

United Reformed Church Synod Of Scotland

Scotland · Charity number SC011907

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	Statutory corporation (Royal Charter etc)
Registered	1902-01-01
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	3/2 Atlantic Chambers 45 Hope Street Glasgow G2 6AE
Website	www.urcscotland.org.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It makes grants, donations, loans, gifts or pensions to individuals', 'It makes grants, donations or gifts to organisations', 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of religion'

What the charity does: The principal objects of the Synod, as a gathering of local congregations are, the promotion of worship, fellowship, communication, mutual inspiration and good ecumenical relationships in Scotland, support of Christ's mission at home and abroad, encouragement and advising of local churches and united action in proclaiming the Gospel.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community', 'Other charities or voluntary bodies'

Objectives: The advancement of religion.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Glasgow City
- **Geographical spread:** Operations cover all or most of Scotland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£809,115	£513,052	-	6
2023-12-31	£686,581	£462,553	-	5
2022-12-31	£949,956	£295,325	-	5
2021-12-31	£389,452	£224,732	-	5
2020-12-31	£341,894	£266,879	-	5

Linked charities

- Augustine United Church (SC000385)
- Montrose Congregational Church (SC000453)
- Cumbernauld United Reformed Church (SC001028)
- Dumbarton United Reformed Church (SC002617)
- Drumchapel Essenside United Reformed Church (SC003193)
- Newburgh United Reformed Church (SC003611)
- United Reformed Church Annan (SC004037)
- Thurso United Reformed Church (SC004861)
- Dunfermline United Reformed Church (SC004868)
- Park United Reformed Church (SC005717)
- Nairn United Reformed Church (SC009963)
- Duke St United Reformed Church (SC011118)
- Barrhead United Reformed Church (SC011628)
- Peedie Kirk United Reformed Church - Kirkwall (SC012028)
- Helensburgh United Reformed Church (SC014017)
- Saughtonhall United Reformed Church (SC014175)
- Bathgate E U United Reformed Church (SC014304)
- Hamilton United Reformed Church (SC017428)
- Priesthill United Reformed Church (SC025351)
- Morison Memorial United Reformed Church (SC031314)
- United Reformed Church in Aberdeen (SC051085)

United Reformed Church Synod Of Scotland

Scotland - Charity number SC011907

Accounts



National Synod of Scotland

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2024



CHARITY NUMBER: SC011907

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees of the United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland (Synod) submit their Report for the year ending 31 December 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Synod is summed up in its Aspirations. These are certainly not fixed in stone, but form a moving vision statement that says a great deal about who we are and aspire to be.

OUR ASPIRATIONS

RADICAL

We believe that God's *radical love* is for everyone regardless of age, gender, sexuality, physical and mental ability. Young people are represented with full voting rights on our councils.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

We are an active Christian community which responds to the *unconditional love* of God through celebrating the Christian Story in ways that bring meaning and hope to life.

INCLUSIVE

Our *inclusive* worship reflects a broad variety of sources and styles. Local churches offer weekly worship, regular celebrations of Holy Communion and mark the stages of life in Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

OTHER FAITHS AND NONE

We place great value on our common humanity and are committed to all who work with us, from *other faith or none*. We support the work of Interfaith Scotland and value the things we share.

DEVELOPMENT

The Scottish College (Congregational & United Reformed) offer a dynamic programme for spiritual and faith *development* for anyone wishing to explore Christianity or particular callings in the life of the church. URC Youth and URC Children are growing youth and children's organisations within the United Reformed Church offering opportunities for learning and development amongst youth and children.

CREATION

We believe we are called to live in balance with the whole of *creation* and our commitment to this is a vital part of our mission planning, often defined for us in the small things we can do in terms of re-cycling, green travel, planting trees, energy efficiency and striving towards net zero.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

Our commitment to *peace and justice* is strong and demonstrated through the Commitment for Life programme and Christian Aid. We are a Fair Trade Church and support the work of the Scottish Parliamentary Office.

JOURNEY

From its formation in 1972, the United reformed Church has been committed to *journey* to ecumenism and is a member of the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies. The Synod of Scotland works with partners through the Scottish Church Leaders Forum. We maintain links with the world church by engaging with global partners such as the Council for World Mission.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objects of the Synod, as a gathering of local congregations are, the promotion of worship, fellowship, communication, mutual inspiration and good ecumenical relationships in Scotland, support of Christ's mission at home and abroad, encouragement and advising of local churches and united action in proclaiming the Gospel.

The major activities undertaken by the Synod relate to the support and guidance provided to local churches to enable them to better achieve Christ's mission both in relation to their congregations and the wider community which they serve, and to represent the collective of congregations in both the ecumenical and civic life of Scotland and beyond.

During the year, the principal objectives of the Synod were:

1. To continue resourcing and equipping the local church:
met through provision of support through staff time, educational opportunities and experiences of growth in the wider church.
2. To strengthen ecumenical links:
met through the work of those responsible for ecumenical work, including ensuring support for ecumenical partnerships and engagement with national ecumenical partners.
3. Pursuing a collective approach to two challenging areas of church life:
finance and a reduced number of stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacraments.
4. To monitor governance structures within the Synod Structures.
5. To continue the development of team and cluster working, in part responding to ministerial deployment.
6. To continue work to develop a new Synod Team and new ways of working.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2024 these objectives have been pursued in the following ways:

Resourcing and equipping the local church

The Synod continues to offer support and advice to church secretaries, treasurers and safeguarding co-ordinators in their work. Ministers are mandatorily required to engage in pastoral supervision as a means of reflective practice. The Synod continues to support particular congregations with the challenges of buildings which are not suited to the present-day life of the church. Dunfermline URC sold their building and during 2024, purchased a new venue with assistance from the Synod by way of a loan. Contributions towards the running of Synod from local congregations were again waived in 2024. However, Churches were encouraged and helped towards meeting energy costs by the continuing availability of grants from the Energy Crisis Fund. Congregations that benefitted from this were:

Peedie Kirk, Kirkwall, Augustine United, Edinburgh, Rutherglen, Nairn, Newburgh, Priesthill, Annan, Barrhead, Stewarton, Port Glasgow, Saughtonhall, Bathgate, Duke Street and Drumchapel.

Strengthening Ecumenical Links

The Synod continues to be represented ecumenically through the Scottish Churches Leaders' Forum. This is where senior leaders from each denomination collectively engage with each other on a regular basis. Their work is supported by the Ecumenical Officers' Forum. We continue to work particularly with the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Scottish District of the Methodist Church through the Episcopal, Methodist and URC (EMU) Partnership. Our Synod Moderator currently serves as a trustee of Action of

Churches Together in Scotland. The World Church continues to feature on the Synod's agenda as it explores new ways of such engagement.

Through the year the Synod has again engaged with the communities of other faiths through its participation in Interfaith Scotland; and in civic matters through engagement with the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO) and the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). The Synod Mission Committee helps to keep political and social matters, not least that of the environment, on the agenda.

Developing our Collective Identity

The Synod continues to encourage local congregations through their participation in the wider United Reformed Church and the Ministry and Mission Fund of the denomination. The former is one source of learning and developmental resources for congregations and the latter is the system used in the United Reformed Church to provide stipends for ministers serving across the denomination.

The Northerly Synod's grouping continues and is where we can offer mutual support to the ministry and mission of each of the 5 Northerly Synods.

A Transition Minister, part time Ecumenical Officer, part time Children's and Intergenerational Ministry Development Officer and part time Training Officer comprise the Field Team, working together alongside the Synod Moderator.

A redesigned website during 2023 along with changes to the E News were implemented along with continuing to reach out via social media. Some of the congregations continue with live streaming of Sunday Worship first started during the pandemic.

Improving governance realised

During the year, work continued on our Synod structures and governance. 2024 saw the various committees and the Nominees Ltd settle to new remits and new appointments.

Safeguarding

The Synod continued to buy into a Service Level Agreement with the Church of Scotland who provide training, advice and support with safeguarding work and risk assessments of activities. Work progressed throughout the year to create the part time role of Synod Safeguarding Administrator.

FUTURE PLANS

The Synod Pastoral Committee has agreed to undertake a review of the policy of clustering congregations as a normal means of co-operation, and continues to seek possible ways of ecumenical collaboration.

The part time Safeguarding Administrator began working with the Synod in April 2025. Work is underway to appoint a new Treasurer and Clerk as both post holders have intimated their retirement at the end of 2025.

We continue seeking places where ministry and mission might be developed in different ways as we look to use our resources in ways that benefit the mission of the United Reformed Church in Scotland. There is a need to offer support with the effective use of technology in congregations so that they can develop streaming of worship and hybrid attendance at meetings.

The Synod Moderator is undertaking a programme of visits to local church trustee bodies to remind local trustees of their responsibilities and advise on new procedures around criminal record checks and safeguarding training in light of changes in Scottish legislation and denominational changes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year the various funds of Synod had net income of £296,063 (2023 £224,028) as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 12. The significant reasons for this increase in net income are as follows:

- The Synod receives substantial funds each year from resource sharing arrangements with the other 12 Synods of The United Reformed Church. These funds, which amounted to £360,000 (2023: £260,000) in the year are a vital part of the Synod's income. Income from this source in 2025 will be £400,000. This income is being maintained at a level consistent with the requirements of Synod and the ability of the process to sustainably meet payments to our Synod and other receiving Synods.
- During the year, the Synod received the transfer value of the church at Greenock West which has a market value of £127,000. (In the prior year, the Synod received the balance of funds and transfer value of the church at Old Coach Road, East Kilbride totalling £116,671).
- During the prior year, there was the receipt of £210,000 from URC Trust to be distributed by the Synod to provide grant assistance to churches towards their heating costs and the cost of energy efficiency projects. No additional funding was received in 2024. In the prior year, grants of £61,372 were paid out from this restricted fund and a further £85,912 in 2024, leaving a restricted fund balance at 31 December 2024 of £62,716.
- Expenditure increased by £56,520 to £513,052. This increase relates mainly to an increase in staff costs of £28,407 due to an additional staff member and a pay increase and also, an increase in legal and professional fees of £16,879 due mainly to the fees incurred relating to the loan agreement with Dunfermline United Reformed Church as detailed below.
- There was a gain on the sale of a manse and a church building during the year of £202,656 (2023: £nil).
- There was an unrealised gain on the revaluation of investments this year of £14,825 (2023: net realised and unrealised loss on investments of £6,021).

During the year, the Synod purchased a new manse at Hawthorn Way, Cambuslang costing £410,000.

In addition, the Synod provided a loan of £180,000 to Dunfermline United Reformed Church to facilitate its acquisition of a property. This loan has monthly repayments to be made over a 15 year period ending February 2040; has interest charged at the Bank of England base rate; and is secured by a standard security over the acquired property.

Movements in funds are shown in note 16 on page 24.

Investment Policy

The objectives the Synod sets for its investments are to maintain the value of the capital for future use and to provide current income to resource the work of the Synod. Income derived from investments increased during the year to £14,704 (2023: £12,508) due to the dividend policies of companies following the war in Ukraine. All income from investments held is credited to the Administration & General Activities Fund, and gains and losses also accrue to that fund. The Synod follows the ethical criteria laid down in the investment policy approved by the General Assembly of the URC.

Risk Management

Officers of the Synod reviewed the risk register during 2024.

The principal risks identified at present, and steps being taken to mitigate them, are as follows:

- Risk: Sustainability of Synod life impacted by an ageing and diminishing membership
Mitigation: Financially working with other synods through the Inter Synod Resource Sharing (ISRS) agreement. The Synod budget is presented annually at the Synod meeting
- Risk: Writing blogs and contributions to the Synod Facebook page or by individual ministers and elders on their own social media which may be inappropriate and damage the Synod standing
Mitigation: Promoting the URC Social Media Guidelines and developing appropriate procedures in the posting of online communications
- Risk: Adequacy of staffing levels
Mitigation: This is kept under close review

Personnel

A Property Co-ordinator (Manses) was employed in January 2024. The prime role is to oversee the portfolio of manses owned by the Synod and maintained locally.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

Total funds at the balance sheet date were £4,881,923 (2023: £4,585,860), of which £4,683,069 (2023: £4,184,213) are held in unrestricted funds for the purposes set out in Note 3, with the balance of £198,854 (2023: £401,647) relating to restricted funds. £3,116,909 (2023: £2,806,154) is held as heritable property or other tangible fixed assets, with the balance of unrestricted funds of £1,566,160 (2023: £1,378,059) representing the free funds of the charity. Details of the funds held are shown in note 16 on page 24. All designated free funds are held to provide for the long-term needs of the Synod, and there is no certainty about the timing of future expenditure as needs relating to each of the specific designated purposes are not predictable. The general fund has a balance of £1,454,253 (2023: £985,479) at the balance sheet date. Ongoing general expenditure is financed out of income from the general fund in each financial period, with any operating deficits being met from assets held within the Church Building Fund by way of annual transfer. The Synod aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves, including designated funds, to meet ongoing running costs and anticipated future expenditure on manses or other new church building projects. Expectations of these needs are revised by the trustees on an annual basis and reserves are sufficient to meet 12 months' anticipated expenditure.

As noted above, the Synod receives substantial funds each year from resource sharing arrangements with the other 12 Synods of The United Reformed Church. Income from this source for 2025 will be £400,000. This income is being maintained at a level consistent with the requirements of the Synod and the ability of the process to sustainably meet payments to our Synod and other receiving Synods. Consequently, the trustees consider that the charity is a going concern.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Synod is constituted under the terms of the United Reformed Church Act 2000

The Committee Structure of the Synod is shown in the diagram within this report.

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Scottish Charity Number SCO11907

Principal Office 3/2 Atlantic Chambers, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6AE

Website www.urcscotland.org.uk

Office Bearers:

Moderator

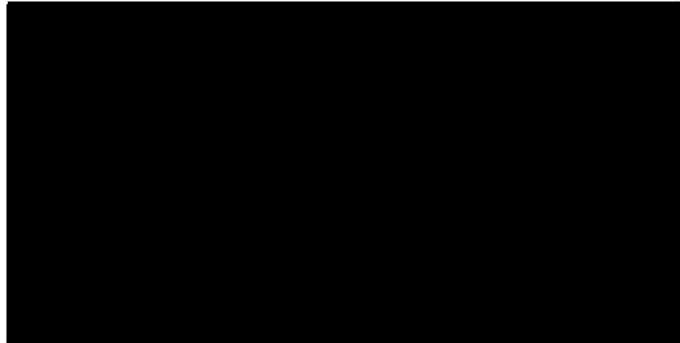
Synod Clerk and Company Secretary

Synod Treasurer/Accountant

Convenor of Pastoral Committee

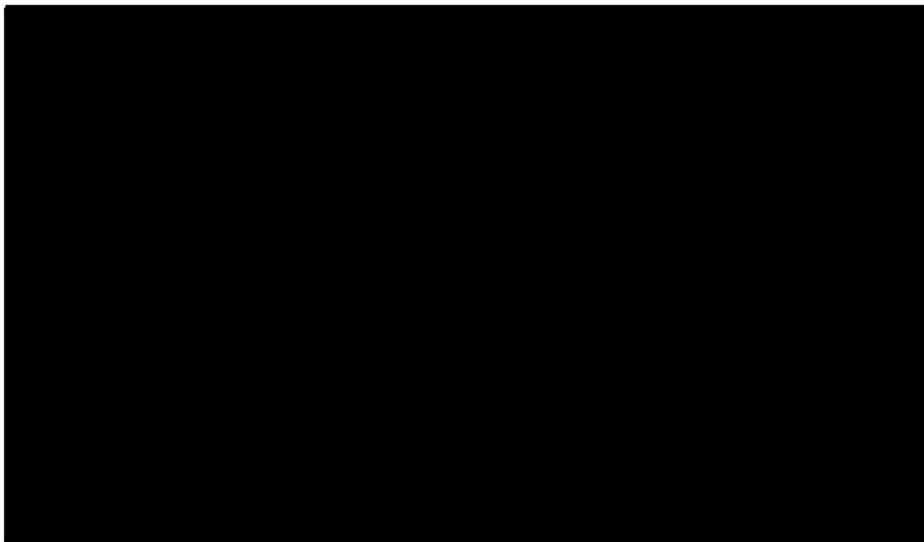
Convenor of Resources Committee

Convenor of the Executive



Trustees:

The full list of trustees as at the end of 2024:



Induction and training of new trustees

There are no specific induction and training procedures for new trustees. All trustees however, have a knowledge of the Synod's activities. In addition, each new trustee is referred to the latest OSCR booklets on Trusteeship.

During the year, the following payments were made to trustees:

- There were no trustees remuneration or other benefits for the year ending 31 December 2024 nor the year ended 31 December 2023, other than as disclosed in note 9 to the financial statements.
- Travel, subsistence and other expenses of £1,847 were paid to 4 trustees (2023: £2,344 to 3 trustees) during the year.

Advisors 2024

Legal:



Gillespie Macandrew,
5 Atholl Crescent,
Edinburgh, EH3 8EJ

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Charing Cross West Branch
9 Clifton Place
Glasgow, G3 7JU

Auditors:

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Caledonia House
89 Seaward Street
Glasgow, G41 1HJ

Following a corporate merger, our previous auditors, Martin Aitken & Co Ltd, became Armstrong Watson Audit Limited.

Investments:

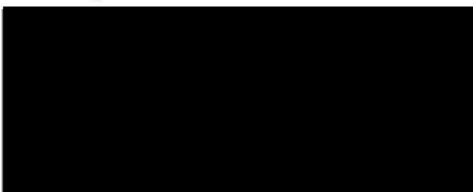
CCLA
PO Box 12892
Dunmow
Essex, CM6 9DL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

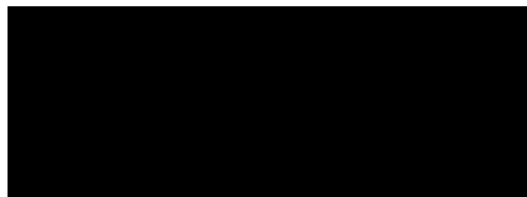
Under the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, the Synod's trustees are responsible for the preparation of and approval of financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Synod and of its financial activities. In exercising such responsibility, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Synod will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for the keeping of proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the finance position of the Synod and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the above regulations. The trustees also have a duty to safeguard the assets of the Synod and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Moderator



Chair of Trustees

Date: 29 June 2025

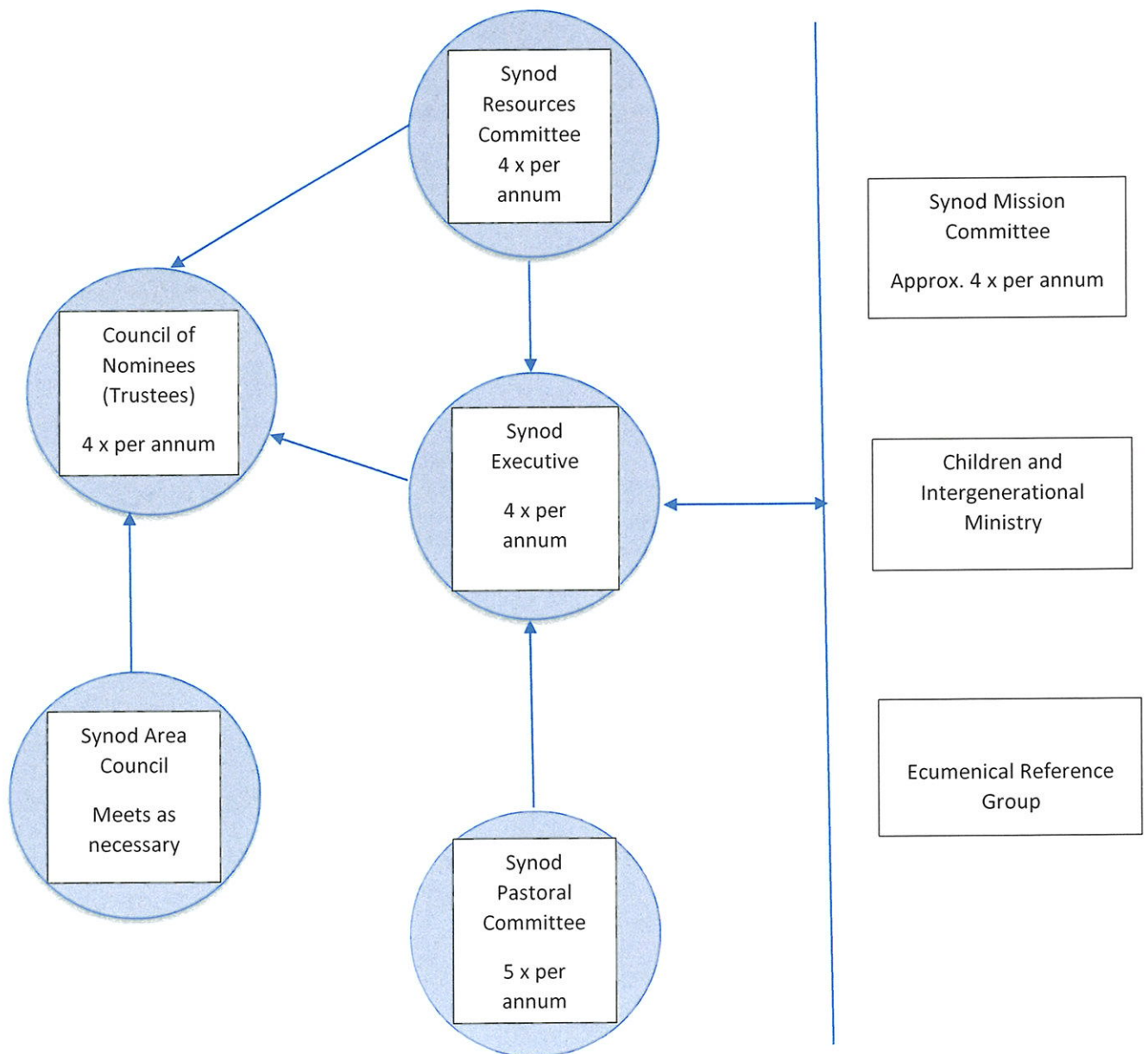
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Synod is constituted under the terms of the United Reformed Church Act 2000
The Committee Structure of the Synod is shown in the diagram below.

Organisational Chart

Synod Moderator: Ex Officio on all committees including: Council of Nominees (Trustees)

Synod Clerk: Ex Officio on Resources Committee and Synod Pastoral Committee; is Company Secretary to the Council of Nominees (Trustees); and Clerk to the Synod Area Council and Synod Executive Committee.



Report of the Independent Auditors to the trustees of United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows 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, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Synod's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The 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 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.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the trustees of United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44 (1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. In addition, identified laws and regulations were communicated within the Audit Team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Synod through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the Synod;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Synod's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the trustees of United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
(continued)**

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the Synod's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Caledonia House

89 Seaward Street

Glasgow

G41 1HJ

Date:

12/8/2025

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations	5	536,338	-	536,338	644,143
Other trading activities	6	18,900	-	18,900	18,102
Investments	7	36,396	-	36,396	24,336
Total income		<u>591,634</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>591,634</u>	<u>686,581</u>
Expenditure on:	8				
Raising funds: investment manager's fees		-	-	-	4,008
Charitable activities: Synod activities		410,086	102,966	513,052	452,524
Total expenditure		<u>410,086</u>	<u>102,966</u>	<u>513,052</u>	<u>456,532</u>
Realised gains on disposal of assets		202,656	-	202,656	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments		14,825	-	14,825	(6,021)
Total other recognised gains/(losses)		<u>217,481</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,481</u>	<u>(6,021)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		399,029	(102,966)	296,063	224,028
Transfers between funds		<u>99,827</u>	<u>(99,827)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		498,856	(202,793)	296,063	224,028
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	16	4,184,213	401,647	4,585,860	4,361,832
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>4,683,069</u>	<u>198,854</u>	<u>4,881,923</u>	<u>4,585,860</u>

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All amounts included above relate to continuing activities.

Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 14 on page 23.

The notes on pages 16 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024		2023
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	10	3,116,909		2,806,154
Investments	11	<u>415,083</u>		<u>400,258</u>
			3,531,992	3,206,412
Current Assets				
Debtors	12	190,288		17,465
Cash held at bank		1,195,689		1,568,429
Cash		<u>300</u>		<u>300</u>
		1,386,277		1,586,194
Current Liabilities				
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>36,346</u>		<u>206,746</u>
Net Current Liabilities			1,349,931	1,379,448
Total Net Assets			<u>4,881,923</u>	<u>4,585,860</u>
Represented by:				
General Fund	16		1,454,253	985,479
Designated Funds	16		<u>3,228,816</u>	<u>3,198,734</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds			4,683,069	4,184,213
Restricted Funds	16		<u>198,854</u>	<u>401,647</u>
			<u>4,881,923</u>	<u>4,585,860</u>

Approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on **29 JUNE** 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



The Revd. L. Sanderson
Moderator



Mr R Christie
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 16 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

**United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Cash Flow Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(239,342)</u>	<u>341,516</u>
Net cash (used by)/provided by operating activities		<u>(239,342)</u>	<u>341,516</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(411,590)	(599,325)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(531,758)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		419,656	-
Sale of fixed asset investments		-	536,155
Interest received		21,692	11,828
Dividends received		<u>14,704</u>	<u>12,508</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>44,462</u>	<u>(570,592)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loans advanced to church		(180,000)	-
Loan repayments received		<u>2,140</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash from financing activities		<u>(177,860)</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(372,740)	(229,076)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>1,568,729</u>	<u>1,797,805</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,195,989</u>	<u>1,568,729</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

1. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from Operating Activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	296,063	224,028
Adjustments for:		
Property donations	(127,000)	(115,000)
Depreciation charges	10,835	11,216
(Gains)/losses on investments	(14,825)	6,021
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(202,656)	-
Interest received	(21,692)	(11,828)
Dividends received	(14,704)	(12,508)
Decrease in debtors	5,037	416,358
Decrease in creditors	<u>(170,400)</u>	<u>(176,771)</u>
Net cash (used by)/provided by operations	<u>(239,342)</u>	<u>341,516</u>

2. Analysis of Changes in Net Funds

	At 1/1/24 £	Cash flow £	At 31/12/24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,568,729</u>	<u>(372,740)</u>	<u>1,195,989</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Presentation and scope of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value and fixed assets which are included at cost less accumulated depreciation, and in accordance with the requirements of:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102))
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)
- the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and
- the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The trustees have reviewed the financial position of the Synod and for the reasons given in the Trustees' Annual Report, they consider that it is appropriate to continue to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£).

2 Accounting policies

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. Donations and other income received with no restriction on their use are applied by the trustees to the appropriate designated fund. Properties donated to the Synod are included in income upon transfer of title at market value.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when the amount is receivable and can be measured reliably by the charity. This is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The charity is not registered for VAT, so expenditure includes VAT where applicable. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

The trustees consider that there is only one charitable activity. Therefore support costs are not separately identified as they relate wholly to that activity.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the charity. Grants are paid to applicants or recipients on the basis of criteria set out for the relevant designated or restricted fund, and decisions are made either by the Synod Officers or Synod Committees who have responsibility for certain types of grant. Decisions are ratified by the Resources Committee.

Taxation

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

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing in excess of £150 are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, which is provided to write off the cost of the assets, less their estimated residual value, evenly over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Land & heritable properties	20 to 25 years
Furniture & fittings	10 years
Equipment	4 years

The cost of land has not been separately identified from that of heritable property and depreciation is therefore provided on land. Although FRS102 suggests that land is not normally depreciated, the trustees are satisfied that the fair value of land is not materially different to its carrying value included in heritable property.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

2 Accounting policies (cont.)

Fixed Assets (cont.)

Where the recoverable amount of a tangible asset is found to be below its net book value, the asset is written down to its recoverable amount and the loss on impairment is charged to the relevant expenditure category of the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trustees review the carrying value of all properties on an annual basis and, where there is a risk of material overstatement, seek to obtain professional valuations of individual properties at least every 5 years.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due. Provisions are recognised at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Judgements

The charity considers on an annual basis the judgements that are made by management when applying its significant accounting policies that would have the most significant effect on amounts that are recognised in the financial statements. The trustees consider there are no such significant judgements.

Information and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts 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. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The charity does not have any key assumptions concerning the future, or other key sources of estimation uncertainty in the reporting year that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Pension Contributions

The charity makes contributions to defined contribution personal pension schemes in respect of five employees. Contributions payable to these pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Financial Instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like other accounts receivable and payable and loans to/from third parties and related parties. Such debt instruments are initially measured at present value of future payments and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically other accounts receivable and payable, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

2 Accounting policies (cont.)

Financial Instruments (cont.)

Financial assets measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for evidence of impairment and if found, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash at hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

3 Funds Held

Synod holds funds of the following types:

Restricted Funds - these are funds which are subject to restrictions placed by the donor and may only be used for restricted purposes.

Unrestricted Funds - these are funds which are free to be used to further any of the objects of the United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland.

Designated Funds – these are unrestricted funds which have been earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

The specific unrestricted funds of the Synod are maintained for the following purposes:

Unrestricted Funds

Administration and General Activities Fund - this is the general fund of the Synod, and provides all the expenses of the administration of the Synod, including the costs of Committees, Links and Synod meetings.

Church Building Fund - this represents funds designated by the trustees for the purposes of providing finance to enable local churches to undertake the work of adaptation and repair of existing places of worship. Resources in this fund are also utilised to meet any deficits on the Administration & General Activities Fund.

Church Building Manse Fund - this represents funds which have been designated by the trustees for the purposes of purchasing new manses and maintaining the Synod's existing stock of housing for ministers.

Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund - this fund was originally designated by officers of the Congregational Union of Scotland for the purposes of providing grants to aid ministers, their widows, widowers, and their children in special circumstances of financial difficulty. Synod's trustees have maintained this designation.

Synod Development Fund (formerly the Church Life Development Fund) - this fund initially arose from an unrestricted anonymous donation in 2007. At Synod meeting in September 2015, the purpose of the fund was amended. The fund now exists to give grants to individuals and churches for work aimed at developing the Church's life in the Synod of Scotland.

Beith Building Fund - this represents funds received upon the closure of Beith URC which have been designated by the trustees for the purposes of assisting other churches with their buildings.

4 Related Parties

The Synod enjoys a close working relationship with the Scottish College (Congregational and United Reformed). The Synod procures educational services from the College. The Synod and College jointly acquired their office property during 2019 and are responsible for an equal share of the running costs.

The Synod holds and administers a fund for a separate charity, Inverurie Congregational Mission Trust. As at 31 December 2024, the amount held on behalf of Inverurie Congregational Mission Trust was £1,328 (2023: £4,328). This amount is included in note 13 on page 22.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

5 Income from donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	360,000	-	360,000	260,000
Church contributions	12,478	-	12,478	-
Funds transferred from closed congregations	-	-	-	116,671
Property donated by ongoing congregation	127,000	-	127,000	-
Energy Crisis Fund grant	-	-	-	210,000
Other donations & legacies	36,860	-	36,860	57,472
	<u>536,338</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>536,338</u>	<u>644,143</u>

6 Income from other trading activities

	£	£	£	£
Recharges of staff time	4,803	-	4,803	4,575
Other Income	1,364	-	1,364	-
Property rentals	12,733	-	12,733	13,527
	<u>18,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,900</u>	<u>18,102</u>

7 Income from investments

	£	£	£	£
Dividends	14,704	-	14,704	12,508
Interest	21,692	-	21,692	11,828
	<u>36,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,396</u>	<u>24,336</u>

Dividend income is all credited to the Administration & General Activities Fund, in accordance with a decision of the Trustees.

8 Expenditure

	£	£	£	£
<i>Raising Funds</i>				
Investment manager's fees	-	-	-	4,008
<i>Charitable Activities</i>				
Staff costs	161,985	-	161,985	133,578
Staff travel & expenses	22,508	-	22,508	18,331
Office occupancy costs	10,146	-	10,146	9,848
Office running costs	18,907	-	18,907	22,989
Education & training	20,117	-	20,117	18,400
Synod, Committee, Delegates and Link expenses	9,436	-	9,436	10,361
Affiliation fees	11,427	-	11,427	8,321
Grants & donations	5,139	102,966	108,105	115,961
Property costs	26,367	-	26,367	19,373
Legal & professional fees	93,345	-	93,345	76,466
Bank Charges	646	-	646	-
Balances written off	3,128	-	3,128	-
Depreciation	10,835	-	10,835	11,216
Audit & accountancy	16,100	-	16,100	7,680
	<u>410,086</u>	<u>102,966</u>	<u>513,052</u>	<u>456,532</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

8 Expenditure on charitable activities (cont.)

Expenditure is stated after charging:	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Governance costs: auditors' remuneration</i>		
Fee for current year	<u>16,100</u>	<u>7,680</u>
<i>Operating lease payments</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Grants & donations includes grants made in furtherance of the charity's objectives as follows:

	2024		2023	
	No. of recipients	£	No. of recipients	£
Grants made to organisations	23	<u>87,383</u>	27	<u>65,661</u>
Grants made to individuals	105	<u>20,722</u>	132	<u>50,300</u>

Grants made to organisations include £85,912 paid to 15 organisations through the restricted Energy Crisis Fund (2023: £61,372 to 14 organisations).

9 Employment Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross salaries	151,591	128,430
Social security costs	4,784	2,503
Employer's pension contributions	5,610	2,645
	<u>161,985</u>	<u>133,578</u>

Average number of employees during period (headcount basis)

6 **5**

Three staff, whose costs are included above, are ministers who are paid a stipend from the URC Ministry & Mission Fund. During the year, the Synod paid £25,046 (2023: £25,814) to this fund, which is included in gross salaries above.

The trustees consider the Synod Officers - the Moderator, Synod Clerk, Treasurer, Convenor of Resources Committee, Convenor of Pastoral Committee and Convenor of the Executive - to be the key management personnel. The total amount of employee benefits, including employer pension contributions, paid in respect of key management personnel was £19,709 (2023: £18,145). In addition to this, professional fees of £57,780 (2023: £46,300) were paid to the Treasurer during the year. No employee had emoluments of more than £60,000 in the current or previous period.

Trustees' remuneration and expenses are detailed in the Trustees' Report.

Pension Costs

Pension contributions shown above include payments of £5,610 (2023: £2,645) made on behalf of 5 employees (2023: 3) to their defined contribution personal pension schemes. The total amount outstanding at the year end in relation to pension schemes was £nil (2023: £nil).

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost	Land & Heritable Properties £	Furniture & Fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2024	2,875,525	5,527	19,721	2,900,773
Additions	537,000	-	1,590	538,590
Disposals	(235,400)	-	-	(235,400)
At 31 December 2024	<u>3,177,125</u>	<u>5,527</u>	<u>21,311</u>	<u>3,203,963</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	75,208	3,883	15,528	94,619
Charge for period	8,000	164	2,671	10,835
On Disposals	(18,400)	-	-	(18,400)
At 31 December 2024	<u>64,808</u>	<u>4,047</u>	<u>18,199</u>	<u>87,054</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>3,112,317</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>3,112</u>	<u>3,116,909</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,800,317</u>	<u>1,644</u>	<u>4,193</u>	<u>2,806,154</u>

11 Investments

Synod Portfolio - held with Rathbones

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 1 January	-	411,552
Acquisitions at cost	-	143,768
Disposals at opening book value	-	(555,320)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Market value at 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

During the prior year, the Synod disinvested all funds held in the investment portfolio managed on its behalf by Rathbones, and reinvested the funds with CCLA in its COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund Inc. The movements in this investment during the year are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 1 January 2024	400,258	0
Acquisitions at cost	0	385,657
Net gain on revaluation	14,825	12,268
	<u>415,083</u>	<u>397,925</u>
Cash held by the investment manager awaiting investment	0	2,333
Market value at 31 December 2024	<u>415,083</u>	<u>400,258</u>

Income from Investments

Investment income is all derived from within the United Kingdom, and is allocated to the Administration & General Activities Fund in accordance with a decision of the trustees.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

12 Debtors		2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year			
Loans to Churches	(a)	9,125	-
Accrued income		6,807	12,236
Prepayments		5,621	5,103
Held by investment manager		-	126
		<u>21,553</u>	<u>17,465</u>
Amounts falling due after one year			
Loans to Churches	(a)	<u>168,735</u>	-
		<u>190,288</u>	<u>17,465</u>

(a) This represents a loan provided to Dunfermline United Reformed Church to facilitate its acquisition of a property. Monthly repayments are to be made over a 15 year period ending in February 2040. Interest is being charged at the Bank of England base rate and the loan is secured by a standard security over the acquired property.

13 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

		£	£
Funds held on behalf of other charities:			
Inverurie Mission Trust	(a)	1,328	4,328
Stonehouse St. Ninians	(b)	-	47,254
Park Airdrie URC	(b)	-	118,497
Other Creditor		514	-
Accruals and deferred income		<u>34,504</u>	<u>36,667</u>
		<u>36,346</u>	<u>206,746</u>

(a) This charity is administered by Synod staff but is not under the control of Synod trustees. Funds are held in the Synod's bank accounts for ease of administration.

(b) These amounts represent proceeds of property disposals by continuing congregations, and other monies, which have been lodged with Synod while the congregations consider future plans regarding provision of buildings. During the year, the balances due to Stonehouse St. Ninians and Park Airdrie URC have been repaid to the local churches.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

14 Statement of Financial Activities - Prior Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from:			
Donations	434,143	210,000	644,143
Other trading activities	18,102	-	18,102
Investments	24,336	-	24,336
Total income	<u>476,581</u>	<u>210,000</u>	<u>686,581</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds: investment manager's fees	4,008	-	4,008
Charitable activities: Synod activities	339,874	112,650	452,524
Total expenditure	<u>343,882</u>	<u>112,650</u>	<u>456,532</u>
Realised gains on disposal of assets	-	-	-
Net unrealised losses on investments	<u>(6,021)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,021)</u>
Net income	126,678	97,350	224,028
Transfers between funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	126,678	97,350	224,028
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	<u>4,057,535</u>	<u>304,297</u>	<u>4,361,832</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>4,184,213</u></u>	<u><u>401,647</u></u>	<u><u>4,585,860</u></u>

15 Post Balance Sheet Events

Subsequent to the year end, three properties were sold for £1,017,250 at a gain on sale of £467,110.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

16 Movements in Funds	At 1/1/24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Other Gains / (Losses) £	Transfers £	At 31/12/24 £
Restricted Funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	80,498
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	72,694	-	(17,054)	-	-	55,640
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	99,827	-	-	-	(99,827)	-
Energy Crisis Fund	148,628	-	(85,912)	-	-	62,716
Total Restricted	401,647	-	(102,966)	-	(99,827)	198,854
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	810,498	152,000	(11,967)	95,388	-	1,045,919
Church Building Manse Fund	2,089,755	14,983	(27,196)	107,268	(310,173)	1,874,637
Beith Building Fund	102,309	-	-	-	-	102,309
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	92,234	-	(221)	-	-	92,013
Synod Development Fund	103,938	10,000	-	-	-	113,938
	3,198,734	176,983	(39,384)	202,656	(310,173)	3,228,816
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	985,479	414,651	(370,702)	14,825	410,000	1,454,253
Total Unrestricted	4,184,213	591,634	(410,086)	217,481	99,827	4,683,069
Total Funds	4,585,860	591,634	(513,052)	217,481	-	4,881,923

Detailed descriptions of unrestricted and designated funds held are given in note 3 on page 18.

Restricted funds are to be used as follows:

Synod Building Fund - these funds are to be applied for the provision of grants for the refurbishment of church buildings within the Synod.

Ministers' and Dependants Aid Fund - these funds were transferred from SCMMPPFT on its closure and are to be applied for the same restricted purposes as were applicable to SCMMPPFT, being the provision of aid to ministers and their dependants.

East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund - these funds were to be used to provide a manse for East Kilbride and Hamilton and were fully utilised during the year.

Energy Crisis Fund - funding was received from URC Trust to be distributed by the Synod to provide grant assistance to churches towards their heating costs and the cost of energy efficiency projects.

Transfers between funds:

Included in tangible fixed asset additions (note 10) is the acquisition of a new manse for £410,000.

Of this, £99,827 was met through the restricted East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund and this amount has been transferred out of restricted funds and into the unrestricted General Fund.

As detailed in note 3 on page 18, the trustees consider that the balance of the cost of £310,173 should be met through the designated Church Building Manse Fund and consequently, this amount has been transferred out of the designated funds and into the unrestricted General Fund.

17 Movements in Funds - Prior Year

	At 1/1/23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Other Gains / (Losses) £	Transfers £	At 31/12/23 £
Restricted funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	80,498
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	123,972	-	(51,278)	-	-	72,694
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	99,827	-	-	-	-	99,827
Energy Crisis Fund	-	210,000	(61,372)	-	-	148,628
Total restricted	304,297	210,000	(112,650)	-	-	401,647
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	838,681	115,000	(8,807)	-	(134,376)	810,498
Church Building Manse Fund	2,521,748	53,527	(25,520)	-	(460,000)	2,089,755
Beith Building Fund	102,309	-	-	-	-	102,309
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	92,234	-	-	-	-	92,234
Synod Development Fund	107,277	-	(3,339)	-	-	103,938
	3,662,249	168,527	(37,666)	-	(594,376)	3,198,734
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	395,286	308,054	(306,216)	(6,021)	594,376	985,479
Total Unrestricted	4,057,535	476,581	(343,882)	(6,021)	-	4,184,213
Total Funds	4,361,832	686,581	(456,532)	(6,021)	-	4,585,860

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

18 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Bank & Cash £	Other Net Assets £	Investments £	Property £	Other Fixed Assets £	Total Value £
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	268,131	(1,692)	66,873	712,607	-	1,045,919
Church Building Manse Fund	(353,942)	861	-	2,227,718	-	1,874,637
Beith Building Fund	63,322	-	38,987	-	-	102,309
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	(371)	(2,850)	95,234	-	-	92,013
Synod Development Fund	17,046	(5,844)	102,736	-	-	113,938
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	1,001,621	164,795	111,253	171,992	4,592	1,454,253
Held on behalf of other charities	1,328	(1,328)	-	-	-	(0)
Restricted funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	80,498
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	55,640	-	-	-	-	55,640
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy Crisis Fund	62,716	-	-	-	-	62,716
Total Funds at 31 December 2024	1,195,989	153,942	415,083	3,112,317	4,592	4,881,923

19 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds - Prior Year

	Bank & Cash £	Other Net Current Assets £	Investments £	Property £	Other Fixed Assets £	Total Value £
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	158,344	(326)	66,873	585,607	-	810,498
Church Building Manse Fund	46,409	628	-	2,042,718	-	2,089,755
Beith Building Fund	-	63,322	38,987	-	-	102,309
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	-	(3,000)	95,234	-	-	92,234
Synod Development Fund	1,202	-	102,736	-	-	103,938
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	956,799	(245,577)	96,428	171,992	5,837	985,479
Held on behalf of other charities	4,328	(4,328)	-	-	-	-
Restricted funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	80,498
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	72,694	-	-	-	-	72,694
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	99,827	-	-	-	-	99,827
Energy Crisis Fund	148,628	-	-	-	-	148,628
Total Funds at 31 December 2023	1,568,729	(189,281)	400,258	2,800,317	5,837	4,585,860

20 APB Ethical Standard - Provisions available for small entities

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

The following page does not form part of the financial statements
and is provided for information only.

Appendix
Income and Expenditure by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds						Restricted Funds				Total Funds	Total Funds
	General	Designated									2024	2023
	Admin & General Activities	Church Building	Church Building Manse	Ministers' and Dependants' Aid	Church Life Development	Beith Building Fund	Synod Building Fund	East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse	Ministers' & Dependants' Aid	Energy Crisis Fund	£	£
Income from:												
Donations and legacies												
Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	360,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	360,000	260,000
Church contributions	228	-	2,250	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	12,478	-
Other donations & legacies	11,860	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,860	57,472
Funds transferred from closed congregations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116,671
Property donated by ongoing congregation	-	127,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127,000	-
Energy Crisis Fund grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	210,000
Other trading activities	6,167	-	12,733	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,900	18,102
Investments	36,396	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,396	24,336
Total income	414,651	152,000	14,983	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	591,634	686,581
Expenditure on:												
Staff costs	161,985	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161,985	133,578
Staff travel & expenses	22,508	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,508	18,331
Office occupancy costs	10,146	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,146	9,848
Office running costs	18,907	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,907	22,989
Education & training	20,117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,117	18,400
Publicity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Synod, Committee, Delegates & Link expenses	9,436	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,436	10,361
Affiliation fees	11,427	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,427	8,321
Grants & donations	5,139	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,054	85,912	-	108,105	115,961
Property costs	-	11,342	14,804	221	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,367	19,373
Audit & accountancy	16,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,100	7,680
Legal & professional fees	88,328	625	4,392	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,345	80,474
Bank Charges	646	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	646	-
Balances written off	3,128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,128	-
Depreciation	2,835	-	8,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,835	11,216
Total expenditure	370,702	11,967	27,196	221	-	-	-	17,054	85,912	-	513,052	456,532
Realised gains on disposal of assets	0	95,388	107,268	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	202,656	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14,825	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,825	(6,021)
Net income / (expenditure)	58,774	235,421	95,055	(221)	10,000	-	-	(17,054)	(85,912)	-	296,063	224,028
Transfers	410,000	-	(310,173)	-	-	-	(99,827)	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	468,774	235,421	(215,118)	(221)	10,000	-	(99,827)	(17,054)	(85,912)	-	296,063	224,028
Total funds brought forward	985,479	810,498	2,089,755	92,234	103,938	102,309	80,498	99,827	72,694	148,628	4,585,860	4,361,832
Total funds carried forward	1,454,253	1,045,919	1,874,637	92,013	113,938	102,309	80,498	-	55,640	62,716	4,881,923	4,585,860