to attend on the day as we feel that after the last two years of the pandemic it is more important than ever to meet together.

So please note the date in your diaries and watch out for the publicity and booking details which will follow soon after Conference. We have approached some possible speakers for 2023 and beyond and pray that they will accept the invitation to inspire and encourage us as local preachers.

Twenty or more people supported the LPF AGM on Monday evening, thank you.

Thank you to Phil Hartshorn for chairing meetings.

Jackie Clarke will now take the chair of meetings.

For information: LWPT – makes grants to students. £1000 grants for tuition. £300 for books. They are setting up a fund: The John Wesley Fund, please apply.

Seconded.

All accepted.

Contact Magazine Committee report was given by Cliff Darby

Report to Conference not on agenda. But will be moving forwards.

Meet 3-4 times a year.

Request for contributors.

Tell them about anything you feel is appropriate to be shared about your church.

Seconded.

Clarified that reports be submitted on the 15th of the month before the due publication. These will be printed in Contact.

Confirmed that they can be added to individual church websites.

All accepted.

Wednesday, June 15th, 2022

Business Session 2

23. Ministerial Committee Report

Report by Rev. Ian Fall

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders of our churches who have worked so tirelessly over the last couple of years in what have been incredibly difficult times. The challenges that lie ahead are still significant and we will need to continue to support one another. With this in mind we want to thank you for your prayers for the work of the ministerial committee and would ask you to continue to pray for us and for all of our Ministers and Pastors as they seek to lead their churches into this next season.

The Ministers and Pastors group gathered on 5th and 6th October at the Dodworth church. It was a great opportunity to share with one another and to pray for one another. The speaker was Tim Walker from Christians Against Poverty who brought some really practical teaching on the work of CAP and potential partnerships with the local church. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th October to be hosted by the Heath End church.

Studies – Graham Johnson has all but completed section 2 of the theology course and continues to be supported by Sharon Hollamby. His papers continue to be of a high standard.

Some members of the committee met with Spurgeon's on 11th May to look at how we can move forward with a working relationship with the college for our training needs. There are a number of programmes that could be suitable, and Spurgeon's would be willing to create specific modules that would be specific to the WRU. The question is whether the outlay for this would be a good investment given the likely number of students. This will be discussed at the next ministerial committee meeting.

The Pastor to the Pastors has been in regular contact with the Ministers and Pastors of the Union via email and telephone. The nature of things discussed remains confidential.

The committee has provided input to the CIO handbook for the sections on Christian Marriage and Gender Identity with help from Lisa MacBeth on the latter.

Ian Fall will be standing down as chair of the committee at conference.

Updates to Report: Rev David Bracken to be added to the list of 'ordained by the Union.'

Years at church to be increased by 3 years on the following pages.

Lowestoft to be removed.

Rev Sharon Hollamby to become the Chair of Ministerial Committee

Comments re Biblical studies papers (Geoff Lee) – Anyone can use the papers, but we currently do not have the facility to mark them.

Conversations with London School of Theology and Spurgeon's. Discussions with Spurgeon's to be continued.

We are also going to approach Cliff College to see if their on-line offering has developed.

Funding of those courses towards full-time ministry/ordination has been supported by the Union.
Spurgeon's on-line course maybe sufficient for those who are looking to develop as Local Preachers.
Speak to Michael Hedley re other funding options.
Graham Johnson has completed second part.
All accepted.

Retired Ministers

- 1960 John W Goulder Th M**
48 Jarvis Court, Burwell Hill, Brackley, Northants, NN13 7AU
Tel: 01280 841469 Email: jwg35d@gmail.com
- 1969 David Allcock**
23 Darrell Place, Norwich, Norfolk, NR5 8QW
Tel: 01603 501040 Email: allcock603@btinternet.com
- 1971 Anthony E Hodgkinson**
30 Beaumont Avenue, Ashby- de- la- Zouch, Leicester, LE65 2NF
Tel: 01530 416521 Email: daphton@sky.com
- 1974 Maurice Nicholls**
29 Willow Court, Uplands Drive, Markfield, Leicester, LE67 9WF
Tel: 01530 242422 Email: carolnicholls72@gmail.com
- 1988 Peter H Norton**
75 Upper George Street, Higham Ferrers, Northants, NN10 8JN
Tel: 01933 356104 Email: revsnorton@btinternet.com
- 1998 Michael G Alderson**
3 Link Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9LB
Tel: 01933 413136 Email: Malderson@btinternet.com
- 1980 Colin Braithwaite**
11 Edmunds Road, Worsbrough, BARNSELY, S70 4TA
Tel: 0114 269 4035 Email: colin.braithwaite@btinternet.com
- 1985 Stephen Griffiths**
34 Penfolds, Halton Brook, Runcorn, Halton, WA7 2DG
Tel: 01928 621080 Email: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk

Ministers and pastors independently appointed by churches

Andrew Mark Wade

386 Shetcliffe Lane, Bierley, Bradford BD4 6DB

Tel: 07584 993919

BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

E-mail: maroccowades@googlemail.com

Ishaku Bitrus

21 Dunmore Street, Whitecrock, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire G81 1RJ

Tel: 0141 952 2293

CLYDEBANK CHURCH

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David Bracken

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ALDERMANS GREEN CHURCH

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Paul Brown

The Manse, 10 Thorncroft Road, Wibsey, Bradford, Yorkshire, BD6 3EP

Tel: 01274 670336

BEACON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Email: pastorpaulbrown@ymail.com

Jackie Clarke

24 Century Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4AS

Tel: 0121 552 7153

CHURCH ON THE ROCK

Email: dibleyj@btopenworld.com

Geoff Cottam

Springfield, Trelyon Close, Rectory Road, St Buryan, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 6BB

Tel: 01736 810077

ST JUST CHURCH

Email: est.e.cott@gmail.com

James Fenton

12 Brodley Close, Hipperholme, Halifax, HX3 8LS

Tel: 01422 208028

MUFF FIELD CHURCH

Email: isaiah40v8@gmail.com

Graham Johnson

37 Regent Street, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 9BN

Tel: 02476 319710

BEDWORTH (THE LITTLE CHAPEL)

Email: tlcbedworth@gmail.com

John Langford

133 Loughborough Road, Whitwick, Leicestershire, LE67 5AS

Tel: 01530 451549

NEW SWANNINGTON & ELLISTOWN CHURCHES

Email: jjjlangford@ntlworld.com

Steve & Lisa Macbeth

14 Dorset Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 8EN

Tel: 02477 051943

HEATH END CHURCH

Email: lisamarymac@gmail.com

Andrew Watts

Triumph Cottage, Mutfordwood Lane, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, NR23 8HD

Tel: 01502 476581

LOWESTOFT CHURCH

Email: woodland.studios@btconnect.com

Andrew Wilcock

29 Daniel Hill Street, Walkley, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S6 3JH

Tel: 0114 233 4852

HAMPDEN VIEW CHURCH

Email: andymarkw@gmail.com

Jonathan & Susannah Youdan

159 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield, S4 7AU

Tel: 0114 242 4639

MAYFIELD CHURCH

Email: jyoudan06@aol.com or syoudan6@aol.com

Rogan McKechnie

21 Castle Close, Monk Bretton, BARNSELY, S71 2QR

STAINCROSS CHURCH

Email: mckechnie31@btinternet.com

Amendments as above.

24. **Christian Ethics and Social Action**

Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson

I want to begin by thanking you all for your prayers, your encouragement, and your generosity. This committee has considered many issues which make distressing reading, but we believe that God is still on the throne. He is still firmly in control. He is the one who raises up politicians and he will bring them to naught.

My report starts with the war in Ukraine and since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, more than 2.5 million people have fled from their homes. The U.N. has called it the fastest –growing refugee crisis since World War Two, but at the borders in Poland, Romania and Germany, refugees have been met with acts of real kindness. It has been moving to see the lorries being loaded up to the limit with essential items. Also, people from throughout Europe have been giving money, clothing, and food to help these refugees who have nothing except for a small bag with a few belongings in it, but we must pray that these vulnerable refugees do not fall prey to predatory individuals and criminal individuals.

My point is that at a moment of horror and helplessness, we see the response of abundant generosity with people opening up their homes and resources.

Looking closer to home, the CESA committee has been monitoring the consideration of the Conversion therapy and I completed a Consultation document on the subject

One problem is that the Government has tied itself in knots trying to wriggle out of its ill-judged plan to ban conversion therapy. There is no real evidential basis for a ban because “conversion therapy” is a non-issue for most people. BUT it is a VERY big issue for LGBT campaigners who want a ban to criminalise anyone who holds to the Biblical teaching on marriage and sexual ethics. There was a very interesting 24-hour period, starting on the evening of 31st March, when it was leaked that the Prime Minister was planning to drop the ban in the least controversial way, BUT within hours the LGBT activists put enormous pressure on Number 10 and the prime

minister speedily backtracked. So, a ban on conversion therapy remains a government proposal, even though only a small group of politicians feel strongly in favour of it. Is this really democracy?

The next issue was of course “Gender-confused children,” and this is going to rumble on for a long time and will cause many problems.

Also, why on earth are we still considering the Assisted Dying debate? Baroness Meacher tried hard to re-introduce this ill-conceived plan, but praise God for the Christians in the House of Lords who stand for God’s truth. Many of us contacted our M.P. to reject this proposal. The law should be protecting life!

The Christian Institute is committed to upholding the truths of the Bible which they believe is inerrant. Amen to that.

Many denominations around us are caving into the heresy of same-sex marriage. Let us stand firm on God’s truth. Marriage is for one man and one woman.

DayOne continue to publish a wonderful selection of Christian books and Bible notes. They are now selling “Geneva Bible Notes” ... superb daily notes if you are weary of yours. They also provide diaries with Bible verses to hundreds of prisoners each year.

Then many people within the denomination really value the work of “Caring for Life,” which celebrated thirty-five years of ministry in February. I know many of you attend the open days. Jonathan Parkinson leads a remarkable team there.

An enthusiastic “Thank you” to all those who have blessed and encouraged us in our work. This has meant that this year we have been able to give £500 to the Christian Institute, £500 To Caring for Life, and £100 to DayOne.

Values Day

Members of the committee produced our Values Day material on the subject of “Climate change, does it matter to me?” This was well received and generated a lot of discussion.

Contact

Committee members regularly provide articles for our magazine, and we thank them for this.

New CESA representative

This is the final Conference as the CESA representative for me. Having served for the past 16 years, I felt that it was time to hand over the role. Thank you for your past support and encouragement and I would therefore like to introduce you to Graham Johnson, pastor of “The Little Chapel” in Bedworth. The committee would invite you to affirm their nomination and we pray God’s richest blessing on Graham.

Conference affirmed the nomination of Graham Johnson as secretary
Seconded.
All accepted.
The President thanked Daphne for her service.

25. Approval of Union Committees for 2022-2023

Additional Union Trustees

Nominate the names of Rev Sharon Hollamby and Mrs Sandra Fall.

Seconded.

All accepted.

Comment: can CESA co-opt some females, so we have balance on all discussions and issues.

All accepted.

All of the Union Committees were seconded and unanimously accepted as shown on the following slides.

Dates for meetings-

1st Saturday in March, Jump & Zoom

3rd Saturday in October, Jump & Zoom

But 2022 only: 1st Saturday in November at Jump and Zoom.

Comment re Quorum: CIO requires that 40% of departments and churches be represented - therefore attendance is essential.

Home Missions & YPD

Andy Wilcock (DOC)	Sandra Fall
Michael Hedley (Chair & Secretary)	David Bracken
Adam Shepherd	Peter Norton
Beth Ely	Phil Hartshorn
	Lisa Macbeth

Overseas Missions

Muriel Stonehewer (Chair)	Ellie Minney
Lindsey Hedley (Sec)	James Rossell
Graham Evans (Treasurer)	David Tucket
Stuart Allen	Phil Hearson
Carole Parkinson	Anne-Marie Wilcock

Ministerial

The President	George Phillips
The Admin Manager	Andy Wilcock
Sharon Hollamby (Chair)	Peter Norton
Colin Braithwaite	Stuart Allen
Muriel Stonehewer	Michael Hedley
	David Rooksby

Local Preachers Fellowship

Jackie Clarke (Chair)	Daphne Hodkinson
David Tuckett (Secretary)	Cliff Darby
Brian Hyde	Michael Hedley
Howard Copley	

Ministers Provident Society

Sharon Hollamby (Chair)	Peter Norton
Phil Hearson (Sec)	Cliff Darby
David Rooksby (Treasurer)	Phil Hartshorn
Colin Braithwaite	

Magazine Committee

Alina Taylor (Chair)	Cliff Darby
Andy Wilcock	Muriel Stonehewer
Daphne Hodkinson	Marie Nickols

Women of Action

Sandra Fall (Coordinator/Sec)
Anne-Marie Wilcock
Daphne Hodkinson
Ellie Minney

Christian Ethics & Social Action

Graham Johnson (Sec)
Stuart Allen (Chair)
Phil Hartshorn
Phil Hearson
Andy Wilcock
James Rossell
Plus any co-options

26. **Any Other Business**

No items notified.

27. **Vote of Thanks**

Presented by Alina Taylor.
George Philips then thanked Alina.