

# THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN SYNOD) TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 282270

## Details

---

Other names	THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">01529484</a>
Registered	1981-04-14
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

---

Address	Synod Office East Croydon Urc Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP
Phone	02086883730
Email	<a href="mailto:financeandtrust@urcsouthern.org.uk">financeandtrust@urcsouthern.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.urcsouthern.org.uk">www.urcsouthern.org.uk</a>

## Activities

---

**Objects:** THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINES, PRINCIPLES AND USAGES OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING) BY SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE SOUTHERN SYNOD OF THAT CHURCH

**Activities:** Its object is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrine, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the Southern Synod. It has achieved this by continuing to act as Corporate Trustee and Agent for the Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church by holding properties and assets as nominee and handling income and expenditure.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- East Sussex
- Kent
- Surrey
- West Sussex
- Throughout London

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£7,368,096	£5,042,189	£35,128,357	8
2023-12-31	£3,366,677	£4,286,990	£31,115,853	8
2022-12-31	£11,269,236	£3,697,962	£30,897,366	8
2021-12-31	£7,562,999	£7,496,388	£27,375,679	8
2020-12-31	£4,228,589	£2,579,862	£24,400,077	8

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN DAVID KIRBY		2014-11-27
DAVID HENRY WALTERS		
HILARY MILES		2021-11-04
JOHN HAROLD DENISON		2014-11-27
Linda Margaret Austin		2015-05-13
Rev Bernard Sietse Fidler		2021-02-11
Rev Helen Amy Elizabeth Warmington		2026-05-21
Rev RUSSELL JAMES FURLEY-SMITH		2020-10-01

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN SYNOD) TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 282270

---

# Accounts

---

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 1529484 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 282270**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2024**  
**for**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Report of the Independent Auditors	7 to 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11 to 12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 27

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2015.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

1529484 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

282270

**Registered office**

Synod Office  
East Croydon URC  
Addiscombe Grove  
Croydon  
CR0 5LP

**Trustees**

Ms L Austin  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby (Chairperson)  
Mrs H Miles  
Mr D Walters

**Company Secretary**

Mrs C Kingdom

**Auditors**

Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE20 3RW

**Legal Representatives**

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP  
Second Floor, 3 Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2JB

**Bankers**

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent  
ME20 4JQ

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY & PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 21 November 1980 and is a registered charity number 282270. On 24 November 2010 the trustees agreed to change the name of the Trust from The United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited to The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited. This was certified by Companies House on 8 December 2010.

Its object is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrine, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the South of England, for the benefit of the public. The trustees have given due consideration to and follow the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirements.

It has achieved this by continuing to act as Corporate Trustee and Agent for the Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church by holding properties and assets and handling income and expenditure.

The Synod was set up as part of the formation of the United Reformed Church by the United Reformed Acts 1972 and 1981. The Southern Synod is the representative of the local churches within Southern Synod united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern.

One of its main functions is to take action conducive to the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole, and the well-being of the community in which the Church is based.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree a broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust, including consideration of any major grant-making. They ensure all activity supports mission and encourage church extension and the establishment of new causes.

The day to day administration of grants and the processing of applications prior to consideration by the relevant sub-committee are delegated to the Trust staff. The Synod Officers have the delegated authority to make decisions on grants and loans if it is not possible to wait for the next sub-committee meeting. During 2024 there were 4 Synod Officers; the Moderator, the Synod Clerk, the Synod Council Convenor and the Synod Treasurer.

New trustees are selected from within the Synod. They are either Ministers of Religion or people who have otherwise been involved in the life of the Synod. Induction procedures and training are tailored to the previous experience and knowledge of the new trustees. As necessary, both new and existing trustees are reminded of their responsibilities and issued with a copy of the Charity Commission's guide "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know". Training sessions for all trustees are also arranged where necessary.

The Trust also acts as Corporate Trustee for most of the Local United Reformed Churches by holding various properties and investments on their behalf.

**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.

**Risk Management**

The trustees are working on a revised risk matrix, including details of the systems and procedures to manage those risks. They have appointed a small group, of their number, to manage this process and a revised strategy document should be available for review and approval by the Trustees during 2025.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Trust and the Synod are to help and support local churches in their mission. The mission criteria used are:

1. is committed to looking for new opportunities for being the church in the geographical area of the Synod
2. is committed to supporting and resourcing the local churches to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ
3. is committed to caring pastorally for its local churches, ministers and staff
4. is committed to supporting and resourcing local churches to provide relevant, inspiring and engaging worship
5. is committed to being aware of the economic, political and social context of life in Southern England and will seek to help local churches address the implications of these issues for their life and work
6. is committed to the proper care and administration of its resources through its personnel, finances and buildings
7. is committed to the wider of church of God through the United Reformed Church nationally, ecumenical relationships and the world church
8. is committed to addressing issues of justice, peace and the environment
9. is committed to regularly reviewing its life and mission in light of the above criteria always seeking the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit

The objectives for the year are shaped by these strategic aims and the Synod looks to achieve them through partnership with other Christian institutions, local councils and central government for the benefit of the public.

The Trust can make capital grants to local churches in order to help them make their buildings welcoming and safe for members of the public and to equip them better to fulfil their objectives. This can include support for extending and improving buildings to include more community facilities. In 2024, twenty nine grants were made. There are also grants available to support mission projects and the employment of youth workers. The budget for 2024 included £750,000 for each panel.

The Trust also makes grants to various church organisations which operate within our area. We also support mission work abroad.

Since 2009 the principal decision making body is Synod Together which meets biannually, usually in March and October. The Synod operated through 4 Synod Areas; London, Kent and East Sussex, Surrey and Sussex, and Central Sussex United Area. Synod Areas normally meet 2 or 3 times each year, to deal with pastoral matters and provide advice to the Synod on property and finance matters.

The Trust employs 5 finance, property and support staff, in the Synod Office, four of whom are full time. There are now a further 3 field staff; Training and Development Officer, Mission Development Officer and Children and Youth Development Officer. We also meet 50% of the costs of a Safeguarding Officer employed by a neighbouring synod, who spends half of her time working with Southern Synod.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

By the nature of the Trust's aims it is difficult to have quantitative measures of performance and achievement, though we are confident that by supporting local churches in their mission aims, we are providing a public benefit.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

During 2024 the Trust was able to sell two properties relating to closed church buildings which contributed £1,469K to our income figure. The Trust gave grants of £932K to improve 29 church buildings and of £1,027K to 33 churches to improve the manse accommodation for their ministers.

Over £690K was granted from the general and designated Funds to churches and other organisations to support their mission work. A new line of support is helping churches in their online worship.

The Trust agreed to continue to contribute to Inter Synod Resource Sharing with £100,000 being paid in 2024. Churches within the Synod also contributed substantial amounts towards the United Reformed Church's Ministry and Mission Fund.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Balance sheet on Page 10 indicates the amount in the Unrestricted Fund as at 31 December 2024 was £20.680 m. When this is adjusted for Endowment Funds, Fixed Assets and programme related investments it is calculated that the unrestricted fund assets readily available amount to £19.969m.

Although this amounts to more than 10 years of normal expenditure it is recognised that this has accumulated mainly from the disposal of redundant church buildings and that this income will not continue long term. The Synod Trust does not raise funds and investment income does not cover the costs of running the Synod Trust's normal activities. The Unrestricted General Funds are dependent on the uncertain income arising from the disposal of redundant church property to meet the shortfall and carry out all other mission work and support to member churches. From time to time the Trust has to invest in new property for programme related activities and this requires an above average amount to be kept in reserve.

The trustees, acting on advice of the Finance Committee have agreed to make more money available for mission in the Southern Synod based on a 10 year rolling budget. This will increase the annual expenditure and gradually reduce the historic reserves without putting the financial stability of the Trust in jeopardy. Over £1.6m was awarded in grants and loans to local churches in 2024 within this scheme.

### **Investment policy and objectives**

The Trust investments are held in the Common Investment Funds run by independent professional investment managers. These investments aim to balance growth and income maximizing total return, whilst meeting the Ethical Criteria agreed by the United Reformed Church. The Trust funds can be invested up to 85 % in equities with a minimum of 15% in fixed interest funds. These ratios were reviewed in 2018 to ensure they are still appropriate to meet the Synod's cash flow requirements. The new ratios agreed were 60-80% in equities, 10-30% in Fixed interest and 0-20% in Property Funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Trust will continue its work in support of local churches within the Synod to develop and extend their mission.

**Ministers Pension Fund Deficit:**

During 2021 the Trust continued discussions with the United Reformed Church regarding a solution to provide financial support to the Ministers Pension Fund which was in deficit. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust to provide financial support, but all of the regional and national bodies were approached and there was wide acceptance that there was a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. The Trust, together with the other twelve synods, agreed to make contributions to clear the deficit by 2030 with our commitment being £5m in the period 2021 to 2024. In view of the healthy cash position of the Trust it made the first payment of £2,000,000 in December 2021 and the second of £1,500,000 in November 2022. A review in 2024 ascertained that the final payment of £1,500,000 was no longer required.

The Trust will continue to participate in these national discussions as required. The Trust continues to monitor and review the position to ensure that any such final commitment is affordable and does not put the financial stability of the Trust at risk.

**Church Life Review:**

The General Assembly of the URC 2021 formally commenced a review of the life of the URC, the Church Life Review Group, and how it could assist local churches. General Assembly 2023 instructed the Group to deliver a set of proposals to an extraordinary session of General Assembly in November 2025. These proposals were to include the financing of a fund to support its recommendations. The funding will be provided by the 11 synods and 2 national synods and is expected to provide funding over a ten-year period with a significant review during year five. While precise figures have yet to be established it is expected that Southern Synod will be a contributor to the fund. The Trust will ensure that any final commitment is affordable and does not put the financial stability of the Trust at risk.

**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS**

The trust holds cash deposits and investments on behalf of local churches. As at 31 December 2024 these amounted to bank deposits of £3,791,515 (2023: £3,206,141) and investments of £2,806,577 (2023: £2,176,823). Such investments are held in separate accounts and managed by an independent investment manager.

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees during the year under review were:

Ms L Austin  
Revd B Banks (resigned 30 June 2025)  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby  
Mrs H Miles  
Mr D Walters

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) 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).

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;
  
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Thornton Springer LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

Date: 16-09-25

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited**

**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**

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

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

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charity and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Non-compliance with these laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunity for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statement (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were posting of unusual journal entries outside the normal course of business and revenue recognition journal entries to manipulate the charity's performance measures and objectives.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statements and disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of compliance with the laws and regulations, enquiries with management, testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Under ISA 240 (UK) there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue. To address this risk, we obtained an understanding of the charity's revenue recognition policies and compared these to the accounting standard, records, processes and reports revenue transactions. We tested a sample of revenue transactions to supporting evidence and tested, on a sample basis, revenue related balances in the balance sheet.

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited**

**Use of our report**

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

*Thornton  
Springer LLP*

for and on behalf of Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE19 3RW

Date: ..... *16/09/2025* .....

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			31.12.24	31.12.23
		General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>						
Income from Investments	2a	702,142	501,515	46,429	<b>1,250,086</b>	1,153,467
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2a	49,983	12,452	4,133	<b>66,568</b>	34,822
Other Income	2a	1,583,425	20,084	-	<b>1,603,509</b>	387,018
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>2,335,550</b>	<b>534,051</b>	<b>50,562</b>	<b>2,920,163</b>	<b>1,575,307</b>
Income on sale of properties	2a	1,468,589	2,590,000	-	<b>4,058,589</b>	1,718,750
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	2a	119,065	270,279	-	<b>389,344</b>	72,620
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	2a	<b>3,923,204</b>	<b>3,394,330</b>	<b>50,562</b>	<b>7,368,096</b>	<b>3,366,677</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2b	2,333,407	1,222,111	8,934	<b>3,564,452</b>	3,420,209
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	2b	<b>2,333,407</b>	<b>1,222,111</b>	<b>8,934</b>	<b>3,564,452</b>	<b>3,420,209</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing		100,000	-	-	<b>100,000</b>	50,000
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund		-	-	-	-	-
Discounting adjustment for Long Term Creditor		-	-	-	-	64,281
Purchase of Manses		-	1,377,737	-	<b>1,377,737</b>	752,500
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>2,433,407</b>	<b>2,599,848</b>	<b>8,934</b>	<b>5,042,189</b>	<b>4,286,990</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	2b	<b>2,143</b>	<b>(688,060)</b>	<b>41,628</b>	<b>(644,289)</b>	<b>(1,844,902)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>1,489,797</b>	<b>794,482</b>	<b>41,628</b>	<b>2,325,907</b>	<b>(920,313)</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	8	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>						
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	7	1,141,444	514,951	30,202	<b>1,686,597</b>	1,138,800
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>2,631,241</b>	<b>1,309,433</b>	<b>71,830</b>	<b>4,012,504</b>	<b>218,487</b>
Total funds brought forward		18,048,629	11,948,949	1,118,275	31,115,853	30,897,366
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	8	<b>20,679,870</b>	<b>13,258,382</b>	<b>1,190,105</b>	<b>35,128,357</b>	<b>31,115,853</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2024**

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Restricted</u>	<u>31.12.24</u>	<u>31.12.23</u>
		<u>General Purposes</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
	Notes					
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible assets	9	181,363	-	-	<b>181,363</b>	282,537
Investments	10	18,526,909	10,067,034	474,583	<b>29,068,526</b>	27,541,606
Social Investments	11	69,202	-	-	<b>69,202</b>	544,179
		<u>18,777,474</u>	<u>10,067,034</u>	<u>474,583</u>	<b><u>29,319,091</u></b>	<u>28,368,322</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	153,689	1,615	-	<b>155,304</b>	114,682
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>3,837,245</u>	<u>3,310,833</u>	<u>715,522</u>	<b><u>7,863,600</u></b>	<u>6,593,743</u>
		<u>3,990,934</u>	<u>3,312,448</u>	<u>715,522</u>	<b><u>8,018,904</u></b>	<u>6,708,425</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(2,088,538)</u>	<u>(121,100)</u>	<u>-</u>	<b><u>(2,209,638)</u></b>	<u>(3,960,894)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,902,396</u>	<u>3,191,348</u>	<u>715,522</u>	<b><u>5,809,266</u></b>	<u>2,747,531</u>
<b>/(LIABILITIES)</b>						
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS</b>						
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		20,679,870	13,258,382	1,190,105	<b>35,128,357</b>	31,115,853
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	14	<u><u>20,679,870</u></u>	<u><u>13,258,382</u></u>	<u><u>1,190,105</u></u>	<b><u><u>35,128,357</u></u></b>	<u><u>31,115,853</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>						
General Purposes					<b>20,679,870</b>	18,048,629
Designated					<b>13,258,382</b>	11,948,949
Restricted					<b>1,190,105</b>	1,118,275
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	14				<b><u>35,128,357</u></b>	<u>31,115,853</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 December 2024**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2024 and the members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on .....11-09-25..... and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
<b>Net cash provided/used in operating activities</b>	A	(977,922)	(1,127,391)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends and interest from investments		1,125,567	1,049,374
Purchase of fixed assets		(5,107)	(3,248)
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		492,665	91,980
Purchase of investments		(5,544,319)	(19,301,442)
Issue of Programme Related Loans		(33,936)	(481,267)
Repayment of Programme Related Loans		508,913	32,904
Proceeds from the sale of investments		<u>5,703,996</u>	<u>19,277,198</u>
<b>Net cash provided by/used in investing activities</b>		<u>2,247,779</u>	<u>665,499</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		1,269,857	(461,892)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	B	<u>6,593,743</u>	<u>7,055,635</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	B	<u>7,863,600</u>	<u>6,593,743</u>
<b>Notes to the statement of cash flows</b>		1,269,857	(461,892)
<b>A Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>			
<b>Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>		4,012,504	218,487
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
Depreciation charges		2,960	2,985
(Gains)/losses on investments		(1,686,597)	(1,138,800)
Dividends and interest from investments		(1,125,567)	(1,049,374)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets		(389,344)	(72,190)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(40,622)	(38,511)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		<u>(1,751,256)</u>	<u>950,012</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<u>(977,922)</u>	<u>(1,127,391)</u>
<b>B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>7,863,600</u>	<u>6,593,743</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

## **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **General Information**

The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and is registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

### **Accounting convention**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

### **Going concern basis**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have considered budgets, cash flows and the impact of subsequent events, including that of COVID19. Whilst the economic shutdown in response to COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the charity's operations, the directors are satisfied that the charity has sufficient available resources, both in terms of cash and investments that can be converted to cash, such that there is no material uncertainty and the going concern basis of preparing the financial statements continues to be appropriate.

### **Funds Included**

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 Southern Synod :-

General Purposes Fund  
Manse Fund  
Synod Mission Fund  
Alfriston Mission Project  
Funds held for uniting churches  
Church Buildings Fund  
Retired Ministers Housing Fund  
Welfare Fund  
Milton Hall Fund  
Woolwich 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. Endowment funds are permanent endowments which are required to be retained, but the income from these funds can be used for the benefit of the charity, subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the Christian and charitable work of the United Reformed Church in the Southern Synod. The main fund in this category is the General Purposes Fund. Certain funds have been allocated for Manses, although the Synod retains authority to re-allocate such funds and so they are treated as Designated Funds within Unrestricted Income Funds. There are also three other smaller designated funds arising from the sale of redundant church buildings.

The General Purposes Fund is the main fund of the charity and is an unrestricted fund. It is made up of both General Purposes and Church Aid, the initial fund set up after the URC came into force and General Purposes Fund coming from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union.

The Manse Fund is a Designated Fund which came into being in 1996 by approval of the Synod. The Synod Mission Fund and Funds held for uniting churches have arisen from the sale of a church building in 2012 following an uniting of two existing churches. The united church can apply to the latter fund for a project to develop and further their mission whereas the Synod Mission Fund is available to all churches within the Synod for similar projects. The Alfriston Mission Project is a fund arising from the sale of a church hall in Alfriston which has been designated to develop in the mission activities and community facilities of the former Alfriston URC building.

**Restricted Funds**

The Church Building fund came from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union. (LCU) Its funds can only be used for the upkeep, repair, improvement extension, provision and erection of church buildings.

The Retired Ministers Housing funds both have a house for a retired minister. They operate in Kent and Sussex.

The Welfare fund came from the LCU. Its purpose is relieving, in cases of need, ministers, members of churches and retired ministers.

The Milton Hall fund can be used for general purposes but only within the inner London Boroughs South of the River Thames.

The Woolwich fund is for work in the London Borough of Greenwich.

**Contribution to Pension Funds**

The charity operates 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 Financial Reporting Standards, 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.

**Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of financial activities when receivable.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The Synod is not registered for VAT so all irrecoverable VAT is charged with the related cost.

All costs are treated by the finance committee as relating to the unrestricted fund unless there is a specific requirement on the individual funds.

**Individual Church Property, including Pastoral Manses**

These assets are not shown in the financial statements as they are not the exclusive property of the Synod. Sale proceeds from redundant properties or from part thereof are treated as unrestricted income for general funds and not shown until received.

Non-pastoral manses, which are used for Synod related activities are included in the Balance Sheet at cost, subject to an impairment review and any deficits are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities on properties marketed for sale.

**Jointly Owned Property**

Property owned with The URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited is held under the terms of an agreement with the Society whereby the Charity receives no income from the property but contributes towards the cost of maintenance and repair of the property. The property is included in the Balance Sheet at cost.

**Custodian Trusteeship**

Assets held by the charity as custodian trustee are not shown in the financial statements. The details of those funds are included in the Trustees' annual report.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, apart from property, at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:-

Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment - over four years

Computer Equipment-over three years

Motor Vehicles-over four years

No amounts under £100 are capitalised.

The trustees recognise that the cost of buildings used as functional assets have a finite life and, in the normal course of events, would be depreciated to their expected residual value. However, those properties that fall into this category are located in an area of the country where that part of the cost that is attributable to land, which does not depreciate, is significantly higher than in other parts of the country. Furthermore, the Charity has a policy of maintaining its properties to a high level, which extends the life of the assets beyond their normal expected lives. Taking these factors into account the trustees consider that any depreciation on the buildings would consequently be immaterial and depreciation is not therefore charged.

**Operating Leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Grants**

Grants payable to local churches, organisations and individuals are charged in the year of approval. The value of grants approved, but still to be paid is included in the balance sheet as a current liability.

**Investments**

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

**Support and Indirect Costs**

Support expenditure has been allocated directly to the relevant activity cost category.

Indirect costs which include premises and office costs have been allocated on the basis of each activity costs as a proportion of the total direct costs, shown in note 3.

**Financial instruments**

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

**Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of the trustees, there are no special disclosures required in respect of judgements and estimation uncertainty.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**a) Analysis of Total Income**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.24	31.12.23
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income from generated funds</b>					
Rents Received	14,565	109,954		124,519	104,093
Investment income-listed investments	499,932	303,186	11,860	814,978	798,284
Interest	187,645	88,375	34,569	310,589	251,090
	<u>702,142</u>	<u>501,515</u>	<u>46,429</u>	<u>1,250,086</u>	<u>1,153,467</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Donations and Legacies					
Donations			667	667	668
Legacies		12,452		12,452	29,508
Monies from closed churches	49,983			49,983	756
Quinquennial contribution received			3,466	3,466	3,890
	<u>49,983</u>	<u>12,452</u>	<u>4,133</u>	<u>66,568</u>	<u>34,822</u>
Other income					
Insurance Claims		20,084		20,084	
Training course contributions	1,397			1,397	525
Contribution towards legal costs	3,250			3,250	2,750
Pension Contributions no longer requir	1,434,486			1,434,486	
Grants awarded no longer required	144,292			144,292	383,743
	<u>1,583,425</u>	<u>20,084</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,583,425</u>	<u>387,018</u>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b><u>2,335,550</u></b>	<b><u>534,051</u></b>	<b><u>50,562</u></b>	<b><u>2,900,079</u></b>	<b><u>1,575,307</u></b>
Income on sale of properties					
-of closed churches	1,468,589			1,468,589	103,750
-of surplus manses		2,590,000		2,590,000	1,615,000
	<u>1,468,589</u>	<u>2,590,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,058,589</u>	<u>1,718,750</u>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of fixed asset:					
-other property	119,065	270,279		389,344	72,620
	<u>119,065</u>	<u>270,279</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,344</u>	<u>72,620</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>3,923,204</u></b>	<b><u>3,394,330</u></b>	<b><u>50,562</u></b>	<b><u>7,348,012</u></b>	<b><u>3,366,677</u></b>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds			31.12.24	31.12.23
	General Purposes	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure on Charitable Activities</b>					
<b>Ministry &amp; Mission:-</b>					
Mission Officer	1,261			1,261	44,156
Ecumenical Officer	3,861			3,861	1,486
Grants (note 4)	690,310		1,315	691,625	782,779
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	68,104			68,104	56,778
	<u>763,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>764,851</u>	<u>885,199</u>
<b>Training:-</b>					
Training of Ministers & Lay preachers (note 4)	16,925			16,925	17,139
Students (note 4)	1,357			1,357	1,250
Training & Development Officer	25,723			25,723	58,145
Children's & Youth Development Officer	60,203			60,203	55,809
Safeguarding Officer	31,985			31,985	28,372
Other training costs	5,741			5,741	7,739
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	14,446			14,446	12,420
	<u>156,380</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156,380</u>	<u>180,874</u>
<b>Property:-</b>					
Church building grants (note 4)	928,165	4,076		932,241	1,266,380
Manse Grants (note 4)		1,027,232		1,027,232	530,059
Manse Expenses		71,901		71,901	38,226
Quinquennial Costs	15,550		4,523	20,073	20,801
Expenses on Sale & Purchase of Property	25,355	55,407		80,762	46,105
Other property costs	18,446			18,446	38,467
Staff costs	100,686			100,686	94,783
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	105,252			105,252	97,587
	<u>1,193,454</u>	<u>1,158,616</u>	<u>4,523</u>	<u>2,356,593</u>	<u>2,132,408</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.24	31.12.23
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Governance:-</b>					
Synod Together Meetings	2,698			<b>2,698</b>	2,810
Synod Committees	3,068			<b>3,068</b>	2,127
Honoraria Synod Treasurer	2,000			<b>2,000</b>	1,000
Synod Officers' pay and expenses	64,621			<b>64,621</b>	16,648
Legal Costs		6,676		<b>6,676</b>	17,839
Audit Fees	10,890			<b>10,890</b>	11,350
Investment management costs	118,186	56,819	3,096	<b>178,101</b>	159,309
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	18,574			<b>18,574</b>	10,646
	<u>220,037</u>	<u>63,495</u>	<u>3,096</u>	<b><u>286,628</u></b>	<u>221,729</u>
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b><u>2,333,407</u></b>	<b><u>1,222,111</u></b>	<b><u>8,934</u></b>	<b><u>3,564,452</u></b>	<b><u>3,420,209</u></b>
<b>Net expenditure on operating account</b>	<b><u>2,143</u></b>	<b><u>(688,060)</u></b>	<b><u>41,628</u></b>	<b><u>(664,373)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,844,902)</u></b>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**3 INDIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.24	31.12.23
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Premises Costs:-</b>					
Synod rent & Hire of Rooms	18,360			18,360	18,870
Repairs and Maintenance	4,938			4,938	366
Synod Electricity	(870)			(870)	1,500
Insurance	8,507			8,507	8,206
Cleaning	1,045			1,045	943
	<u>31,980</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,980</u>	<u>29,885</u>
<b>Office Costs:-</b>					
Synod Employment Costs	138,997			138,997	113,923
Car & Travel Expenses	2,938			2,938	3,029
Miscellaneous	3,653			3,653	2,984
Depreciation	2,960			2,960	2,985
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-			-	430
Telephone	9,994			9,994	5,187
Stationery and Publications	1,500			1,500	1,086
Postage	945			945	1,044
Photocopier-Lease and Meter	1,039			1,039	1,029
Equipment and Consumable Costs	6,306			6,306	10,364
Advertising	430			430	-
IT and Website	5,148			5,148	4,892
Catering	486			486	592
	<u>174,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,396</u>	<u>147,545</u>
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b><u>206,376</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>206,376</u></b>	<b><u>177,430</u></b>
	Total £	Ministry & Mission £	Training £	Property £	Governance £
Total Indirect Costs	206,376	68,104	14,446	105,252	18,574
% of Direct Costs	100%	33%	7%	51%	9%

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**4 GRANTS**

The following grants have been charged in furtherance of the charitable objects during the year:-

	Institutions		Individuals	
	Number	Amount £	Number	Amount £
Ministry and Mission:				
Other mission projects	4	8,722		
Ecumenical situations	2	2,953		
Local Church Missions	24	503,635		
Youth & Children's Work	3	175,000		
Welfare Grants			2	1,315
	<b>33</b>	<b>690,310</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,315</b>
Training:				
Ministers & lay preachers	-	-	32	16,800
Students	-	-	5	1,250
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18,050</b>
Property:				
Local Churches	29	932,241	-	-
Manses	33	1,027,232	-	-
	<b>62</b>	<b>1,959,473</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Total Grants Charged	<b>95</b>	<b>2,649,783</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19,365</b>

**5 EMPLOYMENT EMOLUMENTS**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Wages & salaries	<b>274,267</b>	266,478
Employers national insurance	<b>32,546</b>	31,949
Pension costs	<b>69,109</b>	68,412
	<b>375,922</b>	366,839

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

Ministry & Mission	-	1
Training	1	2
Property	2	2
Administration	5	3
	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

No employee received £60,000 per annum or more. All employee related costs are paid from unrestricted funds

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The following honorarium, which is included in Trustees Expenses, was paid to a trustee during the year, in accordance with the governing document and approved by the Charity Commission:-

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Mr J Denison (Synod Treasurer)	<u>2,000</u>	1,000
	<u><b>2,000</b></u>	<u><b>1,000</b></u>

During the year five trustees (2023:five) were reimbursed out of pocket expenses mainly for telephone costs and travelling totalling £703 (2023: £1,109). One trustee (2023: none) was also paid a total of £26 (2023: £0) relating to their positions as stipendiary ministers, comprising training grants and reimbursement of ministerial expenses.

**7 GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS**

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Realised gains/(losses) on investments sold	<b>(37,340)</b>	970,014
Less: Gains/(losses) previously recognised in Synod accounts	<b>198,139</b>	(168,010)
Net gains/(losses) in year on investments sold	<u><b>160,799</b></u>	<u>802,004</u>
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments for the year	<b>1,525,798</b>	336,799
Net gains/(losses) on Investments for the Year	<u><b>1,686,597</b></u>	<u><b>1,138,803</b></u>

**8 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

Fund:-		Balance 01.01.24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between Funds	Gains/(losses) on Investments	Balance 31.12.24
		£	£	£		£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	17,614,852	3,923,204	(2,433,407)	-	1,114,499	<b>20,219,148</b>
	Endowment	433,777			-	26,945	<b>460,722</b>
Manse	Designated	11,622,857	3,394,330	(2,595,772)	-	514,951	<b>12,936,366</b>
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	170,538		(4,076)	-		<b>166,462</b>
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	24,444			-		<b>24,444</b>
Fund held for Uniting	Designated	131,110			-		<b>131,110</b>
Church Building	Restricted	857	3,712	(4,534)	-		<b>35</b>
	Endowment	7,913		(73)	-	168	<b>8,008</b>
Welfare	Restricted	29,894	1,573	(1,515)	-	2,042	<b>31,994</b>
	Endowment	2,101			-	20	<b>2,121</b>
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	338,575	26,190	(17)	-	34	<b>364,782</b>
	Endowment	177,000			-		<b>177,000</b>
Milton Hall	Restricted	130,484	11,422	(1,966)	-	6,033	<b>145,973</b>
	Endowment	216,461			-	10,413	<b>226,874</b>
Woolwich	Restricted	214,990	7,665	(829)	-	11,492	<b>233,318</b>
		<u>31,115,853</u>	<u>7,368,096</u>	<u>(5,042,189)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,686,597</u>	<u><b>35,128,357</b></u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Fixtures,</b>		
	<b>Property</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Totals</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2024	280,196	28,692	<b>308,888</b>
Additions in year		5,107	<b>5,107</b>
Disposals in year	(103,321)	(2,204)	<b>(105,525)</b>
At 31 December 2024	<u>176,875</u>	<u>31,595</u>	<u><b>208,470</b></u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2024	-	26,351	<b>26,351</b>
Charge for period	-	2,960	<b>2,960</b>
Eliminated for disposals	-	(2,204)	<b>(2,204)</b>
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>27,107</u>	<u><b>27,107</b></u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2024	<u><b>176,875</b></u>	<u><b>4,488</b></u>	<u><b>181,363</b></u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>280,196</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u><b>282,537</b></u>

**10 FIXED ASSET LISTED INVESTMENTS**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS		<b>TOTALS</b>
	Fixed Interest Securities £	UK Equities Fund £	Fixed Interest Securities £	UK Equities Fund £	
As at 1 January 2024	4,018,492	22,886,371	64,521	379,318	<b>27,348,702</b>
Purchases	4,772,123	676,610	84,321	11,265	<b>5,544,319</b>
Sales	(2,611,251)	(2,913,702)	(44,013)	(54,364)	<b>(5,623,330)</b>
Net gains/(losses) fair value	(102,151)	1,600,766	(2,000)	29,185	<b>1,525,800</b>
	<u>6,077,213</u>	<u>22,250,045</u>	<u>102,829</u>	<u>365,404</u>	<u><b>28,795,491</b></u>
Cash held for Investment	268,286		4,749		<b>273,035</b>
Fair Value at 31 December 2024	<u><b>6,345,499</b></u>	<u><b>22,250,045</b></u>	<u><b>107,578</b></u>	<u><b>365,404</b></u>	<u><b>29,068,526</b></u>
Cost at 31 December 2024	<u><b>6,152,607</b></u>	<u><b>19,787,065</b></u>	<u><b>110,697</b></u>	<u><b>283,463</b></u>	<u><b>26,333,832</b></u>

All investment funds are held in the UK.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**11 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS**

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Loans to Local Churches	<u>69,202</u>	<u>544,179</u>

Loans made to local churches and ministers are normally repayable between three and five years and interest is charged at 5% per annum on the outstanding balance.

**12 DEBTORS**

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Sundry debtors	<u>155,304</u>	<u>114,682</u>

**13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Other creditors	461,957	657,460
Contribution to Ministers' Pension Fund	-	1,434,486
Grants not drawn	<u>1,747,681</u>	<u>1,868,948</u>
	<u>2,209,638</u>	<u>3,960,894</u>

**14 DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31 December 2024**

Fund:-		Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Social Investments £	Debtors/ Creditors £	Cash & Deposits £	TOTALS £
General Purposes	Unrestricted	181,363	18,066,187	69,202	(1,934,849)	3,837,245	20,219,148
	Endowment		460,722				460,722
Manse	Designated		9,958,699		(11,150)	2,988,817	12,936,366
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated					166,462	166,462
Synod Mission Fund	Designated		108,335		(108,335)	24,444	24,444
Fund held for Uniting Churches	Designated					131,110	131,110
Church Building	Restricted					35	35
	Endowment		8,008				8,008
Welfare	Restricted		29,471			2,523	31,994
	Endowment		2,121				2,121
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted		1,647			363,135	364,782
	Endowment					177,000	177,000
Milton Hall	Restricted		53,897			92,076	145,973
	Endowment		226,874				226,874
Woolwich	Restricted		152,565			80,753	233,318
		<u>181,363</u>	<u>29,068,526</u>	<u>69,202</u>	<u>(2,054,334)</u>	<u>7,863,600</u>	<u>35,128,357</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**15 PENSION SCHEME**

Up until 28 February 2024, the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod ) Trust contributed 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.

The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2022, when the scheme had a surplus of £1,446,000.

The scheme was closed to future accrual on 28 February 2023. A new defined contribution scheme was set up administered by the Aon Master Trust on 1 March 2023 and staff have been moved to this scheme. The total pension contributions into the defined contribution scheme made in the year were £69,109 (2023:£68,412 )

**16 COMMITMENTS**

**Property**

The office forms part of a property registered in the name of the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited and held on statutory trusts in favour of East Croydon United Reformed Church. Under an informal agreement, the Trust company pays rent of £18,000 to the local church for the use of the Synod offices.

**Contributions to the URC Ministers' Pension Scheme**

The pension scheme for ministers, run nationally as a central function of the United Reformed Church, has been in deficit for some years despite several attempts to resolve the underfunding based on the valuation approach required of the scheme actuaries. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. At the end of 2023, a commitment of £1,500,000 was to be paid in 2024 and this was included in creditors. However during 2024 the national church informed us no further payments would be required and therefore this amount has been written back in 2024.

**17 CONTINGENT ASSETS**

At the year end, the property of four churches, held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the company, were held following the church's closure. The proceeds will revert to Synod on the sale in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the property are held. Professional advice is being sought prior to disposal.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**18 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY FUND**

The key components from the prior year figures are analysed below by fund:-

	2023			<b>Total Funds £</b>
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>				
<b>Income from Investments</b>	674,251	438,696	40,520	<b>1,153,467</b>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Donations and Legacies	30,264	-	4,558	<b>34,822</b>
Other Income	387,018	-	-	<b>387,018</b>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>1,091,533</b>	<b>438,696</b>	<b>45,078</b>	<b>1,575,307</b>
Income on sale of properties	103,750	1,615,000	-	<b>1,718,750</b>
Lease Premiums Received	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	72,620	-	-	<b>72,620</b>
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	<b>6,145,727</b>	<b>1,206,169</b>	<b>211,103</b>	<b>3,366,677</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2,725,228	674,504	20,477	<b>3,420,209</b>
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>2,725,228</b>	<b>674,504</b>	<b>20,477</b>	<b>3,420,209</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	50,000	-	-	<b>50,000</b>
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Discounting adjustment for Long Term Creditor	64,281	-	-	<b>64,281</b>
Purchase of Manses	-	752,500	-	<b>752,500</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,839,509</b>	<b>1,427,004</b>	<b>20,477</b>	<b>4,286,990</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	<b>(1,633,695)</b>	<b>(235,808)</b>	<b>24,601</b>	<b>(1,844,902)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>(1,571,606)</b>	<b>626,692</b>	<b>24,601</b>	<b>(920,313)</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>				
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	822,236	295,164	21,400	<b>1,138,800</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-749,370</b>	<b>921,856</b>	<b>46,001</b>	<b>218,487</b>
Total funds brought forward	18,797,999	11,027,093	1,072,274	<b>30,897,366</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>18,048,629</b>	<b>11,948,949</b>	<b>1,118,275</b>	<b>31,115,853</b>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN SYNOD) TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 282270

---

# Accounts

---

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 1529484 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 282270**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2023**  
**for**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Report of the Independent Auditors	7 to 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11 to 12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 27

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

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 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2015.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

1529484 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

282270

**Registered office**

Synod Office  
East Croydon URC  
Addiscombe Grove  
Croydon  
CR0 5LP

**Trustees**

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby (Chairperson)  
Mrs H Miles  
Mr D Walters

**Company Secretary**

Mrs C Kingdom

**Auditors**

Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE20 3RW

**Legal Representatives**

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP  
Second Floor, 3 Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2JB

**Bankers**

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent  
ME20 4JQ

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY & PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 21 November 1980 and is a registered charity number 282270. On 24 November 2010 the trustees agreed to change the name of the Trust from The United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited to The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited. This was certified by Companies House on 8 December 2010.

Its object is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrine, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the South of England, for the benefit of the public. The trustees have given due consideration to and follow the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirements.

It has achieved this by continuing to act as Corporate Trustee and Agent for the Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church by holding properties and assets and handling income and expenditure.

The Synod was set up as part of the formation of the United Reformed Church by the United Reformed Acts 1972 and 1981. The Southern Synod is the representative of the local churches within Southern Synod united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern.

One of its main functions is to take action conducive to the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole, and the well-being of the community in which the Church is based.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree a broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust, including consideration of any major grant-making. They ensure all activity supports mission and encourage church extension and the establishment of new causes.

The day to day administration of grants and the processing of applications prior to consideration by the relevant sub-committee are delegated to the Trust staff. The Synod Officers have the delegated authority to make decisions on grants and loans if it is not possible to wait for the next sub-committee meeting. During 2023 there were 4 Synod Officers; the Moderator, the Synod Clerk, the Synod Council Convenor and the Synod Treasurer.

New trustees are selected from within the Synod. They are either Ministers of Religion or people who have otherwise been involved in the life of the Synod. Induction procedures and training are tailored to the previous experience and knowledge of the new trustees. As necessary, both new and existing trustees are reminded of their responsibilities and issued with a copy of the Charity Commission's guide "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know". Training sessions for all trustees are also arranged where necessary.

The Trust also acts as Corporate Trustee for most of the Local United Reformed Churches by holding various properties and investments on their behalf.

**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.

**Risk Management**

The trustees are working on a revised risk matrix, including details of the systems and procedures to manage those risks. They have appointed a small group, of their number, to manage this process and a revised strategy document should be available for review and approval by the Trustees during 2024.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Trust and the Synod are to help and support local churches in their mission. The mission criteria used are the Synod:

1. is committed to looking for new opportunities for being the church in the geographical area of the Synod
2. is committed to supporting and resourcing the local churches to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ
3. is committed to caring pastorally for its local churches, ministers and staff
4. is committed to supporting and resourcing local churches to provide relevant, inspiring and engaging worship
5. is committed to being aware of the economic, political and social context of life in Southern England and will seek to help local churches address the implications of these issues for their life and work
6. is committed to the proper care and administration of its resources through its personnel, finances and buildings
7. is committed to the wider of church of God through the United Reformed Church nationally, ecumenical relationships and the world church
8. is committed to addressing issues of justice, peace and the environment
9. is committed to regularly reviewing its life and mission in light of the above criteria always seeking the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit

The objectives for the year are shaped by these strategic aims and the Synod looks to achieve them through partnership with other Christian institutions, local councils and central government for the benefit of the public.

The Trust can make capital grants to local churches in order to help them make their buildings welcoming and safe for members of the public and to equip them better to fulfil their objectives. This can include support for extending and improving buildings to include more community facilities. In 2023, thirty grants were made. There are also grants available to support mission projects and the employment of youth workers. The budget for 2023 includes £750,000 for each panel.

The Trust also makes grants to various church organisations which operate within our area. We also support mission work abroad.

Since 2009 the principal decision making body is Synod Together which meets biannually, usually in March and October. The Synod operated through 5 Synod Areas; London, East Kent, West Kent and East Sussex, Surrey and Sussex, and Central Sussex United Area. Synod Areas normally meet 2 or 3 times each year, to deal with pastoral matters and provide advice to the Synod on property and finance matters.

The Trust employs 5 finance, property and support staff, in the Synod Office, four of whom are full time. There are now a further 3 field staff; Training and Development Officer, Mission Development Officer and Children and Youth Development Officer. We also meet 50% of the costs of a safeguarding officer employed by a neighboring synod, who spends half of her time working with Southern Synod.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

By the nature of the Trust's aims it is difficult to have quantitative measures of performance and achievement, though we are confident that by supporting local churches in their mission aims, we are providing a public benefit.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

During 2023 the Trust was able to sell one property relating to closed church buildings which contributed £103K to our income figure. The Trust gave grants of £1.266m to improve 30 church buildings and of £530K to 27 churches to improve the manse accommodation for their ministers.

Over £542K was granted from the general and designated Funds to churches and other organisations to support their mission work. A new line of support is helping churches in their online worship.

The Trust agreed to continue to contribute to Inter Synod Resource Sharing with £50,000 being paid in 2023. Churches within the Synod also contributed substantial amounts towards the United Reformed Church's Ministry and Mission Fund.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Balance sheet on Page 10 indicates the amount in the Unrestricted Fund as at 31 December 2023 was £18.048 m. When this is adjusted for Endowment Funds, Fixed Assets and programme related investments it is calculated that the unrestricted fund assets readily available amount to £16.863m.

Although this amounts to more than 10 years of normal expenditure it is recognised that this has accumulated mainly from the disposal of redundant church buildings and that this income will not continue long term. The Synod Trust does not raise funds and investment income does not cover the costs of running the Synod Trust's normal activities. The Unrestricted General Funds are dependent on the uncertain income arising from the disposal of redundant church property to meet the shortfall and carry out all other mission work and support to member churches. From time to time the Trust has to invest in new property for programme related activities and this requires an above average amount to be kept in reserve.

The trustees, acting on advice of the Finance Committee have agreed to make more money available for mission in the Southern Synod based on a 10 year rolling budget. This will increase the annual expenditure and gradually reduce the historic reserves without putting the financial stability of the Trust in jeopardy. Over £1.9m was awarded in grants and loans to local churches in 2023 within this scheme.

### **Investment policy and objectives**

The Trust investments are held in the Common Investment Funds run by independent professional investment managers. These investments aim to balance growth and income maximizing total return, whilst meeting the Ethical Criteria agreed by the United Reformed Church. The Trust funds can be invested up to 85 % in equities with a minimum of 15% in fixed interest funds. These ratios were reviewed in 2018 to ensure they are still appropriate to meet the Synod's cash flow requirements. The new ratios agreed were 60-80% in equities, 10-30% in Fixed interest and 0-20% in Property Funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Trust will continue its work in support of local churches within the Synod to develop and extend their mission.

During 2021 the Trust continued discussions with the United Reformed Church regarding a solution to provide financial support to the Ministers Pension Fund which is in deficit. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. The Trust, together with the other twelve synods, agreed to make contributions to clear the deficit by 2030 with our commitment being £5m in the period 2021 to 2024. In view of the healthy cash position of the Trust it made the first payment of £2,000,000 in December 2021 and the second of £1,500,000 in November 2022. A review will take place in 2025 to ascertain whether further funds will be required. Due to the strength of the reserves of the Trust we do not anticipate any detrimental effect to the core financial position of the Trust due to the Trust's participation in clearing the deficit.

The Trust will continue to participate in these national discussions as required. The Trust continues to monitor and review the position to ensure that any such final commitment is affordable and does not put the financial stability of the Trust at risk.

## **FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS**

The trust holds cash deposits and investments on behalf of local churches. As at 31 December 2023 these amounted to bank deposits of £3,206,141 (2022: £1,809,393) and investments of £2,176,823 (2022: £2,877,235). Such investments are held in separate accounts and managed by an independent investment manager.

## **TRUSTEES**

The Trustees during the year under review were:

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby  
Mrs H Miles  
Revd K Plumpton (resigned 31 May 2023)  
Mr D Walters

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) 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).

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;
  
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Thornton Springer LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

Date: 17-09-2024

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited**

**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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

**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:

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

Based on our understanding of the charity and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Non-compliance with these laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunity for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statement (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were posting of unusual journal entries outside the normal course of business and revenue recognition journal entries to manipulate the charity's performance measures and objectives.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statements and disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of compliance with the laws and regulations, enquiries with management, testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited**

Under ISA 240 (UK) there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue. To address this risk, we obtained an understanding of the charity's revenue recognition policies and compared these to the accounting standard, records, processes and reports revenue transactions. We tested a sample of revenue transactions to supporting evidence and tested, on a sample basis, revenue related balances in the balance sheet.

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**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 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.



Zahid Saleem FCCA ACA MBA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street, London, SE19 3RW  
United Kingdom  
Date: .....17/09/2024.....

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	31.12.23	31.12.22
	Notes	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>						
Income from Investments	2a	674,251	438,696	40,520	1,153,467	1,136,795
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2a	30,264	-	4,558	34,822	20,462
Other Income	2a	387,018	-	-	387,018	86,979
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>1,091,533</b>	<b>438,696</b>	<b>45,078</b>	<b>1,575,307</b>	<b>1,244,236</b>
Income on sale of properties	2a	103,750	1,615,000	-	1,718,750	10,025,000
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	2a	72,620	-	-	72,620	-
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	2a	<b>1,267,903</b>	<b>2,053,696</b>	<b>45,078</b>	<b>3,366,677</b>	<b>11,269,236</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2b	2,725,228	674,504	20,477	3,420,209	2,344,364
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	2b	<b>2,725,228</b>	<b>674,504</b>	<b>20,477</b>	<b>3,420,209</b>	<b>2,344,364</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing		50,000	-	-	50,000	35,000
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund		-	-	-	-	-
Discounting adjustment for Long Term Creditor		64,281	-	-	64,281	83,598
Purchase of Manses		-	752,500	-	752,500	1,235,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>2,839,509</b>	<b>1,427,004</b>	<b>20,477</b>	<b>4,286,990</b>	<b>3,697,962</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	2b	<b>(1,633,695)</b>	<b>(235,808)</b>	<b>24,601</b>	<b>(1,844,902)</b>	<b>(1,100,128)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(1,571,606)</b>	<b>626,692</b>	<b>24,601</b>	<b>(920,313)</b>	<b>7,571,274</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	8	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>						
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	7	822,236	295,164	21,400	1,138,800	(4,049,587)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(749,370)</b>	<b>921,856</b>	<b>46,001</b>	<b>218,487</b>	<b>3,521,687</b>
Total funds brought forward		18,797,999	11,027,093	1,072,274	30,897,366	27,375,679
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	8	<b>18,048,629</b>	<b>11,948,949</b>	<b>1,118,275</b>	<b>31,115,853</b>	<b>30,897,366</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.23 Total Funds £	31.12.22 Total Funds £
	Notes	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	£		
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible assets	9	207,816	74,721	-	<b>282,537</b>	302,063
Investments	10	17,450,929	9,643,521	447,156	<b>27,541,606</b>	26,378,563
Social Investments	11	544,179	-	-	<b>544,179</b>	95,816
		<u>18,202,924</u>	<u>9,718,242</u>	<u>447,156</u>	<b><u>28,368,322</u></b>	<u>26,776,442</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	114,682	-	-	<b>114,682</b>	76,171
Cash at bank and in hand		3,499,461	2,420,368	673,914	<b>6,593,743</b>	7,055,635
		<u>3,614,143</u>	<u>2,420,368</u>	<u>673,914</u>	<b><u>6,708,425</u></b>	<u>7,131,806</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,768,438)	(189,661)	(2,795)	<b>(3,960,894)</b>	(1,640,677)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>(154,295)</u>	<u>2,230,707</u>	<u>671,119</u>	<b><u>2,747,531</u></b>	<u>5,491,129</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		18,048,629	11,948,949	1,118,275	<b>31,115,853</b>	32,267,571
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due outside one year		-	-	-	-	(1,370,205)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	14	<u><b>18,048,629</b></u>	<u><b>11,948,949</b></u>	<u><b>1,118,275</b></u>	<u><b>31,115,853</b></u>	<u><b>30,897,366</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>						
General Purposes					<b>18,048,629</b>	18,797,999
Designated					<b>11,948,949</b>	11,027,093
Restricted					<b>1,118,275</b>	1,072,274
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	14				<u><b>31,115,853</b></u>	<u>30,897,366</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 December 2023**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.


These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12-09-2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided/used in operating activities	A	(1,127,391)	4,100,630
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends and interest from investments		1,049,374	996,930
Purchase of fixed assets		(3,248)	(1,995)
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		91,980	230
Purchase of investments		(19,301,442)	(5,885,491)
Issue of Programme Related Loans		(481,267)	-
Repayment of Programme Related Loans		32,904	6,554
Proceeds from the sale of investments		19,277,198	885,624
Net cash provided by/used in investing activities		<u>665,499</u>	<u>(3,998,148)</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>(461,892)</b>	<b>102,482</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	B	<u>7,055,635</u>	<u>6,953,153</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	B	<u><u>6,593,743</u></u>	<u><u>7,055,635</u></u>
Notes to the statement of cash flows		461,892	(102,482)
<b>A Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		218,487	3,521,687
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
Depreciation charges		2,985	3,759
(Gains)/losses on investments		(1,138,800)	4,049,587
Dividends and interest from investments		(1,049,374)	(996,930)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets		(72,190)	165
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(38,511)	(40,421)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		950,012	(2,437,217)
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>(1,127,391)</u>	<u>4,100,630</u>
<b>B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u><u>6,593,743</u></u>	<u><u>7,055,635</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

## **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **General Information**

The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and is registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

### **Accounting convention**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

### **Going concern basis**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have considered budgets, cash flows and the impact of subsequent events, including that of COVID19. Whilst the economic shutdown in response to COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the charity's operations, the directors are satisfied that the charity has sufficient available resources, both in terms of cash and investments that can be converted to cash, such that there is no material uncertainty and the going concern basis of preparing the financial statements continues to be appropriate.

### **Funds Included**

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 Southern Synod :-

General Purposes Fund  
Manse Fund  
Synod Mission Fund  
Alfriston Mission Project  
Funds held for uniting churches  
Church Buildings Fund  
Retired Ministers Housing Fund  
Welfare Fund  
Milton Hall Fund  
Woolwich 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. Endowment funds are permanent endowments which are required to be retained, but the income from these funds can be used for the benefit of the charity, subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the Christian and charitable work of the United Reformed Church in the Southern Synod. The main fund in this category is the General Purposes Fund. Certain funds have been allocated for Manses, although the Synod retains authority to re-allocate such funds and so they are treated as Designated Funds within Unrestricted Income Funds. There are also three other smaller designated funds arising from the sale of redundant church buildings.

The General Purposes Fund is the main fund of the charity and is an unrestricted fund. It is made up of both General Purposes and Church Aid, the initial fund set up after the URC came into force and General Purposes Fund coming from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union.

The Manse Fund is a Designated Fund which came into being in 1996 by approval of the Synod. The Synod Mission Fund and Funds held for uniting churches have arisen from the sale of a church building in 2012 following an uniting of two existing churches. The united church can apply to the latter fund for a project to develop and further their mission whereas the Synod Mission Fund is available to all churches within the Synod for similar projects. The Alfriston Mission Project is a fund arising from the sale of a church hall in Alfriston which has been designated to develop in the mission activities and community facilities of the former Alfriston URC building.

**Restricted Funds**

The Church Building fund came from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union. (LCU) Its funds can only be used for the upkeep, repair, improvement extension, provision and erection of church buildings.

The Retired Ministers Housing funds both have a house for a retired minister. They operate in Kent and Sussex.

The Welfare fund came from the LCU. Its purpose is relieving, in cases of need, ministers, members of churches and retired ministers.

The Milton Hall fund can be used for general purposes but only within the inner London Boroughs South of the River Thames.

The Woolwich fund is for work in the London Borough of Greenwich.

**Contribution to Pension Funds**

The charity operates 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 Financial Reporting Standards, 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.

**Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of financial activities when receivable.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The Synod is not registered for VAT so all irrecoverable VAT is charged with the related cost.

All costs are treated by the finance committee as relating to the unrestricted fund unless there is a specific requirement on the individual funds.

**Individual Church Property, including Pastoral Manses**

These assets are not shown in the financial statements as they are not the exclusive property of the Synod. Sale proceeds from redundant properties or from part thereof are treated as unrestricted income for general funds and not shown until received.

Non-pastoral manses, which are used for Synod related activities are included in the Balance Sheet at cost, subject to an impairment review and any deficits are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities on properties marketed for sale.

**Jointly Owned Property**

Property owned with The URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited is held under the terms of an agreement with the Society whereby the Charity receives no income from the property but contributes towards the cost of maintenance and repair of the property. The property is included in the Balance Sheet at cost.

**Custodian Trusteeship**

Assets held by the charity as custodian trustee are not shown in the financial statements. The details of those funds are included in the Trustees' annual report.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, apart from property, at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:-

Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment - over four years

Computer Equipment-over three years

Motor Vehicles-over four years

No amounts under £100 are capitalised.

The trustees recognise that the cost of buildings used as functional assets have a finite life and, in the normal course of events, would be depreciated to their expected residual value. However, those properties that fall into this category are located in an area of the country where that part of the cost that is attributable to land, which does not depreciate, is significantly higher than in other parts of the country. Furthermore, the Charity has a policy of maintaining its properties to a high level, which extends the life of the assets beyond their normal expected lives. Taking these factors into account the trustees consider that any depreciation on the buildings would consequently be immaterial and depreciation is not therefore charged.

**Operating Leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Grants**

Grants payable to local churches, organisations and individuals are charged in the year of approval. The value of grants approved, but still to be paid is included in the balance sheet as a current liability.

**Investments**

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

**Support and Indirect Costs**

Support expenditure has been allocated directly to the relevant activity cost category.

Indirect costs which include premises and office costs have been allocated on the basis of each activity costs as a proportion of the total direct costs, shown in note 3.

**Financial instruments**

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

**Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of the trustees, there are no special disclosures required in respect of judgements and estimation uncertainty.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**a) Analysis of Total Income**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.23	31.12.22
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income from generated funds</b>					
Rents Received	7,500	96,593		<b>104,093</b>	139,865
Investment income-listed investments	488,239	298,364	11,681	<b>798,284</b>	949,942
Interest	178,512	43,739	28,839	<b>251,090</b>	46,988
	<u>674,251</u>	<u>438,696</u>	<u>40,520</u>	<u><b>1,153,467</b></u>	<u>1,136,795</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Donations and Legacies					
Donations			668	<b>668</b>	3,668
Legacies	29,508			<b>29,508</b>	-
Denominational Grant				-	2,500
Monies from closed churches	756			<b>756</b>	365
Quinquennial contribution received			3,890	<b>3,890</b>	13,929
	<u>30,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,558</u>	<u><b>34,822</b></u>	<u>20,462</u>
Other income					
Training course contributions	525			<b>525</b>	135
Contribution towards legal costs	2,750			<b>2,750</b>	-
Grants awarded no longer required	383,743			<b>383,743</b>	86,844
	<u>387,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>387,018</b></u>	<u>86,979</u>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<u><b>1,091,533</b></u>	<u><b>438,696</b></u>	<u><b>45,078</b></u>	<u><b>1,575,307</b></u>	<u>1,244,236</u>
Income on sale of properties					
-of closed churches	103,750			<b>103,750</b>	9,225,000
-of surplus manses		1,615,000		<b>1,615,000</b>	800,000
	<u>103,750</u>	<u>1,615,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>1,718,750</b></u>	<u>10,025,000</u>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of fixed asset:					
-other property	72,620			<b>72,620</b>	-
	<u>72,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>72,620</b></u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u><b>1,267,903</b></u>	<u><b>2,053,696</b></u>	<u><b>45,078</b></u>	<u><b>3,366,677</b></u>	<u>11,269,236</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds			31.12.23	31.12.22
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Expenditure on Charitable Activities</b>					
<b>Ministry &amp; Mission:-</b>					
Mission Officer	44,156			44,156	50,163
Ecumenical Officer	1,486			1,486	1,206
Grants (note 4)	781,410		1,369	782,779	207,529
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	56,778			56,778	24,741
	<u>883,830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,369</u>	<u>885,199</u>	<u>283,639</u>
<b>Training:-</b>					
Training of Ministers & Lay preachers (note 4)	17,139			17,139	29,054
Students (note 4)	1,250			1,250	750
Training & Development Officer	58,145			58,145	56,528
Children's & Youth Development Officer	55,809			55,809	52,897
Safeguarding Officer	28,372			28,372	25,767
Other training costs	7,739			7,739	7,900
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	12,420			12,420	15,853
	<u>180,874</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,874</u>	<u>188,749</u>
<b>Property:-</b>					
Church building grants (note 4)	1,266,380			1,266,380	1,170,412
Manse Grants (note 4)		530,059		530,059	136,101
Manse Expenses		38,226		38,226	11,667
Quinquennial Costs		3,740	17,061	20,801	3,420
Expenses on Sale & Purchase of Property	8,542	37,563		46,105	216,766
Other property costs	38,467			38,467	24,025
Staff costs	94,783			94,783	90,234
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	97,587			97,587	133,872
	<u>1,505,759</u>	<u>609,588</u>	<u>17,061</u>	<u>2,132,408</u>	<u>1,786,497</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.23	31.12.22
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Governance:-</b>					
Synod Together Meetings	2,810			<b>2,810</b>	1,546
Synod Committees	2,127			<b>2,127</b>	1,185
Honoraria Synod Treasurer	1,000			<b>1,000</b>	1,000
Synod Officers' pay and expenses	16,648			<b>16,648</b>	2,266
Legal Costs	4,391	13,448		<b>17,839</b>	58,724
Audit Fees	11,350			<b>11,350</b>	10,660
Investment management costs	105,794	51,468	2,047	<b>159,309</b>	8,337
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	10,646			<b>10,646</b>	1,761
	<u>154,766</u>	<u>64,916</u>	<u>2,047</u>	<u><b>221,729</b></u>	<u>85,479</u>
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<u><b>2,725,228</b></u>	<u><b>674,504</b></u>	<u><b>20,477</b></u>	<u><b>3,420,209</b></u>	<u><b>2,344,364</b></u>
<b>Net expenditure on operating account</b>	<u><b>(1,633,695)</b></u>	<u><b>(235,808)</b></u>	<u><b>24,601</b></u>	<u><b>(1,844,902)</b></u>	<u><b>(1,100,128)</b></u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**3 INDIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.23	31.12.22
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Premises Costs:-</b>					
Synod rent & Hire of Rooms	18,870			18,870	18,269
Repairs and Maintenance	366			366	564
Synod Electricity	1,500			1,500	1,500
Insurance	8,206			8,206	972
Cleaning	943			943	110
	<u>29,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,885</u>	<u>21,415</u>
<b>Office Costs:-</b>					
Synod Employment Costs	113,923			113,923	122,700
Car & Travel Expenses	3,029			3,029	3,070
Miscellaneous	2,984			2,984	3,619
Depreciation	2,985			2,985	3,759
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	430			430	165
Telephone	5,187			5,187	5,263
Stationery and Publications	1,086			1,086	1,832
Postage	1,044			1,044	922
Photocopier-Lease and Meter	1,029			1,029	786
Equipment and Consumable Costs	10,364			10,364	8,007
IT and Website	4,892			4,892	4,304
Catering	592			592	385
	<u>147,545</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>147,545</u>	<u>154,812</u>
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b><u>177,430</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>177,430</u></b>	<b><u>176,227</u></b>
	Total £	Ministry & Mission £	Training £	Property £	Governance £
Total Indirect Costs	177,430	56,778	12,420	97,587	10,646
% of Direct Costs	100%	32%	7%	55%	6%

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**4 GRANTS**

The following grants have been charged in furtherance of the charitable objects during the year:-

	Institutions		Individuals	
	Number	Amount £	Number	Amount £
Ministry and Mission:				
Other mission projects	9	75,531		
Ecumenical situations	2	2,822		
Local Church Missions	22	542,157		
Youth & Children's Work	3	160,900		
Welfare Grants			3	1,369
	<b>36</b>	<b>781,410</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,369</b>
Training:				
Ministers & lay preachers	-	-	25	17,139
Students	-	-	5	1,250
	-	-	<b>30</b>	<b>18,389</b>
Property:				
Local Churches	30	1,266,380	-	-
Manse	27	530,059	-	-
	<b>57</b>	<b>1,796,439</b>	-	-
Total Grants Charged	<b>93</b>	<b>2,577,849</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19,758</b>

**5 EMPLOYMENT EMOLUMENTS**

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Wages & salaries	266,478	245,743
Employers national insurance	31,949	30,500
Pension costs	68,412	80,498
	<b>366,839</b>	<b>356,741</b>

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

Ministry & Mission	1	1
Training	2	2
Property	2	2
Administration	3	3
	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

No employee received £60,000 per annum or more. All employee related costs are paid from unrestricted funds

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The following honorarium, which is included in Trustees Expenses, was paid to a trustee during the year, in accordance with the governing document and approved by the Charity Commission:-

	<b>31.12.23</b>	31.12.22
	£	£
Mr J Denison (Synod Treasurer)	<u>1,000</u>	1,000
	<u><b>1,000</b></u>	<u><b>1,000</b></u>

During the year five trustees (2022:six) were reimbursed out of pocket expenses mainly for telephone costs and travelling totalling £1,109 (2022: £768). No trustees (2022: two) were also paid a total of £0 (2022: £2,902) relating to their positions as stipendiary ministers, comprising training grants and reimbursement of ministerial expenses.

**7 GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS**

	<b>31.12.23</b>	31.12.22
	£	£
Realised gains/(losses) on investments sold	<b>970,014</b>	(609,232)
Less: Gains/(losses) previously recognised in Synod accounts	<u><b>(168,010)</b></u>	<u>(3,332,544)</u>
Net gains/(losses) in year on investments sold	<b>802,004</b>	(3,941,776)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments for the year	<u><b>336,799</b></u>	<u>(107,811)</u>
Net gains/(losses) on Investments for the Year	<u><b>1,138,803</b></u>	<u>(4,049,587)</u>

**8 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

Fund:-		Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/(losses)	Balance
		01.01.23			between Funds	in Investments	31.12.23
		£	£	£		£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	18,384,936	1,267,903	(2,839,509)	-	801,522	<b>17,614,852</b>
	Endowment	413,063			-	20,714	<b>433,777</b>
Manse	Designated	10,701,001	2,053,696	(1,427,004)	-	295,164	<b>11,622,857</b>
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	170,538			-		<b>170,538</b>
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	24,444			-		<b>24,444</b>
Fund held for Uniting	Designated	131,110			-		<b>131,110</b>
Church Building	Restricted	13,473	4,502	(17,118)	-		<b>857</b>
	Endowment	8,014			-	(101)	<b>7,913</b>
Welfare	Restricted	28,293	1,562	(1,503)	-	1,542	<b>29,894</b>
	Endowment	2,146			-	(45)	<b>2,101</b>
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	316,710	21,901	(12)	-	(24)	<b>338,575</b>
	Endowment	177,000			-		<b>177,000</b>
Milton Hall	Restricted	117,090	10,283	(1,312)	-	4,423	<b>130,484</b>
	Endowment	210,140			-	6,321	<b>216,461</b>
Woolwich	Restricted	199,408	6,830	(532)	-	9,284	<b>214,990</b>
		<u>30,897,366</u>	<u>3,366,677</u>	<u>(4,286,990)</u>	-	<u>1,138,800</u>	<u><b>31,115,853</b></u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures,		
	Property	Equipment	Totals
	£	£	£
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2023	299,496	28,159	327,655
Additions in year		3,248	3,248
Disposals in year	(19,300)	(2,715)	(22,015)
At 31 December 2023	280,196	28,692	308,888
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2023	-	25,592	25,592
Charge for period	-	2,985	2,985
Eliminated for disposals	-	(2,226)	(2,226)
At 31 December 2023	-	26,351	26,351
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2023	280,196	2,341	282,537
At 31 December 2022	299,496	2,567	302,063

**10 FIXED ASSET LISTED INVESTMENTS**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS		TOTALS
	Fixed Interest Securities	UK Equities Fund	Fixed Interest Securities	UK Equities Fund	
	£	£	£	£	£
As at 1 January 2023	5,225,226	20,448,028	102,041	322,682	26,097,977
Purchases	5,269,980	13,690,107	87,416	253,939	19,301,442
Sales	(6,572,169)	(11,486,161)	(126,225)	(202,960)	(18,387,515)
Net gains/(losses) fair value	95,455	234,397	1,289	5,657	336,798
	4,018,492	22,886,371	64,521	379,318	27,348,702
Cash held for Investment	189,583		3,321		192,904
Fair Value at 31 December 2023	4,208,075	22,886,371	67,842	379,318	27,541,606
Cost at 31 December 2023	4,042,543	22,710,830	65,073	370,477	27,188,923

All investment funds are held in the UK.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**11 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS**

	<b>31.12.23</b>	31.12.22
	£	£
Loans to Local Churches	<u>544,179</u>	<u>95,816</u>

Loans made to local churches and ministers are normally repayable between three and five years and interest is charged at 5% per annum on the outstanding balance.

**12 DEBTORS**

	<b>31.12.23</b>	31.12.22
	£	£
Sundry debtors	<u>114,682</u>	<u>76,171</u>

**13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.23</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Other creditors	657,460	334,354
Contribution to Ministers' Pension Fund	1,434,486	-
Grants not drawn	1,868,948	1,306,323
	<u>3,960,894</u>	<u>1,640,677</u>

**14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE OUTSIDE ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.22</b>	31.12.22
	£	£
Contribution to Ministers' Pension Fund	-	1,370,205
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,370,205</u>

**15 DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31 December 2023**

Fund:-		Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Social Investments	Debtors/ Creditors	Cash & Deposits	TOTALS
		£	£	£	£	£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	207,816	17,017,152	544,179	(3,653,756)	3,499,461	17,614,852
	Endowment		433,777				433,777
Manse	Designated	74,721	9,495,507		(41,647)	2,094,276	11,622,857
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated					170,538	170,538
Synod Mission Fund	Designated		148,014		(148,014)	24,444	24,444
Fund held for Uniting Churches	Designated					131,110	131,110
Church Building	Restricted				(2,795)	3,652	857
	Endowment		7,913				7,913
Welfare	Restricted		27,609			2,285	29,894
	Endowment		2,101				2,101
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted		1,628			336,947	338,575
	Endowment					177,000	177,000
Milton Hall	Restricted		49,618			80,866	130,484
	Endowment		216,461				216,461
Woolwich	Restricted		141,826			73,164	214,990
		<u>282,537</u>	<u>27,541,606</u>	<u>544,179</u>	<u>(3,846,212)</u>	<u>6,593,743</u>	<u>31,115,853</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**16 PENSION SCHEME**

Up until 28 February 2023, the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod ) Trust contributed 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.

The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 2022, when the scheme had a surplus of £1,446,000.

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

The total pension contributions made in the year were £68,412 (2022:£80,498 )

**17 COMMITMENTS**

**Property**

The office forms part of a property registered in the name of the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited and held on statutory trusts in favour of East Croydon United Reformed Church. Under an informal agreement, the Trust company pays rent of £18,000 to the local church for the use of the Synod offices.

**Contributions to the URC Ministers' Pension Scheme**

The pension scheme for ministers, run nationally as a central function of the United Reformed Church, has been in deficit for some years despite several attempts to resolve the underfunding based on the valuation approach required of the scheme actuaries. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. At the balance sheet date, a commitment of £1,500,000 to be paid by 2024 and this is included in creditors. A further £3 million has been offered if a review in 2024/5 indicates it is required and this would be due in the period 2025 to 2030. This is not a firm commitment and therefore no provision is included in the financial statements for this additional sum..

**Church Grant Funding**

The Synod Trust has agreed a sum of up to £55,000 as possible further funding of a church rebuilding project in Eastbourne. This is 50% of the maximum possible shortfall on the project with the remaining 50% being guaranteed by the partner denomination. The Trustees are hopeful that alternative funding will be found and this guarantee will not be required so no provision has been made in the financial statements.

**18 CONTINGENT ASSETS**

At the year end, the property of two churches, held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the company, were held following the church's closure. The proceeds will revert to Synod on the sale in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the property are held. Professional advice is being sought prior to disposal.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**19 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY FUND**

The key components from the prior year figures are analysed below by fund:-

	2022			
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>				
<b>Income from Investments</b>	639,005	475,819	21,971	<b>1,136,795</b>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Donations and Legacies	5,865	-	14,597	<b>20,462</b>
Other Income	83,733	3,246	-	<b>86,979</b>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>728,603</b>	<b>479,065</b>	<b>36,568</b>	<b>1,244,236</b>
Income on sale of properties	9,225,000	800,000	-	<b>10,025,000</b>
Lease Premiums Received	-	-	-	-
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	<b>6,145,727</b>	<b>1,206,169</b>	<b>211,103</b>	<b>11,269,236</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2,116,102	222,911	5,351	<b>2,344,364</b>
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>2,116,102</b>	<b>222,911</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>2,344,364</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	35,000	-	-	<b>35,000</b>
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund	-	-	-	-
Discounting adjustment for Long Term Creditor	83,598	-	-	<b>83,598</b>
Purchase of Manses	-	1,235,000	-	<b>1,235,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,234,700</b>	<b>1,457,911</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>3,697,962</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	<b>(1,387,499)</b>	<b>256,154</b>	<b>31,217</b>	<b>(1,100,128)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>7,718,903</b>	<b>(178,846)</b>	<b>31,217</b>	<b>7,571,274</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>				
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	(2,516,984)	(1,451,844)	(80,759)	<b>(4,049,587)</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>5,201,919</b>	<b>(1,630,690)</b>	<b>(49,542)</b>	<b>3,521,687</b>
Total funds brought forward	13,596,080	12,657,783	1,121,816	<b>27,375,679</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>18,797,999</b>	<b>11,027,093</b>	<b>1,072,274</b>	<b>30,897,366</b>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN SYNOD) TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 282270

---

# Accounts

---

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 1529484 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 282270**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2022**  
**for**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Report of the Independent Auditors	7 to 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11 to 12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 27

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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 the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2015.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

1529484 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

282270

**Registered office**

Synod Office  
East Croydon URC  
Addiscombe Grove  
Croydon  
CR0 5LP

**Trustees**

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby (Chairperson)  
Mrs H Miles  
Mr D Walters

**Company Secretary**

Mrs C Kingdom

**Auditors**

Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE20 3RW

**Legal Representatives**

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP  
Second Floor, 3 Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2JB

**Bankers**

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent  
ME20 4JQ

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY & PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 21 November 1980 and is a registered charity number 282270. On 24 November 2010 the trustees agreed to change the name of the Trust from The United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited to The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited. This was certified by Companies House on 8 December 2010.

Its object is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrine, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the South of England, for the benefit of the public. The trustees have given due consideration to and follow the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirements.

It has achieved this by continuing to act as Corporate Trustee and Agent for the Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church by holding properties and assets and handling income and expenditure.

The Synod was set up as part of the formation of the United Reformed Church by the United Reformed Acts 1972 and 1981. The Southern Synod is the representative of the local churches within Southern Synod united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern.

One of its main functions is to take action conducive to the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole, and the well-being of the community in which the Church is based.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree a broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust, including consideration of any major grant-making. They ensure all activity supports mission and encourage church extension and the establishment of new causes.

The day to day administration of grants and the processing of applications prior to consideration by the relevant sub-committee are delegated to the Trust staff. The Synod Officers have the delegated authority to make decisions on grants and loans if it is not possible to wait for the next sub-committee meeting. During 2022 there were 4 Synod Officers; the Moderator, the Synod Clerk, the Synod Council Convenor and the Synod Treasurer.

New trustees are selected from within the Synod. They are either Ministers of Religion or people who have otherwise been involved in the life of the Synod. Induction procedures and training are tailored to the previous experience and knowledge of the new trustees. As necessary, both new and existing trustees are reminded of their responsibilities and issued with a copy of the Charity Commission's guide "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know". Training sessions for all trustees are also arranged where necessary.

The Trust also acts as Corporate Trustee for most of the Local United Reformed Churches by holding various properties and investments on their behalf.

**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.

**Risk Management**

The trustees have asked each Synod Committee to regularly consider the major risks to which the Synod is exposed, which have been tabulated in a matrix, and to establish systems and procedures to manage those risks. This is an ongoing process in consultation with the wider United Reformed Church and other Synods. This risk assessment document is then reviewed by the trustees.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Trust and the Synod are to help and support local churches in their mission. The mission criteria used are the Synod:

1. is committed to looking for new opportunities for being the church in the geographical area of the Synod
2. is committed to supporting and resourcing the local churches to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ
3. is committed to caring pastorally for its local churches, ministers and staff
4. is committed to supporting and resourcing local churches to provide relevant, inspiring and engaging worship
5. is committed to being aware of the economic, political and social context of life in Southern England and will seek to help local churches address the implications of these issues for their life and work
6. is committed to the proper care and administration of its resources through its personnel, finances and buildings
7. is committed to the wider of church of God through the United Reformed Church nationally, ecumenical relationships and the world church
8. is committed to addressing issues of justice, peace and the environment
9. is committed to regularly reviewing its life and mission in light of the above criteria always seeking the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit

The objectives for the year are shaped by these strategic aims and the Synod looks to achieve them through partnership with other Christian institutions, local councils and central government for the benefit of the public.

The Trust can make capital grants to local churches in order to help them make their buildings welcoming and safe for members of the public and to equip them better to fulfil their objectives. This can include support for extending and improving buildings to include more community facilities. In 2022 twenty two grants were made. There are also grants available to support mission projects and the employment of youth workers. The budget for 2023 includes £750,000 for each panel.

The Trust also makes grants to various church organisations which operate within our area. We also support mission work abroad.

Since 2009 the principal decision making body is Synod Together which meets biannually, usually in March and October. The Synod operated through 5 Synod Areas; London, East Kent, West Kent and East Sussex, Surrey and Sussex, and Central Sussex United Area. Synod Areas normally meet 2 or 3 times each year, to deal with pastoral matters and provide advice to the Synod on property and finance matters.

The Trust employs 5 finance, property and support staff, in the Synod Office, four of whom are full time. There are now a further 3 field staff; Training and Development Officer, Mission Development Officer and Children and Youth Development Officer. We also meet 50% of the costs of a safeguarding officer employed by a neighboring synod, who spends half of her time working with Southern Synod.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

By the nature of the Trust's aims it is difficult to have quantitative measures of performance and achievement, though we are confident that by supporting local churches in their mission aims, we are providing a public benefit.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

During 2022 the Trust was able to sell five properties relating to closed church buildings which contributed £9,225K to our income figure. The Trust gave grants to improve 22 church buildings and made 23 grants to churches to improve the manse accommodation for their ministers.

Over £203K was granted from the general and designated Funds to churches and other organisations to support their mission work. A new line of support is helping churches in their online worship.

The Trust agreed to continue to contribute to Inter Synod Resource Sharing with £35,000 being paid in 2022. Churches within the Synod also contributed substantial amounts towards the United Reformed Church's Ministry and Mission Fund.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Balance sheet on Page 10 indicates the amount in the Unrestricted Fund as at 31 December 2022 was £18.798 m. When this is adjusted for Endowment Funds, Fixed Assets and programme related investments it is calculated that the unrestricted fund assets readily available amount to £18.062m.

Although this amounts to more than 10 years of normal expenditure it is recognised that this has accumulated mainly from the disposal of redundant church buildings and that this income will not continue long term. The Synod Trust does not raise funds and investment income does not cover the costs of running the Synod Trust's normal activities. The Unrestricted General Funds are dependent on the uncertain income arising from the disposal of redundant church property to meet the shortfall and carry out all other mission work and support to member churches. From time to time the Trust has to invest in new property for programme related activities and this requires an above average amount to be kept in reserve.

The trustees, acting on advice of the Finance Committee have agreed to make more money available for mission in the Southern Synod based on a 10 year rolling budget. This will increase the annual expenditure and gradually reduce the historic reserves without putting the financial stability of the Trust in jeopardy. Over £1.3m was awarded in grants and loans to local churches in 2022 within this scheme.

### **Investment policy and objectives**

The Trust investments are held in the Common Investment Funds run by independent professional investment managers. These investments aim to balance growth and income maximizing total return, whilst meeting the Ethical Criteria agreed by the United Reformed Church. The Trust funds can be invested up to 85 % in equities with a minimum of 15% in fixed interest funds. These ratios were reviewed in 2018 to ensure they are still appropriate to meet the Synod's cash flow requirements. The new ratios agreed were 60-80% in equities, 10-30% in Fixed interest and 0-20% in Property Funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Trust will continue its work in support of local churches within the Synod to develop and extend their mission.

During 2021 the Trust continued discussions with the United Reformed Church regarding a solution to provide financial support to the Ministers Pension Fund which is in deficit. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. The Trust, together with the other twelve synods, agreed to make contributions to clear the deficit by 2030 with our commitment being £5m in the period 2021 to 2024. In view of the healthy cash position of the Trust it made the first payment of £2,000,000 in December 2021 and the second of £1,500,000 in November 2022. A review will take place in 2025 to ascertain whether further funds will be required. Due to the strength of the reserves of the Trust we do not anticipate any detrimental effect to the core financial position of the Trust due to the Trust's participation in clearing the deficit.

The Trust will continue to participate in these national discussions as required. The Trust continues to monitor and review the position to ensure that any such final commitment is affordable and does not put the financial stability of the Trust at risk.

**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS**

The trust holds cash deposits and investments on behalf of local churches. As at 31 December 2022 these amounted to bank deposits of £2,105,904 (2021: £1,809,393) and investments of £2,603,581 (2021: £2,877,235). Such investments are held in separate accounts and managed by an independent investment manager.

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees during the year under review were:

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby  
Mrs H Miles  
Revd K Plumpton (resigned 31 May 2023)  
Mr D Walters

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) 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).

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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**


So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Thornton Springer LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

Date: 22-09-23

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

**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:

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

Based on our understanding of the charity and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Non-compliance with these laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunity for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statement (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were posting of unusual journal entries outside the normal course of business and revenue recognition journal entries to manipulate the charity's performance measures and objectives.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of**  
**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statements and disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of compliance with the laws and regulations, enquiries with management, testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Under ISA 240 (UK) there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue. To address this risk, we obtained an understanding of the charity's revenue recognition policies and compared these to the accounting standard, performed a walkthrough to confirm our understanding of the processes and controls through which the business initiates, records, processes and reports revenue transactions. We tested a sample of revenue transactions to supporting evidence and tested, on a sample basis, revenue related balances in the balance sheet.

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**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.



Zahid Saleem FCCA ACA MBA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE19 3RW

Date: ..... 22/09/23 .....

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
	Notes	<b>General Purposes Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>						
<b>Income from Investments</b>	2a	639,005	475,819	21,971	1,136,795	874,016
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2a	5,865	-	14,597	20,462	132,857
Other Income	2a	83,733	3,246	-	86,979	250,184
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>728,603</b>	<b>479,065</b>	<b>36,568</b>	<b>1,244,236</b>	<b>1,257,057</b>
Income on sale of properties	2a	9,225,000	800,000	-	10,025,000	6,076,500
Lease Premiums Received	2a	-	-	-	-	31,942
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	2a	-	-	-	-	197,500
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	2a	<b>9,953,603</b>	<b>1,279,065</b>	<b>36,568</b>	<b>11,269,236</b>	<b>7,562,999</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2b	2,116,102	222,911	5,351	2,344,364	1,878,388
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	2b	<b>2,116,102</b>	<b>222,911</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>2,344,364</b>	<b>1,878,388</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing		35,000	-	-	35,000	35,000
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund		-	-	-	-	5,000,000
Discounting adjustment for Long Term Creditor		83,598	-	-	83,598	-
Purchase of Manses		-	1,235,000	-	1,235,000	583,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>2,234,700</b>	<b>1,457,911</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>3,697,962</b>	<b>7,496,388</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	2b	<b>(1,387,499)</b>	<b>256,154</b>	<b>31,217</b>	<b>(1,100,128)</b>	<b>(621,331)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>7,718,903</b>	<b>(178,846)</b>	<b>31,217</b>	<b>7,571,274</b>	<b>66,611</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	8	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>						
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	7	(2,516,984)	(1,451,844)	(80,759)	(4,049,587)	2,908,991
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>5,201,919</b>	<b>(1,630,690)</b>	<b>(49,542)</b>	<b>3,521,687</b>	<b>2,975,602</b>
Total funds brought forward		13,596,080	12,657,783	1,121,816	27,375,679	24,400,077
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	8	<b>18,797,999</b>	<b>11,027,093</b>	<b>1,072,274</b>	<b>30,897,366</b>	<b>27,375,679</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2022**

		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		<b>Restricted</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
	Notes	<b>General Purposes</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible assets	9	227,342	74,721	-	<b>302,063</b>	304,223
Investments	10	16,332,108	9,621,731	424,724	<b>26,378,563</b>	25,428,282
Social Investments	11	95,816	-	-	<b>95,816</b>	102,370
		<u>16,655,266</u>	<u>9,696,452</u>	<u>424,724</u>	<u><b>26,776,442</b></u>	<u>25,834,875</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	76,171	-	-	<b>76,171</b>	35,750
Cash at bank and in hand		4,622,313	1,785,772	647,550	<b>7,055,635</b>	6,953,153
		<u>4,698,484</u>	<u>1,785,772</u>	<u>647,550</u>	<u><b>7,131,806</b></u>	<u>6,988,903</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,185,546)	(455,131)	-	<b>(1,640,677)</b>	(2,661,492)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>3,512,938</u>	<u>1,330,641</u>	<u>647,550</u>	<u><b>5,491,129</b></u>	<u>4,327,411</u>
<b>/(LIABILITIES)</b>						
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS</b>						
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		20,168,204	11,027,093	1,072,274	<b>32,267,571</b>	30,162,286
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due outside one year		(1,370,205)			<b>(1,370,205)</b>	(2,786,607)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	14	<u><b>18,797,999</b></u>	<u><b>11,027,093</b></u>	<u><b>1,072,274</b></u>	<u><b>30,897,366</b></u>	<u><b>27,375,679</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>						
General Purposes					<b>18,797,999</b>	13,596,080
Designated					<b>11,027,093</b>	12,657,783
Restricted					<b>1,072,274</b>	1,121,816
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	14				<u><b>30,897,366</b></u>	<u>27,375,679</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 December 2022**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14-09-23 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2121 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
<b>Net cash provided/used in operating activities</b>	A	4,100,630	2,390,079
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends and interest from investments		996,930	749,378
Purchase of fixed assets		(1,995)	(4,306)
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		230	285,500
Purchase of investments		(5,885,491)	(682,855)
Issue of Programme Related Loans		-	(51,520)
Repayment of Programme Related Loans		6,554	13,200
Proceeds from the sale of investments		885,624	690,000
<b>Net cash provided by/used in investing activities</b>		<u>(3,998,148)</u>	<u>999,397</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		102,482	3,389,476
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	B	<u>6,953,153</u>	<u>3,563,677</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	B	<u>7,055,635</u>	<u>6,953,153</u>
<b>Notes to the statement of cash flows</b>			
A	<b>Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
	<b>Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	3,521,687	2,975,602
	<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
	Depreciation charges	3,759	4,043
	(Gains)/losses on investments	4,049,587	(2,908,991)
	Dividends and interest from investments	(996,930)	(749,378)
	Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	165	(197,033)
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(40,421)	16,909
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(2,437,217)	3,248,927
	<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>4,100,630</u>	<u>2,390,079</u>
B	<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>		
	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>7,055,635</u>	<u>6,953,153</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

## **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **General Information**

The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and is registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

### **Accounting convention**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

### **Going concern basis**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have considered budgets, cash flows and the impact of subsequent events, including that of COVID19. Whilst the economic shutdown in response to COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the charity's operations, the directors are satisfied that the charity has sufficient available resources, both in terms of cash and investments that can be converted to cash, such that there is no material uncertainty and the going concern basis of preparing the financial statements continues to be appropriate.

### **Funds Included**

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 Southern Synod :-

General Purposes Fund  
Manse Fund  
Synod Mission Fund  
Alfriston Mission Project  
Funds held for uniting churches  
Church Buildings Fund  
Retired Ministers Housing Fund  
Welfare Fund  
Milton Hall Fund  
Woolwich 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. Endowment funds are permanent endowments which are required to be retained, but the income from these funds can be used for the benefit of the charity, subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the Christian and charitable work of the United Reformed Church in the Southern Synod. The main fund in this category is the General Purposes Fund. Certain funds have been allocated for Manses, although the Synod retains authority to re-allocate such funds and so they are treated as Designated Funds within Unrestricted Income Funds. There are also three other smaller designated funds arising from the sale of redundant church buildings.

The General Purposes Fund is the main fund of the charity and is an unrestricted fund. It is made up of both General Purposes and Church Aid, the initial fund set up after the URC came into force and General Purposes Fund coming from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union.

The Manse Fund is a Designated Fund which came into being in 1996 by approval of the Synod. The Synod Mission Fund and Funds held for uniting churches have arisen from the sale of a church building in 2012 following an uniting of two existing churches. The united church can apply to the latter fund for a project to develop and further their mission whereas the Synod Mission Fund is available to all churches within the Synod for similar projects. The Alfriston Mission Project is a fund arising from the sale of a church hall in Alfriston which has been designated to develop in the mission activities and community facilities of the former Alfriston URC building.

**Restricted Funds**

The Church Building fund came from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union. (LCU) Its funds can only be used for the upkeep, repair, improvement extension, provision and erection of church buildings.

The Retired Ministers Housing funds both have a house for a retired minister. They operate in Kent and Sussex.

The Welfare fund came from the LCU. Its purpose is relieving, in cases of need, ministers, members of churches and retired ministers.

The Milton Hall fund can be used for general purposes but only within the inner London Boroughs South of the River Thames.

The Woolwich fund is for work in the London Borough of Greenwich.

**Contribution to Pension Funds**

The charity operates 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 Financial Reporting Standards, 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.

**Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of financial activities when receivable.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The Synod is not registered for VAT so all irrecoverable VAT is charged with the related cost.

All costs are treated by the finance committee as relating to the unrestricted fund unless there is a specific requirement on the individual funds.

**Individual Church Property, including Pastoral Manses**

These assets are not shown in the financial statements as they are not the exclusive property of the Synod. Sale proceeds from redundant properties or from part thereof are treated as unrestricted income for general funds and not shown until received.

Non-pastoral manses, which are used for Synod related activities are included in the Balance Sheet at cost, subject to an impairment review and any deficits are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities on properties marketed for sale.

**Jointly Owned Property**

Property owned with The URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited is held under the terms of an agreement with the Society whereby the Charity receives no income from the property but contributes towards the cost of maintenance and repair of the property. The property is included in the Balance Sheet at cost.

**Custodian Trusteeship**

Assets held by the charity as custodian trustee are not shown in the financial statements. The details of those funds are included in the Trustees' annual report.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, apart from property, at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:-

Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment - over four years

Computer Equipment-over three years

Motor Vehicles-over four years

No amounts under £100 are capitalised.

The trustees recognise that the cost of buildings used as functional assets have a finite life and, in the normal course of events, would be depreciated to their expected residual value. However, those properties that fall into this category are located in an area of the country where that part of the cost that is attributable to land, which does not depreciate, is significantly higher than in other parts of the country. Furthermore, the Charity has a policy of maintaining its properties to a high level, which extends the life of the assets beyond their normal expected lives. Taking these factors into account the trustees consider that any depreciation on the buildings would consequently be immaterial and depreciation is not therefore charged.

**Operating Leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Grants**

Grants payable to local churches, organisations and individuals are charged in the year of approval. The value of grants approved, but still to be paid is included in the balance sheet as a current liability.

**Investments**

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

**Support and Indirect Costs**

Support expenditure has been allocated directly to the relevant activity cost category.

Indirect costs which include premises and office costs have been allocated on the basis of each activity costs as a proportion of the total direct costs, shown in note 3.

**Financial instruments**

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

**Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of the trustees, there are no special disclosures required in respect of judgements and estimation uncertainty.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**a) Analysis of Total Income**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.22	31.12.21
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from generated funds</b>					
Rents Received	20,475	119,390		<b>139,865</b>	124,638
Investment income-listed investments	590,037	345,283	14,622	<b>949,942</b>	744,971
Interest	28,493	11,146	7,349	<b>46,988</b>	4,407
	<u>639,005</u>	<u>475,819</u>	<u>21,971</u>	<u><b>1,136,795</b></u>	<u>874,016</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Donations and Legacies					
Donations	3,000		668	<b>3,668</b>	55,598
Denominational Grant	2,500			<b>2,500</b>	
Monies from closed churches	365			<b>365</b>	77,103
Quinquennial contribution received			13,929	<b>13,929</b>	156
	<u>5,865</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,597</u>	<u><b>20,462</b></u>	<u>132,857</u>
Other income					
Training course contributions	135			<b>135</b>	125
Discounting of Long Term Creditor				<b>-</b>	213,393
Grants awarded no longer required	83,598	3,246		<b>86,844</b>	36,666
	<u>83,733</u>	<u>3,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>86,979</b></u>	<u>250,184</u>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<u><b>728,603</b></u>	<u><b>479,065</b></u>	<u><b>36,568</b></u>	<u><b>1,244,236</b></u>	<u><b>1,257,057</b></u>
Income on sale of properties					
-of closed churches	9,225,000			<b>9,225,000</b>	5,326,500
- Lease Premiums Received				<b>-</b>	31,942
-of surplus manses		800,000		<b>800,000</b>	750,000
	<u>9,225,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>10,025,000</b></u>	<u>6,108,442</u>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of fixed asset:					
-other property				<b>-</b>	197,500
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u>197,500</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u><b>9,953,603</b></u>	<u><b>1,279,065</b></u>	<u><b>36,568</b></u>	<u><b>11,269,236</b></u>	<u><b>7,562,999</b></u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds			31.12.22	31.12.21
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Expenditure on Charitable Activities</b>					
<b>Ministry &amp; Mission:-</b>					
Mission Officer	50,163			50,163	52,305
Ecumenical Officer	1,206			1,206	266
Grants (note 4)	203,158		4,371	207,529	373,058
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	24,661		80	24,741	36,603
	<u>279,188</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,451</u>	<u>283,639</u>	<u>462,232</u>
<b>Training:-</b>					
Training of Ministers & Lay preachers (note 4)	29,054			29,054	12,290
Students (note 4)	750			750	500
Training & Development Officer	56,528			56,528	51,913
Children's & Youth Development Officer	52,897			52,897	50,395
Safeguarding Officer	25,767			25,767	22,589
Other training costs	7,900			7,900	1,375
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	15,853			15,853	57,197
	<u>188,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,749</u>	<u>196,259</u>
<b>Property:-</b>					
Church building grants (note 4)	1,170,412			1,170,412	586,446
Manse Repairs (note 4)		136,101		136,101	118,590
Manse Expenses		11,667		11,667	14,541
Quinquennial Costs		2,520	900	3,420	5,556
Expenses on Sale & Purchase of Property	201,364	15,402		216,766	248,008
Other property costs	24,025			24,025	44,753
Staff costs	90,234			90,234	89,031
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	133,872			133,872	62,397
	<u>1,619,907</u>	<u>165,690</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>1,786,497</u>	<u>1,169,322</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.22	31.12.21
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Governance:-</b>					
Synod Together Meetings	1,546			1,546	48
Synod Committees	1,185			1,185	281
Honorary Synod Clerk and Treasurer	1,000			1,000	1,000
Synod Officers' expenses	2,266			2,266	149
Legal Costs	5,358	53,366		58,724	14,978
Audit Fees	10,660			10,660	9,580
Investment management costs	4,482	3,855		8,337	7,207
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	1,761			1,761	17,332
	<u>28,258</u>	<u>57,221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,479</u>	<u>50,575</u>
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b><u>2,116,102</u></b>	<b><u>222,911</u></b>	<b><u>5,351</u></b>	<b><u>2,344,364</u></b>	<b><u>1,878,388</u></b>
<b>Net expenditure on operating account</b>	<b><u>(1,387,499)</u></b>	<b><u>256,154</u></b>	<b><u>31,217</u></b>	<b><u>(1,100,128)</u></b>	<b><u>(621,331)</u></b>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**3 INDIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.22	31.12.21
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Premises Costs:-</b>					
Synod rent & Hire of Rooms	18,269			18,269	18,000
Repairs and Maintenance	564			564	-
Synod Electricity	1,500			1,500	1,500
Insurance	972			972	943
Cleaning	110			110	133
	<u>21,415</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,415</u>	<u>20,576</u>
<b>Office Costs:-</b>					
Synod Employment Costs	122,700			122,700	120,800
Car & Travel Expenses	3,070			3,070	2,880
Miscellaneous	3,619			3,619	2,194
Depreciation	3,679		80	3,759	4,043
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	165			165	467
Telephone	5,263			5,263	5,184
Stationery and Publications	1,832			1,832	1,681
Postage	922			922	671
Photocopier-Lease and Meter	786			786	641
Equipment and Consumable Costs	8,007			8,007	10,001
IT and Website	4,304			4,304	4,190
Catering	385			385	201
	<u>154,732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>154,812</u>	<u>152,953</u>
Total Indirect Costs	<u>176,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>176,227</u>	<u>173,529</u>
	Total	Ministry & Mission	Training	Property	Governance
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Indirect Costs	176,147	24,661	15,853	133,872	1,761
% of Direct Costs	100%	14%	9%	76%	1%

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**4 GRANTS**

The following grants have been charged in furtherance of the charitable objects during the year:-

	<b>Institutions</b>		<b>Individuals</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
<b>Ministry and Mission:</b>				
Other mission projects	6	28,319		
Ecumenical situations	3	2,860		
Local Church Missions	14	161,979		
Youth & Children's Work	1	10,000		
Welfare Grants			9	4,371
	<b>24</b>	<b>203,158</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4,371</b>
<b>Training:</b>				
Ministers & lay preachers	-	-	13	29,054
Students	-	-	3	750
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29,804</b>
<b>Property:</b>				
Local Churches	22	1,170,412	-	-
Manses	23	136,101	-	-
	<b>45</b>	<b>1,306,513</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Grants Charged</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1,509,671</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34,175</b>

**5 EMPLOYMENT EMOLUMENTS**

	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages & salaries	245,743	247,157
Employers national insurance	30,500	28,573
Pension costs	80,498	81,607
	<b>356,741</b>	<b>357,337</b>

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

Ministry & Mission	1	1
Training	2	2
Property	2	2
Administration	3	3
	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

No employee received £60,000 per annum or more.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The following honorarium, which is included in Trustees Expenses, was paid to a trustee during the year, in accordance with the governing document and approved by the Charity Commission:-

	31.12.22	31.12.21
	£	£
Mr J Denison (Synod Treasurer)	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

During the year six trustees (2021: five) were reimbursed out of pocket expenses mainly for telephone costs and travelling totalling £768 (2021: £240). Three trustees (2021: two) were also paid a total of £2,902 (2021: £269) relating to their positions as stipendiary ministers, comprising training grants and reimbursement of ministerial expenses.

**7 GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS**

	31.12.22	31.12.21
	£	£
Realised gains/(losses) on investments sold	<b>(609,232)</b>	65,132
Less: Gains/(losses) previously recognised in Synod accounts	<b>(3,332,544)</b>	(38,420)
Net gains/(losses) in year on investments sold	<b>(3,941,776)</b>	26,712
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments for the year	<b>(107,811)</b>	2,882,278
Net gains/(losses) on Investments for the Year	<b><u>(4,049,587)</u></b>	<b><u>2,908,990</u></b>

**8 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

Fund:-		Balance 01.01.22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between Funds	Gains/(losses) on Investments	Balance 31.12.22
		£	£	£		£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	13,108,731	9,953,603	(2,234,700)	-	(2,442,698)	<b>18,384,936</b>
	Endowment	487,349			-	(74,286)	<b>413,063</b>
Manse	Designated	12,331,691	1,279,065	(1,457,911)	-	(1,451,844)	<b>10,701,001</b>
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	170,538			-		<b>170,538</b>
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	24,444			-		<b>24,444</b>
Fund held for Uniting	Designated	131,110			-		<b>131,110</b>
Church Building	Restricted	166	14,207	(900)	-		<b>13,473</b>
	Endowment	10,600			-	(2,586)	<b>8,014</b>
Welfare	Restricted	35,463	1,694	(4,371)	-	(4,493)	<b>28,293</b>
	Endowment	2,839			-	(693)	<b>2,146</b>
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	311,578	5,665		-	(533)	<b>316,710</b>
	Endowment	177,000			-		<b>177,000</b>
Milton Hall	Restricted	114,832	8,957	(80)	-	(6,619)	<b>117,090</b>
	Endowment	256,391			-	(46,251)	<b>210,140</b>
Woolwich	Restricted	212,947	6,045		-	(19,584)	<b>199,408</b>
		<u>27,375,679</u>	<u>11,269,236</u>	<u>(3,697,962)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,049,587)</u>	<b><u>30,897,366</u></b>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures,		
	Property	Equipment	Totals
	£	£	£
<b>COST</b>			<b>£</b>
			<b>£</b>
At 1 January 2022	299,496	27,667	327,163
Additions in year		1,995	1,995
Disposals in year		(1,503)	(1,503)
At 31 December 2022	<u>299,496</u>	<u>28,159</u>	<u>327,655</u>
4,622,313			
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2022	-	22,940	22,940
Charge for period	-	3,759	3,759
Eliminated for disposals	-	(1,107)	(1,107)
At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>25,592</u>	<u>25,592</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2022	<u>299,496</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>302,063</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>299,496</u>	<u>4,727</u>	<u>304,223</u>

**10 FIXED ASSET LISTED INVESTMENTS**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS		TOTALS
	Fixed Interest Securities	UK Equities Fund	Fixed Interest Securities	UK Equities Fund	
	£	£	£	£	£
As at 1 January 2022	3,762,338	20,515,368	134,967	370,515	24,783,188
Purchases	7,362,813	21,688,535	102,316	315,310	29,468,974
Sales	(5,800,511)	(21,740,382)	(134,967)	(370,514)	(28,046,374)
Net gains/(losses) fair value	(99,414)	(15,493)	(275)	7,371	(107,811)
	<u>5,225,226</u>	<u>20,448,028</u>	<u>102,041</u>	<u>322,682</u>	<u>26,097,977</u>
Cash held for Investment	280,586				280,586
Fair Value at 31 December 2022	<u>5,505,812</u>	<u>20,448,028</u>	<u>102,041</u>	<u>322,682</u>	<u>26,378,563</u>
Cost at 31 December 2022	<u>5,309,727</u>	<u>20,257,866</u>	<u>102,316</u>	<u>315,310</u>	<u>25,985,219</u>

All investment funds are held in the UK and are held in the Affirmative Common Investment Funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**11 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS**

	<b>31.12.22</b>	31.12.21
	£	£
Loans to Local Churches	<u>95,816</u>	<u>102,370</u>

Loans made to local churches and ministers are normally repayable between three and five years and interest is charged at 5% per annum on the outstanding balance.

**12 DEBTORS**

	<b>31.12.22</b>	31.12.21
	£	£
Sundry debtors	<u>76,171</u>	<u>34,893</u>

**13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.22</b>	31.12.21
	£	£
Other creditors	<b>334,354</b>	67,854
Grants not drawn	<b>1,306,323</b>	2,592,781
	<u><b>1,640,677</b></u>	<u>2,660,635</u>

**14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE OUTSIDE ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.22</b>	31.12.20
	£	£
Contribution to Ministers' Pension Fund	<b>1,370,205</b>	2,786,607
	<u><b>1,370,205</b></u>	<u>2,786,607</u>

**15 DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31 December 2022**

Fund:-		Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Social Investments £	Debtors/ Creditors £	Cash & Deposits £	TOTALS £
General Purposes	Unrestricted	227,342	15,919,045	95,816	(2,479,580)	4,622,313	18,384,936
	Endowment		413,063				413,063
Manse	Designated	74,721	9,193,570		(26,970)	1,459,680	10,701,001
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated					170,538	170,538
Synod Mission Fund	Designated		428,161		(428,161)	24,444	24,444
Fund held for Uniting Churches	Designated					131,110	131,110
Church Building	Restricted Endowment		8,014			13,473	13,473 8,014
Welfare	Restricted Endowment		25,996 2,146			2,297	28,293 2,146
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted Endowment		1,652			315,058 177,000	316,710 177,000
Milton Hall	Restricted Endowment		44,660 210,140			72,430	117,090 210,140
Woolwich	Restricted		132,116			67,292	199,408
		<u>302,063</u>	<u>26,378,563</u>	<u>95,816</u>	<u>(2,934,711)</u>	<u>7,055,635</u>	<u>30,897,366</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**16 PENSION SCHEME**

During the year, the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod ) Trust contributed £80,498 (2021: £81,607) 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.

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

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

**17 COMMITMENTS**

**Property**

The office forms part of a property registered in the name of the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited and held on statutory trusts in favour of East Croydon United Reformed Church. Under an informal agreement, the Trust company pays rent of £18,000 to the local church for the use of the Synod offices.

**Contributions to the URC Ministers' Pension Scheme**

The pension scheme for ministers, run nationally as a central function of the United Reformed Church, has been in deficit for some years despite several attempts to resolve the underfunding based on the valuation approach required of the scheme actuaries. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. At the balance sheet date, a commitment of £3,000,000 to be paid by 2024 and this is included in long-term creditors. A further £3 million has been offered if a review in 2024/5 indicates it is required and this would be due in the period 2025 to 2030. This is not a firm commitment and therefore no provision is included in the financial statements for this additional sum..

**Church Grant Funding**

The Synod Trust has agreed a sum of up to £55,000 as possible further funding of a church rebuilding project in Eastbourne. This is 50% of the maximum possible shortfall on the project with the remaining 50% being guaranteed by the partner denomination. The Trustees are hopeful that alternative funding will be found and this guarantee will not be required so no provision has been made in the financial statements.

**18 CONTINGENT ASSETS**

At the year end, the property of three churches, held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the company, were held following the church's closure. The proceeds will revert to Synod on the sale in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the property are held. Professional advice is being sought prior to disposal.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**19 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY FUND**

The key components from the prior year figures are analysed below by fund:-

	2021			Total Funds £
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>				
<b>Income from Investments</b>	456,493	404,570	12,953	<b>874,016</b>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Donations and Legacies	80,608	51,599	650	<b>132,857</b>
Other Income	250,184	-	-	<b>250,184</b>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>787,285</b>	<b>456,169</b>	<b>13,603</b>	<b>1,257,057</b>
Income on sale of properties	5,326,500	750,000	-	<b>6,076,500</b>
Lease Premiums Received	31,942			<b>31,942</b>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	-		197,500	<b>197,500</b>
	<b>6,145,727</b>	<b>1,206,169</b>	<b>211,103</b>	<b>7,562,999</b>
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>				
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	762,258	1,105,647	10,483	<b>1,878,388</b>
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>762,258</b>	<b>1,105,647</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>1,878,388</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	35,000	-	-	<b>35,000</b>
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund	5,000,000	-	-	<b>5,000,000</b>
Purchase of Manses	-	583,000	-	<b>583,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,797,258</b>	<b>1,688,647</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>7,496,388</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	<b>25,027</b>	<b>(649,478)</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>(621,331)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>348,469</b>	<b>(482,478)</b>	<b>200,620</b>	<b>66,611</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	<b>1,070,189</b>	<b>(1,070,189)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>				
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	1,738,574	1,124,225	46,192	<b>2,908,991</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>3,157,232</b>	<b>(482,478)</b>	<b>246,812</b>	<b>2,975,602</b>
Total funds brought forward	10,438,848	13,086,225	875,004	<b>24,400,077</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>13,596,080</b>	<b>12,603,747</b>	<b>1,121,816</b>	<b>27,375,679</b>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN SYNOD) TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 282270

---

# Accounts

---

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 1529484 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 282270**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2021**  
**for**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Report of the Independent Auditors	7 to 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11 to 12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 27

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

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 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2015.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

1529484 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

282270

**Registered office**

Synod Office  
East Croydon URC  
Addiscombe Grove  
Croydon  
CR0 5LP

**Trustees**

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby (Chairperson)  
Mrs H Miles  
Revd K Plumpton  
Mr D Walters

**Company Secretary**

Mrs C Kingdom

**Auditors**

Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE20 3RW

**Legal Representatives**

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP  
Second Floor, 3 Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2JB

**Bankers**

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent  
ME20 4JQ

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY & PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 21 November 1980 and is a registered charity number 282270. On 24 November 2010 the trustees agreed to change the name of the Trust from The United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited to The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited. This was certified by Companies House on 8 December 2010.

Its object is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrine, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the South of England, for the benefit of the public. The trustees have given due consideration to and follow the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirements.

It has achieved this by continuing to act as Corporate Trustee and Agent for the Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church by holding properties and assets and handling income and expenditure.

The Synod was set up as part of the formation of the United Reformed Church by the United Reformed Acts 1972 and 1981. The Southern Synod is the representative of the local churches within Southern Synod united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern.

One of its main functions is to take action conducive to the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole, and the well-being of the community in which the Church is based.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree a broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust, including consideration of any major grant-making. They ensure all activity supports mission and encourage church extension and the establishment of new causes.

The day to day administration of grants and the processing of applications prior to consideration by the relevant sub-committee are delegated to the Trust staff. The Synod Officers have the delegated authority to make decisions on grants and loans if it is not possible to wait for the next sub-committee meeting. During 2021 there were 4 Synod Officers; the Moderator, the Synod Clerk, the Synod Council Convenor and the Synod Treasurer.

New trustees are selected from within the Synod. They are either Ministers of Religion or people who have otherwise been involved in the life of the Synod. Induction procedures and training are tailored to the previous experience and knowledge of the new trustees. As necessary, both new and existing trustees are reminded of their responsibilities and issued with a copy of the Charity Commission's guide "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know". Training sessions for all trustees are also arranged where necessary.

The Trust also acts as Corporate Trustee for most of the Local United Reformed Churches by holding various properties and investments on their behalf.

**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.

**Risk Management**

The trustees have asked each Synod Committee to regularly consider the major risks to which the Synod is exposed, which have been tabulated in a matrix, and to establish systems and procedures to manage those risks. This is an ongoing process in consultation with the wider United Reformed Church and other Synods. This risk assessment document is then reviewed by the trustees.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Trust and the Synod are to help and support local churches in their mission. The mission criteria used are the Synod:

1. is committed to looking for new opportunities for being the church in the geographical area of the Synod
2. is committed to supporting and resourcing the local churches to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ
3. is committed to caring pastorally for its local churches, ministers and staff
4. is committed to supporting and resourcing local churches to provide relevant, inspiring and engaging worship
5. is committed to being aware of the economic, political and social context of life in Southern England and will seek to help local churches address the implications of these issues for their life and work
6. is committed to the proper care and administration of its resources through its personnel, finances and buildings
7. is committed to the wider of church of God through the United Reformed Church nationally, ecumenical relationships and the world church
8. is committed to addressing issues of justice, peace and the environment
9. is committed to regularly reviewing its life and mission in light of the above criteria always seeking the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit

The objectives for the year are shaped by these strategic aims and the Synod looks to achieve them through partnership with other Christian institutions, local councils and central government for the benefit of the public.

The Trust can make capital grants to local churches in order to help them make their buildings welcoming and safe for members of the public and to equip them better to fulfil their objectives. This can include support for extending and improving buildings to include more community facilities. In 2021 twenty grants were made. There are also grants available to support mission projects and the employment of youth workers.

During 2019 a review of the existing system in which grants and loans were made available was completed and implemented in January 2020. It is designed to enhance the method by which funds are provided to improve church buildings and to support the mission work of the churches in their communities. A sum of £4,000,000 was designated for mission and building projects to be allocated during 2020 and 2021 with a further review in 2021 to consider whether the scheme should be extended. In October 2021 the review concluded that the mission and building projects panels become permanent. The budget for 2022 includes £750,000 for each panel.

The Trust also makes grants to various church organisations which operate within our area. We also support mission work abroad.

Since 2009 the principal decision making body is Synod Together which meets biannually, usually in March and October. The Synod operated through 5 Synod Areas; London, East Kent, West Kent and East Sussex, Surrey and Sussex, and Central Sussex United Area. Synod Areas normally meet 2 or 3 times each year, to deal with pastoral matters and provide advice to the Synod on property and finance matters.

The Trust employs 5 finance, property and support staff, in the Synod Office, four of whom are full time. There are now a further 3 field staff; Training and Development Officer, Mission Development Officer and Children and Youth Development Officer. We also meet 50% of the costs of a safeguarding officer employed by a neighboring synod, who spends half of her time working with Southern Synod.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

By the nature of the Trust's aims it is difficult to have quantitative measures of performance and achievement, though we are confident that by supporting local churches in their mission aims, we are providing a public benefit.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

During 2021 the Trust was able to sell four properties relating to closed church buildings which contributed £5,326K to our income figure. The Trust gave grants to improve 20 church buildings and made 26 grants to churches to improve the manse accommodation for their ministers.

Over £373K was granted from the general and designated Funds to churches and other organisations to support their mission work. A new line of support is helping churches in their online worship. We continue to support youth and community work within the Southern Synod and "Turn the Tide" with £59,500 of grants to local churches.

The Trust agreed to continue to contribute to Inter Synod Resource Sharing with £35,000 being paid in 2021. Churches within the Synod also contributed substantial amounts towards the United Reformed Church's Ministry and Mission Fund.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Balance sheet on Page 10 indicates the amount in the Unrestricted Fund as at 31 December 2021 was £13.383 m. When this is adjusted for Endowment Funds, Fixed Assets and programme related investments it is calculated that the unrestricted fund assets readily available amount to £12.563m.

Although this amounts to more than 10 years of normal expenditure it is recognised that this has accumulated mainly from the disposal of redundant church buildings and that this income will not continue long term. The Synod Trust does not raise funds and investment income does not cover the costs of running the Synod Trust's normal activities. The Unrestricted General Funds are dependent on the uncertain income arising from the disposal of redundant church property to meet the shortfall and carry out all other mission work and support to member churches. From time to time the Trust has to invest in new property for programme related activities and this requires an above average amount to be kept in reserve.

The trustees, acting on advice of the Finance Committee have agreed to make more money available for mission in the Southern Synod based on a 10 year rolling budget. This will increase the annual expenditure and gradually reduce the historic reserves without putting the financial stability of the Trust in jeopardy. Over £1m was awarded in grants and loans to local churches in 2021 within this scheme.

### **The effect of Covid 19**

The resultant dip in the stock market in early 2020 resulted in a fall in the value of the Trust's investments. During late 2020 and 2021 the value of the Trust's investments recovered to previous levels. The Trust's reserves continue to show a healthy position. The cash position of the Trust remains strong with no requirements to call on invested reserves. Grants and loans to local churches have returned to their normal level.

From March 2020 through 2021, due to the effects of Covid 19 a decision was made for all synod staff to work remotely. This has been successful and all staff continued to work normally.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**Investment policy and objectives**

The Trust investments are held in the Common Investment Funds run by independent professional investment managers. These investments aim to balance growth and income maximizing total return, whilst meeting the Ethical Criteria agreed by the United Reformed Church. The Trust funds can be invested up to 85 % in equities with a minimum of 15% in fixed interest funds. These ratios were reviewed in 2018 to ensure they are still appropriate to meet the Synod's cash flow requirements. The new ratios agreed were 60-80% in equities, 10-30% in Fixed interest and 0-20% in Property Funds.

In 2019 a review commenced concerning the possible divestment of holdings in fossil fuel producers. The Trustees agreed this should take place, in accordance with denominational guidance, and this was completed during the second quarter of 2020.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Trust will continue its work in support of local churches within the Synod to develop and extend their mission.

During 2021 the Trust continued discussions with the United Reformed Church regarding a solution to provide financial support to the Ministers Pension Fund which is in deficit. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. The Trust, together with the other twelve synods, agreed to make contributions to clear the deficit by 2030 with our commitment being £5m in the period 2021 to 2024. In view of the healthy cash position of the Trust it made the first payment of £2,000,000 in December 2021. a review will take place in 2025 to ascertain whether further funds will be required. Due to the strength of the reserves of the Trust we do not anticipate any detrimental effect to the core financial position of the Trust due to the Trust's participation in clearing the deficit.

The Trust will continue to participate in these national discussions which are likely to be concluded in 2021 and require significantly higher contributions over the next 10 years. The Trust continues to monitor and review the position to ensure that any such final commitment is affordable and does not put the financial stability of the Trust at risk.

**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS**

The trust holds cash deposits and investments on behalf of local churches. As at 31 December 2020 these amounted to bank deposits of £1,809,393 (2020: £1,915,223) and investments of £2,877,235 (2020: £2,844,274). Such investments are held in separate accounts and managed by an independent investment manager.

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees during the year under review were:

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler (appointed 11 February 2021)  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby  
Mrs H Miles (appointed 4 November 2021)  
Revd K Plumpton (appointed 9 September 2021)  
Mr D Walters  
Revd H Warmington (resigned 15 September 2021)  
Revd G Watt (resigned 13 April 2021)

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) 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).

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;
  
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Thornton Springer LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**



J Denison - Trustee

Date: 15-09-2022

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

**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:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

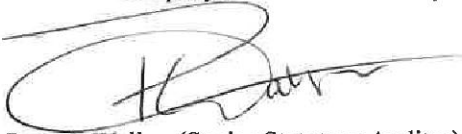
We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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](http://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 (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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.



Peter L Wallyn (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE19 3RW

Date: .....15/9/22.....

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	31.12.21	31.12.20
	Notes	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>						
<b>Income from Investments</b>	2a	456,493	404,570	12,953	<b>874,016</b>	537,757
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2a	80,608	51,599	650	<b>132,857</b>	141,787
Other Income	2a	250,184	-	-	<b>250,184</b>	45
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>787,285</b>	<b>456,169</b>	<b>13,603</b>	<b>1,257,057</b>	679,589
Income on sale of properties	2a	5,326,500	750,000	-	<b>6,076,500</b>	3,448,000
Lease Premiums Received	2a	31,942			<b>31,942</b>	-
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	2a	-		197,500	<b>197,500</b>	101,000
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	2a	<b>6,145,727</b>	<b>1,206,169</b>	<b>211,103</b>	<b>7,562,999</b>	4,228,589
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2b	762,258	1,105,647	10,483	<b>1,878,388</b>	1,884,862
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	2b	<b>762,258</b>	<b>1,105,647</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>1,878,388</b>	1,884,862
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing		35,000	-	-	<b>35,000</b>	25,000
Contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund		5,000,000			<b>5,000,000</b>	-
Purchase of Manse		-	583,000	-	<b>583,000</b>	670,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>5,797,258</b>	<b>1,688,647</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>7,496,388</b>	2,579,862
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	2b	<b>25,027</b>	<b>(649,478)</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>(621,331)</b>	<b>(1,205,273)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>348,469</b>	<b>(482,478)</b>	<b>200,620</b>	<b>66,611</b>	<b>1,648,727</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	8	<b>1,070,189</b>	<b>(1,070,189)</b>	-	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>						
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	7	1,738,574	1,124,225	46,192	<b>2,908,991</b>	(1,632,999)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>3,157,232</b>	<b>(428,442)</b>	<b>246,812</b>	<b>2,975,602</b>	15,728
Total funds brought forward		10,438,848	13,086,225	875,004	24,400,077	24,384,349
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	8	<b>13,596,080</b>	<b>12,657,783</b>	<b>1,121,816</b>	<b>27,375,679</b>	24,400,077

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2021**

		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		<b>Restricted</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>	<b>31.12.20</b>
		<b>General Purposes</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Notes					
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible assets	9	229,422	74,721	80	<b>304,223</b>	392,427
Investments	10	14,208,264	10,714,536	505,482	<b>25,428,282</b>	22,526,436
Social Investments	11	102,370	-	-	<b>102,370</b>	64,050
		<u>14,540,056</u>	<u>10,789,257</u>	<u>505,562</u>	<b><u>25,834,875</u></b>	<u>22,982,913</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	34,893	857	-	<b>35,750</b>	52,659
Cash at bank and in hand		3,376,355	2,960,544	616,254	<b>6,953,153</b>	3,563,677
		<u>3,411,248</u>	<u>2,961,401</u>	<u>616,254</u>	<b><u>6,988,903</u></b>	<u>3,616,336</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,568,617)	(1,092,875)	-	<b>(2,661,492)</b>	(2,199,172)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,842,631</u>	<u>1,868,526</u>	<u>616,254</u>	<b><u>4,327,411</u></b>	<u>1,417,164</u>
<b>/(LIABILITIES)</b>						
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS</b>						
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		16,382,687	12,657,783	1,121,816	<b>30,162,286</b>	24,400,077
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due outside one year		(2,786,607)			<b>(2,786,607)</b>	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	14	<u><b>13,596,080</b></u>	<u><b>12,657,783</b></u>	<u><b>1,121,816</b></u>	<u><b>27,375,679</b></u>	<u><b>24,400,077</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>						
General Purposes					<b>13,596,080</b>	10,438,848
Designated					<b>12,657,783</b>	13,086,225
Restricted					<b>1,121,816</b>	875,004
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	14				<u><b>27,375,679</b></u>	<u><b>24,400,077</b></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 December 2021**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2021 and the members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
<b>Net cash provided/used in operating activities</b>	A	<b>2,390,079</b>	1,698,234
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends and interest from investments		749,378	449,692
Purchase of fixed assets		(4,306)	(6,968)
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		285,500	276,000
Purchase of investments		(682,855)	(17,340,851)
Issue of Programme Related Loans		(51,520)	(50,000)
Repayment of Programme Related Loans		13,200	2,850
Proceeds from the sale of investments		690,000	17,254,336
<b>Net cash provided by/used in investing activities</b>		<b>999,397</b>	<b>585,059</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>3,389,476</b>	2,283,293
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	B	<b>3,563,677</b>	<b>1,280,384</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	B	<b>6,953,153</b>	<b>3,563,677</b>
<b>Notes to the statement of cash flows</b>			
A	<b>Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
	<b>Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>2,975,602</b>	15,728
	<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
	Depreciation charges	4,043	4,403
	(Gains)/losses on investments	(2,908,991)	1,632,999
	Dividends and interest from investments	(749,378)	(449,692)
	Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(197,033)	-100,540
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	16,909	-41,009
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,248,927	636,345
	<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>2,390,079</b>	<b>1,698,234</b>
B	<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>		
	Cash at bank and in hand	<b>6,953,153</b>	<b>3,563,677</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

## **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **General Information**

The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and is registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

### **Accounting convention**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

### **Going concern basis**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have considered budgets, cash flows and the impact of subsequent events, including that of COVID19. Whilst the economic shutdown in response to COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the charity's operations, the directors are satisfied that the charity has sufficient available resources, both in terms of cash and investments that can be converted to cash, such that there is no material uncertainty and the going concern basis of preparing the financial statements continues to be appropriate.

### **Funds Included**

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 Southern Synod :-

General Purposes Fund  
Manse Fund  
Synod Mission Fund  
Alfriston Mission Project  
Funds held for uniting churches  
Church Buildings Fund  
Retired Ministers Housing Fund  
Welfare Fund  
Milton Hall Fund  
Woolwich 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. Endowment funds are permanent endowments which are required to be retained, but the income from these funds can be used for the benefit of the charity, subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the Christian and charitable work of the United Reformed Church in the Southern Synod. The main fund in this category is the General Purposes Fund. Certain funds have been allocated for Manses, although the Synod retains authority to re-allocate such funds and so they are treated as Designated Funds within Unrestricted Income Funds. There are also three other smaller designated funds arising from the sale of redundant church buildings.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**General Purposes Funds**

The General Purposes Fund is the main fund of the charity and is an unrestricted fund. It is made up of both General Purposes and Church Aid, the initial fund set up after the URC came into force and General Purposes Fund coming from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union.

The Manse Fund is a Designated Fund which came into being in 1996 by approval of the Synod. The Synod Mission Fund and Funds held for uniting churches have arisen from the sale of a church building in 2012 following an uniting of two existing churches. The united church can apply to the latter fund for a project to develop and further their mission whereas the Synod Mission Fund is available to all churches within the Synod for similar projects. The Alfriston Mission Project is a fund arising from the sale of a church hall in Alfriston which has been designated to develop in the mission activities and community facilities of the former Alfriston URC building.

**Restricted Funds**

The Church Building fund came from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union. (LCU) Its funds can only be used for the upkeep, repair, improvement extension, provision and erection of church buildings.

The Retired Ministers Housing funds both have a house for a retired minister. They operate in Kent and Sussex.

The Welfare fund came from the LCU. Its purpose is relieving, in cases of need, ministers, members of churches and retired ministers.

The Milton Hall fund can be used for general purposes but only within the inner London Boroughs South of the River Thames.

The Woolwich fund is for work in the London Borough of Greenwich.

**Contribution to Pension Funds**

The charity operates 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 Financial Reporting Standards, 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.

**Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of financial activities when receivable.

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The Synod is not registered for VAT so all irrecoverable VAT is charged with the related cost.

All costs are treated by the finance committee as relating to the unrestricted fund unless there is a specific requirement on the individual funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Individual Church Property, including Pastoral Manses**

These assets are not shown in the financial statements as they are not the exclusive property of the Synod. Sale proceeds from redundant properties or from part thereof are treated as unrestricted income for general funds and not shown until received.

Non-pastoral manses, which are used for Synod related activities are included in the Balance Sheet at cost, subject to an impairment review and any deficits are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities on properties marketed for sale.

**Jointly Owned Property**

Property owned with The URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited is held under the terms of an agreement with the Society whereby the Charity receives no income from the property but contributes towards the cost of maintenance and repair of the property. The property is included in the Balance Sheet at cost.

**Custodian Trusteeship**

Assets held by the charity as custodian trustee are not shown in the financial statements. The details of those funds are included in the Trustees' annual report.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, apart from property, at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:-

Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment - over four years  
Computer Equipment-over three years  
Motor Vehicles-over four years

No amounts under £100 are capitalised.

The trustees recognise that the cost of buildings used as functional assets have a finite life and, in the normal course of events, would be depreciated to their expected residual value. However, those properties that fall into this category are located in an area of the country where that part of the cost that is attributable to land, which does not depreciate, is significantly higher than in other parts of the country. Furthermore, the Charity has a policy of maintaining its properties to a high level, which extends the life of the assets beyond their normal expected lives. Taking these factors into account the trustees consider that any depreciation on the buildings would consequently be immaterial and depreciation is not therefore charged.

**Operating Leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

**Grants**

Grants payable to local churches, organisations and individuals are charged in the year of approval. The value of grants approved, but still to be paid is included in the balance sheet as a current liability.

**Investments**

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Support and Indirect Costs**

Support expenditure has been allocated directly to the relevant activity cost category.

Indirect costs which include premises and office costs have been allocated on the basis of each activity costs as a proportion of the total direct costs, shown in note 3.

**Financial instruments**

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

**Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of the trustees, there are no special disclosures required in respect of judgements and estimation uncertainty.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**a) Analysis of Total Income**

	Unrestricted Funds			31.12.21	31.12.20
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income from generated funds</b>					
Rents Received	13,100	111,538		<b>124,638</b>	88,065
Investment income-listed investments	439,302	292,759	12,910	<b>744,971</b>	444,317
Interest	4,091	273	43	<b>4,407</b>	5,375
	<u>456,493</u>	<u>404,570</u>	<u>12,953</u>	<u><b>874,016</b></u>	<u>537,757</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Donations and Legacies					
Donations	3,505	51,599	494	<b>55,598</b>	13,295
Monies from closed churches	77,103			<b>77,103</b>	128,336
Quinquennial contribution received			156	<b>156</b>	156
	<u>80,608</u>	<u>51,599</u>	<u>650</u>	<u><b>132,857</b></u>	<u>141,787</u>
Other income					
Training course contributions	125			<b>125</b>	-
Discounting of Long Term Creditor	213,393			<b>213,393</b>	
Grants awarded no longer required	36,666			<b>36,666</b>	45
	<u>250,184</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>250,184</b></u>	<u>45</u>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<u><b>787,285</b></u>	<u><b>456,169</b></u>	<u><b>13,603</b></u>	<u><b>1,257,057</b></u>	<u>679,589</u>
Income on sale of properties					
-of closed churches	5,326,500			<b>5,326,500</b>	116,000
- Lease Premiums Received	31,942			<b>31,942</b>	-
-of surplus manses		750,000		<b>750,000</b>	3,332,000
	<u>5,358,442</u>	<u>750,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>6,108,442</b></u>	<u>3,448,000</u>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of fixed asset:					
-other property			197,500	<b>197,500</b>	101,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197,500</u>	<u><b>197,500</b></u>	<u>101,000</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u><b>6,145,727</b></u>	<u><b>1,206,169</b></u>	<u><b>211,103</b></u>	<u><b>7,562,999</b></u>	<u>4,228,589</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.21	31.12.20
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Expenditure on Charitable Activities</b>					
<b>Ministry &amp; Mission:-</b>					
Mission Officer	52,305			52,305	52,499
Ecumenical Officer	266			266	620
Grants (note 4)	27,649	343,365	2,044	373,058	262,625
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	36,398		205	36,603	37,056
	<u>116,618</u>	<u>343,365</u>	<u>2,249</u>	<u>462,232</u>	<u>352,800</u>
<b>Training:-</b>					
Training of Ministers & Lay preachers (note 4)	12,290			12,290	2,135
Students (note 4)	500			500	-
Training & Development Officer	51,913			51,913	51,364
Children's & Youth Development Officer	50,395			50,395	50,023
Safeguarding Officer	22,589			22,589	21,394
Other training costs	1,375			1,375	2,399
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	57,197			57,197	57,908
	<u>196,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196,259</u>	<u>185,223</u>
<b>Property:-</b>					
Church building grants (note 4)		586,446		586,446	799,163
Manse Repairs (note 4)		118,590		118,590	191,164
Manse Expenses		14,541		14,541	16,022
Quinquennial Costs		5,400	156	5,556	34,083
Expenses on Sale & Purchase of Property	228,711	19,297		248,008	74,851
Other property costs	30,195	6,480	8,078	44,753	20,665
Staff costs	89,031			89,031	87,725
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	62,397			62,397	63,173
	<u>410,334</u>	<u>750,754</u>	<u>8,234</u>	<u>1,169,322</u>	<u>1,286,846</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.21	31.12.20
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Governance:-</b>					
Synod Meetings	48			48	-
Provincial Committees	281			281	675
Honoraria Synod Clerk and Treasurer	1,000			1,000	1,000
Synod Clerk's expenses				-	70
Synod Treasurer's expenses	149			149	301
Legal Costs	7,092	7,886		14,978	24,029
Audit Fees	9,580			9,580	9,180
Investment management costs	3,565	3,642		7,207	7,190
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	17,332			17,332	17,548
	<u>39,047</u>	<u>11,528</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,575</u>	<u>59,993</u>
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<u><b>762,258</b></u>	<u><b>1,105,647</b></u>	<u><b>10,483</b></u>	<u><b>1,878,388</b></u>	<u><b>1,884,862</b></u>
<b>Net expenditure on operating account</b>	<u><b>25,027</b></u>	<u><b>(649,478)</b></u>	<u><b>3,120</b></u>	<u><b>(621,331)</b></u>	<u><b>(1,205,273)</b></u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**3 INDIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	31.12.21	31.12.20
	General Purposes Funds	Designated Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Premises Costs:-</b>					
Synod rent & Hire of Rooms	18,000			18,000	18,447
Synod Electricity	1,500			1,500	605
Insurance	943			943	940
Cleaning	133			133	1,203
	<u>20,576</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,576</u>	<u>21,195</u>
<b>Office Costs:-</b>					
Synod Employment Costs	120,800			120,800	119,681
Car & Travel Expenses	2,880			2,880	3,333
Miscellaneous	2,194			2,194	1,015
Depreciation	3,838		205	4,043	4,403
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	467			467	460
Telephone	5,184			5,184	4,544
Stationery and Publications	1,681			1,681	1,750
Postage	671			671	550
Photocopier-Lease and Meter	641			641	726
Equipment and Consumable Costs	10,001			10,001	13,857
IT and Website	4,190			4,190	4,010
Catering	201			201	161
	<u>152,748</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>152,953</u>	<u>154,490</u>
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b><u>173,324</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>205</u></b>	<b><u>173,529</u></b>	<b><u>175,685</u></b>
	Total	Ministry & Mission	Training	Property	Governance
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Indirect Costs	173,324	36,398	57,197	62,397	17,332
% of Direct Costs	100%	12%	24%	60%	4%

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**4 GRANTS**

The following grants have been charged in furtherance of the charitable objects during the year:-

	Institutions		Individuals	
	Number	Amount £	Number	Amount £
Ministry and Mission:				
Other mission projects	3	6,210		
Ecumenical situations	3	2,800		
Local Church Missions	25	303,628		
Youth & Children's Work	5	59,500		
Welfare Grants			2	920
	<b>36</b>	<b>372,138</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>920</b>
Training:				
Ministers & lay preachers	-	-	20	12,290
Students	-	-	2	500
	-	-	<b>22</b>	<b>12,790</b>
Property:				
Local Churches	74	586,446	-	-
Manses	30	118,590	-	-
	<b>104</b>	<b>705,036</b>	-	-
Total Grants Charged	<b>140</b>	<b>1,077,174</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13,710</b>

**5 EMPLOYMENT EMOLUMENTS**

	31.12.21 £	31.12.20 £
Wages & salaries	247,157	268,882
Employers national insurance	28,573	25,961
Pension costs	81,607	66,154
	<b>357,337</b>	<b>360,997</b>

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

Ministry & Mission	1	1
Training	2	2
Property	2	2
Administration	3	3
	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

No employee received £60,000 per annum or more.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The following honorarium, which is included in Trustees Expenses, was paid to a trustee during the year, in accordance with the governing document and approved by the Charity Commission:-

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Mr J Denison (Synod Treasurer)	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

During the year five trustees (2020: one) were reimbursed out of pocket expenses mainly for telephone costs and travelling totalling £240 (2020: £361). Two trustees (2020: two) were also paid a total of £269 (2020: £995) relating to their positions as stipendiary ministers, comprising training grants and reimbursement of ministerial expenses.

**7 GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS**

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Realised gains/(losses) on investments sold	<b>65,132</b>	(1,714,272)
Less: Gains/(losses) previously recognised in Synod accounts	<b>(38,420)</b>	(862,052)
Net gains/(losses) in year on investments sold	<u>26,712</u>	<u>(2,576,324)</u>
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments for the year	<b>2,882,278</b>	943,325
Net gains/(losses) on Investments for the Year	<u><b>2,908,990</b></u>	<u>(1,632,999)</u>

**8 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

Fund:-		Balance 01.01.21	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between Funds	Gains/(losses) on Investments	Balance 31.12.21
		£	£	£		£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	10,002,610	6,145,727	(5,797,258)	1,070,189	1,687,463	<b>13,108,731</b>
	Endowment	436,238				51,111	<b>487,349</b>
Manse	Designated	10,760,133	1,206,169	(758,836)		1,124,225	<b>12,331,691</b>
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	170,538					<b>170,538</b>
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	2,024,444		(929,811)	(1,070,189)		<b>24,444</b>
Fund held for Uniting	Designated	131,110					<b>131,110</b>
Church Building	Restricted	94	228	(156)			<b>166</b>
	Endowment	11,272				(672)	<b>10,600</b>
Welfare	Restricted	31,526	1,376	(920)		3,481	<b>35,463</b>
	Endowment	3,019				(180)	<b>2,839</b>
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	122,247	197,546	(8,077)		(138)	<b>311,578</b>
	Endowment	177,000					<b>177,000</b>
Milton Hall	Restricted	101,542	7,041	(1,330)		7,579	<b>114,832</b>
	Endowment	242,688				13,703	<b>256,391</b>
Woolwich	Restricted	185,616	4,912			22,419	<b>212,947</b>
		<u>24,400,077</u>	<u>7,562,999</u>	<u>(7,496,388)</u>	-	<u>2,908,991</u>	<u><b>27,375,679</b></u>

In 2019 £2,000,000 was committed by the Trust for grants to local churches in for mission and building projects for 2021. During 2021, £929,882 was awarded and the unused allocation £1,070,118 was transferred back to general reserves. £1,500,000 was allocated in 2021 for 2022 grant making.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures,		Totals £
	Property £	Equipment £	
<b>COST</b>			£
At 1 January 2021	387,496	25,206	412,702
Additions in year		4,306	4,306
Disposals in year	(88,000)	(1,845)	(89,845)
At 31 December 2021	<u>299,496</u>	<u>27,667</u>	<u>327,163</u>
3,376,355			
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2021	-	20,275	20,275
Charge for period	-	4,043	4,043
Eliminated for disposals	-	(1,378)	(1,378)
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>22,940</u>	<u>22,940</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2021	<u>299,496</u>	<u>4,727</u>	<u>304,223</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>387,496</u>	<u>4,931</u>	<u>392,427</u>

**10 FIXED ASSET LISTED INVESTMENTS**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS		TOTALS £
	Fixed Interest Securities £	UK Equities Fund £	Fixed Interest Securities £	UK Equities Fund £	
As at 1 January 2021	3,450,295	18,144,612	143,534	315,757	22,054,198
Purchases	510,000				510,000
Sales		(663,288)			(663,288)
Net gains/(losses) fair value	(197,957)	3,034,044	(8,567)	54,758	2,882,278
	<u>3,762,338</u>	<u>20,515,368</u>	<u>134,967</u>	<u>370,515</u>	<u>24,783,188</u>
Cash held for Investment	645,094				645,094
Fair Value at 31 December 2021	<u>4,407,432</u>	<u>20,515,368</u>	<u>134,967</u>	<u>370,515</u>	<u>25,428,282</u>
Cost at 31 December 2021	<u>3,164,828</u>	<u>16,478,106</u>	<u>130,080</u>	<u>297,435</u>	<u>20,070,449</u>

All investment funds are held in the UK and are held in the Affirmative Common Investment Funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**11 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS**

	<b>31.12.21</b>	31.12.20
	£	£
Loans to Local Churches	102,370	173,302
Loan to World Church Partner	-	200,000
Less Provision made for non-recoverability	-	-
Less Amounts Written Off	-	(309,252)
	<u>102,370</u>	<u>64,050</u>

Loans made to local churches and ministers are normally repayable between three and five years and interest is charged at 5% per annum on the outstanding balance.

**12 DEBTORS**

	<b>31.12.21</b>	31.12.20
	£	£
Sundry debtors	<u>34,893</u>	<u>52,659</u>

**13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.21</b>	31.12.20
	£	£
Other creditors	67,854	124,540
Grants not drawn	2,592,781	2,074,632
	<u>2,660,635</u>	<u>2,199,172</u>

**14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE OUTSIDE ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.21</b>	31.12.20
	£	£
Contribution to Ministers' Pension Fund	2,786,607	-
	<u>2,786,607</u>	<u>-</u>

**15 DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31 December 2021**

Fund:-		Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Social Investments	Debtors/ Creditors	Cash & Deposits	TOTALS
		£	£	£	£	£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	229,422	13,720,915	102,370	(4,320,331)	3,376,355	13,108,731
	Endowment	-	487,349				487,349
Manse	Designated	74,721	9,645,414		(22,896)	2,634,452	12,331,691
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	-				170,538	170,538
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	-	1,069,122		(1,069,122)	24,444	24,444
Fund held for Uniting Churches	Designated	-				131,110	131,110
Church Building	Restricted	-				166	166
	Endowment	-	10,600				10,600
Welfare	Restricted	-	30,489			4,974	35,463
	Endowment	-	2,839				2,839
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	-	2,184			309,394	311,578
	Endowment	-				177,000	177,000
Milton Hall	Restricted	80	51,278			63,474	114,832
	Endowment	-	256,391				256,391
Woolwich	Restricted	-	151,701			61,246	212,947
		<u>304,223</u>	<u>25,428,282</u>	<u>102,370</u>	<u>(5,412,349)</u>	<u>6,953,153</u>	<u>27,375,679</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**16 PENSION SCHEME**

The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd contributes to a lay staff pension scheme known as the "Final Salary" scheme, which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions (formerly The Pensions Trust). The United Reformed Church is the principal employer in the scheme and eleven synods and Northern College are participating employers. There is no agreement to charge the net defined benefit cost to participating employers, who are therefore unable to identify their share of the underlying assets and liabilities— each employer pays a common contribution rate.

During 2021 The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd contributed 32.6% (2020:28.2%) of basic salary in respect of members of the Final Salary scheme. In 2021 this amounted to £81,607 (2020 : £66,154). Members contributed at the rate of 7.5% of pensionable salary throughout the accounting period.

Triennial actuarial valuations of the Final Salary scheme are performed by a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 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

**17 COMMITMENTS**

**Property**

The office forms part of a property registered in the name of the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited and held on statutory trusts in favour of East Croydon United Reformed Church. Under an informal agreement, the Trust company pays rent of £18,000 to the local church for the use of the Synod offices.

**Contributions to the URC Ministers' Pension Scheme**

The pension scheme for ministers, run nationally as a central function of the United Reformed Church, has been in deficit for some years despite several attempts to resolve the underfunding based on the valuation approach required of the scheme actuaries. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. At the balance sheet date, a commitment of £3,000,000 to be paid by 2024 and this is included in long-term creditors. A further £3 million has been offered if a review in 2024/5 indicates it is required and this would be due in the period 2025 to 2030. This is not a firm commitment and therefore no provision is included in the financial statements for this additional sum..

**Church Grant Funding**

The Synod Trust has agreed a sum of up to £355,000 as possible further funding of a church rebuilding project in Eastbourne. This is 50% of the maximum possible shortfall on the project with the remaining 50% being guaranteed by the partner denomination. The Trustees are hopeful that alternative funding will be found and this guarantee will not be required so no provision has been made in the financial statements.

**18 CONTINGENT ASSETS**

At the year end, the property of three churches, held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the company, were held following the churches closure. The proceeds will revert to Synod on the sale in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the property are held. Professional advice is being sought prior to disposal.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

**19 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY FUND**

The key components from the prior year figures are analysed below by fund:-

	2020			Total Funds £
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>				
<b>Income from Investments</b>	264,160	262,664	10,933	537,757
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				-
Donations and Legacies	128,496	12,500	791	141,787
Other Income	-	45	-	45
<b>Total operating income</b>	<u>392,656</u>	<u>275,209</u>	<u>11,724</u>	<u>679,589</u>
				-
Income on sale of properties	116,000	3,332,000	-	3,448,000
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	101,000		-	101,000
				-
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	<u>609,656</u>	<u>3,607,209</u>	<u>11,724</u>	<u>4,228,589</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	563,110	1,279,237	42,515	1,884,862
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<u>563,110</u>	<u>1,279,237</u>	<u>42,515</u>	<u>1,884,862</u>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	25,000	-	-	25,000
Purchase of Manses	-	670,000	-	670,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>588,110</u>	<u>1,949,237</u>	<u>42,515</u>	<u>2,579,862</u>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	<b>(170,454)</b>	<b>(1,004,028)</b>	<b>(30,791)</b>	<b>(1,205,273)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<u>21,546</u>	<u>1,657,972</u>	<u>(30,791)</u>	<u>1,648,727</u>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	999,998	(999,998)	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>				
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	(966,156)	(639,427)	(27,416)	(1,632,999)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	55,388	18,547	(58,207)	15,728
Total funds brought forward	10,383,460	13,067,678	933,211	24,384,349
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>10,438,848</u>	<u>13,086,225</u>	<u>875,004</u>	<u>24,400,077</u>

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (SOUTHERN SYNOD) TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 282270

---

# Accounts

---

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 1529484 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 282270**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**  
**for**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

	<b>Page</b>
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Report of the Independent Auditors	7 to 8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10 to 11
Statement of Cash Flows	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 to 26

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

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 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2015.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

1529484 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

282270

**Registered office**

Synod Office  
East Croydon URC  
Addiscombe Grove  
Croydon  
CR0 5LP

**Trustees**

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler  
Revd R Furley-Smith  
Mr A Kirby (Chairperson)  
Mr D Walters  
Revd H Warmington

**Company Secretary**

Mrs C Kingdom

**Auditors**

Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE20 3RW

**Legal Representatives**

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP  
Second Floor, 3 Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2JB

**Bankers**

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent  
ME20 4JQ

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY & PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 21 November 1980 and is a registered charity number 282270. On 24 November 2010 the trustees agreed to change the name of the Trust from The United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited to The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited. This was certified by Companies House on 8 December 2010.

Its object is to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrine, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the South of England, for the benefit of the public. The trustees have given due consideration to and follow the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirements.

It has achieved this by continuing to act as Corporate Trustee and Agent for the Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church by holding properties and assets and handling income and expenditure.

The Synod was set up as part of the formation of the United Reformed Church by the United Reformed Acts 1972 and 1981. The Southern Synod is the representative of the local churches within Southern Synod united for the purpose of dealing with matters of wider concern.

One of its main functions is to take action conducive to the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad, the welfare of the United Reformed Church, the interests of the Church of Christ as a whole, and the well-being of the community in which the Church is based.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree a broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust, including consideration of any major grant-making. They ensure all activity supports mission and encourage church extension and the establishment of new causes.

The day to day administration of grants and the processing of applications prior to consideration by the relevant sub-committee are delegated to the Trust staff. The Synod Officers have the delegated authority to make decisions on grants and loans if it is not possible to wait for the next sub-committee meeting. During 2020 there were 3 Synod Officers; the Moderator, the Synod Clerk and the Synod Treasurer.

New trustees are selected from within the Synod. They are either Ministers of Religion or people who have otherwise been involved in the life of the Synod. Induction procedures and training are tailored to the previous experience and knowledge of the new trustees. As necessary, both new and existing trustees are reminded of their responsibilities and issued with a copy of the Charity Commission's guide "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know". Training sessions for all trustees are also arranged where necessary.

The Trust also acts as Corporate Trustee for most of the Local United Reformed Churches by holding various properties and investments on their behalf.

**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.

**Risk Management**

The trustees have asked each Synod Committee to regularly consider the major risks to which the Synod is exposed, which have been tabulated in a matrix, and to establish systems and procedures to manage those risks. This is an ongoing process in consultation with the wider United Reformed Church and other Synods. This risk assessment document is then reviewed by the trustees.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Trust and the Synod are to help and support local churches in their mission. The mission criteria used are the Synod:

1. is committed to looking for new opportunities for being the church in the geographical area of the Synod
2. is committed to supporting and resourcing the local churches to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ
3. is committed to caring pastorally for its local churches, ministers and staff
4. is committed to supporting and resourcing local churches to provide relevant, inspiring and engaging worship
5. is committed to being aware of the economic, political and social context of life in Southern England and will seek to help local churches address the implications of these issues for their life and work
6. is committed to the proper care and administration of its resources through its personnel, finances and buildings
7. is committed to the wider of church of God through the United Reformed Church nationally, ecumenical relationships and the world church
8. is committed to addressing issues of justice, peace and the environment
9. is committed to regularly reviewing its life and mission in light of the above criteria always seeking the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit

The objectives for the year are shaped by these strategic aims and the Synod looks to achieve them through partnership with other Christian institutions, local councils and central government for the benefit of the public.

The Trust can make capital grants to local churches in order to help them make their buildings welcoming and safe for members of the public and to equip them better to fulfil their objectives. This can include support for extending and improving buildings to include more community facilities. In 2020 eighteen grants were made. There are also grants available to support mission projects and the employment of youth workers.

During 2019 a review of the existing system in which grants and loans were made available was completed and implemented in January 2020. It is designed to enhance the method by which funds are provided to improve church buildings and to support the mission work of the churches in their communities. A sum of £4,000,000 was designated for mission and building projects to be allocated during 2020 and 2021 with a further review in 2021 to consider whether the scheme should be extended.

The Trust also makes grants to various church organisations which operate within our area. We also support mission work abroad.

Since 2009 the principal decision making body is Synod Together which meets biannually, usually in March and October. The Synod operated through 5 Synod Areas; London, East Kent, West Kent and East Sussex, Surrey and Sussex, and Central Sussex United Area. Synod Areas normally meet 2 or 3 times each year, to deal with pastoral matters and provide advice to the Synod on property and finance matters.

The Trust employs 5 finance, property and support staff, in the Synod Office, four of whom are full time. There are now a further 3 field staff; Training and Development Officer, Mission Development Officer and Children and Youth Development Officer. We also meet 50% of the costs of a safeguarding officer employed by a neighboring synod, who spends half of her time working with Southern Synod.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

By the nature of the Trust's aims it is difficult to have quantitative measures of performance and achievement, though we are confident that by supporting local churches in their mission aims, we are providing a public benefit.

During 2020 the Trust was able to sell two properties relating to closed church buildings which contributed £217K to our income figure. The Trust gave grants to improve 18 church buildings and made 20 grants to churches to improve the manse accommodation for their ministers.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

Over £250,000 was granted from the general and designated Funds to churches and other organisations to support their mission work. We continue to support youth and community work within the Southern Synod and "Turn the Tide" with £50,600 of grants to local churches.

The Trust agreed to continue to contribute to Inter Synod Resource Sharing with £35,000 being paid in 2020. Churches within the Synod also contributed substantial amounts towards the United Reformed Church's Ministry and Mission Fund.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Reserves Policy**

The Balance sheet on Page 10 indicates the amount in the Unrestricted Fund as at 31 December 2020 was £10.439 m. When this is adjusted for Endowment Funds, Fixed Assets and programme related investments it is calculated that the unrestricted fund assets readily available amount to £9.709m.

Although this amounts to more than 10 years of normal expenditure it is recognised that this has accumulated mainly from the disposal of redundant church buildings and that this income will not continue long term. The Synod Trust does not raise funds and investment income does not cover the costs of running the Synod Trust's normal activities. The Unrestricted General Funds are dependent on the uncertain income arising from the disposal of redundant church property to meet the shortfall and carry out all other mission work and support to member churches. From time to time the Trust has to invest in new property for programme related activities and this requires an above average amount to be kept in reserve.

The trustees, acting on advice of the Finance Committee have agreed to make more money available for mission in the Southern Synod based on a 10 year rolling budget. This will increase the annual expenditure and gradually reduce the historic reserves without putting the financial stability of the Trust in jeopardy. In 2019 a review of the mission grant and loans scheme was completed and implemented in January 2020. A sum of £4,000,000 was designated for mission and building projects to be allocated during 2020 and 2021 with a further review in 2021 to consider whether the scheme should be extended. Over £1m was awarded in grants and loans to local churches in 2020 within this scheme.

**The effect of Covid 19**

The resultant dip in the stock market resulted in a fall in the value of the Trust's investments. There has been some recovery in the values since March 2020. This fall has not had a serious effect on the Trust's reserves which continue to show a healthy position. The cash position of the Trust remains strong with no requirements to call on invested reserves. Grants and loans to local churches have returned to their normal level.

In March 2020, due to the effects of Covid 19 a decision was made for all synod staff to work remotely. This has been successful and all staff continued to work normally.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**Investment policy and objectives**

The Trust investments are held in the Common Investment Funds run by independent professional investment managers. These investments aim to balance growth and income maximizing total return, whilst meeting the Ethical Criteria agreed by the United Reformed Church. The Trust funds can be invested up to 85 % in equities with a minimum of 15% in fixed interest funds. These ratios were reviewed in 2018 to ensure they are still appropriate to meet the Synod's cash flow requirements. The new ratios agreed were 60-80% in equities, 10-30% in Fixed interest and 0-20% in Property Funds.

In 2019 a review commenced concerning the possible divestment of holdings in fossil fuel producers. The Trustees agreed this should take place, in accordance with denominational guidance, and this was completed during the second quarter of 2020.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Trust will continue its work in support of local churches within the Synod to develop and extend their mission.

The Trust is currently in discussions with the United Reformed Church regarding a solution to provide financial support to the Ministers Pension Fund which is in deficit. Due to the structure of the national church and ministerial appointments there is no legal obligation for the Trust but all of the regional and national bodies have been approached and there is wide acceptance that there is a moral obligation at the synod level and that such support does fall within the charitable purposes of the Trust. It is likely that the Trust will, together with the other twelve synods, make contributions to clear the deficit by 2030 with the majority of the funds being provided from 2022 to 2024. Due to the strength of the reserves of the Trust we do not anticipate any detrimental effect of the core financial position of the Trust due to the Trusts' participation in clearing the deficit.

The Trust will continue to participate in these national discussions which are likely to be concluded in 2021 and require significantly higher contributions over the next 10 years. The Trust continues to monitor and review the position to ensure that any such final commitment is affordable and does not put the financial stability of the Trust at risk.

**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS**

The trust holds cash deposits and investments on behalf of local churches. As at 31 December 2020 these amounted to bank deposits of £1,915,223 (2019: £2,229,022) and investments of £2,844,274 (2019: £3,488,632). Such investments are held in separate accounts and managed by an independent investment manager.

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees during the year under review were:

Miss L Austin  
Revd B Banks  
Revd M Davies (died 8 October 2020)  
Mr J Denison  
Revd B Fidler (appointed 11 February 2021)  
Revd R Furley-Smith (appointed 1 October 2020)  
Mr A Kirby  
Mr D Walters  
Revd H Warmington  
Revd G Watt (resigned 13 April 2021)

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) 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).

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;
  
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**


So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Thornton Springer LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee  
Date: 22-09-2021

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of  
The United Reformed Church (Southern  
Synod) Trust Limited  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its result, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of**  
**The United Reformed Church (Southern**  
**Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Thornton Springer LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006  
67 Westow Street  
London  
United Kingdom  
SE19 3RW



Date: ..... 22/9/21 .....

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			<b>31.12.20</b>	31.12.19
		<u>General Purposes</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		£	£	£	£	£
	Notes					
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>						
<b>Income from Investments</b>	2a	264,160	262,664	10,933	<b>537,757</b>	827,441
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2a	128,496	12,500	791	<b>141,787</b>	31,644
Other Income	2a	-	45	-	<b>45</b>	3,358
<b>Total operating income</b>		<u><b>392,656</b></u>	<u><b>275,209</b></u>	<u><b>11,724</b></u>	<u><b>679,589</b></u>	<u>862,443</u>
Income on sale of properties	2a	116,000	3,332,000	-	<b>3,448,000</b>	2,160,000
Profit/(Loss) on sale of properties	2a	101,000	-	-	<b>101,000</b>	-
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	2a	<u><b>609,656</b></u>	<u><b>3,607,209</b></u>	<u><b>11,724</b></u>	<u><b>4,228,589</b></u>	<u>3,022,443</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2b	563,110	1,279,237	42,515	<b>1,884,862</b>	2,636,558
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	2b	<u>563,110</u>	<u>1,279,237</u>	<u>42,515</u>	<u><b>1,884,862</b></u>	<u>2,636,558</u>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing		25,000	-	-	<b>25,000</b>	25,000
Purchase of Manses		-	670,000	-	<b>670,000</b>	2,400,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u><b>588,110</b></u>	<u><b>1,949,237</b></u>	<u><b>42,515</b></u>	<u><b>2,579,862</b></u>	<u>5,061,558</u>
<b>Net Expenditure on Operating Account</b>	2b	<b>(170,454)</b>	<b>(1,004,028)</b>	<b>(30,791)</b>	<b>(1,205,273)</b>	<b>(1,774,115)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<u><b>21,546</b></u>	<u><b>1,657,972</b></u>	<u><b>(30,791)</b></u>	<u><b>1,648,727</b></u>	<u><b>(2,039,115)</b></u>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	8	<b>999,998</b>	<b>(999,998)</b>	-	-	-
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>						
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	7	(966,156)	(639,427)	(27,416)	<b>(1,632,999)</b>	2,365,793
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u><b>55,388</b></u>	<u><b>18,547</b></u>	<u><b>(58,207)</b></u>	<u><b>15,728</b></u>	<u>326,678</u>
Total funds brought forward		10,383,460	13,067,678	933,211	24,384,349	24,057,671
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	8	<u><b>10,438,848</b></u>	<u><b>13,086,225</b></u>	<u><b>875,004</b></u>	<u><b>24,400,077</b></u>	<u>24,384,349</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet**

**At 31 December 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			31.12.20	31.12.19
		General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible assets	9	229,421	74,721	88,285	<b>392,427</b>	565,322
Investments	10	10,832,999	11,234,146	459,291	<b>22,526,436</b>	24,072,920
Social Investments	11	64,050	-	-	<b>64,050</b>	16,900
		<u>11,126,470</u>	<u>11,308,867</u>	<u>547,576</u>	<b><u>22,982,913</u></b>	<u>24,655,142</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	51,802	857	-	<b>52,659</b>	11,650
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>709,643</u>	<u>2,523,180</u>	<u>330,854</u>	<b><u>3,563,677</u></b>	<u>1,280,384</u>
		<u>761,445</u>	<u>2,524,037</u>	<u>330,854</u>	<b><u>3,616,336</u></b>	<u>1,292,034</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(1,449,067)</u>	<u>(746,679)</u>	<u>(3,426)</u>	<b><u>(2,199,172)</u></b>	<u>(1,562,827)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>(687,622)</u>	<u>1,777,358</u>	<u>327,428</u>	<b><u>1,417,164</u></b>	<u>(270,793)</u>
<b>/(LIABILITIES)</b>						
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		10,438,848	13,086,225	875,004	<b>24,400,077</b>	24,384,349
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	14	<u><b>10,438,848</b></u>	<u><b>13,086,225</b></u>	<u><b>875,004</b></u>	<u><b>24,400,077</b></u>	<u><b>24,384,349</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>						
General Purposes					<b>10,438,848</b>	10,383,460
Designated					<b>13,086,225</b>	13,067,678
Restricted					<b>875,004</b>	933,211
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	14				<u><b>24,400,077</b></u>	<u><b>24,384,349</b></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 December 2020**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 09-09-2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
J Denison - Trustee

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2020**

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided/used in operating activities	A	1,698,234	(1,468,571)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends and interest from investments		449,692	670,757
Purchase of fixed assets		(6,968)	(1,090)
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		276,000	250
Purchase of investments		(17,340,851)	(20,400,172)
Issue of Programme Related Loans		(50,000)	(17,000)
Repayment of Programme Related Loans		2,850	100
Proceeds from the sale of investments		17,254,336	20,449,991
<b>Net cash provided by/used in investing activities</b>		<b>585,059</b>	<b>702,836</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>2,283,293</b>	<b>(765,735)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	B	<b>1,280,384</b>	<b>2,046,119</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	B	<b>3,563,677</b>	<b>1,280,384</b>
<b>Notes to the statement of cash flows</b>			
<b>A Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>			
<b>Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>		<b>15,728</b>	<b>326,678</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
Depreciation charges		4,403	3,594
(Gains)/losses on investments		1,632,999	(2,365,793)
Dividends and interest from investments		(449,692)	(670,757)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets		(100,540)	9
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(41,009)	90,846
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		636,345	1,146,852
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>1,698,234</b>	<b>(1,468,571)</b>
<b>B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>3,563,677</b>	<b>1,280,384</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

**Funds Included**

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 Southern Synod :-

General Purposes Fund  
Manse Fund  
Synod Mission Fund  
Alfriston Mission Project  
Funds held for uniting churches  
Church Buildings Fund  
Retired Ministers Housing Fund  
Welfare Fund  
Milton Hall Fund  
Woolwich 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. Endowment funds are permanent endowments which are required to be retained, but the income from these funds can be used for the benefit of the charity, subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

Unrestricted income funds may be spent generally for furthering the Christian and charitable work of the United Reformed Church in the Southern Synod. The main fund in this category is the General Purposes Fund. Certain funds have been allocated for Manses, although the Synod retains authority to re-allocate such funds and so they are treated as Designated Funds within Unrestricted Income Funds. There are also three other smaller designated funds arising from the sale of redundant church buildings.

**General Purposes Funds**

The General Purposes Fund is the main fund of the charity and is an unrestricted fund. It is made up of both General Purposes and Church Aid, the initial fund set up after the URC came into force and General Purposes Fund coming from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union.

The Manse Fund is a Designated Fund which came into being in 1996 by approval of the Synod. The Synod Mission Fund and Funds held for uniting churches have arisen from the sale of a church building in 2012 following an uniting of two existing churches. The united church can apply to the latter fund for a project to develop and further their mission whereas the Synod Mission Fund is available to all churches within the Synod for similar projects. The Alfriston Mission Project is a fund arising from the sale of a church hall in Alfriston which has been designated to develop in the mission activities and community facilities of the former Alfriston URC building.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Restricted Funds**

The Church Building fund came from the apportionment scheme in respect of the London Congregational Union. (LCU) Its funds can only be used for the upkeep, repair, improvement extension, provision and erection of church buildings.

The Retired Ministers Housing funds both have a house for a retired minister. They operate in Kent and Sussex.

The Welfare fund came from the LCU. Its purpose is relieving, in cases of need, ministers, members of churches and retired ministers.

The Milton Hall fund can be used for general purposes but only within the inner London Boroughs South of the River Thames.

The Woolwich fund is for work in the London Borough of Greenwich.

**Contribution to Pension Funds**

The charity operates 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 Financial Reporting Standards, 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.

**Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of financial activities when receivable.

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The Synod is not registered for VAT so all irrecoverable VAT is charged with the related cost.

All costs are treated by the finance committee as relating to the unrestricted fund unless there is a specific requirement on the individual funds.

**Individual Church Property, including Pastoral Manses**

These assets are not shown in the financial statements as they are not the exclusive property of the Synod. Sale proceeds from redundant properties or from part thereof are treated as unrestricted income for general funds and not shown until received.

Non-pastoral manses, which are used for Synod related activities are included in the Balance Sheet at cost, subject to an impairment review and any deficits are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities on properties marketed for sale.

**Jointly Owned Property**

Property owned with The URC Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited is held under the terms of an agreement with the Society whereby the Charity receives no income from the property but contributes towards the cost of maintenance and repair of the property. The property is included in the Balance Sheet at cost.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Custodian Trusteeship**

Assets held by the charity as custodian trustee are not shown in the financial statements. The details of those funds are included in the Trustees' annual report.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, apart from property, at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:-

Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment - over four years  
Computer Equipment-over three years  
Motor Vehicles-over four years

No amounts under £100 are capitalised.

The trustees recognise that the cost of buildings used as functional assets have a finite life and, in the normal course of events, would be depreciated to their expected residual value. However, those properties that fall into this category are located in an area of the country where that part of the cost that is attributable to land, which does not depreciate, is significantly higher than in other parts of the country. Furthermore, the Charity has a policy of maintaining its properties to a high level, which extends the life of the assets beyond their normal expected lives. Taking these factors into account the trustees consider that any depreciation on the buildings would consequently be immaterial and depreciation is not therefore charged.

**Operating Leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

**Grants**

Grants payable to local churches, organisations and individuals are charged in the year of approval. The value of grants approved, but still to be paid is included in the balance sheet as a current liability.

**Investments**

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

**Support and Indirect Costs**

Support expenditure has been allocated directly to the relevant activity cost category.

Indirect costs which include premises and office costs have been allocated on the basis of each activity costs as a proportion of the total direct costs, shown in note 3.

**Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of the directors, there are no special disclosures required in respect of judgements and estimation uncertainty.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**a) Analysis of Total Income**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	<b>31.12.20 Total Funds £</b>	31.12.19 Total Funds £
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £			
<b>Income from generated funds</b>					
Rents Received	16,651	69,398	2,016	<b>88,065</b>	137,292
Investment income-listed investments	246,362	191,134	6,821	<b>444,317</b>	680,453
Interest	<u>1,147</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>2,096</u>	<u><b>5,375</b></u>	<u>9,696</u>
	<u>264,160</u>	<u>262,664</u>	<u>10,933</u>	<u><b>537,757</b></u>	<u>827,441</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Donations and Legacies					
Donations	160	12,500	635	<b>13,295</b>	16,828
Monies from closed churches	128,336			<b>128,336</b>	2,310
Quinquennial contribution received			156	<b>156</b>	12,506
	<u>128,496</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>791</u>	<u><b>141,787</b></u>	<u>31,644</u>
Other income					
Grant for mission work				-	2,000
Grants awarded no longer required		45		<b>45</b>	-
Insurance Claim				-	1,358
	<u>-</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>45</b></u>	<u>3,358</u>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<u><b>392,656</b></u>	<u><b>275,209</b></u>	<u><b>11,724</b></u>	<u><b>679,589</b></u>	<u>862,443</u>
Income on sale of properties					
-of closed churches	116,000			<b>116,000</b>	1,430,000
-of surplus manses		3,332,000		<b>3,332,000</b>	730,000
	<u>116,000</u>	<u>3,332,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>3,448,000</b></u>	<u>2,160,000</u>
Profit/(Loss) on sale of fixed asset:					
-other property	101,000			<b>101,000</b>	-
	<u>101,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>101,000</b></u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u><b>609,656</b></u>	<u><b>3,607,209</b></u>	<u><b>11,724</b></u>	<u><b>4,228,589</b></u>	<u>3,022,443</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.20 Total Funds £	31.12.19 Total Funds £
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £			
<b>Expenditure on Charitable Activities</b>					
<b>Ministry &amp; Mission:-</b>					
Mission Officer	52,499			52,499	54,138
Ecumenical Officer	620			620	2,056
Grants (note 4)	29,999	220,839	11,787	262,625	176,011
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	36,851		205	37,056	21,273
	<u>119,969</u>	<u>220,839</u>	<u>11,992</u>	<u>352,800</u>	<u>253,478</u>
<b>Training:-</b>					
Training of Ministers & Lay preachers (note 4)	2,135			2,135	14,878
Students (note 4)				-	571
Development Officer for education & learning	51,364			51,364	52,388
Children's & Youth Development Officer	50,023			50,023	50,562
Safeguarding Officer	21,394			21,394	1,552
Other training costs	2,399			2,399	4,534
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	57,908			57,908	11,440
	<u>185,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>185,223</u>	<u>135,925</u>
<b>Property:-</b>					
Church building grants (note 4)	20,000	779,163		799,163	1,265,734
Manse Repairs (note 4)		191,164		191,164	336,107
Manse Expenses		16,022		16,022	16,894
Quinquennial Costs		3,825	30,258	34,083	67,556
Expenses on Sale & Purchase of Property	18,160	56,691		74,851	143,775
Other property costs	13,000	7,400	265	20,665	144,290
Staff costs	87,725			87,725	67,645
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	63,173			63,173	154,440
	<u>202,058</u>	<u>1,054,265</u>	<u>30,523</u>	<u>1,286,846</u>	<u>2,196,441</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**2 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**

**b) Analysis of Total Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.20	31.12.19
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Governance:-</b>					
Synod Meetings	-			-	2,238
Provincial Committees	675			675	3,354
Honoraria Synod Clerk and Treasurer	1,000			1,000	1,000
Synod Clerk's expenses	70			70	(1,278)
Synod Treasurer's expenses	301			301	66
Legal Costs	24,029			24,029	22,838
Audit Fees	9,180			9,180	9,572
Investment management costs	3,057	4,133		7,190	9,110
Shared indirect costs (note 3)	17,548			17,548	3,813
	<u>55,860</u>	<u>4,133</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,993</u>	<u>50,713</u>
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<u><b>563,110</b></u>	<u><b>1,279,237</b></u>	<u><b>42,515</b></u>	<u><b>1,884,862</b></u>	<u><b>2,636,558</b></u>
<b>Net expenditure on operating account</b>	<u><b>(170,454)</b></u>	<u><b>(1,004,028)</b></u>	<u><b>(30,791)</b></u>	<u><b>(1,205,273)</b></u>	<u><b>(1,774,115)</b></u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**3 INDIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	31.12.20	31.12.19
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Premises Costs:-</b>					
Synod rent & Hire of Rooms	18,447			18,447	20,906
Redecoration Costs				-	158
Synod Electricity	605			605	1,212
Insurance	940			940	928
Cleaning	1,203			1,203	95
	<u>21,195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,195</u>	<u>23,299</u>
<b>Office Costs:-</b>					
Synod Employment Costs	119,681			119,681	122,481
Car & Travel Expenses	3,333			3,333	3,597
Miscellaneous	1,015			1,015	5,611
Depreciation	4,198		205	4,403	3,594
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	460			460	9
Telephone	4,544			4,544	4,179
Stationery and Publications	1,750			1,750	2,323
Postage	550			550	1,230
Photocopier-Lease and Meter	726			726	1,009
Equipment and Consumable Costs	13,857			13,857	16,808
IT and Website	4,010			4,010	3,825
Advertising				-	2,487
Catering	161			161	515
	<u>154,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>154,490</u>	<u>167,668</u>
Total Indirect Costs	<u>175,480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>175,685</u>	<u>190,967</u>
	Total £	Ministry & Mission £	Training £	Property £	Governance £
Total Indirect Costs	175,480	36,851	57,908	63,173	17,548
% of Direct Costs	100%	21%	33%	36%	10%

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**4 GRANTS**

The following grants have been charged in furtherance of the charitable objects during the year:-

	Institutions		Individuals	
	Number	Amount £	Number	Amount £
Ministry and Mission:				
Other mission projects	3	11,448		
Ecumenical situations	4	5,980		
Local Church Missions	17	193,485		
Youth & Children's Work	6	50,600		
Welfare Grants			3	1,112
	<b>30</b>	<b>261,513</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,112</b>
Training:				
Ministers & lay preachers	-	-	11	2,135
Students	-	-	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2,135</b>
Property:				
Local Churches	38	799,163	-	-
Manses	25	191,164	-	-
	<b>63</b>	<b>990,327</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Total Grants Charged	<b>93</b>	<b>1,251,840</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3,247</b>

**5 EMPLOYMENT EMOLUMENTS**

	31.12.20 £	31.12.19 £
Wages & salaries	268,882	252,549
Employers national insurance	25,961	24,632
Pension costs	66,154	65,585
	<b>360,997</b>	<b>342,766</b>

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

Ministry & Mission	1	1
Training	2	2
Property	2	2
Administration	3	3
	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

No employee received £60,000 per annum or more.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The following honorarium, which is included in Trustees Expenses, was paid to a trustee during the year, in accordance with the governing document and approved by the Charity Commission:-

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Mr J Denison (Synod Treasurer)	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

During the year one trustee (2019: five) were reimbursed out of pocket expenses mainly for telephone costs and travelling totalling £361 (2019: £1,118). Two trustees (2019: three) were also paid a total of £995 (2019: £2,972) relating to their positions as stipendiary ministers, comprising training grants and reimbursement of ministerial expenses.

**7 GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS**

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Realised gains/(losses) on investments sold	<b>(1,714,272)</b>	4,690,680
Less: Gains/(losses) previously recognised in Synod accounts	<b>(862,052)</b>	(3,213,609)
Net gains/(losses) in year on investments sold	<b>(2,576,324)</b>	1,477,071
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments for the year	<b>943,325</b>	888,722
Net gains/(losses) on Investments for the Year	<b>(1,632,999)</b>	<b>2,365,793</b>

**8 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

Fund:-		Balance 01.01.20	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between Funds	Gains/(losses) in Investments	Balance 31.12.20
		£	£	£		£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	9,937,465	609,656	(588,110)	999,998	(956,399)	<b>10,002,610</b>
	Endowment	445,995				(9,757)	<b>436,238</b>
Manse	Designated	8,741,586	3,607,209	(949,235)		(639,427)	<b>10,760,133</b>
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	170,538					<b>170,538</b>
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	4,024,444		(1,000,002)	(999,998)		<b>2,024,444</b>
Fund held for Uniting	Designated	131,110					<b>131,110</b>
Church Building	Restricted	29,987	365	(30,258)			<b>94</b>
	Endowment	10,614				658	<b>11,272</b>
Welfare	Restricted	33,694	1,120	(1,112)		(2,176)	<b>31,526</b>
	Endowment	2,843				176	<b>3,019</b>
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	119,107	3,269	(265)		136	<b>122,247</b>
	Endowment	177,000					<b>177,000</b>
Milton Hall	Restricted	113,106	4,272	(10,880)		(4,956)	<b>101,542</b>
	Endowment	249,285				(6,597)	<b>242,688</b>
Woolwich	Restricted	197,575	2,698			(14,657)	<b>185,616</b>
		<u>24,384,349</u>	<u>4,228,589</u>	<u>(2,579,862)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,632,999)</u>	<b><u>24,400,077</u></b>

In 2020 £2,000,000 was committed by the Trust for grants to local churches in for mission and building projects. During 2020, £1,000,002 was awarded and the unused allocation £999,998 was transferred back to general reserves.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2020	562,496	21,609	584,105
Additions in year	-	6,968	6,968
Disposals in year	(175,000)	(3,371)	(178,371)
At 31 December 2020	<u>387,496</u>	<u>25,206</u>	<u>412,702</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2020	-	18,783	18,783
Charge for period	-	4,403	4,403
Eliminated for disposals	-	(2,911)	(2,911)
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>20,275</u>	<u>20,275</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2020	<u>387,496</u>	<u>4,931</u>	<u>392,427</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>562,496</u>	<u>2,826</u>	<u>565,322</u>

**10 FIXED ASSET LISTED INVESTMENTS**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS		TOTALS £
	Fixed Interest Securities £	UK Equities Fund £	Fixed Interest Securities £	UK Equities Fund £	
As at 1 January 2020	3,401,642	18,496,781	135,151	351,555	22,385,129
Purchases	743,470	17,515,499		297,435	18,556,404
Sales	(845,861)	(18,633,244)		(351,555)	(19,830,660)
Net gains/(losses) fair value	151,044	765,576	8,383	18,322	943,325
	<u>3,450,295</u>	<u>18,144,612</u>	<u>143,534</u>	<u>315,757</u>	<u>22,054,198</u>
Cash held for Investment	472,238				472,238
Fair Value at 31 December 2020	<u>3,922,533</u>	<u>18,144,612</u>	<u>143,534</u>	<u>315,757</u>	<u>22,526,436</u>
Cost at 31 December 2020	<u>3,673,970</u>	<u>17,735,772</u>	<u>130,080</u>	<u>297,435</u>	<u>21,837,257</u>

All investment funds are held in the UK and are held in the Affirmative Common Investment Funds.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**11 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS**

	<b>31.12.20</b>	31.12.19
	£	£
Loans to Local Churches	173,302	126,152
Loan to World Church Partner	200,000	200,000
Less Provision made for non-recoverability	-	(309,252)
Less Amounts Written Off	(309,252)	-
	<u>64,050</u>	<u>16,900</u>

Loans made to local churches and ministers are normally repayable between three and five years and interest is charged at 5% per annum on the outstanding balance.

**12 DEBTORS**

	<b>31.12.20</b>	31.12.19
	£	£
Sundry debtors	<u>52,659</u>	<u>11,650</u>

**13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.20</b>	31.12.19
	£	£
Other creditors	124,540	166,208
Grants not drawn	<u>2,074,632</u>	<u>1,396,619</u>
	<u>2,199,172</u>	<u>1,562,827</u>

**14 DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31 December 2020**

Fund:-		Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Social Investments	Debtors/ Creditors	Cash & Deposits	TOTALS
		£	£	£	£	£	£
General Purposes	Unrestricted	229,421	10,396,761	64,050	(1,397,265)	709,643	10,002,610
	Endowment	-	436,238				436,238
Manse	Designated	74,721	8,524,799		(36,475)	2,197,088	10,760,133
Alfriston Mission Project	Designated	-				170,538	170,538
Synod Mission Fund	Designated	-	2,709,347		(709,347)	24,444	2,024,444
Fund held for Uniting Churches	Designated	-				131,110	131,110
Church Building	Restricted	-			(2,472)	2,566	94
	Endowment	-	11,272				11,272
Welfare	Restricted	-	27,008		(35)	4,553	31,526
	Endowment	-	3,019				3,019
Retired Ministers' Housing	Restricted	-	2,322			119,925	122,247
	Endowment	88,000				89,000	177,000
Milton Hall	Restricted	285	43,700		(919)	58,476	101,542
	Endowment	-	242,688				242,688
Woolwich	Restricted	-	129,282			56,334	185,616
		<u>392,427</u>	<u>22,526,436</u>	<u>64,050</u>	<u>(2,146,513)</u>	<u>3,563,677</u>	<u>24,400,077</u>

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

## **15 PENSION SCHEME**

The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd contributes to a lay staff pension scheme known as the "Final Salary" scheme, which is administered by TPT Retirement Solutions (formerly The Pensions Trust). The United Reformed Church is the principal employer in the scheme and eleven synods and Northern College are participating employers. There is no agreement to charge the net defined benefit cost to participating employers, who are therefore unable to identify their share of the underlying assets and liabilities— each employer pays a common contribution rate.

During 2020 The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd contributed 28.2% (2019:28.2%) of basic salary in respect of members of the Final Salary scheme. In 2020 this amounted to £66,154 (2019 : £65,585). Members contributed at the rate of 7.5% of pensionable salary throughout the accounting period.

Triennial actuarial valuations of the Final Salary scheme are performed by a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal actuarial review of the scheme was at 30 September 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

## **16 COMMITMENTS**

### **Property**

The office forms part of a property registered in the name of the United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited and held on statutory trusts in favour of East Croydon United Reformed Church. Under an informal agreement, the Trust company pays rent of £18,000 to the local church for the use of the Synod offices.

### **Contributions to the URC Ministers' Pension Scheme**

The pension scheme for ministers, run nationally as a central function of the United Reformed Church, has been in deficit for some years despite several attempts to resolve the underfunding based on the valuation approach required of the scheme actuaries. After the most recent valuation, all Synods were requested to confirm an ongoing willingness to help reduce the underfunding. At the balance sheet date, no firm commitments had been made and therefore no provision is included in the financial statements.

### **Church Grant Funding**

The Synod Trust has agreed a sum of up to £355,000 as possible further funding of a church rebuilding project in Eastbourne. This is 50% of the maximum possible shortfall on the project with the remaining 50% being guaranteed by the partner denomination. The Trustees are hopeful that alternative funding will be found and this guarantee will not be required so no provision has been made in the financial statements.

## **17 CONTINGENT ASSETS**

At the year end, the property of four churches, held on Statutory Trusts in accordance with the United Reformed Church Acts of 1972, 1981 and 2000 by the company, were held following the churches closure. The proceeds will revert to Synod on the sale in accordance with the Statutory Trusts on which the property are held. Professional advice is being sought prior to disposal.

## **18 SIGNIFICANT RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

During the early months of 2020 the World Health Organisation declared Covid-19 a pandemic. The UK Government's response to this was to apply lockdowns across the country and prioritise the development of vaccines. This impacted many businesses, institutions, social services, families and individuals, to list but a few. Our Synod was no exception. Our office was closed and, in common with other organisations, staff were required to work from home. Our regular suppliers and advisors were similarly affected.

During the year the Trustees made the decision to change the focus of our investment strategy from ethical investments to non-fossil fuel ethical investments. This change was more in keeping with the teachings of the United Reformed Church and the financial effect of this change was considered secondary. Inevitably, with the impact of the pandemic on investment values, the disposal of fossil fuel investments resulted in losses. However, purchases of new investments would have also benefitted from the depressed investment market.

The balance sheet of the Synod continues to be robust and the pandemic and change in investment strategy will not, in the opinion of the Trustees, materially affect the risks and uncertainties that have been identified by the Trustees. For these reasons the Trustees consider that the Synod will continue as a going concern and the financial statements have been prepared on that basis.

**The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**19 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY FUND**

The key components from the prior year figures are analysed below by fund:-

	2019		Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
	Unrestricted Funds			
	General Purposes Funds £	Designated Funds £		
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS:</b>				
<b>Income from Investments</b>	426,038	384,644	16,759	<b>827,441</b>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Donations and Legacies	15,050	3,378	13,216	<b>31,644</b>
Other Income	2,000	1,358	-	<b>3,358</b>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>443,088</b>	<b>389,380</b>	<b>29,975</b>	<b>862,443</b>
Income on sale of properties	1,430,000	730,000	-	<b>2,160,000</b>
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	<b>1,873,088</b>	<b>1,119,380</b>	<b>29,975</b>	<b>3,022,443</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2,159,486	395,562	81,510	<b>2,636,558</b>
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>2,159,486</b>	<b>395,562</b>	<b>81,510</b>	<b>2,636,558</b>
Payment to Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	25,000	-	-	<b>25,000</b>
Purchase of Manses	-	2,400,000	-	<b>2,400,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure Operating Account</b>	<b>2,184,486</b>	<b>2,795,562</b>	<b>81,510</b>	<b>5,061,558</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>(311,398)</b>	<b>(1,676,182)</b>	<b>(51,535)</b>	<b>(2,039,115)</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	<b>(4,000,000)</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>		
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>				
Net (Losses)/Gains on Investments	<b>1,515,041</b>	<b>798,757</b>	<b>51,995</b>	<b>2,365,793</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(2,796,357)</b>	<b>3,122,575</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>326,678</b>
Total funds brought forward	13,179,817	9,945,103	932,751	<b>24,057,671</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>10,383,460</b>	<b>13,067,678</b>	<b>933,211</b>	<b>24,384,349</b>