

**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.

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	11								
Realised		-	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
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Net income for the year	230,554	227,641
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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

		2023		2022
	Note	£		£
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:	16 - 18			
Endowment funds		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 Total Funds £	2022 Total 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 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
<i>Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	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 Total Funds £	2022 Total 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

Other charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

Other charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

	Freehold Property	Leasehold Property	Office equipment	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£
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	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)	1,147,091
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.

Rev'd 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.