

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1132754

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020
FOR
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

Guild Appleton Ltd
Registered Auditors
Number 19
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9JQ

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 8
Report of the Independent Auditors	9 to 11
Statement of Financial Activities	12 to 13
Balance Sheet	14
Cash Flow Statement	15
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	16
Notes to the Financial Statements	17 to 28
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	29 to 30

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Policies

In common with the other regional Synods of the United Reformed Church, the Mersey Synod is primarily concerned with the maintenance and mission of the local churches falling within its provincial area.

This includes inter alia, the acquisition of new church properties and disposal of redundant properties, the calling and training of ordained ministers and of lay leaders and developing ecumenical relationships with other Christian churches.

The Mersey Synod also acts as an agent to organise the collection of local church assessments which are paid to the General Assembly Offices of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom in London.

Risk management

The management of the financial and operational risks of the Mersey Synod is delegated to the members of the Resources Committee who act as the Synod's Trustees.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A full update of the Risk Register is carried out regularly.

The committee reviews its policies and procedures regularly and, following the adoption of a new policy to safeguard against money laundering, it is satisfied that sufficient measures are in place to mitigate the significant risks to which the Synod could be exposed

Grantmaking policy and procedures

Grant applications are invited from URC churches and other affiliated URC bodies within the catchment of the Mersey Synod.

Applications for assistance with projects to upgrade property are assessed for value and feasibility by the Synod Property Manager and the Synod Resources Committee who receive advice from other experts such as surveyors and architects. The Synod Pastoral Support Committee reviews applications to ensure that grants meet the objectives and mission of the URC.

Specialist applications, including initiatives to support Mission, are normally reviewed by the Synod Mission & Discipleship Committee

The Synod Pastoral Support Committee and/or Synod Mission & Discipleship Committees recommend either acceptance or rejection of grant applications to the Synod Resources Committee.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Synod had a surplus from its charitable activities of £7,720 in the year ended 31 December 2020. There was a deficit in general operating income of £60,217.

There was a deficit of £177,585 on the continuing restricted funds. There were decreases in the book value of investments of the year end of £245,522 and so overall there was a net decrease in the total funds of £237,802.

Property, Mission and Welfare

During the year the Synod provided grants for maintenance and improvements to manses of £66,264 (£2019: £110,816) and for improvements and development of Churches £15,117 (2019: £126,218). Grants for Mission, Ecumenical Activity, Outreach, Evangelism and Welfare totalled £40,565 (2019: £45,590).

Pensions and Inter-synod Resource Sharing

In 2020 no contributions were made to the Ministers Pension fund (2019: £20,000) and Inter-Synod Resources Sharing Pool (2019: 20,000).

Property

In 2020 one manse was purchased at a deposit cost of £49,000 and one manse with a value of £226,564 was sold. Net rental income from property temporarily not in use for Synod purposes generated £88,961 in the year (2019: £104,712).

Expenditure of £2,512 (2019: £14,005) was incurred on the continuing programme of surveys of all the property in the Synod every five years to provide guidance to the Synod and Churches on the action required to remedy any concerns that are highlighted about the fabric of the buildings. £5,997 was contributed by the local churches towards this scheme.

Training

Training costs and grants in 2020 were £46,480 (2019: £49,199).

Training Grants were down in 2020 due to a number of training events across the board having to be cancelled due to Covid and those that did take place taking place via zoom which considerably reduced costs. Training events were quickly changed, altered and adapted to meet the changing situation arising from Covid. This particularly meant that the type of training on offer was changed but also the target audience was changed. So, for example, we ran a series of training events for a variety of people to cover learning to use and host zoom itself to aid the demand for people to engage in the online activities including training that were now becoming a part of everyday life.

We also developed our training in recent years on Trauma to offer training to Ministers on this reflecting on the particular challenges Covid has posed. We had periodic gatherings of Ministers, Church Secretaries, Local Church Leaders and Lay Preachers to explore the sharing and pooling of ideas and support to aid the training needed at this time.

The Training Officer and Safeguarding Officer jointly offered training to all active ministers and a few retired active Ministers on Safer Sacred Space Boundary training as part of the rolling mandatory training of the United Reformed Church. The retired active Ministers training will need to be completed.

A number of individuals accessed various training over the year to develop their understanding and skills in various areas to aid their work for and in the Synod. Training continues to be accessed through the denomination's Resource Centres for Learning and other places.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Our usual annual Summer School for Ministers had to be postponed this year due to Covid restrictions at the time. We are still planning days and other events locally and nation-wide to address the changing training needs of Ministers at this time. A number of ministers undertook various forms of individual in-service training consisting of days and short courses online. Several ministers who were due a sabbaticals this year have had to postpone that due to Covid. This will inevitably lead to a large number due their sabbatical when this eventually becomes possible again.

We continue to hold in-service training and support sessions with our newly ordained ministers online, exploring their new role and their learning in post. This has not been as good as in person training, especially as a number of them started in lockdown or just before. This has created a unique set of learning experiences and we all continue to learn how to deal and respond to this as we go along. The central church training events have continued online. There has been training of Pastoral Advisors considering good practice especially in the light of Covid and how working under Covid restrictions has changed the developing relationship with their EM2 ministers and the role and work that they are asked to support at this time.

Training has been highlighted this year with lockdown and the need for a steep learning curve not only of working online, but learning how to deliver our work in the current situation and the heightened need for training in understanding of matters like mental health, equality and good practice. Training is a catalyst for so much more than learning and doing, it is adaptive, responsive and always forward looking.

One Training for Learning and Service course was completed during the year. 'Stepwise', the United Reformed Church's discipleship programme was highlighted in the latter part of the year with a few taster sessions, we hope to run the initial module in 2021. Local Church Leaders continue to be supported in the role with training and support and a review of their role, two Local Church Leaders stepped down from the role. Covid has given the opportunity for people in key roles to assess where they can best use their gifts and talents and what re-training they might need.

We had three students training for stipendary ministry, but two had to withdraw for personal reasons. Our remaining student is doing well in their academic and practical training.

Children's and Youth Activity

Expenditure on Children's and Youth Activity in 2020 was £44,972 (2019: £49,475).

Our Children's and Youth Development Officer continues to produce a weekly mailchimp newsletter which includes a round-up of resources, activities and events that are coming up. Although unable to meet physically with churches, Steven has run a number of drop-in sessions for anyone looking for advice or resources and these have been greatly received. He has also helped to run online groups and has taken a number of zoom services. He also used the Synod zoom equipment to film and edit the West Kirby Nativity this year.

Steven worked with four churches in Chester to employ a joint family worker. Although this role started during the pandemic, a number of successful outreach programmes have been run as a result of this. He also joined the management groups of three youth and family workers in the Synod. This supports the workers but also helps to bring a wider URC perspective to their roles and also helps to signpost to national URC events and activities. He also helped two churches in Liverpool employ a part time schools worker. Unfortunately this role was made redundant due to the pandemic but talks are ongoing about establishing a new role there as well as a new family worker role in the wider Cheshire area and Warrington.

As part of the Northerly Synods initiative, Steven has helped co-ordinate a Messy Church gathering event which brings messy church organisers together to share ideas and support one another. This has been run every two months on zoom and we are looking to open it up to more Messy Churches in 2021.

Mission, Outreach and Ecumenical Activity

In 2020 the Synod provided Mission Grants of £4,136 (2019: £11,000), including continuing support of Birchwood Special Category Mission, to churches in the Synod to allow them to continue to pursue initiatives with youth and families. The aim of this programme is help Churches to launch initiatives which it is hoped will become self-sustainable long-term.

Support for Outreach and Evangelism totalled £13,637 (2019: £17,657).

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Missional Discipleship Enabler

Despite the last year Stuart has seen an increase in the number of churches and individuals that he has been working with. He has invested time getting to know ministers and congregations and has enabled conversations about the resources and skills he is able to offer when working alongside them. Alongside relationship building he has also encouraged churches to begin to explore both discipleship development and to explore how they can be more missional. To build upon this and try to encourage more churches, he has used this year to progress to two focussed areas of work:

" London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) - Mersey Synod were offered the chance to become part of The URC pilot scheme exploring the value of LICC Learning Hub Communities. This two-year program helps churches to explore their culture and re-evaluate where and how they are called to be disciples. It encourages churches to see that disciples are called to share faith in the place where they meet and engage with others (their frontlines) and to build churches that encourage and equip the members to do this.

" Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG) - LYCIG is different to LICC and can stand as a separate offering to churches who feel LICC is not for them or it can compliment it. LYCIG looks at growth in three ways, Spiritual, Service and Numerical. Working alongside Yorkshire Synod and now in developing this with the 5 Northerly synods I hope that we can offer further resources to our churches that will help them to grow and develop.

He was involved in a project in the Synod that explored if we could imagine something new in a recently closed church. This project explored the possibility of building church around a community project and a community hub. Again, this was something affected by the pandemic. However, from the outset we were keen to capture the learning points from the project so that even if the project were not able to progress in this area, we as a Synod could take what we had learned and use them to help other churches who had not yet closed but may need to reimagine their future.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, he has developed and delivered a series of monthly webinars based around discipleship, mission, and church growth, at which he interviewed various well known Christian Authors/speakers about their area of expertise. Along with the Communication officer they have further developed some of the ideas offered in the webinars and alongside that produce a set of ongoing resources called 'Mission Is-Possible'. These videos focus on work being carried out in Mersey Synod by local churches and we hope will encourage other churches to have a go. With the Training Officer and Children's Development Officer we have written and delivered a course entitled 'Navigating the Unknown' which has helped churches to consider how they might respond to the changes to church life brought about by the global pandemic. We have also held two Stepwise taster events and hope to look at starting a Stepwise group within the Synod shortly.

Birchwood Special Category ministry

This year, as with most roles, has been difficult and uncertain. Some things that Stuart would liked to have got moving have not been able to start however there have been other opportunities and times to work creatively. For example, he has been able to produce online assemblies for the local primary school, provide "covid-secure" refreshments to parents on the first week of term in September, delivered food parcels, helped organise Christmas and Easter trails around the local area, continued to prayer walk, and as part of Churches Together produced live online activity events for families. He has also been able to develop some new contacts with local people by chatting over garden fences and daily walks. He has been able to pray about plans for the future and it looks like Muddy Church and some sort of after-school Lego club may be possibilities. The next few months will be uncertain but he is planning that by the Summer we may be able to move forward with activities that bring people together.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Pastoral Support

The work of the Pastoral Committee is to provide support for all the churches and ministers within the Synod. Expenditure on the provision of pastoral support - including the Transitional Minister and Safeguarding - was £13,812 in 2020. (2019 - £13,097).

In a full year of very restricted activity due to the restrictions dictated by HM Government's policy to control the Covid 19 outbreak, the committee has continued to meet monthly mostly to monitor the 'health' of churches, some assistance had been given by advice and support by pastoral officers aided by the convenor.

The Committee began to look again at the "Being Church" project in the light of further thought as Rev Catherine McFie began her service as Liverpool pastoral officer and helping other churches and Rev Stuart Radcliffe worked as Synod Mission Enabling Officer. Both had significant amendments to offer and they are being pursued. Most pastorates are blessed with stipendiary ministers and we have three non-stipendiary ministers doing pastoral work. However, this situation will change as a number of ministers are due to retire and others may move on.

Movements will create a real difficulty as finding interim moderators is increasingly difficult as trained lay people are not available and most ministers have too many responsibilities. This will be a major task for the future as numbers of stipendiary ministers continues to decline and numbers are limited in each synod.

Despite this two ministers were ordained and inducted to pastorates within the synod and they have proved an inspiring addition to our complement. We were also pleased to welcome one minister from North West synod to a three church pastorate.

Pastoral officers have again been limited by restrictions which have made personal contacts difficult. Telephone contact has been maintained on an increased level. As a result we have been satisfied that all churches experiencing difficulties are correctly referred for appropriate advice. The travelling expenses of the committee have been reduced as a consequence.

Pastoral Officer for the Liverpool area/Synod Directory Ministry

As part of Catherine's role, she is a member of the Synod's Pastoral Support Committee and has been an active participant in meetings. Outside of the meetings she did some additional work on the review process for Non-Stipendiary Ministers. She made contact with each of the churches in the Liverpool area explaining that she was there to help and a resource that they could use if they needed further support. She was also appointed Interim Moderator to one of our churches and chaired their Elders meetings, provided support for risk assessments and has shared worship materials for distribution to the congregation. The meetings associated with forming an LEP with a Methodist Church were postponed because of the pandemic and the difficulties associated with constituting an in-person church meeting.

As part of Catherine's Synod directed ministry she worked with a Church who had made the decision to close so her input was limited to chairing an Elders meeting so the final decisions associated with the closure could be made and supporting the Elders, when required, with the work required. She also worked with two other churches as Interim Moderator to provide some initial support on their risk assessment, attended worship the day they opened and led worship in early August. She also worked with another to discuss their risk assessment for opening the halls and kept in touch with the church secretary.

Safeguarding

The Synod has a part time Safeguarding Advisor, Julie Rafferty, who is a shared resource with the North Western Synod on a 40/60 split, respectively. Over the last twelve months Julie has been working from home, but engaging closely with ministers, church safeguarding coordinators, church elders and other key members of the synod. She has been delivering basic and intermediate training to people.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Basic & Intermediate Training

During the last 12 months, basic (2hrs) and intermediate (2.5hrs) training sessions have been delivered via zoom due to the pandemic and government restrictions. To date 159 people have attended both levels of training. The delivery of training will continue in accordance with the URC Safeguarding training framework, with a view to delivering Advanced (Leadership) safeguarding training in 2022. As the government guidelines relax and the number of reported Covid cases reduces, it is anticipated there will be a gradual return to face-to-face training, alongside online training as well.

DBS and the safer recruitment process

During the last 12 months, activities in churches have been greatly reduced due to the pandemic, although many churches have been engaging with the community and the church's congregation in online activities. The demand for DBS checks has reduced, but requests have started to increase as churches start to open and churches realise the importance of safer recruitment. Also there has been a significant increase in reminders highlighting that DBS checks are now due for renewal following the URC's five-year renewal policy. Work is ongoing to ensure that all necessary DBS checks are completed. Due Diligence Checking (DDC), the umbrella company that URC use to process DBS checks, have been providing training to all church document checkers and verifiers, which has assisted to educate the churches that a DBS check is just one part of safer recruitment, highlighting the importance and benefits of having stages of safer recruitment i.e. job descriptions, references, an interview, induction, probationary period and regular reviews. This work is to continue in 2021/22.

Safeguarding Policies & Procedures

The URC's "Good Practice 5 - Policy and Good Practice Guidance in Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk" was published at the end of January 2020 and although there was no official launch to the document, churches have been introduced to the document through the basic and intermediate safeguarding training delivery.

In accordance with Good Practice 5, churches are expected to review their policy and procedures on an annual basis. The annual safeguarding returns highlighted that about 43% (29) of the churches who completed the returns had reviewed their policy within the preceding 12 months. Further work is ongoing with the remaining churches to ensure their policy is updated as a matter of course.

Safeguarding Development Grant

An application of £2,000 was made to the Assembly Safeguarding Development Fund and granted in September 2020. As agreed by the Safeguarding Reference Group, part of the money would be used to pay for the increase in delivery of the basic safeguarding training sessions throughout lockdown. The remaining money is to pay for Synod & Church Trustee training, which was commissioned by the Northerly Synods and will be delivered by Farrer & Co in June and July 2021.

Investment performance

The Synod's investment portfolio is maintained under the guidance of Investec Asset Management and funds were also invested in CCLA Ethical Investment Fund. The declines in the stockmarket due to covid resulted in unrealised losses in our portfolio of £245,522 in the year. The Synods portfolio was valued at £4,651,260 at the end of 2020 (2019: £4,581,451).

The cumulative unrealised gain at the end of 2020 was (£547,460).

Interest and dividend income generated from Synod's investments, bank balances and loans amounted to £157,890 in 2020 (2019: £200,961)

Unrestricted Funds

The unrestricted funds available to the Synod with no restrictions on how they can be applied, are used to support the charitable activities of the Synod at the discretion of the Trustees, who set a budget for expenditure each year to control routine expenditure and considers and agrees any exceptional expenditure at their regular meetings.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution, Objectives and Policies

The United Reformed Church was constituted by the United Reformed Church Act 1972.

Organisational structure

The Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church is one of several regional and national synods which constitute the United Reformed Church. The charity trustees are the members of the Synod Resources Committee who have overall responsibility for the deployment of financial and other material resources to meet the objectives of the Synod.

The current members of the Resources Committee are listed below as the trustees of the charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1132754

Principal address

1 Fingall Road
Wavetree
Liverpool
Merseyside
L15 9JE

Trustees

J Lindsay
N MacKenzie
J Crawford
Reverend J Embrey (resigned 15.9.20)
Reverend J Calderley (resigned 7.1.20)
D Gartside
K Wright
J A Cash (appointed 20.5.20)

Auditors

Guild Appleton Ltd
Registered Auditors
Number 19
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9JQ

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9th March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
J Crawford - Trustee

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of United Reformed Church Mersey Synod (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of 'Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

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:

Based on our understanding of the Charity, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to incorrect revenue recognition and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to reduce expenditure and management bias in accounting estimates and judgemental areas of the financial statements such as the valuation of insurance liabilities.

Audit procedures performed included: " Discussions with management, internal audit and management involved in the Risk and Compliance functions, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud; " Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations.

Review of Trustees minutes and management meeting minutes.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Guild Appleton Ltd
Registered Auditors
Number 19
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9JQ

Date:

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.12.20 Total funds £	31.12.19 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	12,544	1	12,545	140,886
Charitable activities	4				
Proceeds from manse disposal		-	226,564	226,564	221,022
Grants		-	38,729	38,729	45,898
Training costs and grants		6,500	-	6,500	10,919
Building Surveys		5,997	-	5,997	5,800
Children and Youth Development		-	-	-	82
Investment income	3	157,890	-	157,890	200,961
Other income		84,088	21,041	105,129	123,487
Total		267,019	286,335	553,354	749,055
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	25,464	-	25,464	29,019
Charitable activities	6				
Grants		-	7,653	7,653	-
Training costs and grants		46,480	-	46,480	49,199
Building Surveys		-	-	-	14,005
Outreach		13,219	418	13,637	17,656
Ecumenical activity		22,177	-	22,177	19,944
Charitable activities		-	-	-	3,462
Welfare grants		-	615	615	990
Pastoral Support		13,812	-	13,812	13,097
Children and Youth Development		44,972	-	44,972	49,475
Ministers Pension Fund		-	-	-	20,000
Manse Purchases		-	49,000	49,000	-
Mission Grants		-	-	-	-
Church Improvement & Development		-	4,136	4,136	11,000
Inter Synod Resource Sharing		-	15,117	15,117	126,218
Manse Maintenance & Improvement		-	-	-	20,000
Manse Maintenance & Improvement		-	66,264	66,264	110,816
Other		161,112	75,195	236,307	214,677
Total		327,236	218,398	545,634	699,558
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	(245,522)	(245,522)	465,898
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(60,217)	(177,585)	(237,802)	515,395

The notes form part of these financial statements

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.12.20 Total funds £	31.12.19 Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		397,657	4,738,758	5,136,415	4,621,020
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>337,440</u>	<u>4,561,173</u>	<u>4,898,613</u>	<u>5,136,415</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

BALANCE SHEET
31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.12.20 Total funds £	31.12.19 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14	1	100,000	100,001	100,001
Investments	15	612,346	4,038,914	4,651,260	4,581,451
		<u>612,347</u>	<u>4,138,914</u>	<u>4,751,261</u>	<u>4,681,452</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	25,596	-	25,596	44,016
Cash at bank and in hand		154,531	422,258	576,789	552,885
		<u>180,127</u>	<u>422,258</u>	<u>602,385</u>	<u>596,901</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(334,034)	1	(334,033)	(20,938)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>(153,907)</u>	<u>422,259</u>	<u>268,352</u>	<u>575,963</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>458,440</u>	<u>4,561,173</u>	<u>5,019,613</u>	<u>5,257,415</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(121,000)	-	(121,000)	(121,000)
NET ASSETS		<u>337,440</u>	<u>4,561,173</u>	<u>4,898,613</u>	<u>5,136,415</u>
FUNDS	19				
Unrestricted funds				337,440	397,657
Restricted funds				4,561,173	4,738,758
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>4,898,613</u>	<u>5,136,415</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 4/3/22
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	181,718	(165,011)
Interest paid		(373)	(390)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>181,345</u>	<u>(165,401)</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(944,197)	(270,001)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	(465,895)
Sale of fixed asset investments		628,866	788,778
Interest received		157,890	200,961
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(157,441)</u>	<u>253,843</u>
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>23,904</u>	<u>88,442</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>552,885</u>	<u>464,443</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>576,789</u></u>	<u><u>552,885</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(237,802)	515,395
Adjustments for:		
Losses/(gain) on investments	245,522	(465,898)
Interest received	(157,890)	(200,961)
Interest paid	373	390
Decrease in debtors	18,420	8,156
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	313,095	(22,093)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>181,718</u>	<u>(165,011)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.20 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.20 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	552,885	23,904	576,789
	<u>552,885</u>	<u>23,904</u>	<u>576,789</u>
Total	<u>552,885</u>	<u>23,904</u>	<u>576,789</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are matched against the income generated by the expenditure incurred. Costs incurred on providing designated activities are allocated to the relevant designated fund. All other expenditure on charitable activities and administrative costs are allocated to the general fund.

Investment Income is credited to the General Fund to help offset the administrative costs borne by that fund.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to writ off each asset over its useful estimated life.

Freehold property	- not provided
Short leasehold	- over the remaining useful economic life
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Protection from money laundering and related fraud

Before any donation of more than £500 or any loan is accepted from a new and/or unknown source or any complex/reciprocal monetary transaction is undertaken with any partner organisation or individual, all such gifts, loans or transactions must be referred to the Resources Committee. The Resources Committee must satisfy itself that the source and/or partner is reputable, there is no suggestion of money laundering and that the gift/transaction is legal before any such gift or loan is accepted or any other commitment is made.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Gifts	842	844
Donations	11,703	140,042
	<u>12,545</u>	<u>140,886</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Investment income	<u>157,890</u>	<u>200,961</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		31.12.20	31.12.19
	Activity	£	£
Proceeds from manse disposal	Proceeds from manse disposal	226,564	221,022
Grants	Grants	38,729	45,898
Grants	Training costs and grants	6,500	10,919
Grants	Building Surveys	5,997	5,800
Cont to Youth Activities	Children and Youth Development	-	82
		<u>277,790</u>	<u>283,721</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Training Grants		
	6,500	10,919
Building surveys		
	5,997	5,800
	<u>12,497</u>	<u>16,719</u>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

5. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Purchases	<u>107</u>	<u>1,184</u>

Investment management costs

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Portfolio management	<u>25,357</u>	<u>27,835</u>
Aggregate amounts	<u>25,464</u>	<u>29,019</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Grant funding of activities (see note 7) £
Grants	7,653
Training costs and grants	46,480
Outreach	13,637
Ecumenical activity	22,177
Welfare grants	615
Pastoral Support	13,812
Children and Youth Development	44,972
Manse Purchases	49,000
Mission Grants	
	4,136
Church Improvement & Development	15,117
Manse Maintenance & Improvement	<u>66,264</u>
	<u>283,863</u>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Grants	7,653	-
Training costs and grants	46,480	49,199
Building Surveys	-	14,005
Outreach	13,637	17,656
Ecumenical activity	22,177	19,944
Charitable activities	-	3,462
Welfare grants	615	990
Pastoral Support	13,812	13,097
Children and Youth Development	44,972	49,475
Manse Purchases	49,000	-
Mission Grants		
	4,136	11,000
Church Improvement & Development	15,117	126,218
Inter Synod Resource Sharing	-	20,000
Manse Maintenance & Improvement	66,264	110,816
	<u>283,863</u>	<u>435,862</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Other resources expended	<u>235,934</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustee's remuneration of other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2020 nor for the year ended 31st December 2019.

Trustees' expenses

Some of the trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred in fulfilling their duties as trustees. The combined total of these expenses for the year to 31st December 2012 was £514.04 and in the year to 31.12.19 was £806.95.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

10. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
Synod staff	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	140,884	2	140,886
Charitable activities			
Proceeds from manse disposal	-	221,022	221,022
Grants	-	45,898	45,898
Training costs and grants	10,919	-	10,919
Building Surveys	5,800	-	5,800
Children and Youth Development	82	-	82
Investment income	200,961	-	200,961
Other income	52,978	70,509	123,487
Total	<u>411,624</u>	<u>337,431</u>	<u>749,055</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	29,019	-	29,019
Charitable activities			
Training costs and grants	49,199	-	49,199
Building Surveys	14,005	-	14,005
Outreach	17,656	-	17,656
Ecumenical activity	19,944	-	19,944
Charitable activities	3,462	-	3,462
Welfare grants	-	990	990
Pastoral Support	13,097	-	13,097
Children and Youth Development	49,475	-	49,475
Ministers Pension Fund	-	20,000	20,000
Mission Grants			
	-	11,000	11,000
Church Improvement & Development	-	126,218	126,218
Inter Synod Resource Sharing	-	20,000	20,000
Manse Maintenance & Improvement	-	110,816	110,816
Other	168,729	45,948	214,677
Total	<u>364,586</u>	<u>334,972</u>	<u>699,558</u>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Net gains on investments	-	465,898	465,898
NET INCOME	47,038	468,357	515,395

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

Total funds brought forward	350,619	4,270,401	4,621,020
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>397,657</u>	<u>4,738,758</u>	<u>5,136,415</u>

12. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to the charity's auditors for the audit of the charity's financial statements	<u>£6,416</u>	<u>£6,366</u>

The above figure includes the audit fee for the United Reformed Church (Mersey Province) Trust Limited.

13. PURPOSES OF THE RESTRICTED FUNDS

In Service Training:

This provides a fund for the continuing ministries education of the ministers of the URC Mersey Synod. During the year this fund was closed and merged with the unrestricted General Fund.

Training (General):

This fund provides for the provision of general training literature. During the year this fund was closed and merged with the unrestricted General Fund.

Church Extension & Development:

This fund receives proceeds from the disposals of redundant churches, the funds being available to provide grants for the renovating and extending of church premises.

Lay Training:

This provides funds for the training of non-ordained church members. During the year this fund was closed and merged with the unrestricted General Fund.

Ministers Widows:

Funds are received and paid out to provide welfare payments to the widows of ministers of the Mersey Synod

Ministry & Mission:

This provides funds generated for the payment of ministers stipends. During the year this fund was closed and merged with the unrestricted General Fund.

Manse Property Reserve:

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

13. PURPOSES OF THE RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

This fund mirrors the historic cost of the beneficially owned and part-owned manses of the Mersey Synod, as shown in the fixed assets.

Manses extension & Development:

This fund receives proceeds from the disposals of redundant manses, the funds being available to provide grants to manses for the renovating and extending of manse premises.

Welfare:

This provides a fund to enable payments to be made to members and ministers of the Synod in times of hardship.

Redundancy:

This provides funding in the event of a liability for redundancy.

Mission Grants:

The purpose of this fund is to provide grants up to a maximum of £10,000 per year to cover the cost of hiring personnel for outreach and mission work.

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020	<u>100,000</u>	<u>13,131</u>	<u>25,635</u>	<u>138,766</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>13,131</u>	<u>25,634</u>	<u>38,765</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st December 2020	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>100,001</u>
At 31st December 2019	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>100,001</u>

Freehold property includes a 50% share in a house occupied by a retired minister and his wife who own the other 50% share.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2020	4,581,451
Additions	944,197
Disposals	(628,866)
Revaluations	(245,522)
	<hr/>
At 31st December 2020	4,651,260
	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2020	4,651,260
	<hr/>
At 31st December 2019	4,581,451
	<hr/>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

16. DEBTORS

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	25,596	40,334
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Loan repayable	-	3,682
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Aggregate amounts	25,596	44,016
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Trade creditors	-	2
Other creditors	334,033	20,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	334,033	20,938
	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>121,000</u>	<u>121,000</u>

This balance comprises £121,000 from the sale of the former Hampton Road URC which is due to be paid to Scarisbrick Estates under a reversionary clause. Efforts by our solicitors to arrange payment of this debt have so far failed.

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.20	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	397,657	(60,217)	-	337,440
Restricted funds				
Church Extension & Development	2,467,153	(47,466)	3,989	2,423,676
Manses Property Reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Manses Scheme	1,205,833	86,004	-	1,291,837
Welfare	4,030	(15)	-	4,015
Redundancy	15,000	-	-	15,000
Mission Grants	7,497	(3,508)	(3,989)	-
Unrealised gains/losses	792,982	(245,521)	-	547,461
Liverpool City Centre	418	(418)	-	-
Staff & Ministers Pension Fund	94,844	-	-	94,844
Alternative Ministries	44,579	33,043	-	77,622
Birchwood Mission	3,848	(3,848)	-	-
Another Place	2,574	4,144	-	6,718
	<u>4,738,758</u>	<u>(177,585)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,561,173</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>5,136,415</u>	<u>(237,802)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,898,613</u>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	267,019	(327,236)	-	(60,217)
Restricted funds				
Church Extension & Development	(1)	(47,465)	-	(47,466)
Manses Scheme	226,565	(140,561)	-	86,004
Welfare	600	(615)	-	(15)
Mission Grants	-	(3,508)	-	(3,508)
Unrealised gains/losses	1	-	(245,522)	(245,521)
Liverpool City Centre	-	(418)	-	(418)
Alternative Ministries	40,127	(7,084)	-	33,043
Birchwood Mission	629	(4,477)	-	(3,848)
Another Place	18,414	(14,270)	-	4,144
	<u>286,335</u>	<u>(218,398)</u>	<u>(245,522)</u>	<u>(177,585)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>553,354</u>	<u>(545,634)</u>	<u>(245,522)</u>	<u>(237,802)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.19 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	350,619	47,038	397,657
Restricted funds			
Church Extension & Development	2,623,990	(156,837)	2,467,153
Manses Property Reserve	100,000	-	100,000
Manses Scheme	1,073,946	131,887	1,205,833
Welfare	4,622	(592)	4,030
Redundancy	15,000	-	15,000
Mission Grants	10,497	(3,000)	7,497
Unrealised gains/losses	327,084	465,898	792,982
Liverpool City Centre	418	-	418
Staff & Ministers Pension Fund	114,844	(20,000)	94,844
Alternative Ministries	-	44,579	44,579
Birchwood Mission	-	3,848	3,848
Another Place	-	2,574	2,574
	<u>4,270,401</u>	<u>468,357</u>	<u>4,738,758</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>4,621,020</u>	<u>515,395</u>	<u>5,136,415</u>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	411,624	(364,586)	-	47,038
Restricted funds				
Church Extension & Development	1	(156,838)	-	(156,837)
Manse's Scheme	273,939	(142,052)	-	131,887
Welfare	398	(990)	-	(592)
Mission Grants	-	(3,000)	-	(3,000)
Unrealised gains/losses	-	-	465,898	465,898
Staff & Ministers Pension Fund	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Alternative Ministries	47,500	(2,921)	-	44,579
Birchwood Mission	9,303	(5,455)	-	3,848
Another Place	6,290	(3,716)	-	2,574
	<u>337,431</u>	<u>(334,972)</u>	<u>465,898</u>	<u>468,357</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>749,055</u>	<u>(699,558)</u>	<u>465,898</u>	<u>515,395</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	350,619	(13,179)	-	337,440
Restricted funds				
Church Extension & Development	2,623,990	(204,303)	3,989	2,423,676
Manse's Property Reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Manse's Scheme	1,073,946	217,891	-	1,291,837
Welfare	4,622	(607)	-	4,015
Redundancy	15,000	-	-	15,000
Mission Grants	10,497	(6,508)	(3,989)	-
Unrealised gains/losses	327,084	220,377	-	547,461
Liverpool City Centre	418	(418)	-	-
Staff & Ministers Pension Fund	114,844	(20,000)	-	94,844
Alternative Ministries	-	77,622	-	77,622
Another Place	-	6,718	-	6,718
	<u>4,270,401</u>	<u>290,772</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,561,173</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>4,621,020</u>	<u>277,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,898,613</u>

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	678,643	(691,822)	-	(13,179)
Restricted funds				
Church Extension & Development	-	(204,303)	-	(204,303)
Manses Scheme	500,504	(282,613)	-	217,891
Welfare	998	(1,605)	-	(607)
Mission Grants	-	(6,508)	-	(6,508)
Unrealised gains/losses	1	-	220,376	220,377
Liverpool City Centre	-	(418)	-	(418)
Staff & Ministers Pension Fund	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Alternative Ministries	87,627	(10,005)	-	77,622
Birchwood Mission	9,932	(9,932)	-	-
Another Place	24,704	(17,986)	-	6,718
	<u>623,766</u>	<u>(553,370)</u>	<u>220,376</u>	<u>290,772</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,302,409</u>	<u>(1,245,192)</u>	<u>220,376</u>	<u>277,593</u>

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2020.

21. FRC ETHICAL STANDARD - PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL ENTITIES

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the Charity Commission and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

22. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

Ministers Pension Fund

The Synod is currently in discussions with the United Reformed Church regarding a solution to provide financial support to the Ministers Pension Fund which is in deficit. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Synod but all of the regional synods have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at regional level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Synod.

Whilst discussions are still ongoing, the Synod has made an in principle offer of around £1,100,000 which would be payable over a period of 10 years commencing in 2022. The Synod continues to monitor and review the position to ensure that any such final commitment is affordable and does not put its financial stability at risk.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	842	844
Donations	11,703	140,042
	<hr/> 12,545	<hr/> 140,886
Investment income		
Investment income	157,890	200,961
Charitable activities		
Proceeds from manse disposal	226,564	221,022
Cont to Youth Activities	-	82
Grants	51,226	62,617
	<hr/> 277,790	<hr/> 283,721
Other income		
Office Sales	291	1,222
Other Income	15,877	17,553
Rental income	88,961	104,712
	<hr/> 105,129	<hr/> 123,487
Total incoming resources	553,354	749,055
EXPENDITURE		
Other trading activities		
Purchases	107	1,184
Investment management costs		
Portfolio management	25,357	27,835
Charitable activities		
Ecumenical, Mission & Training costs	283,863	435,862
Other		
Bank interest	373	390
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Wages	116,104	99,061
Carried forward	116,104	99,061

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MERSEY SYNOD

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Governance costs		
Brought forward	116,104	99,061
Pensions	-	20,000
Auditors' remuneration	6,416	6,366
Legal	13,913	14,907
Post, Print & Stationery	8,560	9,581
Telephone	2,366	3,517
Insurance	23,138	16,445
rent	12,352	10,564
Light & Heat	1,734	2,375
Water	763	2,974
Repairs	1,384	11,594
Synod Officers Expenses	3,403	5,965
Sundry Expenses	36,769	17,840
Synod Committees Expenses	329	3,315
IT support	8,703	9,783
	<hr/> 235,934	<hr/> 234,287
Total resources expended	<hr/> 545,634	<hr/> 699,558
Net income before gains and losses	<hr/> 7,720	<hr/> 49,497
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(245,522)	465,898
Net (expenditure)/income	<hr/> (237,802)	<hr/> 515,395

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