

The 171st Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches



ZOOM CONFERENCE 2020 JOURNAL



November 21st

CONFERENCE 2020 AGENDA

Saturday, November 21st, 2020, via Zoom

SESSION 1 (11.00 TO 12.30)

- 11.00 Opening Prayer
Names of representatives
Obituaries
Election of Treasurer
Appointment of General Committee
Approval of Union Committees
Management Committee Report
Overseas Missions Report
Home Missions/YPD Report
Ministerial Committee Report
- 12.30 **Lunch Break (45 mins)**

SESSION 2 (13.15 TO 14.45)

- 13.15 Treasurer's Report
Ministers Housing report
Christian Ethics and Social Action Report
WA Report
Ministers' Provident Society Report
Local Preachers' Fellowship Report

SESSION 3 (15.00 to 16.15)

- 15.00 Presentations on Female President
Discussion on the above
Any Other Business

LIST OF OFFICERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019-2020

PRESIDENT

Rev Colin Braithwaite

PAST PRESIDENT

Mr Philip Hartshorn

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE

Mr George Phillips

TREASURER

Mr George Phillips

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Mrs Alina Taylor

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Mrs Debbie Young

GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Rev Phillip J Hearson

Mr George Phillips

Mrs Muriel Stonehewer

Rev Colin Braithwaite

TRUSTEES

Mr Stuart Allen

Rev Steve Blyth

Mr Cliff Darby

Mr Graham Evans

Rev Ian Fall

Mrs Daphne Hodkinson

Rev Peter Norton

Mr David Rooksby

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Mr Stuart Allen

Mr David Bracken

Mr Cliff Darby

Mrs Beth Ely

Mr Graham Evans

Rev Ian Fall

Mr Philip Hartshorn

Rev Michael Hedley

Rev Peter Norton

Mrs Carole Parkinson

Mr David Rooksby

Mr James Rossell

REPRESENTATIVE OF HOME MISSIONS

Pastor Andy Wilcock

REPRESENTATIVE OF OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Mrs Lindsey Hedley

REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION

Mrs Daphne Hodkinson

REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Rev Steve Blyth

REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN OF ACTION

Mrs Sandra Fall

Mrs Ellie Minney

Mrs Anne-Marie Wilcock

REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL PREACHER'S FELLOWSHIP

Mr David Tuckett

AGENDA OF BUSINESS

For The 171st Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches

NOTICES

Conference will commence at 11.00, but all participants will be able to log in and enter the Zoom meeting from 10.30. This will allow us to iron out any connection issues and help us settle in, ready for the meeting. **Please do not wait until the last minute to join the meeting!**

At the start of the meeting (at 11.00) everyone will be muted. When it is your turn to speak (present the report), the President will call you out and I will 'spotlight' you and you will jump to the front of the queue. **Before you speak, please make sure you are unmuted.**

For voting purposes, we will be using **Polling**. A question will come up on your screen. All you need is to choose the appropriate answer and submit it. When polling is completed, I will share the results.

For most of the items you will be given an opportunity to ask a question or make a comment. **If you wish to speak, please raise a 'digital blue hand'**. If you do not know where it is, please make sure you join the meeting early and ask me to help you find it.

If you know how to use 'Chat', please feel free to use it.

And finally, do not worry about any of this! I will be there to help.

The president opened the Conference with a time of prayer

1. **Names of Representatives**

LIST OF DELEGATES FROM CIRCUITS AND CHURCHES

Aldermans Green	Mr David Lee	R M & Donc Circuit	Mr Ian Sykes
	Mr Barrie Parsons		Mrs Jean Sykes
Ashby Circuit	Rev John Langford		Mr Howard Copley
Barnsley Circuit	Mr Andrew Hewitt	Sheffield Circuit	Mr Martin Ludbrook
	Mrs Ann Hewitt		Mrs Julia Hodson
Bedworth (TLC)	Mr Graham Johnson	Old Hill – St James	Mrs Susan Haggart
Bradford Circuit	Rev Paul Brown	St Just	Pastor Geoff Cottam
	Mr David Sharples	Wellingborough Circuit	Mrs Sandra Rooksby
	Pastor James Fenton		Mrs Sue Norton
Clydebank	Rev Ishaku Bitrus		Mr Tom Partridge – Underwood
Ebenezer – Oldbury	Mr Mark Parsons		Mrs Lyndis Payne
Glasgow Abundant Life	Rev Eddie Mubengo		
Griffydam	Mrs Judith Darby		
Heath End	Mrs Lisa Macbeth		

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received

Obituaries

A few moments of quiet was held to remember those who had died since Conference 2019.

Election of Treasurer

Colin Braithwaite nominated George Phillips as treasurer for the next 5 years. George was thanked for his tremendous effort he puts into the role. It was unanimously agreed.

3. Nominations for General Committee

ALDERMANS GREEN	David Bracken
ASHBY CIRCUIT	James Rossell
ASHINGTON	Michael Hedley
ATTLEBOROUGH	
BAKEWELL CIRCUIT	Stuart Allen, Beth Ely
BARNSLEY CIRCUIT	Phil Hartshorn
BEDWORTH	
BIRDS EDGE	
BRADFORD CIRCUIT	
CHOPPINGTON	
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	
CLYDEBANK	
DENBY DALE	
DORRINGTON	
FRICTWELL	
GLASGOW ABUNDANT LIFE AND LIBERTY	
GRIFFYDAM	Cliff Darby
HAZLEMERE	
HEATH END	
HECKINGTON	
IVINGHOE & PITSTONE	
LOWESTOFT	
NUNEATON	
OLDBURY	
OLD HILL	
ROTH, MEX & DONC CIRCUIT	Graham Evans
SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT	Carole Parkinson
SLEAFORD CIRCUIT	
SOULDERN	

ST. JUST	
SWANTON ABBOTT	
SYRESHAM	
WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT	Ian Fall, Peter Norton, David Rooksby, Ellie Minney

All the above were accepted onto General Committee. It was noted that very few churches are represented, and shows disconnect between the Union and the churches, which is an issue that needs to be addressed. Colin asked that this issue be added onto the next agenda for General Committee.

4. Approval of Union Committees

MANAGEMENT (8)	HOME MISSIONS/YPD (8)	OVERSEAS MISSIONS (10)
The President	Andy Wilcock (DOC)	Muriel Stonehewer (Chair)
The Admin Manager	Michael Hedley (Chair & Sec)	Lindsey Hedley (Sec)
The Union Treasurer (Chair)	Steve Blyth	Graham Evans (Treasurer)
Ian Fall	Beth Ely	Stuart Allen
Daphne Hodkinson	Sandra Fall	Carole Parkinson
Graham Evans	David Bracken	Ellie Minney
David Rooksby	Peter Norton	James Rossell
Cliff Darby	Phil Hartshorn	David Tucket
		Phil Hearson
		Anne-Marie Wilcock
CESA (6)	MINISTERIAL (9)	LPF
Stuart Allen (Chair)	The President	Phil Hartshorn (Chair)
Daphne Hodkinson (Sec)	The Admin Manager	David Tuckett (Secretary)
Phil Hearson	Ian Fall (Chair)	Brian Hyde
Phil Hartshorn	George Phillips	Howard Copley
Andy Wilcock	Muriel Stonehewer	Daphne Hodkinson
James Rossell	Andy Wilcock	Michael Hedley
Plus, any co-options they may care to make	Peter Norton	Cliff Darby
	Sharon Hollamby	
	Stuart Allen	
MPS	WA	CONFERENCE
Ian Fall (Chair)	Sandra Fall (Coordin/Sec GC)	The President
Phil Hearson (Sec)	Anne-Marie Wilcock (Rep. for GC)	The President Designate
David Rooksby (Treasurer)	Daphne Hodkinson (Treas.)	The Admin Manager
Colin Braithwaite	Muriel Stonehewer	The WA Coordinator
Peter Norton		Muriel Stonehewer
Cliff Darby		

Phil Hartshorn		MAGAZINE
		Alina Taylor
		Andy Wilcock
		Daphne Hodgkinson
		Cliff Darby
		Muriel Stonehewer

All the above were unanimously accepted onto the Union Committees.

**5. Management Committee report
by George Phillips**

The following issues have been the main focus of the Management Committee.

1. Grants & Support
2. Union Structures
 - Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
 - Accountability, property ownership, consistent with current charity law.
 - Legal advice complex, refinement required.
 - Circulated to churches for debate – Conf 2021.
3. Role of the Union
 - Leadership, support roles
 - Effectiveness, growth focussed, sustainability.
 - Call for prayer – Sunday 10th Jan 2021

George shared a graph of steady membership decline since 1955 and also commented that the proportion of nominations to General Committee is higher now than in 1955 per head of members.

Ian fall shared information on the proposed ‘Day of Prayer’ on Jan 10th, 2021.

Churches will be sent out information and points for prayer and will be asked to set aside Sunday 10th Jan 2021 as ‘A call to repentance and prayer’.

It was commented whether fasting should also be considered.

The report was accepted.

**6. Overseas Missions Report
a) Report by Lindsey Hedley**

Thank you for your support both prayerfully and financially. We have been truly blessed. As a result, we were able to send gifts to all of our missionary and associated missionary personnel, once again they are all very grateful for our support in their important work.

Our Project for this year has been well supported and we were able to gift over £5,000 to the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara, Madagascar for the cystoscope which was very badly needed.

Due to the current circumstance our committee has decided to continue to support the Good News Hospital for a further one year period, as they are building a new theatre block and need financial help to fund this.

Please pray for the doctors and nurses serving there, as relief volunteers cannot, at the moment, travel there to help, due to Covid 19 restrictions.

God bless you all and once again thank you so very much for all your support.

A further update was given on the project in Mandritsara

An update was given on how the accounts stood 6 months into the year, and comment was made that the project fund is down on where it was last year.

To increase awareness of the project over the Christmas period, an email is to be sent out with a Christmas decoration to make and the option to donate to the project.

An appeal was made for ideas for a new project to support from Conference 2021.

The report was unanimously accepted.

The list of Missionary Personnel was accepted.

b) Accounts by Graham Evans

Year 2019/20

Accounts	2019/2020	2018/2019	
General Fund			
Income	£	£	
Balance 1st April	2287.64	3356.75	
Donations			
General Fund	3750.87	3114.10	
Interest from Reserve Account	0.79	0.35	
Interest from Investment Accounts	26.04	23.44	
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim		295.73	
Percy & Ruth Johnson		1325.27	
Total	<u>6065.34</u>	<u>8115.64</u>	
Expenditure			
Conference Fees	150.00	150.00	
Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses	25.00	25.00	
Interest to Training & Fairhurst	3.00	3.00	
Epiphany trust (Yemen)	600.00		
Half Yearly	12.00		
Annual Gifts			17/18
WEC	800.00	500.00	750.00
UFM McCleans	250.00	250.00	250.00
R Moorin	250.00	250.00	250.00
AWM	800.00	500.00	500.00
Partners J Taylor	250.00	250.00	250.00
Womersley	50.00	75.00	125.00
Bryant	50.00	75.00	125.00
Levinsohn	50.00	125.00	125.00
Friends - Lesley	800.00	500.00	500.00
Bensteads	250.00	125.00	125.00
Balance 31st March	1725.34	2287.64	
Total	<u>6065.34</u>	<u>8115.64</u>	
	2019/2020	2018/2019	
Fairhurst & Training			
Balance 1st April	2765.00	636.08	Fairhurst
Interest	3.00	1.00	
I Fall	-500.00		
Sale of cards	97.00		
Balance at 31st March	<u>2365.00</u>	<u>637.08</u>	
		2125.92	Training
		2.00	
		<u>2127.92</u>	

Summary

General Fund	1725.34	2287.64
Project Fund	4322.00	1341.00
Training & Fairhurst Funds	2365.00	2765.00
Total	<u>8412.34</u>	<u>6393.64</u>

Balances

Current Accounts Nat West	4745.66	2753.79
Reserve Account Nat West	385.24	384.45
National Savings Accounts	<u>3281.44</u>	<u>3255.40</u>
Total	<u>8412.34</u>	<u>6393.64</u>

Yemen 2017

Income 17/18	2327.00
Income 18/19	2173.00
Expenditure	<u>-4500.00</u>
Balance	<u>0.00</u>

Yemen 2018

Income 18/19	1341.00
Income 19/20	1559.00
Expenditure	<u>-2900.00</u>
Balance	<u>0.00</u>

Madagascar 2019

Income 19/20	4322.00
Income 20/21	0.00
Expenditure	<u>0.00</u>
Balance	<u>4322.00</u>

7. Home Missions/YPD Report by Rev. Michael Hedley

Since Conference 2019 there has been some changes to the Home Missions Committee. Rev Michael Hedley was unanimously voted to take over as Secretary and Chair.

From the first meeting in September, we have spent much time in taking forward the Area Worker issue. Meetings were held with the Barnsley Circuit as they were willing to take forward the proposal of having the area worker in that Circuit. We agreed the structure of the Job advert, the Job and person specification; the job adverts were placed in local and Christian press in January of 2020 and quite a good response came from that. We also agreed a formal interview structure and who should be on the panel. This was due to go ahead in March 2020, but as we all know the Coronavirus Pandemic and Lockdown then happened and so we had to put all of those things on hold. We await to see how this will eventually pan out, but it looks like it could be into 2021 before we can progress this any further.

The other main issues that we have discussed and proposed is that more time should be given over to prayer, both at the Home Missions Committee and at General Committee. In November at the Half Yearly Meetings, we held a prayer meeting for the first hour, seeking direction from God, as to how to take forward Committee and Denomination business, as well as how we fulfil the Great Commission.

After much prayer and discussion in the Home Missions Committee, we all felt that the most important issues were how do we fulfil the Great Commission, and how do we share our faith simply. Many people

can feel uncomfortable about sharing their faith or have just got out of the habit of doing it. The only way in which the church can grow is through evangelism, and it has been proposed that in order to do evangelise we need to be able to share our faith simply.

A training “roadshow” was proposed, where we can visit Churches and/or Circuits to deliver a “sharing our faith simply” training programme. Michael and Andy met in February and Michael has proposed a simple programme of training, showing how easy it can be to share our faith if we live out the Christian Gospel in our daily lives.

Obviously, the Covid 19 Pandemic and lockdown has occurred since then and all this has had to be put on hold. However, the Word of Life Church has secured funding through “Allchurches Trust” to deliver an on-line version of this training through Zoom, and this will be available from September 2020. Any Church/Circuit or groups of Churches interested in this simple training programme, can register interest via emailing Michael on wordoflifechurch@hotmail.co.uk and training dates can be agreed and set up from September 2020.

Home Missions also have discussed how we can engage with our communities much more, and issues such as attending local town council meetings have been very successful, working with YMCA in partnership for youth programmes, engaging with asylum seekers and the groups such as the Red Cross that support them, and the use of social media can all be very successful ways in which we can engage with our communities, as well as many of the tried and trusted means which we have all been doing.

We hope that this report gives you encouragement, that we are ready to take this glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ back into our communities and bring that love, joy and peace which we all know to many others and see the Church of Christ grow.

Andy Wilcock added to the report some ideas of how to connect with our communities over the Christmas period. These included –

- Carol singing on the doorstep
- Distribution of 'Life' magazine produced by 10ofthose
- Go chatter videos

It was also commented that Scripture union had resources for Christmas, and 'Outreach UK' were a good tool.

Thanks were expressed to the Home Missions team.

The report was unanimously accepted.

8. Ministerial Committee Report **by Rev. Ian Fall**

We thank you for your prayers for the work of the Ministerial Committee. Michael Headley wrote a paper looking into the process of accreditation for the Unions theological course written by Geoffrey Lee. After consideration it was decided that we were not in a place currently to go through the accreditation process. However, this was something that we would continue to review and could look at some time in the future. We want to take this opportunity to thank Michael for his very helpful paper.

We have had face to face meetings with Spurgeon's Theological College and London School of Theology looking at their distance learning offering. It was felt that Spurgeon's offered greater flexibility and had a more developed online platform and we agreed that in the future we would recommend this college for those seeking training. We would also recommend that churches use Geoff's course for those seeking to deepen their Biblical understanding. This could be used for personal study or in a Bible study group.

We have a number of people who are working on their dissertations with a view toward ordination.

A discussion was had on the Union's spiritual health and ministry and this will also be a point of discussion for a combined meeting of the Management and Home Missions committees.

The Pastor-to the Pastors, has been getting in touch with the ministers of our churches. He has been very impressed with the way in which churches have adapted to providing services online and how the ministers in our churches have overcome the different challenges that come from working from home. It was a very encouraging to hear how well churches are doing in difficult circumstances

Ministers and Pastors met at Jump on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd October 2019 and received excellent teaching from Rev Tim Davies from Christ Church Central, Sheffield. It was an excellent opportunity to meet for fellowship, to share with one another and to pray for one another.

We know that some concern has been shown in regards to transgender issues and how we prepare as churches to deal with this. Edward Connor solicitors are going to be asked to look into this and to give us some advice.

Ministers and pastors group met on zoom due to Covid-19

The Christian institute are willing to offer advice to any churches, should they need it, on transgender issues as to where churches stand legally.

The report was accepted.

**9. Treasurer's report
by George Phillips**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

		2019/2020		2018/2019
Employment of Funds				
LAND AND BUILDINGS		668,000		668,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST		4,731	4,731	
Less: Depreciation to date		4,209	522	3,989
				742
INVESTMENTS		1,002,540		998,792
LOANS TO CHURCHES				
Chapel Loan Fund		25,481	35,181	
Extension Fund		40,500	65,981	55,860
				91,041
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors:	Union	870		2,118
	Conference			460
	Magazine	118		360
	Year Books	20		
	National Westminster Bank plc			
	Deposit Account	317,098		342,840
	Current Account	7,491		7,013
Cash in Hand		58	325,655	471
			<u>2,062,698</u>	<u>2,111,837</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors:	Union Expenses, etc.	1,130		3,330
	Actuarial Fees	2,700	3,830	2,700
			<u>2,058,868</u>	<u>6,030</u>
				<u>2,105,807</u>
REPRESENTED BY:				
Property Fund		668,000		668,000
Loan Fund		138,585		138,435
Extension Fund		659,020		729,901
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund		4,543		4,188
Home Missions Account		1,013		1,091
Young People's Department Account		7,497		7,005
Christian Ethics and Social Action		432		486
Local Preachers Fellowship		3,616		3,716
General Reserve		102,734		113,835
Holdback Policy Capital Account		473,428		439,150
			<u>2,058,868</u>	<u>2,105,807</u>

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Income		
Assessment	40,190	41,333
Interest	9,356	8,205
Year Books	693	510
Sundries	247	351
From General Reserve	<u>14,497</u>	<u>15,018</u>
	<u>64,983</u>	<u>65,417</u>

Expenditure

Salaries etc		35,254		34,520
Pension		6,126		8,772
Head Office Expenses		3,671		3,845
Year Books		578		518
Magazine		1,987		1,929
Conference		2,074		1,027
Administration -	Telephone	1,240		755
	Postage	202		404
	Stationery	1,540		1,507
	Insurance	<u>1,343</u>	4,325	<u>1,218</u>
				3,884
Travelling -	Conference	340		319
	Half Yearly	408		267
	General Committee	<u>3,009</u>	3,757	<u>2,257</u>
				2,843
Sundry Expenses-	Subscriptions	1,819		767
	Child Protection			60
	Sundries	271		186
	Legal Costs			2,316
	Bank Charges	<u>585</u>	2,675	<u>624</u>
				3,953
Depreciation		220		220
Accountants		1,130		1,130
Actuaries		<u>3,186</u>		<u>2,776</u>
		<u>64,983</u>		<u>65,417</u>

2018/2019**2018/2019****MAGAZINE ACCOUNT**

Sales	2,502	2,269
Printing	3,824	3,552
Postage	665	646
Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>-1,987</u>	<u>-1,929</u>
	<u>2,502</u>	<u>2,269</u>

GENERAL RESERVE

Balance 1st April 2019		113,835		119,257
Collections		425		425
Sundries				845
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	7,190		6,439	
Less costs	<u>618</u>	6,572	<u>999</u>	5,440
Rent from Thornbrook Close	3,600		3,600	
Less costs	<u>1,711</u>	1,889	<u>714</u>	2,886
		<u>122,721</u>		<u>128,853</u>
Legal advice		5,490		
Union Expenses		14,497		15,018
Balance 31st March 2020		<u>102,734</u>		<u>113,835</u>
		<u>122,721</u>		<u>128,853</u>

		2019/2020	2018/2019
HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT			
Balance 1st April 2019		1,091	1,334
Donations		4,401	4,736
Interest		10	11
Transfer from Extension Fund		<u>73,000</u>	<u>79,000</u>
		<u>78,502</u>	<u>85,081</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant		16,259	15,958
Car		3,929	2,999
Travel		261	692
Grants	New		
	Swan/Ellistown	3,600	
	Mexborough	1,250	
	Oldbury	5,000	
	Glasgow	17,775	
	Bedworth	6,000	
	Ashington	18,415	
	Bethel, Bierley	5,000	
		<u>57,040</u>	<u>64,341</u>
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2020		<u>1,013</u>	<u>1,091</u>
		<u>78,502</u>	<u>85,081</u>

YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT

Balance 1st April 2019	7,005	6,526
Donations	425	425
Interest	67	54
	<u>7,497</u>	<u>7,005</u>
Salary, etc.		
Travel		
Balance 31st March 2020	<u>7,497</u>	<u>7,005</u>
	<u>7,497</u>	<u>7,005</u>

CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION

Balance 1st April 2019	486	675
Donations	1,260	1,385
Interest	4	6
	<u>1,750</u>	<u>2,066</u>
Caring for Life	500	500
Christian Institute	500	500
Day One	150	400
Conference fees	150	150
Sundries	18	30
Balance 31st March 2020	<u>432</u>	<u>486</u>
	<u>1,750</u>	<u>2,066</u>

2019/2020

2018/2019

LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP

Balance 1st April 2019	3,716	3,757
Ministry Day	465	675
Donation		
Interest	35	31
	<u>4,216</u>	<u>4,463</u>
Ministry Day	450	597
Conference	150	150
Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2020	1,969	2,069
General Fund	1,647	1,647
Trust Fund	3,616	3,716
	<u>4,216</u>	<u>4,463</u>

ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND

Balance 1st April 2019	4,188	4,345
Donations	1,490	1,185
Fees	50	67
Interest	40	37
Transfer from Extension Fund	3,000	5,000
	<u>8,768</u>	<u>10,634</u>
Tutor Salary etc.	191	2,175
Pastoral Salary etc	3,046	2,776
Service Increments	460	400
Training		199
Travelling Expenses	70	113
Removal expenses		783
Costs	458	
Balance 31st March 2020	<u>4,543</u>	<u>4,188</u>
	<u>8,768</u>	<u>10,634</u>

2019/2020

2018/2019

EXTENSION FUND

Balance 1st April 2019		729,901	708,825
Sales	Warmsworth		108,479
Sundries		6,219	693
		<u>736,120</u>	<u>817,997</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		73,000	79,000
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		3,000	5,000
Head Office - Jump Ashington cottage			
Costs	Highthorn	622	
	Elsecar	478	
		<u>1,100</u>	<u>4,096</u>
Balance 31st March 2020	Investments	618,520	674,041
	Loans	40,500	55,860
		<u>659,020</u>	<u>729,901</u>
		<u>736,120</u>	<u>817,997</u>

HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance 1st April 2019			439,149		354,659
Sales	Highthorn		108,194		
	Warmsworth				89,909
			<u>547,343</u>		<u>444,568</u>
Grants	Jump	13,000			
	Newhill	20,000			
	Curbar	3,095			
	Hough Lane	36,182			
	Elsecar	<u>1,638</u>	73,915		5,419
Balance 31st March 2020	Sleaford Circuit		40,171		40,171
	Bakewell Circuit		174,976		178,071
	R, M & D Circuit		86,594		157,414
	Mexborough		54,097		
	Mexborough Capital		54,097		
	Guidepost		25,000		25,000
	Wellingborough Circuit		3,851		3,851
	Bradford Circuit		14,223		14,223
	Denby Dale		<u>20,419</u>		<u>20,419</u>
			473,428		439,149
			<u>547,343</u>		<u>444,568</u>

			2019/2020		2018/2019
LOAN FUND					
Balance 1st April 2019			138,435		138,285
Collections			<u>150</u>		<u>150</u>
Balance 31st March 2020			<u>138,585</u>		<u>138,435</u>

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Interest from Investments	9,512	8,356
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	9,356	8,205
	<u>156</u>	<u>151</u>
Distribution:		
Home Missions	10	11
Young People's Department	67	55
Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid	40	36
Christian Ethics and Social Action	4	6
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust		12
Local Preachers Fellowship	35	31
	<u>156</u>	<u>151</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2019	Invested 2019/2020	Repaid 2019/2020	Invested at 31/03/2020
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	498,792	3,748		502,540
	998,792	3,748	0	1,002,540

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/20	Balance 31/03/19	Repaid Year to 31/03/20	Balance 31/03/20	Collection Received 31/03/20
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000		4,500	1,800	2,700	100
2013 Jump	5,000		2,000	500	1,500	50
2017 Personal	8,000		6,000	3,000	3,000	
2018 St Just	20,000		18,250	3,000	15,250	
2018 Church on the Rock	5,081		4,331	1,400	2,931	
	59,081	0	35,181	9,700	25,481	150

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/20	Balance 31/03/19	Repaid Year to 31/03/20	Balance 31/03/20	Collection Received 31/03/20
2009 Clydebank	60,000		40,500		40,500	
2017 Aldermans Green	190,000		15,360	15,360	0	425
		0	55,860	15,360	40,500	425

Comments on the Treasurers report – Conference

- Union expenses account – there has been an increase in GC travel expense '19-'20, however the current year has seen a decrease due to COVID-19 and there being no meetings.
- Home missions – Donations are down slightly, grants are lower than the previous year, but are increasing again for 2021.
- Extension fund – There was a reduction in Extension fund in that financial year, however there is the Queen St sale to go in and a number of churches on the reference deed in the pipeline for sale including Elsecar, Over Haddon, Cudworth, Deddington, and Souldern.
- Balance sheet – There has been a reduction in assets in total, the reason being no churches have been sold but the Home Missions support is continuing. Since 2010 given support of 1.16 Million.
Need to make sure funds are used in accordance with Charity objectives and is focused on the charity aims.

Assessment increase was proposed from July this year, but due to Covid-19, this has been deferred, with no plans to increase in the next year either for 2020-2021.

Comments on predictions for rest of financial year.

- The budget has changed mainly due to the 3-month cancelled assessment from Apr-Jun'20 due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- Assessment will be less than expected so transfer from general reserve will be more than expected.
- Covid-19 has contributed to – Less costs on Magazine, less costs on Conference, and the travel expenses are less.
- HO expenses are expected to be approx. £2000 ongoing.
- Predictions have been made for a normal year but need to be aware that things will be different due to Covid-19
- Expenses should be generally as we expect.
- General reserve increased due to sale of Queen St.
- Home Missions support is increasing from last year, so there will need to be some movement from extension fund to Home Missions.
- Extension fund decreased in previous year, however due to the sale of Queen St it will increase this year and in the coming year due to sale of churches.

Colin thanked George for all the work that he does as Treasurer.

The report was accepted.

10. Ministers Housing Report **by Alina Taylor**

Housing for Retired Ministers Trust is there to support ministers, particularly at the time of their retirement. Over the years, this fund has assisted our ordained Ministers and will continue to do so, while the funds last. On behalf of the Trust I want to thank all churches for their donations and ask for your continued support.

Thanks were expressed for donations to this fund.

The report was unanimously accepted

11. **Christian Ethics and Social Action** **Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson**

We always need to remember that God is still on the throne when we look at the situation around us. We are in the midst of a pandemic which has swept across the world. Six months ago no-one had ever heard the word "CORONAVIRUS", but now it is on everyone's lips and minds. When the call went out for volunteers to come to the aid of the isolated and vulnerable, three quarters of a million people stepped forward. This is social action at its highest and best. The NHS bore the brunt of dealing with the virus, with retired doctors and nurses coming out of retirement to deal with the spiralling numbers of cases. Remember all the nation coming out of their houses at 8 o'clock on Thursday 26th March to applaud and thank the NHS?

It was so emotional and genuine.

Brexit has happened and although it is at the back of our minds now, many people celebrated that now we were free to make our own laws and decisions. However, the Christian Institute has detailed some of the decisions that lie firmly at the feet of our politicians here in the U.K. and not the E.U. Take-bioethics. In Britain you can create and destroy human embryos for research, whereas such action would land you in jail in much of Europe. In terms of protecting the unborn, the UK is one of the most LIBERAL nations.

On LGBT issues, the UK takes a stronger stance than the EU. It was David Cameron who pushed same-sex marriage and said it was one of his finest achievements! On transgender rights, it is possible that the UK will go much further than the EU after Brexit.

The "activists" here in Britain seem to hold a great deal of power with our Government, whereas the Church does not. It was reported in the "Evangelical Times" March 2020, that the Church of England have issued a pastoral guidance statement which clearly upholds the Bible's teaching that sex should be reserved for heterosexual married couples. The release of the statement prompted an angry social media backlash from gay rights and other anti-religious groups. Some CofE vicars and bishops also distanced themselves from this statement saying the document was "offensive"!!

Then, would you believe it, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York decided to APOLOGISE for any hurt caused, especially to the gay community. Praise the Lord for Andrea Williams, a lay member of the General Synod, who said the apology was "astonishing". She said that just because people disagree with church teaching, there was "no reason" for the Archbishops to apologise for speaking out the Word of God. I should think not!

At the end of 2019, Boris Johnson became the new Prime Minister. The political campaign had been all about Brexit (Let's get Brexit done), the National Health Service and the economy. No mention had been made of the serious decline in the spiritual and moral condition of the nation. The Government itself seems rather dysfunctional, with accusations of bullying, forced resignations and a Prime Minister with rather dubious moral standards. Thankfully, the future of the United Kingdom is not in the hands of a Prime Minister, or a Government, but in the hands of Almighty God. That reality brings great comfort and reassurance to every Christian believer.

Our Values Day was held at the beginning of February and the subject was "Everybody's shouting, but nobody's listening". A very timely subject prepared by Susan Over. Our thanks to her. The material is on the Union website. We hope you found it useful and challenging.

The committee continues to provide an article for the bi-monthly "Contact" magazine. The committee is Stuart Allen (Chairman), Phillip Hearson, Andy Wilcock, James Rossell, Philip Hartshorn and myself.

We thank God for the organisations that reach out to those in need and this year because of the generosity of the churches, we have been able to distribute the following gifts: Caring for Life £500. The Christian Institute £500 and DayOne £150. Sadly, donations have reduced this year.

Thank you for your support. Please pray to God that He will forgive this nation; that in wrath, He will remember mercy and, undeserving though we are, that God might pour out His blessing upon us, and bring us back to Himself.

We were reminded that we have every right to contact our M. P's regarding any issues that we are concerned about.

Thanks were expressed to Daphne for her work on the CESA Committee and standing up for God's word.

The report was accepted.

12. **Women of Action Report**

a. **Report by Mrs S Fall**

We remain thankful to God for the way that He has used the Women of Action to encourage and support many ladies in their faith and witness.

Since the last Conference report the 'See how they grow' event has been held at New Swannington. It was lovely to be able to bless those ladies there and encourage them in their walk with Jesus. This year we planned to visit Greenhead in the Sheffield circuit in June and Heath End in Nuneaton in October but due to the current COVID19 pandemic the visit to Greenhead has been postponed till spring time next year and we wait to see if we are able to meet together later in the year at Heath End.

Our AGM was held via Zoom and the telephone. Although we were not able to be physically together it was good to see each other and we still felt God's presence and enabling, as we worked through our agenda and made decisions.

We were pleased to vote Lindsey Hedley officially into the role of WDP representative and thanks were expressed to Muriel Stonehewer for her 9 years of dedication and commitment.

Following a time of prayer it was agreed, that due to the uncertain circumstances at the moment, we should meet on 5th September, either via Zoom or at Coal Aston in person, to discuss the next steps. We felt that God was assuring us that there is no need to rush into decisions at the present time. We are very aware that when we come out of this Lockdown life may be very different and at that point God will reveal what teaching He wants us to take to the ladies.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued donations, support and prayers. We are confident that as we continue to step forward and follow after God's heart that He will use us to bless many more ladies. May He continue to be first in our lives, the one that we look to in all things.

'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.' 1 Pet 2:9

b. Accounts by Daphne Hodkinson

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Balance on 1st April 2019	1391	1655
Donations	88	85
Balance from lunch	35	60
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1514	1800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Presidents gift	50	50
Fees	162	162
Lunch costs	45	109
Expenses		88
Balance 31st March 2020	1257	1391
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1514	1800
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Additional points

September

We asked, Do we still have a purpose? What is it? How do we do it in a post COVID climate?

Plans for future event.

November

Why wait? - Is there something we could be doing before that time to encourage and support the ladies? Are we lying dormant?

Card to encourage ladies.

Day of Next Meeting

10 am on Saturday 16th January 2021.

To plan a programme for a physical event in the spring time.

AGM

Saturday 24th April 2021

The report was unanimously accepted.

13. **Ministers' Provident Society Report**

a) **by Rev Phil Hearson**

It is our pleasure to be able to report on the work of the Ministers' Provident Society. The department supports ministers and their spouses in retirement and also provides a gift on the death of either the minister or spouse to help towards funeral expenses. We want to say a big thank you to individuals and churches who have supported us financially and in prayer.

You will note from the accounts that our donations received have fallen during the year, although the previous year had shown a substantial increase as reported then. Our outgoings have again exceeded the incomings and the balance now stands at £16,880. This represents just over two years in reserve if our

giving remains at the current level. We are aware that we have a legacy due to be received which would possibly increase our reserves to around three years. It is clear that if the work of the Society is to continue in the long term we will need to reduce our giving very substantially or look for increased donations or a new income stream (this would be our preferred way forward).

God has been very generous to us over the time the Society has existed – nearly 100 years in its current form - and we continue to look to Him and ask that you prayerfully consider what part you could play in that. We ask for your prayers as decisions are made.

Thank you for partnering with us in this work.

Ian Fall – Chairman
 Phil Hearson – Secretary
 David Rooksby – Treasurer

b) Accounts by David Rooksby

	2019/ 2020	2018/ 2019
Income		
Balance Brought Forward	22543	28757
Donations	2043	2670
Subscriptions	24	24
Legacy	0	0
Virgin Money Interest	145	142
TOTAL	<u>24755</u>	<u>31593</u>
Expenditure		
Annuitants	6875	8550
Funeral Contributions	1000	500
Sundries	0	0
Balance Carried Forward	16880	22543
TOTAL	<u>24755</u>	<u>31593</u>
Balances		
HSBC Community Account	645	2953
Virgin Money	16236	19590
TOTAL	<u>16880</u>	<u>22543</u>

It was commented that we need a way to move forward if we think that this fund is worthwhile.

It was commented that the Union would not want to see the grants from this fund reduce.

The report was unanimously accepted.

14. Local Preacher's Fellowship Report

By David Tuckett

As for all other parts of our Union, what a difference a year (or even a few months) has made to the way we work together as a denomination and as churches.

I reported in detail at the Half-Yearly meetings in November last year on our last Day of Ministry which was held on 19 October 2019 at our Heath End Church.

If you want to read that report in full please let me or Alina know and we can let you have a paper or email copy. Cliff Darby videoed the sessions and these are still available to watch on the Union website.

Our speaker was Roy Crowne who is Executive Director of Hope Together Christian Charity.

In the three sessions, Roy wanted us to look at ways for churches to work together, and to explore how we can hold the tension between works and social action. Jesus did both and like Him, we should aim to combine words and deeds.

At the LPF Committee meeting last October we welcomed two new Committee members, Michael Hedley and Cliff Darby. The other members of the Committee are Brian Hyde, Daphne Hodgkinson, Ray Evans, Howard Copley, Philip Hartshorn and David Tuckett.

The date for this year's Day of Ministry is **Saturday 17th October 2020**. Our speaker for the event will be Nick Lugg, formerly the pastor at Mexborough, who now works for **Lordsway Ministries** who are very active in Zambia.

At the time of writing this report, it was not clear whether we will be able to meet at Jump Church on the day. Even if this is permitted by then, there may be quite a few people who would not wish to attend for health reasons. I am in discussion with Nick as to how we might deliver a "virtual" Day of Ministry which may well attract a larger audience than we normally get. Clearly this would be free to "attend" but we would wish to make an appropriate gift to the speaker.

For 2021, we have decided that we will alternate between a venue in the south and one in the north to enable the widest possible attendance. We have yet to decide upon and agree a speaker for the Day of Ministry in 2021.

We have also decided that future meetings of the LPF committee will take place at Conference, rather than after the Day of Ministry. We have now updated the "Statement of Purpose and Rules of the LPF" and this is attached as a separate document which we would like to ask Conference to consider and approve.

Statement of Purpose and Governance of the Local Preachers Fellowship

Statement of Purpose

To hold a “Day of Ministry for all” annually with Bible exposition given by God-appointed speakers.

The main purpose of the day is for spiritual encouragement of all who are present, not just preachers.

It also gives the opportunity for people from different churches to share together during lunch breaks etc.

To help preachers in churches and circuits of the Union to develop their skills and gifts by providing appropriate training days where required.

Governance

The department shall be called “The Local Preachers Fellowship”. (LPF)

An Annual General Meeting will be held during the Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches (usually in June each year).

A General Meeting can also be called if there is urgent business to attend to.

The Committee will consist of up to nine members, including the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The President and the Administration Manager of the Union may attend meetings of the Committee *ex officio*.

A quorum shall consist of five members present at any Business Meeting.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt, where necessary, up to a maximum of three people who have expertise relevant to LPF.

Local Preachers and Ministers are eligible to be nominated for the Committee. Nominations should be made to the Secretary in good time before the Annual Meeting.

The Chairman will remain in office for a term of 3 years but by the agreement of the Committee may remain in post for a further year if required.

The day of ministry with Nick Lugg was held over ‘zoom’. The teaching was based on the life of Moses entitled ‘Call to purpose’. These sessions are available on the Union website.

Appeal for ideas for suggestions of future speakers.

In future the day of ministry may be held over zoom as well as the live event, to reach a wider audience.

The report was accepted.

15. **Presentations on Female President**

Ian Fall and Daphne Hodgkinson gave a presentation on their papers to consider a female President in the W.R.U.

16. **Discussion on the above**

A discussion on the consideration of a female President in the W.R.U. was held.

17. **Any other Business**

There was no other business.

Colin expressed thanks to Alina for the work that she had done to put together the Conference on 'Zoom'.