

**The General Assembly  
of Unitarian and Free  
Christian Churches**



University of Hertfordshire – 2007 Annual Meetings Venue

**Annual Report 2006**

**The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

**Registered Charity, No. 250788**

The seventy-eighth

## **Annual Report**

Submitted at the Annual Meeting  
of the Assembly 2007

Unitarian Headquarters

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex St, Strand, London WC2R 3HY

Telephone: (020) 7240 2384      Fax: (020) 7240 3089

Web: [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)

Email:

for Information: [ga@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:ga@unitarian.org.uk)

for Youth: [EOb@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:EOb@unitarian.org.uk)

for Finance: [JCrosskey@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:JCrosskey@unitarian.org.uk)

Credits: Photos supplied by:

John Hewerdine  
Pages: 4, 7, 8, 12, 28

Andrew Mason / Neville Kenyon  
Page 13

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**David Dawson**

**President of the General Assembly 2006-2007**

I became President of the General Assembly just as the constitutional changes passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of November 2005 were put into effect. As Vice President, I attended the last meeting of Council at Essex Church in February 2006 and then witnessed the first meeting of the Executive Committee, just after the close of the Annual Meetings on 23 April 2006.

The constitutional changes have considerably modified the role of President. Previous Presidents have been obliged to chair Council and Administration Commission meetings. Neither of these exists any more. Although the President is occasionally invited to attend the Executive Committee and also furnishes it with regular reports, the main duty is to be an ambassador of the General Assembly by visiting far and wide. This I have done with great pleasure and interest. Sometimes accompanied by my wife Christine, I have been able to attend district and congregational functions throughout the country. Christine and I also attended the UUA General Assembly on a personal visit and particularly appreciated our contacts with fellow musicians.

During the year I continued my membership of the Ministry Commission and, within this, my involvement in the revision of "Guidelines for Partnership between Congregations and Ministers".

The General Assembly is now emerging from a period of rationalisation and constraint into a more positive and confident era. Thanks to the new structure and the extra funding from the Bowland Charitable Trust, your national body will be able to concentrate upon the many challenges that face our districts and congregations. A new Chief Executive, the Rev Steve Dick, will soon commence his duties. Fresh people will join the Commissions and Panels that deliver services to you, our members.

My Presidential year will end with the duty to chair the Annual Meetings at Hatfield. The Annual Meetings remains as the supreme body of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee will account for its actions and its progress to that body. This will be the opportunity for delegates to raise questions to their elected Executive Committee members and to express their views. I look forward to meeting many of you at Hatfield.

**General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, LONDON, WC2R 3HY  
Telephone: (020) 7240 2384 Fax: (020) 7240 3089

**General Secretary:** Jeffrey J Teagle

The **Trustees** of the General Assembly are the Members of the GA Executive Committee, which comprises the Honorary Treasurer, and eight elected Members (Members may be co-opted to fill vacancies occurring during a triennial) as listed below.

**GA Executive Committee (Appointed April 2005)**

**Honorary Treasurer:**

Martin West

**Elected Members:**

Jennifer Atkinson  
Dawn Buckle  
Rev Steve Dick (until November 2006)  
Dorothy Hewerdine  
Neville Kenyon  
Rev Dr Ann Peart  
Sir Peter Soulsby  
Rev R Wightman

**Co-opted Member:**

Lis Dyson Jones (from December 2006)

**Other Appointments:**

Solicitor: Charles Russell LLP

Auditors: Messrs Edmund Gibbs & Co

Custodian Trustee: The British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated)

## General Assembly Officers and Honorary Members

### Secretaries

1928 Rev S H Mellone, MA, DSc  
 1928 Rev R Travers Herford, BA, DD  
 1929-49 Rev Mortimer Rowe, BA, DD  
 1949-69 Rev John Kieilty, LD, DD  
 1969-79 Rev Brian L Golland, MA  
 1979-94 Roy W Smith, DHL  
 1994- Jeffrey J Teagle

### Treasurers

1928-39 Lieut-Col S Chatfield-Clarke, DL  
 1939-59 Mr Ronald P Jones, MA, FRIBA  
 1959-70 Sir C Herbert Pollard, CBE, FCA  
 1970-71 Mr Albert Forrester, FCA  
 1971-79 Mr Arnold Graves, FCA, FCIS  
 1979-98 Mr Geoffrey Head, BA  
 1998-05 Mr Michael Tomlin  
 2005- Mr Martin West

### Deputy Treasurers

1996-98 Mr Michael Tomlin

### Presidents

1929 Rev C J Street, MA, LLB (B&FUA)  
 1929 Rev Henry Gow, BA, BD (Nat Conf)  
 1929-31 Mrs Sydney Martineau  
 1931-32 Mr J Harrop White, JP  
 1932-34 Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD  
 1934-35 Mr Ronald P Jones, MA, FRIBA  
 1935-36 Mr George G Armstrong  
 1936-37 Rev H McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD  
 1937-38 Mr N Bishop Harman, MA, LLD  
 1938-39 Rev R F Rattray, MA, PhD  
 1939-40 Mr J T Bibby  
 1940-41 Rev E Rosalind Lee, MA  
 1941-42 Mr P M Oliver, CBE, BA  
 1942-43 Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD  
 1943-44 Mr R H Motttram, JP, FRSL  
 1944-45 Mr Alfred Pilling, OBE, JP  
 1945-46 Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt  
 1946-47 Mr Harold Baily, MBE  
 1947-48 Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD  
 1948-49 Prof FJM Stratton, LLD, FRS  
 1949-50 Rev Fred Cottier  
 1950-51 Mr Harold B Moore  
 1951-52 Rev G Randall Jones, MA, BSc, BD  
 1952-53 Miss Dorothy Tarrant, MA, PhD  
 1953-54 Rev Herbert Crabtree  
 1954-55 Mr Stanley R Butler, ACA  
 1955-56 Rev Frank A Bullock  
 1956-57 Mr C Herbert Pollard, CBE, FSAA  
 1957-58 Rev James Percival Chalk  
 1958-59 Rt Hon J Chuter Ede, CH, JP, DL, MP  
 1959-60 Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA  
 1960-61 Mr Arthur L Blake, OBE

1961-62 Rev J Harry Smith  
 1962-63 Mr Kenneth M Street, MM  
 1963-64 Rev Walter M Long  
 1964-65 Mr Stanley J Kennett, BSc, PhD  
 1965-66 Rev E Shirvell Price, MA  
 1966-67 Mr T H Hollingsworth  
 1967-68 Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, BD  
 1968-69 Mrs Amy Howarth, MA  
 1969-70 Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD  
 1970-71 Mr Arnold Graves, FCA, FCIS  
 1971-72 Rev H John McLachlan, MA, BD, DPhil  
 1972-73 Mr M Humphreys Winder, BA  
 1973-74 Rev D Jacob Davies, BA  
 1974-75 Mrs Gwyneth J M Thomas, BSc  
 1975-76 Rev Evan David Davies  
 1976-77 Mr George Morrison, MA  
 1977-78 Rev Dr Peter B Godfrey, BA, DD  
 1978-79 Mr Geoffrey Head, BA  
 1979-80 Rev A Hilton Birtles, JP, BA  
 1980-81 Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD  
 1981-82 Rev Eric Wild, BA  
 1982-83 Mrs Eleanor Dixon  
 1983-84 Rev Arthur J Long, MA  
 1984-85 Mrs Helen M Nicholson, MBE  
 1985-86 Rev Sydney H Knight  
 1986-87 Mrs Sheila Crosskey, MB, ChB  
 1987-88 Rev Derek Smith  
 1988-89 Mr Robert HE Inkson, BSc, FSS, FIS  
 1989-90 Rev J Eric Jones, BA  
 1990-91 Mrs Eila Forrester, BA  
 1991-92 Rev Peter Hewis, BA  
 1992-93 Mrs Celia Kerr  
 1993-94 Rev James McClelland, MA  
 1994-95 Mr Michael Tomlin  
 1995-96 Rev Anne McClelland, BA  
 1996-97 Dr Jane Williams, MB, BCh, BAO  
 1997-98 Rev Clifford Reed, BA  
 1998-99 Dr Beverley Littlepage, MSc, MRCCOG, FPPHM  
 1999-00 Rev Keith Gilley, BA, MA  
 2000-01 Mrs Judith Crompton, JP  
 2001-02 Rev John Midgley, BA, BD, MA, MED  
 2002-03 Mr Alan Ruston, BSc  
 2003-04 Rev Austin Fitzpatrick  
 2004-05 Mrs Dawn Buckle  
 2005-06 Rev Brian Cockroft  
 2006-07 Mr David Dawson

### Honorary Members

Rev H John McLachlan, MA, BD, DPhil  
 (Deceased 28/01/07)  
 Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD  
 Mr Geoffrey Head, BA  
 Rev Dr Peter Godfrey, BA, DD  
 Rev Dr Arthur J Long, MA (Deceased 09/12/06)

## Anniversary Service Preachers

1929 Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD  
 1930 Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD  
 1931 Rev Herbert McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD  
 1932 Rev Herbert Barnes  
 1933 Rev John C Ballantyne, MA  
 1934 Rev Charles M Wright, MA  
 1935 Rev Lawrence Clare  
 1936 Rev Arthur S Hurn, MA, DLitt  
 1937 Rev Sidney Spencer, BA  
 1938 Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt  
 1939 Rev Arthur H Lewis  
 1940 Rev W E Williams, BA  
 1941 Rev Fred R Cottier  
 1942 Rev Rev Leslie Belton, MA, MSc  
 1943 Rev E George Lee  
 1944 Rev Stanley Mossop  
 1945 Rev Reginald W Wilde, MA, MSc, PhD  
 1946 Rev Wallace B Travener  
 1947 Rev Frank A Bullock  
 1948 Rev Frederick May Elliot, MA, DD LLD  
 1949 Rev G Randall Jones, MA, MSc, BD  
 1950 Rev Mortimer Rowe, BA, DD  
 1951 Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD  
 1952 Rev H G Woodford  
 1953 Rev Arthur L Agnew, OBE, BA, DD  
 1954 Rev Sydney P Whitehouse, MA, BLitt  
 1955 Rev H Stewart Carter, MA  
 1956 Rev Basil Viney  
 1957 Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA  
 1958 Rev W J Carter, MA  
 1959 Rev Wilfred Waddington, BA, BD  
 1960 Rev Dana L McGreeley, DD  
 1961 Rev Phillip N Tindall, BA, BD PhD  
 1962 Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD  
 1963 Rev A Margaret Barr, MA  
 1964 Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, DD  
 1965 Rev D Jacob Davies, BA  
 1966 Rev John Radcliffe, BA  
 1967 Rev Charles Bartlett, BA  
 1968 Rev Brian L Golland, MA  
 1969 Rev John Kieilty, LLD, DD  
 1970 Rev Harry Lismer Short, MA  
 1971 Rev Eric S Price, MA  
 1972 Rev Robert N West, BA, BD, DD  
 1973 Rev Lancelot A Garrard, MA, BD, LLD  
 1974 Rev E Basil Short, BSc  
 1975 Rev A Hamilton Birtles, BA  
 1976 Rev Fred M Ryde, MA  
 1977 Rev Dudley E Richards, MA, BD  
 1978 Rev Anne McClelland, BA  
 1979 Rev Eric Wild, BA and Eileen Kieilty, BA  
 1980 Rev A Ben Downing, MA, BD  
 1981 Rev Gabor Kereki  
 1982 Rev Arthur J Long, MA  
 1983 Rev Bruce Findlow, BA  
 1984 Rev O Eugene Pickett, BA, BD, DD  
 1985 Rev D Elwyn J Davies, MA, BD, PhD  
 1986 Rev Peter B Godfrey, BA  
 1987 Rt Rev William McMillan, MA  
 1988 Rev William F Schulz, MA, DMin, DD  
 1989 Rev Frank Walker, BA  
 1990 Rev Glyn Pruce, STB, MA  
 1991 Rev Andrew Hill, BA  
 1992 Rev Leonard Smith, MA, PhD  
 1993 Rev Denise Boyd  
 1994 Rev Keith Gilley, BA, MA, BDQ  
 1995 Rev Clifford Reed, BA  
 1996 Rev Judith Walker-Riggs  
 1997 Rev Dr John A Buehrens  
 1998 Rev Dr David C Doel, MA, PhD  
 1999 Rev Alec Finbow, BA  
 2000 Rev Joy Croft, BA, MA, MTh  
 2001 Rev Penny Johnson  
 2002 Rev Bill Darlison  
 2003 Rev John Clifford, BA, MSc  
 2004 Rev Dr Ann Peart, BA, MA, PhD  
 2005 Rev J Eric Jones, BA  
 2006 Rev Peter Hewis, MA



New Ministers joining the GA Roll at the Anniversary Service

## Affiliated Societies and GA & Essex Hall Staff Members

The following societies are affiliated to the General Assembly:

British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women (Women's League)  
Canadian Unitarian Council - Le Conseil Unitaire du Canada  
L'Église libérale protestante de Bruxelles  
European Unitarian Universalists  
Foy Society  
National Unitarian Fellowship  
Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire  
Unitarian and Free Christian Music Society  
Unitarian and Free Christian Peace Fellowship  
Unitarian Association of Lay Leaders  
Unitarian Christian Association  
Unitarian Historical Society  
Unitarian Holiday Conference  
Unitarian Lay Preachers' Association  
Unitarian Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies  
Unitarian Union of North East India  
Unitarian Women's Group

## GA & Essex Hall Staff

The following were members of the GA Staff during the financial year:

Rev Jane Barraclough  
John Crosskey  
Howard Hague  
Rev John Harley (from October 2005)  
Andrew Mason  
Karen Mallik (until July 2006)  
Elizabeth Obe  
Ingrid Tavkar (until April 2006)  
Jeffrey Teagle  
Laura Wilson (until Sept 2006)



*Rev John Harley, the new GA Youth Coordinator*

The following were members of the Essex Hall Staff during the financial year:

Isabella Clarke (Caretaker)  
Valerie Wright (Cleaner)

## The Object of the Assembly

From the Constitution of the General Assembly as amended 19 April 2001 and approved by the Charity Commission:

### **"2.Object**

#### ***Preamble***

We, the constituent congregations, affiliated societies and individual members, uniting in a spirit of mutual sympathy, co-operation, tolerance and respect; and recognising the worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate; and believing that truth is best served where the mind and conscience are free, acknowledge that the Object of the Assembly is:

#### ***Object***

To promote a free and inquiring religion through the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition.

To this end, the Assembly may:

Encourage and unite in fellowship bodies which uphold the religious liberty of their members, unconstrained by the imposition of creeds;

Affirm the liberal religious heritage and learn from the spiritual, cultural and intellectual insights of all humanity;

Act where necessary as the successor to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association and National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian and other Non-Subscribing or Kindred Congregations, being faithful to the spirit of their work and principles (see appendix to the constitution), providing always that this shall in no way limit the complete doctrinal freedom of the constituent churches and members of the Assembly;

Do all other such lawful things as are incidental to the attainment of the above Object."

In reference to second last clause of Object, the following is a statement of the Objects of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, as set forth in Rule 2 of its Constitution:

The diffusion and support of the principles of Unitarian Christianity, including the formation and assistance of Congregations which do not require for themselves or their Ministers subscription to any doctrinal articles of belief; the publication and circulation of biblical, theological, scientific and literary knowledge related to Unitarian Christianity; the doing of all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

The following is a statement of the Objects of the National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian and other Non-Subscribing or Kindred Congregations, as set forth in Rule 1 of its Constitution:

To consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters affecting the well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies on the Roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organising expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects.

The seventy-eighth Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches were held from Thursday 20 April to Sunday 23 April 2006 at University College Chester. The programme of departmental and affiliated society meetings and workshops commenced from mid-afternoon on 20 April. The Times Religious Correspondent, Ruth Gledhill, who had recently published a significant article on the denial of use of Chester Cathedral to the General Assembly, delivered a talk on the reporting of religious affairs to a well-attended and appreciative meeting. Departing from previous custom, an ingathering opening service of celebration, including the banner parade, was held on the first evening, led by the Revs Cathal Courtney and David Usher.

The first business session commenced at 09.00 hours on Friday 21 April and was chaired by the General Assembly President, the Rev Brian Cockroft. Myrna Michell led the opening devotions. The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Business Meetings were adopted and the Steering Committee, consisting of the Rev John Clifford, Miles Howarth and Roderick Ramage, were appointed. The General Secretary read out apologies and written greetings and then submitted the Annual Report. The President introduced the Council Report, which was significant in that it was for the last time, Council having been abolished in favour of the new elected Executive Committee. Jennifer Atkinson delivered the final Administration Commission report, its role also having been absorbed by the Executive Committee. The General Assembly Treasurer spoke to the Annual Accounts, the Sustentation Fund Annual Report and Accounts and the Stipend Committee recommendations, each of which was received with approval. Finally, the Rev Ann Peart introduced the Ministry Commission report.

Anthony Howe led devotions at the commencement of the second business meeting on at 09.00 hours on Saturday 22 April. Dawn Buckle spoke to the Education Commission report and Martin Gienke introduced the Outreach and Communication Commission report. Two motions were debated. The third business session commenced at 10.45 hours the same morning. Neville Kenyon presented the Nightingale Centre Annual Report and Accounts and the Rev Celia Midgley did likewise for the Denominational

Support Commission report. Two further motions were debated.

On Sunday 23 April Mary Wightman led the opening devotions for the fourth business session at 09.30 hours. This was followed by a special event to witness the transfer of governance from Council to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee participated (Jennifer Atkinson, Dawn Buckle, the Rev Steve Dick, Dorothy Hewerdine, Neville Kenyon, the Rev Ann Peart, Sir Peter Soulsby, Martin West and the Rev Robert Wightman).

The Final business session witnessed the votes of thanks, delivered by the President and General Secretary, the Presidential Address and then installation of David Dawson as the General Assembly President 2006-2007. The further motions were all passed and the new President led the closing act of worship.

#### RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were carried:

##### 1) FROM THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, STOCKTON-ON-TEES

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches acknowledges that, in order to survive, there is an absolute need for numerical growth. It urges every Unitarian organisation and member thereof to give high priority to numerical growth and to publicise this intention. It requests the General Assembly Executive Committee to set up an organisation and process that will bring together those who seek to promote numerical growth, where ideas, proven or not, can be exchanged, discussed and acted upon.

##### 2) FROM THE UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

Whereas this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

- recognises and promotes the worth and dignity of all people, which includes the equal rights of men and women;
- proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal and are entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex.
- recognises that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity;

- promotes the full participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of society; and
- recognises that the cause of peace and the welfare of the world requires the full participation of all people, both men and women.

Be it resolved that:

- a) every Unitarian organisation and member thereof takes all appropriate measures to ensure that women, married or unmarried, have equal rights with men in all areas of economic, social and political life and that women are equal partners with men in determining the values, direction and governance of their societies for the benefit of all; and
- b) as a first step, every Unitarian Congregation, District Association and Affiliated Society undertakes an audit of all of their activities to ensure that women are enabled to participate fully and equally in all areas.

##### 3) FROM GOLDERS GREEN UNITARIANS

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

- is concerned by the refusal of the British Government to grant posthumous pardons to the 306 British, Irish and Commonwealth soldiers, some as young as 17, who were executed by firing squad for battlefield offences in the First World War;
- recognises that many of these soldiers, executed for offences such as cowardice, were suffering from shell-shock and other traumatic disorders;
- welcomes activities in support of these pardons in Britain and the Commonwealth, led by the "Shot at Dawn" campaign;
- further welcomes the fact that New Zealand has granted its executed soldiers posthumous pardons and the Irish Government has supported pardons being granted to Irish-born soldiers;
- directs the General Secretary to write to the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary (of the United Kingdom) calling upon them to end this injustice by granting posthumous pardons to all of those so executed; and

- urges all Congregations, District Associations and Affiliated Societies to support the campaigns for these posthumous pardons.

##### 4) FROM WESTGATE UNITARIAN CHAPEL, WAKEFIELD AND ST SAVIOURGATE UNITARIAN CHAPEL, YORK

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches takes the view that the notions of Intelligent Design and Creationism are in no sense legitimate scientific theories but hypotheses which should not form part of the science curriculum in schools.

It calls upon the United Kingdom Government and the Welsh and Scottish Executives to ensure that, if these hypotheses are to have any place at all in the school curriculum, they are encountered in Religious Education alongside the many other creation myths to be found in the venerated texts of various faiths.

Further, this General Assembly urges its District Associations and Congregations to take action by raising this issue with their local Education Authorities and SACRE bodies.

#### PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- 1) That **David Dawson** be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2006-2007.
- 2) That this seventy-eighth General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by the **Reverend Brian Cockroft** as President during the year 2005-2006.
- 3) That the **Reverend Celia Midgley** be appointed as Vice-President for the year 2006-2007.
- 4) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to **Martin G West** for his services as Honorary Treasurer, and to district association and local treasurers and collectors for their help.
- 5) That **Martin G West** be appointed Honorary Treasurer for the year 2006-2007.
- 6) That **Messrs Edmund Gibbs & Co** be reappointed as Auditors.

- 7) That the Report of the General Assembly Council and the Accounts of the General Assembly be received and adopted.
- 8) That greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad.
- 9) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Reverend Peter Hewis for preaching the Assembly Sermon.
- 10) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Myrna Michell, organist for the Anniversary Service, and to local Unitarians who arranged other music for the Meetings.
- 11) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the members of the General Assembly Annual Meetings Panel and other volunteers for their inestimable help in organising the Meetings.



*Lindsey Davies and Chantell Brooking are presented with their Gold Unitarian Chalice Award Certificates*

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Elected Members:** Jennifer Atkinson, Dawn Buckle, the Rev Stephen (Steve) Dick (until Nov 2006), Dorothy Hewerdine, Neville Kenyon, the Rev Dr Ann Peart, Sir Peter Soulsby MP and the Rev Robert (Bob) Wightman.

**Appointed Member:** Martin West (Honorary Treasurer)

**Staff Support:** Jeffrey Teagle (General Secretary) and Andrew Mason (Operations Manager)

**In occasional attendance:** David Dawson (GA President 2006-07), the Rev Celia Midgley (GA Vice President (2006-2007))

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The Executive Committee came into being as a result of the constitutional changes agreed at the GA Annual Meetings 2005 and the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11 November 2005. It replaced both the Council and the Administration Commission and its members therefore became the Managing Trustees of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee is accountable to the General Assembly's Annual Meetings and will serve for a period three years commencing at the end of the Annual Meetings immediately following the postal ballot election.

Prior to taking up their responsibilities, the EC members held a residential induction meeting on 24-25 March 2006 and this was facilitated by Colin Fisher, the consultant who had so effectively performed a similar service for the Task Force. The induction provided both a briefing and the foundations for subsequent teamwork.

The inaugural meeting took place at University College Chester on 23 April 2006 and Sir Peter Soulsby was elected as Convenor. This meeting reviewed the Annual Meetings just ended (including the resolutions), planned meeting dates for the year ahead, initiated the process to select a future Chief Executive.

Further meetings were held on 11-12 May, 12-13 June, 19 September, 27 October and 24 November. The requirement for residential meetings was dictated by the need to develop strategic planning in addition to dealing with a wide range of current business.

An EC Ethos Statement was developed:

*We Unitarians and Free Christians are united by our ethos and values. We aspire to create a loving, caring religious community within which we:*

*Value people in their diversity and uniqueness.  
Encourage freedom of thought and speech.  
Support spiritual exploration.  
Create celebratory worship.  
Advocate justice, liberty, honesty, integrity, peace and love.*

*Hence we strive to:*

*Make the best of the life we have.  
Be democratic in our practice.  
Celebrate life in its many forms.  
Respect people whose beliefs and attitudes are different from our own.*

Considerable attention was paid to establishing communicational pathways within the EC and to the rest of the denomination. Reports of meetings have been widely circulated and printed in *The Inquirer*. Each EC member undertook to represent the EC at specified district meetings. As the planning developed, members also accepted roles on projects and other activities.

**Growth of the Unitarian Movement:** The EC, being mindful of the Object of the General Assembly and the Growth Resolution of the 2006 Annual Meetings, views the health and welfare of its member congregations to be a prime function.

**Relationship with Districts:** In addition to District visits, the EC has monitored the progress of the District Connections meetings via the Rev Steve Dick and Sir Peter Soulsby.

**Chief Executive Recruitment:** A panel consisting of Jennifer Atkinson, Dawn Buckle, Martin West and Sir Peter Soulsby conducted the recruitment and its work was completed in October 2006 with the selection of the Rev Steve Dick.

**Consistent Identity:** With the forthcoming leadership change, the opportunity was taken to revise the letterheads and address a problem of widespread inconsistency in the presentation of our chalice symbol on leaflets, websites and literature. Neville Kenyon and Jeffrey Teagle progressed this with design consultant Mark Howard. The new designs were scheduled for launch at the GA Annual Meetings 2007.

## Report of the Executive Committee

**Website Update:** Following discussions with the Outreach and Communication Commission, which had been working on website revision during 2005, it was decided to progress the project via Mark Howard. Howard Hague, Kate Taylor and Jeffrey Teagle collaborated in the specification and were later joined by the Rev Steve Dick. The target for completion was the GA Annual Meetings 2007, or soon thereafter.

**Ministry for All Congregations:** This project seeks to find better ways to ensure the supply of ministry to congregations. Although the intent had been expressed in 2005, personnel to organise it were otherwise engaged at that time. The EC reaffirmed the importance of this project and Dorothy Hewerdine, the Rev Dr Ann Peart, Jeffrey Teagle and the Rev Bob Wightman were appointed as the organising panel. As the year closed, plans were in hand for a residential consultation seminar with a selected group of persons with experience of multiple ministries. Regional open consultations are planned for 2007.

**Staffing Commissions and Panels for the Triennial Period 2007-2010:** The membership of GA Commissions and Panels for the period 2003-2006 had already been extended by one year due to the leadership and governance changes then in process. Dorothy Hewerdine and Jeffrey Teagle were appointed to work on recommendations for 2007-2010. Dorothy created a questionnaire that was circulated to members of the Commissions and Panels during the Summer of 2006. This indicated broad satisfaction with the present structure. EC accepted the recommendation to appoint the membership of Commissions by the GA Annual Meetings and the ask the Commissions to select the membership of the Panels during the Summer of 2007 ready for commencement in September 2007. Existing Commission and Panel members were consulted to ascertain their willingness to serve and a Volunteer Guide was created to seek new personnel.

**A Resignation and an Appointment:** Following his selection as the future Chief Executive, the Rev Steve Dick, resigned his EC membership at the November meeting. Following a careful debate about procedure, process and criteria, it was agreed to look primarily at those who had stood for EC election earlier in the year. In choosing Elisabeth (Lis) Dyson-Jones, the meeting took into account the personality, experience, talents offered, commitment, geographical location and gender of those considered.

### ANNUAL MEETINGS PANEL

**Chair:** Louise Rogers

**Secretary:** Andrew Mason

**Members:** Anne Ashley (from July 2006), Sarah Atkinson (until March 2006), Rob Fincham, Neville Kenyon, Andrew Mason (ex officio), Louise Rogers, Rev David Usher (until July 2006)

**Remit:** To develop and assist in organising the Annual Meetings.

**Activity in 2005/6:** Developments for the 2006 Meetings included the opening ceremony including only worship and celebration i.e. no business; a stronger focus on worship; longer lunch period for more opportunities to network; higher profile of stalls encouraging conference attendees to speak with stall holders; a consistent identity for stalls; half-hour AGM slots; a young adults pre-conference; shortened business sessions covering the annual report; encouragement of commission and panel presentations to focus on current and future activity.

Finding a new southern venue for 2007.

#### Aims for 2006/7:

- Finalising the programme for the 2007 Meetings by the end of 2006.
- More pre-conference promotion.
- Encouraging attendance by congregations that do not usually send delegates.
- Developing the consistent identity theme for stalls.
- Increasing opportunities for conference delegates to give their views.
- Providing more skills-based sessions.
- Finding other venues in the Midlands and the North.

## Report of the Executive Committee

### FUNDING DEVELOPMENT PANEL

**Chair:** Neville Kenyon

**Members:** Neville Kenyon, Gordon Lowthian (until July 2006), Louise Rogers, Rosemary Ruston, Martin West

**Remit:** To increase live-giving to the General Assembly.

**Activity in 2005/6:** The Community Appeal is a yearly fundraising initiative running for a calendar year. In 2006 it was launched with a leaflet sent out to all congregations.

In 2006 we focused on encouraging Associate Membership by emphasising its importance to the community. We promoted the Community Appeal at the Annual Meeting in Chester. Panel members had a stall and talked with conference attendees about fundraising issues. We publicised the 2006 GA Weekend as an opportunity for congregations and others to fundraise for the GA, providing examples of events that could be run. The 2006 GA Weekend (including GA Sunday) is outside of this reporting period.

A draft Summary of the Annual Report was prepared for view at the 2006 Annual Meeting. The aim of this was to provide a succinct overview of what the GA does. A session was also delivered during the Meeting on business planning.

A codicil (to add to existing wills) was created. A new Associate Membership leaflet was published and distributed to all congregations and fellowships. Several reports were submitted to the Inquirer to encourage increased giving.

The total raised from the Community Appeal during the reporting period for 2005/6 was £12,681 and £17,021 for Associate Membership subscriptions (including tax relief).

#### Aims for 2006/7:

- To raise £33,500.
- To raise the profile of GA weekend.
- To increase the rate of monthly giving.
- To develop Associate Membership.
- To produce a leaflet on effective fundraising for congregations.
- To produce a Summary of the 2005/6 Annual Report.



*The new GA Executive Committee (with the Task Force Consultant, Colin Fisher) gathers for its induction meeting*

*Left to right: Rev Bob Wightman, Martin West, Colin Fisher, Dawn Buckle, Dot Hewerdine, Jen Atkinson, Rev Dr Ann Peart, Sir Peter Soulsby MP, Rev Steve Dick, Neville Kenyon*

## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

### Budget Twelve months to 30th September 2008

Income	Actual 12 Months 30.09.06	Budget Year to 30.09.06	Budget Year to 30.09.07	Budget Year to 30.09.08
Legacies	29,680	10,000	10,000	10,000
Associate Membership	17,021	15,500	18,500	18,500
Subscriptions	4,900	6,000	4,500	5,000
Congregational Contributions	78,844	77,500	82,000	80,000
Community Appeal	12,681	-	15,000	10,000
Special Collections	3,943	4,000	4,000	4,000
Dividends	64,561	78,000	68,000	70,000
B&FUA	24,601	22,000	22,000	25,000
Essex Hall Mgmt Fee	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Essex Hall (In kind)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
B&FUA Management Fee	3,462	2,000	2,000	3,150
Inquirer Accountancy Fee	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Speed Trust Mgmt Fee	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Bowland Trust	153,747	130,000	130,000	125,000
Sundry Donations	3,685	1,000	2,000	2,000
Annual Meetings	0	0	0	0
Youth Officer Grant (Chalice Appeal etc)	20,739	30,000	22,500	22,500
Rent	1,026	0	0	0
Payroll Calculation Service	2,300	2,500	3,000	3,000
Sales	4,145	4,000	4,000	4,000
Exceptional items	3,038	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>497,075</b>	<b>451,200</b>	<b>456,200</b>	<b>450,850</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Programme Activity (See Over)	183,055	201,900	197,315	204,370
Administration Costs (See Over)	236,047	244,180	245,500	251,000
Set Aside for Youth Officer Future Years	40,000	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>459,103</b>	<b>446,080</b>	<b>442,815</b>	<b>455,370</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	<b>37,973</b>	<b>5,120</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>(4,520)</b>

## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

### Budget Twelve months to 30th September 2008

Expenditure	Actual 12 months 30.09.06	Budget Year to 30.09.06	Budget Year to 30.09.07	Budget Year to 30.09.08
GA Council				
Cost of EGM	1,238	1,500	0	0
	3,246	15,000	0	0
	4,484	16,500	0	0
Administration Commission/Executive Committee				
Commission Expenses	6,597	5,000	6,500	10,000
Grants Payable - IARF etc	4,742	4,326	5,000	5,000
Fund Raising Panel	11,795	2,000	2,000	2,000
	23,135	11,326	13,500	17,000
Education and Training Commission				
Commission Expenses	1,071	600	1,000	1,000
Educational Programmes	953	1,490	7,115	5,000
JUEG Panel	550	950	2,000	2,000
Engagement Support Panel		2,000	2,000	2,000
Chalice Award Panel			500	500
	2,574	5,040	12,615	10,500
Denominational Support Commission				
Commission Expenses	811	1,000	1,250	1,250
Programmes	1,452	4,695	5,000	5,000
Worship Panel	542	515	1,000	1,000
Youth Panel	1,004	2,000	2,000	2,000
Hymn Book Panel	250	200	400	400
Buildings Advisory Panel	0	206	0	0
Welsh Committee	3,109	2,575	3,000	3,000
	7,169	11,191	12,650	12,650
Ministry Commission				
Commission Expenses	1,429	1,650	1,750	1,750
Programmes	850	2,110	4,250	4,250
Interview Panel	1,903	2,000	2,500	2,500
	4,182	5,760	8,500	8,500
Outreach and Communications Commission				
Commission Expenses	4,840	4,400	4,500	5,000
Programmes - Publications	12,656	9,110	9,000	9,000
Ecumenical Panel	351	350	350	350
Interfaith Panel	404	520	500	520
Penal Affairs Panel	545	350	350	500
Publications Panel	558	400	1,000	1,000
Social Responsibility Panel	520	1,000	1,000	1,000
Information Panel	2,269	300	350	350
	22,144	16,430	17,050	17,720
<b>Commission Sub-Total</b>	<b>63,687</b>	<b>66,247</b>	<b>64,315</b>	<b>66,370</b>
<b>Non Commission Specific Programme Expenditure</b>				
Inquirer Grant	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Salaries to Programme Work	116,368	132,653	130,000	135,000
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>183,055</b>	<b>201,900</b>	<b>197,315</b>	<b>204,370</b>
General Administration				
Salaries, Pensions, etc.	116,368	132,653	130,000	135,000
Ex Gratia Payments	7,000	0	0	0
Accommodation (In kind)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Officers Travel & Expenses	2,246	4,000	4,000	4,000
Office Expenses	33,146	32,725	30,000	30,000
Staff Training	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
Audit	6,240	5,000	6,000	6,000
Investment Management Fees	5,536	5,750	6,000	6,000
Legal Fees	4,622	2,500	5,000	5,000
Insurances	3,965	400	4,000	4,000
Minister's House Repairs	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Irrecoverable VAT	6,923	8,652	8,000	8,500
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>236,047</b>	<b>244,180</b>	<b>245,500</b>	<b>251,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>419,103</b>	<b>446,080</b>	<b>442,815</b>	<b>455,370</b>

**General Assembly Financial Situation  
Year to 30th September 2006**

Basic Grant from Bowland Trust	153,747
Community Appeal	<u>12,681</u>
	<u>166,428</u>
Used to offset loss of Essex Hall Income	50,000
Used to provide for two years Youth Coordinator	40,000
Consistent Identity and Web site Project	10,000
Reduction in Dividend Income by adopting a more aggressive investment policy	14,000
Provision for publications and leaflets	6,500
Legal Fees and Ex Gratia	7,000
	<u>127,500</u>
Surplus in Year	37,973
	<u>165,473</u>

**Report on the Expenses of holding the 2006 Annual Meetings**

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Accommodation & Fees	40,568	47,704	-7,136
Conference Fees	12,796	286	12,510
Donate One Meal	371	371	0
Donation to Meetings	1,629	825	804
EH Printing & Sales	1,540	1,540	0
Group Registration	1,025	0	1,025
Overpayment of fees	12	23	-11
Pre-AGM Expenses	0	1,172	-1,172
Printing	1,696	2,805	-1,109
Room Hire & AV	0	925	-925
Speakers & Fees	1,709	2,103	-394
Sundry	0	625	-625
Travel	0	492	-492
Van & Bus Hire	466	878	-412
Youth Honoraria & Expenses	0	840	-840
	<b>61,811</b>	<b>60,587</b>	
<b>Surplus for the AGM 2006</b>			<u><u>£1,224</u></u>

### DENOMINATIONAL SUPPORT COMMISSION

**Chair:** Rev Celia Midgley

**Secretary:** Rev Jane Barraclough

**Members:** Rev Michael Dadson, Lis Dyson-Jones, Dorothy Hewerdine, Rev Cen Llwyd, Rev Celia Midgley, Jeffrey Teagle, Rev Bob Wightman (until April 2006).

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the DSC is to give practical support, responsive and pro-active, which enables our congregations to flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**1. Meetings:** The Commission met three times during the year, in February, June and October at Essex Hall.

**2. Panels & Working Groups:** The following reported to the Commission: Buildings Advisory Panel, Hymnbook Working Group, Welsh Department, Worship Panel, Youth Panel.

**3. Youth Matters:** Rev John Harley, the part-time Youth Co-Ordinator, actively assisted the youth leaders to organise various residential events for young people around the country. He visited Chatham, the Western union, Fulwood and Nottage to facilitate a workshop called 'Inviting Fresh Sparks.' He also visited many of the regular congregational youth groups and Sunday schools. In the process he assessed the position of the denomination with regard to youth. The DSC greatly values the contribution the new Youth Co-Ordinator has made in his short time in post. The Youth Panel appointed Cathy Masztalerz as its chair in 2006. It launched the brand new 'Five Days Away' to replace YUC week. It highlighted among other things the need for training for Youth Leaders and a training weekend is planned for September 2007.

The DSC welcomes the commitment of the Executive Committee (EC) to youth matters and in particular, its decision to make the Youth Co-Ordinator appointment a permanent post and make additional provision of £20,000 for this work.

**4. BUYAN** (British and Irish Unitarian Young Adult Network - formerly known as the Young Adult Network): Various residential events were

held around the country and more are planned including congregation-based activities. A newsletter is currently edited by Stephen Lingwood. The network is currently financially supported and administered from within FOY and is considering applying for affiliated society status.

**5. Congregational Assessment Process** (formerly known as Congregational Consultancy): Two congregational assessments took place during 2006 and various others were planned. CAP have also engaged in some internal publicity regarding the process, including use of the DSC slot at annual meetings 2007 to provide more information. The process involves close consultation with congregations in needs assessment and appropriate strategies and is crucial in helping congregations face current challenges.

**6. District Support and Development:**  
**District Connections:** This was originally an initiative of three district ministers, independent of DSC. The DSC is seeking appropriate ways to relate to this body. Following the conference held at Great Hucklow in June 2006, a further conference is planned.

**7. Ministry for All Congregations:** The control of this project is now the responsibility of EC. The DSC is well-represented on its organising panel which is in the early stages of its planning.

**8. Welsh Department:** The commission receives regular reports on activities in Wales from Lis Dyson-Jones and Rev Cen Llwyd. The Welsh Department secretary, Rev Eric Jones, has indicated a wish to step down from this role in the next year.

**9. Fellowships Initiatives Group:** The DSC has an intention to re-activate this group but has not yet been able to do so.

**10. Support for Organisational Leadership (SOL)** (formerly known as Training in Trusteeship): This has now been passed to ETC who held a training day in October. The DSC was represented by Rev Michael Dadson. A similar training day was held in June by the Welsh Department and careful co-ordination between DSC, ETC and the Welsh Department continues to be part of developing this process.

### HYMNBOOK WORKING GROUP

**Secretary:** Rev Andrew Hill

**Members:** David Dawson, Rev Andrew Hill, Rev Arthur Long, Alan Myerscough, Peter Sampson, Wyn Simister, Kate Taylor.

1. The Group records its gratitude for the contribution which Arthur Long made to this group. Not only was his extensive knowledge of the words and music of hymnody of great help but his industry also. Arthur faced the challenges of new technology with enthusiasm including learning how to use the 'Sibelius' music programme.

2. Since the stocks of red (*Hymns of Faith and Freedom*) and green (*Hymns for Living*) hymn books which most congregations have are still in good condition the new book will be a substantial supplement to both. No hymns from the red and green books will be included so the book will be a collection of hymns and songs together with a selection from *Let us Sing* (the pink book), *Singing the Living Tradition* (the grey American book) and its two supplements (*Singing the Journey* and *May this Light Shine*) all of which have been published since our red and green books. This means that far more new hymns will be available than were we providing a replacement for the red and green books.

3. The Group has now reached the 'consolidation' phase of its work. We will continue to consider new hymn texts as they become available but our current work is selecting and editing more than 200 texts and fitting them with appropriate music.

4. All our hymn texts (chosen and not chosen) are already in computer files. Some chosen texts also have their music files. As we continue with our editorial work we shall continue to add music files and also to deal with time consuming task of seeking copyright permissions.

5. The new technology provides ample opportunity for large print and projected versions of the new book to be available.

### WORSHIP PANEL

**Convenor:** Rev Celia Midgley

**Secretary:** Rev Joy Croft

**Members:** Rev Joy Croft, David Dawson, Martin Gienke, Rev Celia Midgley.

#### 1. Aims

We remain committed to fostering worship of the highest quality wherever Unitarians gather.

#### 2. Meetings

We met three times during the year. Concerned to keep in touch with Unitarians' current needs and views, we planned our first open meeting, to take place in autumn 2006.

#### 3. At the 2006 Annual Meetings

We arranged three worship events (including a communion service), moving the first of these from its traditional breakfast time to mid-afternoon. Since GA attenders seemed to appreciate this innovation and the reflective space it offered them amid the whirl of meetings, we scheduled afternoon worship again for 2007. We also arranged opening reflections for the three morning business sessions and a workshop on the use of candles in worship.

Although Chester's new chaplain was troubled at first by the prospect of Unitarian communion in the college chapel, we were ultimately able to hold the service there as planned.

#### 4. Publications Unitarian Anniversaries

The Panel now has a list of relevant anniversaries. 2007 is the bicentenary year of the Act abolishing the slave trade, and we have invited Rev. Tom McCready to produce a worship pack to help congregations mark it.

*With Heart and Mind* David Dawson began editing our next meditation manual, which should be on sale at the 2007 GA.

*Let Us Sing* was reprinted. We thank Richard Lovis for his continuing help and Helen Parsons for securing the many requisite copyright permissions.

**Updated Worship Packs** Work continued on these with the intention of publishing some at a small charge in 2007.

## Denominational Support Commission

### 5. Worship Workshops for Districts and Congregations

Our small membership and time constraints made it impractical to offer these. We commend this project to our successors.

### YOUTH PANEL

**Chair:** Richard Whitham

**Minutes Secretary:** Andrew Mason

**Members:** Heather Foster (until October 2005), Freda Laverick, Cathie Masztalerz, Louise Shatliffe (from October 2005), Richard Whitham, Howard Wilkins, Rev John Harley (GA Youth Coordinator)

### Mission Statement

*The Youth Panel's aim is to develop and sustain a strong network of young people within our denomination and to ensure an arena for the presentation of the views and opinions of young people with a view to future membership of the denomination.*

We have a commitment to running challenging events for young people that are safe, accessible, enjoyable and run in a professional manner with a Unitarian and Free Christian ethos at their core. The panel continued its work in line with the above mission statement.

This year the Youth Panel can celebrate some new initiatives and unveil new plans for the future. In August the Nightingale Centre hosted a brand new holiday for the 11-16 year olds called Five Days Away, replacing a previous annual event called YUC week. The project was a great success, involving 20 young people and 6 leaders. The theme was 'Dismantling Atom Bombs' and consisted of activities and fun based on issues such as adolescence, family dynamics and self-esteem. Special thanks go to Cathy Masztalerz, Richard Crompton and Beverly Jackson for preparing the core sessions rich in role-play and discussion. The team hopes to build on this success and attract a larger number of youngsters in August 2007.

Junior Weekend is still being attended by healthy numbers of children and continues to generate some lively and colourful posters. The relatively new policy of inviting specialists to lead sessions such as drama and campfire fun is well received

by the children. Inter Weekend will sadly lose their long standing leaders, Cathy and Richard, while we will be welcoming the new team of Kathy Faiers, Claire Maddocks, Alan Warhurst, Eloise Williamson and Darren Watkinson. Senior Weekend has been exploring some adventurous new themes over the last year, including superheroes and trust building, and has also seen the arrival of the new staff team of James Barry, Sarah Atkinson and John Harley. Blah, the youth weekend for the 8-14 age group in Rochester, Kent, is growing each year – last June we had 14 attendees. In 2006 there were two Blahfundays – a day of creativity, fun and circle time for children – these took place in Hampstead and Brighton.

One of our priorities has been to improve communication from Essex Hall in relation to publicity and booking forms for youth weekends – it is our aim to make paperwork clearer and more user-friendly. Congregations are reminded that for those attending Junior Weekend an adult needs to attend with each group of children.

It is hoped that every congregation is aware of the GA's child protection advice clearly contained in 'Safety First'. Please contact Rev Sarah Tinker or Rev John Harley if you have any questions on these issues.

Another new project for the future is a proposed training weekend for leaders of our Unitarian Youth Programme at the Nightingale Centre pencilled in for September 2007. The weekend will include updates on government policy and child protection and offer discussion on good practice and how to improve coordination and networking between leaders. Please look out for publicity on this.

John Harley, the Youth Coordinator, hopes that the youth programme can be further developed in new parts of the country including the south of England and Wales. Also it is a key priority to look at ways to help youth leaders across the country communicate, share ideas and network.

## Education & Training Commission

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

**Chair:** Dawn Buckle

**Secretary:** Howard Hague

**Members:** Rev Elizabeth Birtles (to April 2006), Dawn Buckle, Rev John Harley (ex officio), Joan Hill, Rev Lindy Latham (from June 2006), Richard Lovis (to April 2006), Rev Jean McNeile (from June 2006), Margaret Robinson

**Mission Statement:** *To provide a framework for education and training within the Unitarian movement which will enhance the development of people of all ages as both individuals and Unitarians.*

The Commission met three times during 2006. During the year the Rev Elizabeth Birtles and Richard Lovis stood down from the Commission, and tributes were paid to the contribution they had made at the 2006 Annual Meetings. A particular tribute must also be paid to the work of Ingrid Tavkar, who had acted as secretary to the Commission since its inception in October 2003. After some months of sick leave Ingrid took early retirement. A presentation will be made to her in March 2007. Howard Hague has acted as secretary to the Commission since February 2006.

The main activity of the Commission is to monitor and support the work of the various groups and projects which report to it. For consistency, these have now been designated as Panels. During the year there were two major new initiatives: the group facilitation project (now called the Groups Working Well Panel) and training for organisational leadership (now called the Support for Organisational Leadership Panel, or SOL). Reports on the work of all of these Panels are included.

### CHALICE AWARD PANEL

**Members:** Joan Hill, Sue Hodgson, Rev Jean McNeile, Rev John Harley

In order to promote the scheme and liaise with other parts of the Youth Programme, a Chalice Award Panel has been formed. The new members, Rev John Harley (as GA Youth Co-ordinator) and Rev Jean McNeile (minister at Padiham) met with

the current co-ordinators, Joan Hill and Sue Hodgson of Bradford Unitarians, three times this year and are planning a workshop for the next Annual Meetings. Appropriate certificates for all four levels are available from Joan and Sue in Bradford, or from Rev John Harley who has been promoting the scheme through the Youth Programme and at other events.

The results from the RE survey were disappointing, though we have received enquiries from as far afield as Scotland and Godalming. We hope to make more progress by setting up a network of users after the Annual Meetings and also strengthen contacts with District RE Co-ordinators. Interest in creating new modules has been expressed by a few people and we hope to have one or two available shortly.

Immediate plans focus on the workshop we are preparing, which we hope will also be used at district level in the future. We plan to show how the scheme can be adapted for use with groups of mixed ages working together. An updated display will include registration forms, certificates and a Children's Activity Box aimed at churches and fellowships who rarely have children attending. We hope these plans will meet some of the needs expressed by our contacts and that we will see a surge forward in youth RE activity in our movement.

### ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT PANEL

**Convenor:** Rev Margaret Kirk

**Secretary:** Joyce Ashworth

**Members:** Joyce Ashworth, Rev Elizabeth Birtles (until April 2006), Rev Lindy Latham, Rev Jim Robinson, Dr Jane Blackall (from April 2006), Rev Margaret Kirk.

**Mission Statement:** *To offer ministers and lay persons the skills and practices to enable them to facilitate groups/communities that live out the ethos of right relationship with each other and with God.*

**Scope of Remit:** To provide training and give support to those facilitating Engagement Groups within the Unitarian and Free Christian community and to promote the value of Engagement groups within congregations and fellowships.

## Education & Training Commission

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**Meetings:** We have met three times in the year and were sorry to lose the inspiration and guidance of Elizabeth Birtles who has been a part of this group since its inception in 2002. We welcome Jane Blackall as a new member. Our meetings have focused upon the best ways of providing support and publicity. We recognise that providing group facilitation skills is a vital aspect of Education and Training and that whilst other initiatives are being piloted for this purpose, our task is in a supporting capacity for existing groups, helping to promote new ones and clarifying what is distinctive about the process of Engagement.

**Regional Group Meetings:** Leaders of groups in the London area continue to meet on a regular basis supported by Jim Robinson.

The Northern regional group, covering a wide area from Newcastle upon Tyne to Leicester, met on two occasions to share ideas, experience and provide support.

**Inquirer Stories Feature:** We encourage regular appearance of stories about Engagement groups in The Inquirer and seek to continue to do this.

**LDPA October Meeting:** On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Jim Robinson addressed the meeting on the subject of Engagement groups. The presentation focused upon how we Unitarians can do something unique in society: create small groups of people with widely diverse theologies who can sensitively and safely share their spirituality with one another, encouraging everyone's growth in the process.

**New Groups:** We welcome the opportunity to help those churches and fellowships who are interested in setting up an Engagement group or groups. This year we have responded to requests from two church communities for information and guidance and, following a request from the NUF, we are in the process of considering how we might extend the use of engagement group principles to an E-Fellowship.

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### GROUPS WORKING WELL PANEL

**Chair:** Dawn Buckle

**Members:** Rev Michael Dadson, Dot Hewerdine, Rev Margaret Kirk, Rev Lindy Latham, David Shaw

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This Panel was commissioned during 2006 in response to the recognition on the ETC of the importance of good group facilitation if our congregations were to grow. The members of the Panel were appointed for their known expertise in group facilitation either from the Development Skills Training Programme or Engagement Group Support.

The work of the Panel starts from the premise that almost everything we do in our congregations takes place in groups. Helping these groups to work well is essential if we are to have lively, growing Unitarian & Free Christian communities.

#### Progress

The Panel are planning a regional pilot scheme in the North East of England to include congregations in the Northern, Sheffield and Yorkshire districts to begin in February 2007. After evaluation this scheme will be offered to other regions within the GA.

It is widely recognised that the development of group facilitation skills is crucial for ministers; in co-operation with Unitarian College, Manchester the Panel are providing a short course beginning in February 2007, for all ministers currently in training and ministers who were recognised during the last five years.

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### HUCKLOW SUMMER SCHOOL PANEL

**Members:** Patricia Walker-Hesson (Dean), Rev Lindy Latham, Jane Blackall, Rev Simon John Barlow (to August 2006), Jean Mason (to August 2006), Rev Michael Dadson (from August 2006), Margaret Hamer (from August 2006).

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The title of the 2006 Hucklow Summer School was "Feeding the Soul" and, according to the evaluation process, it did just that. Margaret Kirk's theme talks, on "Worship", were highly praised by all participants. The range and depth of the morning workshops, the variety of worship and other activities, and the balance of content

## Education & Training Commission

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were all felt to be of a very high order. The theme talks were made available online after the event, as were course materials from the morning workshop groups, thanks to Joan and John Wilkinson. A number of workshop sessions offered during the week were run in the style of engagement groups, to model the engagement group process to participants, and promote the development of similar activities back in home congregations. The theme for the 2007 event is "In Our Hands: Discovering Our Shared Ministry". The theme talks will be shared between five speakers this year to reflect the spirit of collaboration denoted by our theme.

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### JOINED UP EDUCATION PANEL

**Members:** Dawn Buckle (Convenor), Rev Celia Cartwright, Rev Peter Hewis (until July 2006), Richard Lovis, (Distant Member), Rev Dr Vernon Marshall, Rev Dr Ann Peart, Elizabeth Shaw.

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Following the successful launch of the two modular courses, the Worship Studies Course and the Unitarian Studies Course, at the ETC slot at the GA meetings in 2006, interest in these courses has increased.

There are three people registered on the Worship Studies Course and a further two are currently completing the Foundation Step being organised at district level. Two districts are now providing training and support at the Foundation Step and a third district is currently reviewing how they can put together this important first step.

The Joined Up Education Panel met twice this year and at the last meeting the Tutors for these two courses joined the meeting, which was found to be beneficial to all. Following the retirement of the Rev Peter Hewis a successor to this Panel has yet to be appointed. The Panel is also collating a list of suitable books for reading to support students on these courses.

Some students are still working through the CLPCW (Course in Lay Preaching and the Conduct of Worship) and have opted to finish this course rather than transfer over to the WSC. Support is still being provided for these students by the Course Tutors.

The link with the Unitarian Association of Lay Leaders (UALL) is working well. Dawn Buckle and the JUEP Tutors had a useful session with a

student on the Advance Step of the WSC and with others who were considering the course, at the UALL Conference in the autumn. UALL intend to include a session focussing on the WSC and lay preachers issues in general each year at their conference.

JUEP is grateful to the Tutors, the Rev Ernest Baker, Rev Alex Bradley and Rev Dr Vernon Marshall for their continuing service to training Lay Worship Leaders.

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### RE CO-ORDINATORS

**Co-ordinator:** Margaret Robinson

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During the year Margaret has been kept busy on behalf of the Education and Training Commission:

a) She revised *Awakenings*, an RE resource for use with children under seven, and Rev John Harley (Youth Co-ordinator) drew a front cover for it. It is hoped that this will be on sale at the 2007 GA Annual Meetings.

b) She revised the Religious Education Co-ordinators (RECs) guidelines for District Associations and the guidelines for RECs. These were sent round to District Association secretaries and also circulated on the GA Email List. It is hoped that this will encourage more District Associations to appoint RECs and to put RE on their meeting agendas.

c) Margaret completed the RE Questionnaire to gather information on what RE is being carried out in the denomination. The Questionnaire was sent to all church and fellowship secretaries (180+) in September and was also publicised on the GA Email List. To date only 51 completed questionnaires have been received and we are grateful to those who have replied. Margaret is in the process of chasing up the missing 130+ questionnaires. A fuller report on this project will be given in due course.

## Education & Training Commission

### RE PUBLICATIONS

Co-ordinator: Helen Parsons

The three adult RE courses *Home and Away*, *Spirituality in Everyday Life* and *The British Unitarian Journey*, have sold well and a reprint was arranged in the late summer. The publication *Ignition* was revised by Helen Royall as a programme for young adults and is now available again. *Awakenings: first steps in religious awareness for under 7s* is currently being revised by Margaret Robinson and the new edition will be launched at the 2007 Annual Meetings. David Shaw's popular *Cosmic Kids Book*, a resource book of games and puzzles for 7-11 year olds, was reprinted and continues to sell steadily. The *Chalice Award Green Level* was published in 2006 and offers a short course based on the seasons for children aged 4-6.

At the suggestion of the Youth Co-ordinator, Rev John Harley, the Commission produced an annotated list of the religious education publications available from Essex Hall. This gives more information about each title than is possible in a short price list. Copies of this were distributed via the GA Email List, and are available from Headquarters.

### SUPPORT FOR ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP PANEL

Chair: Dawn Buckle

Members: Joyce Ashworth, Rev Michael Dadson (until October 2006), Rev Steve Dick, Lis Dyson-Jones, (from October 2006), Ken Johnson, Barbara Smith (from October 2006).

This Panel was commissioned during 2006 as the result of a need, identified by conferences of both by the Outreach and Communication Commission and District Connections, to support congregational and district trustees and officers within in the General Assembly. The Denominational Support and the Education and Training Commissions are co-operating on this initiative.

The aim of the Panel is to enhance and sustain the functioning of our local Unitarian and Free Christian communities as viable and vital organisations, capable of growth, and to foster best practice in governance at every level.

They intend to do this by providing training, support and networking.

### Progress

The Welsh Department are working with the Panel to pilot a scheme of training for congregational officers that includes the sharing of good practice. The South West District is planning to link up with this scheme. Thanks largely to the efforts of Ken Johnson progress has been made on creating useful resource material outlining good congregational practice. This material will be previewed during the Annual Meetings and produced and distributed to all congregations and districts during the following 12 months.

### Future

By 2008 the Panel intends to make available certificated courses and learning modules varied according to the role and function of all officers and trustees and based upon this resource material.

## Ministry Commission

### MINISTRY COMMISSION

Chair: Rev Dr Ann Peart

Minutes Secretary: Howard Hague

Members: Rev Peter Hewis (until May 2006), Iain Brown, David Dawson, Rev J Eric Jones, Bernard Omar, Jeffery Teagle and Rev Brian Cockroft.

The Commission's Mission Statement was agreed as: *To plan and take strategic decisions relating to all forms of ministry within the body of the General Assembly; and to ensure the achievement of the highest possible degree of satisfaction for both spiritual leaders and congregations.*

Meetings: The Commission met three times during 2006, each time at Essex Hall.

Review of Terms of Reference: The Executive Committee consulted the Commission about its role and relationship to the EC. No change was proposed.

GA Roll of Ministers and Lay Pastors: Anthony Howe, Gillian Peel and Martin Whitell were accepted onto the Roll with probationary status. The Revs Cathal Courtney, Feargus O'Connor, James Robinson and Christopher Wilson were granted full status. The Revs Ernest Baker, Elizabeth Birtles, Joy Croft, Thomas Coey, Peter Hewis, Keith Hill, Douglas Reynolds, Ian Smith, Judith Walker-Riggs retired during 2006. In some cases, they had already ceased active ministry, but commenced collecting their retirement pensions and had not previously been acknowledged as retired. The Rev Gerald Whitaker died on 24 March 2006. Lay Pastor and former GA President Dr Beverley Littlepage died on 15 May 2006. The Rev Ernest Penn died on 07 July 2006. The Rev Alan Bowden died on 08 December 2006. Former GA President and Honorary Member, the Rev Dr Arthur Long died on 09 December 2006.

GA Roll of Lay Leaders: When this Roll was created it was stipulated that membership should be conditional upon the member being in post as an active Lay Leader. Consequently, Anne Braithwaite's membership lapsed when she resigned her post and Malcolm Sadler's membership lapsed when he retired in July 2006. This reduced the membership of this Roll to one person.

Guidelines for Partnership between Congregations and Ministers: The consolidation of Guidelines I, II and III into a single document dominated the agenda during the year. Each meeting considered specific sections and a full draft was produced at the end of the year. The draft was then forwarded to the Ministerial Fellowship for consultation purposes and their feedback will be considered during 2007.

Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure: The General Assembly mandates that a CRB disclosure is now a pre-requisite to grant entry to its ministry rolls. The administration of CRB checks is now the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

Ministry for All Congregations: This project was adopted by the Executive Committee and the Rev Dr Ann Peart, Chair of the Ministry Commission, joined the project panel. A fuller report is contained within the EC report. The Ministry Commission maintains a strong interest in this project.

The Review and Support Panel: The services offered by this panel were not utilised during the year. One member retired after many years of valued service. The Ministry Commission plans new recruitment and training for the triennial period 2007-2010 volunteers.

Churches Main Committee: Alan Ruston continued to represent the General Assembly on this Home Office sponsored body.



Rev Dr Ann Peart, Chair of the Ministry Commission, presents the Commission's report

### The Colleges:

**Manchester:** The Commission Chair was congratulated upon the achievement of her PhD. The Commission received positive reports on the progress of the students via the Interview Panel reports. The Commission was informed of the re-organisation of the partnership arrangements at Luther King House. The members were pleased to note the active role played by the Unitarian College in the wider life of the partnership.

**Oxford:** Following the retirement of the Rev Peter Hewis as Chaplain/Tutor, the College Principal met with the General Secretary in accordance with the procedure laid down in the College Statutes. At that time there were uncertainties about funding and a part-time interim arrangement was made with the Rev Dr Andrew Rowley. Unfortunately, this arrangement did not permit adequate attention to the needs of the two lay pastors commencing studies in October 2006, especially because ill health prevented Andrew from attendance. The training deficit will be addressed in 2007.

**Wales:** The Welsh Department co-operated in the training of a lay pastor student.

### THE INTERVIEW PANEL

**Members:** Dr Jane Williams (Chair), Rev Brian Cockroft, Rev Peter Hewis (until May 2006), Rev J Eric Jones, Rev Ann Peart and Rev Clifford Reed.

**In attendance:** Jeffrey Teagle.

The Panel met twice during the year, for two days in January at Oxford and a single day at Unitarian Headquarters.

Annette Marsh and Stephen Lingwood were accepted respectively for lay pastor and full ministry training in Manchester. Annette Marsh was unable to commence her studies. Lewis Rees and Raymond Seal were accepted for lay pastor training at Oxford. In both cases they also undertook part-time theological courses, Lewis at Trinity College Carmarthen and Raymond with the Open University.

The colleges reported upon the progress of students in training. The on-going students were Myrna Michell (lay pastor) and Lynne Readett.

The Rev Martin Whitell, who had previously qualified as a minister with another denomination, attended his final interview in January 2006. Anthony Howe and Gillian Peel attended final year interviews in May 2006 and were recommended for entry onto the GA Roll. David Shaw was also interviewed and it was agreed that he could transfer from lay pastor to full ministry training. Maud Robinson similarly attended the interviews having completed the requirements for Roll entry. The Panel was pleased to grant her request for a third year of study to achieve a degree.

The Rev Don Beaudreault, an American Unitarian Universalist minister, was interviewed and cleared for commencement of the process for GA Roll entry via a mentor. Three other North American UU ministers made detailed inquiries about GA Roll entry, via our established policy.

The mentor system was maintained and has worked well. The Panel thanks the eighteen ministers who acted as mentors during 2006.

The Panel reviewed student funding issues and worked towards providing greater clarification to incoming students.

### OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

**Chair:** Martin Gienke

**Secretary:** Howard Hague

**Members:** Janet Briggs, Martin Gienke, Neville Kenyon, Tony Rees, Kate Taylor, Howard Wilkins

**Mission Statement:** *To promote a clear contemporary Unitarian message via traditional and innovative means and to foster social action in accordance with liberal values in order to encourage growth and influence society and its culture.*

**1. Meetings:** The Commission met formally twice during 2006, at Essex Hall in June and November, with an informal meeting of some members present during the UCCN (Unitarian Communication Co-ordinators Network) conference at Great Hucklow in March. Much work in between meetings is carried out by email. The November 2006 meeting was in effect the final meeting of the present OCC, and thanks were expressed to Martin Gienke for his very hard work and commitment as Chair over the last three years.

**2. Panels:** the following Panels report to the OCC: Ecumenical Relations, Information, Interfaith, Penal Affairs, Publications and Social Responsibility. Their reports are given separately.

**3. Media Outreach:** There is no doubt that during 2005/2006 the Unitarian movement achieved its highest media profile for many years due to the work of the Media Consultant and, in March 2006, due to the withdrawal of the invitation to hold the GA Anniversary Service in Chester Cathedral during the Annual Meetings. *The Times* led the way on 1 March with an article by Ruth Gledhill entitled 'Heretical Unitarians cast out by cathedral'. This was followed by many contributions on the paper's Weblog and in the letters column. The General Secretary was interviewed on Premier Christian Radio the day after the story broke and Rev David Usher was interviewed the following week on BBC Radio Merseyside and on the BBC Radio 4 *Sunday* programme. The controversy was also reported in the *Church Times*, and Rev David Usher contributed an article in that paper on 24 March entitled 'Judge by our deeds, not our creeds'.

Julian Baggini's *Guardian* article 'Does heresy belong in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?' was reprinted by permission in the next issue of our *Counterpoint* magazine. Ruth Gledhill was subsequently invited to speak at a special meeting arranged at the Chester GA in April. There was good coverage at the local and regional level of press releases issued from the Chester meetings. There were relatively few contributions by Unitarians in the national press after the Chester controversy, the exception being good coverage of a speech about faith schools by Rev Chris Wilson in April. Members of the OCC expressed concern about the decision not to retain the services of the Media Consultant after the end of March for financial reasons. However it was hoped that this would provide the opportunity to re-assess the role of a media consultant for the denomination.

**4. Branding and Image:** As a result of a presentation given in June 2006 by Mark Howard of the firm Twenty-Five Educational (designers of the GA Travelling Display), the OCC recommended to the Executive Committee that the branding initiative should go ahead. This project was subsequently taken forward by the EC under the title 'Consistent Identity'.

**5. Website Developments:** In 2005 the OCC commissioned a designer to work on a new website for the General Assembly, and this was trialled at both the UCCN conference in March and the Annual Meetings in April. However, on assuming office the Executive Committee expressed serious concerns about the press and media emphasis of the project, feeling that the main emphasis should be on the general enquirer, and work was halted. Subsequently a working group consisting of the General Secretary, Kate Taylor and Howard Hague met to consider what improvements needed to be made to the existing GA website. A good deal of effort has been put into ensuring that the Events page of the website is kept up-to-date, as it in effect replaces the former *Pathways* leaflet. Further website developments are in hand for 2007.

**6. Communication Strategies:** In 2005 a special meeting of the OCC and invited participants had produced an Internal Communication Strategy for the GA, and this was adopted at the final meeting of GA Council in February 2006. In November 2006 the OCC produced an External Publicity Policy document covering outreach projects, external statements, advertising, support for local/regional programmes and electronic media.

It is hoped that this document will be of assistance to the Executive Committee in future planning.

**7. OCC Projects:** The Commission is delighted with progress over the last year with the website project ([www.unitariansocieties.org.uk](http://www.unitariansocieties.org.uk)) for Unitarian Societies, in which ten societies are now taking part. The OCC wishes to record its thanks to John and Joan Wilkinson for their all their work in this regard. This represents a major new resource and form of outreach for the denomination. The OCC has agreed to support the Macclesfield Publicity Project 'Going Public' to promote the King Edward Street Unitarian Church. The OCC Chair, Martin Gienke, visited the project during the year. It is hoped the experience gained here will be of assistance to other local church publicity initiatives.

**8. Presidential Packs:** The OCC Chair has been circulating Presidential and Vice-Presidential information packs for use at the local level. The packs are sent to congregations in advance of a visit by the President or Vice-President, in the hope that they can be used for publicity with the local news media. The OCC would be pleased to receive feedback on the use of these packs.

**9. Counterpoint:** At the June Meeting of the OCC members expressed varying opinions about the effectiveness of *Counterpoint* as an outreach tool. However concern was also expressed about the way in which the decision to drop it had been reached. It was agreed at the November meeting that the working party looking at the future of *Counterpoint* should report directly to the Commission.

**10. Advertising/Leaflets:** Details of advertising undertaken recently and leaflet reprints etc. will be found in the separate Information Panel report.

### ECUMENICAL RELATIONS PANEL

**Chair:** Rev Celia Midgley

**Secretary:** Alan Ruston

**Members:** Rev Alan Kennedy, Rev Celia Midgley, Rev Dr Ann Peart (until May 2006), Alan Ruston, Jane Barraclough (ex officio).

During the year, the Panel has sought to be a resource for congregations wishing to make and develop ecumenical contacts locally. It has also endeavoured to help the fostering of good

ecumenical relations by making available a number of success stories - 'sharing the good news'. Following publicity in *The Inquirer*, Alan Kennedy gathered a number of these stories into a word and picture presentation stand at the 2006 Annual Meetings. This included copies of the leaflet *Building Bridges ~ Building Communities*, further copies of which are to be reproduced.

The Panel decided to follow the suggestion of the General Secretary of Churches Together in England (CTE) that we seek to play our part through membership of certain of CTE's co-ordinating groups. Names of individuals interested in joining these groups have been gathered and forwarded to CTE. It is hoped that this will result in a more widespread contribution by Unitarians at national level and that this may in due course be more than an English exercise.

Celia Midgley, Co-Moderator of CTE's Women's Co-ordinating Group, wrote the Unitarian contribution for the CTE publication *Celebrating Women's Ministry*, which appeared during the year.

At each meeting of the Panel, many instances of creative ecumenical activity have been shared, suggesting that there are many more 'good news stories' to be shared more widely. It was therefore decided to repeat the exercise of the presentation stand at the 2007 GA Annual Meetings.

The Panel has appreciated the interest and support of Gavin Lloyd at its most recent meeting and looks forward to his future involvement.

### INFORMATION PANEL

**Contact:** Martin Gienke

**Members:** Martin Gienke, Howard Hague, Kate Taylor, Howard Wilkins

**1. Meetings:** Information Panel members do not normally have separate meetings but correspond mainly by email and act in support of the information staff at Essex Hall.

**2. Advertising and Enquiries:** A substantial programme of advertising was undertaken during autumn 2006. Adverts were placed in four different regional editions of The Big Issue (London, Manchester/The North, Scotland and the South-West), with six insertions appearing at

fortnightly intervals. By the end of December, 120 information packs had been sent out in response to the adverts, with requests still coming in. One feature of the London and Manchester editions in particular was the wide geographical spread of respondents. It is not easy to assess the impact of this advertising, and congregations are asked to inform Essex Hall if enquirers refer to the advertising as a source of information. Further advertising is planned for 2007. In addition the Information Department continues to respond to many enquiries received by email, phone and letter about such topics as the nearest congregation, service times, rites of passage, recommended books and historical enquiries.

**3. Leaflets:** A new leaflet *Unitarians and World Religions* with text by Rev Dr Vernon Marshall, was available in time for the 2006 Annual Meetings and proved very popular. A reprint has already been arranged. *Your First Time at a Unitarian Service?* was re-designed and was also ready for the Chester meetings. Work continues on the re-design of our general leaflet *A Faith Worth Thinking About*, and it is hoped this will be available shortly. The delay with this is regretted.

**4. Book Service:** Information staff continue to operate an active book service from Essex Hall, with items being supplied by mail order, at the annual meetings and to personal callers. Lists of the British and American titles available were circulated to congregations during the year. The latter part of the year saw the publication of two new Lindsey Press titles: *Being Together: Unitarians Celebrate Congregational Life*, and *Marking the Days: a Book of Occasional Services*. These have sold steadily. New UUA titles are bought in for the Annual Meetings, and are always popular.

**5. GA Email List:** Messages are now sent out regularly to over 180 people on the GA List, including ministers, ministerial students, congregational and district officers, and GA Commission and Panel members. It is understood from feedback that recipients find this a valuable means of receiving information quickly and keeping themselves informed of current developments and events.

**6. GA Travelling Display:** The Travelling Display was used on eight occasions during 2006, including at events in Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Great Hucklow, Portsmouth, Sheffield and London. Please contact Essex Hall if you would

like to use it. It is generally transferred around the country by means of a van courier service. In 2006 a new Lesbian and Gay Unitarians banner also became available, and this can be requested from Essex Hall in the same way as the Travelling Display.

**7. Poster Sets:** Fliers were circulated during the year about the current set of Wayside Pulpit Posters still available. Some new Unitarians still refer to a wayside pulpit notice as their introduction to the movement. The supply of A3 colour poster sets based on the Travelling Display is now almost exhausted and is unlikely to be reprinted. The 'blue-green' poster (*We are Unitarians and Free Christians*) is still available, however. The sets of *Eminent Unitarians* including the three new posters (Charles Lamb, Henry Longfellow and Tim Berners-Lee) have sold steadily.

### INTERFAITH PANEL

**Contact:** Alan Ruston

**Members:** Rev Richard Boeke (until April 2006), Rev Cathal Courtney (until April 2006), Rev Chris Goacher, Rev Anne McClelland (until April 2006), Rev Feargus O'Connor (from Jan 2007), Rev Simon Ramsay (from May 2006), Alan Ruston, Rev Jane Barraclough (ex officio)

### Peaceful Conflict

The Panel sponsored a Fideology event at Croydon on 18 February 2006, the World Congress of Faiths Interfaith Celebration of Animals at Golders Green on 10 September 2006 and the 2006 Brighton Festival of World Music in another highly successful year. We supported the Peaceful Conflict event at Derby Multi Faith Centre on 21 October 2006, organised by Unitarians and partly sponsored by the Home Office. The book *Trading Faith: Global Religion in an Age of Rapid Change* by David A. Hart was successfully launched from Essex Hall on the 22 June 2006.

The new OCC leaflet on Unitarians and World Religions went to press and has been available from Essex Hall since annual meetings 2006. It has been very popular and has just gone into its second print run. We have circulated information on congregational interfaith work on the GA email list.

Members of the Panel have continued to represent Unitarianism on a variety of national and international interfaith bodies, including the World Congress of Faiths, the IARF, and the Inter Faith Network. We have also been involved in some government consultation which is conducted through national interfaith bodies, notably on equality of access to goods and services on the basis of sexual orientation. We continue to be represented on the Religion & Belief Consultative Group, established to inform the new Commission for Equalities and Human Rights on religious and philosophical identities.

We were pleased to welcome Rev Simon Ramsay as a new member to the panel in 2006 and extend our warmest thanks to our retired members.

### PENAL AFFAIRS PANEL

**Chair:** Geoffrey Head

**Members:** Tony Cann (from Sept 2006), Bruce Chilton, Jane Couper (from Feb 2006), Jane Howarth (until April 2006), Geoffrey Head, Rev Ann Latham, Kate Taylor

The Panel has met twice formally during the year. Members have been immensely grateful to Jane Howarth for her tireless work for, and very considerable commitment to, its interests over many years and her retirement can best be described as devastating. Her last contribution was her issues paper on *Children in Trouble with the Law* which was introduced at the 2006 General Assembly in Chester when our slot focused on 'Children: stopping the slide into crime'. Our guest speakers, Susan Holland and Patrick Slinn, were members of the Macclesfield Volunteer Panel, provided an account of the work of the Referral Panel with first-time offenders under the age of eighteen.

Bruce Chilton has continued to attend meetings of the Churches Criminal Justice Forum.

The Panel has strongly endorsed Tony Cann's major project to bring about a change in emphasis within the Criminal Justice System from punishment and retribution to prevention and rehabilitation.

The Panel is also greatly concerned at the seeming injustices within the system of dealing with asylum seekers and the treatment of those whose appeals fail.

### PUBLICATIONS PANEL

**Convenor:** Kate Taylor

**Members:** Rev Jane Barraclough (from Feb 2006), George Chryssides, Kay Millard, Rev Don Phillips, Catherine Robinson, Kate Taylor

The Panel met three times during 2005-6 but undertook a very substantial amount of work outside the meetings throughout the year, wherever necessary (and not infrequently) consulting each other by e-mail.

Last year's report was something of an annunciation; this year's records the nativity: *Being Together: Unitarians Celebrate Congregational Life*, edited by Matthew Smith and copy-edited by Catherine Robinson, was published in September. *Marking the Days*, the promised collection of occasional services gathered by Kate Taylor as a companion volume to *Celebrating Life*, came out at the beginning of December. Immediately after finishing work on *Being Together*, Catherine turned to the copy-editing of Vernon Marshall's manuscript, finally titled *The Larger View: Unitarians and World Religions*, and this should be available at the 2007 General Assembly.

Work has been progressing on two further books, *Unitarian Faith and Practice*, the collection of seminal Unitarian writing compiled by Stephen Lingwood, and a volume of essays on *Personal Spiritual Practice*. For the former there is the substantial task of negotiating copyright permissions. We are now considering a further book in the 'Celebrating Life series' on Alternative Services, looking beyond the hymn sandwich.

*Celebrating Life* has again been reprinted in an issue of 100 copies.

We moved, for *Being Together*, from the traditional system of placing a bulk order with a printer of, say, 300 or 400 copies, to the newish 'print-on-demand' approach offered (among other firms) by Lightning Source. This again involved the time of some of the Panel who held meetings with representatives of the firm. It is too early to provide any appraisal of the advantages of this system except to remark that it obviates the problem of holding bulk stock.

Press releases were sent out about *Being Together* and *Marking the Days*. Time has been spent also in reading, evaluating and rejecting manuscripts or proposals for them.

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PANEL

**Chair:** Tony Rees

**Members:** Rev Ann Latham, Jean Mason, Julianne Morgan, Anthony Rees, Rosemary Ruston (from June 2006), Rev Jane Barraclough (ex officio).

**1. Meetings:** The Panel met in January and June 2006 at Essex Hall.

**2. Retirement of SR Co-ordinator:** Ingrid Tavkar retired on 30 April 2006, due to ill-health. Her departure inevitably left a great gap, and her energy and enthusiasm for Social Responsibility work will be hard to replace. In the interim, the SR Panel is fortunate in that an Essex hall staff-member, the Rev Jane Barraclough, has taken on essential administrative and secretarial duties on its behalf. These activities include some valuable liaison work with other organisations and agencies - see below.

### 3. Denominational Activities

**SR Survey:** There has been some delay over this, owing to the pressure of other duties, but it is hoped to have a complete draft of the findings available for the 2007 Annual Meetings

**GA Meetings 2006:** In Ingrid Tavkar's absence, Panel members stepped into the breach, and special thanks are owed to the Rev Ann Latham, who took pretty well single-handed charge of the SR display and stall. The SR slot attracted an excellent speaker, Dr Paul Doman, Research and Policy Director of the national Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), who addressed the meeting on "Britain's Continuing Child Poverty". Attendance was, however, rather disappointing, perhaps because of inadequate advertising.

**Counterpoint:** One edition only of this occasional periodical, intended primarily for non-Unitarians, was brought out during the year, in Summer 2006. Outreach publications have been undergoing review by the Outreach & Communications Commission (OCC) and the Executive Committee (EC). The OCC set up a

Working Party tasked with reporting on the future of Counterpoint, with Tony Rees, Kate Taylor, Catherine Robinson and Alan Warhurst as members. This met once during the autumn, and a proposal from the Group is currently being considered by the OCC.

**4. Ecumenical Activities:** We attended meetings of the following national groups: CTBI Church & Society Forum and RADAR (an ecumenical watchdog of proposed legislation).

**5. Voluntary Work:** Rosemary Ruston continues to offer one day a week to Social Responsibility Work at Essex Hall on a voluntary basis. Resources no longer permit the publication of a regular news sheet for congregations, Social Responsibility News, and we are particularly grateful to Rosemary for the work she has put in to the production of a more occasional replacement letter, the SR Bulletin.

## Other Standing Bodies

### THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

**Chair:** Neville Kenyon

**Secretary:** Michael Tracey

**Financial Secretary:** Gordon Lowthian

#### Management Committee Members:

**GA Appointed Members:** Marion Baker, David Copley, David Dawson, Dorothy Hewerdine, Richard Kirkwood, Freda Laverick, Gordon Lowthian, Neville Kenyon, Richard Merritt (from May 2006), Frank Rothwell (until Sept 2006), Louise Rogers (from May 2006), Michael Tracey

#### Co-opted Members:

**GA Treasurer:** (ex officio) Martin West.

**Minutes Secretary:** Marion Baker

**Hon Solicitor:** Andrew Cooper (non-voting)

The charity known as The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow in the County of Derbyshire is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners sealed 26<sup>th</sup> February 1975. Charity registration number 242256.

Postal address:- The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8RH.

The Custodian Trustee is The British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

The Managing Trustees are the persons who are the members for the time being of the Executive Committee of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Eight are elected on a triennial basis by ballot of the membership of the denomination. The ninth member of the Executive Committee is the honorary treasurer of the GA. All Managing Trustees on appointment attend a weekend induction programme. Under the terms of the Scheme the Managing Trustees may delegate the administrative function of management to an appointed Committee. The Committee known as The Nightingale Centre Management Committee is appointed by the Managing Trustees every three years. The ultimate responsibility for management remains with the Trustees.

The Managing Trustees being the present members of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian

Churches are:- Jennifer Atkinson, Dawn Buckle, Lis Dyson-Jones, Dorothy Hewerdine, Neville Kenyon, Rev Dr Ann Peart, Sir Peter Soulsby, Martin West (Hon. Treasurer), Rev Bob Wightman.

#### Financial Review

The Centre achieved a net surplus of £3,613 for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006. The trading account, which includes rental income in excess of £16,000, shows a loss of £10,259. Donations totalled £13,334 (inclusive of £7,559 from 'Friends of Hucklow' and £3159 from 'Open Day'). Realised and unrealised gains on investments amounted to £538.

The six months of building work at the Centre has impacted on the trading account. However, the Main House remained open during the whole of the period of redevelopment and the hard work put in by our manager Julie Dadson in effectively managing the Centre during the period of disruption has contributed to the positive outcome for the year.

Unitarian use (excluding 'Send a Child to Hucklow') was down on last year at 47% of overall turnover but remains within its historic range. The financial climate for training courses would seem to be becoming less favourable with income from such bookings down 22% this year from last. However, other non-Unitarian bookings increased substantially from £21K to £45K.

#### Development of the Centre

This long awaited development commenced in October 2005 and was completed in March 2006. Such major building works do not always run smoothly and on this occasion resolving the outstanding items on the snagging list has been a challenging experience for our manager and committee member Richard Kirkwood who has overseen the project on our behalf.

The improved facilities have been much appreciated by all who use the Centre. Access for disabled and less mobile guests has been significantly improved. The four additional ensuite twin bedded rooms are accessible to all and the Social Hall has been transformed into a modern comfortable conference facility.

## Other Standing Bodies

### Barleycrofts

Barleycrofts is split into three tenanted properties. Barleycrofts house and the two-bedroomed cottage are let to the YHA. The one-bedroomed cottage is let to a member of staff. The combined annual rental income is £14,100.

### Frank Rothwell

Longstanding committee member Frank Rothwell resigned from the Management Committee in September. For many years the Centre has benefited from his practical expertise particularly with regard to building maintenance. The committee wishes to record its debt of gratitude for the support that he has given to the Centre over a number of decades.

### Staffing

Staffing remains a problem particularly during the very busy summer months. This is just one additional pressure with which the manager has to deal. The role of manager is pivotal to the success of the Centre. It can become a very pressured and lonely job. The committee has established a manager-support group. A part-time assistant to provide administrative support to the manager two days a week has also been appointed.

### History of the Centre

The Florence Nightingale Men's Memorial Home was opened in May 1931. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event a book was commissioned to tell the story of Unitarian commitment in providing holiday and convalescent homes. Geoffrey Head is the author of the book titled 'Far-Off Magic' which was launched at the 'Open Day' in June. The book's title comes from the reminiscences of one visitor writing in the mid-twentieth century of a visit to the Hucklow in 1906, '.....Never since have I experienced anything approaching the thrills and the delight with which that far-off magic week was packed'.

## SUSTENTATION FUND

**Chair:** Michael Tomlin

**Secretary:** Eileen Wield

**Treasurer:** Martin West

**Members:** The General Secretary and GA Honorary Officers, Patricia Birtles Rev Steve Dick, Geoffrey Head, Alan Ruston

### 1. Objects of the Fund

The objects of the Fund shall be to aid in the maintenance of faithful and efficient Ministers serving congregations affiliated to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

### 2. The Committee

The Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on a triennial basis, to manage the trust as a Departmental Committee of the General Assembly. The Custodian Trustee is the British & Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

### 3. Administration of Grants

Application forms for grants are available from the Secretary via the District Associations. The Trustees meet in June or July each year to consider applications for grants for the year commencing the first of October following. The grants are then paid in quarterly instalments.

### 4. Meetings

The Trustees met once during the year on 12th July 2006. The Officers administering the grants maintained a close liaison amongst themselves throughout the year.

### 5. Annual Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2006 showed an operating surplus of £28,665 (2005: £5,164). After a net investment loss from disposals of £43 (2005: Profit £60) and a year end market revaluation gain of £25,143 (2005: £39,560), there was an overall surplus of £52,624 (2005: £43,793) for the year.

### 6. Investments

Mellon Fund Managers Ltd, previously known as Newton Investment Management Ltd, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR, continued as Investment Managers. The investments are held in

## Other Standing Bodies

'the name of the Custodian Company of the Bank of New York, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5AL, on behalf of the Trustees, and may be held outside the United Kingdom.

The Trustees wish to pursue an investment policy which provides revenue for their current purposes and enhances income and capital growth over the longer term, thereby enabling them to meet their current and future objectives in accordance with the purposes of the fund.

### 7. Grants

Applications for grant-aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 22 Ministries. Of these 22 applications, 1 was refused because the congregations had large reserves that were not being used. Of the 21 awards made, 4 ceased during the year due to the Ministers moving elsewhere, retiring or dying.

### 8. Donations

We are enormously grateful for the support of the providers of donations to the Fund. This year, in addition to the support of a number of individuals (£1,539), the Midland Union (£500) and the Memorial Hall Trustees (£1,200), we received a donation of £25,000 from the Flagg Chapel Trustees.

The total donations we received this year amounted to £28,239 (last year: £2,401).

## Y GYFADRAN UNDODAIDD UNITARIAN WELSH DEPARTMENT

**Chair:** Mattie Evans

**Secretary:** Rev Eric Jones

**Members:** Lis Dyson Jones & Rev Cen Llwyd (General Assembly); Megan Jones & Mattie Evans (South Wales); Annette Marsh & Ken Morgan (South East Wales); Avril Protheroe & Aneurin Jones (District Presidents)

**1. Terms of Reference:** Due to the change in the organisation of the General Assembly, members of the committee spent a good deal of time discussing the relationship of the Welsh Department to the Executive Committee and its Commissions on the one hand and with the two Welsh District Associations on the other. A new set of guidelines has been formed, based on the original guidelines of 1964 when the Department was formed.

**2. Day Conference for Church Officers:** This Conference took place at Carmarthen in June 2006. Three experienced Church officers spoke of their role as Secretaries and Treasurers of Congregations and helpful discussions followed. The Secretary of the Department also brought information on investment and banking and encouraged congregations to make their money work for them. Ten Congregations were represented and it is hoped to repeat the experiment in 2007, inviting Congregations from the Western Union to participate also.

**3. Eisteddfod Tent at Swansea:** Once again, Unitarians spent eight days at the Unitarian Tent during the week of the National Eisteddfod at Swansea. Large numbers of people called and light refreshments and a rest area was provided for them as well as information on Unitarianism and the Congregations. Many Unitarians who had moved to different areas of Wales, England and America called in as well as current members and younger people especially, looking for alternatives from Mainstream Churches. It was certainly well worthwhile having a presence there.

**4. Heritage Book:** The Heritage book "Gardens of Faith" was published during the year, with just over 300 copies sold to date. The book contains details of Unitarian Places of Worship from the past, with details of history and location and is available for £5.00. A further booklet on the location and background of the 21 current Unitarian Congregations in Wales is now being prepared.

**5. Ministry:** With the retirement of Rev Goronwy Evans in January 2007, the only full time Minister will be Rev Wyn Thomas who is in charge of a group of churches in the Llandysul area. There are 4 active retired ministers in South Wales, two ministers who are in secular employment and 3 Lay Leaders. Both District Associations have been actively discussing the future plan for ministry but to date, there is only little progress.

**6. Presidential Visits:** Rev Brian Cockroft visited both Districts in March 2006, attending a well organised Dinner at Llandysul and a Musical event at Cefncoed. His presence was very much appreciated. David Dawson is expected to visit both Districts in March 2007.

**7. Reports:** The Department has received reports from the G.A Council (as it was) and from both Districts. We also receive reports from some of the Commissions.

## Associate Members

In accordance with rule 4 of the Constitution of the General Assembly the following persons, having contributed not less than £25 each to the funds of the Assembly in the financial year 2005-6, are Associate Members of the General Assembly. Names of Honorary Members and Full Members who have subscribed not less than £25 during the financial year each are also listed.

\*Indicates that subscriptions are paid by gift aid or other tax efficient means enabling the General Assembly to recover income tax in addition. Further details on such schemes are available from the GA Finance Department.

*Adams Mrs WJ	*Buckley Mr D	*De Wit Mr	*Hankinson Mrs A
*Allured Mr M	*Burbage Mrs M	*Deas Mrs E	*Hardy Dr SJ
*Anderson Mrs EC	*Burgess Mr B	*Denby Mr RN	*Harrison Mr IW
*Archer Mrs D	*Burns Mrs M	*Dick Rev SW	*Harrison Mrs M
Arthur Mr D	*Bushrod Miss E	(Full Member)	Harris Ms LA
*Ashworth Mrs B	(dec'd)	*Doel Rev Dr DC	*Hastie Mr WJ
*Atkinson Mrs JM	(Full Member)	(Full Member)	*Houghton Ms DP
(Full Member)	*Calderara Mrs B	*Dumpleton Mrs H	*Hayhurst Ms CA
*Attfield Prof R	*Camper Rev A	*Edwards Ms J	*Head Mr G
*Aylmer Mrs V	*Cann Mr HA	Elder Mr RC	(Honorary Member)
*Bailey Mr AD	(Full Member)	*Ellis Mrs HA	*Heale Mr P
*Baker Mrs M	*Cartwright Rev CM	*Evans Mrs EM	*Healey Miss R
Baker Mr T	(Full Member)	*Evershed Mr JD	*Hewerdine Mr AJ
*Barber Mrs E	*Chapman Mr J	(dec'd)	*Hewerdine Mrs DC
*Barber Mr JM	*Chilton Mrs CD	*Evershed Mrs SE	(Full Member)
Barlow Mrs EJ	*Chilton Mr GEB	*Faiers Mrs E	*Hewis Rev P
*Barlow Mrs F	Clarke Mrs HM	*Fieldhouse Miss AM	(Full Member)
*Barwick Mrs S	*Clifford Mrs B	*Fieldhouse Miss S	*Hewis Mrs H
Batchelor Rev BJ	*Clifford Rev JC	*Finer Mrs MA	*Hill Rev AM
(Full Member)	(Full Member)	*Firth Mrs RE	(Full Member)
*Bateman Mr S	*Cockroft Rev BS	*Fitzpatrick Mrs S	*Hill Mrs M
*Bell Dr J (Honorary	(Full Member)	*Fitzpatrick Ms C	*Hill Mrs JM
Member)	*Cockroft Rev L	*Ford Ms JM	*Hird Dr JL
*Bennett Ms DE	(Full Member)	*Forrester Mrs E	*Hoskins Mrs AJ
*Birtles Rev AH	*Cockroft Mrs BW	*Foulkes Mr RO	*Howarth Mr M
(Full Member)	*Coldwell Mr AH	*Fowler Miss AM	*Howarth Mrs J
*Birtles Rev E	*Coldwell Mrs DE	*Frere Mr LPD	*Hughes Miss A
(Full Member)	Collier Mr JS	*Gienke Mr M	*Hughes Mr D
Blake Mrs C	*Cook Mrs J	*Gillman Mr DE	*Hughes Ms M
*Boeke Rev R	Cooper Mrs M	*Goacher Rev C	*Hyth Mr FJ
(Full Member)	*Copley Mr DW	(Full Member)	*Inkson Mrs J
*Boeke Rev J	*Copley Mrs H	*Godfrey Rev PB	*Inkson Mr RHE
(Full Member)	*Corrigal Mr J	(Full Member)	*Isaac Mr AW
*Bradley Rev A	*Crilly Mr S	*Godfrey Mrs S	*Isaac Mr RB
(Full Member)	*Crompton Mr DF	*Godwin Mrs M	*Janes Mrs JA
*Brooks Mrs B	*Crompton Mrs J	*Goodchild Mr J	*Jerome Ms JA
*Brooks Mr GE	*Crosskey Mr JM	*Greenhalgh Mr F	*Johnson Mr KJ
*Broom Miss EC	*Crosskey Dr KSM	*Griffin Mrs T	*Johnson Rev P
*Brown Mr AHO	*Crosskey Dr PH	*Hague Mrs G	(Full Member)
*Brown Mr I	*Cupper Mr AM	*Hague Mr H	*Johnson Mr PB
*Buckle Mrs D	*Cusack Miss KO	Hague Mrs J	*Jones Dr AW
(Full Member)	*Darling Mr DF	*Hamer Ms MC	*Jones Mrs B
*Buckle Mr R	*Davies Mr GG	*Handoll Mrs HW	*Jones Mrs E
	*Dawson Mrs C		
	*Dawson Mr D		

## Associate Members

*Jones Rev JE (Full Member)	*Millard Mrs KA	Robinson Ms M	*Thursfield Mrs A
*Jones Mrs A	*Milne Mrs SS	*Robinson Mr WS	*Timperley Mr P
*Kay Mrs H	*Monk Rev DK	*Rogers Mrs J	*Tinker Rev S
*Kenyon Mrs B	*Needham Mrs A	*Rogers Ms L	*Tomlin Mrs JR
*Kenyon Mr N (Full Member)	*Norman Mr JAH	*Russell Mrs BS	*Tomlin Mr MJ
*Kern Mrs MP	*Nuttall Mrs M	*Ruston Mr AR	*Toulson Mr G
*Kerr Dr DG	*O'Brien Mrs E	*Ruston Mrs R	*Tracey Mr M
*King Ms L	*Oates Mr ADG	*Ruston Mr M	*Uprichard Mrs EM
Kirby Rev A	*Omar Mr B	*Ruston Mrs R	*Usher Rev D
*Kirkpatrick Mr S	*Packer Mr GWC	*Sampson Mr PW	(Full Member)
*Knopf Ms B	*Parson Mrs H	*Sanders Dr N	*Usher Mrs C
*Lake Mrs M	*Partington Mr C	*Saville Dr S	*Usher Rev G
*Latham Rev AY (Full Member)	*Partington Mrs J	*Scott Mr JA	(Full Member)
*Latham Rev A (Full Member)	*Paxton Mrs MRH	*Scott Mrs M	*Usher Mrs A
*Latta Miss J	*Paxton Mr G	*Sellman Ms J	*Voegeli Mrs I
*Latta Mrs S	*Payne Mrs B	*Shaw Mr D	*Walker Rev F (Full Member)
*Lawlor Mr P	*Peace Mr I	*Shaw Mrs E	*Walker Mrs P
*Laycock Mrs BA	*Pearson Mrs S	*Shellabear Mrs RD	*Ward Mr WH
*Lee Dr K	*Peart Rev Dr A (Full Member)	*Short Mrs A	*Wardle Miss J
*Leytham Mr G	*Pebody Dr I	Silk Rev PA (Full Member)	*Warhurst Mr A
*Lingwood Mr S	*Percy Mrs A	Silk Mrs J	*Warhurst Mr DE
*Lloyd Mr G	*Phillips Dr A	*Simmons Mrs J	*Warhurst Mrs H
*Llwyd Rev C (Full Member)	*Phillips Rev DS (Full Member)	*Simmons Mr G	*Watson Mr KW
*Long Rev AJ (Full Member dec'd)	*Phillips Rev L (Full Member)	*Sinclair Mrs A	*West Mr MG (Full Member)
*Lovis Mr R	*Potts Mr AE	*Sinclair Mr MS	*Whitell Rev M
*Maguire Mrs M	Raettig Mrs S	*Slaven Ms S	*Whitham Mr P
*Mason Mr GH	*Ramage Mr RW	*Smith Mrs B	*Wightman Mrs M
*Mason Mrs J	*Rathbone Mrs B	Smith Mrs DM	*Wightman Rev R (Full Member)
*Mason Ms H	*Reed Rev CM (Full Member)	*Smith Rev D (Full Member)	*Wilkins Mr H
*Mason Mr JI	*Reed Mrs P	*Smith Mrs P	Wilkinson Mrs J
Maud Mr G	*Rees Mr AM	*Smith Mr G	*Williams Prof DA
*McClelland Rev J (Full Member)	*Reynolds Ms HM	*Smith Mr M	*Williams Dr DJ
*McClelland Rev A (Full Member)	*Richards Mr JCT	*Smith Dr RW	*Williams Mrs WM
McCrohan Mr EM	*Richards Mrs J	*Smith Mrs C	*Wilson Mrs AM
*McLachlan Rev HJ (Honorary Member, dec'd)	*Richards Ms R	*Smith Mrs P (Full Member)	*Wilson Rev C (Full Member)
Michell Ms M	*Richards Mr W	*Speed Mr AMM	*Wilson Mrs S
*Midgley Rev C (Full Member)	Rigby Mrs V	*Tavkar Ms II	*Winder Mrs JR
*Midgley Rev J (Full Member)	*Rimington Miss M	Taylor Mr GC	*Woodhouse Mr J
	*Roberts Rev DM (Full Member)	*Taylor Miss CMP	*Woodhouse Mrs K
	*Roberts Rev J (Full Member)	*Taylor Mrs TM	*Wykes Dr DL
	*Roberts Mrs W	*Teagle Ms F	*Wykes Dr E
	*Roberts Dr J	*Teagle Mr JJ	*Wylie Mrs J
	*Robinson Rev J (Full Member)	*Teagle Mrs SM	*Wylie Mr HS
		*Thompson Ms C	
		*Thompson Ms J	

## Congregational Contributions

1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006

All collections and donations received are included in the one total against each church. Amounts are shown as at 30 September 2006 and contributions received after that date will be shown in the next annual report.

<b>England</b>			
Ainsworth	324.00	Ditchling	340.00
Altrincham	1080.00	Doncaster	400.00
Ashton-in-Makerfield	1000.00	Douglas	120.00
Atherton	714.00	Dover	100.00
Banbury	200.00	Dudley	100.00
Bath	220.00	Dukinfield	530.00
Bedfield	40.00	Eccles	1400.00
Belper	280.00	Enfield	220.00
Billingshurst	160.00	Evesham	460.00
Birmingham Edgbaston	1140.00	Framlingham	140.00
Birmingham Hollywood	660.00	Gloucester	100.00
Blackpool	562.00	Godalming	830.00
Bolton Bank Street	1160.00	Great Hucklow	460.00
Bolton Chorley New Road	400.00	Great Yarmouth	220.00
Bolton Egerton	600.00	Hale Barns	600.00
Bolton Halliwell Road	320.00	Harrogate Fellowship	160.00
Boston	200.00	Hastings	340.00
Bournemouth	482.00	Hinckley	680.00
Bradford Broadway Avenue	300.00	Hindley	240.00
Bradford Russell Street	180.00	Horsham	580.00
Bridgwater	100.00	Horwich	120.00
Bridport	280.00	Hull	680.00
Brighton	740.00	Hyde	40.00
Bristol Brunswick Square	500.00	Hyde Flowery Field	400.00
Bristol Frenchay	400.00	Hyde Gee Cross	350.00
Bury	1940.00	Ipswich	860.00
Bury St Edmunds	460.00	Kendal	1140.00
Cambridge	1200.00	Kidderminster	660.00
Chatham	167.00	Knutsford	1060.00
Chelmsford	240.00	Leeds	700.00
Cheltenham	280.00	Leicester	520.00
Chester	200.00	Lewes	70.00
Chorley	500.00	Lincoln	280.00
Cirencester	100.00	Liverpool Gateacre	440.00
Coseley	140.00	Liverpool Sefton Park	720.00
Coventry	140.00	London Bethnal Green	60.00
Cradley	500.00	London Brixton	320.00
Crewkerne	260.00	London Golders Green	700.00
Croydon	940.00	London Hampstead	2730.00
Cullompton	80.00	London Islington	500.00
Dean Row	1780.00	London Kensington	800.00
Denton	99.00	London Lewisham	360.00
Derby	120.00	London Newington Green	600.00

## Congregational Contributions

London Stratford	200.00	Trowbridge	440.00
Loughborough	40.00	Urmston	750.00
Lytham St Annes	100.00	Wakefield	280.00
Macclesfield	880.00	Warrington	300.00
Maidstone	160.00	Warwick	340.00
Manchester Chorlton-cum-Hardy	280.00	Watford	220.00
Manchester Cross Street	540.00	West Kirby	400.00
Manchester Dob Lane	340.00	Whitby	180.00
Manchester Gorton	400.00	Whitefield	1400.00
Mansfield	1000.00	Wolverhampton	100.00
Mossley	240.00	Worthing	220.00
New Mill	120.00	York	780.00
Newcastle	520.00		
Newcastle upon Tyne	724.00	<b>Wales</b>	
Newport	180.00	Aberdare	560.00
Northampton	160.00	Aberystwyth	0.00
Norwich	680.00	Alltyblaca	82.00
Nottingham	480.00	Capel Ifan	0.00
Oldbury	100.00	Cardiff West Grove	600.00
Oldham	300.00	Cefn Coed y Cymer	580.00
Oxford	900.00	Ciliau Aeron	50.00
Padiham	1100.00	Cellan	40.00
Plymouth	420.00	Cribyn	126.00
Portsmouth	940.00	Cwmsychbant	76.00
Pudsey	280.00	Cwrtnewydd	148.00
Rawtenstall	160.00	Felinfach	70.00
Richmond	1080.00	Lampeter	324.00
Rivington	520.00	Llandysul	100.00
Rochdale	1140.00	Nottage	280.00
Scarborough	240.00	Penrhiw	0.00
Sevenoaks	540.00	Pontsian	112.00
Sheffield Fulwood	1000.00	Prengwyn	146.00
Sheffield Norfolk Street	1160.00	Swansea	260.00
Sheffield Stannington	500.00	Talgarreg	200.00
Shelf	160.00	Trebanos	400.00
Shrewsbury	340.00	Trecynon	0.00
Sidmouth	120.00	Wick	200.00
Southampton	380.00		
Southend-on-Sea	60.00	<b>Scotland</b>	
Southport	200.00	Aberdeen	917.00
Stalybridge	260.00	Dundee	1060.00
Stockport	260.00	Edinburgh	1700.00
Stockton-on-Tees	680.00	Glasgow	740.00
Stourbridge	160.00		
Styal	500.00	<b>Overseas</b>	
Taunton	300.00	Adelaide	200.00
Tenterden	160.00	Auckland	200.00
Torquay	180.00		

## District & Other Contributions

### District

East Midland Unitarians	75.00
London District & South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian & FCC (Inc)	500.00
Manchester District Association of Unitarian & FCC	500.00
Merseyside District Missionary Association	420.00
Midland Union of Unitarian & FCC	300.00
North East Lancashire Unitarian Missionary Association	330.00
Scottish Unitarian Association	150.00

### Trusts

Bowland Charitable Trust	153,747.00
Memorial Hall Trustees	1,500.00
Sir CC Grundy Deceased	136.50

### Societies

British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women	50.00
FOY Society	100.00
National Unitarian Fellowship	96.00
Oxford Women's League	5.00
Unitarian Women's Group	50.00
Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies	30.00

**Accounts of  
The General Assembly  
of Unitarian and Free  
Christian Churches**

for the year ended 30 September 2006

Registered Charity No: 250788

**The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

**Trustees' Responsibilities In Relation To The Financial Statements**

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005)" and with applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

We have audited the financial statements of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year ended 30 September 2006, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body in accordance with Regulations made under the Charities Act 1993. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report, and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the affairs of the charity as at 30 September 2006 and of its incoming resources and application of resources in the year then ended and;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Kingsgate  
4610 Cascade Way  
Oxford Business Park South  
OXFORD  
OX4 2SU

EDMUND GIBBS  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Registered Auditors

**The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 30 September 2006**

	Unrestricted Funds (Note 8)	Designated Funds (Note 9)	Restricted Funds (Note 10)	Endowment Funds (Note 11)	Total Funds 2006	Total Funds 2005
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds:</b>						
Voluntary Income	405,028	1,400	31,885	-	438,313	316,889
Activities for Generating Funds	7,926	-	-	-	7,926	45,198
Investment Income	67,238	490	31,552	-	99,280	105,795
<b>Incoming Resources in Furtherance of GA Objects</b>	17,176	0	-	-	17,176	24,046
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>	60,613	985	228	-	61,826	62,118
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>557,981</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>63,665</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>624,521</b>	<b>554,046</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>						
Activities for generating funds	0	2,866	-	-	2,866	2,982
Investment Management Fees	5,536	53	342	1,482	7,413	6,813
<b>Charitable Activities</b>						
Grants	7,412	2,485	49,284	-	59,181	68,350
Programme Activity	194,444	2,769	13,051	-	210,264	199,182
<b>Governance Costs</b>	223,587	-	-	-	223,587	219,743
<b>Other Resources Expended</b>	71,955	-	-	-	71,955	64,906
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>502,934</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>62,677</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>575,266</b>	<b>561,976</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(outgoing) Resources Before Transfers</b>	55,047	(5,298)	988	(1,482)	49,255	(7,931)
<b>Transfers Between Funds</b>	(17,074)	(29,200)	47,474	(1,200)	0	0
<b>Net Incoming/(outgoing) Resources</b>	37,973	(34,498)	48,462	(2,682)	49,255	(7,931)
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>						
Realised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	3,659	35	225	(40)	3,879	-
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	107,123	1,021	13,646	29,494	151,284	243,591
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	148,755	(33,442)	62,333	26,772	204,418	235,660
<b>Funds Balances Brought Forward 1 October 2005</b>	1,531,254	64,006	302,824	553,280	2,451,364	2,215,704
<b>Funds Balances Carried Forward 30 September 2006</b>	<b>1,680,010</b>	<b>30,564</b>	<b>365,157</b>	<b>580,052</b>	<b>2,655,782</b>	<b>2,451,364</b>

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2006

	Note	2006	2005
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets	6	84,250	83,348
Investments	7	<u>2,319,304</u>	<u>2,112,483</u>
		2,403,554	2,195,831
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks		13,741	12,297
Loans	14	2,752	3,000
Debtors	11	134,356	37,614
Short Term Deposits		122,537	192,269
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>15,538</u>	<u>28,215</u>
		288,925	273,395
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>(36,311)</u>	<u>(17,162)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>252,613</u>	<u>256,233</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		2,656,167	2,452,064
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year - deferred income</b>		(385)	(700)
<b>Total Assets Less Liabilities</b>		<u>£2,655,782</u>	<u>£2,451,364</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
General Funds	13	1,680,009	1,531,254
Designated Funds	9,13	30,564	64,006
Restricted Funds	10,13	365,157	302,824
Endowment Funds	12,13	580,052	553,280
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>£2,655,782</u>	<u>£2,451,364</u>

Approved by the General Assembly Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006, and signed on its behalf by:

Martin West Honorary Treasurer

Jeffrey J Teagle, General Secretary

The notes on pages 5 to 12 form part of these accounts.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006

1 **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the financial statements the General Assembly follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP) issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 1993. The comparative figures have been presented on the same basis. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**a. Donations, legacies and gifts**

Donations, legacies and gifts are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the General Assembly becomes entitled to the resource.

**b. Investment income**

Income from investments is accounted for in the period in which the General Assembly becomes entitled to the receipt.

**c. Resources expended**

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis. A detailed analysis of expenditure and allocation between funds is detailed in notes 8 to 11 to the financial statements. Grant expenditure is detailed in note 2 to the financial statements.

**d. Staff salary costs**

Approximately 50% of full time equivalent staff hours are spent on programme work. Accordingly, total salary costs have been split equally between programme support costs and management and administration costs.

**e. Funds accounting**

Funds held by the General Assembly are:

*Unrestricted general funds* – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

*Designated funds* – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

*Restricted funds* – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

*Endowment funds* – permanent and expendable endowment funds are the result of gifts to the charity that are to be invested and the income thereof used for the purposes of the charity either as restricted or unrestricted funds dependant on the wishes of the donor.

Further details relating to each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**f. Fixed asset investments**

Investments are included at closing mid-market value at the Balance Sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Freehold land and property held jointly are not depreciated. The cost of equipment is written-off by equal annual installments over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture	5 years
Computer Equipment	3 years

**h. Stock**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

# The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

## i. Pensions

The General Assembly operates a defined contribution scheme available to all eligible employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Financial Activities represent the contributions payable by the General Assembly in the year.

## 2 Direct Charitable Expenditure – Grants

During the year to 30 September 2006, the General Assembly has made grants to enable the promotion of a free and inquiring religion in the UK and abroad, and for the education of ministers of religion and the relief of poverty. See also note 4 for details of grants made between unrestricted, designated and restricted funds of the General Assembly.

### Grants by Category

Grants to UK Institutions	38,788
Grants to Overseas Institutions	13,608
Benevolent/Welfare Grants	1,485
Educational Grants	5,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,181</b>

	No. of Grants	Total Value
<b>Grants to Individuals</b>		
Benevolent/Welfare Grants	3	1,485
Educational Grants	9	5,300
<b>Total Grants to Individuals</b>		<b>6,785</b>

### UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions

Blackpool	1	250
Oldham	1	500
Macclesfield	1	575
Churches Main Committee	1	200
Inquirer Publishing Company	1	3,000
Speed Trust Grants to Edinburgh and Dundee	16	24,607
One World Week	1	64
Howard League	1	70
Haughland House Trust	1	1,000
Nightingale Centre	1	7,521
Dr Hadwen Trust	1	1,000
<b>Total Grants to UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions</b>		<b>38,787</b>

### Overseas Institutions

Chennai Church India	1	300
Madras Church India	1	328
Indian Council of Unitarian Churches	1	1,422
International Association for Religious Freedom	1	2,000
International Council of Unitarian Universalists	1	1,442
Relief Fund	1	600
Romania	1	4,716
Kharang Rural Centre	1	2,800
<b>Total Grants to Overseas Institutions</b>		<b>13,608</b>

# The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

## 3 Direct Charitable Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure on activities which further the objects of the General Assembly, support costs and the cost of administration are shown in notes 8 to 11, 15 and 16.

## 4 Transfers Between Funds

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds
Arnold Graves Trust Subscription	270			(270)
Central Postal Mission grant to Information Department	323	(323)		
Sunday School Fund Grant to ETC	675			(675)
Lewis Edwards Memorial Fund Grant to Executive Committee	77			(77)
Union for Social Service Fund donation to SR	42	(42)		
James Speed Trust Management Fees	1,200			(1,200)
Youth Officer (Chalice and Millennium Fund)	20,739			(20,739)
Youth Officer Provision to Chalice Fund	(40,000)			40,000
India Fund Transfer to Restricted Fund		(10,120)		10,120
India Fund Grant	(400)			400
DSC Building Advisory Panel transfer to Millennium Fund			(18,715)	18,715
<b>Total Transfers Between Funds</b>	<b>(17,074)</b>	<b>(29,200)</b>	<b>47,474</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>

## 5. Intangible Income

General Assembly receives accommodation and services free of charge from Essex Hall Trustees to an estimated value of £50,000 per annum, which would have to be paid for if not provided free. (See also note 8)

## 6. Fixed Tangible Assets

	Leasehold Properties held jointly	Freehold Land and Ground Rent	Equipment	Totals
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 October 2005	55,302	21,350	48,720	125,372
Additions	—	—	8,017	8,017
At 30 September 2006	55,302	21,350	56,737	133,389
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 October 2005	—	—	42,025	42,025
Charge for year	—	—	7,114	7,114
At 30 September 2006	—	—	49,139	49,139
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
30 September 2006	£55,302	£21,350	£7,598	£84,250
30 September 2005	£55,302	£21,350	£6,696	£83,348

## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

### 7. Fixed Asset Investments

	2006	2005
<b>Quoted Investments</b>		
Market Value at 1 October 2005	2,112,483	1,868,892
Less: Sale Proceeds	(296,916)	-
Add: Acquisitions at Cost	348,574	-
Net Gains on Disposals	3,879	-
Net Gains on Revaluation	151,284	243,591
<b>Market Value at 30 September 2006</b>	<b>£2,319,304</b>	<b>£2,112,483</b>
<b>Historical Cost as at 30 September 2006</b>	<b>£1,763,491</b>	<b>£1,683,168</b>

### Consolidated Investment Portfolio

	Qty	Book Cost	Market Value at 1 Oct 2005 or cost of addition	Unrealised Gain/(Loss)	Market Value at 30 Sept 2006
5% Treasury Stock 2012	18,150	18,675	18,970	(477)	18,493
5% Treasury Stock 2014	25,600	28,048	27,020	(638)	26,382
8% Treasury Stock 2009	20,075	20,035	22,840	(992)	21,848
Bradford & Bingley 11 5/8% Perp					
Subord Bonds	10,000	16,971	19,451	527	19,978
Bradford & Bingley 13% Perp					
Subord Bonds	50,000	85,272	107,289	2,749	110,038
Bristol & West 13.375% Unscrd					
Pep Sub Bds	70,000	115,618	146,134	14,365	160,499
Charishare Inc	90,148	274,500	370,102	37,907	408,009
Halifax 8.75% Perp Subord Bds	100,000	115,321	132,984	(1,015)	131,969
M&G Charifund Units	29,857	304,814	400,500	51,586	452,086
Newton Fund Managers (CI) Ltd					
Offshore Styg Fund	108,000	108,495	107,881	(2,970)	104,911
Newton Fund Managers Global					
Growth & Income Charity	129,425	108,678	156,693	12,246	168,939
Newton Fund Managers Higher					
Income Fund (Sterling)	499,355	226,299	317,390	29,612	347,002
Newton Fund Managers Global					
Higher Income Fund	69,408	79,492	79,492	(3,275)	76,217
City of London Investment Trust	57,914	161,775	161,775	3,569	165,344
Ing UK Real Estate	15,500	15,500	15,500	3,488	18,988
Charities Property Fund	64,646	83,999	83,999	4,602	88,601
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>1,763,492</b>	<b>2,168,020</b>	<b>151,284</b>	<b>2,319,304</b>

## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

8 Unrestricted Funds	Incoming Resources	Fund Transfers	Total 2006	Total 2005
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Incoming Resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary Income				
Legacies	29,680		29,680	23,026
Subscriptions / Assoc Membership	21,921		21,921	19,442
Congregational Contributions				
Quotas	78,844		78,844	79,050
Anniversary Service Collection	3,943		3,943	3,793
Community Appeal	12,681		12,681	0
British & Foreign Unitarian Assoc.	28,063		28,063	23,800
Essex Hall Trustees	15,000		15,000	32,500
Essex Hall Trustees (in kind)	50,000		50,000	50,000
Inquirer Management Fee	2,500		2,500	2,500
Speed Trust Management Fees	0	1,200	1,200	1,166
Other Donations				
Bowland Trust	153,747		153,747	30,000
Individuals and Districts	3,685		3,685	1,761
Information Panel	741		741	255
OCC Programmes	92		92	0
Social Responsibility Panel	0		0	559
Education & Training				
Commission	0		0	15
D S C Commission	0		0	775
Youth Panel	2,160		2,160	0
Annual Meeting	1,971		1,971	0
Youth Officer	0	(19,261)	(19,261)	28,010
	<b>405,028</b>	<b>(18,061)</b>	<b>386,967</b>	<b>296,652</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>				
Sales of Goods				
Information Panel	7,926		7,926	5,214
Publications panel	0		0	2,297
ETC Commission	0		0	788
Year Book	0		0	399
	<b>7,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,926</b>	<b>8,698</b>
Investment Income				
Dividends and Interest	63,174	1,387	64,561	78,558
Loan repayments	3,038		3,038	2,986
Rental Income	1,026		1,026	22
	<b>67,238</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>68,625</b>	<b>81,566</b>
<b>Furtherance of GA Objects</b>				
Payroll Calculation Service	2,300		2,300	2,365
Third Party Insurance	0		0	2,352
Youth Conferences				
Run by ETC	9,395		9,395	9,994
Run by DSC	5,481		5,481	6,671
	<b>17,176</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,176</b>	<b>21,382</b>
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>				
GA Annual Meetings	59,816		59,816	58,352
Future Vision	0		0	2,910
Travel Pool	797		797	850
	<b>60,613</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60,613</b>	<b>62,112</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>557,981</b>	<b>(16,674)</b>	<b>541,307</b>	<b>470,410</b>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>502,934</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>503,334</b>	<b>471,445</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources</b>	<b>55,047</b>	<b>(17,074)</b>	<b>37,973</b>	<b>(1,035)</b>

## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

8. Unrestricted Funds (continued)	Charitable Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Total 2006	Total 2005
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Investment Management Fees	5,536		5,536	5,417
	<b>5,536</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,536</b>	<b>5,417</b>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Grants				
Executive Committee	4,342	400	4,742	5,392
Welsh Committee	0		0	1,862
Ministry Commission	0		0	50
Penal affairs Panel	70		70	70
Interfaith panel	0		0	65
Social Responsibility Panel	0		0	297
Inquirer	3,000		3,000	2,988
Legal fees	0		0	1,000
	<b>7,412</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>7,812</b>	<b>11,724</b>
<b>Programme Activities</b>				
General Assembly Council	2,035		2,035	2,552
Executive Committee	8,393		8,393	1,938
Executive Committee Programmes	10,000		10,000	0
ETC Educational Programmes	11,419		11,419	10,817
ETC Panels	550		550	373
DSC Programmes	8,451		8,451	11,933
DSC Panels	6,358		6,358	2,490
MC Programmes	2,279		2,279	3,658
MC Interview Panel	1,903		1,903	2,100
OCC Programmes	17,589		17,589	1,589
OCC Panels	9,099		9,099	18,193
Future Vision	0		0	2,910
Staff Salaries due to programme work	116,368		116,368	115,286
	<b>194,444</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>194,444</b>	<b>173,839</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
General Administration				
Salaries, Pensions etc	116,368		116,368	114,248
Ex Gratia	7,000		7,000	3,000
Officers Travel and Expenses	2,246		2,246	3,187
Office Expenses	33,146		33,146	33,499
Staff Training	0		0	423
Audit and Accountancy Fees	6,240		6,240	5,175
Legal Fees	4,622		4,622	1,560
Accommodation	50,000		50,000	50,000
Insurance	3,965		3,965	4,324
Ministers house repairs	0		0	98
	<b>223,587</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>223,587</b>	<b>215,514</b>
<b>Other Resources Expended</b>				
GA Annual Meetings	61,786		61,786	58,845
GA Extraordinary Meeting	3,246		3,246	0
Irrecoverable VAT	6,923		6,923	6,106
	<b>71,955</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71,955</b>	<b>64,951</b>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>502,934</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>503,334</b>	<b>471,445</b>

## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

9 Designated Funds	Balance at 1-Oct-05	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Funds Transfers	Investment gains	Balance at 30-Sep-06
Animal Welfare (Capital)	3,566	0	0	0	269	3,835
Animal Welfare (Income)	1,333	125	1014	0	0	444
Benevolent Fund	1,830	0	1,485	0	0	345
Buildings Advisory Panel	18,715	0	0	(18,715)	0	0
Central Postal Mission	9,242	323	35	(323)	697	9,904
Future Vision	6,389	0	2,866	0	0	3,523
India Fund	10,120	0	0	(10,120)	0	0
HW Fairey (Spec Bequest)	2,123	934	934	0	0	2,123
SOEG Designated Fund	3,405	0	178	0	0	3,227
SR Counterpoint Fund	1,137	1,451	1,530	0	0	1,058
SR Designated Fund	4,961	0	127	0	0	4,834
Union for Social Service	1,187	42	5	(42)	90	1,272
	<b>64,006</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>(29,200)</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>30,564</b>
<b>10 Restricted Funds</b>						
	Balance at 1-Oct-05	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Funds Transfers	Investment Gains	Balance 30-Sep-06
Development	1,015	115	482	0	0	648
Chalice	39,368	10,743	4,672	29,261	0	74,700
Lewis Edwards Mem	2,198	77	9	(77)	166	2,355
Arnold Graves	7,707	270	29	(270)	581	8,259
India Fund	2,770	1,970	4,996	10,520	764	11,028
Kharang Rural Centre	3,124	109	12	0	236	3,457
James Speed Income	12,791	23,284	24,607	0	0	11,468
Lay Pastors	22,024	0	0	0	0	22,024
Millennium Fund	123,783	5,267	9,846	8,715	7,063	134,982
Ministerial Students	10,474	16,000	5,200	0	0	21,274
OMHB	43,789	0	0	0	3,304	47,093
OMHB Income	873	1,533	1,913	0	0	493
One World Week	65	175	65	0	0	175
Prague Flood Relief	89	0	89	0	0	0
Presidents Chain	(1)	0	0	0	0	(1)
EU Romania	3,200	3,307	4,716	0	0	1,791
M Humphreys Winder	4,000	0	0	0	302	4,302
M H W- Income	686	140	15	0	0	811
Sunday School Fund	19,278	675	73	(675)	1,455	20,660
Task Force	5,591	0	5,953	0	0	(362)
	<b>302,824</b>	<b>63,665</b>	<b>62,677</b>	<b>47,474</b>	<b>13,871</b>	<b>365,157</b>

### 11 Sundry Debtors

Included in Sundry Debtors is an amount of £76,915, being the balance of the Grant from the Bowland Charitable Trust due on receipt by the trustees of a certificate from the Auditors following the finalization of the General Assembly audit.

# The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

## Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2006 (continued)

### 12 Endowment Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2005	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Funds Transfers	Investment Gains	Balance 30 Sept 2006
James Speed Trust	539,973	—	1,481	(1,200)	28,866	566,158
Millennium Endowment Fund	13,307	—	1	—	588	13,894
	<u>£553,280</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>£1,482</u>	<u>£(1,200)</u>	<u>£29,454</u>	<u>£580,052</u>

### 13 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Other Assets	Total
Endowment Funds	—	628,885	(48,833)	580,052
Restricted Funds	—	45,851	319,306	365,157
Designated Funds	—	20,232	10,332	30,564
Other Charitable Funds	84,250	1,624,336	(28,577)	1,680,009
	<u>£84,250</u>	<u>£2,319,304</u>	<u>£252,228</u>	<u>2,655,782</u>

### 14. Loans

A balance of £2,752 remains of a travel loan made in the year to one member of staff (2005 £3000).

### 15. Staff Costs and Trustees Remuneration

	2006	2005
Wages and Salaries	200,815	197,689
Social Security Costs	20,392	20,147
Pension Costs	11,529	11,699
Ex-gratia payments	7,000	3,000
	<u>£239,736</u>	<u>£232,535</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum (2005: £nil).

The average number of employees, (FTE), was 7 (2005: 9).

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2005: £nil).

Travel and subsistence expenses totaling £3,730 were reimbursed to 18 trustees (2005: 17 trustees totaling £1,228).

### 16. Pensions

The General Assembly operates a defined contribution scheme available to all eligible employees other than Ministers. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. The ministers who work part-time for the General Assembly are members of the Ministers Pension Fund, which is a final Salary Scheme.

The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the funds and amounted to £11,529 (2005 £11,699). The amount due for payment at the year-end was £NIL (2005: £1,548).

The Unitarian Convalescent and  
Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Trading As  
The Nightingale Centre

Financial Statements

For The Year ended  
30th September 2006

## The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

### **Trustees Responsibilities for Preparing the Financial Statements**

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005)" and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the Assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Reserves Policy and Risk Management**

The Trustees have examined the major strategies, business and operational risks which the Charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to approximately one year's unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs and to respond to emergency maintenance costs which arise from time to time. Unrestricted funds were maintained at this level throughout the year together with sufficient funds to cover the cost of the building development.

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

We have audited the financial statements of the Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow for the year ended 30 September 2006, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulations made under the Charities Act 1993. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees' are responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

### Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2006 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, in the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Kingsgate  
4610 Cascade Way  
Oxford Business Park South  
OXFORD  
OX4 2SU

EDMUND GIBBS  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Registered Auditors

**The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended**  
**30th September 2006**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2006	Total Funds 2005
<b><u>Income and expenditure</u></b>				
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>				
Charges	171,028		171,028	163,545
Rents Receivable	15,693		15,693	14,913
Donations	13,334		13,334	12,224
Investment Income	5,411		5,411	10,617
Grants	559		559	415
Other Income	1,797		1,797	3,459
<b><u>Total Incoming Resources</u></b>	<u>207,822</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>207,822</u>	<u>205,173</u>
<b><u>Resources expended</u></b>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure	172,879		172,879	147,528
Management and Administration of the charity	31,686		31,686	29,451
Fundraising and Publicity	182		182	0
<b><u>Total Resources Expended</u></b>	<u>204,747</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>204,747</u>	<u>176,978</u>
<b><u>Net Incoming Resources</u></b>				
<b><u>For The Year</u></b>	3,075	0	3,075	28,195
Realised Gains on Sales of Investments	58	0	58	0
Unrealised (Losses)/Gains on Investments	480	0	480	642
Charity Donation	0	0	0	20,000
MDA Building Grant	0	0	0	50,000
Millennium Fund grant		6,934	6,934	0
Womens League Bed Appeal		7,300	7,300	0
<b><u>Net Movement in Funds</u></b>	<u>3,613</u>	<u>14,234</u>	<u>17,847</u>	<u>98,837</u>
Fund Balances brought forward at 1st October 2005	470,778	1,481,647	1,952,425	1,853,588
Fund Balances carried forward at 30th September 2006	<u>474,391</u>	<u>1,495,881</u>	<u>1,970,272</u>	<u>1,952,425</u>

**The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow**

**Balance Sheet at 30th September 2006**

2005 £		£	£
	<b>Capital Account - Designated Funds</b>		
1,411,647	Buildings at Valuation	1,411,647	
0	Millennium Fund Grant	6,934	
0	Womens League Bed Appeal	7,300	
20,000	Charity Donation	20,000	
50,000	MDA Building Grant	50,000	
11,007			
2,714			
1,819			
7,535			
3,528			
740			
205,323			
1,714,313		<u>1,495,881</u>	
(232,666)	Transfers to General Account- Unrestricted	0	
1,481,647			1,495,881
	<b>General Account - Unrestricted Funds</b>		
209,275	Balance at 1st October 2005	470,778	
232,666	Transfers from Designated Funds	0	
28,837	Surplus for the Year	3,613	
470,778			474,391
<u>1,952,425</u>			<u>1,970,272</u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Balance Sheet at 30th September 2006 (Continued)

2005					
£		£	£	£	£
	<b>Represented by:-</b>				
	<b>Fixed Assets (Notes 3 &amp; 4)</b>	<b>Balance b/f</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Depre/n</b>	<b>Balance c/f</b>
1,411,647	Buildings	1,411,647			1,411,647
222,037	Building Improvements	222,037	258,625	(10,575)	470,087
1,633,684		1,633,684	258,625	(10,575)	1,881,734
25,003	Furniture and Equipment	25,003	15,737	(5,907)	34,833
1,658,688		1,658,687	274,362	(16,482)	1,916,567
3,520	Investment (Note 5)				3,211
4,659	Stock				7,195
11,728	Debtors and Prepaid Expenditure				2,385
625	Bank Deposit Account				115
304,267	Bank Current Account ( Interest Bearing)				77,475
195	Cash in Hand				158
305,087					77,748
1,983,681					2,007,106
(31,258)	Less:- Creditors				(36,836)
1,952,423					1,970,270

Approved by the Executive Committee of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Church on 27th October 2006

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended  
30th September 2006

2005			
£		£	£
159,304	Charges to Residents (Including self-catering)	167,071	
4,241	Charges to Day Visitors	3,957	
163,545			171,028
590	Shop Profit	267	
642	Rents	1,593	
2,869	Other Income	1,530	
4,101			3,390
811	Grants for Countryside Stewardship		559
13,875	Rents Receivable - Barleycrofts Property		14,100
182,332	<b>Trading Income</b>		189,077
91,184	Salaries, Wages, Pension and NIC		106,880
911	Staff Travelling		1,163
13,625	Repairs and Maintenance		13,825
9,699	Heat, Light, Power and Water Rates		11,094
27,562	Food Consumption		32,156
3,462	Non Food Supplies		4,880
5,786	Laundry		5,529
5,617	Insurance		5,332
1,115	Telephones		1,257
2,391	Printing and Stationery		2,134
65	Advertising		182
201	Postages		343
2,322	Committee Expenses		2,132
775	Audit Fee		800
639	Sundries		558
(10,617)	Interest Receivable		(5,411)
11,625	Depreciation		16,482
166,361	<b>Trading Expenditure</b>		199,336
15,971	<b>Trading Profit/(Loss) carried forward</b>		(10,259)

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended  
30th September 2006 (Continued)

<u>2005</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
15,971	<b>Trading Profit/(Loss) brought forward</b>		(10,259)
	<b><u>Donations</u></b>		
6,633	Friends of Hucklow	7,559	
3,200	Money raised at the Open day	3,159	
900	Memorial Hall Trustees	1,000	
500	East Cheshire Union	500	
500	Legacy Dorothy Sanderson	0	
0	Legacy Beverley Littlepage	500	
200	Manchester District Association	200	
100	Midland Union	100	
66	Sir C C Grundy Trust	66	
75	L.D.P.A.	100	
0	Scottish Unitarians	0	
50	Provincial Assembly	150	
12,224		<u>13,334</u>	
642	Unrealised Profits on Investments		480
0	Realised Profit on sale of Investments		58
<u>28,837</u>	<b>Net Surplus for the Year carried to the Balance Sheet</b>		<u>3,613</u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Notes to the Financial Statements - 30th September 2006

- 1 The Land and Buildings comprised in the Charities called The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre are vested in the British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated) as Custodian Trustee. The Convalescent and Holiday Centre was valued at 30th September 1999 for insurance purposes at £1,265,000 and the Barleycroft Building was valued at 30th September 1999 for insurance purposes at £400,000. For the purpose of capitalising the Land and Buildings the value of the Net Building Improvements amounting to £253,353 at 30th September 1999 has been deducted from the valuation to arrive at a net valuation of the Land and Buildings of £1,411,647. In addition the next phase of development costing £258,625 should be added to this figure to give a total value of £1,670,272. It is intended to have a further insurance valuation in the new year.
- 2 Income received from Appeal funds is not reflected within the Income and Expenditure Account but taken directly to the Fund to which it relates .  
When Appeal Funds are closed they are transferred to the Capital Account.
- 3 **Accounting Policy**  
  
Building improvement works are capitalised.
- 4 **Depreciation Policy**  
  
Maximum forty years for building improvements and twenty five years for furniture and equipment.  
Freehold Property is not depreciated as, in the opinion of the Committee, the property is not worth less than its book value and, therefore, any depreciation would be immaterial.
- 5 **Investments**

<u>Charifund Accumulation Units</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Market Value 1st October 2005	2,731	2,200
Net unrealised investment gains	<u>480</u>	<u>531</u>
Market Value 30th September 2006	<u>3,211</u>	<u>2,731</u>
Historical Cost as at 30th September 2005	<u>684</u>	<u>684</u>

<u>COIF Charities Investment Fund Units</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Market Value at 30th June 2005	789	678
Sale realised	(847)	0
Realised investment gain	58	
Net unrealised investment gain		<u>111</u>
Market Value at 30th September 2006	<u>0</u>	<u>789</u>
Historical Cost at 30th September 2006	<u>0</u>	<u>740</u>

**The Sustentation Fund**  
**for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends**  
**Registered Charity No.235449**  
Founded 1883

# Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30th SEPTEMBER, 2006

## Committee of Trustees

Officers of the General Assembly (Ex Officio)  
David Dawson, President  
Celia Midgley, Vice President  
Jeffrey Teagle, General Secretary

Trustees appointed by the General Assembly:

Patricia Birtles  
Stephen Dick  
Geoffrey Head  
Alan Ruston

Michael Tomlin, Chair of the Committee

Officers of the Fund appointed by the Committee

Eileen Wield, Honorary Secretary

66, Thelton Avenue, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3LT

Martin West, Honorary Treasurer

The Chaplain's House, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6LR

## Custodian Trustee

The British & Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated)  
Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY

## Auditors

Edmund Gibbs

Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors

Kingsgate, 4610 Cascade Way, Oxford Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2SU

## Bankers

Bank of Scotland, 55 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5LS

## Investment Managers

Mellon Fund Managers Ltd., 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR

## Report of the Trustees

### 1. Objects of the Fund

The objects of the Fund shall be to aid in the maintenance of faithful and efficient Ministers serving congregations affiliated to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

### 2. The Committee

The Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on a triennial basis, to manage the trust as a Departmental Committee of the General Assembly. The Custodian Trustee is the British & Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

### 3. Administration of Grants

Application forms for grants are available from the Secretary via the District Associations. The Trustees meet in June or July each year to consider applications for grants for the year commencing the first of October following. The grants are then paid in quarterly instalments.

### 4. Meetings

The Trustees met once during the year on 12th July 2006. The Officers administering the grants maintained a close liaison amongst themselves throughout the year.

### 5. Annual Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 2006, showed an operating surplus of £28,665 (2005:£5,164). After a net investment loss from disposals of £43 (2005:Profit £60) and a year end market revaluation gain of £25,143 (2005:£39,560), there was an overall surplus of £52,624 (2005:£43,793) for the year.

### 6. Investments

Mellon Fund Managers Ltd, previously known as Newton Investment Management Ltd, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR, continued as Investment Managers. The investments are held in the name of the Custodian Company of the Bank of New York, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5AL, on behalf of the Trustees, and may be held outside the United Kingdom.

The Trustees wish to pursue an investment policy which provides revenue for their current purposes and enhances income and capital growth over the longer term, thereby enabling them to meet their current and future objectives in accordance with the purposes of the fund.

### 7. Grants

Applications for grant-aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 22 Ministries. Of these 22 applications, 1 was refused because the congregations had large reserves that were not being used. Of the 21 awards made, 4 ceased during the year due to the Ministers moving elsewhere, retiring or dying.

### 8 Donations

We are enormously grateful for the support of the providers of donations to the Fund. This year, in addition to the support of a number of individuals-£1,539, the Midland Union - £500 and the Memorial Hall Trustees - £1,200, we received a donation of £25,000 from the Flagg Chapel Trustees. The total donations we received this year amounted to £28,239 (L.Y.£2,401).

12th October 2006

Michael Tomlin  
Chair

**SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449**

**Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of the Sustentation Fund**

We have audited the financial statements of the Sustentation Fund for the year ended 30 September 2006, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulations made under the Charities Act 1993. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors**

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees' are responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

**Basis of audit opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

**Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2006 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, in the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Kingsgate  
4610 Cascade Way  
Oxford Business Park South  
OXFORD  
OX4 2SU

Edmund Gibbs  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Registered Auditors

**SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449**

**BALANCE SHEET at 30th September 2006**

2005	ASSETS	£	2006
£			£
373,282	Investments at Market Valuation Cost as at 30th Sept.2006:£341,920 (30th Sept.2005:£318,567)		420,674
14,019	Cash at Bank	17,471	
974	Investment Managers Client A/c	2,575	
14,993			20,046
6	Income Tax Recoverable	6	
1,481	Dividends Received after Year End	1,651	
1,487			1,656
389,762			442,376
659	<b>Less LIABILITIES</b>		650
	Sundry Creditors		441,726
<u>389,103</u>			<u>441,726</u>
	<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
	Sustentation Fund		
345,311	Balance as at Start of Year	389,102	
43,792	Increase in the Value of the Fund	52,624	
<u>389,103</u>	Balance as at End of Year		<u>441,726</u>

Note 1 The Trustees of the Sustentation Fund are The British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporated whose Registered Office is at Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY. The Fund is managed on behalf of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporated by a Committee appointed by the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches at the same address, for the purpose of making grants to assist member congregations of the General Assembly to meet the cost of employing their Ministers.

Note 2 For greater ease of reading, the figures in these Accounts are shown in round pounds. In places, this may suggest that they do not "add-up". This is due solely to the rounding. There are no discrepancies in the Books of Account.

**Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements**

The Charities Act 1993 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005)" and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
4. Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

M.J.Tomlin  
Chair

M.West  
Hon.Treasurer

**SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

for the year ended 30th September 2006

2005 £	TOTAL RESOURCES ARISING IN THE YEAR	2006 £
17,260	Bank Interest & Income from Investments (Gross)	18,440
2,401	Donations	28,239
<u>19,661</u>		<u>46,679</u>
	<b>Less EXPENDITURE</b>	
12,708	Grants	16,225
	Administration Expenses	
500	Secretarial Honorarium	500
500	Treasurer's Honorarium	500
455	Travelling Expenses	384
23	Printing & Stationery	19
43	Telephone & Postage	6
268	Audit Fee	379
<u>1,789</u>		<u>1,789</u>
14,497		18,014
<u>5,164</u>	<b>REVENUE SURPLUS</b>	<u>28,665</u>
	<b>INVESTMENT DISPOSALS &amp; REVALUATION</b>	
60	Net Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Investments	(43)
39,560	Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investments	25,143
(991)	Investment Management Fees	(1,142)
<u>38,629</u>		<u>23,959</u>
<u>43,793</u>	<b>TOTAL INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF THE FUND</b>	<u>52,624</u>

**SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449**

**INVESTMENTS**

**Investments at 30th September 2006**

	2005		2006	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Interest Securities				
UK Government	66,394	66,386	46,067	43,870
Quoted Equities UK	252,173	306,896	295,853	376,804
	<u>318,567</u>	<u>373,282</u>	<u>341,920</u>	<u>420,674</u>

**Movement in Investments**

	Market Value	
	2005	2006
	£	£
Investments held at beginning of year	333,722	373,282
Investments purchased during year	0	43,900
Investments sold during year	0	(21,651)
	<u>333,722</u>	<u>395,531</u>
Net increase in market value	39,560	25,143
Market value of investments held at end of year	<u>373,282</u>	<u>420,674</u>

**Schedule of investments held at 30th September 2006**

	Cost	Market Value
	£	£
Fixed Interest Securities UK Government		
21,400 Treasury 5% 2012	23,035	21,810
21,400 Treasury 5% 2014	23,032	22,060
	<u>46,067</u>	<u>43,870</u>
Equities and Unit Trusts		
108,720.04 Newton Offshore Fund	107,168	105,611
114,155.91 Newton Higher Income	51,984	79,327
11,393.00 M & G Charifund	118,801	172,509
2,800.00 Ing UK Real Estate	2,800	3,430
11,621.00 Charities Property Fund	15,100	15,927
	<u>295,853</u>	<u>376,804</u>
<b>Total at 30th September 2006</b>	<u>341,920</u>	<u>420,674</u>