

Union Church, Sheffield

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2023

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

UNION CHURCH, SHEFFIELD
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	41 Granby Road Sheffield S5 6WD
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution for a CIO dated 26 January 2021
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1193249
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Alison Collins (appointed 19 November 2022) Fraser Davies (resigned 13 May 2023) Dr Sarah Goodwin Dr David Hillson (resigned 19 November 2022) Samuel McWhirter Christopher Richardson
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ajay Rajani FCIE Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-4	Trustees' Report
Page 5	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 6	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 7	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 8	Notes to the Accounts

UNION CHURCH SHEFFIELD
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Sheffield and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

This past year Union Church Sheffield has:

- provided opportunities for church members to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and also for the wider public to be introduced to Christian faith through weekly Sunday gatherings & mid-week small groups. In particular, we have invited external speakers to help us think about our use of digital technologies; and to better understand the Muslim practice of fasting during Ramadan. We have recently relocated our Sunday meetings to another community venue.
- been glad for work done, in partnership with another local church, to support our young people in their Christian faith which has seen 2 of them coming to the decision to follow Christ and be baptised.
- again given pastoral care and training for church members as they seek to live according to the Christian faith enabling them to serve and enrich wider society through their places of employment and education.
- again enabled some church members to access theological and pastoral training from other Christian ministries (i.e. Bible Training Yorkshire & Biblical Counselling UK).
- seen church members developed and given responsibility within the church; with one individual recognised as a Candidate Elder and 2 others taking on Deacon responsibilities. These men and women are being supported to take leadership and pastoral responsibility for others.
- grown overall in membership; with 3 new members becoming actively involved in the church in the past year and 4 more actively considering becoming formal members.

- seen small groups within the church continue to support one another in their faith and service of their local communities.
- organised and run activities for youth and children that deepen their understanding of the Christian faith through a weekly youth club, bible studies, weekend away and holiday bible club. We were especially happy to see our lively holiday bible club cater for our children, their friends, and children from the general public. Many of our members and teenagers helped with this club in a variety of roles and it was great to see them all working together.
- again supported financially and pastorally individuals (i.e. mission partners) who are serving churches overseas; in particular two church members who are involved in bible translation in Nigeria.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

Overall, income in this second year of operation was £104,093 compared to £114,833 last year (after deducting the £44,402 received last year from Sharrowvale Wesleyan Reform Church when Union Church commenced operating).

After excluding last year's income from Sharrowvale, unrestricted income fell by £9,371 to £70,511. This was largely due to a reduction in income from special gifts, which fell by £15,938 (including related gift aid) to £15,000 this year. The reduction was partly offset by an increase of £5,380 in other donation income and an increase of £1,187 in income from other sources (principally bank interest). In addition the charity received restricted income of £33,042 (2022: £34,951) from Grace Church, Waco to fund the employment of one of the church's ministers and a restricted grant of £540 from FIEC.

Overall, expenditure in this second period of operating was £101,849 (2022: £93,202). Unrestricted expenditure increased by £8,821, to £70,678. This increase was due to an increase of £4,397 in payroll costs and expenditure more generally increased because the charity was able to do more following the easing of COVID restrictions. The charity incurred restricted expenditure of £31,171 (2022: £28,512) on the employment of the minister funded by Grace Church, Waco; there has been no expenditure yet from the restricted grant received from FIEC.

As a result the charity has reported a deficit of £167 on unrestricted funds and a surplus of £2,411 on restricted funds. Overall cash held by the church at the year end for its activities increased by £2,244 to £68,277. From this, £15,729 has been set aside in a designated reserve fund.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £15,729 (which equates to three months payroll and mission partner expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year-end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £61,498 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees, who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. They are familiar with their legal duties and the respective Charity Commission 5-minute guides. Responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the charity has been delegated to the elders. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees, subject to a vote indicating approval by 75% of church membership. A more detailed account of the procedure can be found in our church handbook. Our external trustee stepped down and was replaced in the autumn.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to monitor and manage those risks.

Financial responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Sarah Goodwin

Sarah Goodwin
Chair of Trustees
Date: 17 July 2023

Samuel McWhirter

Samuel McWhirter
Pastor/Elder/Trustee
Date: 17 July 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

UNION CHURCH, SHEFFIELD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Union Church, Sheffield ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 on pages 6 to 8 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ajay Rajani

Ajay Rajani FCIE
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 18 July 2023

UNION CHURCH, SHEFFIELD

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Period from 26 Jan 2021 to 31 March 2022
	Notes	General Funds	Designated Funds	Funds	2023	31 March 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		57,234	-	-	57,234	67,050
Gift aid receipts		11,872	-	-	11,872	12,613
Grants from Sharrowvale Christian Fellowship		-	-	-	-	44,402
Grants from Grace Church, Waco		-	-	33,042	33,042	34,951
Other grant income		-	-	540	540	-
Bank interest		1,406	-	-	1,406	69
Other income		-	-	-	-	150
Total receipts		70,511	-	33,582	104,093	159,235
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	63,449	-	31,171	94,620	86,288
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	7,229	-	-	7,229	6,914
Total payments		70,678	-	31,171	101,849	93,202
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		(167)	-	2,411	2,244	66,033
Transfers between funds	5	(1,887)	1,887	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,054)	1,887	2,411	2,244	66,033
Cash funds as at last year end		47,823	13,842	4,368	66,033	-
Cash funds at this year end	A	45,769	15,729	6,779	68,277	66,033

The notes on page 8 forms part of these accounts.

UNION CHURCH, SHEFFIELD
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted	2023	2022
	General	Designated	funds		
	funds	funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Bank current account	45,769	15,729	6,779	68,277	21,574
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	-	44,459
	<u>45,769</u>	<u>15,729</u>	<u>6,779</u>	<u>68,277</u>	<u>66,033</u>
B Other monetary assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
C Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use					
				Fund to	Cost
				which asset	
				belongs	£
Equipment fund				Unrestricted	<u>3,182</u>

The trustees estimated the value to the charity of the equipment it inherited when it began operating and this has been updated for subsequent purchases and disposals.

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Samuel McWhirter

Samuel McWhirter - trustee

Sarah Goodwin

Sarah Goodwin - trustee

Date: 17 July 2023

The notes on page 8 forms part of these accounts.

UNION CHURCH, SHEFFIELD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Staff costs	48,733	-	31,171	79,903	72,847
Venue hire and other meeting expenses	7,718	-	-	7,718	5,190
Training	3,935	-	-	3,935	3,402
Outreach	550	-	-	550	80
Administrative expenses	2,021	-	-	2,021	4,312
IT & communications	493	-	-	493	457
	<u>63,449</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,171</u>	<u>94,620</u>	<u>86,288</u>

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

Giving to mission partners	6,197	-	-	6,197	5,866
Giving to other partners	1,032	-	-	1,032	1,048
	<u>7,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,229</u>	<u>6,914</u>

4 Transactions with related parties

Samuel McWhirter served as church leader and was paid employment benefits totalling £38,700 (2022: £36,000) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

5 Movement on funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>	47,823	70,511	(70,678)	(1,887)	45,769
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Reserve fund	13,842	-	-	1,887	15,729
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Residency fund	4,368	33,042	(31,171)	-	6,239
Cross Cultural Outreach fund	-	540	-	-	540
Total funds	<u>66,033</u>	<u>104,093</u>	<u>(101,849)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,277</u>

Designated funds

The designated **Reserve** fund represents funds set aside by the trustees to help cover spending commitments (in particular staff employment and mission partner support) for a period of time should income vary adversely.

Restricted funds

The restricted **Residency** fund was created from grants received from Grace Church Waco to employ a Church Planting Resident.

The restricted **Cross Cultural Outreach** fund was created from a grant received from FIEC to help support specifically cross-cultural local outreach.