

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00101685 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 248796

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
FOR
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

Annatrice Limited
Statutory Auditor
10 The Thoroughfare
Harleston
Norfolk
IP20 9AX

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

TRUSTEES	Mr A L East Mr G Heathcote Mr K R Hounsome Mr C N Patten Revd Prof D M Thompson Revd Dr J E Tollington Mr D J Bird (appointed 28/2/2023)
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Eastern Synod Office The United Reformed Church 36 Duxford Road Whittlesford Cambridgeshire CB22 4ND
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	00101685 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	248796
AUDITORS	Annatrice Limited Statutory Auditor 10 The Thoroughfare Harleston Norfolk IP20 9AX
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS	Legal Advisors: Veale Wasbrough Vizards Second Floor, 3 Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB Accountants: Hardcastle Burton 90 High Street Newmarket Suffolk CB8 8FE
SYNOD OFFICERS	Moderator - Revd L Nevard Synod Clerk - Revd D Coaker Synod Treasurer - Mr G Heathcote Finance Officer - Mrs F Paulding Resources Officer - Mrs P Davies-Brown

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. 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 aims

The charitable company's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association is the advancement of the Christian religion especially by the means of, and in accordance with, the principles of the United Reformed Church as set out for the time being in 'The Manual'.

The aims of the charity are to support local churches in their outreach and mission and to share the vision of the URC's General Assembly with the local churches.

Significant activities

The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust has two distinct roles. The first is to act as the corporate Trustee of local churches, manse and other local church land. The second is to act as the holding Trustee of the collective financial assets of the Eastern Synod.

In relation to the first role, the Trust acts according to the United Reformed Church Acts 1972, 1981 and 2000: particularly the 1981 Act. Local URC churches operating in the Eastern Synod area are separate and independent charities. There is no common control or unity of administration with any of these bodies and they are not deemed to be connected charities within the understanding of the Charities SORP (FRS 102). None of the financial assets or liabilities of these bodies are incorporated in the Trust's financial statements as the Trust is not the beneficial owner and there is neither parent nor subsidiary relationships.

In relation to the second role, the Trust's responsibility is to exercise ultimate oversight over the finances of the Synod (including its budget and accounts), as set out below. The Trust is also responsible for employment of most remunerated Synod staff.

Achieving delivery of the Trust's aims and public benefit

The strategy for achieving the Trust's aims and objectives is to provide pastoral, educational and mission, technical and financial support. All these forms of support are designed to promote and share the Christian faith and, in particular, the principles of the URC in each area where a local congregation operates. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and proposed future activities on a regular basis. The Trustees follow the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when doing so and the following sections of this report describe how the Trustees have carried out the purposes of the Trust for the public benefit. It is important to note that the Trust's functions are generally exercised through the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church and its committees (see section headed 'Structure, Governance and Management').

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Pastoral Support

The Pastoral Committee works with and through the Synod Moderator and others to provide spiritual, pastoral and strategic leadership, care and challenge to local churches and their ministers. They have a particular role in encouraging conversations about pastorates' needs, ensuring effective but sympathetic deployment of ministerial resources as well as overseeing churches during ministerial vacancies. They also monitor the progress of those applying for, and undertaking, various types of ministerial training and work to develop ecumenical relations in the area covered by the Synod as well as encouraging local churches to "think ecumenically" when planning all their initiatives.

Educational and Mission Support

The Mission & Discipleship Committee works with and through the Moderator, Mission and Training Officer and Children and Youth Development Officer to provide or encourage training and development for ordained and lay people; organise and support activities for, and work with, children and young people; and encourage mission and outreach activities to be undertaken primarily by local churches in their own towns or villages. The Synod has a Mission Grant Scheme which through an accompanied process seeks to encourage and enable mission activities. Through the Faith in Action group of the Mission & Discipleship Committee, the Synod and local churches are made aware of need and injustice locally, nationally and internationally and challenged to respond in ways which make a difference.

Technical Support

Synod officials are a resource available to help local churches understand and keep up to date with their obligations as charities, employers, providers of services to the public and occupiers of buildings. Where necessary, Trustees and Synod officials also help local churches through the process of considering the acquisition, modification or disposal of premises and issues of trust, property and charity law. The Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (as constituted by the Ecclesiastical Exemption [Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas] [England] Order 2010) offers independent advice to the Synod Property Committee, together with assisting local churches occupying 'Listed' buildings through the complexities of the legal processes governing these types of buildings, including offering advice on their care and maintenance.

Financial Support

A range of grants (and, sometimes, loans - constituting some Programme Related Investments) is made available to local churches and ministers to assist with children and young people engagement, IT, mission and outreach, maintenance and improvement (including environmental) of properties to enhance interaction with their communities and ministerial and lay training and development. (This year included a utility grants scheme as energy costs rose.) In most cases this support is provided through the Resources/Property Committee, which meets four times a year and oversees financial and property-related matters for the Synod. The delegated powers of the Resources Committee and its interaction with the Trust and Trustees are set out in the Synod Financial Policy which is revised periodically by Synod. The Finance Policy sets out the charity's investment policy and ethical constraints under which it operates. For further details see the section headed 'Investment Policy' (below).

Churches are encouraged to invest capital whenever possible and to fund new building works, redevelopments, maintenance works and pastoral assistance from their investment income. Where there are insufficient funds, grants or loans may be made available to Churches, in the case of loans for periods normally not exceeding five years.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Mission & Discipleship Committee

The Faith in Action Group continues to arrange events and present matters of concern to Synod and gives links to websites that provide further information on issues such as social justice, racial justice, the environment and rural matters.

Through the Synod's Mission and Training Officer mission (including worship) resources have been provided to churches and a range of training and related on-line programmes have been provided for Elders and others.

Through the Synod's Children and Youth Development Officer training, advice and consultancy is provided to those working with children and young people, as well as advice and training related employment issues and safeguarding. The CYDO also organises or helps at events for youngsters, both Synod-wide and in local churches.

Through the Synod's Green Advocate and a Working Group that includes members of the Resources Committee, we have been awarded Bronze Eco Synod and encourage churches to seek Eco Church Awards.

Reports are received on the Synod's large-scale Mission Project, Loves Farm in Cambridgeshire, and explorations of other possibilities (e.g. Northstowe).

The Committee has developed and increased its programme for providing financial support for mission activities within churches; in particular it has moved away from simply providing grants based on a fixed percentage of the costs to adopting a flexible approach that takes account of the local church's ability to contribute.

The Committee has generally been very heartened by all the great mission work going on in churches.

Pastoral Committee

This Committee's work is largely of an ongoing nature, in particular supporting the Moderator as she considers ministerial vacancies and the challenges of deployment and explores new ways of ministerial deployment.

The Committee is progressing the implementation of the principles of Mission Partnership.

The Committee is receiving reports of mission reviews carried out in local churches.

It also oversees the process for authorising lay persons to preside at the Sacraments.

The Committee also links with the work of the six Area Partnerships and one United Area.

The Committee has noted with sadness the closures of Newport URC, Long Melford URC. and Westcliff URC.

Resources Committee

The Synod Finance Policy has been updated in a small number of ways.

The Committee continues to provide a range of property-related grants as well as grants for children's and youth work and also to support the making of larger mission-related grants. It also recognises the need to support churches with their eco-related works.

The Committee set a budget of £300,000 to assist churches with increased utility costs for the period 1st October 2022 - 31st March 2023 arising from the removal of the energy price cap.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Committee continues to support the work of the Ministry and Mission Advocates in their work overseeing the Fair Share scheme through which local churches contribute to the provision of ministry throughout the denomination. In this respect, the Committee continues to be grateful to local churches for generally how well they have done in maintaining their commitment at what has continued to be a most difficult time for church communities but has been content to meet what would otherwise be a shortfall in the Synod's contribution to the national fund.

Officers and Convenors Committee

The Committee's work is mainly concerned with organising Synod meetings, ensuring vacancies on Synod Committees are filled, co-ordinating the work of the committees and overseeing staff matters.

Financial review

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration. The Synod and Trust Company do not sell goods or services, nor are there any other trading activities.

A financial review document is made available to all members of Synod, and local churches if requested. This document highlights the main features of these financial statements. The review includes a comparison between the budget and the final operating income resources and expenditure.

Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 14, with a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure on pages 34 to 36.

The total income for the year was £1,257,992 (2021: £2,992,118). This includes income from church sales and other transfers from church funds of £652,363 (2021: £2,186,580). The majority of the remaining income is investment income.

This year the church property grants totalled £427,202 (2021: £171,101). This is a positive development in so much as churches had been struggling to find the match funding to proceed with projects.

Overall the funds have decreased by £1,269,345 (2021: increased £41,587). The deficit is mainly due to the decrease in value of the investments.

Programme Related Investments total £756,981 (2021: £755,765) comprising 1 outstanding loan (considerably reduced) and 8 property investments (2021: 1 loans and 8 property investments). These investments represent funds invested by Synod to provide accommodation for retired ministers.

Principal funding sources

The main sources of regular income are investment and rental income. In addition, in some years, substantial sums become available to the Trust as a result of church closures. No fundraising activities are carried out at Synod or Trust level. Also, until 2021, the Synod meeting authorised a 'levy' to be raised for Synod administration purposes from local churches together with their contributions to the denominational Ministry and Mission Fund. However, it has been agreed that this 'levy' will be abandoned with effect from 2023 and that in respect of the contributions made by churches in 2022 the overall amount was reduced by £78,000, this being the total amount of the 2022 'levy'.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Investment policy and objectives

The policy seeks to achieve as high an income as possible, subject to protecting the capital value of the funds against inflation. The investments include sharing in some churches' property developments but are otherwise a mixture of fixed interest and equity marketable securities. The Synod seeks to ensure that none of its investments can be seen to support practices which are against the conscience of Christians following the Ethical Investment Guidelines approved by the URC General Assembly from time to time. These Common Investment Funds are governed by Charity Commission Schemes.

A number of local churches have asked the Synod to hold, and invest, certain funds on their behalf. Such funds are not Synod funds and are not included in the Trust financial statements.

Reserves policy

The Trust holds funds under a number of different terms. Funds which are restricted may only be used as directed by the funder at the time they were granted to the Trust. Details of the specific restrictions of those individual funds are disclosed in note 21 to the financial statements.

Other funds are unrestricted and can be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the Trust's objects. It is the policy of the Trustees to designate certain funds for particular purposes as agreed from time to time and details of the purpose and use of those designated funds can be found in note 21 to the financial statements.

The Synod seeks to recognise the needs of both the present generation and future generations within the Church by retaining those one-off capital receipts to which it from time to time becomes entitled under the provision of the URC Acts. It is the present policy that, normally, only the income on these reserves is expended upon charitable purposes but an exception is made in relation to money going into the Pioneer Fund or a small mission support budget.

The remaining general unrestricted funds are required to cover the support costs and grants awarded. The Synod Finance Policy specifies that, typically, sufficient cash should be held on short or medium term deposits to cover at least one full year's anticipated revenue expenditure and also allow for the capital purchase of a manse or similar building - though the exercise of discretion is permitted in deciding how much cash it would be advisable to hold at any particular time.

At the year-end general unrestricted funds amounted to £1,202,715 (2021: £965,379, excluding designated amounts). The Trustees are satisfied this is sufficient to meet day to day objectives.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the charity. Risks are identified, assessed and controls established throughout the year. A formal review of the charity's risks was undertaken in 2023, and reported to the Trust Directors. The main change is the risk that there may be a very large shortfall on pensions.

The most serious risk facing the charity would be the Synod failing to achieve its strategic and charitable objectives, either through resources being put into programmes which do not meet those objectives or through failure of Trustees and other Committees to consider the charity's objectives when making decisions.

To manage and mitigate this risk, the Trustees consider the 'Aims and Objectives' section of their annual report each year to ensure this remains appropriate and, in so doing, are reminded of the objectives which they must constantly keep in mind.

Another principal risk is business interruption: either through absent personnel or a disaster causing restricted or no access to the Synod office. A Business Continuity Plan was approved by Synod Trust Directors in the spring of 2013 and reviewed and updated in November 2015.

Among the key risk controls used by the charity are:

- a written financial policy subject to periodic review (an updated version was adopted by the October 2022 Synod meeting);
- clear financial authorisation and approval levels (reviewed and tightened in 2022 with the introduction of dual or triple bank authorisations for amounts in excess of £10,000 and £200,000 respectively);
- detailed summary accounts produced for scrutiny by Trust Directors and Resources Committee at every meeting during the year;
- financial statements presented at each Synod meeting; and
- Synod officers and others having been vetted through the DBS service, where appropriate and Synod operating a 'Safeguarding' policy.

Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Future plans

In 2023, the Synod will continue to strengthen missional discipleship establishing Mission Partnerships and exploring the Grove resource 'Leading a Whole-life Disciple-making Church' and will provide a range of resources for local churches to grow more committed in their faith and more able to reach out to help others discover their need for God.

The Mission & Discipleship Committee will continue to have a prominent role to play in enthusing congregations and facilitating the provision of resources. Efforts to reach out to children and young people within the Synod will be pursued and we hope to make progress in building greater awareness of, and commitment to, the World Church as well as promoting justice, peace and the integrity of creation. And, together with the Resources Committee, it will take forward the work required to develop as an Eco Synod and for local congregations to develop as Eco Churches.

The Pastoral Committee will continue to support the pastoral work of the Moderator as appropriate and reviewing the Synod's deployment strategy. It will also continue to oversee the process of declaring and filling vacancies, identifying and training candidates for ministry (both ordained and lay) and for promoting health and healing.

The Resources Committee will continue to act in conjunction with and on behalf of the Synod Trustees in administering its various grant awarding processes and safeguarding the Synod's finances and investments. It will also participate in the review of the denomination's pension schemes, recognising that all Synods have a part to play in ensuring the schemes meet the requirements of the Pensions Regulator. And it will oversee a review of the level of contributions sought from churches to the national Ministry and Mission Fund.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust ("the Trust") is a company limited by guarantee formed on 20 March 2007 and is a registered charity, number 248796. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association as revised in 2008. All of the financial assets and liabilities of the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church ("Synod") are shown in the Trust's Financial Statements.

However, while the Trust holds the assets and liabilities of Synod, it is the Synod which is the decision making body, except in relation to matters relating exclusively to the business of the Trust for which the Trust Directors are responsible. The Trust is corporate Trustee for most land and buildings utilised by local URC Churches.

The Finance Officer and the Resources Officer attend Trustee meetings but are not themselves Trustees.

Constitution of the Synod

Eastern Synod is one of thirteen Synods of the United Reformed Church ('URC') within the United Kingdom. It is constituted in accordance with the Scheme of Union and the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 (see www.urc.org.uk). It has oversight of the URC in the East of England, covering Norfolk, Suffolk, most of Essex, most of Cambridgeshire and part of Hertfordshire.

In accordance with 'the Structure of the United Reformed Church' it is responsible for:-

- Overseeing six area partnerships;
- Promoting church extension;
- Promoting ecumenical relations;
- Opening, closing and extending church buildings;
- Overseeing matters affecting the ordained ministry, including discipline;
- Dealing with matters referred from General Assembly and Assembly Executive;
- Undertaking such other things which promote the welfare of the United Reformed Church.

The Eastern Synod, which is made up of ministers and lay representatives of each local church together with Synod officers, meets to transact business routinely twice a year but has delegated various powers to a number of committees as well as the Trust. The following committees are responsible for specific elements in the life of the Synod:-

- Pastoral Committee;
- Mission and Discipleship Committee;
- Resources/Property Committee; and
- Listed Buildings Advisory Committee.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Trustees nominate members to serve as Trustees of the Trust and Synod meeting ratifies the appointments.

There is an informal programme for the induction of Trustees.

Organisational Structure

Day-to-day financial and property activities are dealt with by the Finance Officer and Resources Officer. In accordance with the URC Acts, many decisions need a Church Meeting resolution, a Synod approval (at present Synod has delegated its power of approval to Resources Committee) and a decision by the Trust Directors before actions can be taken by, or on behalf of, the Trust as Trustee.

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

During 2010 a subsidiary company - United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Design & Build Limited - was established. This company has remained dormant throughout the year.

There have been no significant related party transactions between the Trust and any of its Trustees or Synod officials during the year.

Use of Volunteers

Most Ministers of Word and Sacrament receive a stipend directly from the Finance Office of the United Reformed Church in London. The URC Trust (acting at denominational level) is a separate charity, again not under common control. The Clerk, Finance Officer, Resources Officer, Moderator's PA, Administrator, Mission & Training Officer, Children's & Youth Development Officer, and Safeguarding Officer are paid by the Synod. Other than that, all members of Synod Committees and other supporting and enabling Synod activities are volunteers, almost all being members of their local URC or Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Key Management Personnel

The key management group within the Synod structure is made up of the Synod Moderator, the Synod Clerk and the Synod Treasurer. The first of these receives a stipend from the denomination centrally at the same rate as all stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving the denomination. The Synod Clerk role moved from a voluntary to a paid post funded by the Synod in 2022. The Treasurer is entitled to claim a small honorarium.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust for the purposes of company law) 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) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 charitable company 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 charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

AUDITORS

The auditors, Annatrice Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming meeting of the Synod Council.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on29/09/2023..... and signed on the board's behalf by:

gheathcote

gheathcote (Sep 29, 2023 15:41 GMT+1)

.....
Mr G Heathcote - Trustee

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 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), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; 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 Auditors' 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 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.

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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
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Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the 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 Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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 trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

Our 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 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our audit procedures included analytical techniques, third party confirmation of balances and verification of transactions on a sample basis to provide sufficient appropriate evidence that the accounts show a true and fair view and are free from material irregularities including fraud, error and non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. In designing these procedures and in particular we considered the risk of fraud over completeness and presentation of income, occurrence and presentation of expenditure, valuation and existence of assets and completeness of liabilities.

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 MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

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 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 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.



Mr Anthony James Brice FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Annatrice Limited
Statutory Auditor
10 The Thoroughfare
Harleston
Norfolk
IP20 9AX

Date: 29/09/2023
Date:

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds as restated
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	5,749	-	5,749	112,582
Charitable activities	4				
Ministry & Mission		1,417	-	1,417	1,501
Property		160,863	78,487	239,350	232,347
Investment income	3	292,955	66,094	359,049	392,854
Other income	5	652,137	-	652,137	2,252,834
Total		1,113,121	144,581	1,257,702	2,992,118
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	117,811	39,851	157,662	184,350
Charitable activities	7				
Ministry & Mission		787,905	-	787,905	4,341,015
Training		135,884	-	135,884	158,294
Property		552,514	-	552,514	266,395
General		-	-	-	-
Total		1,594,114	39,851	1,633,965	4,950,054
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(805,185)	(87,897)	(893,082)	1,999,523
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(1,286,178)	16,833	(1,269,345)	41,587
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		14,086,288	8,758,996	22,845,284	22,803,697
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		12,800,110	8,775,829	21,575,939	22,845,284


The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds as restated £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	16	889,322	6,128,401	7,017,723	7,019,849
Investments					
Investments	17	8,587,220	1,805,723	10,392,943	11,625,556
Investment property	18	2,156,000	-	2,156,000	2,019,000
Social investments	19	360,300	396,681	756,981	755,765
		11,992,842	8,330,805	20,323,647	21,420,170
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	20	285,740	20,123	305,863	89,317
Cash at bank		3,480,210	429,279	3,909,489	3,454,759
		3,765,950	449,402	4,215,352	3,544,076
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	21	(2,813,104)	(4,378)	(2,817,482)	(1,978,533)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		952,846	445,024	1,397,870	1,565,543
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		12,945,688	8,775,829	21,721,517	22,985,713
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	22	(145,578)	-	(145,578)	(140,429)
NET ASSETS		12,800,110	8,775,829	21,575,939	22,845,284
FUNDS	24				
Unrestricted funds				12,800,110	14,086,288
Restricted funds				8,775,829	8,758,996
TOTAL FUNDS				21,575,939	22,845,284

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
....29/09/2023..... and were signed on its behalf by:


gheathcote (Sep 29, 2023 15:41 GMT+1)
.....
Mr G Heathcote - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

		2022	2021
	Notes	£	as restated £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	330,117	(3,985,010)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		330,117	(3,985,010)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(5,679)	(26,365)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(593,997)	(149,000)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	65,142
Sale of fixed asset investments		338,177	1,575,563
Repayment of programme related loans		361,047	63,880
Interest received		25,065	24,577
Net cash provided by investing activities		124,613	1,553,797
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		454,730	(2,431,213)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,454,759	5,885,972
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		3,909,489	3,454,759

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,269,345)	41,587
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	7,806	6,538
Losses/(gain) on investments	893,082	(1,999,523)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	-	(1,584)
Interest received	(25,065)	(24,577)
Loan Interest	(1,417)	(1,501)
Loans written off	97,504	-
Donated Assets	-	(1,003,000)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(216,546)	581,588
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	844,098	(1,584,538)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	330,117	(3,985,010)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/1/22 £	Cash flow £	At 31/12/22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	3,454,759	454,730	3,909,489
	3,454,759	454,730	3,909,489
Total	3,454,759	454,730	3,909,489

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The company is the parent undertaking of a small group and as such is not required by the Companies Act 2006 to prepare consolidated financial statements. It has also taken advantage of the exemption under the SORP not to prepare consolidated financial statements on the grounds of materiality. These financial statements present information about the individual company only and not the group.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

The charity receives grants which are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes costs of managing investments and programme related investments;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs of ministry, mission, training and property grants; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to local churches, organisations and individuals are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises costs, office costs, governance costs, and salary costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Plant and machinery	- Straight line over 5 years
Fixtures and fittings	- Straight line over 10 years
Motor vehicles	- Straight line over 5 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 5 years

No amounts under £500 are capitalised. The Trustees conduct an annual impairment review.

Freehold properties includes some burial grounds. Due to the nature of this land, they are included at £Nil value.

Individual church property

The Trust is sole Trustee of the land and buildings of most local URCs but they are not the property of the Synod and are not shown in the financial statements. Sale proceeds from redundant properties or from part thereof which come into Synod funds are treated as unrestricted income from general funds. The income is recognised when the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Social investments

Programme related investments are those held to further our charitable purposes. Programme related investments include investment in a percentage share of properties and bridging or other loans.

Related investments in properties are stated at cost subject to any adjustment arising from impairment which is considered on an annual basis. Gains on disposal of these investments are shown as other income in the SoFA. Investments by way of loans are stated at cost. Interest is charged on the loans at the COIF rate of interest, being the rate of interest the Trust would otherwise have earned.

Investments

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Listed investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains/(losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Description and use of funds

The financial statements show the combined income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the following funds which are administered for the benefit of the United Reformed Church within the Eastern Synod:-

Synod Administration Fund
Church Life and Mission Fund

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Description and use of funds

Retired Ministers Housing Fund
Retired Ministers Holiday Fund
Manse Funds
Pioneer Fund
Heritage Fund
Ten Per Cent Fund

Funds administered on behalf of local churches are not included.

Description and use of funds

Restricted income funds are funds whose use is restricted to specific purposes according to the terms on which the funds were received.

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the Christian and charitable work of the United Reformed Church in the Eastern Province. The main fund in this category is the Church Life & Mission Fund. Certain funds have been allocated by the Resources Committee but the committee retains authority to re-allocate such funds and so they are treated as Designated Funds within Unrestricted Income Funds.

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 participates in a defined benefit scheme, The Pensions Trust Defined Benefit Scheme, which is a multi employer scheme where the underlying assets and liabilities are not separately identifiable. In accordance with the SORP, it is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged as expenditure as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

The charity also operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged as expenditure as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have considered relevant information, including the annual budget and forecast future cash flows in making their assessment. The current economic environment has not had a significant impact on the charity's operations although adaptations have been made to reflect changes in working practices. The Trustees are monitoring the impact on future revenue streams and the impact on our beneficiaries and any support they may require. Based on these assessments and having regard to resources available to the charity, the Trustees have concluded that there is no material uncertainty and the financial statements can continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Going concern

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements relevant to the financial statements are:

Investments - estimate of fair value

Fixed assets - estimate of useful life and estimate of impairment

Support costs - allocation to activities

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Local church contributions	-	104,000
Donations	750	3,082
Grants	4,999	5,500
	<u>5,749</u>	<u>112,582</u>

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

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Other grants	4,999	5,500
	<u>4,999</u>	<u>5,500</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Rents received	-	15,541
Investment income	333,984	352,736
Deposit account interest	25,065	24,577
	<u>359,049</u>	<u>392,854</u>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2022	2021 as restated
	Activity	£	£
Loan interest	Ministry & Mission	1,417	1,501
Rental	Property	239,350	232,347
		<u>240,767</u>	<u>233,848</u>

5. OTHER INCOME

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Other income	65	66,254
Sale of church properties and transfers of church's funds	652,072	2,186,580
	<u>652,137</u>	<u>2,252,834</u>

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Legal & Professional costs	22,508	5,208
Synod manse scheme	42,495	102,593
Leasing of premises	15,948	18,276
Investment manager charges	1,403	1,465
Share of support costs	75,308	56,808
	<u>157,662</u>	<u>184,350</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 8) £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Ministry & Mission	49,598	713,204	25,103	787,905
Training	110,781	-	25,103	135,884
Property	-	427,002	125,512	552,514
	<u>160,379</u>	<u>1,140,206</u>	<u>175,718</u>	<u>1,476,303</u>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

8. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Ministry & Mission	713,204	575,025
Training	-	13,377
Property	427,002	171,101
	<u>1,140,206</u>	<u>759,503</u>

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £
Ministry & Mission	25,103
Training	25,103
Property	125,512
	<u>175,718</u>

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>7,805</u>	<u>6,538</u>

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

Reimbursed expenses were paid to three Trustees of the Synod in aggregate of £1,096 (2021: £2,077). Synod recognises an honoraria of £1,500 (2021: £1,500) for the Treasurer in respect of their role within the Synod. During the year the charity acquired services of £11,386 (2021: £8,012) from Lewis Patten Chartered Architects, a company in which Mr C Patten is a director and owner. No other remuneration or expenses were paid to the Trustees or members of the Resources Committee, other than the reimbursement of travel expenses.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

12. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Wages and salaries	238,406	241,057
Social security costs	26,005	22,517
Other pension costs	40,575	41,190
	<u>304,986</u>	<u>304,764</u>

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

	2022	2021 as restated
	8	8
Synod Administration	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

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

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	112,582	-	112,582
Charitable activities			
Ministry & Mission	1,501	-	1,501
Property	167,304	65,043	232,347
Investment income	329,505	63,349	392,854
Other income	2,249,874	2,960	2,252,834
Total	<u>2,860,766</u>	<u>131,352</u>	<u>2,992,118</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	81,097	103,253	184,350
Charitable activities			
Ministry & Mission	4,341,015	-	4,341,015
Training	158,294	-	158,294
Property	266,395	-	266,395
General	-	-	-
Total	<u>4,846,801</u>	<u>103,253</u>	<u>4,950,054</u>
Net gains on investments	<u>1,649,583</u>	<u>349,940</u>	<u>1,999,523</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(336,452)	378,039	41,587

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward			
As previously reported	13,766,740	8,171,312	21,938,052
Prior year adjustment	656,000	209,645	865,645
As restated	14,422,740	8,380,957	22,803,697
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	14,086,288	8,758,996	22,845,284

14. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The Trustees have reviewed the presentation of the financial statements and have made significant adjustments to the way they are shown compared to the previous year. In the Trustees' opinion this presentation is more appropriate for the Trust and the other users of these accounts going forward. The comparatives have been restated accordingly, however, the amendments to the prior year has no impact on the balances brought forward.

15. NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS

The Trust had losses arising from the revaluation of listed investments £1,488,433 (2021: gain £1,640,970) and gains on Social Investments property of £458,352 (2021: £nil) and Investment properties of £137,000 (2021: gain 358,553). The loss from the revaluation of listed investments includes losses of £87,897 (2021: loss £389,608) of restricted funds.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £
COST			
At 1 January 2022	6,985,670	4,542	17,758
Additions	-	3,732	-
Disposals	-	(1,927)	-
At 31 December 2022	6,985,670	6,347	17,758
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2022	-	3,983	9,916
Charge for year	-	526	1,125
Eliminated on disposal	-	(1,927)	-
At 31 December 2022	-	2,582	11,041
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2022	6,985,670	3,765	6,717
At 31 December 2021	6,985,670	559	7,842
	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2022	20,045	21,931	7,049,946
Additions	-	1,947	5,679
Disposals	-	(4,103)	(6,030)
At 31 December 2022	20,045	19,775	7,049,595
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2022	1,003	15,195	30,097
Charge for year	4,008	2,146	7,805
Eliminated on disposal	-	(4,103)	(6,030)
At 31 December 2022	5,011	13,238	31,872
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2022	15,034	6,537	7,017,723
At 31 December 2021	19,042	6,736	7,019,849

At the year end the Synod Manse Scheme had beneficial ownership of 22 properties valued at approximately £7.8 million registered in the name of URC (Eastern Province) Trust. Of this, 17 properties totalling £6.5 million are included within tangible and investment properties.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

17. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2022	11,625,556
Additions at cost	593,997
Disposal proceeds	(338,177)
Revaluations	(1,488,433)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	10,392,943
	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2022	10,392,943
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	11,625,556
	<hr/>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2022 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2022	10,392,943
	<hr/>

If the investments had not been revalued they would have been included at the following historical cost:

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Cost	7,888,224	7,575,241
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Fixed asset investments were valued on an open market basis on 31 December 2022 by CCLA and Epworth.

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Subsidiary

The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Design & Build Limited

Registered office: Eastern Synod Office, 36 Duxford Road, Whittlesford, CB22 4ND.

Nature of business: Dormant

	%		
	holding		
Class of share:			
Ordinary	100		
		2022	2021
		£	£
Aggregate capital and reserves		1	1

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

17. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued

Associated company

Lewis Gibson Limited

Registered office: Downing Place, United Reformed Church, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EL.

Nature of business: Letting of property

	%	2022	2021
Class of share:	holding	£	£
Ordinary	33		
Aggregate capital and reserves		(180,609)	(180,640)
Profit for the year		<u>31</u>	<u>84</u>

The Investments are invested within a number of Charity Investment Funds managed by CCLA and Epworth.

18. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2022	2,019,000
Revaluation	<u>137,000</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,156,000</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,156,000</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>2,019,000</u>

Fair value at 31 December 2022 is represented by:

	£
Valuation in 2021	<u>358,553</u>

If the properties had not been revalued it would have been included at the following historical cost:

	2022	2021
	£	as restated £
Cost	<u>1,660,447</u>	<u>1,660,447</u>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

19. SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

	Programme related investments		
	Loans £	Other investments £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 January 2022	458,210	297,555	755,765
Repayments in year	(361,047)	-	(361,047)
Other movements	(96,089)	-	(96,089)
Revaluations	-	458,352	458,352
At 31 December 2022	1,074	755,907	756,981
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2022	1,074	755,907	756,981
At 31 December 2021	458,210	297,555	755,765

Loans are subject to the Epworth rate of interest that would otherwise have been received.

The Synod has no contingent liability arising from any undertaking to guarantee the repayment of loans made by the General Assembly of the URC to congregations in the Synod.

In relation to the residential properties, no interest is charged on the initial value of the investment. A proportion of the costs of repair are met by the Trust during the period of investment but the benefit should arise on disposal of the properties when the Trust receives a proportion of the proceeds relating to the investment proportion of the original cost.

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2022 is represented by:

	Programme related investments	
		Other investments £
Valuation in 2022		755,907

If the residential properties had not been revalued they would have been included at the following historical cost:

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Cost	297,555	297,555

Social Investments were valued on an open market basis on 31 December 2022 by The trustees.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

20. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Other debtors	280,483	87,970
Prepayments	25,380	1,347
	<u>305,863</u>	<u>89,317</u>

21. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Grants approved	541,290	330,964
Social security and other taxes	5,075	4,430
Other creditors	2,088,919	1,446,980
M&M Reserve fund	166,951	127,775
Accrued expenses	15,247	68,384
	<u>2,817,482</u>	<u>1,978,533</u>

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

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Grants approved	141,883	49,991
Other creditors	3,695	90,438
	<u>145,578</u>	<u>140,429</u>

23. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Within one year	-	2,517
Between one and five years	2,404	629
In more than five years	-	12,240
	<u>2,404</u>	<u>15,386</u>

The office used by the the company is situated on land that is registered in the name of The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust and held on statutory trust in favour of Whittlesford United Reformed Church. The agreement has lapsed however the trust continues to pay a sum of £1,183 per month for the use of the building and this is included in the figures above.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/1/22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	965,379	(325,062)	562,398	1,202,715
Church Life & Mission fund	9,245,059	(1,154,759)	(71,790)	8,018,510
Manse fund	744,395	942	(490,608)	254,729
Herritage fund	1,691,350	26,610	-	1,717,960
Pioneer fund	1,440,105	(55,480)	-	1,384,625
10 % Property sale	-	221,571	-	221,571
	14,086,288	(1,286,178)	-	12,800,110
Restricted funds				
Church Life & Mission fund	1,371,950	(96,352)	-	1,275,598
Ret'd Ministers Housing fund	1,053,012	116,663	-	1,169,675
Ret'd Ministers Holiday fund	12,573	(806)	-	11,767
Manse fund	6,321,461	(2,672)	-	6,318,789
	8,758,996	16,833	-	8,775,829
TOTAL FUNDS	22,845,284	(1,269,345)	-	21,575,939

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	41,676	(198,742)	(167,996)	(325,062)
Church Life & Mission fund	545,583	(1,176,622)	(523,720)	(1,154,759)
Manse fund	942	-	-	942
Herritage fund	292,937	(174,033)	(92,294)	26,610
Pioneer fund	10,412	(44,717)	(21,175)	(55,480)
10 % Property sale	221,571	-	-	221,571
	1,113,121	(1,594,114)	(805,185)	(1,286,178)
Restricted funds				
Church Life & Mission fund	30,243	-	(126,595)	(96,352)
Ret'd Ministers Housing fund	18,897	(1,554)	99,320	116,663
Ret'd Ministers Holiday fund	264	(3)	(1,067)	(806)
Manse fund	95,177	(38,294)	(59,555)	(2,672)
	144,581	(39,851)	(87,897)	16,833
TOTAL FUNDS	1,257,702	(1,633,965)	(893,082)	(1,269,345)

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/21 £	Prior year adjustment £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/21 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	1,365,320	-	(419,940)	20,000	965,380
Church Life & Mission fund	10,136,614	-	(871,556)	(20,000)	9,245,058
Manse fund	443,395	301,000	-	-	744,395
Herritage fund	742,777	-	948,573	-	1,691,350
Pioneer fund	1,078,634	355,000	6,471	-	1,440,105
	<u>13,766,740</u>	<u>656,000</u>	<u>(336,452)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,086,288</u>
Restricted funds					
Church Life & Mission fund	1,131,613	-	240,337	-	1,371,950
Ret'd Ministers Housing fund	953,445	-	99,567	-	1,053,012
Ret'd Ministers Holiday fund	11,216	-	1,357	-	12,573
Manse fund	6,075,038	209,645	36,778	-	6,321,461
	<u>8,171,312</u>	<u>209,645</u>	<u>378,039</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,758,996</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>21,938,052</u>	<u>865,645</u>	<u>41,587</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,845,284</u>

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	148,301	(178,633)	(389,608)	(419,940)
Church Life & Mission fund	1,589,772	(4,371,202)	1,909,874	(871,556)
Herritage fund	1,113,455	(254,806)	89,924	948,573
Pioneer fund	9,238	(42,160)	39,393	6,471
	<u>2,860,766</u>	<u>(4,846,801)</u>	<u>1,649,583</u>	<u>(336,452)</u>
Restricted funds				
Church Life & Mission fund	30,555	-	209,782	240,337
Ret'd Ministers Housing fund	18,849	(11)	80,729	99,567
Ret'd Ministers Holiday fund	262	(3)	1,098	1,357
Manse fund	81,686	(103,239)	58,331	36,778
	<u>131,352</u>	<u>(103,253)</u>	<u>349,940</u>	<u>378,039</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,992,118</u>	<u>(4,950,054)</u>	<u>1,999,523</u>	<u>41,587</u>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Church Life & Mission Funds

This fund has been created from the asset apportionment of former Trustee bodies and the sale of proceeds of redundant churches. Income only is used for grants and training support but the capital can be loaned to churches in accordance with the Synod Finance Policy.

Synod Manse Funds

In October 2005 the Synod Manse Policy was endorsed. A number of property sales were recognised and set aside as initial funding. The fund is designed to allow churches to release their interest in a property to the Synod's control thereby allowing Synod to position manses where they are required and to ensure that the houses within the manse scheme are kept in a good state of repair.

Retired Ministers' Housing Fund

The fund is available to help in housing ministers in retirement.

Retired Ministers' Holiday Fund

The fund was established from the sale proceeds of the Synod caravan and is used to benefit ministers

Heritage Fund

The fund has been set up specifically to support those churches who have the responsibility of maintaining buildings which are listed on the National Register. Grants of up to 50% of the cost will be awarded up to a maximum of £25,000 providing churches can demonstrate that they have regularly maintained their properties up to a reasonable standard. The money to support such grants comes from part of the proceeds of sales of redundant Listed buildings.

Pioneer Fund

The Pioneer Fund was approved by Synod in October 2008 with the sole purpose to support churches envisioned with a pioneer project costing in excess of £250,000. In March 2013, Synod meeting amended the normal minimum project cost to £100,000. The money in this fund comes from part of the proceeds of sales of redundant buildings which are not Listed.

The Pioneer Love's Farm Fund is a sub-fund of the work of the Pioneer Fund set aside to support a five year project in the St Neots area.

25. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The Trust contributed £12,154 (2021: £13,208) to The United Reformed Church Final Salary Scheme, a pension scheme principally for lay staff which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions Trust (formerly The Pensions Trust). The scheme is a defined benefit scheme but the Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities - each member in the scheme pays a common contribution rate - and accordingly it has accounted for its contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme

The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2019, when the scheme had a surplus of £2,689,000. The assumptions underlying that valuation include:

- Discount rate of 1.4% pa
- Pensionable earnings growth of 2.5% for three years, 2.75% thereafter
- Price inflation and pension increases of 2.55%
- Retirement age (active members) of 65, with maximum commutation

The employer contribution rate is 26%.

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

25. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued
Defined contribution scheme

A defined contribution scheme has also been opened for more recently appointed staff. Contributions for the year to this scheme were £28,422 (2021: £27,983).

26. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Trust has a mortgage charge over freehold land which is held in trust under the URC Acts and therefore does not appear in the balance sheet of the Trust. The loan was advanced to Lewis Gibson Limited, a company in which the Trust holds one third of the share capital, in connection with construction on the land. Loan repayments are made by Lewis Gibson Limited and there is a charge in place between the lender and Lewis Gibson Limited. In the event that Lewis Gibson Limited were to default on the loan and its security was insufficient then the Trust security could be called upon. The balance outstanding on the loan in the financial statements of Lewis Gibson Limited at 31 December 2022 was £321,541 (2021: £373,626).

27. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022.

28. CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 £	2021 as restated £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Local church contributions	-	104,000
Donations	750	3,082
Grants	4,999	5,500
	5,749	112,582
Investment income		
Rents received	-	15,541
Investment income	333,984	352,736
Deposit account interest	25,065	24,577
	359,049	392,854
Charitable activities		
Rental	239,350	232,347
Loan interest	1,417	1,501
	240,767	233,848
Other income		
Other income	65	66,254
Sale of church properties and transfers of church's funds	652,072	2,186,580
	652,137	2,252,834
Total incoming resources	1,257,702	2,992,118
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Legal & Professional costs	22,508	5,208
Synod manse scheme	42,495	102,593
Leasing of premises	15,948	18,276
Investment manager charges	1,403	1,465
Share of support costs	75,308	56,808
	157,662	184,350
Charitable activities		
Wages	115,967	149,163
Carried forward	115,967	149,163

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	115,967	149,163
Social security	15,325	14,714
Pensions	16,836	22,194
Pension deficit	-	3,676,967
Sundries	8,242	7,106
Motor vehicles	4,009	3,102
Grants to institutions	1,140,206	757,974
Grants to individuals	-	1,529
	1,300,585	4,632,749
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	122,439	91,894
Social security	10,680	7,803
Pensions	23,739	18,996
Rates and water	223	164
Insurance	4,426	4,305
Telephone	2,423	2,850
Postage and stationery	1,926	2,487
Sundries	372	2,629
Rent	15,212	11,220
Gas & Electricity	1,612	1,028
Cleaning	1,828	2,469
Property repairs	5,287	586
Computer costs	9,642	7,133
Refreshment & office cons	221	282
Staff travel, subs & training	1,637	1,365
Staff events	-	451
Year book & communication	-	883
Photocopier costs	3,452	3,235
Moderator expenses	109	1,974
Synod Council and general asse	3,196	3,357
Synod treasure and clerk costs	700	1,258
Honoraria	1,500	1,500
Audit & accountancy	17,340	3,506
Committee and office holder co	2,509	2,958
Legal & Professional cost	16,575	11,994
Bank charges and interest	181	-
Support costs allocated to raising funds	(75,308)	(56,808)
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	3,797	3,436
	175,718	132,955
Total resources expended	1,633,965	4,950,054
Net expenditure before gains and losses	(376,263)	(1,957,936)

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**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(EASTERN PROVINCE) TRUST**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(893,082)	1,544,488
Realised gains/(losses) on investment property	-	455,035
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (expenditure)/income	(1,269,345)	41,587
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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A11 URC 22 final

Final Audit Report

2023-09-29

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