

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1068103

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01562723
Registered	1998-02-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Somerset House St. Pauls Street Morley Leeds LS27 9EP
Phone	01132898490
Email	office@urcyorkshire.org.uk
Website	www.urcyorkshire.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION AND PROPAGATE THE GOSPEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINES PRINCIPLES AND USAGES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WITH PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE YORKSHIRE PROVINCE OF THAT CHURCH

Activities: The Association exists to support the United Reformed Churches of the Yorkshire Synod in their search to obey the will of Christ in their witness to the world. The main objective of the Association is to provide resources, funded by the Association's assets, to enable the churches to do this.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£926,953	£968,861	£10,664,576	12
2023-12-31	£1,318,091	£1,201,707	£10,475,641	11
2022-12-31	£1,809,027	£916,410	£10,228,564	10
2021-12-31	£1,619,726	£1,121,619	£10,138,748	11
2020-12-31	£692,212	£884,523	£9,214,231	11

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gordon Justham		2024-05-21
JUSTIN MARK CHARLESWORTH		2015-05-20
Rev Alison Micklem		2025-05-20
Rev Jamie Klssack		2020-09-15
Rev Simon Keith Copley		2020-01-01

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1068103

Accounts

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE)
TRUST LIMITED**

Charity registered no: 1068103

Company registered no: 1562723

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

This report fulfils the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 for a Trustees' Annual Report, and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 for a Directors' Report.

Objectives and Activities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited ('the Charity') is established to advance the Christian religion and propagate the Gospel in accordance with the doctrines, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church with particular responsibility for the Yorkshire Synod of that Church.

The Charity exists to support the United Reformed Churches of the Yorkshire Synod in their search to obey the will of Christ in their witness to the world. The main objective of the Charity is to provide resources, funded by the Charity's assets, to enable the churches to do this.

Currently, the main strategy of the Charity is to maximise income through the Executive Council, in partnership with the Investment Sub Committee; and to apply the resources so generated in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire and in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000.

Significant activities

Encouraging churches to undertake mission activity relevant to their variety of contexts.

Provision of information, advice, support and encouragement to churches covering...

- Property maintenance and development
- Legal and compliance issues
- Terms of settlement for existing and new Ministers
- Accounting requirements
- Management of the Mission and Ministry Scheme

Administering the investments and property of the churches.

Advising and assisting with establishing, grouping, amalgamating or dissolution of local churches within the United Reformed Church and with other denominations.

Developing a strategy for the deployment of ordained ministry within the Synod and assisting churches during times of vacancy.

Providing training and resources for the enabling of;

- Both lay and ordained Ministers
- Adults and young people
- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Grant making and other financial support for church buildings and mission projects.

Management and maintenance of investments and properties held for the use of the Charity.

Public Benefit

The Charity has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives and Activities (continued)

The Charity proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with its long established moral framework, and strives to develop spirituality and spiritual well-being through relationship with the God of the Bible.

This benefit is available to all communities who are within reach of one or more of our 79 churches which are situated across Yorkshire. Further details are to be found throughout the remainder of this report.

Grants Policy

The objects of the Charity dictate that grants can only be made to United Reformed Churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships, which are part of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Normally, the only individuals who can receive a grant are retired Ministers or their widow(er)s and these Welfare grants are awarded in response to applications made to the Welfare Committee each year. Applicants must be resident within the Yorkshire Synod.

United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire may apply for assistance from the following funds:

Church Extension Fund	interest free loans for church building projects
Closed Churches Fund	for 25% of the cost of church survey reports (50% from 1 January 2025) Vision and Opportunity grants for churches requiring building renovation that will enable them to engage in mission Vision and Opportunity grants for training, evangelical and pastoral projects Mission Capacity Fund grants for costs/initiatives that release Church Members from administrative/legal/back-office tasks so that they can engage in core pastoral/mission tasks
Synod Mission Fund	for Mission projects. These are assessed in line with the five "missional threads", developed and adopted by Synod in 2022

Synod Mission Fund and Mission Capacity Fund grant applications are considered by the Mission Fund Panel, which meets four times a year. The Panel consists of the Synod Clerk, Synod Evangelist, and Conveners of the Synod Pastoral, Ministries, Property and Financial Resources Committees.

Vision and Opportunity grants for churches facing building challenges are considered by the Synod Property Committee.

Vision and Opportunity grants for training, evangelical and pastoral projects are considered by the relevant Synod Officers responsible for the respective areas of work covered by the applications.

From time to time other funds may be made available to support churches with the approval of the Synod.

Applications for interest free loans will be considered by the Synod Financial Resources Committee.

All grants are accounted for once a decision has been reached and the church notified, and if applicable has accepted the terms of the grant. Grants will be held for a maximum of three years, any delay longer than this will require a fresh application.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

The Charity has maximised its income, subject to compliance with its ethical investment policy, and applied its resources in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the Church and has employed staff to carry out the activities shown on page 1.

Synod

In May 2024, the Synod held a 24 hour residential gathering at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, to which were invited, members of Synod Council, some staff members and other people who hold Synod offices. Through a facilitated discussion, areas of Synod life were identified, where it was felt things could be done differently. A list of some 12 work streams were formulated, all of which are being pursued and some of which have already come to fruition.

To take 3 examples:

1. A commitment to doing some work on whether the Yorkshire Synod would benefit from more paid roles (employed or deployed) on the staff team. Unlike the majority of Synods, the Yorkshire Synod is currently running without anyone in a TDO (Training and Development) role and also without a mission advocate or similar (though there is a half time Synod evangelist). It is hoped is that during the next 12 months a view will be ascertained, as to which (if any) roles would benefit the Synod, and take the steps to recruit or call to these posts. The intention is to create roles that will provide the support local churches need to be effective in mission.
2. A group was set up to 'map' the Synod, looking at compliance and church health. The group includes the Moderator, Lead Safeguarding Office, Youth and Children's work Practitioner, Pastoral Convener, Property Convener and Ministries Convener. This group intends to meet twice a year (it has met twice so far) and goes through each local church in the Synod one by one, identifying any concerns or indications that additional support might be needed. We feel that this group is proving really useful in our oversight of the churches, and in early identification of issues.
3. A group was set up to produce an Ecumenical strategy – now agreed by Synod. This has strengthened the work in supporting Local Ecumenical Partnerships, (LEPs) which can often feel neglected, or torn between different denominational requirements. The Synod Moderator has been working with the Methodist Yorkshire West District Mission Enabler to review two LEPs and they have developed a good model to offer where it is needed.

During 2024 the Synod has been blessed with three new ministers, all EM2 (i.e. new to ministry). There has been the exploration of a collaboration with Northern Synod in support of our EM2 co-hort to ensure they get the best start in ministry.

There is much talk within the URC about 'Pioneering'. Such ministries are intrinsically risky, and careful consideration is being given to how they could be initiated and supported. At the end of 2024, 10 members of the Synod attended a denomination-wide Church Life Review event. Discussions are beginning as to how the Synod might engage with this subject.

Elders

2024 has been a busy year in the area of Elder's training and development. There have been the usual two conferences, one a full day event and one a 24 hour residential session.

In May, a one day conference was held with the title Making Disciples, led by Andrew Roberts (author of Holy Habits) and Linda Rayner, URC coordinator for fresh expressions. 33 elders and church members shared stories of initiatives which have been fruitful and some of which were not, examining what could be learned from their experiences. There was also time to consider how to be bearers of good news and people of hope and how to make God known in difficult times and situations.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

In September, 30 elders and church members travelled to Wydale Hall for a 24 hour conference led by Jon Steel and Jason McCullagh to explore how to move forward in mission through delivering pastoral care. In keeping with the changing role of elders and an understanding that they are coming under greater pressure, this 24 hours included space for private prayer and meditation. An opportunity to recharge batteries and prepare to lead the churches in this changing world.

In addition to these two events and in answer to requests for training which will assist in equipping elders for their changing role, half day sessions have been devised on Presiding at the Sacraments – specifically Holy Communion, conducting funerals and Governance. In these sessions, some reflections are offered on the theological context as well as the practicalities involved.

Also offered, was on-line governance training, with a total of 62 people registering for two sessions. When topics are covered such as Presidency and conducting funerals, the training is carried out at the church requested it and during the year, four such sessions have run, with a total attendance of approximately 35.

Looking forward to 2025, there is a spring conference booked and a Presidency session taking place in February.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding provision (which Yorkshire Synod shares jointly with the neighbouring URC Northern Synod) continue to ensure the Synod's safeguarding responsibilities are met. The safeguarding policy is adopted in line with the national United Reformed Church general purposes document and an updated edition of this was produced during 2023 (GP6). The Synod safeguarding policy was approved at the March 2024 Synod meeting. The safeguarding team have also been extremely supportive in areas on the edge of safeguarding, where the Synod has needed to support local churches in times of crisis and in relationship break-down.

Two safeguarding concerns have been raised during 2024. The first concerned an incident at a particular church and this was reported to the Charity Commission as a Serious Incident. The issues have been addressed by the Synod Safeguarding Officer, working with Synod and the church concerned. The Trustees are satisfied that they have been dealt with satisfactorily. The second concerned the actions of an officer of a particular church who has been suspended pending further investigations by the Synod Safeguarding Officer. These investigations are ongoing.

Ministers Pension Fund

In 2021, an aspirational offer of £1.675 million was made to The United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (the URCTL) from the Yorkshire Synod, because the URCTL had asked each Synod to make a contribution to alleviate the substantial £45 million deficit on the two URC Pension schemes, over a 10 year period between 2021 and 2030. The amount offered was based upon the forecast of contributions payable from the proceeds of the sale of closed church buildings, other Synod funds and voluntary payments from churches. In order to assist with the challenge of raising funds for the pension schemes, it was agreed at the 2021 Synod meetings, that proceeds of sales from church closures, church amalgamation, local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy. During the latter part of 2024 the URCTL announced that no further contributions were required as the deficit had been cleared. Overall, the Yorkshire Synod contributed £550,000 to the scheme, with the last donation being in December 2023.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

Grants

The Synod Mission Fund continued to help churches establish creative and innovative missionary projects throughout the year. In 2024, the fund approved 10 awards totalling £179,933, and rescinded a grant of £60,000 approved in earlier years. The grants range from multi-year funding of a Community Worker to equipment, such as notice boards and audio systems.

The Vision and Opportunity Initiative continues to offer grants to churches to develop property for mission purposes and evangelistic, training and pastoral related grants. Mission Capacity grants are also available, which release church members from back office tasks to engage in mission. In 2024, 12 awards were approved totalling £138,821 and 1 withdrawal of £809 approved in an earlier year.

A grant of £4,259 was awarded to one church experiencing increased energy costs from the previous comparative period.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Financial Review**Results for the year**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) issued in January 2019.

The excess of income over expenditure for the year amounted to £188,935 (2023 £247,077).

The performance of the investment portfolios was assessed by the Investment Sub Committee on behalf of the Trustees and the income received was 25% lower (2023: 8% higher) than the budget set by the Synod for 2024. The high rates of return seen in 2023 did not continue and the effects of uncertainty from both the UK election and internationally with the US election and the wars in the Ukraine and Gaza, having a negative impact on the results. However, at the end of 2024 the Synod was in a position, due to income from church closures, to invest £1 million which had been held in a deposit account, into a higher risk investment portfolio.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are unrestricted funds, which are not held as fixed assets. Reserves will normally be held to finance the work of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire including the Yorkshire Congregational Union Inc (YCU) together with its responsibilities to the work nationally, for a period of 12 months. The YCU is a connected charity and the relationship is explained on page 7.

The serious incident which the Trustees disclosed to the Charity Commission in 2018, relating to a particular church, is still ongoing. During the last 12 months, the Trustees have been in further discussions with the church and are continuing to assist the church in remedying some of the issues.

The assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Charity. Each fund has sufficient resources in an appropriate form to meet its obligations. All the assets of the Charity are used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and were acquired in accordance with powers vested in the Executive Council. The financial position at the Balance Sheet date is satisfactory and will enable the Charity to meet future obligations.

Investment policy and investment powers

There has been no change to the Investment Policy Statement and the Policy Document. This document outlines the responsibilities of the various committees within the Synod and contains details of the Discretionary Management of the Investments by RBC Brewin Dolphin. The Policy Document also outlines the Requirements, Restrictions, Recording, and Reporting under which the Managers will operate.

Property

All property under the control of the Charity is shown at market value as indicated in notes 9 and 11 of the Financial Statements. The valuations used were those provided by Walker Singleton as at 31 December 2020.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The governing instrument is the Memorandum & Articles of Association which is dated 19 May 1981.

The membership consists of the members for the time being of the Synod Council of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church. At 31 December 2024 the number of members totalled 13 (2023 – 14). In the event of the Charity being wound up, every person who is a member, or who has been a member within one year, is liable to contribute to the debts and liabilities of the Charity a sum not exceeding £1.

The business of the Charity is managed by the members of the Executive Council who are Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited for the purposes of company law. Members of the Executive Council are the members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee of the Synod. The members of the Financial Resources Committee are recruited from the membership of the churches of the Yorkshire Synod, the appointments being approved by the Yorkshire Synod Council and ratified by Synod. Synod also appoints the Treasurer, Synod Moderator and the Synod Clerk who are ex-officio members of the Committee. However, following the appointment of a Synod Clerk as an employee of the Charity, on the 9 March 2019, the Synod Clerk will not be a member of the Executive Council.

There was a couple of changes to the Executive Council in 2024 with the resignation of Mr Stephen Gooder after 11 years of service and the appointment of Mr Gordon Justham. The Directors of the Charity are listed on page 8.

The Charity is aware of the need to enable and equip Trustees and takes steps to make available Charity Commission publications and newsletters.

The Financial Resources Committee of the Synod meets six times a year and is responsible for all financial decisions, except the decisions about Synod Mission Fund grants which are made by the Synod Mission Fund Panel (see Grants Policy on page 2). Investments are monitored by a sub-committee on which the Treasurer serves. This sub-committee meets four times a year and implements investment strategies established by the Trustees. Currently the Investments are managed by RBC Brewin Dolphin on a discretionary basis. Minutes of the Investment Sub-Committee meetings are circulated to the Trustees.

The Charity operates as an autonomous body but, along with twelve other Synods (or regions), is part of The United Reformed Church and this brings a share of national responsibilities. A resource sharing process is in place to enable Synods with more resources to help those less well equipped. Historically, Yorkshire has been a net contributor to this scheme but since 2010 has adopted a neutral position neither giving nor receiving from the process.

Connected Charities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited is connected with the YCU. The YCU holds investments as Custodian Trustee for many of the local churches of the United Reformed Church in the Yorkshire Synod, and holds property as Trustee for most of those churches. The YCU shares the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited offices and administration, for which it pays a small charge based on its income. The Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited are also Trustees of the YCU, but the Chair of Trustees of the YCU is not a Trustee of the Charity.

Risk Management

The Executive Council has a risk management strategy in line with the guidance published by the Charity Commission organising risk into three headings – Governance and Control, Operational Risk and Financial Risk. Control procedures are then agreed to contain, mitigate or even totally remove the risks. The Risk Management Strategy is currently being reviewed.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Company registration number:	1562723
Charity registration number:	1068103
Registered Office:	Somerset House, St Paul's Street Morley, Leeds, LS27 9EP Telephone 0113 289 8490 Email office@urcyorkshire.org.uk
Web Site:	www.urcyorkshire.org.uk
Trustees & Directors:	Mr J Charlesworth Rev S K Copley Mr C Evans Mr S Gooder (to 23 July 2024) Mr Gordon Justham (from 21 May 2024) Rev J Kissack
Secretary to Trustees & Company Secretary:	Mr A C Forsyth (to 31 March 2025)
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc Leeds City Branch, PO Box 154, 8 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 1QS
Solicitors:	Lupton Fawcett LLP 2 The Embankment Sovereign Street, Leeds, LS1 4BA
Auditors:	SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 33 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1LX
Investment Managers:	Brewin Dolphin Ltd trading as RBC Brewin Dolphin 10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AN
Property Advisers:	Walker Singleton Property House, Lister Lane, Halifax, HX1 5AS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Responsibilities of the Executive Council

Company law requires the Executive Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the year end. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Council should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Executive Council is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable it to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and regulations thereunder. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each member of the Executive Council at the date of this report is aware,

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the Executive Council have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

These financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

Auditors

SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd offer themselves for reappointment as auditors in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Rev Simon Copley (Executive Council Member)

Rev Jamie Kissack (Executive Council Member)

Date: 14 April 2025

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that individually or collectively may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the Directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with the Treasurer and other informed management which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company and thereafter, the audit team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considered the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims and reviewing correspondence with the charitable company's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Date

Claire Lawton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd
33 George Street
Wakefield
WF1 1LX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	2	21,069	153	-	21,222	19,310	158	-	19,468
Charitable activities	3	247,370	319,329	-	566,699	342,655	571,963	-	914,618
Investments	4	306,176	32,856	-	339,032	351,705	32,300	-	384,005
<i>Profit on sale of tangible asset</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16	574,615	352,338	-	926,953	713,670	604,421	-	1,318,091
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	24,615	23,755	4,681	53,051	23,034	22,962	4,554	50,550
Charitable activities	5	624,194	291,616	-	915,810	517,947	633,210	-	1,151,157
Total		648,809	315,371	4,681	968,861	540,981	656,172	4,554	1,201,707
Gains/(losses) on investment assets									
<i>Realised</i>	11	-	76,203	14,873	91,076	-	11,343	(88)	11,255
<i>Unrealised</i>		-	117,187	22,580	139,767	-	98,273	21,165	119,438
Total		-	193,390	37,453	230,843	-	109,616	21,077	130,693
Net income/(expenditure)		(74,194)	230,357	32,772	188,935	172,689	57,865	16,523	247,077
Transfers between funds	16	1,915	(1,915)	-	-	2,138	(2,138)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):									
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(72,279)	228,442	32,772	188,935	174,827	55,727	16,523	247,077
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward At 1 January 2024		231,454	9,185,669	1,058,518	10,475,641	56,627	9,129,942	1,041,995	10,228,564
Total funds carried forward At 31 December 2024	16 & 17	159,175	9,414,111	1,091,290	10,664,576	231,454	9,185,669	1,058,518	10,475,641

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income as reported on the SOFA	926,953	1,318,091
Gains on investments	193,390	109,616
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross income in the reporting period	1,120,343	1,427,707
Expenditure as reported on the SOFA	964,180	1,197,153
Losses on investments	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income for the year	156,163	230,554
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Summary Income and Expenditure account excludes movements on the endowment funds. It is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities which together with the notes 1 to 19 provides full information on the movements during the year on all the Charity's funds.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £		2023 £
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets	9	1,505,031		1,381,833
Investments	11	8,192,255		7,014,172
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>9,697,286</u>		<u>8,396,005</u>
Current assets:				
Debtors	12	76,135		85,226
Cash at bank and in hand		1,457,326		2,615,273
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>1,533,461</u>		<u>2,700,499</u>
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(265,743)		(319,666)
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>1,267,718</u>		<u>2,380,833</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>10,965,004</u>		<u>10,776,838</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(300,428)		(301,197)
Total net assets		<u><u>10,664,576</u></u>		<u><u>10,475,641</u></u>
The funds of the charity:				
Endowment funds	16 - 18	1,091,290		1,058,518
Revaluation reserve/(deficit)		177,034	177,034	
Other restricted funds		<u>9,237,077</u>	<u>9,008,635</u>	<u>9,185,669</u>
Other unrestricted funds		<u>159,175</u>	<u>231,454</u>	<u>231,454</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>10,664,576</u></u>		<u><u>10,475,641</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 14 April 2025.

Rev Simon Copley

Executive Council Member

Rev Jamie Kissack

Executive Council Member

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>Net cash (generated by) / used in operating activities</i>	(388,544)	(109,536)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	339,032	384,005
Net proceeds/(costs) associated with the sale of tangible fixed assets	223,797	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(384,992)	(394,734)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	3,381,321	969,808
Cash (added to) /withdrawn from investments	(1,001,805)	-
Purchase of investments	(3,326,756)	(951,382)
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>	(769,403)	7,697
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	(1,157,947)	(101,839)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2,615,273	2,717,112
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,457,326	2,615,273
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		
	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
<i>Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	188,935	247,077
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	37,997	34,197
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(230,843)	(130,693)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(339,032)	(384,005)
(Profit)/loss on the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Decrease /(Increase) in debtors	9,091	(39,340)
(Decrease) /Increase in creditors	(54,692)	163,228
<i>Net cash (generated by) / used in operating activities</i>	(388,544)	(109,536)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,457,326	2,615,273
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,457,326	2,615,273

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Principal accounting policies**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

Donations are included when they are received. Legacies are included when it is probable that they will be received. Investment income is included when it is receivable, and includes any recoverable income tax. Property rents and interest on loans are included when they fall due. Investments and other assets from churches which have closed are accounted for when the amount receivable can reasonably be ascertained.

Recognition and valuation of donated services

The services of the Synod Evangelist, who is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the URC, are provided by the URC under its Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration at no charge to the charity. This donation has been valued at the usual employment cost of a URC Minister, reduced for the Synod Evangelist, which is not a full-time appointment. The cost is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

The Charity's activities are dependent on volunteer members of committees. Travel expenses are reimbursed but there is no recognition in these accounts of the time donated by volunteers.

Basis of allocation of costs

Grants payable are voluntary payments to individuals, local URC churches or URC organisations in accordance with the purpose of the relevant fund. They are accounted for when they have been approved by the Synod Council or Financial Resources Committee, the recipient has been told of that approval, and if applicable has accepted the terms related to the grant. Grants to URC churches are single or multi-year grants. A creditor is included for the full amount of the grant offered. Payment of the second or later year's instalment is dependent on receipt of a report on the previous year, showing the progress made on the project. Occasionally Synod Council will require repayment of grants which have not been spent.

Support costs incurred in maintaining the office and employing the office staff have been allocated to raising income, charitable activities and governance in proportion to the time spent by office staff on each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold and leasehold properties held for continuing use by the Charity are revalued by professional valuers every 5 years and are depreciated over 50 years. Long leasehold properties are defined as those properties with an unexpired lease term of more than 50 years. Properties acquired between valuations are included at cost and depreciated over 50 years. Properties sometimes pass to the Charity from United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire which have closed. If they are to be retained they are valued on acquisition. If the property is to be sold it is not revalued.

Office equipment is capitalised where a purchase or project costs over £500, and is included at cost less a provision for depreciation. This is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives, which are between 3 and 10 years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

1 Principal accounting policies (continued)**Investment assets**

Investments listed or traded on a recognised stock exchange are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Investment properties are valued professionally every five years. In between the valuations the Trustees' best estimate of market value is used. In accordance with standard accounting practice, no depreciation is charged on investment properties. Concessionary loans to URC churches are valued at the amount paid less repayments received.

Current asset measurement

Debtors are included at their recoverable amount.

Current asset investments comprise working capital held on short-term deposit.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises the balance in the bank current account and the petty cash float.

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year are valued at settlement amount.

2 Income from donations and legacies**Donations**

Notional Grant for Synod Evangelist

Gifts

	2024	2023
	£	£
	20,974	19,310
	248	158
	<u>21,222</u>	<u>19,468</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

Net proceeds of redundant manse funds and sale of redundant churches

Income from churches closed in the year

Contribution from Northern Province to safeguarding costs

Rental income from closed churches

Management charge (see note 13)

	2024	2023
	£	£
	319,329	110,291
	133,363	741,426
	70,213	57,473
	30,568	-
	13,226	5,428
	<u>566,699</u>	<u>914,618</u>

When United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire close, the net assets and building pass to the Charity. There can be significant variances in this income from one year to another.

At the 2021 Synod meetings, it was agreed that proceeds of sales from church closures, amalgamations, local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy.

The current Synod policy is for the net proceeds from the sale of Closed Church property to be divided 20% to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund; 80% to the Closed Churches Fund. This policy is currently under review.

Amalgamated churches, and those in local ecumenical partnerships, are required to transfer to the Charity 50% of the net proceeds of any United Reformed Church property sale, for use by the Closed Churches Fund.

Any manse fund declared redundant is divided 75% to the local church and 25% to the Closed Churches Fund.

4 Income from Investments

Income from quoted investments

Investment property rents

Interest on bank balances

	2024	2023
	£	£
	202,148	239,020
	16,006	29,506
	120,878	115,479
	<u>339,032</u>	<u>384,005</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

5 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities

Expenditure on raising funds	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>					
Investment management fees	28,436	-	-	28,436	27,516
Support costs	-	-	24,615	24,615	23,034
	28,436	-	24,615	53,051	50,550
Expenditure on charitable activities					
	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>					
Grants to individuals					
Retired Ministers and widows (5 grants)		2,750		2,750	3,000
Grants to URC institutions					
To churches for mission activities (10 grants)		119,933		119,933	210,530
To churches for property surveys (11 grants)		4,004		4,004	1,838
Vision & Opportunity to churches (13 grants)		142,272		142,272	296,023
Ministers pension Fund (no grant)		-		-	100,000
Support costs			6,153	6,153	5,758
	-	268,959	6,153	275,112	617,149
<i>Other charitable activities</i>					
Training Ministers and lay members	14,587		3,077	17,664	8,163
Youth, children and safeguarding	204,082		3,077	207,159	146,513
Administering churches' property and investments	1,623		73,846	75,469	71,171
Supporting committees and Synod	7,531		43,076	50,607	51,654
Pastoral work	1,642		24,615	26,257	23,882
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	39,274		83,076	122,350	105,600
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	-		6,154	6,154	5,759
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	68,525		15,384	83,909	61,822
Sundry and contingencies	6,504		-	6,504	14,417
	343,768	-	252,305	596,073	488,981
<i>Governance costs</i>					
External audit fee	12,990		-	12,990	10,200
Internal audit and accountancy	1,650		-	1,650	2,350
Legal and professional fees	4,616		-	4,616	4,484
Recruitment fees	754		-	754	4,959
Support costs	-		24,615	24,615	23,034
	20,010	-	24,615	44,625	45,027
Total expenditure on charitable activities	363,778	268,959	283,073	915,810	1,151,157

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

6 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities - previous year

Expenditure on raising funds - previous year	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>				
Investment management fees	27,516	-	-	27,516
Support costs	-	-	23,034	23,034
	27,516	-	23,034	50,550

Expenditure on charitable activities - previous year

	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>				
Grants to individuals				
Retired Ministers and widows (no grants)		3,000		3,000
Grants to URC institutions				
To churches for mission activities (27 grants)		210,530		210,530
To churches for property surveys (11 grants)		1,838		1,838
Vision & Opportunity to churches (7 grants)		296,023		296,023
Ministers pension Fund (1 grant)		100,000		100,000
YCU (1 grant)		-		-
Support costs			5,758	5,758
	-	611,391	5,758	617,149

Other charitable activities

Training Ministers and lay members	5,284		2,879	8,163
Youth, children and safeguarding	143,634		2,879	146,513
Administering churches' property and investments	2,068		69,103	71,171
Supporting committees and Synod	11,344		40,310	51,654
Pastoral work	848		23,034	23,882
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	27,859		77,741	105,600
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	-		5,759	5,759
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	47,425		14,397	61,822
Sundry and contingencies	14,417		-	14,417
	252,879	-	236,102	488,981

Governance costs

External audit fee	10,200		-	10,200
Internal audit and accountancy	2,350		-	2,350
Legal and professional fees	4,484		-	4,484
Recruitment fees	4,959		-	4,959
Revaluation fees	-		-	-
Support costs	-		23,034	23,034
	21,993	-	23,034	45,027

Total expenditure on charitable activities

274,872	611,391	264,894	1,151,157
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

7 Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	20,817	5,204	213,376	20,817	260,214
Office rates and maintenance	2,172	543	22,261	2,172	27,148
Office expenses and equipment	1,145	286	11,742	1,145	14,318
Depreciation	481	120	4,926	481	6,008
	24,615	6,153	252,305	24,615	307,688

Analysis of support costs - previous year

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	20,105	5,026	206,077	20,105	251,313
Office rates and maintenance	1,484	371	15,214	1,484	18,553
Office expenses and equipment	1,025	256	10,505	1,025	12,811
Depreciation	420	105	4,306	420	5,251
	23,034	5,758	236,102	23,034	287,928

Support costs are allocated in proportion to the time spent by office staff on the activities shown.

It has been accepted that the Synod Evangelist is a Minister of Word and Sacraments under the terms of the United Reformed Church Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration and should not be classified as an employee.

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	342,097	293,428
Employer's National Insurance	30,807	24,998
Pension contributions to defined benefit schemes	54,736	53,044
	427,640	371,470

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 per annum, and there were no other employee benefits other than those disclosed above.

The average number of employees during the year was 12 (2023 - 11).

The key management personnel of the Charity are the Trustees, who include the Synod Treasurer, and key employees of the charity, who are the Trust Secretary, the Property Secretary, the Synod Clerk and the Finance Manager. The employee benefits of the key personnel total £172,685 (2023 £167,490).

Trustees' expenses

Members of the Executive Council are entitled to claim travel expenses for attending its meetings. The Treasurer may claim other expenses (travel, telephone, stationery etc.) incurred in his capacity as Trustee. No Trustee nor anyone connected with the Trustees received any remuneration in 2024 or 2023 except as noted below.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2024	2023
The total of expenses claimed, by 1 (2023 1) Trustee, for the year was:	£ 2,238	£2,163

9 Tangible assets

	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2024	1,208,742	238,500	69,255	1,516,497
Additions	379,308	-	5,684	384,992
Disposals	(227,093)	-	(8,682)	(235,775)
At 31 December 2024	1,360,957	238,500	66,257	1,665,714
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	56,749	14,310	63,605	134,664
Charge for the period	27,219	4,770	6,008	37,997
Disposals	(3,296)	-	(8,682)	(11,978)
At 31 December 2024	80,672	19,080	60,931	160,683
Net book value				
At 1 January 2024	1,151,993	224,190	5,650	1,381,833
At 31 December 2024	1,280,285	219,420	5,326	1,505,031
Net carrying value of revalued assets on historical cost basis	1,553,555	225,045	-	1,778,600

Property

The property is used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and comprises:

	Net book amount £
Housing for Ministers of local churches or in Synod posts (a part share in 5 properties)	1,275,486
Synod office building	224,219
	1,499,705

The housing was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value with vacant possession, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards. The Synod office building was similarly revalued as at 31 December 2020 at existing use value.

10 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

11 Fixed asset investments	Investment properties	Listed investments	Balances at stockbroker	Concessionary loans	Total
Market value	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024	477,626	6,309,056	52,210	175,280	7,014,172
Less:					
Disposals at opening book value	-	(3,229,116)	-		(3,229,116)
Deposits realised/(reinvested)	-	-	(841,399)		(841,399)
Investment management fees	-	-	(28,436)		(28,436)
Loan repayments	-	-	-	(61,129)	(61,129)
Add:					
Deposited for investment	-	-	1,001,805	-	1,001,805
Acquisitions at cost	-	4,161,591	-	35,000	4,196,591
Revaluation	-	139,767	-	-	139,767
At 31 December 2024	477,626	7,381,298	184,180	149,151	8,192,255
Historical cost					
At 31 December 2024	-	7,056,362	184,180	149,151	7,389,693
Disposals:					
Proceeds	-	3,320,192	-	-	3,320,192
Book value at 1 Jan 2024		(3,229,116)	-	-	(3,229,116)
Realised gain	-	91,076	-	-	91,076

The investment property is 83.794% of the freehold at Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough, and was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards. The property was transferred at no cost from a closed church.

All fixed asset investments are in held in the UK, in Nominee Accounts at the investment managers. Details of the portfolio of listed investments are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Equity investments	3,292,828	1,869,237
Gilt-edged and fixed interest stocks	969,147	903,439
Investment and unit trusts	3,119,323	3,536,380
	7,381,298	6,309,056

Material investments (over 5% by value) at the end of the year:

MI Select Managers Bond	658,238	195,966
MI Select Managers Bond Alt Dis	604,369	0
Fidelity UCITS US Quality Income	451,691	330,638

All concessionary loans are to churches within the URC Yorkshire province. The maximum repayment period is 5 years and interest is charged at 0%. Repayments of capital are usually made quarterly or monthly. No security is provided on any loan. The maximum capital outstanding on any loan at 31 December 2024 was £101,965 (2023: £153,453).

	£	£
Concessionary loans falling due within one year	28,352	57,704
Concessionary loans falling due after more than one year	120,799	117,576
	149,151	175,280

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

12 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts owed by group and associated undertakings:		
Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated)	13,226	5,428
Cash in transit from YCU (Inc)	375	375
Prepayments and accrued income	62,534	79,423
	76,135	85,226

13 Related Parties

The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) is a Charity administered by the same Trustees as the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited, from the same office. It acts as Trustee for many of the United Reformed Churches in the Yorkshire Synod. The YCU has no employees; its administrative work is performed by employees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd, for which a management charge is made. The charge for 2024 was £13,226 (2023: £5,428). At the year end the YCU owed the Trust £13,601 (2023: £5,803). The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited has given the YCU an assurance of financial support .

Trustees or people connected with the Trustees may also be Trustees of a church in receipt of a grant or concessionary loan from the Trust. Grants are awarded by a separate group from the Trustees, and members of that group will not take part in the decision if they have a conflict of interest.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	236,686	286,489
Accruals and deferred income	28,682	32,802
Other creditors	375	375
	265,743	319,666

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	300,428	301,197

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

16 Movement in funds during the year

	Balance 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	Revaluation gains/losses	Balance 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments						
General Purposes	710,026	-	(3,133)	-	25,015	731,908
Church Extension	240,688	-	(1,069)	-	8,590	248,209
Maintenance of Ministry	16,966	-	(75)	-	606	17,497
Welfare of Ministry	72,712	-	(323)	-	2,595	74,984
Home Churches	18,126	-	(81)	-	647	18,692
	1,058,518	-	(4,681)	-	37,453	1,091,290
Restricted funds						
Closed Churches capital	8,518,161	319,329	(194,719)	(275,000)	193,390	8,561,161
Closed Churches revaluation reserve	177,034				-	177,034
Synod Mission capital and income	47,475	12,554	(119,933)	275,000	-	215,096
Income funds						
Church Extension	426,774	16,390	-	-	-	443,164
Maintenance of Ministry	-	540	-	(540)	-	-
Welfare	14,956	2,919	-	(1,375)	-	16,500
Home Churches	1,269	606	(719)	-	-	1,156
	9,185,669	352,338	(315,371)	(1,915)	193,390	9,414,111
Unrestricted Funds						
General income	231,454	127,164	(604,381)	404,938	-	159,175
Closed Churches income	-	447,451	(44,428)	(403,023)	-	-
	231,454	574,615	(648,809)	1,915	-	159,175
Total Funds	10,475,641	926,953	(968,861)	-	230,843	10,664,576

The Charity is Trustee of all the funds, which are to be used by the United Reformed Church in its Yorkshire Synod.

Permanent Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the Charity, principally investments. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges are charged against the fund. Income arising on the endowment funds is either restricted or unrestricted depending on the fund.

The endowment investments are pooled and held within the Common Investment Fund. All gains and income are credited to the constituent endowment and income funds in the proportion of the assets originally pooled, which were General (66.93%), Church Extension (22.84%), Maintenance of the Ministry (1.61%), Welfare (6.90%) and Home Churches (1.72%).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

16 Movement in funds during the year (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Designated funds are amounts of money within Unrestricted Funds which have been set aside for a specific purpose which will be achieved within less than three years.

General Purposes Fund - use of the income is unrestricted for the furtherance of religious and other charitable work of the United Reformed Church within its Yorkshire Synod.

Church Extension Fund - makes loans to local United Reformed Churches for the upkeep and repair of their buildings.

Maintenance of the Ministry Fund - provides a small income which is transferred to the General Purposes Fund where it is deemed to assist in the maintenance of the ministry of the Synod Moderator.

Welfare of the Ministry Fund - provides income which forms 50% of the grants made in cases of need to Ministers, retired Ministers and their dependants.

Home Churches Fund - represents a small amount of capital, the income from which forms part of the Synod's Mission and Ministry Fund contributions to the United Reformed Church.

Closed Churches Fund - holds funds from churches closed after 1972, under the terms of the URC Trusts set out in the 1972 URC Act, as modified by the 1981 Act. The capital is available for use in accordance with the URC Act 1981, Schedule 2, parts I and II. Income from the investment of the capital is directed to the General Purposes Fund and is used to fund the work of the Synod.

Synod Mission Fund was set up in 2010 and incorporates the former Amalgamation Fund. It receives funds primarily from the Closed Church Fund as and when required, with the agreement of the Trustees. Both capital and income are available for grants to local churches for any project that can be shown to promote the missionary work of the United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire.

Transfers between funds

The net income on the Closed Churches Fund is unrestricted and transferred to the General Fund each year. The General Fund also receives income from the Maintenance of the Ministry and Welfare Funds, in line with the above descriptions.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds at the year end

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	5,326	1,499,705	-	1,505,031
Investments	-	7,101,229	1,091,026	8,192,255
Net current assets	153,849	1,113,605	264	1,267,718
Long term liabilities	-	(300,428)	-	(300,428)
Total net assets	159,175	9,414,111	1,091,290	10,664,576

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

18 Pension costs**Lay Staff Pension Scheme**

The Synod is a participating member of The United Reformed Church Final Salary Scheme, a pension scheme principally for lay staff which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions Trust (formerly The Pensions Trust). The scheme is a defined benefit scheme. It was closed to future accrual on 28 February 2023 and staff were moved into a defined contribution scheme administered by the Aon Master Trust on 1 March 2023.

The Synod is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the defined benefit scheme. The most recent formal actuarial review of the defined benefit scheme was at 30 September 2022, when the scheme had a surplus of £1,446,000. The assumptions underlying that valuation include:

Discount rate:	Initial rate of gilt yield curve plus 1.80% p.a. at the valuation date tapering linearly to gilt yield curve plus 0.5% p.a. by 30 September 2027 (5 years from the valuation date)
RPI Inflation:	Gilt RPI inflation curve at each term
CPI Inflation:	RPI inflation less 1.0% p.a. at each term until 2030 and RPI inflation from 2030 onwards
Rate of increase in earnings:	CPI inflation plus 1.0% p.a. at each term

Ministers' Pension Scheme

In 2021, it was estimated that the Ministers' Pension Fund (MPF), which is the responsibility of the United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (URCTL), would be £45 million in deficit over the 10 years from 2021 to 2030 inclusive.

Each of the 13 Synods of the United Reformed Church was asked by URCTL to make contributions over that 10 year period to help reduce this underfunding.

In 2021, the Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited made an aspirational offer of £1.675 million to the URCTL as a contribution towards the obligation that URCTL has to the MPF. This was approved at the October 2021 meeting of the Synod. This offer was to be funded from the proceeds of sale of buildings of closed churches, any voluntary contributions from churches and other Synod funds. The Yorkshire Synod made a total contribution of £550,000 to the scheme, with the last payment being in December 2023. During 2024 the URCTL announced that no further contributions were required as the deficit had been cleared.

19 Post Balance Sheet Events

At the year end, the property of 5 churches is held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the Charity following church closures. The proceeds of sale will revert to the Charity in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the properties are held.

Since the year end, 1 of these closed church buildings has sold for £245,000. A further church has also closed and an offer has been received for its building. There are 5 church buildings on the market, 4 of which are from closed churches and 1 is a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1068103

Accounts

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE)
TRUST LIMITED**

Charity registered no: 1068103

Company registered no: 1562723

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This report fulfils the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 for a Trustees' Annual Report, and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 for a Directors' Report.

Objectives and Activities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited ('the Charity') is established to advance the Christian religion and propagate the Gospel in accordance with the doctrines, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church with particular responsibility for the Yorkshire Synod of that Church.

The Charity exists to support the United Reformed Churches of the Yorkshire Synod in their search to obey the will of Christ in their witness to the world. The main objective of the Charity is to provide resources, funded by the Charity's assets, to enable the churches to do this.

Currently, the main strategy of the Charity is to maximise income through the Executive Council, in partnership with the Investment Sub Committee; and to apply the resources so generated in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire and in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000.

Significant activities

Encouraging churches to undertake mission activity relevant to their variety of contexts.

Provision of information, advice, support and encouragement to churches covering...

- Property maintenance and development
- Legal and compliance issues
- Terms of settlement for existing and new Ministers
- Accounting requirements
- Management of the Mission and Ministry Scheme

Administering the investments and property of the churches.

Advising and assisting with establishing, grouping, amalgamating or dissolution of local churches within the United Reformed Church and with other denominations.

Developing a strategy for the deployment of ordained ministry within the Synod and assisting churches during times of vacancy.

Providing training and resources for the enabling of;

- Both lay and ordained Ministers
- Adults and young people
- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Grant making and other financial support for church buildings and mission projects.

Management and maintenance of investments and properties held for the use of the Charity.

Public Benefit

The Charity has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Charity proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with its long established moral framework, and strives to develop spirituality and spiritual well-being through relationship with the God of the Bible.

This benefit is available to all communities who are within reach of one or more of our 82 churches which are situated across Yorkshire. Further details are to be found throughout the remainder of this report.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Objectives and Activities (continued)**Grants Policy**

The objects of the Charity dictate that grants can only be made to United Reformed Churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships, which are part of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Normally, the only individuals who can receive a grant are retired Ministers or their widow(er)s and these Welfare grants are awarded in response to applications made to the Welfare Committee each year. Applicants must be resident within the Yorkshire Synod.

United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire may apply for assistance from the following funds:

Church Extension Fund	interest free loans for church building projects
Closed Churches Fund	for 25% of the cost of church survey reports Vision and Opportunity grants for churches requiring building renovation that will enable them to engage in mission Vision and Opportunity grants for training, evangelical and pastoral projects Mission Capacity Fund grants for costs/initiatives that release Church Members from administrative/legal/back-office tasks so that they can engage in core pastoral/mission tasks
Synod Mission Fund	for Mission projects. These are assessed in line with the five "missional threads", developed and adopted by Synod in 2022

Synod Mission Fund and Mission Capacity Fund grant applications are considered by the Mission Fund Panel, which meets four times a year. The Panel consists of the Synod Clerk, Synod Evangelist, and Conveners of the Synod Pastoral, Ministries, Property and Financial Resources Committees.

Vision and Opportunity grants for churches facing building challenges are considered by the Synod Property Committee and referred to the Financial Resources Committee for approval.

Vision and Opportunity grants for training, evangelical and pastoral projects are considered by the relevant Synod Officers responsible for the respective areas of work covered by the applications.

From time to time other funds may be made available to support churches with the approval of the Synod.

Applications for interest free loans will be considered by the Synod Financial Resources Committee.

All grants are accounted for once a decision has been reached and the church notified, and if applicable has accepted the terms of the grant. Grants will be held for a maximum of three years, any delay longer than this will require a fresh application.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

The Charity has maximised its income, subject to compliance with its ethical investment policy, and applied its resources in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the Church and has employed staff to carry out the activities shown on page 1.

The performance of the investment portfolios was assessed by the Investment Sub Committee on behalf of the Trustees and the income received was 8% higher (2022: 1% higher) than the budget set by the Synod for 2023. The Bank of England's position on interest rates had a positive effect on income along with good results from the stock markets.

During 2023, a new kind of gathering was introduced into the Synod calendar in the shape of Synod Forums. These arose from the ongoing agenda to promote conversations about 'Missional Synod' and the five missional threads, as developed through 2022.

One of the key challenges which the Yorkshire Synod faces, in common with all Synods, is the perceived gap between its work and the life of the local church. Although now a distant memory, the removal of District Councils from the decision-making processes in 2006 amplified an existing issue and continues to impact on the functioning of the denomination. In Yorkshire Synod, Mission and Care Groups were created to try to fill the gap, but these have struggled to gain momentum. Some do happen, some gained some traction but are now more or less defunct, and some never got off the ground. Because they are voluntary associations they have been dependent on one or two people on the ground to drive their agenda. It seems unlikely a way will be found of making them effective in every area.

The lack of a forum between local church and Synod creates a number of problems, for example:

1. Local churches are more likely not to include the Synod in significant processes where the structure requires it – whether intentionally or accidentally. The Synod officers therefore get caught up in work after the event to bring things back into line.
2. The pool of people drawn upon to run Synod structures becomes smaller, and it is harder to identify people with the skills needed.
3. Increasingly, congregations need to collaborate in order to be sustainable, especially in the provision of ministry. If they are not meeting each other regularly then such collaboration is harder to establish.

It is hoped, that the Synod Forums will go some way to engage with local congregations. In 2023, four forums were run during May and June, each one in a different part of the Synod, but with an open invitation for individuals to attend whichever was most convenient. It was felt that these forums, though involving a relatively small number of people, nonetheless created a good space in which conversations between local churches and Synod could happen. The plan is to run a similar model in 2024, and to build on this success.

Also in 2023, there was the formation of a team of 'Synod Directed' Ministers. These are Ministers where a proportion of their scoping is located in a particular pastorate, but where a percentage is directed by the Synod under the guidance of the Ministries Committee. The hope is that this pool of ministry can be used in a strategic way to support those congregations which may not have settled ministry, but which have the potential to think and operate in more missional ways. This team is already having a positive impact on the life of the Synod.

During 2023, the Synod has been able to continue with its development days for Elders but also to respond to requests for specific training.

In April, 34 Elders attended a day conference held at Bilton Grange United Reformed Church. The previous three years had been ones of great change and uncertainty and it was felt that to offer a day on the topic of Resilience could be helpful to elders who lead and guide their churches as they navigate the changing landscape of today's world. It was an interactive and flexible day conference exploring the importance of resilience in church leadership. Participants had the opportunity to connect with others, learn about the science of resilience, and practice activities that help develop resilient individuals and communities.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

Once again, at the end of September a 24 hour conference was held at Wydale Hall. The conference was entitled 'Creating More Disciples', and was facilitated by Andrew Roberts, author of Holy Habits. Wydale Hall was filled to capacity with 38 Elders where stories were shared and time was made for personal spiritual reflection.

As the landscape of the church and the world changes, different demands are being made of Elders. During the year, training has been provided to equip the leaders of the churches in the Synod to be confident in fulfilling the roles which are increasingly being demanded of them. These sessions have included, training in conducting funerals, presiding at the Sacraments and Elders as Trustees.

In 2024, plans for the Elders include a day conference and a 24 hour conference at Wyedale Hall.

During 2023, it became evident that the Synod's safeguarding provision (which Yorkshire Synod shares jointly with the neighbouring URC Northern Synod) needed some additional input. After widespread and thorough consultation between the two Synods, Trustees and Synod Safeguarding Officer, it was agreed to increase this provision by employing two additional part-time Safeguarding Officers (each working mainly in the two Synods). Both of these new officers were appointed by September 2023. The safeguarding staff have benefited from working as a team as a result and their coverage of safeguarding issues has greatly increased. The safeguarding policy is adopted in line with the national United Reformed Church general purposes document and an updated edition of this was produced during 2023 (GP6). Yorkshire Synod will be adopting an updated safeguarding policy in line with this latest document at the May 2024 Trustees meeting.

In 2021, an aspirational offer of £1.675 million was made to The United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (the URCTL) from the Yorkshire Synod, because the URCTL had asked each Synod to make a contribution to alleviate the substantial £45 million deficit on the two URC Pension schemes, over a 10 year period between 2021 and 2030. The amount offered was based upon the forecast of contributions payable from the proceeds of the sale of closed church buildings, other Synod funds and voluntary payments from churches. In order to assist with the challenge of raising funds for the pension schemes, it was agreed at the 2021 Synod meetings, that proceeds of sales from church closures, church amalgamation, local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy. In December 2023, a further payment of £100,000 was made to the scheme, which brings the overall contribution to £550,000.

The Synod Mission Fund continued to help churches establish creative and innovative missionary projects throughout the year. In 2023, the fund approved 18 awards totalling £248,193, and rescinded grants of £40,663 approved in earlier years. The grants ranged from multi-year funding of a Youth Pastor to winter warmer payments to help churches provide warm spaces in the winter months.

The Vision and Opportunity Initiative also continues to offer grants to churches to develop property for mission purposes; evangelistic, training and pastoral related grants are available as are Mission Capacity grants (formerly Collaborative Mission grants). In 2023, 14 awards were approved totalling £219,334.

Grants were awarded to churches experiencing increased energy costs from the previous comparative period. 51 grants were approved, totalling £76,251.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial Review

Results for the year

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) issued in January 2019.

The excess of income over expenditure for the year amounted to £247,077 (2022 £89,816).

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are unrestricted funds, which are not held as fixed assets. Reserves will normally be held to finance the work of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire including the Yorkshire Congregational Union Inc (YCU) together with its responsibilities to the work nationally, for a period of 12 months. The YCU is a connected charity and the relationship is explained on page 6.

The serious incident which the Trustees disclosed to the Charity Commission in 2018, relating to a particular church, is still ongoing. The Trustees have made significant progress in resolving the issues as they were able to arrange a meeting with members of the Church concerned. This agreed a number of steps to resolve some of the main issues. One of these involved initiating a conversation with the Local Authority and although this has proved difficult to arrange because of their inaccessibility, a meeting is now planned for March 2024.

The assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Charity. Each fund has sufficient resources in an appropriate form to meet its obligations. All the assets of the Charity are used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and were acquired in accordance with powers vested in the Executive Council. The financial position at the Balance Sheet date is satisfactory and will enable the Charity to meet future obligations.

Investment policy and investment powers

There has been no change to the Investment Policy Statement and the Policy Document. This document outlines the responsibilities of the various committees within the Synod and contains details of the Discretionary Management of the Investments by RBC Brewin Dolphin. The Policy Document also outlines the Requirements, Restrictions, Recording, and Reporting under which the Managers will operate.

Property

All property under the control of the Charity is shown at market value as indicated in notes 9 and 11 of the Financial Statements. The valuations used were those provided by Walker Singleton as at 31 December 2020.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The governing instrument is the Memorandum & Articles of Association which is dated 19 May 1981.

The membership consists of the members for the time being of the Synod Council of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church. At 31 December 2023 the number of members totalled 14 (2022 – 13). In the event of the Charity being wound up, every person who is a member, or who has been a member within one year, is liable to contribute to the debts and liabilities of the Charity a sum not exceeding £1.

The business of the Charity is managed by the members of the Executive Council who are Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited for the purposes of company law. Members of the Executive Council are the members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee of the Synod. The members of the Financial Resources Committee are recruited from the membership of the churches of the Yorkshire Synod, the appointments being approved by the Yorkshire Synod Council and ratified by Synod. Synod also appoints the Treasurer, Synod Moderator and the Synod Clerk who are ex-officio members of the Committee. However, following the appointment of a Synod Clerk as an employee of the Charity, on the 9 March 2019, the Synod Clerk will not be a member of the Executive Council.

There was one change to the Executive Council in 2023 with the resignation of Alan Crump in October. The Directors of the Charity are listed on page 7.

The Charity is aware of the need to enable and equip Trustees and takes steps to make available Charity Commission publications and newsletters.

The Financial Resources Committee of the Synod meets six times a year and is responsible for all financial decisions, except the decisions about Synod Mission Fund grants which are made by the Synod Mission Fund Panel (see Grants Policy on page 2). Investments are monitored by a sub-committee on which the Treasurer serves. This sub-committee meets four times a year and implements investment strategies established by the Trustees. Currently the Investments are managed by RBC Brewin Dolphin on a discretionary basis. Minutes of the Investment Sub-Committee meetings are circulated to the Trustees.

The Charity operates as an autonomous body but, along with twelve other Synods (or regions), is part of The United Reformed Church and this brings a share of national responsibilities. A resource sharing process is in place to enable Synods with more resources to help those less well equipped. Historically, Yorkshire has been a net contributor to this scheme but since 2010 has adopted a neutral position neither giving nor receiving from the process.

Connected Charities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited is connected with the YCU. The YCU holds investments as Custodian Trustee for many of the local churches of the United Reformed Church in the Yorkshire Synod, and holds property as Trustee for most of those churches. The YCU shares the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited offices and administration, for which it pays a small charge based on its income. The Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited are also Trustees of the YCU, but the Chair of Trustees of the YCU is not a Trustee of the Charity.

Risk Management

The Executive Council has a risk management strategy in line with the guidance published by the Charity Commission organising risk into three headings – Governance and Control, Operational Risk and Financial Risk. Control procedures are then agreed to contain, mitigate or even totally remove the risks. The Risk Management Strategy is being reviewed currently.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and Administrative Details

Company registration number:	1562723
Charity registration number:	1068103
Registered Office:	Somerset House, St Paul's Street Morley, Leeds, LS27 9EP Telephone 0113 289 8490 Email office@urcyorkshire.org.uk
Web Site:	www.urcyorkshire.org.uk
Trustees & Directors:	Mr J Charlesworth Rev S K Copley Rev A Crump (to 14 October 2023) Mr C Evans Mr S Gooder Rev J Kissack
Secretary to Trustees & Company Secretary:	Mr A C Forsyth
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc Leeds City Branch, PO Box 154, 8 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 1QS
Solicitors:	Lupton Fawcett LLP 2 The Embankment Sovereign Street, Leeds, LS1 4BA
Auditors:	SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 33 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1LX
Investment Managers:	Brewin Dolphin Ltd trading as RBC Brewin Dolphin 10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AN
Property Advisers:	Walker Singleton Property House, Lister Lane, Halifax, HX1 5AS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Statement of Responsibilities of the Executive Council

Company law requires the Executive Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the year end. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Council should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Executive Council is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable it to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and regulations thereunder. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each member of the Executive Council at the date of this report is aware,

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the Executive Council have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

These financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

Auditors

SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd offer themselves for reappointment as auditors in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Rev Simon Copley (Executive Council Member)

Mr Justin Charlesworth (Executive Council Member)

Date: 21 March 2024

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that individually or collectively may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the Directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with the Treasurer and other informed management which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company and thereafter, the audit team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considered the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims and reviewing correspondence with the charitable company's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Date

Claire Lawton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd
33 George Street
Wakefield
WF1 1LX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023			2022				
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	2	19,310	158	-	19,468	40,570	118	-	40,688
Charitable activities	3	342,655	571,963	-	914,618	36,114	1,435,701	-	1,471,815
Investments	4	351,705	32,300	-	384,005	274,542	21,982	-	296,524
Profit on sale of tangible asset		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16	713,670	604,421	-	1,318,091	351,226	1,457,801	-	1,809,027
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	23,034	22,962	4,554	50,550	22,163	23,425	4,663	50,251
Charitable activities	5	517,947	633,210	-	1,151,157	557,899	308,260	-	866,159
Total		540,981	656,172	4,554	1,201,707	580,062	331,685	4,663	916,410
Gains/(losses) on investment assets									
Realised	11	-	11,343	(88)	11,255	-	(62,076)	(12,414)	(74,490)
Unrealised		-	98,273	21,165	119,438	-	(607,563)	(120,748)	(728,311)
Total		-	109,616	21,077	130,693	-	(669,639)	(133,162)	(802,801)
Net income/(expenditure)		172,689	57,865	16,523	247,077	(228,836)	456,477	(137,825)	89,816
Transfers between funds	16	2,138	(2,138)	-	-	656	(656)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):									
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		174,827	55,727	16,523	247,077	(228,180)	455,821	(137,825)	89,816
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward At 1 January 2023		56,627	9,129,942	1,041,995	10,228,564	284,807	8,674,121	1,179,820	10,138,748
Total funds carried forward At 31 December 2023	16 & 17	231,454	9,185,669	1,058,518	10,475,641	56,627	9,129,942	1,041,995	10,228,564

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income as reported on the SOFA	1,318,091	1,809,027
Gains on investments	109,616	-
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross income in the reporting period	1,427,707	1,809,027
Expenditure as reported on the SOFA	1,197,153	911,747
Losses on investments	-	669,639
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income for the year	230,554	227,641
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Summary Income and Expenditure account excludes movements on the endowment funds. It is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities which together with the notes 1 to 19 provides full information on the movements during the year on all the Charity's funds.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £		2022 £
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets	9	1,381,833		1,021,296
Investments	11	7,014,172		6,901,905
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		8,396,005		7,923,201
Current assets:				
Debtors	12	85,226		45,886
Cash at bank and in hand		2,615,273		2,717,112
<i>Total current assets</i>		2,700,499		2,762,998
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(319,666)		(272,495)
<i>Net current assets</i>		2,380,833		2,490,503
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		10,776,838		10,413,704
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(301,197)		(185,140)
Total net assets		10,475,641		10,228,564
The funds of the charity:				
Endowment funds	16 - 18	1,058,518		1,041,995
Revaluation reserve/(deficit)		177,034	177,034	
Other restricted funds		9,008,635	8,952,908	9,129,942
Other unrestricted funds		231,454	56,627	56,627
Total charity funds		10,475,641		10,228,564

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 21 March 2024.

Rev Simon Copley

Executive Council Member

Mr Justin Charlesworth

Executive Council Member

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>Net cash (generated by) / used in operating activities</i>	(109,536)	595,176
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	384,005	296,524
Net proceeds/(costs) associated with the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(394,734)	(11,684)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	969,808	1,086,605
Cash (added to) /withdrawn from investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	(951,382)	(1,205,203)
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>	7,697	166,242
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	(101,839)	761,418
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2,717,112	1,955,694
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2,615,273	2,717,112
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		
	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	247,077	89,816
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	34,197	26,342
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(130,693)	802,801
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(384,005)	(296,524)
(Profit)/loss on the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Decrease /(Increase) in debtors	(39,340)	(12,865)
(Decrease) /Increase in creditors	163,228	(14,394)
<i>Net cash (generated by) / used in operating activities</i>	(109,536)	595,176
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	2,615,273	2,717,112
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,615,273	2,717,112

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Principal accounting policies**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

Donations are included when they are received. Legacies are included when it is probable that they will be received. Investment income is included when it is receivable, and includes any recoverable income tax. Property rents and interest on loans are included when they fall due. Investments and other assets from churches which have closed are accounted for when the amount receivable can reasonably be ascertained.

Recognition and valuation of donated services

The services of the Synod Evangelist, who is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the URC, are provided by the URC under its Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration at no charge to the charity. This donation has been valued at the usual employment cost of a URC Minister, reduced for the Synod Evangelist, which is not a full-time appointment. The cost is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

The Charity's activities are dependent on volunteer members of committees. Travel expenses are reimbursed but there is no recognition in these accounts of the time donated by volunteers.

Basis of allocation of costs

Grants payable are voluntary payments to individuals, local URC churches or URC organisations in accordance with the purpose of the relevant fund. They are accounted for when they have been approved by the Synod Council or Financial Resources Committee, the recipient has been told of that approval, and if applicable has accepted the terms related to the grant. Grants to URC churches are single or multi-year grants. A creditor is included for the full amount of the grant offered. Payment of the second or later year's instalment is dependent on receipt of a report on the previous year, showing the progress made on the project. Occasionally Synod Council will require repayment of grants which have not been spent.

Support costs incurred in maintaining the office and employing the office staff have been allocated to raising income, charitable activities and governance in proportion to the time spent by office staff on each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold and leasehold properties held for continuing use by the Charity are revalued by professional valuers every 5 years and are depreciated over 50 years. Long leasehold properties are defined as those properties with an unexpired lease term of more than 50 years. Properties acquired between valuations are included at cost and depreciated over 50 years. Properties sometimes pass to the Charity from United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire which have closed. If they are to be retained they are valued on acquisition. If the property is to be sold it is not revalued.

Office equipment is capitalised where a purchase or project costs over £500, and is included at cost less a provision for depreciation. This is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives, which are between 3 and 10 years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

1 Principal accounting policies (continued)**Investment assets**

Investments listed or traded on a recognised stock exchange are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Investment properties are valued professionally every five years. In between the valuations the Trustees' best estimate of market value is used. In accordance with standard accounting practice, no depreciation is charged on investment properties. Concessionary loans to URC churches are valued at the amount paid less repayments received.

Current asset measurement

Debtors are included at their recoverable amount.

Current asset investments comprise working capital held on short-term deposit.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises the balance in the bank current account and the petty cash float.

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year are valued at settlement amount.

2 Income from donations and legacies	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations		
Synod Levy	-	23,433
Notional Grant for Synod Evangelist	19,310	17,137
Gifts	158	118
	19,468	40,688

The Synod Levy was not charged in 2023.

3 Income from charitable activities	2023	2022
	£	£
Net proceeds of redundant manse funds and sale of redundant churches	110,291	78,702
Income from churches closed in the year	741,426	1,361,296
Contribution from Northern Province to safeguarding costs	57,473	30,367
Management charge (see note 13)	5,428	1,450
	914,618	1,471,815

When United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire close, the net assets and building pass to the Charity. The building is not included in fixed assets if it is sold within a year of closure. There can be significant variances in this income from one year to another.

At the 2021 Synod meetings, it was agreed that proceeds of sales from church closures, from amalgamating and local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy.

The net proceeds from the sale of Closed Church property are to be divided 20% to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund; 80% to the Closed Churches Fund.

Amalgamated churches, and those in local ecumenical partnerships, are required to transfer to the Charity 50% of the net proceeds of any United Reformed Church property sale, for use by the Closed Churches Fund.

Any manse fund declared redundant is divided 75% to the local church and 25% to the Closed Churches Fund.

4 Income from Investments	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from quoted investments	239,020	245,111
Investment property rents	29,506	22,756
Interest on bank balances	115,479	28,657
	384,005	296,524

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

5 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities

Expenditure on raising funds	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>					
Investment management fees	27,516	-	-	27,516	28,088
Support costs	-	-	23,034	23,034	22,163
	27,516	-	23,034	50,550	50,251

Expenditure on charitable activities	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>					
Grants to individuals					
Retired Ministers and widows (4 grants)		3,000		3,000	-
Grants to URC institutions					
To churches for mission activities (18 grants)		210,530		210,530	147,565
To churches for property surveys (5 grants)		1,838		1,838	2,846
Vision & Opportunity to churches (65 grants)		296,023		296,023	38,920
Ministers pension Fund (1 grant)		100,000		100,000	100,000
YCU (1 grant)		-		-	20,000
Support costs			5,758	5,758	5,541
	-	611,391	5,758	617,149	314,872

<i>Other charitable activities</i>					
Training Ministers and lay members	5,284		2,879	8,163	10,007
Youth, children and safeguarding	143,634		2,879	146,513	117,257
Administering churches' property and investments	2,068		69,103	71,171	68,816
Supporting committees and Synod	11,344		40,310	51,654	61,465
Pastoral work	848		23,034	23,882	23,227
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	27,859		77,741	105,600	130,363
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	-		5,759	5,759	5,656
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	47,425		14,397	61,822	95,654
Sundry and contingencies	14,417		-	14,417	3,496
	252,879	-	236,102	488,981	515,941

<i>Governance costs</i>					
External audit fee	10,200		-	10,200	7,200
Internal audit and accountancy	2,350		-	2,350	1,565
Legal and professional fees	4,484		-	4,484	3,877
Recruitment fees	4,959			4,959	540
Support costs	-		23,034	23,034	22,164
	21,993	-	23,034	45,027	35,346

Total expenditure on charitable activities	274,872	611,391	264,894	1,151,157	866,159
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

6 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities - previous year

Expenditure on raising funds - previous year	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>				
Investment management fees	28,088	-	-	28,088
Support costs	-	-	22,163	22,163
	28,088	-	22,163	50,251

Expenditure on charitable activities - previous year

	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>				
Grants to individuals				
Retired Ministers and widows (no grants)		-		-
Grants to URC institutions				
To churches for mission activities (27 grants)		147,565		147,565
To churches for property surveys (11 grants)		2,846		2,846
Vision & Opportunity to churches (7 grants)		38,920		38,920
Ministers pension Fund (1 grant)		100,000		100,000
YCU (1 grant)		20,000		20,000
Support costs			5,541	5,541
	-	309,331	5,541	314,872
<i>Other charitable activities</i>				
Training Ministers and lay members	7,236	-	2,771	10,007
Youth, children and safeguarding	114,486	-	2,771	117,257
Administering churches' property and investments	2,326	-	66,490	68,816
Supporting committees and Synod	22,679	-	38,786	61,465
Pastoral work	1,064	-	22,163	23,227
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	55,562	-	74,801	130,363
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	116	-	5,540	5,656
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	81,802	-	13,852	95,654
Sundry and contingencies	3,496	-	-	3,496
	288,767	-	227,174	515,941
<i>Governance costs</i>				
External audit fee	7,200	-	-	7,200
Internal audit and accountancy	1,565	-	-	1,565
Legal and professional fees	3,877	-	-	3,877
Recruitment fees	540	-	-	540
Support costs	-	-	22,164	22,164
	13,182	-	22,164	35,346
Total expenditure on charitable activities	301,949	309,331	254,879	866,159

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

7 Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	20,105	5,026	206,077	20,105	251,313
Office rates and maintenance	1,484	371	15,214	1,484	18,553
Office expenses and equipment	1,025	256	10,505	1,025	12,811
Depreciation	420	105	4,306	420	5,251
	23,034	5,758	236,102	23,034	287,928

Analysis of support costs - previous year

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	19,252	4,813	197,337	19,253	240,655
Office rates and maintenance	1,446	362	14,821	1,446	18,075
Office expenses and equipment	1,045	261	10,711	1,045	13,062
Depreciation	420	105	4,305	420	5,250
	22,163	5,541	227,174	22,164	277,042

Support costs are allocated in proportion to the time spent by office staff on the activities shown.

It has been accepted that the Synod Evangelist is a Minister of Word and Sacraments under the terms of the United Reformed Church Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration and should not be classified as an employee.

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	293,428	258,287
Employer's National Insurance	24,998	21,992
Pension contributions to defined benefit schemes	53,044	57,342
	371,470	337,621

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 per annum, and there were no other employee benefits other than those disclosed above.

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2022 - 10).

The key management personnel of the Charity are the Trustees, who include the Synod Treasurer, and key employees of the charity, who are the Trust Secretary, the Property Secretary, the Synod Clerk and the Finance Manager. The employee benefits of the key personnel total £167,490 (2022 £158,785).

Trustees' expenses

Members of the Executive Council are entitled to claim travel expenses for attending its meetings. The Treasurer may claim other expenses (travel, telephone, stationery etc.) incurred in his capacity as Trustee. No Trustee nor anyone connected with the Trustees received any remuneration in 2023 or 2022 except as noted below.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2023	2022
The total of expenses claimed, by 1 (2022 1) Trustee, for the year was:	£ 2,163	£1,666

9 Tangible assets

	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2023	816,138	238,500	67,125	1,121,763
Additions	392,604	-	2,130	394,734
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	1,208,742	238,500	69,255	1,516,497
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	32,573	9,540	58,354	100,467
Charge for the period	24,176	4,770	5,251	34,197
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	56,749	14,310	63,605	134,664
Net book value				
At 1 January 2023	783,565	228,960	8,771	1,021,296
At 31 December 2023	1,151,993	224,190	5,650	1,381,833
Net carrying value of revalued assets on historical cost basis	1,160,952	225,045	-	1,385,997

Property

The property is used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and comprises:

	Net book amount £
Housing for Ministers of local churches or in Synod posts (a part share in 4 properties)	1,147,091
Synod office building	229,092
	1,376,183

The housing was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value with vacant possession, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards. The Synod office building was similarly revalued as at 31 December 2020 at existing use value.

10 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

11 Fixed asset investments	Investment properties	Listed investments	Balances at stockbroker	Concessionary loans	Total
Market value	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	477,626	6,259,251	(1,162)	166,190	6,901,905
Less:					
Disposals at opening book value	-	(942,643)	-		(942,643)
Deposits realised/(reinvested)	-	-	80,888		80,888
Investment management fees	-	-	(27,516)		(27,516)
Loan repayments	-	-	-	(15,910)	(15,910)
Add:					
Deposited for investment	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisitions at cost	-	873,010	-	25,000	898,010
Revaluation	-	119,438	-		119,438
At 31 December 2023	477,626	6,309,056	52,210	175,280	7,014,172
Historical cost					
At 31 December 2023	-	6,063,136	52,210	175,280	6,290,626
Disposals:					
Proceeds	-	953,898	-	-	953,898
Book value at 1 Jan 2023		(942,643)	-	-	(942,643)
Realised gain	-	11,255	-	-	11,255

The investment property is 83.794% of the freehold at Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough, and was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards.

All fixed asset investments are in held in the UK, in Nominee Accounts at the investment managers. Details of the portfolio of listed investments are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equity investments	1,869,237	2,067,848
Gilt-edged and fixed interest stocks	903,439	294,407
Investment and unit trusts	3,536,380	3,896,996
	6,309,056	6,259,251

Material investments (over 5% by value) at the end of the year:

Fidelity UCITS	330,638	-
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All concessionary loans are to churches within the URC Yorkshire province. The maximum repayment period is 5 years and interest is charged at 0%. Repayments of capital are usually made quarterly or monthly. No security is provided on any loan. The maximum capital outstanding on any loan at 31 December 2023 was £153,453 (2022: £153,453).

	£	£
Concessionary loans falling due within one year	57,704	3,660
Concessionary loans falling due after more than one year	117,576	162,530
	175,280	166,190

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

12 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts owed by group and associated undertakings:		
Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated)	5,428	1,450
Cash in transit from YCU (Inc)	375	375
Prepayments and accrued income	79,423	44,061
	85,226	45,886

13 Related Parties

The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) is a Charity administered by the same Trustees as the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited, from the same office. It acts as Trustee for many of the United Reformed Churches in the Yorkshire Synod. The YCU has no employees; its administrative work is performed by employees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd, for which a management charge is made. The charge for 2023 was £5,428 (2022: £1,450). In addition, one of the churches for which the YCU acts as custodian Trustee owed the Trust £ nil (2022: £200) at the year end; the YCU owed the Trust £5,803 (2022: £1,825). The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited has given the YCU an assurance of financial support and as such in 2022 made a payment of £20,000 to the YCU.

Trustees or people connected with the Trustees may also be Trustees of a church in receipt of a grant or concessionary loan from the Trust. Grants are awarded by a separate group from the Trustees, and members of that group will not take part in the decision if they have a conflict of interest.

Revd A Crump who is a Minister at Knaresborough and Bilton Grange URCs until his retirement in February 2024 and was a Trustee until October 2023, occupies a manse which is part owned by the Trust and part owned by a local church.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	286,489	239,069
Accruals and deferred income	32,802	33,051
Other creditors	375	375
	319,666	272,495

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	301,197	185,140

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

16 Movement in funds during the year

	Balance 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	Revaluation gains/losses £	Balance 31 December 2023 £
Permanent endowments						
General Purposes	698,866	-	(3,048)	-	14,208	710,026
Church Extension	236,984	-	(1,040)	-	4,744	240,688
Maintenance of Ministry	16,704	-	(73)	-	335	16,966
Welfare of Ministry	71,593	-	(314)	-	1,433	72,712
Home Churches	17,848	-	(79)	-	357	18,126
	1,041,995	-	(4,554)	-	21,077	1,058,518
Restricted funds						
Closed Churches capital	8,284,513	571,963	(447,931)	-	109,616	8,518,161
Closed Churches revaluation reserve	177,034				-	177,034
Synod Mission capital and income	243,327	11,678	(207,530)	-	-	47,475
Income funds						
Church Extension	410,637	16,137	-	-	-	426,774
Maintenance of Ministry	-	638	-	(638)	-	-
Welfare	13,170	3,286	-	(1,500)	-	14,956
Home Churches	1,261	719	(711)	-	-	1,269
	9,129,942	604,421	(656,172)	(2,138)	109,616	9,185,669
Unrestricted Funds						
General income	56,627	112,666	(520,663)	582,824	-	231,454
Closed Churches income	-	601,004	(20,318)	(580,686)	-	-
	56,627	713,670	(540,981)	2,138	-	231,454
Total Funds	10,228,564	1,318,091	(1,201,707)	-	130,693	10,475,641

The Charity is Trustee of all the funds, which are to be used by the United Reformed Church in its Yorkshire Synod.

Permanent Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the Charity, principally investments. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges are charged against the fund. Income arising on the endowment funds is either restricted or unrestricted depending on the fund.

The endowment investments are pooled and held within the Common Investment Fund. All gains and income are credited to the constituent endowment and income funds in the proportion of the assets originally pooled, which were General (66.93%), Church Extension (22.84%), Maintenance of the Ministry (1.61%), Welfare (6.90%) and Home Churches (1.72%).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

16 Movement in funds during the year (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Designated funds are amounts of money within Unrestricted Funds which have been set aside for a specific purpose which will be achieved within less than three years.

General Purposes Fund - use of the income is unrestricted for the furtherance of religious and other charitable work of the United Reformed Church within its Yorkshire Synod.

Church Extension Fund - makes loans to local United Reformed Churches for the upkeep and repair of their buildings.

Maintenance of the Ministry Fund - provides a small income which is transferred to the General Purposes Fund where it is deemed to assist in the maintenance of the ministry of the Synod Moderator.

Welfare of the Ministry Fund - provides income which forms 50% of the grants made in cases of need to Ministers, retired Ministers and their dependants.

Home Churches Fund - represents a small amount of capital, the income from which forms part of the Synod's Mission and Ministry Fund contributions to the United Reformed Church.

Closed Churches Fund - holds funds from churches closed after 1972, under the terms of the URC Trusts set out in the 1972 URC Act, as modified by the 1981 Act. The capital is available for use in accordance with the URC Act 1981, Schedule 2, parts I and II. Income from the investment of the capital is directed to the General Purposes Fund and is used to fund the work of the Synod.

Synod Mission Fund was set up in 2010 and incorporates the former Amalgamation Fund. It receives funds primarily from property sales that arise as part of the closure or amalgamation of local churches, or the creation of Local Ecumenical Projects. Both capital and income are available for grants to local churches for any project that can be shown to promote the missionary work of the United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire.

Transfers between funds

The net income on the Closed Churches Fund is unrestricted and transferred to the General Fund each year. The General Fund also receives income from the Maintenance of the Ministry and Welfare Funds, in line with the above descriptions.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds at the year end

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	5,650	1,376,183	-	1,381,833
Investments	-	5,955,917	1,058,255	7,014,172
Net current assets	225,804	2,154,766	263	2,380,833
Long term liabilities	-	(301,197)	-	(301,197)
Total net assets	231,454	9,185,669	1,058,518	10,475,641

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

18 Pension costs**Lay Staff Pension Scheme**

The Charity contributes to The United Reformed Church Final Salary Scheme, a pension scheme principally for lay staff, which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions Trust (formally The Pensions Trust). The scheme is a defined benefit scheme but the Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities - each employer in that scheme pays a common contribution rate.

Until the scheme closed to further accrual on 28 February 2023, the Charity contributed 22.8% (2022: 22.8%) of basic salary in respect of members of the Final Salary. Members contributed at the rate of 7.5% (2022: 7.5%) of pensionable salary throughout the accounting period.

The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2020, when the scheme had a surplus of £2,689,000. The assumptions underlying that valuation include:

Discount rate:	1.4% p.a.
Pensionable earnings growth:	2.5% for three years, 2.75% thereafter
Price inflation and pension increases:	2.55%
Retirement age:	65, with maximum commutation

A new defined contribution scheme administered by Aon Master Trust was set up and staff were moved into this scheme on 1 March 2023.

Ministers' Pension Scheme

It is estimated that the Ministers' Pension Fund (MPF), which is the responsibility of the United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (URCTL), will be £45 million in deficit over 10 years from 2021 to 2030 inclusive.

Each of the 13 Synods of the United Reformed Church has been asked by URCTL to make contributions over that 10 year period to help reduce this underfunding.

In 2021, the Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited made an aspirational offer of £1.675 million to the URCTL as a contribution towards the obligation that URCTL has to the MPF. This was approved at the October 2021 meeting of the Synod. This offer will be funded from the proceeds of sale of buildings of closed churches, any voluntary contributions from churches and other Synod funds. In December 2021, a payment of £350,000 was made by the Yorkshire Synod to the MPF. This was followed by payments of £100,000 in December 2022 and December 2023.

19 Post Balance Sheet Events

At the year end, the property of 5 churches is held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the Charity following church closures. The proceeds of sale will revert to the Charity in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the properties are held.

Since the year end, one of these closed church buildings has sold for £190,000. 2 of the other buildings are currently on the market.

On 4 January, the Trust received £51,488 from one of its churches, which was part payment towards an outstanding loan.

On 19 March, the Trust received £227,813, following the sale of a manse held on behalf of a church by the YCU, thus reducing the Synod's share of a manse purchased in 2023.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1068103

Accounts

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE)
TRUST LIMITED**

Charity registered no: 1068103

Company registered no: 1562723

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

This report fulfils the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 for a Trustees' Annual Report, and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 for a Directors' Report.

Objectives and Activities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited ('the Charity') is established to advance the Christian religion and propagate the Gospel in accordance with the doctrines, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church with particular responsibility for the Yorkshire Synod of that Church.

The Charity exists to support the United Reformed Churches of the Yorkshire Synod in their search to obey the will of Christ in their witness to the world. The main objective of the Charity is to provide resources, funded by the Charity's assets, to enable the churches to do this.

Currently, the main strategy of the Charity is to maximise income through the Executive Council, in partnership with the Investment Sub Committee; and to apply the resources so generated in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire and in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000.

Significant activities

Encouraging churches to undertake mission activity relevant to their variety of contexts.

Provision of information, advice, support and encouragement to churches covering...

- Property maintenance and development
- Legal and compliance issues
- Terms of settlement for existing and new Ministers
- Accounting requirements
- Management of the Mission and Ministry Scheme

Administering the investments and property of the churches.

Advising and assisting with establishing, grouping, amalgamating or dissolution of local churches within the United Reformed Church and with other denominations.

Developing a strategy for the deployment of ordained ministry within the Synod and assisting churches during times of vacancy.

Providing training and resources for the enabling of;

- Both lay and ordained Ministers
- Adults and young people
- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Grant making and other financial support for church buildings and mission projects.

Management and maintenance of investments and properties held for the use of the Charity.

Public Benefit

The Charity has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Charity proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with its long established moral framework, and strives to develop spirituality and spiritual well-being through relationship with the God of the Bible.

This benefit is available to all communities who are within reach of one or more of our 85 churches which are situated across Yorkshire. Further details are to be found throughout the remainder of this report.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Objectives and Activities (continued)**Grants Policy**

The objects of the Charity dictate that grants can only be made to United Reformed Churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships, which are part of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Normally, the only individuals who can receive a grant are retired Ministers or their widow(er)s and these Welfare grants are awarded in response to applications made to the Welfare Committee each year. Applicants must be resident within the Yorkshire Synod.

United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire may apply for assistance from the following funds:

Church Extension Fund	interest free loans for church building projects
Closed Churches Fund	for 25% of the cost of church survey reports Vision and Opportunity grant for churches facing building challenges Vision and Opportunity grant for training, evangelical and pastoral projects Energy Crisis grant to assist with the uplift in energy prices
Synod Mission Fund	for Mission projects assessed against the "Ten Statements of Mission" which have been adopted by the United Reformed Church Winter Warmer grants to assist with energy costs due to the provision of a warm space in the church building

Synod Mission Fund grant applications are considered by the Mission Fund Panel, which meets four times a year. The Panel consists of the Synod Clerk, Synod Evangelist, and Conveners of the Synod Pastoral, Ministries, Property and Financial Resources Committees.

From time to time other funds may be made available with the approval of the Synod.

Applications for interest free loans will be considered by the Synod Financial Resources Committee.

All grants are accounted for once a decision has been reached and the church notified, and if applicable has accepted the terms of the grant. Grants will be held for a maximum of three years, any delay longer than this will require a fresh application.

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

The Charity has maximised its income, subject to compliance with its ethical investment policy, and applied its resources in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the Church and has employed staff to carry out the activities shown on page 1.

The performance of the investment portfolios was assessed by the Investment Sub Committee on behalf of the Trustees and the income received was 1% higher (2021: 15% higher) than the budget set by the Synod for 2022. Considering the impact of the war in Ukraine and the stock market fall of autumn 2022 the results were very acceptable.

During 2022, significant time and resources were devoted to what has been called the 'Missional Synod' agenda. This was part of the Yorkshire Synod marking the URC's 50th anniversary, and also recognising the transition from the period of significant disruption caused by Covid 19. Now that Covid 19 restrictions are in the past, and the life of the church has returned to a more normal pattern, albeit with new insights and practices gained from the pandemic, in particular, how digital platforms have enhanced the life of the church.

Out of significant discussion during the year, and with guidance from the Synod Mission Advocate, the Synod has arrived at a description of mission in the form of five threads:

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

- Building a world of justice, peace and sustainable living
- Loving our neighbour through the acts of service our churches offer to our local communities.
- Partnering with those who share our values and beliefs – in particular, from other Christian traditions.
- Inviting others to enjoy the fullness of life we ourselves experience in the church and through our life of faith.
- Sharing our stories of God's work in our lives with those within and beyond our own faith community.

The Synod has committed itself to review the life of the local church and the Synod in the light of these five threads, with a desire to make these missional threads central to its core workings and planning. Hopefully, this will help the Synod make good and clear decisions about where to direct time and resources as the Synod tries to support congregations in very testing times.

Most mission happens in the local church. Recognising this, the Synod itself needs to be constantly attentive to the way in which its ways of working support the exploration of mission in the local church. During 2022, the Synod became increasingly aware of the challenges which communities were facing in what has become known as the 'Cost of Living Crisis'. A good example of Synod and local church working together in mission has been the way in which the Synod has channelled resources to support congregations in providing warm hubs for the community, in partnership usually with other churches and community groups.

There remain many questions about how resources are directed to where they are most needed. There are a number of churches facing critical questions about their future. The challenge for the Synod is to continue to be the pastoral, supportive body which it is called to be, whilst not shying away from the hard questions and from managing the risks associated with weakened churches.

In 2022, plans were made for Elders Development with the hope that they would be fulfilled, which has largely been the case. The use of technology, has allowed the accommodation of people who were still unable to meet in person. The Annual Conference was held as a hybrid event and was attended by some 70 elders from across Yorkshire. The title this year was, 'From a Spark to a Flame – Lighting up Mission through Prayer'. It was an interactive event with time for reflection as well as discussion and sharing experiences.

Once again, a 24 hour conference was held at Wydale Hall at which the Synod initiative of working towards becoming a Missional Synod was focused upon. The conference was skilfully led by the Synod Mission Advocate enabling the 37 attendees to spend time in personal reflection and prayer as well as sharing thoughts and hopes for the future, in a world which has changed following Covid and yet remains the same in many ways. The title for the event was, 'Finding our place in God's mission' This was a time to explore individual faith stories of God working in people's lives, and where God might lead people to serve in and through the churches.'

The third strand of Elders training has been the development of computer based resources for supporting Elders as their role changes to meet the changing context and expectations laid upon them. These are now accessible from the URC website and it is hoped this will encourage their use amongst the Elders in the Synod over the coming months.

Planning is underway for an Annual Conference to take place in April 2023 on the subject of 'Resilience' and Wydale Hall is booked for a 24 hour conference in September.

In 2021, an aspirational offer of £1.675 million was made to The United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (the URCTL) from the Yorkshire Synod, because the URCTL had asked each Synod to make a contribution to alleviate the substantial £45 million deficit on the two URC Pension schemes, over a 10 year period between 2021 and 2030. The amount offered was based upon the forecast of contributions payable from the proceeds of the sale of closed church buildings, other Synod funds and voluntary payments from churches. In order to assist with the challenge of raising funds for the pension schemes, it was agreed at the 2021 Synod meetings, that proceeds of sales from church closures, church amalgamation, local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy. In December 2022, the second payment of £100,000 was made to the scheme, which brings the overall contribution to £450,000.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

The Synod Mission Fund continued to help churches establish creative and innovative missionary projects throughout the year. In 2022, the fund approved 27 awards totalling £161,843, and rescinded a grant of £14,278 approved in an earlier year. The grants ranged from funding coaches travelling to the Big Day Out to funding much larger projects, such as outreach workers.

The Vision and Opportunity Initiative also continues to offer grants to churches to develop property for mission purposes; evangelistic, training and pastoral related grants are available as are Capacity grants (formerly Collaborative Mission grants). In 2022, 7 awards were approved totalling £38,920.

Financial Review

Results for the year

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) issued in January 2019.

The excess of income over expenditure for the year amounted to £89,816 (2021 - £924,517).

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are unrestricted funds, which are not held as fixed assets. Reserves will normally be held to finance the work of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire including the Yorkshire Congregational Union Inc (YCU) together with its responsibilities to the work nationally, for a period of 12 months. The YCU is a connected charity and the relationship is explained on page 5.

The serious incident which the Trustees disclosed to the Charity Commission in 2018, relating to a particular church, is still ongoing. The Trustees continue to do their utmost to resolve the issue. Financial support from the Trust to the YCU would be put in place if required.

The assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Charity. Each fund has sufficient resources in an appropriate form to meet its obligations. All the assets of the Charity are used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and were acquired in accordance with powers vested in the Executive Council. The financial position at the Balance Sheet date is satisfactory and will enable the Charity to meet future obligations.

Investment policy and investment powers

There has been no change to the Investment Policy Statement and the Policy Document. This document outlines the responsibilities of the various committees within the Synod and contains details of the Discretionary Management of the Investments by RBC Brewin Dolphin. The Policy Document also outlines the Requirements, Restrictions, Recording, and Reporting under which the Managers will operate.

Property

All property under the control of the Charity is shown at market value as indicated in notes 9 and 11 of the Financial Statements. The valuations used were those provided by Walker Singleton as at 31 December 2020.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The governing instrument is the Memorandum & Articles of Association which is dated 19 May 1981.

The membership consists of the members for the time being of the Synod Council of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church. At 31 December 2022 the number of members totalled 13 (2021 – 14). In the event of the Charity being wound up, every person who is a member, or who has been a member within one year, is liable to contribute to the debts and liabilities of the Charity a sum not exceeding £1.

The business of the Charity is managed by the members of the Executive Council who are Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited for the purposes of company law. Members of the Executive Council are the members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee of the Synod. The members of the Financial Resources Committee are recruited from the membership of the churches of the Yorkshire Synod, the appointments being approved by the Yorkshire Synod Council and ratified by Synod. Synod also appoints the Treasurer, Synod Moderator and the Synod Clerk who are ex-officio members of the Committee. However, following the appointment of a Synod Clerk as an employee of the Charity, on the 9 March 2019, the Synod Clerk will not be a member of the Executive Council. The Directors of the Charity are listed on page 6.

The Charity is aware of the need to enable and equip Trustees and takes steps to make available Charity Commission publications and newsletters.

The Financial Resources Committee of the Synod meets six times a year and is responsible for all financial decisions, except the decisions about Synod Mission Fund grants which are made by the Synod Mission Fund Panel (see Grants Policy on page 2). Investments are monitored by a sub-committee on which the Treasurer serves. This sub-committee meets four times a year and implements investment strategies established by the Trustees. Currently the Investments are managed by RBC Brewin Dolphin on a discretionary basis. Minutes of the Investment Sub-Committee meetings are circulated to the Trustees.

The Charity operates as an autonomous body but, along with twelve other Synods (or regions), is part of The United Reformed Church and this brings a share of national responsibilities. A resource sharing process is in place to enable Synods with more resources to help those less well equipped. Historically, Yorkshire has been a net contributor to this scheme but since 2010 has adopted a neutral position neither giving nor receiving from the process.

Connected Charities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited is connected with the YCU. The YCU holds investments as Custodian Trustee for many of the local churches of the United Reformed Church in the Yorkshire Synod, and holds property as Trustee for most of those churches. The YCU shares the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited offices and administration, for which it pays a small charge based on its income. The Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited are also Trustees of the YCU, but the Chair of Trustees of the YCU is not a Trustee of the Charity.

Risk Management

The Executive Council has a risk management strategy in line with the guidance published by the Charity Commission organising risk into three headings – Governance and Control, Operational Risk and Financial Risk. Control procedures are then agreed to contain, mitigate or even totally remove the risks. The Risk Management Strategy is reviewed periodically.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Reference and Administrative Details

Company registration number:	1562723
Charity registration number:	1068103
Registered Office:	Somerset House, St Paul's Street Morley, Leeds, LS27 9EP Telephone 0113 289 8490 Email office@urcyorkshire.org.uk
Web Site:	www.urcyorkshire.org.uk
Trustees & Directors:	Mr J Charlesworth Rev S K Copley Rev A Crump Mr C Evans Mr S Gooder Rev J Kissack
Secretary to Trustees & Company Secretary:	Mr Alastair C Forsyth
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc Leeds City Branch, PO Box 154, 8 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 1QS
Solicitors:	Lupton Fawcett LLP 2 The Embankment Sovereign Street, Leeds, LS1 4BA
Auditors:	SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 33 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1LX
Investment Managers:	Brewin Dolphin Ltd trading as RBC Brewin Dolphin 10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AN
Property Advisers:	Walker Singleton Property House, Lister Lane, Halifax, HX1 5AS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Statement of Responsibilities of the Executive Council

Company law requires the Executive Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the year end. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Council should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Executive Council is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable it to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and regulations thereunder. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each member of the Executive Council at the date of this report is aware,

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the Executive Council have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

These financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

Auditors

SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd offer themselves for reappointment as auditors in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Rev Simon Copley (Executive Council Member)

Rev Jamie Kissack (Executive Council Member)

Date:

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that individually or collectively may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the Directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with the Treasurer and other informed management which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company and thereafter, the audit team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considered the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims and reviewing correspondence with the charitable company's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Date

Claire Lawton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd
33 George Street
Wakefield
WF1 1LX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	2	40,570	118	-	40,688	32,070	333	-	32,403
Charitable activities	3	36,114	1,435,701	-	1,471,815	429,930	874,154	-	1,304,084
Investments	4	274,542	21,982	-	296,524	247,656	13,182	-	260,838
<i>Profit on sale of tangible asset</i>		-	-	-	-	-	22,401	-	22,401
Total	16	351,226	1,457,801	-	1,809,027	709,656	910,070	-	1,619,726
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	22,163	23,425	4,663	50,251	20,881	25,160	5,001	51,042
Charitable activities	5	557,899	308,260	-	866,159	472,143	598,434	-	1,070,577
Total		580,062	331,685	4,663	916,410	493,024	623,594	5,001	1,121,619
Gains/(losses) on investment assets									
<i>Realised</i>	11	-	(62,076)	(12,414)	(74,490)	-	69,287	11,176	80,463
<i>Unrealised</i>		-	(607,563)	(120,748)	(728,311)	-	285,984	59,963	345,947
Total		-	(669,639)	(133,162)	(802,801)	-	355,271	71,139	426,410
Net income/(expenditure)		(228,836)	456,477	(137,825)	89,816	216,632	641,747	66,138	924,517
Transfers between funds	16	656	(656)	-	-	3,437	(3,437)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):									
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(228,180)	455,821	(137,825)	89,816	220,069	638,310	66,138	924,517
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward At 1 January 2022		284,807	8,674,121	1,179,820	10,138,748	64,738	8,035,811	1,113,682	9,214,231
Total funds carried forward At 31 December 2022	16 & 17	56,627	9,129,942	1,041,995	10,228,564	284,807	8,674,121	1,179,820	10,138,748

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income as reported on the SOFA	1,809,027	1,619,726
Gains on investments	-	355,271
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross income in the reporting period	1,809,027	1,974,997
Expenditure as reported on the SOFA	911,747	1,116,618
Losses on investments	669,639	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	227,641	858,379
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Summary Income and Expenditure account excludes movements on the endowment funds. It is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities which together with the notes 1 to 19 provides full information on the movements during the year on all the Charity's funds.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	9	1,021,296	1,035,954
Investments	11	6,901,905	7,586,108
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>7,923,201</u>	<u>8,622,062</u>
Current assets:			
Debtors	12	45,886	33,021
Cash at bank and in hand		2,717,112	1,955,694
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>2,762,998</u>	<u>1,988,715</u>
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(272,495)	(244,528)
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>2,490,503</u>	<u>1,744,187</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>10,413,704</u>	<u>10,366,249</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(185,140)	(227,501)
Total net assets		<u><u>10,228,564</u></u>	<u><u>10,138,748</u></u>
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	16 - 18	1,041,995	1,179,820
Revaluation reserve/(deficit)		177,034	177,034
Other restricted funds		8,952,908	8,497,087
Other unrestricted funds		56,627	284,807
Total charity funds		<u><u>10,228,564</u></u>	<u><u>10,138,748</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council.

Rev Simon Copley Executive Council Member Date

Rev Jamie Kissack Executive Council Member Date

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>	595,176	252,971
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	296,524	260,838
Net proceeds/(costs) associated with the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	370,651
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(11,684)	(4,736)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	1,086,605	2,306,655
Cash (added to) /withdrawn from investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	(1,205,203)	(2,283,847)
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	166,242	649,561
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	761,418	902,532
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,955,694	1,053,162
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2,717,112	1,955,694
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities		
	2022	2021
	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds
	£	£
<i>Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	89,816	924,517
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	26,342	29,453
(Gains)/Losses on investments	802,801	(426,410)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(296,524)	(260,838)
(Profit)/loss on the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	(22,401)
Decrease /(Increase) in debtors	(12,865)	(3,507)
(Decrease) /Increase in creditors	(14,394)	12,157
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>	595,176	252,971
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2022	2021
	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	2,717,112	1,955,694
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,717,112	1,955,694

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Principal accounting policies**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

Donations are included when they are received. Legacies are included when it is probable that they will be received. Investment income is included when it is receivable, and includes any recoverable income tax. Property rents and interest on loans are included when they fall due. Investments and other assets from churches which have closed are accounted for when the amount receivable can reasonably be ascertained.

Recognition and valuation of donated services

The services of the Synod Evangelist, who is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the URC, are provided by the URC under its Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration at no charge to the charity. This donation has been valued at the usual employment cost of a URC Minister, reduced for the Synod Evangelist, which is not a full-time appointment. The cost is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

The Charity's activities are dependent on volunteer members of committees. Travel expenses are reimbursed but there is no recognition in these accounts of the time donated by volunteers.

Basis of allocation of costs

Grants payable are voluntary payments to individuals, local URC churches or URC organisations in accordance with the purpose of the relevant fund. They are accounted for when they have been approved by the Synod Council or Financial Resources Committee, the recipient has been told of that approval, and if applicable has accepted the terms related to the grant. Grants to URC churches are single or multi-year grants. A creditor is included for the full amount of the grant offered. Payment of the second or later year's instalment is dependent on receipt of a report on the previous year, showing the progress made on the project. Occasionally Synod Council will require repayment of grants which have not been spent.

Support costs incurred in maintaining the office and employing the office staff have been allocated to raising income, charitable activities and governance in proportion to the time spent by office staff on each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold and leasehold properties held for continuing use by the Charity are revalued by professional valuers every 5 years and are depreciated over 50 years. Long leasehold properties are defined as those properties with an unexpired lease term of more than 50 years. Properties acquired between valuations are included at cost and depreciated over 50 years. Properties sometimes pass to the Charity from United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire which have closed. If they are to be retained they are valued on acquisition. If the property is to be sold it is not revalued.

Office equipment is capitalised where a purchase or project costs over £500, and is included at cost less a provision for depreciation. This is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives, which are between 3 and 10 years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

1 Principal accounting policies (continued)**Investment assets**

Investments listed or traded on a recognised stock exchange are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Investment properties are valued professionally every five years. In between the valuations the Trustees' best estimate of market value is used. In accordance with standard accounting practice, no depreciation is charged on investment properties. Concessionary loans to URC churches are valued at the amount paid less repayments received.

Current asset measurement

Debtors are included at their recoverable amount.

Current asset investments comprise working capital held on short-term deposit.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises the balance in the bank current account and the petty cash float.

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year are valued at settlement amount.

2 Income from donations and legacies	2022	2021
Donations	£	£
Synod Levy	23,433	14,920
Notional Grant for Synod Evangelist	17,137	17,150
Gifts	118	333
	<u>40,688</u>	<u>32,403</u>

The Synod Levy, which was calculated at £7.50 per member per year, was charged on a voluntary basis in 2022.

3 Income from charitable activities	2022	2021
	£	£
Net proceeds of redundant manse funds and sale of redundant churches	78,702	-
Income from churches closed in the year	1,361,296	1,280,688
Contribution from Northern Province to safeguarding costs	30,367	23,396
Management charge (see note 13)	1,450	-
	<u>1,471,815</u>	<u>1,304,084</u>

When United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire close, the net assets and building pass to the Charity. The building is not included in fixed assets if it is sold within a year of closure. There can be significant variances in this income from one year to another.

From March 2018, the net proceeds from the sale of Closed Church property are to be divided 20% to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund; 40% to the Synod Mission Fund and 40% to the Closed Churches Fund.

From March 2010 amalgamated churches, and those in local ecumenical partnerships, are required to transfer to the Charity 50% of the net proceeds of any United Reformed Church property sale, for use by the Synod Mission Fund.

From October 2011, any manse fund declared redundant is divided 75% to the local church and 25% to the Synod Mission Fund.

At the 2021 Synod meetings, it was agreed that proceeds of sales from church closures, from amalgamating and local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy.

4 Income from Investments	2022	2021
	£	£
Income from quoted investments	245,111	237,850
Investment property rents	22,756	22,756
Interest on bank balances	28,657	232
	<u>296,524</u>	<u>260,838</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

5 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities

Expenditure on raising funds	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>					
Investment management fees	28,088	-	-	28,088	30,161
Support costs	-	-	22,163	22,163	20,881
	28,088	-	22,163	50,251	51,042

Expenditure on charitable activities	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>					
Grants to individuals					
Retired Ministers and widows (no grants)		-		-	5,600
Grants to URC institutions					
To churches for mission activities (27 grants)		147,565		147,565	162,395
To churches for property surveys (11 grants)		2,846		2,846	1,994
Vision & Opportunity to churches (7 grants)		38,920		38,920	62,614
Ministers pension Fund (1 grant)		100,000		100,000	350,000
YCU (1 grant)		20,000		20,000	-
Support costs			5,541	5,541	5,220
	-	309,331	5,541	314,872	587,823

<i>Other charitable activities</i>					
Training Ministers and lay members	7,236		2,771	10,007	4,130
Youth, children and safeguarding	114,486		2,771	117,257	115,741
Administering churches' property and investments	2,326		66,490	68,816	63,921
Supporting committees and Synod	22,679		38,786	61,465	61,285
Pastoral work	1,064		22,163	23,227	21,245
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	55,562		74,801	130,363	93,466
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	116		5,540	5,656	8,369
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	81,802		13,852	95,654	76,095
Sundry and contingencies	3,496		-	3,496	7,160
	288,767	-	227,174	515,941	451,412

<i>Governance costs</i>					
External audit fee	7,200		-	7,200	5,400
Internal audit and accountancy	1,565		-	1,565	1,600
Legal and professional fees	3,877		-	3,877	3,460
Recruitment fees	540			540	-
Support costs	-		22,164	22,164	20,882
	13,182	-	22,164	35,346	31,342

Total expenditure on charitable activities	301,949	309,331	254,879	866,159	1,070,577
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

6 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities - previous year

Expenditure on raising funds - previous year	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>				
Investment management fees	30,161	-	-	30,161
Support costs	-	-	20,881	20,881
	30,161	-	20,881	51,042

Expenditure on charitable activities - previous year

	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>				
Grants to individuals				
Retired Ministers and widows (7 grants)		5,600		5,600
Grants to URC institutions				
To churches for mission activities (13 grants)		162,395		162,395
To churches for property surveys (10 grants)		1,994		1,994
Vision & Opportunity to churches (8 grants)		62,614		62,614
Ministers pension Fund (1 grant)		350,000		350,000
Support costs			5,220	5,220
	-	582,603	5,220	587,823

Other charitable activities

Training Ministers and lay members	1,520		2,610	4,130
Youth, children and safeguarding	113,131		2,610	115,741
Administering churches' property and investments	1,279		62,642	63,921
Supporting committees and Synod	24,744		36,541	61,285
Pastoral work	364		20,881	21,245
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	22,994		70,472	93,466
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	3,149		5,220	8,369
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	63,045		13,050	76,095
Sundry and contingencies	7,160		-	7,160
	237,386	-	214,026	451,412

Governance costs

External audit fee	5,400		-	5,400
Internal audit and accountancy	1,600		-	1,600
Legal and professional fees	3,460		-	3,460
Recruitment fees	-		-	-
Support costs	-		20,882	20,882
	10,460	-	20,882	31,342

Total expenditure on charitable activities

247,846	582,603	240,128	1,070,577
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

7 Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	19,252	4,813	197,337	19,253	240,655
Office rates and maintenance	1,446	362	14,821	1,446	18,075
Office expenses and equipment	1,045	261	10,711	1,045	13,062
Depreciation	420	105	4,305	420	5,250
	22,163	5,541	227,174	22,164	277,042

Analysis of support costs - previous year

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	18,266	4,567	187,229	18,267	228,329
Office rates and maintenance	1,161	290	11,899	1,161	14,511
Office expenses and equipment	919	230	9,418	919	11,486
Depreciation	535	133	5,480	535	6,683
	20,881	5,220	214,026	20,882	261,009

Support costs are allocated in proportion to the time spent by office staff on the activities shown.

It has been accepted that the Synod Evangelist is a Minister of Word and Sacraments under the terms of the United Reformed Church Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration and should not be classified as an employee.

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and wages	258,287	249,479
Employer's National Insurance	21,992	21,441
Pension contributions to defined benefit schemes	57,342	61,278
	337,621	332,198

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 per annum, and there were no other employee benefits other than those disclosed above.

The average number of employees during the year was 10 (2021 - 11).

The key management personnel of the Charity are the Trustees, who include the Synod Treasurer, and key employees of the charity, who are the Trust Secretary, the Property Secretary, the Synod Clerk and the Finance Manager. The employee benefits of the key personnel total £158,785 (2021 £148,867).

Trustees' expenses

Members of the Executive Council are entitled to claim travel expenses for attending its meetings. The Treasurer may claim other expenses (travel, telephone, stationery etc.) incurred in his capacity as Trustee. No Trustee nor anyone connected with the Trustees received any remuneration in 2022 or 2021 except as noted below.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2022	2021
The total of expenses claimed, by 1 (2021 1) Trustee, for the year was:	£ 1,666	£1,566

9 Tangible assets

	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2022	816,138	238,500	69,031	1,123,669
Additions	-	-	11,684	11,684
Disposals	-	-	(13,590)	(13,590)
At 31 December 2022	816,138	238,500	67,125	1,121,763
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	16,250	4,770	66,695	87,715
Charge for the period	16,323	4,770	5,249	26,342
Disposals	-	-	(13,590)	(13,590)
At 31 December 2022	32,573	9,540	58,354	100,467
Net book value				
At 1 January 2022	799,888	233,730	2,336	1,035,954
At 31 December 2022	783,565	228,960	8,771	1,021,296
Net carrying value of revalued assets on historical cost basis	768,349	225,045	-	993,394

Property

The property is used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and comprises:

	Net book amount £
Housing for Ministers of local churches or in Synod posts (a part share in 3 properties)	778,560
Synod office building	233,965
	<u>1,012,525</u>

The housing was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value with vacant possession, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards. The Synod office building was similarly revalued as at 31 December 2020 at existing use value.

10 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

11 Fixed asset investments	Investment properties	Listed investments	Balances at stockbroker	Concessionary loans	Total
Market value	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2022	477,626	7,077,270	11,707	19,505	7,586,108
Less:					
Disposals at opening book value	-	(1,158,162)	-	-	(1,158,162)
Deposits realised/(reinvested)	-	-	15,219	-	15,219
Investment management fees	-	-	(28,088)	-	(28,088)
Loan repayments	-	-	-	(2,933)	(2,933)
Add:					
Deposited for investment	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisitions at cost	-	1,068,454	-	149,618	1,218,072
Revaluation	-	(728,311)	-	-	(728,311)
At 31 December 2022	477,626	6,259,251	(1,162)	166,190	6,901,905
Historical cost					
At 31 December 2022	-	6,175,246	(1,162)	166,190	6,340,274
Disposals:					
Proceeds	-	1,083,672	-	-	1,083,672
Book value at 1 Jan 2022		(1,158,162)	-	-	(1,158,162)
Realised gain	-	(74,490)	-	-	(74,490)

The investment property is 83.794% of the freehold at Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough, and was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards.

All fixed asset investments are in held in the UK, in Nominee Accounts at the brokers. Details of the portfolio of listed investments are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Equity investments	2,067,848	1,720,498
Gilt-edged and fixed interest stocks	294,407	246,395
Investment and unit trusts	3,896,996	5,110,377
	6,259,251	7,077,270

There were no material investments (over 5% by value) at the end of the year: £

Baillie Gifford American W1 Dis	-	375,823
Fidelity US Quality Income UCITS ETF	-	391,519

All concessionary loans are to churches within the URC Yorkshire province. The maximum repayment period is 5 years and simple interest is charged at 0%. Repayments of capital are made quarterly or monthly. No security is provided on any loan. The maximum capital outstanding on any loan at 31 December 2022 was £153,453 (2021: £10,075).

	£	£
Concessionary loans falling due within one year	3,660	2,621
Concessionary loans falling due after more than one year	162,530	16,884
	166,190	19,505

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

12 Debtors	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts owed by group and associated undertakings:		
Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated)	1,450	-
Cash in transit from YCU (Inc)	375	403
Prepayments and accrued income	44,061	32,618
	45,886	33,021

13 Related Parties

The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) is a Charity administered by the same Trustees as the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited, from the same office. It acts as Trustee for many of the United Reformed Churches in the Yorkshire Synod. The YCU has no employees; its administrative work is performed by employees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd, for which a management charge is made. The charge for 2022 was £1,450 (2021: £nil). In addition, one of the churches for which the YCU acts as custodian Trustee owed the Trust £200 (2021: £284) at the year end; the YCU owed the Trust £1,825 (2021: £403). The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited has given the YCU an assurance of financial support and as such in 2022 made a payment of £20,000 to the YCU.

Trustees or people connected with the Trustees may also be Trustees of a church in receipt of a grant or concessionary loan from the Trust. Grants are awarded by a separate group from the Trustees, and members of that group will not take part in the decision if they have a conflict of interest.

Revd A Crump who is a Minister at Knaresborough and Bilton Grange URCs and is also a Trustee, occupies a manse which is part owned by the Trust and part owned by a local church.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	239,069	210,240
Accruals and deferred income	33,051	31,707
Other creditors	375	2,581
	272,495	244,528

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	185,140	227,501

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

16 Movement in funds during the year

	Balance 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	Revaluation gains/losses	Balance 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments						
General Purposes	791,336	-	(3,121)	-	(89,349)	698,866
Church Extension	268,309	-	(1,065)	-	(30,260)	236,984
Maintenance of Ministry	18,912	-	(75)	-	(2,133)	16,704
Welfare of Ministry	81,056	-	(322)	-	(9,141)	71,593
Home Churches	20,207	-	(80)	-	(2,279)	17,848
	1,179,820	-	(4,663)	-	(133,162)	1,041,995
Restricted funds						
Closed Churches capital	7,701,889	1,435,701	(183,438)	-	(669,639)	8,284,513
Closed Churches revaluation reserve	177,034				-	177,034
Synod Mission capital and income	385,466	5,426	(147,565)	-	-	243,327
Income funds						
Church Extension	398,358	12,279	-	-	-	410,637
Maintenance of Ministry	-	656	-	(656)	-	-
Welfare	10,143	3,027	-	-	-	13,170
Home Churches	1,231	712	(682)	-	-	1,261
	8,674,121	1,457,801	(331,685)	(656)	(669,639)	9,129,942
Unrestricted Funds						
General income	284,807	99,736	(516,509)	188,593	-	56,627
Closed Churches income	-	251,490	(63,553)	(187,937)	-	-
	284,807	351,226	(580,062)	656	-	56,627
Total Funds	10,138,748	1,809,027	(916,410)	-	(802,801)	10,228,564

The Charity is Trustee of all the funds, which are to be used by the United Reformed Church in its Yorkshire Synod.

Permanent Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the Charity, principally investments. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges are charged against the fund. Income arising on the endowment funds is either restricted or unrestricted depending on the fund.

The endowment investments are pooled and held within the Common Investment Fund. All gains and income are credited to the constituent endowment and income funds in the proportion of the assets originally pooled, which were General (66.93%), Church Extension (22.84%), Maintenance of the Ministry (1.61%), Welfare (6.90%) and Home Churches (1.72%).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

16 Movement in funds during the year (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Designated funds are amounts of money within Unrestricted Funds which have been set aside for a specific purpose which will be achieved within less than three years.

General Purposes Fund - use of the income is unrestricted for the furtherance of religious and other charitable work of the United Reformed Church within its Yorkshire Synod.

Church Extension Fund - makes loans to local United Reformed Churches for the upkeep and repair of their buildings.

Maintenance of the Ministry Fund - provides a small income which is transferred to the General Purposes Fund where it is deemed to assist in the maintenance of the ministry of the Synod Moderator.

Welfare of the Ministry Fund - provides income which forms 50% of the grants made in cases of need to Ministers, retired Ministers and their dependants.

Home Churches Fund - represents a small amount of capital, the income from which forms part of the Synod's Mission and Ministry Fund contributions to the United Reformed Church.

Closed Churches Fund - holds funds from churches closed after 1972, under the terms of the URC Trusts set out in the 1972 URC Act, as modified by the 1981 Act. The capital is available for use in accordance with the URC Act 1981, Schedule 2, parts I and II. Income from the investment of the capital is directed to the General Purposes Fund and is used to fund the work of the Synod.

Synod Mission Fund was set up in 2010 and incorporates the former Amalgamation Fund. It receives funds primarily from property sales that arise as part of the closure or amalgamation of local churches, or the creation of Local Ecumenical Projects. Both capital and income are available for grants to local churches for any project that can be shown to promote the missionary work of the United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire.

Transfers between funds

The net income on the Closed Churches Fund is unrestricted and transferred to the General Fund each year. The General Fund also receives the income from the Maintenance of the Ministry and Welfare Funds, in line with the above descriptions.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds at the year end

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	8,771	1,012,525	-	1,021,296
Investments	-	5,860,173	1,041,732	6,901,905
Net current assets	47,856	2,442,384	263	2,490,503
Long term liabilities	-	(185,140)	-	(185,140)
Total net assets	56,627	9,129,942	1,041,995	10,228,564

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)

18 Pension costs**Lay Staff Pension Scheme**

The Charity contributes to The United Reformed Church Final Salary Scheme, a pension scheme principally for lay staff, which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions Trust (formally The Pensions Trust). The scheme is a defined benefit scheme but the Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities - each employer in that scheme pays a common contribution rate.

During 2022, the Charity contributed 22.8% (2021: 23.2%) of basic salary in respect of members of the Final Salary. Members contributed at the rate of 7.5% (2021: 7.5%) of pensionable salary throughout the accounting period.

The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2020, when the scheme had a surplus of £2,689,000. The assumptions underlying that valuation include:

Discount rate:	1.4% p.a.
Pensionable earnings growth:	2.5% for three years, 2.75% thereafter
Price inflation and pension increases:	2.55%
Retirement age:	65, with maximum commutation

The scheme was closed to future accrual on 28 February 2023. A new defined contribution scheme has been set up and staff will be moved to this scheme.

Ministers' Pension Scheme

It is estimated that the Ministers' Pension Fund (MPF), which is the responsibility of the United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (URCTL), will be £45 million in deficit over 10 years from 2021 to 2030 inclusive.

Each of the 13 Synods of the United Reformed Church has been asked by URCTL to make contributions over that 10 year period to help reduce this underfunding.

In 2021, the Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited made an aspirational offer of £1.675 million to the URCTL as a contribution towards the obligation that URCTL has to the MPF. This was approved at the October 2021 meeting of the Synod. This offer will be funded from the proceeds of sale of buildings of closed churches, any voluntary contributions from churches and other Synod funds. In December 2021, a payment of £350,000 was made by the Yorkshire Synod to the MPF. This was followed by a second payment of £100,000 in December 2022.

19 Post Balance Sheet Events

At the year end, the property of 6 churches is held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the Charity following church closures. The proceeds of sale will revert to the Charity in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the properties are held.

Since the year end, one of these closed church buildings has sold for £150,000. 4 of the other buildings are currently on the market.

On 8 March the Trust received £24,168 which is the URC share from the sale of a former Local Ecumenical Project.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1068103

Accounts

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE)
TRUST LIMITED**

Charity registered no: 1068103

Company registered no: 1562723

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

This report fulfils the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 for a Trustees' Annual Report, and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 for a Directors' Report.

Objectives and Activities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited ('the Charity') is established to advance the Christian religion and propagate the Gospel in accordance with the doctrines, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church with particular responsibility for the Yorkshire Synod of that Church.

The Charity exists to support the United Reformed Churches of the Yorkshire Synod in their search to obey the will of Christ in their witness to the world. The main objective of the Charity is to provide resources, funded by the Charity's assets, to enable the churches to do this.

Currently, the main strategy of the Charity is to maximise income through the Executive Council, in partnership with the Investment Sub Committee; and to apply the resources so generated in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire and in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000.

Significant activities

Encouraging churches to undertake mission activity relevant to their variety of contexts.

Provision of information, advice, support and encouragement to churches covering...

- Property maintenance and development
- Legal and compliance issues
- Terms of settlement for existing and new ministers
- Accounting requirements
- Management of the Mission and Ministry Scheme

Administering the investments and property of the churches.

Advising and assisting with establishing, grouping, amalgamating or dissolution of local churches within the United Reformed Church and with other denominations.

Developing a strategy for the deployment of ordained ministry within the Synod and assisting churches during times of vacancy.

Providing training and resources for the enabling of;

- Both lay and ordained ministers
- Adults and young people
- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Grant making and other financial support for church buildings and mission projects.

Management and maintenance of investments and properties held for the use of the Charity.

Public Benefit

The Charity has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Charity proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with its long established moral framework, and strives to develop spirituality and spiritual well-being through relationship with the God of the Bible.

This benefit is available to all communities who are within reach of one or more of our 88 churches which are situated across Yorkshire. Further details are to be found throughout the remainder of this report.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021****Objectives and Activities (continued)****Grants Policy**

The objects of the Charity dictate that grants can only be made to United Reformed Churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships which are part of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Normally, the only individuals who can receive a grant are retired ministers or their widow(er)s and these welfare grants are awarded in response to applications made to the Welfare Committee each year. Applicants must be resident within the Yorkshire Synod.

United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire may apply for assistance from the following funds:

Church Extension Fund	interest free loans for church building projects
Closed Churches Fund	for 25% of the cost of church survey reports Vision and Opportunity grant for churches facing building challenges
	Vision and Opportunity grant for churches and individuals for training, evangelical and pastoral projects
Synod Mission Fund	for Mission projects assessed against the "Ten Statements of Mission" which have been adopted by the United Reformed Church

Synod Mission Fund grant applications are considered by the Mission Fund Panel, which meets four times a year. The Panel consists of the Synod Clerk, Synod Evangelist, and Conveners of the Synod Pastoral, Ministries, Property and Financial Resources Committees.

From time to time other funds may be made available with the approval of the Synod.

Applications for interest free loans will be considered by the Synod Financial Resources Committee.

All grants are accounted for once a decision has been reached and the church notified, and if applicable has accepted the terms of the grant. Grants will be held for a maximum of three years, any delay longer than this will require a fresh application.

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

The Charity has maximised its income, subject to compliance with its ethical investment policy, and applied its resources in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the Church and has employed staff to carry out the activities shown on page 1.

The performance of the investment portfolios was assessed by the Investment Sub Committee on behalf of the Trustees and the income received was some 15% higher (2020: 13% lower) than the budget set by the Synod for 2021. Considering the impact of Covid-19 on the financial markets, it was felt that this was a very acceptable result. The economic climate remains uncertain with increasing interest rates, inflationary pressures and the situation in the Ukraine.

Two years on from the beginning of pandemic restrictions, it is clear that there are continuing impacts on the normal church life. The working, worshipping and mission patterns have changed and it is not yet clear to what extent they will revert to what they were like pre-pandemic, and to what extent there will be long-term adjustments.

The process has been traumatic in many ways, and the impact is showing itself in slow-motion in the church. Over the last year there has been the closure of 4 churches, and there have been 2 instances of amalgamating churches. The pandemic has forced conversations over issues which have long been there. More positively, the Synod has proven it can do things differently and this has created the opportunity to re-imagine the life of the church.

There are many examples of good work across the Synod. The Leading Your Church into Growth team is doing superb work, and is one of the most significant tools the Synod has to help the churches meet the challenges of the moment. The Lay

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

Preachers, Ministers and Church Secretaries continue to support each other and the Elders' Development group carry on their excellent work. After a slow start, the discipleship development programme (known as Stepwise) is starting to gain momentum and it is good to hear stories of members of churches exploring their calling to different roles in the local church. The Wilderness team continue their work with children and young people in the Synod. There is a continued offer of training and support in relation to IT, and this is appreciated by many churches and has opened up new possibilities for engagement.

At the October Synod, a focus was on the work of the Green Apostle in moving the churches and Synod toward EcoChurch status, and time was spent exploring racial justice. Alongside these, a major theme of Mission was picked up. During 2022, it is hoped that the Synod will be able to draw together from the different contexts of local churches, a serious conversation about how to articulate the calling to mission, how this is already being put into practice, and how to face fresh challenges.

Plans for Elders made for 2021 included the Annual Conference and a 24-hour meeting at Wydale Hall. For the Annual Conference plans were revisited which had been made for the 2020 conference with title "Wise and wonderful: the gift and responsibility of God's creation". The Annual Conference took place online, which was a well-attended and interesting day, giving participants much to think about and act on in their own contexts. The 24-hour meeting at Wydale Hall at the end of September 2021, looked at a study based on the Psalms, the title of which was, 'How Can We Sing the Lord's Song?'

Elders' plans for 2022 include an Annual Conference on Saturday 26 March at Bilton Grange URC in Harrogate and online. Plans are also well advanced for a day on Spirituality and Prayer entitled 'From a Spark to a Flame'. There are again plans to hold a 24-hour event at Wydale Hall at the end of September 2022.

Wydale Hall is also the venue in November 2022 for a 2-day Minister's residential.

Finally, there are currently no students in training for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.

A dominant factor of 2021 have been the discussions about the URC Ministers Pension Scheme. The United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (URCTL) had asked each Synod to make a contribution to alleviate the substantial £45 million deficit on the scheme, over a 10 year period between 2021 and 2030. In July 2021, an aspirational offer of £1.675 million was made to the URCTL from the Yorkshire Synod. This was based upon the forecast of contributions payable from the proceeds of the sale of closed church buildings and voluntary payments from churches. In order to assist with the challenge of raising funds for the pension scheme, it was agreed at the March and October Synod meetings, that proceeds of sales from church closures, church amalgamation, local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy. In December 2021 the first payment of £350,000 was made to the scheme.

The Synod Mission Fund continued to help churches establish creative and innovative missionary projects throughout the year. In 2021, the fund made 13 awards totalling £179,292. The projects receiving awards ranged from children, youth and families to audio visual and streaming.

The Vision and Opportunity Initiative also continues to offer grants to churches to develop property for mission purposes and has so far made awards totalling £279,585, with a remaining balance to distribute of £170,415. Evangelistic, training and pastoral related grants have been issued totalling £19,752, with a remaining balance to distribute of £30,248. The remaining sum of £200,000 has been allocated for collaborative mission projects but the criteria for this has not yet been decided.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Financial Review**Results for the year**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) issued in January 2015.

The excess of income over expenditure for the year amounted to £924,517 (in 2020, the excess of expenditure over income was £300,313).

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are unrestricted funds, which are not held as fixed assets. Reserves will normally be held to finance the work of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire including the Yorkshire Congregational Union (YCU) together with its responsibilities to the work nationally, for a period of 12 months. The YCU is a connected charity and is explained on page 5. The average resources expended from unrestricted funds, over the three years, to 31 December 2021, was £12,818 and the level of reserves at that date was £284,807.

In 2018, the Trustees became aware of a serious incident related to one particular church, disclosure of which was made by the YCU to the Charity Commission. This matter is still ongoing, and the trustees continue to do their utmost to resolve the issue. Financial support from the Trust to the YCU would be put in place if required.

In light of the global pandemic the trustees have regularly reviewed and evaluated the financial impact on the Synod and concluded that there is no going concern uncertainty. They will continue to monitor as required.

The assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Charity. Each fund has sufficient resources in an appropriate form to meet its obligations. All the assets of the Charity are used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and were acquired in accordance with powers vested in the Executive Council. The financial position at the Balance Sheet date is satisfactory and will enable the Charity to meet future obligations.

Investment policy and investment powers

There has been no change to the Investment Policy Statement and the Policy Document. This document outlines the responsibilities of the various committees within the Synod and contains details of the Discretionary Management of the Investments by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd. The Policy Document also outlines the Requirements, Restrictions, Recording, and Reporting under which the Managers will operate.

Property

All property under the control of the Charity is shown at market value as indicated in notes 9 and 11 of the Financial Statements. The valuations used were those provided by Walker Singleton as at 31 December 2020.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The governing instrument is the Memorandum & Articles of Association which is dated 19 May 1981.

The membership consists of the members for the time being of the Synod Council of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church. At 31 December 2021 the number of members totalled 14 (2020 – 14). In the event of the Charity being wound up, every person who is a member, or who has been a member within one year, is liable to contribute to the debts and liabilities of the Charity a sum not exceeding £1.

The business of the Charity is managed by the members of the Executive Council who are Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited for the purposes of company law. Members of the Executive Council are the members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee of the Synod. The members of the Financial Resources Committee are recruited from the membership of the churches of the Yorkshire Synod, the appointments being approved by the Yorkshire Synod Council and ratified by Synod. Synod also appoints the Treasurer, Synod Moderator and the Synod Clerk who are ex-officio members of the Committee. However, following the appointment of a Synod Clerk as an employee of the Charity, on the 9 March 2019, the Synod Clerk will not be a member of the Executive Council. The Directors of the Charity are listed on page 6.

The Charity is aware of the need to enable and equip Trustees and takes steps to make available Charity Commission publications and newsletters.

The Financial Resources Committee of the Synod meets six times a year and is responsible for all financial decisions, except the decisions about Synod Mission Fund Grants which are made by the Synod Mission Fund Panel (see Grants Policy on page 2). Investments are monitored by a sub-committee on which the Treasurer serves. This sub-committee meets four times a year and implements investment strategies established by the Trustees. Currently the Investments are managed by Brewin Dolphin Securities on a discretionary basis. Minutes of the Investment Sub-Committee meetings are circulated to the Trustees.

The Charity operates as an autonomous body but, along with twelve other Synods (or regions), is part of The United Reformed Church and this brings a share of national responsibilities. A resource sharing process is in place to enable Synods with more resources to help those less well equipped. Historically, Yorkshire has been a net contributor to this scheme but since 2010 has adopted a neutral position neither giving nor receiving from the process.

Connected Charities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited is connected with the YCU. The YCU holds investments as Custodian Trustee for many of the local churches of the United Reformed Church in the Yorkshire Synod, and holds property as Trustee for most of those churches. The YCU shares the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited offices and administration, for which it pays a small charge based on its income. The Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited are also Trustees of the YCU, but the Chair of Trustees of the YCU is not a Trustee of the Charity.

Risk Management

The Executive Council has a risk management strategy in line with the guidance published by the Charity Commission organising risk into three headings – Governance and Control, Operational Risk and Financial Risk. Control procedures are then agreed to contain, mitigate or even totally remove the risks. The Risk Management Strategy is reviewed periodically.

As with most organisations, the Covid-19 outbreak has had an impact on the Synod and its churches. The Synod responded with new ways of working and support was offered to all of its churches and this remains in place.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reference and Administrative Details

Company registration number:	1562723
Charity registration number:	1068103
Registered Office:	Somerset House, St Paul's Street Morley, Leeds, LS27 9EP Telephone 0113 289 8490 Fax 0113 289 8491 Email office@urcyorkshire.org.uk
Web Site:	www.urcyorkshire.org.uk
Trustees & Directors:	Mr J Charlesworth Rev S K Copley Rev A Crump Mr C Evans Mr S Gooder Rev J Kissack
Secretary to Trustees & Company Secretary:	Mr Alastair C Forsyth
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc Leeds City Branch, PO Box 154, 8 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 1QS
Solicitors:	Lupton Fawcett LLP Yorkshire House, East Parade, Leeds, LS1 5BD
Auditors:	SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 33 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1LX
Investment Managers:	Brewin Dolphin Ltd 10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AN
Property Advisers:	Walker Singleton Property House, Lister Lane, Halifax, HX1 5AS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Statement of Responsibilities of the Executive Council

Company law requires the Executive Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the year end. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Council should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Executive Council is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable it to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and regulations thereunder. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each member of the Executive Council at the date of this report is aware,

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the Executive Council have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

These financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

Auditors

SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd offer themselves for reappointment as auditors in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Rev Simon Copley (Executive Council Member)

Rev Alan Crump (Executive Council Member)

Date: 27 April 2022

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that individually or collectively may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the Directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with the Treasurer and other informed management which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company and thereafter, the audit team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considered the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims and reviewing correspondence with the charitable company's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Date

Claire Lawton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd
33 George Street
Wakefield
WF1 1LX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	2	32,070	333	-	32,403	45,883	3,353	-	49,236
Charitable activities	3	429,930	874,154	-	1,304,084	27,803	354,459	-	382,262
Investments	4	247,656	13,182	-	260,838	236,176	13,783	-	249,959
<i>Profit on sale of tangible asset</i>		-	22,401	-	22,401	24	10,731	-	10,755
Total	16	709,656	910,070	-	1,619,726	309,886	382,326	-	692,212
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	20,881	25,160	5,001	51,042	20,777	23,099	4,574	48,450
Charitable activities	5	472,143	598,434	-	1,070,577	462,678	373,395	-	836,073
Total		493,024	623,594	5,001	1,121,619	483,455	396,494	4,574	884,523
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	11								
<i>Realised</i>		-	69,287	11,176	80,463	-	(181,568)	(32,212)	(213,780)
<i>Unrealised</i>		-	285,984	59,963	345,947	-	88,085	17,693	105,778
Total		-	355,271	71,139	426,410	-	(93,483)	(14,519)	(108,002)
Net income/(expenditure)		216,632	641,747	66,138	924,517	(173,569)	(107,651)	(19,093)	(300,313)
Transfers between funds	16	3,437	(3,437)	-	-	3,112	(3,112)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):									
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	9	-	-	-	-	-	113,182	-	113,182
Net movement in funds		220,069	638,310	66,138	924,517	(170,457)	2,419	(19,093)	(187,131)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward At 1 January 2021		64,738	8,035,811	1,113,682	9,214,231	235,195	8,033,392	1,132,775	9,401,362
Total funds carried forward At 31 December 2021	16 & 17	284,807	8,674,121	1,179,820	10,138,748	64,738	8,035,811	1,113,682	9,214,231

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Income as reported on the SOFA	1,619,726	692,212
Gains on investments	355,271	-
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	113,182
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross income in the reporting period	1,974,997	805,394
Expenditure as reported on the SOFA	1,116,618	879,949
Losses on investments	-	93,483
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	858,379	(168,038)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Summary Income and Expenditure account excludes movements on the endowment funds. It is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities which together with the notes 1 to 19 provides full information on the movements during the year on all the Charity's funds.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £		2020 £
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets	9	1,035,954		1,408,921
Investments	11	7,586,108		7,182,506
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		8,622,062		8,591,427
Current assets:				
Debtors	12	33,021		29,514
Cash at bank and in hand		1,955,694		1,053,162
<i>Total current assets</i>		1,988,715		1,082,676
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(244,528)		(237,868)
<i>Net current assets</i>		1,744,187		844,808
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		10,366,249		9,436,235
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(227,501)		(222,004)
Total net assets		10,138,748		9,214,231
The funds of the charity:				
Endowment funds	16 - 18	1,179,820		1,113,682
Revaluation reserve/(deficit)		177,034	177,034	
Other restricted funds		8,497,087	7,858,777	8,035,811
Other unrestricted funds		284,807	64,738	64,738
Total charity funds		10,138,748		9,214,231

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 27 April 2022.

Rev Simon Copley

Executive Council Member

Rev Alan Crump

Executive Council Member

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>	252,971	(232,936)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	260,838	249,959
Net proceeds/(costs) associated with the sale of tangible fixed assets	370,651	11,130
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(4,736)	(96,554)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	2,306,655	1,466,547
Cash (added to) /withdrawn from investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	(2,283,847)	(1,430,904)
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	649,561	200,178
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	902,532	(32,758)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,053,162	1,085,920
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,955,694	1,053,162
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities		
	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
<i>Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	924,517	(300,313)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	29,453	34,822
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(426,410)	108,002
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(260,838)	(249,959)
(Profit)/loss on the sale of tangible fixed assets	(22,401)	(10,755)
Decrease /(Increase) in debtors	(3,507)	136,055
(Decrease) /Increase in creditors	12,157	49,212
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>	252,971	(232,936)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,955,694	1,053,162
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,955,694	1,053,162

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

1 Principal accounting policies**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

Donations are included when they are received. Legacies are included when it is probable that they will be received. Investment income is included when it is receivable, and includes any recoverable income tax. Property rents and interest on loans are included when they fall due. Investments and other assets from churches which have closed are accounted for when the amount receivable can reasonably be ascertained.

Recognition and valuation of donated services

The services of the Synod's Development Officer (to 31 October 2020) and Evangelist, who are Ministers of Word and Sacrament in the URC, are provided by the URC under its Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration at no charge to the charity. These donations have been valued at the usual employment cost of a URC minister, reduced for the Synod Evangelist, which is not a full-time appointment. The cost is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

The Charity's activities are dependent on volunteer members of committees. Travel expenses are reimbursed but there is no recognition in these accounts of the time donated by volunteers.

Basis of allocation of costs

Grants payable are voluntary payments to individuals, local URC churches or URC organisations in accordance with the purpose of the relevant fund. They are accounted for when they have been approved by the Synod Council or Financial Resources Committee, the recipient has been told of that approval, and if applicable has accepted the terms related to the grant. Grants to URC churches are usually multi-year grants. A creditor is included for the full amount of the grant offered. Payment of the second or later year's instalment is dependent on receipt of a report on the previous year, showing the progress made on the project. Occasionally Synod Council will require repayment of grants which have not been spent.

Support costs incurred in maintaining the office and employing the office staff have been allocated to raising income, charitable activities and governance in proportion to the time spent by office staff on each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold and leasehold properties held for continuing use by the Charity are revalued by professional valuers every 5 years and are depreciated over 50 years. Long leasehold properties are defined as those properties with an unexpired lease term of more than 50 years. Properties acquired between valuations are included at cost and depreciated over 50 years. Properties sometimes pass to the Charity from United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire which have closed. If they are to be retained they are valued on acquisition. If the property is to be sold it is not revalued.

Office equipment is capitalised where a purchase or project costs over £500, and is included at cost less a provision for depreciation. This is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives, which are between 3 and 10 years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

1 Principal accounting policies (continued)**Investment assets**

Investments listed or traded on a recognised stock exchange are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Investment properties are valued professionally every five years. In between the valuations the Trustees' best estimate of market value is used. In accordance with standard accounting practice, no depreciation is charged on investment properties. Concessionary loans to URC churches are valued at the amount paid less repayments received.

Current asset measurement

Debtors are included at their recoverable amount.

Current asset investments comprise working capital held on short-term deposit.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises the balance in the bank current account and the petty cash float.

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year are valued at settlement amount.

2 Income from donations and legacies	2021	2020
Donations	£	£
Synod Levy	14,920	40
Notional Grant for Synod Development Officer (in 2020) and Evangelist	17,150	45,543
Gifts	333	3,653
	32,403	49,236

The Synod Levy, which was calculated at £7.50 per member per year, was charged on a voluntary basis in 2021.

3 Income from charitable activities	2021	2020
	£	£
Net proceeds of redundant manse funds and sale of redundant churches	-	255,069
Income from church closed in the year	1,280,688	106,472
Contribution from Northern Province to safeguarding costs	23,396	15,445
Interest on loans to churches & ministers	-	8
Management charge (see note 13)	-	5,268
	1,304,084	382,262

When United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire close, the net assets and building pass to the Charity. The building is not included in fixed assets if it is sold within a year of closure. There can be significant variances in this income from one year to another.

From March 2018, the net proceeds from the sale of Closed Church property are to be divided 20% to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund; 40% to the Synod Mission Fund and 40% to the Closed Churches Fund.

From March 2010 amalgamated churches, and those in local ecumenical partnerships, are required to transfer to the Charity 50% of the net proceeds of any United Reformed Church property sale, for use by the Synod Mission Fund.

From October 2011, any manse fund declared redundant is divided 75% to the local church and 25% to the Synod Mission Fund.

At the 2021 Synod meetings, it was agreed that proceeds of sales from church closures, church amalgamation, local ecumenical partnerships and redundant manse funds should be redirected from the Synod Mission Fund to the Closed Churches Fund until Synod makes a new policy.

4 Income from Investments	2021	2020
	£	£
Income from quoted investments	237,850	224,980
Investment property rents	22,756	22,756
Interest on bank balances	232	2,223
	260,838	249,959

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

5 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities

Expenditure on raising funds	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>					
Investment management fees	30,161	-	-	30,161	27,673
Support costs	-	-	20,881	20,881	20,777
	30,161	-	20,881	51,042	48,450
Expenditure on charitable activities					
<i>Grant making</i>	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to individuals					
Retired ministers and widows (7 grants)		5,600		5,600	5,000
Grants to URC institutions					
To churches for mission activities (13 grants)		162,395		162,395	221,381
To churches for property surveys (10 grants)		1,994		1,994	2,385
Vision & Opportunity to churches (8 grants)		62,614		62,614	125,076
Ministers pension Fund (1 grant)		350,000		350,000	-
Support costs			5,220	5,220	5,194
	-	582,603	5,220	587,823	359,036
<i>Other charitable activities</i>					
Training ministers and lay members	1,520		2,610	4,130	36,519
Youth, children and safeguarding	113,131		2,610	115,741	115,141
Administering churches' property and investments	1,279		62,642	63,921	63,377
Supporting committees and Synod	24,744		36,541	61,285	46,799
Pastoral work	364		20,881	21,245	21,960
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	22,994		70,472	93,466	97,617
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	3,149		5,220	8,369	7,410
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	63,045		13,050	76,095	53,746
Sundry and contingencies	7,160		-	7,160	1,986
	237,386	-	214,026	451,412	444,555
<i>Governance costs</i>					
External audit fee	5,400		-	5,400	5,526
Internal audit and accountancy	1,600		-	1,600	1,596
Legal and professional fees	3,460		-	3,460	2,803
Recruitment fees	-		-	-	(20)
Revaluation fees	-		-	-	1,800
Support costs	-		20,882	20,882	20,777
	10,460	-	20,882	31,342	32,482
Total expenditure on charitable activities	247,846	582,603	240,128	1,070,577	836,073

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

6 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities - previous year

Expenditure on raising funds - previous year	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2020
	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>				
Investment management fees	27,673	-	-	27,673
Support costs	-	-	20,777	20,777
	27,673	-	20,777	48,450

Expenditure on charitable activities - previous year

	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
<i>Grant making</i>				
Grants to individuals				
Retired ministers and widows (6 grants)		5,000		5,000
Grants to URC institutions				
To churches for mission activities (19 grants)		221,381		221,381
To churches for property surveys (7 grants)		2,385		2,385
Vision & Opportunity to churches (15 grants)		125,076		125,076
Support costs			5,194	5,194
	-	353,842	5,194	359,036

Other charitable activities

Training ministers and lay members	33,922		2,597	36,519
Youth, children and safeguarding	112,543		2,598	115,141
Administering churches' property and investments	1,046		62,331	63,377
Supporting committees and Synod	10,439		36,360	46,799
Pastoral work	1,183		20,777	21,960
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	27,494		70,123	97,617
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	2,216		5,194	7,410
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	40,760		12,986	53,746
Sundry and contingencies	1,986		-	1,986
	231,589	-	212,966	444,555

Governance costs

External audit fee	5,526		-	5,526
Internal audit and accountancy	1,596		-	1,596
Legal and professional fees	2,803		-	2,803
Recruitment fees	(20)			(20)
Revaluation fees	1,800		-	1,800
Support costs	-		20,777	20,777
	11,705	-	20,777	32,482

Total expenditure on charitable activities

243,294	353,842	238,937	836,073
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

7 Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	18,266	4,567	187,229	18,267	228,329
Office rates and maintenance	1,161	290	11,899	1,161	14,511
Office expenses and equipment	919	230	9,418	919	11,486
Depreciation	535	133	5,480	535	6,683
	20,881	5,220	214,026	20,882	261,009

Analysis of support costs - previous year

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	17,939	4,484	183,872	17,939	224,234
Office rates and maintenance	1,059	265	10,857	1,059	13,240
Office expenses and equipment	1,096	274	11,234	1,096	13,700
Depreciation	683	171	7,003	683	8,540
	20,777	5,194	212,966	20,777	259,714

Support costs are allocated in proportion to the time spent by office staff on the activities shown.

It has been accepted that the Synod Development Officer (to 31 October 2020) and Synod Evangelist are Ministers of Word and Sacraments under the terms of the United Reformed Church Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration and should not be classified as employees.

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	249,479	245,295
Employer's National Insurance	21,441	20,381
Pension contributions to defined benefit schemes	61,278	60,681
	332,198	326,357

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 per annum, and there were no other employee benefits other than those disclosed above.

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2020 - 11).

The key management personnel of the Charity are the Trustees, who include the Synod Treasurer, and key employees of the charity, who are the Trust Secretary, the Property Secretary, the Synod Clerk and the Finance Manager. The employee benefits of the key personnel total £148,867 (2020 £146,583).

Trustees' expenses

Members of the Executive Council are entitled to claim travel expenses for attending its meetings. The Treasurer may claim other expenses (travel, telephone, stationery etc.) incurred in their capacity as trustee. No trustee nor anyone connected with the trustees received any remuneration in 2021 or 2020 except as noted below.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2021	2020
The total of expenses claimed, by 1 (2020 4) Trustees, for the year was:	£ 1,566	£2,943

9 Tangible assets

Cost or valuation	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2021	1,162,500	238,500	69,613	1,470,613
Additions	3,638	-	1,098	4,736
Disposals	(350,000)	-	(1,680)	(351,680)
At 31 December 2021	816,138	238,500	69,031	1,123,669
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	-	-	61,692	61,692
Charge for the period	18,000	4,770	6,683	29,453
Disposals	(1,750)	-	(1,680)	(3,430)
At 31 December 2021	16,250	4,770	66,695	87,715
Net book value				
At 1 January 2021	1,162,500	238,500	7,921	1,408,921
At 31 December 2021	799,888	233,730	2,336	1,035,954
Net carrying value of revalued assets on historical cost basis	768,349	225,045	-	993,394

Property

The property is used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and comprises:

	Net book amount £
Housing for ministers of local churches or in Synod posts (a part share in 3 properties)	794,780
Synod office building	238,838
	<u>1,033,618</u>

The housing was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value with vacant possession, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards. The Synod office building was similarly revalued as at 31 December 2020 at existing use value.

10 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

11 Fixed asset investments	Investment properties	Listed investments	Balances at stockbroker	Concessionary loans	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Market value					
At 1 January 2021	477,626	6,678,949	13,781	12,150	7,182,506
Less:					
Disposals at opening book value	-	(2,217,972)	-	-	(2,217,972)
Deposits realised/(reinvested)	-	-	28,087	-	28,087
Investment management fees	-	-	(30,161)	-	(30,161)
Loan repayments	-	-	-	(8,220)	(8,220)
Add:					
Deposited for investment	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisitions at cost	-	2,270,346	-	15,575	2,285,921
Revaluation	-	345,947	-	-	345,947
At 31 December 2021	477,626	7,077,270	11,707	19,505	7,586,108
Historical cost					
At 31 December 2021	-	6,059,805	11,707	19,505	6,071,512
Disposals:					
Proceeds	-	2,298,435	-	-	2,298,435
Book value at 1 Jan 2021		(2,217,972)	-	-	(2,217,972)
Realised gain	-	80,463	-	-	80,463

The investment property is 83.794% of the freehold at Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough, and was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards.

All fixed asset investments are in held in the UK, in Nominee Accounts at the brokers. Details of the portfolio of listed investments are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Equity investments	1,720,498	1,903,728
Gilt-edged and fixed interest stocks	246,395	404,089
Investment and unit trusts	5,110,377	4,371,131
	7,077,270	6,678,948
Material investments (over 5% by value) at the end of the year:	£	£
Baillie Gifford American W1 Dis	375,823	453,446
Fidelity US Quality Income UCITS ETF	391,519	0

All concessionary loans are to churches within the URC Yorkshire province. The maximum repayment period is 5 years and simple interest is charged at 0%. Repayments of capital are made quarterly or monthly. No security is provided on any loan. The maximum capital outstanding on any loan at 31 December 2021 was £10,075 (31 December 2020: £3,108).

	£	£
Concessionary loans falling due within one year	2,621	7,861
Concessionary loans falling due after more than one year	16,884	4,289
	19,505	12,150

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

12 Debtors	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts owed by group and associated undertakings:		
Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated)	0	5,268
Cash in transit from YCU (Inc)	403	416
Prepayments and accrued income	32,618	23,830
	33,021	29,514

13 Related Parties

The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) is a Charity administered by the same Trustees as the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited, from the same office. It acts as Trustee for many of the United Reformed Churches in the Yorkshire Synod. The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) has no employees; its administrative work is performed by employees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd, for which a management charge is made. The charge for 2021 was £nil (2020: £5,268). In addition, one of the churches for which the YCU acts as custodian trustee owed the Trust £284 (2020: £416) at the year end.; the YCU owed the Trust £403 (2020: £5,268).

Trustees or people connected with the Trustees may also be Trustees of a church in receipt of a grant or concessionary loan from the Trust. Grants are awarded by a separate group from the Trustees, and members of that group will not take part in the decision if they have a conflict of interest.

Revd A Crump who is a minister at Knaresborough and Bilton Grange URCs and is also a Trustee, occupies a manse which is part owned by the Trust and part owned by a local church.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	210,240	210,275
Accruals and deferred income	31,707	20,383
Other creditors	2,581	7,210
	244,528	237,868

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	227,501	222,004

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

16 Movement in funds during the year

	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	Revaluation gains/losses £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
Permanent endowments						
General Purposes	747,127	-	(3,347)	-	47,556	791,336
Church Extension	253,163	-	(1,142)	-	16,288	268,309
Maintenance of Ministry	17,845	-	(81)	-	1,148	18,912
Welfare of Ministry	76,481	-	(345)	-	4,920	81,056
Home Churches	19,066	-	(86)	-	1,227	20,207
	1,113,682	-	(5,001)	-	71,139	1,179,820
Restricted funds						
Closed Churches capital	6,910,607	896,555	(460,544)	-	355,271	7,701,889
Closed Churches revaluation reserve	177,034				-	177,034
Synod Mission capital and income	547,641	220	(162,395)	-	-	385,466
Income funds						
Church Extension	389,280	9,078	-	-	-	398,358
Maintenance of Ministry	-	637	-	(637)	-	-
Welfare	10,044	2,899	-	(2,800)	-	10,143
Home Churches	1,205	681	(655)	-	-	1,231
	8,035,811	910,070	(623,594)	(3,437)	355,271	8,674,121
Unrestricted Funds						
General income	64,738	82,077	(450,755)	588,747	-	284,807
Closed Churches income	-	627,579	(42,269)	(585,310)	-	-
	64,738	709,656	(493,024)	3,437	-	284,807
Total Funds	9,214,231	1,619,726	(1,121,619)	-	426,410	10,138,748

The Charity is Trustee of all the funds, which are to be used by the United Reformed Church in its Yorkshire Synod.

Permanent Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the Charity, principally investments. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges are charged against the fund. Income arising on the endowment funds is either restricted or unrestricted depending on the fund.

The endowment investments are pooled and held within the Common Investment Fund. All gains and income are credited to the constituent endowment and income funds in the proportion of the assets originally pooled, which were general (66.93%), church extension (22.84%), maintenance of the ministry (1.61%), welfare (6.90%) and home churches (1.72%).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

16 Movement in funds during the year (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Designated funds are amounts of money within unrestricted funds which have been set aside for a specific purpose which will be achieved within less than three years.

General purposes fund - use of the income is unrestricted for the furtherance of religious and other charitable work of the United Reformed Church within its Yorkshire Synod.

Church extension fund - makes loans to local United Reformed Churches for the upkeep and repair of their buildings.

Maintenance of the ministry fund - provides a small income which is transferred to the general purposes fund where it is deemed to assist in the maintenance of the ministry of the Synod Moderator.

Welfare of the ministry fund - provides income which forms 50% of the grants made in cases of need to ministers, retired ministers and their dependants.

Home churches fund - represents a small amount of capital, the income from which forms part of the Synod's mission and ministry fund contributions to the United Reformed Church.

Closed churches fund - holds funds from churches closed after 1972, under the terms of the URC Trusts set out in the 1972 URC Act, as modified by the 1981 Act. The capital is available for use in accordance with the URC Act 1981, Schedule 2, parts I and II. Income from the investment of the capital is directed to the general purposes fund and is used to fund the work of the Synod.

Synod mission fund was set up in 2010 and incorporates the former Amalgamation fund. It receives funds primarily from property sales that arise as part of the closure or amalgamation of local churches, or the creation of Local Ecumenical Projects. Both capital and income are available for grants to local churches for any project that can be shown to promote the missionary work of the United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire.

Transfers between funds

The net income on the Closed churches fund is unrestricted and transferred to the General fund each year. The General fund also receives the income from the maintenance of the ministry and welfare funds, in line with the above descriptions.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds at the year end

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at the year end are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	2,336	1,033,618	-	1,035,954
Investments	-	6,406,551	1,179,557	7,586,108
Net current assets	282,471	1,461,453	263	1,744,187
Long term liabilities	-	(227,501)	-	(227,501)
Total net assets	284,807	8,674,121	1,179,820	10,138,748

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

18 Pension costs**Lay Staff Pension Scheme**

The Charity contributes to The United Reformed Church Final Salary Scheme, a pension scheme principally for lay staff, which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions Trust (formerly The Pensions Trust). The scheme is a defined benefit scheme but the Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities - each employer in that scheme pays a common contribution rate.

During 2021 the Charity contributed 23.2% (2020: 25.1%) of basic salary in respect of members of the Final Salary. Members contributed at the rate of 7.5% (2020: 7.5%) of pensionable salary throughout the accounting period.

Triennial actuarial valuations of the Final Salary scheme are performed by a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2020, when the scheme had a surplus of £2,689,000. The assumptions underlying that valuation include:

Discount rate:	1.4% p.a.
Pensionable earnings growth:	2.5% for three years, 2.75% thereafter
Price inflation and pension increases:	2.55%
Retirement age:	65, with maximum commutation

Ministers' Pension Scheme

It is estimated that the Ministers' Pension Fund (MPF), which is the responsibility of the United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (URCTL), will be £45 million in deficit over 10 years from 2021 to 2022.

Each of the 13 Synods of the United Reformed Church has been asked by URCTL to make contributions over that 10 year period to help reduce this underfunding.

In July 2021, the Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited made an aspirational offer of £1.675 million to the URCTL as a contribution towards the obligation that URCTL has to the MPF. This was approved at the October 2021 meeting of the Synod. This offer will be funded from the proceeds of sale of buildings of closed churches and any voluntary contributions from churches. In December 2021, a payment of £350,000 was made by the Yorkshire Synod to the MPF. This was the first of several payments to be made to assist with the anticipated deficit.

19 Post Balance Sheet Events

Since the latter end of 2021 the future of Saltaire URC has been under discussion. The church is still in being but has very limited capacity to carry out some of their normal functions. There is, also, considerable work to be carried out on the church building as a result of storm damage and ongoing issues identified in the latest quinquennial survey.

Synod has, therefore, set up a working group to assist the Church in their current challenges and this is occupying considerable time of Synod staff and Officers. The church is likely to require the help of the Synod to finance the work. Since the year end, Saltaire have taken a further loan from the Synod of £23,783.

At the year end, the property of 6 churches are held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the Company following church closures. The proceeds of sale will revert to the Trust on sale in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the properties are held.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1068103

Accounts

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE)
TRUST LIMITED**

Charity registered no: 1068103

Company registered no: 1562723

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

This report fulfils the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 for a Trustees' Annual Report, and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 for a Directors' Report.

Objectives and Activities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited ('the Charity') is established to advance the Christian religion and propagate the Gospel in accordance with the doctrines, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church with particular responsibility for the Yorkshire Synod of that Church.

The Charity exists to support the United Reformed Churches of the Yorkshire Synod in their search to obey the will of Christ in their witness to the world. The main objective of the Charity is to provide resources, funded by the Charity's assets, to enable the churches to do this.

Currently, the main strategy of the Charity is to maximise income through the Executive Council, in partnership with the Investment Sub Committee; and to apply the resources so generated in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire and in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000.

Significant activities

Encouraging churches to undertake mission activity relevant to their variety of contexts.

Provision of information, advice, support and encouragement to churches covering...

- Property maintenance and development
- Legal and compliance issues
- Terms of settlement for existing and new ministers
- Accounting requirements
- Management of the Mission and Ministry Scheme

Administering the investments and property of the churches.

Advising and assisting with establishing, grouping, amalgamating or dissolution of local churches within the United Reformed Church and with other denominations.

Developing a strategy for the deployment of ordained ministry within the Synod and assisting churches during times of vacancy.

Providing training and resources for the enabling of;

- Both lay and ordained ministers
- Adults and young people
- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Grant making and other financial support for church buildings and mission projects.

Management and maintenance of investments and properties held for the use of the Charity.

Public Benefit

The Charity has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Charity proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with its long established moral framework, and strives to develop spirituality and spiritual well-being through relationship with the God of the Bible.

This benefit is available to all communities who are within reach of one of more of our 93 churches which are situated across Yorkshire. Further details are to be found throughout the remainder of this report.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Objectives and Activities (continued)**Grants Policy**

The objects of the Charity dictate that grants can only be made to United Reformed Churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships which are part of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Normally, the only individuals who can receive a grant are retired ministers or their widow(er)s and these welfare grants are awarded in response to applications made to the Welfare Committee each year. Applicants must be resident within the Yorkshire Synod.

United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire may apply for assistance from the following funds:

Church Extension Fund	interest free loans for church building projects
Closed Churches Fund	for 25% of the cost of church survey reports
Synod Mission Fund	for Mission projects assessed against the "Ten Statements of Mission" which have been adopted by the United Reformed Church

Synod Mission Fund grant applications are considered by the Mission Fund Panel, which meets four times a year. The Panel consists of the Synod Clerk, Synod Evangelist, and Conveners of the Synod Pastoral, Ministries, Property and Financial Resources Committees.

From time to time other funds may be made available with the approval of the Synod.

Applications for interest free loans will be considered by the Synod Financial Resources Committee.

All grants are accounted for once a decision has been reached and the church notified, and if applicable has accepted the terms of the grant. Grants will be held for a maximum of three years, any delay longer than this will require a fresh application.

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

The Charity has maximised its income, subject to compliance with its ethical investment policy, and applied its resources in response to requests from the appropriate councils of the Church and has employed staff to carry out the activities shown on page 1.

The performance of the investment portfolios was assessed by the Investment Sub Committee on behalf of the Trustees and the income received was some 13% lower (2019: 18.5% higher) than the budget set by the Synod for 2020. Considering the impact of Covid-19 on the financial markets, it was felt that this was a very acceptable result. There is also some optimism for markets due to the unrolling of the vaccination programme, a Brexit deal being agreed and US political situation being resolved.

Just as for all other organisations, the coronavirus pandemic has been the dominating factor of 2020. However, the Synod was quick to respond in the following ways:

- (i) Creating an emergency fund for congregations incurring additional expenses related to maintaining contact with their community;
- (ii) Making sure every congregation was aware of the advice from the URC National Headquarters;
- (iii) Sending a letter of support to all Treasurers assuring support for any congregation that is experiencing financial difficulties and to help them find a way through these;
- (iv) Following up Step iii with a telephone call to all church Treasurers;
- (v) Weekly bulletins from the Synod Clerk
- (vi) Ongoing support offered to Church Secretaries with bi-monthly Zoom sessions at which joys and sorrows, frustrations and hopes are shared.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

With the pandemic continuing into 2021, the Synod has attempted to move things online. As awful and catastrophic as the pandemic has been it has also created an opportunity to re-think and re-imagine how the church might fulfil its calling to be the body of Christ.

Training and development continues to affect almost every aspect of Synod life, as it needs to if the church is to be best equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Synod has a rich offer of resources which support the development of discipleship, both individually and as church communities. These have been built up separately in recent years but seen together present a coherent picture of a Synod life focused on resourcing the local church.

All these aspects; Leading Your Church Into Growth, Lay Preacher development, Elders' development, Appreciative Inquiry Steering group and the Inviting Forward process, Wilderness, Stepwise and the IT task group have been taken online during lockdown to a greater or lesser extent and have the potential to be continued online at least in part. In addition there have been Zoom gatherings to provide a forum for office staff, church leaders, officers, convenors and Church secretaries to gather for discussion and mutual support.

The Synod meeting has also moved online and this has facilitated a Synod wide conversation based on Appreciative Inquiry principles to share priorities and concerns through the Synod café and the Synod Open House.

One key area of reflection has been around inclusion. Some people are excluded from whatever is done online, on the other hand going online has provided access for people who were excluded from the physical meetings. The issue of exclusion and inclusion will become more complicated as the Synod enters a hybrid world and care will need to be taken not to shut the door on those who wish to be part of our community of believers.

With the retirement of the Synod Development Officer in October, the post currently remains vacant. The plans which were put in place have been thwarted by the pandemic but this also enables a rethink of the Development Officer post, whilst assessing what the Synod needs.

Plans for Elders made for 2020 included the Annual Conference and a 24 hour meeting at Wydale Hall to be led by the new Synod Moderator. Both these events were, of course, cancelled but in 2021 plans for the annual conference with the title "Wise and wonderful: the gift and responsibility of God's creation" have been revisited. It is now planned to hold an online conference on this theme on 17th April 2021. Other Elders plan include 24 hours at Wydale Hall at the end of September 2021, with, our Moderator, Revd Jamie Kissack leading the event.

Wydale Hall is also the venue in November 2021 for a 2 day minister's residential.

Finally, there is one student currently in the final year of a four-year training course for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.

The Synod Mission Fund continued to help churches establish creative and innovative missionary projects throughout the year. In 2020, the fund made 10 awards totalling £221,381. The projects receiving awards ranged from the Centre for Mission at Darnall to a Film Club at West Melton.

The fund has continued to benefit from the 'Synod Policy for Redundant Manses and Manse Funds' which was adopted in October 2011. Where Manse Funds are declared redundant, 75% of the fund is released to the local church, with 25% being transferred to the Synod Mission Fund. In 2020, £63,030 was received from a manse fund being declared redundant.

The fund has also benefited when a church is sold and it is forming an LEP. In these circumstances, 50% of the proceeds go to the church and 50% to the Synod Mission Fund. In 2020 £192,038 came to the fund from such a source.

The Executive Council had planned as part of its Vision and Opportunity Initiative to distribute a further £500,000 in 2020, this is in addition to the £500,000 already distributed to churches in 2019. However, with the onset of the coronavirus crisis it was felt that it would be prudent to review this decision. It was agreed that £300,000 should be made available for churches to develop property for mission purposes, as envisaged.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans (continued)

A decision on the criteria whereby the remaining sum of £200,000 is distributed has been deferred until lockdown has ended.

Other discussions taking place in 2020 and continuing into 2021 are about the URC ministers pension scheme. It is expected that contributions to the scheme will be required from the various Synods in order to alleviate the deficit on the scheme. Talks are currently underway with a way forward expected by summer 2021. To give the Synod flexibility in meeting a challenge, it is proposed that at the Synod meeting in March 2021 the Synod be asked to redirect funds, which would ordinarily go to the Synod Mission Fund. These funds which come from the sale of church buildings and manse, would be ring fenced, for less restrictive use. This proposal is to be reviewed at the October 2021 Synod meeting once the extent of the Synod's commitment to the pensions challenge is clearer.

Financial Review

Results for the year

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) issued in January 2015.

The excess of expenditure over income for the year amounted to £300,313 (in 2019, the excess of income over expenditure £240,223).

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are unrestricted funds, which are not held as fixed assets. Reserves will normally be held to finance the work of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire including the Yorkshire Congregational Union, together with its responsibilities to the work nationally, for a period of 12 months. The average resources expended from unrestricted funds, over the three years, to 31 December 2020, was £450,337 and the level of reserves at that date was £64,738.

In 2018, the Trustees became aware of a serious incident related to one particular church, disclosure of which was made by the YCU to the Charity Commission. This matter is still ongoing, and the trustees continue to do their utmost to resolve the issue. Financial support from the Trust to the YCU would be put in place if required.

In light of the global pandemic the trustees have regularly reviewed and evaluated the financial impact on the Synod and concluded that there is no going concern uncertainty. They will continue to monitor as required.

The assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Charity. Each fund has sufficient resources in an appropriate form to meet its obligations. All the assets of the Charity are used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and were acquired in accordance with powers vested in the Executive Council. The financial position at the Balance Sheet date is satisfactory and will enable the Charity to meet future obligations.

Investment policy and investment powers

On the 19 January 2021 the Executive Council reviewed the Investment Policy Statement and confirmed the Policy Document of that date. This document outlines the responsibilities of the various committees within the Synod and contains details of the Discretionary Management of the Investments by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd. The policy document also outlines the Requirements, Restrictions, Recording, and Reporting under which the Managers will operate.

Property

All property under the control of the Charity is shown at market value as indicated in notes 9 and 11 of the Financial Statements. The valuations used were those provided by Walker Singleton as at 31 December 2020.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The governing instrument is the Memorandum & Articles of Association which is dated 19 May 1981.

The membership consists of the members for the time being of the Synod Council of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church. At 31 December 2020 the number of members totalled 14 (2019 – 13). In the event of the Charity being wound up, every person who is a member, or who has been a member within one year, is liable to contribute to the debts and liabilities of the Charity a sum not exceeding £1.

The business of the Charity is managed by the members of the Executive Council who are Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited for the purposes of company law. Members of the Executive Council are the members for the time being of the Financial Resources Committee of the Synod. The members of the Financial Resources Committee are recruited from the membership of the churches of the Yorkshire Synod, the appointments being approved by the Yorkshire Synod Council and ratified by Synod. Synod also appoints the Treasurer, Synod Moderator and the Synod Clerk who are ex-officio members of the Committee. However, following the appointment of a Synod Clerk as an employee of the Charity, on the 9th March 2019, the Synod Clerk will not be a member of the Executive Council. The Directors of the Charity are listed on page 7.

The Revd Kevin Watson retired after 12 years as Synod Moderator on the 30th June 2020 and was replaced on the 1st July 2020 by the Revd Jamie Kissack. Jamie is well known to the Synod, having served as a minister in Hornsea and then as part of the Sheffield team. Jamie was appointed to the Executive Council on the 15th September 2020. The role of Synod Treasurer was filled from 1st January 2020 by the Revd Simon Copley, who was also additionally appointed to the Executive Council. Mr Willie Duncan resigned at the beginning of 2020 due to personal circumstances. The role of Company Secretary was filled by Revd Dr Matthew Prevett to 21st January 2020 and from then by Mr Alastair Forsyth.

The Charity is aware of the need to enable and equip Trustees and takes steps to make available Charity Commission publications and newsletters.

The Financial Resources Committee of the Synod meets six times a year and is responsible for all financial decisions, except the decisions about Synod Mission Fund Grants which are made by the Synod Mission Fund Panel (see Grants Policy on page 2). Investments are monitored by a sub-committee on which the Treasurer serves. This sub-committee meets four times a year and implements investment strategies established by the Trustees. Currently the Investments are managed by Brewin Dolphin Securities on a discretionary basis. Minutes of the Investment Sub-Committee meetings are circulated to the Trustees.

The Charity operates as an autonomous body but, along with twelve other Synods (or regions), is part of The United Reformed Church and this brings a share of national responsibilities. A resource sharing process is in place to enable Synods with more resources to help those less well equipped. Historically, Yorkshire has been a net contributor to this scheme but since 2010 has adopted a neutral position neither giving nor receiving from the process.

Connected Charities

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited is connected with the Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) (YCU). The YCU holds investments as Custodian Trustee for many of the local churches of the United Reformed Church in its Yorkshire Synod, and holds property as Trustee for most of those churches. The YCU shares the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited offices and administration, for which it pays a small charge based on its income. The Trustees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited are also Trustees of the YCU, but the Chair of Trustees of the YCU is not a Trustee of the Charity.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Risk Management

The Executive Council has a risk management strategy in line with the guidance published by the Charity Commission organising risk into three headings – Governance and Control, Operational Risk and Financial Risk. Control procedures are then agreed to contain, mitigate or even totally remove the risks. The Risk Management Strategy is reviewed annually.

As with most organisations, the Covid-19 outbreak has had an impact on the Synod and its churches. The Synod has responded with new ways of working and support has been offered to all of its churches and this remains so. The Synod will continue to monitor the situation closely and regularly to enable a quick and flexible response.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Reference and Administrative Details

Company registration number:	1562723
Charity registration number:	1068103
Registered Office:	Somerset House, St Paul's Street Morley, Leeds, LS27 9EP Telephone 0113 289 8490 Fax 0113 289 8491 Email office@urcyorkshire.org.uk
Web Site:	www.urcyorkshire.org.uk
Trustees & Directors:	Mr J Charlesworth Rev S K Copley (from 1 January 2020) Rev A Crump Mr W Duncan (to 21 January 2020) Mr C Evans Mr S Gooder Rev J Kissack (from 15 th September 2020) Rev K Watson (to 30 th June 2020)
Secretary to Trustees & Company Secretary:	Rev Dr Matthew Prevett (to 21 January 2020) Mr Alastair C Forsyth (from 21 January 2020)
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc Leeds City Branch, PO Box 154, 8 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 1QS
Solicitors:	Lupton Fawcett LLP Yorkshire House, East Parade, Leeds, LS1 5BD
Auditors:	SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 33 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1LX
Investment Managers:	Brewin Dolphin Ltd 10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AN
Property Advisers:	Walker Singleton Property House, Lister Lane, Halifax, HX1 5AS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Statement of Responsibilities of the Executive Council

Company law requires the Executive Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the year end. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Council should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Executive Council is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable it to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and regulations thereunder. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each member of the Executive Council at the date of this report is aware,

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the Executive Council have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

These financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

Auditors

SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd offer themselves for reappointment as auditors in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Rev Simon Copley (Executive Council Member)



Rev Alan Crump (Executive Council Member)

Date: 30.03.2021

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that individually or collectively may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the Directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (YORKSHIRE PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with the Treasurer and other informed management which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company and thereafter, the audit team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considered the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims and reviewing correspondence with the charitable company's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Date 10 June 2021.

Claire Lawton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SMH Jolliffe Cork Audit Ltd
33 George Street
Wakefield
WF1 1LX

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Income as reported on the SOFA	692,212	778,962
Gains on investments	-	460,360
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	113,182	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross income in the reporting period	805,394	1,239,322
Expenditure as reported on the SOFA	879,949	1,096,007
Losses on investments	(93,483)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	(168,038)	143,315
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Summary Income and Expenditure account excludes movements on the endowment funds. It is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities which together with the notes 1 to 20 provides full information on the movements during the year on all the Charity's funds.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £		2019 £
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets	9	1,408,921		1,234,382
Investments	11	7,182,506		7,326,151
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>8,591,427</u>		<u>8,560,533</u>
Current assets:				
Debtors	12	29,514		165,569
Investments - Short term deposits		1,041,371		1,037,371
Cash at bank and in hand		11,791		48,549
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>1,082,676</u>		<u>1,251,489</u>
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(237,868)		(273,984)
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>844,808</u>		<u>977,505</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>9,436,235</u>		<u>9,538,038</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(222,004)		(136,676)
Total net assets		<u><u>9,214,231</u></u>		<u><u>9,401,362</u></u>
The funds of the charity:				
Endowment funds	16 - 18	1,113,682		1,132,775
Revaluation reserve/(deficit)		177,034	63,852	
Other restricted funds		<u>7,858,777</u>	<u>7,969,540</u>	<u>8,033,392</u>
Unrestricted designated funds	18	0	81,200	
Other unrestricted funds		<u>64,738</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>235,195</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>9,214,231</u></u>		<u><u>9,401,362</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 30th March 2021.



Rev Simon Copley

Executive Council Member



Rev Alan Crump

Executive Council Member

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>	(232,936)	(696,449)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	249,959	305,147
Net proceeds/(costs) associated with the sale of tangible fixed assets	307	(467)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(96,554)	(73,580)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	1,466,547	1,347,990
Cash (added to) /withdrawn from investments	-	(700,000)
Purchase of investments	(1,430,904)	(1,315,187)
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	189,355	(436,097)
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	(43,581)	(1,132,546)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,085,920	2,218,466
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,042,339	1,085,920
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities		
	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(300,313)	240,223
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	34,822	33,513
Losses /(Gains) on investments	108,002	(562,239)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(249,959)	(305,147)
(Profit)/loss on the sale of tangible fixed assets	(10,755)	561
Decrease /(Increase) in debtors	136,055	(140,396)
(Decrease) /Increase in creditors	49,212	37,036
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>	(232,936)	(696,449)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
Cash at bank and in hand	11,791	48,549
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,041,371	1,037,371
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,053,162	1,085,920

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

1 Principal accounting policies**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

Donations are included when they are received. Legacies are included when it is probable that they will be received. Investment income is included when it is receivable, and includes any recoverable income tax. Property rents and interest on loans are included when they fall due. Investments and other assets from churches which have closed are accounted for when the amount receivable can reasonably be ascertained.

Recognition and valuation of donated services

The services of the Synod's Development Officer and Evangelist, who are Ministers of Word and Sacrament in the URC, are provided by the URC under its Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration at no charge to the charity. These donations have been valued at the usual employment cost of a URC minister, reduced for the Synod Evangelist, which is not a full-time appointment. The cost is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

The Charity's activities are dependent on volunteer members of committees. Travel expenses are reimbursed but there is no recognition in these accounts of the time donated by volunteers.

Basis of allocation of costs

Grants payable are voluntary payments to individuals, local URC churches or URC organisations in accordance with the purpose of the relevant fund. They are accounted for when they have been approved by the Synod Council or Financial Resources Committee, the recipient has been told of that approval, and if applicable has accepted the terms related to the grant. Grants to URC churches are usually multi-year grants. A creditor is included for the full amount of the grant offered. Payment of the second or later year's instalment is dependent on receipt of a report on the previous year, showing the progress made on the project. Occasionally Synod Council will require repayment of grants which have not been spent.

Support costs incurred in maintaining the office and employing the office staff have been allocated to raising income, charitable activities and governance in proportion to the time spent by office staff on each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold and leasehold properties held for continuing use by the Charity are revalued by professional valuers every 5 years and are depreciated over 50 years. Long leasehold properties are defined as those properties with an unexpired lease term of more than 50 years. Properties acquired between valuations are included at cost and depreciated over 50 years. Properties sometimes pass to the Charity from United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire which have closed. If they are to be retained they are valued on acquisition. If the property is to be sold it is not revalued.

Office equipment is capitalised where a purchase or project costs over £500, and is included at cost less a provision for depreciation. This is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives, which are between 3 and 10 years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

1 Principal accounting policies (continued)**Investment assets**

Investments listed or traded on a recognised stock exchange are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Investment properties are valued professionally every five years. In between the valuations the Trustees' best estimate of market value is used. In accordance with standard accounting practice, no depreciation is charged on investment properties. Concessionary loans to URC churches are valued at the amount paid less repayments received.

Current asset measurement

Debtors are included at their recoverable amount.

Current asset investments comprise working capital held on short-term deposit.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises the balance in the bank current account and the petty cash float.

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year are valued at settlement amount.

2 Income from donations and legacies	2020	2019
Donations	£	£
Synod Levy	40	28,085
Notional Grant for Synod Development Officer and Evangelist	45,543	50,405
Gifts	3,653	38,666
	49,236	117,156

The Synod Levy, which was calculated at £10 per member per year, has not been charged in 2020.

3 Income from charitable activities	2020	2019
	£	£
Net proceeds of redundant manse funds and sale of redundant churches	255,069	315,027
Income from church closed in the year	106,472	37,395
Contribution from Norther Province to safeguarding costs	15,445	-
Interest on loans to churches & ministers	8	79
Management charge (see note 13)	5,268	4,158
	382,262	356,659

When United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire close, the net assets and building pass to the Charity. The building is not included in fixed assets if it is sold within a year of closure. There can be significant variances in this income from one year to another.

From March 2018, the net proceeds from the sale of Closed Church property are to be divided 20% to the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund; 40% to the Synod Mission Fund and 40% to the Closed Churches Fund.

From March 2010 amalgamated churches, and those in local ecumenical partnerships, are required to transfer to the Charity 50% of the net proceeds of any United Reformed Church property sale, for use by the Synod Mission Fund.

From October 2011 any manse fund declared redundant is divided 75% to the local church and 25% to the Synod Mission Fund.

4 Income from Investments	2020	2019
	£	£
Income from quoted investments	224,980	274,318
Investment property rents	22,756	22,756
Interest on bank balances	2,223	8,073
	249,959	305,147

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

5 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities

Expenditure on raising funds	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Managing investments</i>					
Investment management fees	27,673	-	-	27,673	29,673
Support costs	-	-	20,777	20,777	22,976
	27,673	-	20,777	48,450	52,649
Expenditure on charitable activities					
<i>Grant making</i>	Direct costs	Grant funding	Support costs	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to individuals					
Retired ministers and widows (6 grants)		5,000		5,000	6,900
Grants to URC institutions					
To churches for mission activities (10 grants)		221,381		221,381	152,484
To churches for property surveys (7 grants)		2,385		2,385	1,120
Vision & Opportunity to churches (15 grants)		125,076		125,076	396,282
Support costs			5,194	5,194	5,744
	-	353,842	5,194	359,036	562,530
<i>Other charitable activities</i>					
Training ministers and lay members	33,922		2,597	36,519	51,255
Youth, children and safeguarding	112,543		2,598	115,141	88,552
Administering churches' property and investments	1,046		62,331	63,377	69,844
Supporting committees and Synod	10,439		36,360	46,799	56,244
Pastoral work	1,183		20,777	21,960	24,148
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	27,494		70,123	97,617	97,526
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	2,216		5,194	7,410	7,196
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	40,760		12,986	53,746	49,360
Sundry and contingencies	1,986		-	1,986	1,348
	231,589	-	212,966	444,555	445,473
<i>Governance costs</i>					
External audit fee	5,526		-	5,526	5,508
Internal audit and accountancy	1,596		-	1,596	1,794
Legal and professional fees	2,803		-	2,803	2,190
Recruitment fees	(20)		-	(20)	5,197
Revaluation fees	1,800		-	1,800	2,100
Support costs	-		20,777	20,777	22,976
	11,705	-	20,777	32,482	39,765
Total expenditure on charitable activities	243,294	353,842	238,937	836,073	1,047,768

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

6 Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities - previous year

Expenditure on raising funds - previous year	Direct costs £	Grant funding £	Support costs £	2019 £
<i>Managing investments</i>				
Investment management fees	29,673	-	-	29,673
Support costs	-	-	22,976	22,976
	29,673	-	22,976	52,649

Expenditure on charitable activities - previous year

	Direct costs £	Grant funding £	Support costs £	Total 2019 £
<i>Grant making</i>				
Grants to individuals				
Retired ministers and widows (7 grants)		6,900		6,900
Grants to URC institutions				
To churches for mission activities (27 grants)		152,484		152,484
To churches for property surveys (7 grants)		1,120		1,120
Vision & Opportunity to churches (110 grants)		396,282		396,282
Support costs			5,744	5,744
	-	556,786	5,744	562,530

Other charitable activities

Training ministers and lay members	48,383		2,872	51,255
Youth, children and safeguarding	85,680		2,872	88,552
Administering churches' property and investments	918		68,926	69,844
Supporting committees and Synod	16,037		40,207	56,244
Pastoral work	1,173		22,975	24,148
Supporting and encouraging URC churches, districts and centrally	19,984		77,542	97,526
Chaplaincies, industrial mission and ecumenical relations	1,452		5,744	7,196
Management & maintenance of Synod properties	35,000		14,360	49,360
Sundry and contingencies	1,348		-	1,348
	209,975	-	235,498	445,473

Governance costs

External audit fee	5,508		-	5,508
Internal audit and accountancy	1,794		-	1,794
Legal and professional fees	2,190		-	2,190
Recruitment fees	5,197		-	5,197
Revaluation fees	2,100		-	2,100
Support costs	-		22,976	22,976
	16,789	-	22,976	39,765

Total expenditure on charitable activities

	226,764	556,786	264,218	1,047,768
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

7 Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	17,939	4,484	183,872	17,939	224,234
Office rates and maintenance	1,059	265	10,857	1,059	13,240
Office expenses and equipment	1,096	274	11,234	1,096	13,700
Depreciation	683	171	7,003	683	8,540
	20,777	5,194	212,966	20,777	259,714

Analysis of support costs - previous year

	Raising funds £	Grant- making £	Other charitable activities £	Governance £	Total £
Office staff costs	17,391	4,348	178,253	17,391	217,383
Office rates and maintenance	3,415	854	35,000	3,415	42,684
Office expenses and equipment	1,507	377	15,451	1,507	18,842
Depreciation	663	165	6,794	663	8,285
	22,976	5,744	235,498	22,976	287,194

Support costs are allocated in proportion to the time spent by office staff on the activities shown.

It has been accepted that the Synod Development Officer and Synod Evangelist are Ministers of Word and Sacraments under the terms of the United Reformed Church Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration and should not be classified as employees.

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2020 £	2019 £
Salaries and wages	245,295	214,877
Employer's National Insurance	20,381	17,806
Pension contributions to defined benefit schemes	60,681	51,858
	326,357	284,541

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 per annum, and there were no other employee benefits other than those disclosed above.

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2019 - 9).

The key management personnel of the Charity are the Trustees, who include the Synod Treasurer, and key employees of the charity, who are the Trust Secretary, the Property Secretary, the Synod Clerk and the Finance Manager. The employee benefits of the key personnel total £146,583 (2019 £116,275).

Trustees' expenses

Members of the Executive Council are entitled to claim travel expenses for attending its meetings. The Treasurer may claim other expenses (travel, telephone, stationery etc.) incurred in their capacity as trustee. No trustee nor anyone connected with the trustees received any remuneration in 2020 or 2019 except as noted below.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2020	2019
The total of expenses claimed, by 4 (2019 3) Trustees, for the year was:	£ 2,943	£760

9 Tangible assets

	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2020	1,307,836	-	68,714	1,376,550
Reclassification	(234,000)	234,000	-	-
Additions	93,321	-	3,233	96,554
Revaluation	(4,557)	4,500	-	(57)
Disposals	(100)	-	(2,334)	(2,434)
At 31 December 2020	1,162,500	238,500	69,613	1,470,613
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	87,139	-	55,029	142,168
Reclassification	(18,720)	18,720	-	-
Charge for the period	21,428	4,680	8,714	34,822
Released on revaluation	(89,839)	(23,400)	-	(113,239)
Disposals	(8)	-	(2,051)	(2,059)
At 31 December 2020	-	-	61,692	61,692
Net book value				
At 1 January 2020	1,220,697	-	13,685	1,234,382
At 31 December 2020	1,162,500	238,500	7,921	1,408,921
Net carrying value of revalued assets on historical cost basis	1,112,260	225,045	-	1,337,305

Property**Net book amount**

The property is used for the direct charitable purposes of the Charity and comprises:	£
Housing for ministers of local churches or in Synod posts (a part share in 4 properties)	1,161,000
Synod office building	240,000
	1,401,000

The housing was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value with vacant possession, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards. The Synod office building was similarly revalued as at 31 December 2020 at existing use value.

10 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

11 Fixed asset Investments	Investment properties	Listed investments	Balances at stockbroker	Concessionary loans	Total
Market value	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2020	477,626	6,814,349	14,055	20,121	7,326,151
Less:					
Disposals at opening book value	-	(1,670,356)	-		(1,670,356)
Deposits realised/(reinvested)	-	-	27,399		27,399
Investment management fees	-	-	(27,673)		(27,673)
Loan repayments	-	-	-	(9,971)	(9,971)
Add:					
Deposited for investment	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisitions at cost	-	1,429,178	-	2,000	1,431,178
Revaluation	-	105,778	-		105,778
At 31 December 2020	477,626	6,678,949	13,781	12,150	7,182,506
Historical cost					
At 31 December 2020	-	5,693,076	13,781	12,150	5,706,857
Disposals:					
Proceeds	-	1,456,576	-	-	1,456,576
Book value at 1 Jan 2020		(1,670,356)			(1,670,356)
Gain / (loss)	-	(213,780)	-	-	(213,780)

The investment property is 83.794% of the freehold at Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough, and was revalued as at 31 December 2020 by Walker Singleton, external Chartered Surveyors, at market value, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Standards.

All fixed asset investments are in held in the UK, in Nominee Accounts at the brokers. Details of the portfolio of listed investments are as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Equity investments	1,903,728	2,179,543
Gilt-edged and fixed interest stocks	404,089	578,543
Investment and unit trusts	4,371,131	4,056,263
	6,678,948	6,814,349

Material investments (over 5% by value) at the end of the year:

	£	£
Baillie Gifford American W1 Dis	453,446	0
JP Morgan US Equity Income K	279,885	361,965
North American Income Trust	256,725	355,095

All concessionary loans are to churches within the URC Yorkshire province. The maximum repayment period is 5 years and simple interest is charged at 5%, 3% or 0%. Repayments of capital and accrued interest are made quarterly. No security is provided on any loan. The maximum capital outstanding on any loan at 31 December 2020 was £3,108 (31 December 2019: £6,000).

	£	£
Concessionary loans falling due within one year	7,861	9,971
Concessionary loans falling due after more than one year	4,288	10,150
	12,150	20,121

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

12 Debtors	2020	2019
	£	£
Amounts owed by group and associated undertakings:		
Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated)	5,268	4,158
Cash in transit from YCU (Inc)	416	138,529
Prepayments and accrued income	23,830	22,882
	29,514	165,569

13 Related Parties

The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) is a Charity administered by the same Trustees as the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Limited, from the same office. It acts as Trustee for many of the United Reformed Churches in the Yorkshire Synod. The Yorkshire Congregational Union (Incorporated) has no employees; its administrative work is performed by employees of the United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd, for which a management charge is made. The charge for 2020 of £5,268 (2019: £4,158) is a debtor in these accounts. In addition, one of the churches for which the YCU acts as custodian trustee owed the Trust £416 (2019: £138,529) at the year end. The Trust owed the YCU £nil at the year end (2019: £nil).

Trustees or people connected with the Trustees may also be Trustees of a church in receipt of a grant or concessionary loan from the Trust. Grants are awarded by a separate group from the Trustees, and members of that group will not take part in the decision if they have a conflict of interest.

Revd A Crump who is a minister at Knaresborough and Bilton Grange URCs and is also a Trustee, occupies a manse which is part owned by the Trust.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	210,275	145,208
Accruals and deferred income	20,383	13,359
Other creditors	7,210	115,417
	237,868	273,984

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	222,004	136,676

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

16 Movement in funds during the year

	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	Revaluation gains/losses £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Permanent endowments						
General Purposes	759,887	-	(3,061)	-	(9,699)	747,127
Church Extension	257,537	-	(1,045)	-	(3,329)	253,163
Maintenance of Ministry	18,154	-	(74)	-	(235)	17,845
Welfare of Ministry	77,802	-	(315)	-	(1,006)	76,481
Home Churches	19,395	-	(79)	-	(250)	19,066
	<u>1,132,775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,574)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,519)</u>	<u>1,113,682</u>
Restricted funds						
Closed Churches capital	7,068,252	110,121	(174,283)	-	(93,483)	6,910,607
Closed Churches revaluation reserve	63,852				113,182	177,034
Synod Mission capital and income	511,888	257,134	(221,381)	-	-	547,641
Income funds						
Church Extension	378,280	11,000	-	-	-	389,280
Maintenance of Ministry	-	612	-	(612)	-	-
Welfare	9,741	2,803	-	(2,500)	-	10,044
Home Churches	1,379	656	(830)	-	-	1,205
	<u>8,033,392</u>	<u>382,326</u>	<u>(396,494)</u>	<u>(3,112)</u>	<u>19,699</u>	<u>8,035,811</u>
Unrestricted Funds						
General income	151,037	92,162	(464,618)	286,157	-	64,738
Designated funds (note 18)	81,200	-	-	(81,200)	-	-
Closed Churches income Albion - capital and income	-	217,724	(18,837)	(198,887)	-	-
	2,958	-	-	(2,958)	-	-
	<u>235,195</u>	<u>309,886</u>	<u>(483,455)</u>	<u>3,112</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,738</u>
Total Funds	<u>9,401,362</u>	<u>692,212</u>	<u>(884,523)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,180</u>	<u>9,214,231</u>

The Charity is Trustee of all the funds, which are to be used by the United Reformed Church in its Yorkshire Synod.

Permanent Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the Charity, principally investments. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges are charged against the fund. Income arising on the endowment funds is either restricted or unrestricted depending on the fund.

The endowment investments are pooled and held within the Common Investment Fund. All gains and income are credited to the constituent endowment and income funds in the proportion of the assets originally pooled, which were general (66.93%), church extension (22.84%), maintenance of the ministry (1.61%), welfare (6.90%) and home churches (1.72%).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

16 Movement in funds during the year (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Designated funds are amounts of money within unrestricted funds which have been set aside for a specific purpose which will be achieved within less than three years.

General purposes fund - use of the income is unrestricted for the furtherance of religious and other charitable work of the United Reformed Church within its Yorkshire Synod.

Church extension fund - makes loans to local United Reformed Churches for the upkeep and repair of their buildings.

Maintenance of the ministry fund - provides a small income which is transferred to the general purposes fund where it is deemed to assist in the maintenance of the ministry of the Synod Moderator.

Welfare of the ministry fund - provides income which forms 50% of the grants made in cases of need to ministers, retired ministers and their dependants.

Home churches fund - represents a small amount of capital, the income from which forms part of the Synod's mission and ministry fund contributions to the United Reformed Church.

Closed churches fund - holds funds from churches closed after 1972, under the terms of the URC Trusts set out in the 1972 URC Act, as modified by the 1981 Act. The capital is available for use in accordance with the URC Act 1981, Schedule 2, parts I and II. Income from the investment of the capital is directed to the general purposes fund and is used to fund the work of the Synod.

Albion fund - consisted mainly of accrued income and was administered and managed as part of the general purposes fund. The fund was liquidated during 2018 to purchase a manse for a Special Category Minister appointed to work in the Synod with young adults (Generation Y). The remaining balance has been transferred to the general purposes fund in 2020.

Synod mission fund was set up in 2010 and incorporates the former Amalgamation fund. It receives funds primarily from property sales that arise as part of the closure or amalgamation of local churches, or the creation of Local Ecumenical Projects. Both capital and income are available for grants to local churches for any project that can be shown to promote the missionary work of the United Reformed Churches in Yorkshire.

Transfers between funds

The net income on the Closed churches fund is unrestricted and transferred to the General fund each year. The General fund also receives the income from the maintenance of the ministry and welfare funds, in line with the above descriptions.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds at the year end

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at the year end are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	7,921	238,500	-	246,421
Investments	-	6,069,087	1,113,419	7,182,506
Net current assets	56,817	792,728	263	849,808
Long term liabilities	-	(227,004)	-	(227,004)
Total net assets	64,738	6,873,311	1,113,682	8,051,731

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

18 Designated Funds	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Within the General Fund are the following:				
A temporary fund holding church contributions to the URC Mission and Ministry Fund	81,200	-	(81,200)	-

19 Pension costs

The Charity contributes to a URC lay staff pension scheme known as the "Final Salary" scheme, which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions. This is operated as a defined benefit scheme but the Charity is not the only participating employer in the scheme and is ordinarily unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities - each employer in that scheme pays a common contribution rate.

During 2020 the Charity contributed 25.1% (2019: 25.1%) of basic salary in respect of members of the Final Salary scheme which includes 10.5% as deficit funding and 3.2% to meet expenses and levies. Members contributed at the rate of 7.5% (2019: 7.5%) of pensionable salary throughout the accounting period.

Triennial actuarial valuations of the Final Salary scheme are performed by a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2016, when the scheme had a deficit of £5,445,000. The assumptions underlying that valuation include:

Discount rate:	pre-retirement 4.9%, post-retirement 1.8%
Pensionable earnings growth:	2.45% for three years, 2.7% thereafter
Future pension increases:	2.2%
Retirement age:	65, with maximum commutation

In the event of no members continuing to contribute, there is a contingent obligation of an employer debt on withdrawal. The Charity's contingent obligation has not been quantified, but there is not currently any

20 Post Balance Sheet Events

After the year end one of the properties used as a manse by a minister was sold at a profit after costs of £22,392.