



Seventh-day Adventist Church

IRISH MISSION

SESSION 2019



ENGAGED

in service & mission
REVELATION 14:6

EMPOWERED

by the Holy Spirit
ACTS 1:8

ESTABLISHED

in Jesus Christ
1 THESSALONIANS 3:13



SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2019

On behalf of the Irish Mission Executive, the Mission Secretary, and Mission Treasurer, may I extend a very warm welcome to all gathered for this Session of the Irish Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We are also pleased to welcome Pastor Ian Sweeney, the British Union President.

Our thanks go to Belfast church for opening, preparing and catering for our delegation during this Session.

This booklet contains reports from the Officers and Departmental Sponsors. It also contains the Irish Mission Operating policy, the Minutes of the previous Session 2016 and a section on Guidelines.

Pastor Dan Serb
2019

Programme

08.30 Registration

09.15 Opening of Session

Devotional - Pastor Ian Sweeney

09.45 Report - President

Vision for the Mission 2019-2021

10.15 **Nominating Report**

10.30 Report - Secretary

11.00 Questions to Secretary

11.15 Break

11.30 Report - Treasurer

12.00 Questions to Treasurer

Credentials & Licences Committee to meet at conclusion of Treasury questions

12.15 Health Sponsor – Mrs Betty O’Rourke

12.25 Questions

12.35 The Cuisle Centre – Mrs Heather Keough

12.45 Questions

12.55 Lunch

14.00 **Sub-Committee Report** followed by

Youth and Pathfinders – Pr. Ben Pontanar & Mr. Bodgan Stan

14.30 Questions

14.40 Children’s Ministries – Mrs Shupai Matewa

14:50 Questions

15.00 Womens Ministries – Mrs Joan Burch

15.10 Questions

15.20 Communication Sponsor – Pr. Weiers Coetser

15.35 Questions

15.45 Prayer Ministries – Pr. Tony O’Rourke

15.55 Questions

16.00 Administration Matters – Pr. Dan Serb

16.30 Closing Thought, Hymn and Prayer

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President's Report

Established. Empowered. Engaged.

*“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His Name.”
PSALMS 100:4*



The Irish Mission focus for this triennial term has been to make God known by making ourselves known as His ambassadors. Visibility in the community, involvement and networking with other like-minded organisations, and companionship amidst life's challenges ought to be that which compelled us to make God's love and grace a reality to many. Have we achieved this? Do the communities where we worship and the countries where we live know us and what we stand for? These are questions for reflection. This report speaks of some of what we have done, but it does not necessarily qualify our witness; we will highlight events and programmes we conducted, and initiatives we saw through, but to what extent these activities and events have made God's presence felt through us as a community of believers remains unanswered. Moreover, the *Vision for the Mission* traces a renewed commitment to mission meant to push forward the vision of years past; the call is to strive to be *established* in God's love and grace, *empowered* by His Spirit, and *engaged* in ministry to cause gospel-defined change in our communities.



I consider it a privilege to visit different churches every Sabbath; to worship, fellowship, and share, ever so briefly, in some of your spiritual journeys. This walking alongside one another is not an administrative chore to me, it is a way of maturing in the knowledge of who God is, a foretaste of eternity measured in smiles, prayers, and tears. We are a community that brings together two countries and another thirty or so; we are a church united, a movement marked by diversity, acculturation, and peculiar living in one. Yes, we are quite complex, and this complexity renders us relevant to an ever-changing and increasingly uncertain world. Our relevance stems from the cohesiveness of our faith splattered like paint on the canvas called life – we are colourful, dynamic, and ever active. I sometimes hear isolated voices lamenting

inactivity in our church; well, this is not the case at all. Much is happening across the Mission – seminars, church programmes, kids’ activities, choirs, bible study groups, youth projects, camps, Pathfinders’ fund-raising events, training, committee meetings, visits – the church is alive! To this end I decided to make use of the Irish Mission Facebook page and regularly post where I go and what the churches are busy with. Please visit our page so that you also can have a glimpse into what God is busy doing: <https://www.facebook.com/Adventist.ie>. Also, please visit <http://adventist.ie/home> for regular updates on the activities of the Irish Mission churches.

These last three years can be summed up in three words: growth, challenges, opportunities. I will expound on them in no order or grouping. I will let the report flow and while highlighting some of the concepts and activities of our Mission’s mission, I know that much will remain unsaid.

Irish Mission Staff and Pastoral Team

Name	Position/Role	Responsibilities/District
Neal, Marci	Office Secretary <i>President’s PA</i>	Office
Serb, Dan	President <i>Elected Personnel</i>	Office
Venter, Jacques	Executive Secretary <i>Elected Personnel</i>	Office
Ramharacksingh, Earl	Treasurer <i>Elected Personnel</i>	Office
Coetser, Weiers	Ordained Minister	Londonderry, Coleraine, Sligo
Haynes, Heather	Dublin Adult Youth Leader/Mentor, Associate Minister	Dublin churches, Ballinacrow
Johnson, Lorance	Ordained Minister	Cork, Kilkenny, Waterford
Keough, Adam	Ordained Minister	Dublin Ranelagh
Keough, Heather	Manager	<i>Cuisle</i> Centre – Dublin
O’Rourke, Tony	Commissioned Minister	Galway, Newmarket-on-Fergus Longford
Petrovski, Ivan <i>(pending)</i>	Ordained Minister	Ballinacrow, Drumcondra, Portlaoise
Pontanar, Ben	Ordained Minister	Belfast
Salcianu, Christian	Ordained Minister	Dublin Romanian, Dublin West
Willis, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Banbridge, Larne

During this triennial term, the Mission has seen staff changes. The list above is the most recent (as of 17 April 2019) and, by the date of the Session more would be in place; here below are some of the changes that have taken place:

Workers who left the Mission:

- Jeff Freeman – (26 March 2016)
- Gavin Anthony – Icelandic Conference president (30 September 2016)
- Dr Nomsa Maphango (outgoing Cuisle Centre manager, moved to England in July 2017)
- Curtis Samuel (resigned, 31 August 2018)
- Paul Lockham (early retirement, 31 January 2019)

Workers who joined the Mission:

- Lorange Johnson (from the North England Conference, 1 October 2018)
- Christian Salcianu (from 1 September 2016)
- Heather Haynes (from Adventist Frontier Missions, August 2017)
- Heather Keough (new manager of *Cuisle Centre*, Dublin, August 2017)

Please note some new developments:

- As of 17 April 2019, Pr. Ivan Petrovski's visa application is still pending.
- Pr. Weiers Coetser has accepted a call to serve in the South England Conference as from 1 September 2019.
- Also, Heather Haynes has accepted a call to serve at the Matteson Mission School in Norway.
- On 7 April the Irish Mission Executive Committee has voted these changes and the Administration is in the process of finding adequate replacements for these positions.

Lay Bible Workers

As a result of one of the consultation meetings with the Northern Ireland church leaders, the Administration and Executive Committee extended an invitation to the Mission membership at large to join the pastoral team in ministry as Lay Bible Workers. A letter was sent out on the 3rd of June 2018 and, after two sessions of training done with the assistance of Dr. Kirk Thomas, Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (BUC), six Lay Bible Workers joined the Irish Mission in January 2019. They are all church members from across the Mission and serve as volunteers with a €100.00/month travel allowance cap. They joined Evelyn Wilson and Dr. Mart de Groot who have already been assisting the Mission in Portlaoise and Monahan respectively. The following list shows the Irish Mission Lay Bible Workers (as of 17 April 2019):

Name	Church/Company/Group	Supervising Pastor
Buggle, Ciaran	Drogheda, Wexford	Dan Serb
De Groot, Mart	Monaghan	Dan Serb
Dube, Philani	Sligo	Weiers Coetser
Gajamarahalli, Puru	Kilkenny	Lorange Johnson
Karwowski, Luciano	Tralee	Dan Serb
Soares da Silva, Joabe	Roscommon (Portuguese-speaking group)	Tony O'Rourke
Stan, Ciprian	Drogheda, Wexford	Dan Serb
Wilson, Evelyn	Portlaoise	Dan Serb

Training

Equipping the pastoral team and the Church as a whole has been one of my main objectives. I believe the empowerment and skill-development of pastors and members alike is key to fulfilling the objectives we have set for ourselves. Thus, we had training done for all our treasurers (with thanks to Earl Ramharacksingh and team – 8 October 2017), church clerks (with thanks to Pr. Paul Lockham and team – February 2017), elders, and church leaders. Also, during pastoral team's regular meetings we have provided training in Stewardship, Safeguarding, Child Protection, Church policies, Coaching, First Aid, and, soon to take place, Mediation.



Pastors' appraisals have also been conducted on a regular basis. This exercise has enabled the Administration to both assess the pastor-church dynamics within the Mission, as well as to identify areas of growth and development of our ministerial team. I would like to thank all the church boards who have participated in these appraisals. Of note will be the implantation of a new British Union-wide instrument to be in effect in our Mission as from 2020.



Youth

The Mission is blessed with many young people. While seeking to reach people of other religious inclinations and the unaffiliated, we recognise that much work needs to be done in seeking to reach those who have left as well as the young people within our fold. Society has much to offer as alternatives to the way of faith, and unless we are intentional in acknowledging the specific and unique ways, views, and needs of our young people, they could be swayed away from that which could ground them for life and eternity. Of note has been the remarkable growth of Pathfinders. Please take note of this report and prayerfully support their many activities.

Another youth initiative is the Outpost Youth Project launched on 18-20 October 2018. The project was initially meant for Dublin adult youth (ages 16-29), but it has crossed the border with youth from Belfast joining the meetings. It has also prompted other youth groups to kick into higher gears and currently there seems to be a revival of youth activities in churches across the Mission. The meetings take place every second Sabbath of each month with occasional whole-Sabbath meetings where special guests are invited to encourage and motivate our youth (some of the guest speakers were Gabriel Perea, Bobby Bovell, and Dejan Stojkovic).



Student life is both exciting and challenging for most college and university students – knowledge reaches new horizons, and ‘old’ paradigms, including the religious, are being challenged. The Mission recognised the ideological and spiritual struggles of our young students and, as a result, at the initiative of Greg Davis, an Andrews University certified chaplain, and a minister and therapist, IMASA (Irish Mission Adventist Students’ Association) was born on 30 June 2018. Since then, the IMASA team has worked tirelessly to launch chapters on university campuses throughout our Mission’s territory and their first Congress was scheduled to take place in July this year.

Growth

The year 2017 was set aside for ‘getting acquainted’ and ‘putting our house in order’. To this effect, I held numerous leadership meetings and liaised with newly appointed pastors in ensuring a smooth transition period for the churches and pastoral families alike. Also, on the Sabbaths of 20th and 27th of May we conducted a Mission-wide census, thus addressing membership matters and taking a skills inventory.

Another significant event hosted by the Irish Mission was the three Missions’ Retreat where 27 Pastors from the Irish Mission, Scottish Mission, Welsh Mission and the British Union Conference participated in that year’s pastoral retreat in Corrymeela, Northern Ireland. The three Missions have an ongoing tradition of meeting every second year, each event hosted by a different Mission. The purpose of these pastors’ retreats is a mixture of professional

development, reflection on ministry and spiritual life, networking, and relaxation. Dr. Reinder Bruinsma, a veteran pastor, church administrator, historian, and author from the Netherlands was the main guest speaker.



It is evident that God has blessed the Irish Mission with considerable growth, both membership wise and financially. Two churches were organised during this term, namely Newmarket-on-Fergus (24 June 2017), and Dublin West (13 May 2017), and a new church building was inaugurated and dedicated in Cork (14 May 2017). New groups are forming (Tralee, Roscommon) and some have changed their status. (Drogheda, Drumcondra, Longford). Membership has grown by 14% (924 end of Dec, 2018), and tithe has grown consistently marking an increase of 36% from 2016. The mission of the church is enhanced by the ministry of two Centres of Influence namely *Cuisle Centre* in Ranelagh Dublin and *Prehen Lifestyle Centre* in Derry/Londonderry, with the prospect of another one opening in Belfast in the future.

This growth was also notable during the many camp meetings and regional days of fellowship, as well as the two Irish Mission Days of Fellowship held in 2018 (2 June, Blanchardstown, guest speaker: Dr. Alan Parker from *Southern Adventist University*, USA) and 2019. The 2019 Irish Mission Day of Fellowship was held at the CityNorth Hotel on the 16th of March where Pr. Raafat Kamal, president of the Trans-European Division was guest speaker and where Pr. Christian Salcianu was ordained. This meeting was attended by more than 750 people.

Developments in the Irish Mission have been acknowledged by the British Union leadership as well and this has led to Pr. Ian Sweeny, BUC president, lodging a formal query with the Division concerning the change of status of our Mission to become a Conference. It is the Administration's desire to take the opportunity at this Session to make a formal request to the higher organisations to commence the process of transition.

Pictorial image of the Irish Mission territory:



Consultation and Partnerships

The ethos of ministry in the Irish Mission is consultation, open dialogue, and partnership.

It has been my purpose to seek advice and consult with all parties concerned whether it be challenge or opportunity. To this end, I have sat in numerous meetings across the Mission in both local churches and regional gatherings. I'd like to believe that we have been approachable and that members feel free to address any issues with us. We seek to find solutions under the Lord's guidance, even so, at times we may have erred; for that, we ask for your forgiveness.

We also believe in working together rather than attempting to reinvent the proverbial wheel. Here I will mention three notable partnerships which have made an impactful difference for the better in the ministry of many in our Mission:

The Emerald Foundation

Their continuous financial support is invaluable to us. From contributing to the purchase of the Cork church building, partnering in sponsoring both the *Cuisle Centre* and the *Prehen Lifestyle Centre*, fully sponsoring the Health Department of our Mission, supporting the Children's Department and Pathfinders, to the various local and Mission-wide initiatives, Emerald has enabled us in carrying out the mission of making God known in ways otherwise unachievable.



Adventist Frontier Missions

This is another long-term partnership which has opened blessed opportunities for mission in and around Cork and Waterford. We are happy to inform you that the AFM is busy doing research work in order to open three more mission areas within our territory.

Loma Linda University School of Behavioural Health

In 2018 (9-11 March) and 2019 (27-29 March) the Mission hosted members of the Trauma Resource Institute team who have led two Community Resiliency programmes in Dublin with attendance from both Northern Ireland and the Republic.



Is Genesis History? – The Movie: *The Mission-wide Project*

The pastoral team earmarked 2018 as the year to focus on Creation and matters pertaining to faith and science. To this end, 21 and 28 April 2018 were identified as the days for the screening of the *Is Genesis History?* movie/documentary as a combined effort across the Mission. In preparation for this event, the Irish Mission hosted the *Creation and Science Conference* in Dublin on the 6th of March. During the Conference, four leading Christian scientists presented talks on the latest developments in the conversation on science and a biblical view of creation. The invitees were: Dr. Alastair Noble from the *Centre of Intelligent Design* in Glasgow; Professor John Walton from the *School of Chemistry* at the University of St. Andrews; Dr. Robert Beckett a scientist and Evangelical Presbyterian minister from North Belfast who is connected to the organisation *Answers in Genesis*, and Dr. Mart de Groot, previous director of the Armagh Observatory. All four scientists professed commitment to affirming the biblical story of creation in a way that also engages constructively with science.



The screenings of the movie took place over a period of 8 days, between 21 April and 28 April. It was the first time that this acclaimed movie, which presents a scientific case for the belief in a young earth creation was screened outside the United States of America. The movie features Del Tackett, a well-known personality in American evangelical circles, interviewing a dozen scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines about the evidence for a young earth creation. Together the findings of these academics build a strong case for a viable alternative to evolutionary theory to understand the origins of the universe and life on earth. While the material is scientific and technical it is accessible to a general audience. Most viewers commented that they would like to watch the movie again to revisit and internalise the material that is presented.

Venues in Cork, Dublin Ranelagh, Blanchardstown, Tallaght, Longford, Donard, Belfast, Banbridge, Larne, and Coleraine reported the positive feedback that they received. When the reports were collated from the ten venues, it emerged that more than 450 people had attended the screenings; 98 of the attendees were not connected to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Challenges

We dare not forget that the church's mission is a matter of life and death; eternal life and death that is. To overlook the spiritual battle aspect of each initiative, event, sermon, and visit we seek to minister through is to underestimate both the enemy's resolve and God's power made available through His Spirit. We tap into that power and His will is revealed to us through a genuine and consistent relationship with God.

We have encountered some challenges in our attempts to fulfil the mission entrusted to us on this Isle. It became evident to me that we need to seek God's guidance, influence, and involvement through collective and unified prayer. To this end, I sent out a letter outlining both our need for prayer and the challenges we face. Here is a short transcript from the said letter sent on 11 April 2019:

“In the last couple of months, I have come to the realisation that much prayer is needed for the Lord's work to go forth here, in the Irish Mission. Yes, we hold numerous meetings and prayerfully strategize every step we take, but I believe that the time has come for collective, unified prayer and fasting so that we can together seek the Lord's guidance and His intervention. This is not a call to collective coercive bargaining with God, but rather an acknowledgment that only He can truly provide the answers and solutions best suited for the advancement of His work on this Isle.

I thus invite you all to join me on the 4th and/or the 11th of May to pray and fast and seek the Lord's guidance and intervention on the following matters:

1. Re-registration of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland (SDACI) Charity. We began this process almost three years ago and there seems to be unnecessary delays in re-registering the charity.

2. The 2nd Dublin Building Project. It has proven extremely difficult to find land or property for sale in the Dublin West area. We have come close, but presently the process is stalling. We need guidance on how to proceed; we need the Lord to open doors; we may need to rethink our strategy. Please join us in prayer and feel free to contact me if you were to know of any possibilities or have thoughts on the matter.”

May we continue to seek His Face so that all that He desires to do in and through us may be realised.

Plans and Initiatives

There is still much to be done. My theological *Vision for the Mission*, the scriptural foundation for what I propose for the next three years can be read later in this document. For now, I wish to focus on some practical and measurable markers:

1. Complete SDACI registration;
2. Complete 2nd Dublin Church and Centre of Influence project;
3. Complete establishment of SDACI head office building in Dublin;
4. Co-opt more Lay Bible Workers;
5. Employ (on a one-year contract basis) two Adult Youth Workers (one for the Dublin area and one for the Belfast area);
6. Employ an extra minister for the West of Ireland area;
7. Develop and implement an in-detail strategy for church growth and evangelism for Northern Ireland;
8. Launch Adventist Professionals Ireland (to include both Northern Ireland and the Republic);
9. Assess feasibility of reopening ADRA Ireland.

Thanks

The beginning of my tenure coincided with trying personal circumstances. I wish to thank God, the BUC and IM administration, my pastoral colleagues, and you all for your patience, trust, and support during those times. Your care and understanding have meant the world to me and I want once again to reassure you of my commitment to God and this Mission.

Thank you all for your faithfulness and witness; without you there would be no church!

Thank you to the elders and the various leaders within the local churches; your leadership, feedback, and active involvement in the wellbeing of the church is invaluable.

Thank you to the pastoral team; the positive, Spirit-led, and professional atmosphere present amongst us as a team has been noted many a time by various colleagues from our church's higher organisations as well as by our/your own church members. Your dedication, faithfulness, and spirit of sacrifice are a source of encouragement for me and those you serve.

Thank you to all our partners and sister organisations who have supported and continue to support our efforts on this Isle.

Thank you to the Executive Committee members and all the Sponsors for their thorough and conscientious work in ensuring that we allow God to lead and that we follow.

Thank you to my administrative colleagues past and present who have guided, encouraged, and supported me in doing my best; you are my bosses, my colleagues, and my friends.

Thank you to the office secretary and my assistant – without you, M, my job would have been so much more difficult; your knowledge, insight, and reminders keep me sharp.

Thank you to my family; it is a new beginning, but I know that God and love will forever lead us.

Dan Serb
April 2019

Vision for the Mission

Established. Empowered. Engaged.

Every Sabbath we get together as a church and, amongst other things, we seek affirmation for our faith while also tapping into the strength and compassion of others in order to press on in our own spiritual journeys; we do that through worship and fellowship. Sabbaths are also regular reminders of who we are, why we are here, and why God is (or should be) at the centre of our lives. The focus here, on this occasion, is on *regular* – every week there is a day, a sacred time divinely determined for this purpose. Conference and Mission Sessions, through their regularity, could also facilitate such moments of deep spiritual introspection.

Session reports look back at the way God has led, what's been achieved under His guidance, and what could have been done better. They could be marred by inflexible criticism and murmuring, or they could provide opportunities for gratitude and renewed commitment. The election of Executive Committee members and departmental Directors/Sponsors could follow human agendas and be side-tracked by partisan interests, or it could pursue unity in Spirit, truth, and service. The choice is ours. Ultimately, God has entrusted us to be the artisans of our own vision of and for His Kingdom. He's given us the building blocks and a way upward; let's put it together *together*.

Step one: ESTABLISHED

*“That He may establish your hearts blameless
in holiness before our God and Father,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”*
1 THESSALONIANS 3:13

Mission begins with us. It begins with God *in* us. A vision is meant to draw lines of demarcation between that which is and that which we wish to achieve. The area in between is called faith in action and it encompasses our churches, families, communities, and as much of the world (as people) we wish to let in. But a vision is not (or it shouldn't be) just a matter of the mind and programmes and strategies; it ought to be a matter of the heart.

The Irish Mission is busy, and it will continue to be. We are blessed with a committed pastoral team and many of our members are spiritually tuned in to what the Lord desires to

accomplish through us; but we should take it step by step, block by block, and first focus on that which God wishes to fulfil *in* us. May the Lord *establish* our hearts as forgiven followers of a God who is Emmanuel in our midst. May we be established in Him with enduring and perseverant faith until His coming.

Step two: EMPOWERED

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

Once established in God’s love and grace, we can then move on to the next step and make ourselves available to the guiding and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. With confidence, trust, and resolve, we can push, in His Name, the boundaries of that which seems impossible. Life is dynamic; so should ministry be ever evolving, ever reaching, ever bold. There should be no fear in seeking new methods to preach and live out the old, old story of God and His love for humankind.

“New methods must be introduced. God’s people must awake to the necessities of the time in which they are living. [...] Some of the methods used in this work will be different from the methods used in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism.”

– Ellen G. White

For us, Jerusalem is here; Judea is here; Samaria is here; the earth has come full circle and settled right here, on this Isle. May each Sabbath and every moment of family worship, personal prayer, bible study time be an opportunity for the Spirit to *empower* us to be witnesses of that which the Lord works within us.

Step three: ENGAGED

“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.”

REVELATION 14:6

When we are established in God, we are then in the best position to be empowered to *engage* the world we live in. We are a peculiar people with a peculiar message. However, we are not called to be unrelatable because of our peculiarity, neither to become exclusivist and elitist. The scope of our message is all encompassing, and it can be far-reaching if, as people, we reach deep inside us when reaching across to others. Self-sacrifice and humility make, an

otherwise difficult message to receive, worthy of consideration and even attractive. Human voices and hands give angelic wings to an end-time message in three parts which completes and binds together all that is human.

I invite you all, in the next three years, to seek new heights for Christ climbing the staircase of God's will for our Mission one step at a time.



Secretariat Report



Secretary's report is about policies, procedures, and people. Really it is all about people, people whom God has a desire to save for eternity. As we look at and read the numbers, let us never forget that each person is one for whom Jesus died.

This report will look at the following areas: Charity registration progress since last session, membership changes in the Mission, a closer look at membership growth, congregations and reporting from churches.

Charity Registration

At the 2016 Session it was voted that the officers and executive committee should work towards establishing an effective charity for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland (SDACI). This work was begun following recommendation from our auditors of the solicitors Whitney Moore. A meeting was held with Thérèse Rochford, a senior partner with experience in the charity sector, at which our need and denominational structure were explained. After many months of work and significant input from the GC Legal Counsel, Karnik Doukmetzian, a new draft Memorandum and Articles of Association were ready. A final meeting of the old board of Directors of SDACI was held and they appointed Paul Lockham and Earl Ramharacksingh as new Directors and then recorded their resignations. The shares of the "Charitable Company" had to be transferred from the former directors and, because of Irish Legislation limiting the number of shares that can be held by any individual or entity, two shares are held by the BUC, two by the BUC's legal company Seventh-day Adventist Association (SDAA) and then Paul Lockham held in trust two shares on behalf of the BUC and SDAA and Earl Ramharacksingh held the remaining share in trust for the BUC. It should be noted that Paul Lockham's trust holding was transferred to Jacques Venter along with Directorship and Secretary of SDACI in early January 2019 just prior to Paul's retirement.

Early in 2017 three additional directors from the current Executive Committee were appointed so that the Board could commence operations in tangent with the Executive Committee while the final approvals of the Revenue and Charities Regulator for the new Articles of Association were sought. We knew that one of the areas that would be under question was the inclusion of the President, as "employee" of the Mission, as a Director (how this was achieved under WWAMI was different because WWAMI was not the organisation of the church as SDACI now is). In April 2018, the Revenue indicated it was happy with the new structure. The last hurdle was to obtain approval from the Charity Regulator. At the time of writing this report a response has not yet been received despite much chasing by our solicitor who provided grounds for including an employee as a director and examples of other charities with an employee as a director. The formal response received is that the documents are with their legal department. In the meanwhile, the Board of SDACI have been taking the necessary actions on financial and personnel appointments in meetings so that the Revenue can be satisfied that the registered charity is responsible for the allocation and use of financial resources. The process of seeking revenue returns for the current and previous years was then

commenced by BUC treasury in the autumn of 2018 (the Treasurer will comment more on this aspect). It is hoped that by the time of the Session a vote will be able to be taken to formally adopt the new structure and move forward as the Directors and Executive Committee being one body.

Membership

The triennium commenced with the Irish Mission membership at 809. Based on reports received from local congregations the reported membership at 31 December 2018 had risen to 929, a net increase of 120. This is a 14.39% net increase in membership over the triennium.

During the period under review 72 baptisms and one re-baptism have been reported, 83 transfers of membership into the mission were enacted and a further 20 persons voted in on profession of faith (where transfer of membership had not been possible). On the other side of the equation there were 39 transfers of membership out of the Irish Mission, 11 members died during the period, four members were dropped from fellowship and a further nine reported as missing. On a year by year basis the changes for the Mission are summarised below:

Year	Jan	Adjust	Baptisms	re-Baptism	PoFaith	LetIn	LetOut	Death	Dropped	Missing	Dec	GA/LOSS
2016	809	1	21	0	10	19	16	6	0	4	834	25
2017	834	0	12	1	0	43	11	0	4	5	870	36
2018	870	6	39	0	10	21	12	5	0	0	929	59
Three Year Total		7	72	1	20	83	39	11	4	9		120

During the triennium the membership has grown 8.9% as a result of baptisms with a further 12.73% growth being a result of members coming in from other places (10.26% as transfers and 2.47% by profession of faith in place of transfer). Taken in isolation these figures do not mean too much, but for this period the number of members who joined the church through baptism was 36% of all those who joined. This is a return to the pattern of the past, with the last session period being exceptional with 53.27% (2013-15), while the previous two triennial periods were 38% (2007-9) and 36% (2010-12). This shows that the increase in membership as a result of transfers into the mission is still higher than the growth that is a result of baptisms.

There was a 4.82% loss of membership in the term as a result of people transferring their membership from the Irish Mission to other places in the BUC or abroad, a further 1.36% loss of membership was accounted for by those members who died during the triennium. Sadly, 1.61% of our membership loss was due to members who are reported missing and those who are dropped.

Congregations

The Irish Mission continues to be challenged with the large land area, dispersed membership and limited resources for paid pastoral workers. Sometimes, this challenge can be a positive thing when enough members come together to form a recognised company. Congregationally the statistical information is a continually changing picture. As was noted above, the changes in membership because of transfer have again become a higher proportion of our growth than baptisms. Those coming into the Mission and those leaving the Mission

rarely exchange places in the local congregation, or even in a congregation at all. In the 2018 Membership Audit several clusters of two or three isolated members were discovered. We now have listed 21 recognised congregations, 12 of these are organised churches with the remainder a mix of recognised companies and groups.

At Rest

As mentioned above, on any report about membership we record the number of members who have died. It is only appropriate to recognise them and that their lives are remembered by family, friends, and others whom we may not know they influenced.

Coleraine	Fiona Morton	16/02/2016
Galway	John McNamara	28/05/2016
Belfast	Ruby Henderson	25/06/2016
Banbridge	Roberta Montgomery	25/12/2016
Belfast	Victor McCormac	13/01/2018
Londonderry	Anna Isobel Graham	19/05/2018
Larne	Robert (Bobby) Johnston	19/08/2018
Larne	Jean Agnew	25/08/2018
IM Church	Evelyn Finlay	01/11/2018

We all look forward to the day when death will be vanquished, and separation will be no more. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Staff

In 2016 several changes in staff took place, some of which were evident at the time of the Session. Pastor and Mrs. Neal have left the Mission with David taking up his new appointment as TED Stewardship Director, while Marci continued as the Mission President's Secretary working out of the BUC office. Pastor Dan Serb was appointed at the 2016 BUC Session as the new Mission President and presided at the last Mission Session. Pastor Jeff Freeman, AFM worker, left the Mission in March 2016 and we are grateful to his diligent work with the Cork members and with Pathfinders in the West of Ireland. Brad Bushey, AFM Worker in Waterford, also left the Mission in 2018; again, thanks to the Bushey's for their work in that area of Ireland.

Pastor Gavin Anthony accepted a call to be President of the Icelandic Conference and left the Mission in late September 2016. Pastor Christian Salcianu was called to the Mission and commenced working in the Dublin Romanian and West district in September 2016. Pastor Lorance Johnson was called to the Mission and commenced work in the Cork, Waterford and Kilkenny district in October 2016. Miss Heather Haynes joined the team as an Associate in Pastoral care on a 50% budget in July 2017 to assist Pastor Dan in his Ballinacrow District. From 1 Sept 2018 Heather was full time, thanks to support from the Emerald Foundation. She was tasked to continue to serve at Ballinacrow and, in addition, to minister to the youth in the greater Dublin area. Mr. Curtis Samuel, who had been elected as Youth Sponsor in 2016, and was the pastor of the Banbridge and Drogheda congregations, resigned in August 2018.

We give thanks to all the members of the pastoral team in the mission who continue to give leadership and support to members and contacts of the congregations through the mission.

Reporting

Throughout the triennium Mrs. Marci Neal, as well as being secretary to the Mission office, has continued doing the day to day work of the church clerk for the Mission. In 2017, the British Union Conference moved its membership data to a new platform, the Adventist Church Management System (ACMS) that had been developed by the General Conference. To comply with EU and UK Data protection regulations the data is held on a server in Germany while the programming runs on a server in Texas. Marci continued to update church records throughout 2017, as previously, but early in 2018 a training workshop was held for church clerks who are now able to directly record all membership changes through their own login. As with any new system there have been teething problems and some challenges for local clerks with login and occasional system glitches. Overall ACMS is a big step forward and we give thanks to all the local clerks who have persevered, and continue to do so, providing much more accurate “live” membership data.

Marci undertook a Membership Audit in 2017, and this has helped to ensure that our church clerks started with membership lists where the Mission and local church records were the same. Without the work of the local church clerks and Marci, the membership report above would not be possible.

We give thanks to those who serve their congregation, and the wider church, in the role of local church clerk. It is an important role both for keeping a record of the local church’s actions, and for helping both local leadership and the Irish Mission executive committee keep track of the membership of the church. We also thank Mrs. Sophia Prince, secretary to the BUC Executive Secretary who has supported me in the work of the Missions’ secretariat. Foremost, our thanks are given to our gracious God who not only knows each of us by name but seeks to draw each child of this world to Himself.

Pr. Paul Lockham

Treasurer's Report



I arrived in my current role on the cusp of the last Irish Mission session. It has been an enjoyable experience understanding the dynamics of the work in Ireland and Northern Ireland, getting to know the members, trying to identify the needs of our young people, servicing the technical needs of our local and Mission treasurers, as well as ensuring due diligence and accountability to the Irish Mission Executive Committee and members.

The biggest challenge at the beginning of 2019 concerns the uncertainties of Brexit. What challenges await us, our workers, our members and the church. With concerns on cross border trade in Northern Ireland, employment movements in and out of Britain, there are real concerns for the livelihoods of our members and in parts of our Mission.

Nonetheless, we marvel at the blessings that God has bestowed upon us His people. The last three years has seen many technological and socio-economic changes. Not a month goes by without news of yet another familiar high street name closing. Sometimes, because they have not assessed business and technological changes early enough to continue successfully moving forward or simply that consumers have moved on for their style of services and products.

These are challenging times, but God has blessed us with Ministers and Lay Leaders in our churches who have the skillsets to embrace these seeming obstacles and meet the challenges that God has entrusted to us at this time. I would like to thank my predecessor, Victor Pilmoor, for his 15 years of unstinting service to the Irish Mission. His humour and professionalism, as your treasurer has been very much appreciated throughout those years.

Tithe

Over the last three years £2,287,945 tithe has been returned (see tithe bar charts below). This represents a truly awe inspiring 36% increase from the previous three years. More recently, the tithe returns for 2018, when compared with 2017, reflect a 17.6% increase. We give thanks to God for His blessings, as we recognise the talents that He has entrusted to each and everyone of us for His service.

Support

The Irish Mission is part of a larger fellowship within the British Isles. Over the period, we have contributed £457,500 to the World Field and received appropriations of £453,000 from the British Union Conference.

Gift Aid

One of the true blessings of returning tithes & offerings in Northern Ireland, is that we are able to claim 25p for every £1 returned by tax paying members from the Government. For the last three years this amounted to £84,076 (see chart below). It should be noted that the Gift Aid totals includes the regular gift aid on small donations, but this time also includes claims made on donations which were not processed at the time of giving. This was mainly since some members had not registered for Gift Aid at that time. The Government allows us to go back four years to identify these previously unrecognised donations. This exercise identified an additional £6,929 in this term. These are much needed extra income resources to help with the capital and evangelism needs in our local churches. The process to claim the equivalent tax returns from the revenue authorities in the Republic of Ireland has been a long arduous journey. We seem to have come to an impasse with the regulatory authorities there. Our legal advisors feel that we have addressed all the questions posed to us, in consultation with our legal consultants we are planning to process a claim and respond accordingly to any questions they may pose.

Expenditure

The above income has enabled us to budget accordingly, with actual expenditure of £2.3 million for the period (see pie chart below). As you can see from the pie chart, nearly 70% of the budget is utilised for Ministers and workers' salaries and expenses. Retreats and conventions will have attendee fee income to offset these costs. We recognise the impact that attending Youth retreats, Camporees, Womens' Ministry events, Family Life envisioning weekends and Days of Fellowship have on the lives of our members as they fellowship and support each other on their spiritual life journeys.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet is really where we get an indication of the health of the Irish Mission. Do we have enough funds to meet our liabilities and commitments? To help guide us in this assessment we look to our Working Capital and Liquidity reports (see graphs below). These are financial factors that the General Conference have decided that we should be at 100% as a minimum requirement to ensure ongoing financial health of the organisation. Working Capital measures our ability to meet our financial obligations in the medium term (0-6 months). The Liquidity ratio is more strident, assessing our ability to pay our liabilities in the short term (0-3 months). On both counts you will see that the trustees have set budgets and operated within our means to ensure that the Mission is financially stable, ensuring that these ratios are sufficiently above the required levels.

There have been no major changes in the Balance Sheet of the Irish Mission during this reporting period. Our reserves include allocated funds. Another way to refer to these funds is that they are ring fenced (by the committee) or specific donations. We have received significant donations from the Emerald Foundation in the period towards many projects, but especially for evangelism in Ireland. We continue to be able to report that we are above the 100% denominational requirement.

Thanks

I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your tremendous support of the work in the Irish Mission through your Tithes and Offerings.

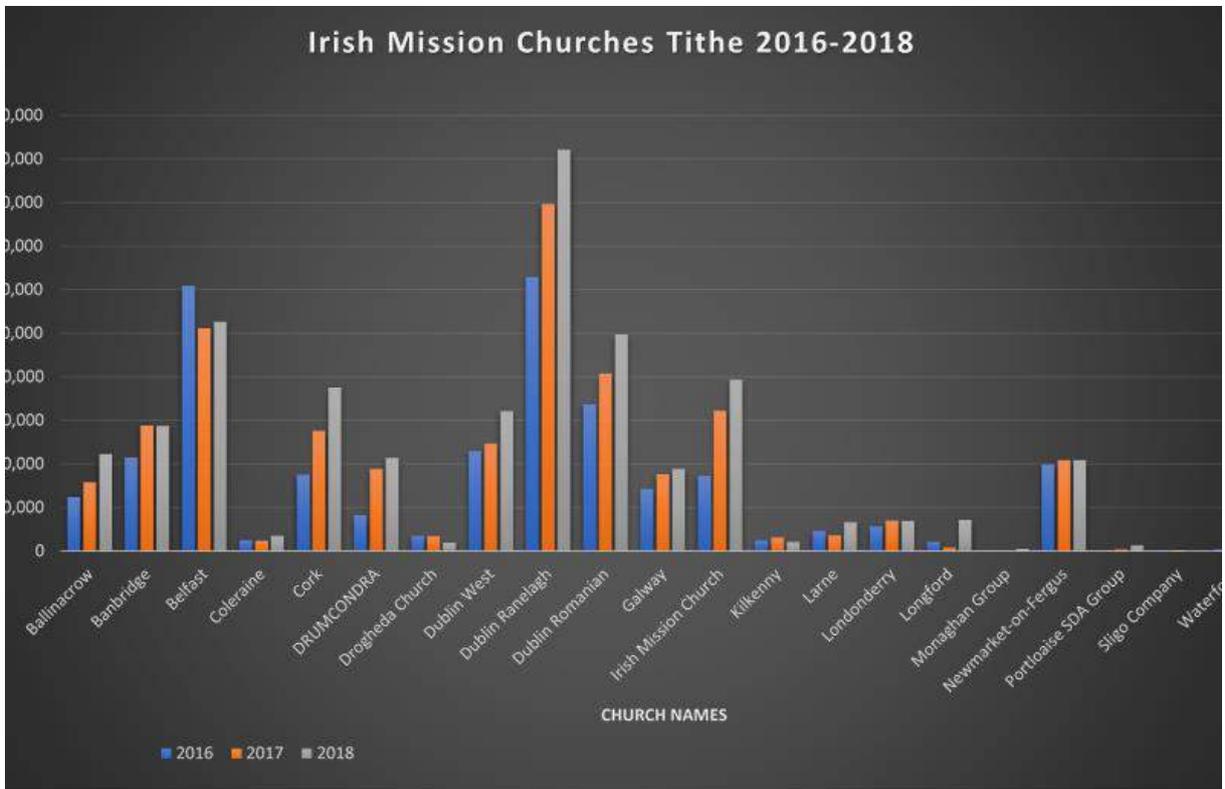
Secondly, the many unsung heroes in our churches, namely all the treasurers. Without your support my work would be an impossible one. We were able to run a training day for our many treasurers. It was a pleasure to meet so many of our local treasurers to engage in technical support and envisioning for the financial ministry that they perform each week in their local churches.

Thirdly, my team here in the BUC office: Steve Okelo attends to our properties, Daniel Smith who deals with the disbursements, Aftab Barki who manages income & Gift Aid and Lucinda Calvert who deals with your insurance needs.

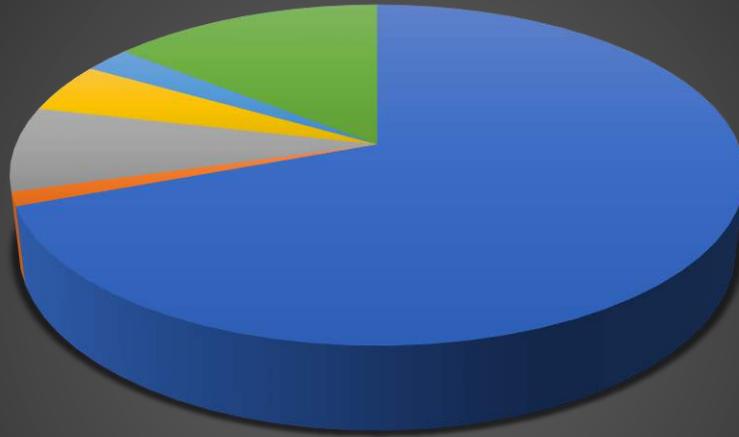


We are all here to serve. God has given to each one of us time and abilities to use in His cause. I pray that you will ever seek to draw closer to our Lord and Saviour, as we seek to fulfil His will in our lives.

Earl Ramharacksingh

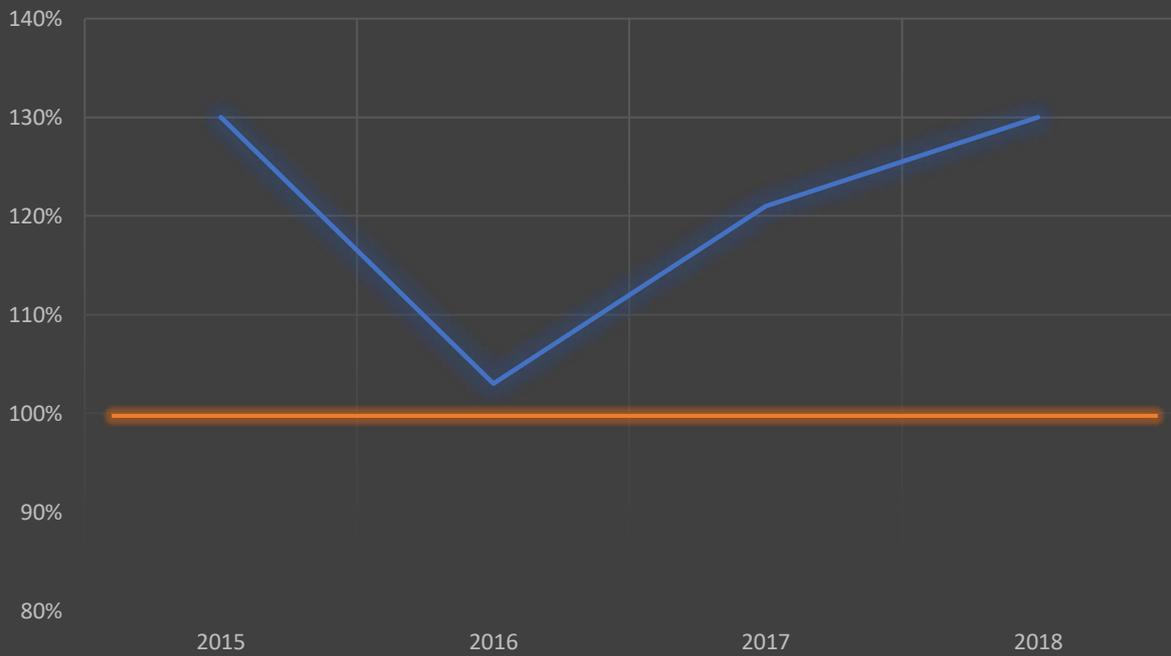


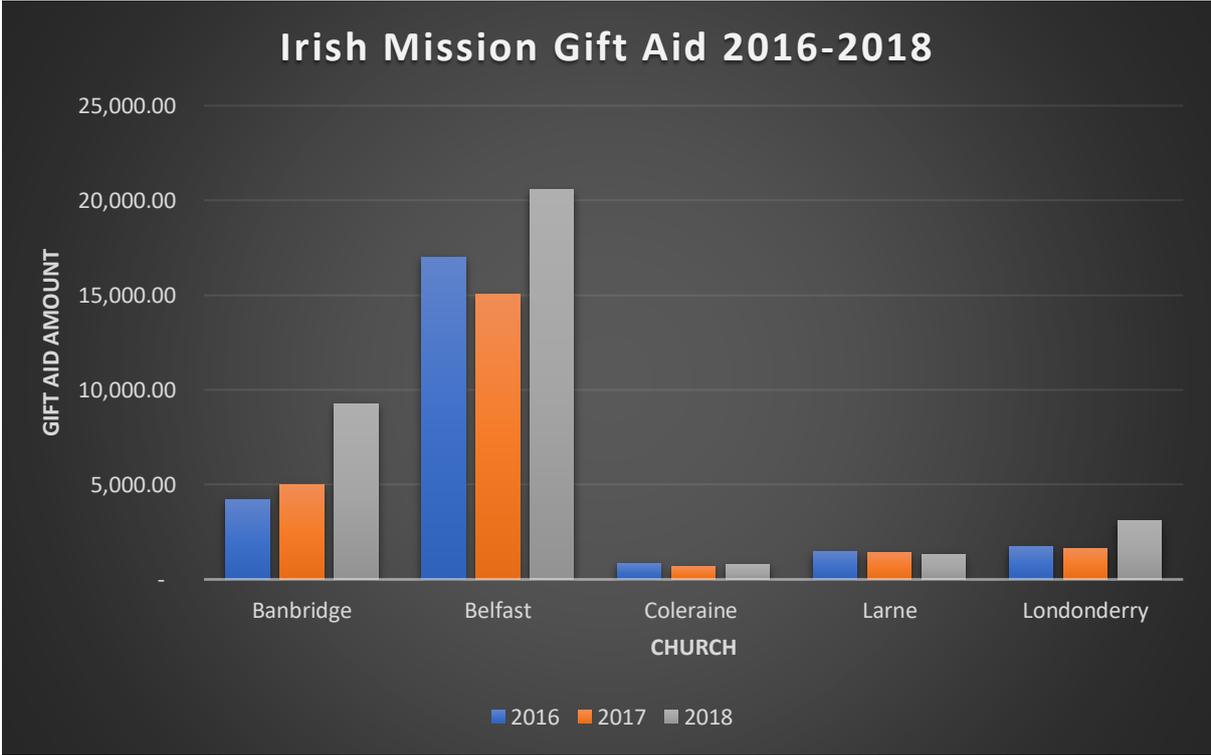
IM EXPENDITURE 2016-2018



- Salaries & Expense (£1,602,970)
- Appropriations & Grants (£30,160)
- Retreats & Conventions (£185,608)
- Administrative (£109,593)
- Office Support (£56,225)
- Property Costs & Depreciation (£329,087)

IRISH MISSION LIQUIDITY 2016-2018





Audit statements



119 St Peters Street
St Albans, AL1 3EY
England
+44 (0)1727 860-331 (tel)
+44 (0)1727 866-312 (fax)
www.gcasconnect.org

POLICY COMPLIANCE REPORT

To the Executive Committee
Irish Mission of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Watford
United Kingdom

We assisted Kingston Smith, LLP in their audit of the statements of financial position of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, from which were derived the statements of financial position of the Irish Mission of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Organisation) as at 31 December 2016, 2017 and 2018, and the related statements of financial activity and changes in net assets for the years then ended. The independent auditors, Kingston Smith, LLP have issued their reports thereon dated 28 September 2017, 21 June 2018 and an expected date in May 2019.

As internal auditors of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, we performed certain tests to determine the Organisation's compliance with the Working Policy of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Trans-European Division, insofar as it relates to those policies designated as "core" policies. Since we are not the auditors responsible for issuing the report on the audits of the financial statements referred to in paragraph one, we are precluded by International auditing standards generally accepted by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination from providing any assurance on the Organisation's compliance with policy. However, we are aware of noncompliance with the policy discussed in the following paragraph.

Trans-European Division Working Policy (TEDWP) S 34 05 requires each organisation's controlling committee to appoint an Audit Committee. This committee is to be comprised of a minimum of three members, typically from the controlling committee, who have appropriate financial expertise, and who are not employees of the entity being audited. An Audit Committee was appointed during 2016, but did not report to the executive committee. This committee was dissolved at the quinquennial meeting of the British Union Conference in 2016, and the new committee then appointed includes one of the officers of the Organisation.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the officers of the Organisation, its audit committee, its governing committee, the delegates to its constituency meetings and the officers and their designees of higher denominational organisations. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

General Conference Auditing Service

11 April 2019

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF
BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
For the three years ended 31 December 2018



BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

IRISH MISSION

Three years ended 31 December, 2018

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All amounts are stated in British pounds (GBP) - see note 2



Trans-European Area
119 St Peters Street
St Albans, AL1 3EY, England
+44 (0)1727 860-331 (tel)
+44 (0)1727 866-312 (fax)
www.gcasconnect.org

To the Members of the Executive Committee
Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists
Watford
United Kingdom

Kingston Smith LLP have audited the financial statement of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the three years ended 31 December 2018, from which the accompanying summarised financial statements of the Irish Mission of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Organisation), consisting of statements of financial position and the related statements of financial activity and changes in the fund balances for the years then ended, are derived.

Confirming opinion

In our opinion, as internal auditors of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the summarised financial statements referred to above are consistent with the annual financial statements of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the three years ended 31 December 2018.

Basis of our opinion

The annual audits were conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK). In the auditors' reports dated 27 September 2016, 28 September 2017 and 21 June 2018, the auditors express their opinion that the annual financial statements from which these summarised financial statements are derived presented fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Organisation, as at the end of each year, and the results of its operations for each year, in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) adopted by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

We have assessed whether the accompanying summarised financial statements are consistent with the annual financial statements for the relevant years.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the accompanying unconsolidated financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The unconsolidated special purpose financial statements were prepared to present the financial statements of the Organisation apart from the accounts and activity of any related entity.

Responsibility of management and auditors

The preparation of these summarised financial statements is the responsibility of the Organisation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether these summarised financial statements are consistent with the financial statements issued for each year.

General Conference Auditing Service

11 April 2019

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Statement of Financial Position
for the three years ended December 31, 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
ASSETS				
<u>Current assets</u>				
Cash and cash equivalents	887,577	719,293	793,288	876,076
Accounts receivable, net	21,160	(37,391)	89,230	13,954
Loans receivable - current portion	16,296	-	-	-
Total current assets	<u>925,033</u>	<u>681,902</u>	<u>882,518</u>	<u>890,030</u>
<u>Land, buildings, and equipment</u>	<u>2,072,913</u>	<u>2,107,123</u>	<u>2,006,284</u>	<u>631,509</u>
<u>Other assets</u>				
Loans receivable - noncurrent	67,408	-	-	-
Total other assets	<u>67,408</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets	<u><u>3,065,354</u></u>	<u><u>2,789,025</u></u>	<u><u>2,888,802</u></u>	<u><u>1,521,539</u></u>
LIABILITIES				
<u>Current liabilities</u>				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	171,637	108,388	193,673	130,568
Total liabilities	<u>171,637</u>	<u>108,388</u>	<u>193,673</u>	<u>130,568</u>
NET ASSETS				
Unallocated tithe-function	(192,593)	(248,548)	(311,406)	(259,852)
Unallocated non-tithe function	505,602	271,097	422,450	475,209
Allocated functions - operating	508,990	552,160	578,996	544,105
Pension surplus/(deficit)	(1,195)	(1,195)	(1,195)	-
Allocated functions - property	-	-	-	-
Unexpended plant function	-	-	-	-
Invested in plant function	2,072,913	2,107,123	2,006,284	631,509
Total net assets	<u>2,893,717</u>	<u>2,680,637</u>	<u>2,695,129</u>	<u>1,390,971</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>3,065,354</u></u>	<u><u>2,789,025</u></u>	<u><u>2,888,802</u></u>	<u><u>1,521,539</u></u>

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Statement of Financial Activity
for the three years ended December 31, 2018

	2018	2017	2016	Total 2016-2018	Total 2013-2015
OPERATING ACTIVITY					
<u>Earned income</u>					
Net tithing income	718,409	610,828	501,813	1,831,050	1,341,493
Donation income	41,310	32,260	27,698	101,268	112,602
Other operating income	33,997	(8,938)	45,436	70,495	61,188
Total earned operating income	793,716	634,150	574,947	2,002,813	1,515,283
<u>Operating expense</u>					
Employee-related expense	565,157	526,732	515,935	1,607,824	1,487,663
Administration & general expense	116,969	121,682	95,483	334,134	178,866
Departmental expense	70,257	66,759	76,915	213,931	355,046
Total operating expense	752,383	715,173	688,333	2,155,889	2,021,575
Inc. (decr.) before appropriations	41,333	(81,023)	(113,386)	(153,076)	(506,292)
<u>Operating appropriations</u>					
Appropriations received	212,106	206,174	185,520	603,800	1,036,593
Appropriations disbursed	(53,409)	(68,219)	(31,215)	(152,843)	(190,063)
Net appropriations retained	158,697	137,955	154,305	450,957	846,530
Increase (decrease) after oper. apprc	200,030	56,932	40,919	297,881	340,238
CAPITAL					
Funding of pension deficit	(86,209)	(71,424)	(57,309)	(214,942)	(150,917)
Other capital income/(expenditure)	99,259	-	1,320,548	1,419,807	-
Net capital income	13,050	(71,424)	1,263,239	1,204,865	(150,917)
Net increase (decrease) for year	213,080	(14,492)	1,304,158	1,502,746	189,321
Net assets, beginning of year	2,680,637	2,695,129	1,390,971	1,390,971	1,201,650
Net assets, end of year	2,893,717	2,680,637	2,695,129	2,893,717	1,390,971

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
for the three years ended December 31, 2018

	<u>Balance 2018</u>	<u>Changes 2018</u>	<u>Changes 2017</u>	<u>Changes 2016</u>	<u>Balance 2015</u>
<u>Unallocated operating</u>					
Tithe	(192,593)	55,955	62,858	(51,554)	(259,852)
Non-tithe	505,602	234,505	(151,353)	(52,759)	475,209
Pension deficit	(1,195)	-	-	(1,195)	-
Total unallocated	311,814	290,460	(88,495)	(105,508)	215,357
<u>Restricted operating</u>					
Temporarily restricted					
General evangelism	22,796	-	-	-	22,796
Evangelism Dublin	80,900	11,574	18,274	20,548	30,504
Cork project	11,904	(28,042)	17,856	17,123	4,967
Dublin legacy	-	-	(35,989)	-	35,989
West of Ireland	48,000	-	-	-	48,000
Other restricted	6,013	-	13	-	6,000
<u>Designated operating</u>					
Exchange rate fluctuation	47,417	12,961	(16,964)	-	51,420
Evangelism	-	-	-	-	-
Dublin evangelism	33,703	-	(3,369)	14	37,058
Youth camp	40,364	-	(6,250)	-	46,614
Eniskillen house	189,104	(2,741)	-	-	191,845
Emerald Foundation	31,583	(36,922)	(407)	-	68,912
Other designated	(2,794)	-	-	(2,794)	-
Total allocated funds	508,990	(43,170)	(26,836)	34,891	544,105
Invested in plant	2,072,913	(34,210)	100,839	1,374,775	631,509
Total all funds	2,893,717	213,080	(14,492)	1,304,158	1,390,971

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Notes to the financial statements
For the three years ended December 31, 2018

Note 1 – Organisation Structure

The Irish Mission of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Organisation), is an administrative unit of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist church. It supports the operations of local congregations of Seventh-day Adventists in the geographic territory of Ireland. The British Union of Seventh-day Adventists (BUC) is a registered charity which encompasses the Missions in Ireland, Scotland and Scotland and the Adventist Discovery Centre. Many of the Organisation's financial activities consist of transactions with other denominational entities, such as the BUC.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Special Presentation - These financial statements have been extracted from the consolidated accounts of the BUC, in order to show the transactions of the Organisation in isolation from the BUC and its other branches. Compliance with financial reporting standards would require all the controlled entities of the BUC to be included in general-use financial statements, and are so included in the total charity accounts of the BUC filed with the Charity Commission. The Organisation believes that this special presentation is useful to analyse the financial statements of the major portion of the Organisation, without consolidating the accounts and activity of related entities.

Currency - The financial statements and notes thereto are presented in British Pounds (GBP), which is the functional currency of the Organisation. Accounting records involving transactions with other countries are maintained in dual currencies: GBP and the applicable local currency. In accordance with policies of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, the various local currencies are converted into GBP at fixed rates of exchange, which are set each month by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Trans-European Division, and are intended to approximate current market exchange rates.

Accounting Method - The accounting records are maintained on the accrual method of accounting at historical cost, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards generally accepted by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. The Treasurer authorised issuance of the accompanying summary financial statements on 10 April 2019.

Cash and Equivalents - Cash consists of currency on hand and bank checking and saving accounts that are held for operating purposes. Cash equivalents consist of highly-liquid assets that are readily convertible to cash and are held for operating purposes. Cash equivalents include items such as time deposits that have a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition, and money market funds.

Land, Buildings, and Equipment - Land, buildings, and equipment assets are recorded at historical cost, and are depreciated by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which range from three to seventy-five years. Legal title to the land used by Organisation is held in the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Association, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BUC.

Fund Accounting - The following self-balancing funds are established in the accounting system:

Operating Fund - Includes all income, expenses, other transactions, and related assets and liabilities involving the Organisation's operations, except transactions of the Plant and Retirement funds. Financial activity is sub-divided into tithe, non-tithe, and allocated funds.

Plant Fund - Includes all transactions relating to land, buildings, and equipment, such as holding title to, and accounting for, the real properties used by the Organisation, holding and accounting for equipment, accounting for depreciation on those assets, and holding liquid assets accumulated for the renewal and replacement of land, buildings, and equipment. Equipment items that individually cost GBP 1,000 or more are capitalised and depreciated; equipment items that individually cost less than GBP 1,000 are charged to expense in full when acquired.

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Notes to the financial statements
For the three years ended December 31, 2018

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Principles of Combination - The Operating and Plant Funds are combined for reporting purposes, to represent the total operating activities of the Organisation.

Note 3 - Retirement Plan

The Organisation participates in a defined contribution retirement plan for the benefit of its employees. The plan is operated by trustees appointed by the BUC. This plan was formed in 2013 to continue the provision of retirement benefits, following the closure to further service, on 31 December 2013, of the previous defined benefit retirement plan. The liability for any shortfall in the deferred benefit plan rests with the BUC, but the Organisation has committed to contributing to this shortfall by paying to the BUC a percentage of its tithe income.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Working capital statement</u>				
Current assets	925,033	681,902	882,518	890,030
Current liabilities	171,637	108,388	193,673	130,568
Total working capital	<u>753,396</u>	<u>573,514</u>	<u>688,845</u>	<u>759,462</u>
Recommended working capital: 20% of operating expenses	150,477	143,035	137,667	120,947
Allocated net assets	<u>508,990</u>	<u>552,160</u>	<u>578,996</u>	<u>544,105</u>
	<u>659,467</u>	<u>695,195</u>	<u>716,663</u>	<u>665,052</u>
Working capital excess (deficit)	<u>93,930</u>	<u>(121,680)</u>	<u>(27,818)</u>	<u>94,410</u>
Percent of recommended working capital	<u>114%</u>	<u>82%</u>	<u>96%</u>	<u>114%</u>
<u>Liquidity statement</u>				
Cash and cash equivalents	887,577	719,293	793,288	876,076
Receivable from higher organisation	-	81,447	-	-
Total liquid assets	<u>887,577</u>	<u>800,740</u>	<u>793,288</u>	<u>876,076</u>
Less commitments:				
Current liabilities	171,637	108,388	193,673	130,568
Allocated funds	<u>508,990</u>	<u>552,160</u>	<u>578,996</u>	<u>544,105</u>
Total commitments	<u>680,627</u>	<u>660,548</u>	<u>772,669</u>	<u>674,673</u>
Net liquid assets	<u>206,950</u>	<u>140,192</u>	<u>20,619</u>	<u>201,403</u>
Percent liquid assets to commitments	<u>130%</u>	<u>121%</u>	<u>103%</u>	<u>130%</u>

Youth Ministry Report



*“The youth have been bought with an infinite price,
even the blood of the Son of God.”*

(Ellen White, Messages to Young People, p. 16).

The Irish Mission Youth Department (IMYD) affirms the eternal value of every young person, and from 2016 to 2018, the years covered by this report, IMYD had been involved in the nurturing, encouraging, empowering, and training of our youth (ages 9 and above) to lead them to a growing relationship with Jesus.

The report below outlines the youth events, ministries and initiatives from 2016 to 2018, with a brief description of youth attendance and involvement.

Ballinacrow Weekend

This annual event is held in Ballinacrow Seventh-day Adventist Church, and takes place around the last weekend of October. Average attendance to this event is around 50 youth and staff from around the Irish Mission.



(Picture is from 2016)

Belfast Weekend

This annual event held in February attracted an average attendance of 80 youth and staff in 2017 and 2018.



(Picture from 2017)

Sumer Camp

Hosted at Portlick Scout Campsite, in Athlone, County Westmeath, this annual 8/9-day event, which takes place in August, is the main event in the youth calendar. It is also the most attended event with an average attendance of 95 youth and staff in 2017 and 2018.



(Picture is from 2018)

Pathfinder Ministry

The Pathfinder Ministry has grown immensely in the Irish Mission. It has positively contributed to the spiritual development of our youth, equipping them for service and preparing them for His kingdom. See next report.



(Picture is from 2017)

Global Youth Day

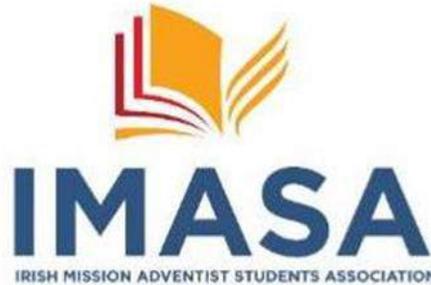
This is a global initiative that our youth in the Irish Mission have actively participated in annually on a Sabbath in March. This initiative encourages our youth to be the hands and feet of Jesus to bring joy and hope to people in the community.



(Picture is from 2017)

Irish Mission Adventist Students Association

Students from around the Irish Mission met for their first Day of Fellowship on 30 June 2018 and organised themselves into the Irish Mission Adventist Students Association (IMASA).



Youth Outpost

In 18-20 October 2018, through a series of Let's Talk! events, this new initiative was launched in Dublin to bring the youth in the Irish Mission together and engage them in open dialogue and honest conversations on faith. This initiative is being organised every second Sabbath of the month with the goal of holding it in other locations in the Irish Mission in the future.

Three Missions' Easter Retreat

This is an annual event attended by youth ages 13-30 from the Irish Mission, Scottish Mission and Welsh Mission. In 2017, a group of young people from the Irish Mission attended the retreat in Scotland from 14-17 April.

In 2018, from 30 March-01 April, IMYD hosted the retreat in Northern Ireland in an outdoor education and residential centre on the slopes of Slieve Donard in Newcastle.

Other Events

- 18 March 2017 and 17 March 2018:
Youth Day of Fellowships in Banbridge Church during the Global Youth Day events.
- 02 July 2017 and 01 July 2018
Irish Mission Sports Days in Dublin. These sports events were organised by the Irish Mission Youth Department but open to all ages.

- 01-05 August 2017
European Youth Congress. A group of young people from the Irish Mission attended this event in Valencia, Spain.
- 20 July 2018
First Aid Training. This training was provided by a qualified NHS trainer to a group of prospective staff for the Summer Camp and other youth events.

We also praise the Lord that many of our young people are actively engaged and involved in the life of their local churches, and some of them have accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour and had been baptised.

In conclusion, the Irish Mission Youth Department would like to sincerely express gratitude to all events staff and volunteers, churches and youth leaders, parents and pastors for offering your time, effort, venue, prayers and continued support to the Youth Ministries. And to all our young people, we look forward with excitement to what God has in store for you and the Youth Ministries in the Irish Mission in the next three years.

Pr. Ben Pontanar

Pathfinders Report

Irish Mission Pathfinder and Adventurer Team:



Irish Mission
Junior Youth Sponsor

Bogdan Stan
(volunteer)



Secretary

Erin Gordon
(training/
paid volunteer)



Sheree Williams – Dublin
Ranelagh Church (volunteer)

Teja Kaare – Cork Church
(volunteer)



Area Coordinator West

Makho Madubeko –
Newmarket Church
(volunteer)



Area Coordinator East

Merrell Karan –
Dublin Ranelagh Church
(volunteer)



Area Coordinator North

Bogdan & Roxana Stan –
Dublin Romanian Church
(volunteers)

Strategic Highlights

Formerly, the IM had no structure to the Pathfinder Ministry, the then Sponsor Pastor Jeff Freeman, had a team of volunteers from America to help him. No local club director was involved in any planning. There were seven Pathfinder/Adventurer clubs in the Republic, while in the North there were none.

Master Guide training for the Mission was started by Pastor Freeman. After he left, there was a need to structure the clubs, as it was hard to access money for different activities by individual clubs. With the volunteers from America needing to focus their attention on the Cork church development, and less on the Pathfinder Ministries, I enlisted Erin Gordon to help me organise and become Pathfinder secretary for the department.

Financial

As there was no separate budget for Pathfinder activities, we had to ask the Youth Department to allocate funds from their budget. Having started with no budget in 2015 we now have a budget of €5500 for 2019.

Operating

The main event was the IM May Camporee with the 'Bible Bowl' as the main attraction.

“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

*To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding,
to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity;*

*To give prudence to the simple,
to the young man knowledge and discretion.”*

Looking Ahead

From the beginning of the journey, my aim was to improve Pathfinders Mission-wide by focusing on the junior youth, organising camporees and life-time experience events with both a spiritual and practical goal.

Events

Pathfinder and Adventurer Camporee

May Bank holiday in Newmarket-on-Fergus brings together over 250 people on site every year. We are expecting big numbers in 2019 as the number of the clubs and members has doubled. We have changed the structure making it more interactive with forest orientation, fire and skills stations. We are also trying to add new ranges of interest each year.

September Fair

The Pathfinders camp in Lough Dan Scouts Centre is a spiritual action-oriented camp to exercise the skills gained during the year. It is a good opportunity for more advanced spiritual topics to be raised. Some of the activities include night hiking, honours application, marching and drilling.

Pathfinder and Adventurer Bible Experience

As a team, we decided to join the world-wide Bible Experience contest from 2017, and the IM had very good results. During our first year we qualified with 3 Pathfinder Teams for the BUC semi-finals and we came back with a great experience achieving 3rd place.

In 2018, 5 teams qualified for the BUC semi-finals and 1 first place qualified for the USA Finals in Florida. Expenses were fully covered by the BUC for getting the highest score among the Missions. They were the first team in the history of Irish Mission Pathfinders to receive first place on the world-wide Bible Experience Finals in USA.

2019 was a great year for Adventurers and Pathfinders. This was the first year to have the Adventurers Finals at Newbold College, where we went with 6 Adventurer teams and returned to Ireland with 3 first places, 2 second places, and 1 third place (also a historical event for the IM). We also had 3 Pathfinder teams qualified for the semi-finals, with all receiving first place and qualified for the USA finals in Chicago. The icing on the cake was when one team got the highest score among Missions, and received the £5000 subsidy from the BUC, (another IM first). I want to encourage any church with no kids to start a club. Young men and women can have the experience of their lives while in the Pathfinder/Adventurer club.

Master Guide Training

Master Guide is a leadership programme for the over-16 years of age. Presently, we have one in the East Area conducted by the Area Coordinator Merrell Karan and one to start in Belfast conducted by Pastor Ben Pontanar.

Teen Leadership Training (TLT)

As a team, we looked at starting the TLT in the Irish Mission. The programme is focusing on Pathfinders willing to continue Pathfinder Ministry all the way to growing as leaders. They are trained to become instructors, conduct Bible studies, prepare sermons and preach. Basically, prepare them to become the future leaders of the church.

Clubs

We started with 7 Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs and 150 members in 2015. In 2019 we have 12 Clubs and over 310 members:

1. Dublin Dacians - Dublin Romanian Church
2. Dublin Royals – Dublin Ranelagh and Dublin West Church
3. Cork Clovers – Cork Church
4. Newmarket on Fergus – Newmarket Church
5. Galway Pathfinder Club – Galway Church
6. Ballinacrow Pathfinder Club – Ballinacrow Church
7. Longford Lyons Pathfinder Club – Longford Church
8. Kilkenny Pathfinder Club – Kilkenny Church
9. Drogheda Pathfinder Club - Drogheda Church
10. Kerry Pathfinder Club - Kerry Church
11. Belfast Pathfinder Club – Belfast Church
12. Portlaoise Pathfinder Club – Portlaoise Church

Strategy

The strategy for the next period is to concentrate on Teen Training, improve quality of camps, start a Master Guide Camp, (why not host an international MG camp?), focus on the Bible Experience, and encourage our teens to become members of the church through baptism.

Visibility

I have developed a website for the Pathfinder Department (www.paim.ie) along with a Facebook page to promote events and activities. The plan now is to organize a Media Department conducted by Pathfinders under supervision, to make sure that we are up to date.

Future

The future of the Pathfinders/Adventurers' ministry is in your hands and your decisions will have an impact on this ministry. Regardless of who is asked to lead this ministry, the task is great and the demand on time growing as we now have twelve clubs consisting of 300 children, and there are many events which need to be organised. Without the help of parents this work would be impossible to do. Therefore, please take all this into account as you plan for the future.

Thanks

To God – for the privilege of serving youth and the blessing over our Mission and Pathfinder movement who changed the hearts of our youth.

To My Family – who supported me in this work and had so much patience with me, always busy and always something to do for the pathfinders and adventurers.

To My Team – for the hard work, consistency, love for youth, sacrificing their time and service for kids.

To all Directors and Instructors – The only thing I can say is God bless you all for your commitment.

To BUC and IM – For all the financial support and effort to help as much as possible.

Bogdan Stan

Children Ministry Report



I visited the following churches to establish how children are being supported in building a long-lasting relationship with God, met with children leaders and discussed strengths and needs, and looked at ways of supporting leaders to plan programmes for children.

1. Cork
2. Newmarket
3. Galway
4. Longford
5. Kilkenny
6. Ranelagh
7. Dublin West
8. Ballyhaunis

I gave presentations at Ballyhaunis, Newmarket, Kilkenny and Longford about what Children's Ministries entails and how the respective churches may support their children's leaders in developing children's programmes.

Longford and Kilkenny churches were visited twice to deliver the Vacation Bible School (VBS) kits, and to help them plan for the VBS programme. Other VBS kits were secured and used by Galway and Longford church respectively.

These two churches ran VBS programmes, which were a resounding success. You may check their Facebook pages to get a glimpse of what they did. Kilkenny had prepared to run the VBS programme but cancelled at the last minute due to unexpected family tragedies.

I attended Ranelagh and Longford's VBS closing ceremonies and held a workshop on parenting in Longford.

Shupai Matewa

Communication Department Report



Communication is a crucial and truly multifaceted element of the work of the Irish Mission. The goal is to support the Church and its members in the endeavour to spread the Advent message widely around the island of Ireland. This is done by making sure that the general public has access to information about the Seventh-day Adventist church and its mission. The communication department seeks to support local churches and the Church administration in giving an account of their goals and accomplishments as they go about their mission. I hope that this report will reflect some of the passion with which the communication team has worked in the last three years to support the church in its mission and to tell our many stories in a way that bind us all together in a big united effort.

Leadership Changes

The communication department experienced several changes in leadership in the last three years. In 2016, the Irish Mission Session appointed Clid Negosanu as communication sponsor. Weiers Coetser and Adam Keough became associate communication sponsors. By the middle of 2017 Clid was no longer able to continue in the role. Weiers Coetser was asked to take over the leadership, with Adam Keough as associate. Adam had several other important responsibilities however, and by the end of 2018 it was proposed that Christian Salcianu take over the role of associate.

Is Genesis History

In April 2018, the Irish Mission ran a mission-wide outreach project which featured public screenings of the acclaimed documentary, *Is Genesis History?* This was a significant project for the communication team involving coordination with all the churches who were screening these events in a variety of venues. The event required significant input and support from the communication team.

A website – www.genesisperspectives.info – was set up to serve as a central information platform for the event. The Eventbrite service was used for ticketing and management of bookings. The communication team provided pastors and local coordinators with almost-daily updates of bookings for each venue. A press release was written, and the event was promoted on social media. Several churches used paid Facebook advertising to promote the event. After the event took place, news items were written and distributed to the wider church. Weiers Coetser, Adam Keough and Christian Salcianu worked together very closely on the various aspects of this project.

News Reporting

As the various reports for this session testify, the Irish Mission is a vibrant and growing entity that is making every effort to make a positive impact in the communities that we serve. The result is that there are many important and beautiful stories that need to be told.

Our calculation is that we have published between seventy and eighty news articles (we think it is seventy-four) on the Irish Mission website in the last three years. We set several goals for ourselves:

- Keep stories current and publish soon after the story reaches us.
- Structure the stories to contain meaningful, accurate news that capture attention and are enjoyable to read.
- Target audiences are church members who are involved in making these stories but also members of the general public who need to receive an appealing and accurate picture of what the Seventh-day Adventist church is about in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- We try to publish quality photos of the events that are covered. These photos (and some videos) are regularly uploaded to picture galleries on Facebook and on the Website. (See <http://adventist.ie/news/gallery> for more than 50 such galleries).

Local congregations are key players in the process of news production. Huge appreciation goes to the churches and individuals who submit regular, timely and interesting stories. We strongly encourage churches to appoint a communication leader who would take the initiative to tell the stories of what is happening in our congregations. Editing these stories is so much fun and one of the most rewarding aspects of the communication work.

Where do we typically publish our stories?

- On the Irish Mission Website
- Link to the story on the Irish Mission Facebook Page
- BUC News e-mail newsletter (subscribe to newsletter on www.adventist.ie front page)
- We submit many of our stories to *The Messenger*
- From time to time international media outlets also pick up our stories. An example is Petar Popivanov's article, "Get the Recipe Right." <https://ted.adventist.org/news/1297-get-the-recipe-right?>
- Once a quarter, the Emerald Foundation who generously funds many of the creative initiatives of the Irish Mission, contacts us requesting that we share news from the Irish Mission with them.

One of the challenges with our news coverage is that there are often many stories that go untold. This is partly because it is impossible to be present at all the exciting events that take place around the Mission. Often it is more exciting to plan an event than to try to tell the story afterwards.

Telling the stories are time consuming. With the current system, it takes on average between four and six hours to edit and upload a story that has already been written to the website. If one of our team members writes a story and uploads it, it can take even more time. We've experimented with video material in a very small number of our stories. We think video is more and more important to grab people's attention. With the limited amount of time to our disposal, we have not been able to fully embrace an emphasis on video content.

Website

The Irish Mission website, www.adventist.ie, forms the central pillar of our online identity. The website is integrated with the website for the Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland, www.adventist.uk.

There are many advantages to having an integrated website with the rest of the British Union Conference. We would not be able to afford the professional developers contracted to design the website. A unified design theme across entities increases the overall impact that the Church has on the Internet. Content that we upload is easily integrated in various church media outlets. The Churches finder stays up to date with the latest details of churches and places of worship.

The back-end infrastructure of the current website continues to have a number of technical issues, with the whole website being re-designed by developers at the Adventist media centre in Germany, Stimme-der-Hoffnung. Once complete, the new website will be built on a new platform and promises to be much more user friendly to update with the ability to customise. We hope the new website will be fully functional and populated with new content by May-June 2019.

Social Media

The Irish Mission Facebook page is perhaps the online space that captures the life of the Irish Mission most accurately. Many of our events are advertised there. Due to the ease of publication, we can share photos and news more quickly and in a more informal way than we do through the website. We endeavor to manage the Facebook page as an interactive online community for those who are interested in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland.

Facebook's statistics tell us that more than 680 people like our page. When we publish an item on the page it often reaches more than 150 people's newsfeeds within an hour or two of publishing. That number grows if the content is popular and is shared and liked by people.

Most of the content of our page is locally generated, but we also try to raise awareness of helpful resources for worship or the spiritual life of our members. Through our Facebook page we also try to support local churches and other groups like the Irish Mission Student Association (IMASA), the Youth Department (IMYD), Pathfinders and Adventurers, Cuisle Centre and more who use Facebook to promote their events.

One place where we have seen a growing impact of our Facebook page is in the number of messages that we receive on our page from people who are looking for a church to worship

near to where they live. Facebook often becomes the first port of call when a member moves to Ireland from a different country and wants to connect with the local church community. Facebook keeps track of how quickly we respond to messages that are sent to our page. Now we have a 100% response rate and most people wait less than 3 hours for a response after a message has been sent.

Local Church Websites and Social Media

Over the years, we have helped several of our churches in Ireland to establish a web-presence by providing them with a web-space provided by Net-Adventist. Several churches with web-design expertise have chosen to establish their own websites using a platform of their choice. Both approaches are acceptable, although we can provide technical support to churches who use the Net-Adventist platform.

Many of our congregations and groups have also established other forms of online presence such as Facebook pages and/or specific listings on Google maps etc. Every six months or so, we do an audit of the web presence of our churches. Some churches have proven to be more responsive to contact than others. Sometimes, a simple message on Facebook or via e-mail is all that is needed to keep a constructive conversation about the church's web presence going. With a few congregations it has been quite difficult to find out who is in control of their web pages. Some churches are very faithful in updating their pages. Others have clearly not been updated for a while. The audits have provided opportunities to prompt updates to some aspects of churches' web presence, but this has not been universally the case. We once again encourage congregations to appoint somebody who will take proactive control of the church's web presence and to communicate the information about this person to the Communication sponsor for the Irish Mission who will be willing to provide support and training where needed.

IT Management Responsibilities

As the Irish Mission grows and as it engages in more and more ministries and outreach projects, the IT needs of the Mission is also growing. Our communication team has been involved in setting up and managing various websites and domains which are set-up for these different projects. At times, this can be time consuming and technical. As I have been writing this report (in March 2019), Pastor Adam Keough, Pastor Dan Serb and myself have exchanged several emails about one internet domain that has expired, needs to be renewed, but there is a technical difficulty with the renewal. To complicate matters, we have been receiving phishing attacks that claim to be from the host of our various web domains. We were fortunately able to spot the danger but needed to make several contacts with the hosting company to get a resolution to the domain renewal process. It is not an overstatement that these technical back-end administrative issues can require a significant time investment that usually goes unnoticed or unreported.

Conclusion

It has been a privilege to serve the Irish Mission in the communication role for more than ten years. I thank the Mission for the learning opportunities that it provided and the

challenge to develop skills in the field of communication. I thank the Irish Mission communication department for their support as well as Clid Negosanu, Adam Keough, and Christian Salcianu who formed part of the team. Members of the Coleraine and Londonderry churches have also been very forgiving when the demands of the communication work impacted on my ability to be present for them in various ways.

I am sad to announce that I will be leaving the Irish Mission in September to pastor in the South England Conference and will therefore no longer be available to fill this stimulating and fulfilling position. The Mission and the people tasked with communication will always be in my prayers.

Pr. Weiers Coetser

Adventist Discovery Centre



The Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) continues to touch the lives of individuals from all cultures, faith groups and ages across the UK and Ireland. Established seventy-four years ago, the ADC's aim and mission are to operate in a local context with a global vision and to make God's Word available to all without exceptions or restrictions.

Working with the ADC

Following the 2016 BUC Session, Pastor Maureen Rock was appointed to the role of Principal of the ADC commencing February 2017. She is the first woman to hold this role in the UK. On taking up this position, Pastor Rock, together with the team, reviewed the work of the ADC within the UK and scheduled plans for future development. Some of those developments are listed below.

- Develop closer partnership with local Pastors to make available the ADC's resources to local churches.
- Encourage, provide training and support Discovery Bible Schools in local churches.
- Develop a transparent ADC /Church process for initiating continual work with the community following local Health projects.
- Upgrade all ADC materials and websites, thus giving a more current appearance and open further opportunities for local church and community outreach.
- Revise the ADC's FreeBible programme to allow representatives to have continuous access to those who receive the precious gift of a Bible.
- Provide Chaplaincy support for students who are remote from a local church congregation either by circumstance or desire.

Partnership with the Irish Mission

A meeting was held in September 2017 with the Irish Mission President and Pastoral Team. The meeting helped to foster closer working relationships, share access to ADC materials and identify the needs within the Irish Mission for both the churches and the community.

Over the Triennium, the ADC supported 1,960 active students. However, the Irish Mission recorded a low number of Bible and



Health students across this period. The ADC would, therefore, seek to work closer with the local Pastors to better understand the community needs and projects planned for the coming Triennium in order to support the Irish Mission with adequate resources.



The FreeBible programme continued to be a successful project within the Irish Mission. A total of 241 bibles were distributed across the Mission via the ADC’s FreeBible programme.

Those who qualify for a free bible are individuals who either intentionally or providentially found our website. There is a desired aim to maintain contact with these individuals beyond delivery of their free gift of a bible as they are already receptive. As a result, the ideal approach for all delivery is face-to-face. The ADC now sends out Start into Life Lesson 1 and a stamped addressed envelope with all bibles posted. This approach is bearing fruit and registration of new students have begun via this method. The ADC, therefore, encourages all local FreeBible representatives to make intentional contacts with those you visit with their gift of a free bible.

ADC Resources

The ADC is in the process of redesigning its fifteen (15) Bible and four (4) Health Courses to present a more eye-catching image. This work is ongoing, however, some of the changes already completed are listed here.

The contents of the entry level course Start into Life have been edited and the lessons also incorporate a multicultural range of images. Small handbooks (A6 size) were also produced under the title The Why Series. The 14-part course is specifically designed for Small Groups discussions. The popular nutrition course Your World of Good Food has also been updated in appearance and includes current nutritional trends. During this time, the Voice of Prophecy USA also updated the course Discover. These new look resources are now available to students from the ADC or via your local Bible School Coordinator.



Additionally, the ADC produced a practical Discover Bible School Guide along with the ADC Curriculum. These documents are available for free download on the ADC website www.discoveronline.org.uk. The documents will assist Bible School Coordinators in local churches to develop and deliver an effective Bible School outreach as stated in the ministry description below.

Bible School Coordinator—The Bible school coordinator organizes and coordinates the church’s Bible school outreach ministry to the community. The coordinator should work closely with the pastor, the interest coordinator, and the personal ministries leader. (2015 Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, p. 101)

ADC on Radio

The ADC regained its voice with joint presentations on Hope FM Radio (North England Conference) by taking part in presentations of bible studies and discussions over the airwaves. The course Start into Life, aimed at those new to faith and was recorded as a weekly 14-part heard on Adventist Radio London (South England Conference). Both radio stations are aired via the internet.

The ADC Team

The ADC has experienced several changes yet continues to serve its students tirelessly. Each Team member is committed to supporting new and existing students, Pastors and Bible School Coordinators. Arrangements can also be made for training at local churches when needed. The team spirit and enthusiasm rests on the fact that each one sees their role as a calling from God to share His Word with all people. Starting January 2019, the ADC Team consists of:

- Pastor Maureen Rock - Director (Joined February 2017)
- Shirley Harper - Course Coordinator (Joined February 2018)
- Audrey Woolfram - Office Administrator (Joined October 2018)

Thanks

Pastor Rock would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the past ADC Team Members for their sterling work in leading and guiding the ADC over several years. They are:

- Pastor Des Rafferty, Principal (Reassigned to SEC - February 2017)
- Pastor Phillip Anderson, Treasurer (Retired - December 2017)
- Paula Carrillo, IT Specialist (Appointed BUC IT Director - December 2017)
- Ann Holness, Office Administrator (Resigned - August 2018)
- Pastor Andrew Willis, Chaplain and FreeBible Coordinator (Accepted a Call to Irish Mission - January 2019)

The ADC Team also wish to recognize our longstanding donors who continue to make regular financial contributions and appropriations to the work of the Lord. Your generosity has helped to support the ADC's approach to improving both the resources and the way in which we support students. During 2016 to 2018, your support has allowed the ADC to reach 1,960 unique correspondence students plus over 300 online students from various faith groups and cultures. Additionally, in partnership with our Free Bible Representatives, 2,239 Bibles were distributed to individuals across the BUC territory.

In conclusion, the ADC Team gives thanks to God for the opportunity to partner with the Administrators and Pastors in the Irish Mission as together we assist all students by sharing His Word with them; guiding them to accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour; uniting them with a local church and nurturing them as they prepare for the Second Coming.

Pr. Maureen Rock

Health Ministry



The subject of health is woven into the native Gaelic Language of the Irish. *Slan*, a Gaelic word, when translated, means ‘Health’.

It is a common sight to see road signs, on leaving any town in the Republic of Ireland, displaying the words *Slan Abhaile* (safe home or health as you go home). Another everyday saying, on leaving a friend or a group, is *Slan agus Beannacht* (good health and blessings). So, it would appear from the ancient Gaelic language that health was and is, an everyday topic amongst the Gaelic speakers and part of their daily vocabulary.

It was also in the vocabulary of John the Apostle who is believed to be the writer of 3 John, v. 2 which says, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

The challenge to spread the Health Message in the Irish Mission.

- **Objective.** To encourage each Irish mission member embrace a healthy lifestyle and in turn encourage those in their sphere of influence to follow their example.
- **Focus.** To visit each church throughout the Island of Ireland raising awareness of the health message, entrusted to the members for the times we live in.
- **Outreach.** To make inroads into the community with a health message that promotes a healthy lifestyle.

2016

I began my term of office in October 2016 and first visited the Longford Church, a vibrant growing church which began as a small house group. Health presentations from the Newstart programme were well received there by the mainly Ghanaian members who brought along friends.

My hometown of Portlaoise where I nursed in the local hospital for four years was the next church to visit. Here I required the services of a translator as most members were of central European origin, English is not their mother tongue. The use of visual aids helped to get the health message across.

2017

The west coast town of Sligo has an Adventist presence where the members there have the use of the local Presbyterian Church for their services. What a surprise awaited me when

the Longford members drove a two-hour journey to support this small church group and expressed their wish to learn more of the health message. Responding to the Healthy Eating programme, the ladies shyly admitted their reluctance to eat foods that needed chewing! But they promised to try harder to eat more fruit and vegetables.

Having worked in the Irish Mental Health Services in both the acute setting and in the community, I was eager to also add a mental health component to my presentations and gave a talk on 'Mental Health and Forgiveness'. A common bond has been formed between these two churches who now continue to support each other.

It was exciting in May to be a guest speaker on health in the Northern Ireland Derry Church. As earlier in the year, the church there had bravely opened the Prehen Centre, a Community Lifestyle Centre led by a qualified fitness instructor. The centre runs lifestyle programmes for the local community. A group of members from Coleraine were present on the day and promised to change their eating habits when they returned home. Other churches, which received health presentations in 2017 were Kilkenny, Cork, and the Mosney/Drogheda Group.

My final health presentation for 2017 was held in the Northern Ireland Banbridge church, where the general population has one of the highest Post Traumatic Stress levels in the world with a worrying suicide rate. Here, church members are passionate in reaching out to those who need a listening ear, compassion and support. A presentation on 'Hurt and Forgiveness' opened the dialogue to their challenges in ministering to the local community.

It is the goal of our churches and the health ministry department to promote not only good physical health but as important, good mental health. It does not matter how healthy we are physically, for if we do not have good mental health, we have no quality of health. Christ set an example for us to follow. He spent time listening to and supporting the broken hearted. If we would practice His approach, our church communities could make a significant difference to the people and the communities that reside around our churches.

A range of health subjects covered included nutrition, temperance, forgiveness, health laws, frequently using the 'Start Again' and 'Enjoy Good Health' programmes.

As a community outreach project, I was invited to give a health talk to the primary students of a rural Catholic school in East Galway. I arrived laden down with fruit, healthy snacks and quizzes for the children. It was a fun, interactive and educational programme and well received by the teachers.

The 2017 report would not be complete without mentioning the West of Ireland Summer Family Camp held on the grounds of the Newmarket Church. Fitness classes, workshops on health and an introduction workshop on Creation Health took place.

2018

2018 saw the health message go North to the Belfast church, south to the Waterford Company, east to Ballinacrow and Ranelagh churches and west to Galway.

It became challenging to bring the health message to the remote south west of Ireland Tralee Group. They struggled to find a suitable venue, but God always provides. The local Gaelic Athletic Club welcomed the speaker and the group in October. The topic presented on that Sabbath was God's Free Health Plan. As divine providence would have it, a young man on that Sabbath attended church for the first time and was excited to find that the bible had so much to say about diet and health. A lively discussion followed the presentation.

Following on from that visit, links were forged with the Women's Ministry leader in Newmarket who invited the Tralee ladies' group to join in an afternoon social programme with their members. The offer was gladly received and attended by them in November.

The 2018 West of Ireland Family Camp was different from previous years in that it had not one, but two energetic speakers. Pastor Leslie Ackie, BUC Family Ministries Director spoke on healthy relationships and the Christian values that safeguard our health, both spiritually and emotionally. Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Director, gave talks on health, lifestyle interventions and emotional healing. A range of health books were available in the ABC bookshop on the camp site.

Throughout the year, a series of health presentations on Creation Health were held in the Galway church and were attended by visitors from the local community. Anna Boisko, a Galway member, was passionate in her leading of the series. Her ability to translate for the Russian guests was very much appreciated.

The Irish Mission had the privilege of hosting a Community Resilience Seminar provided by Loma Linda University International Behavioural Trauma Team in the Spring of 2018. CRM is a set of skills that are designed to help individuals to return the body, mind and spirit back to balance after experiencing traumatic events.

A delegation from the churches also had the privilege of attending a health training retreat at Hinkley, Leicestershire, U.K.

2019

January began at a fast pace. The first engagement was at an East Galway Community playschool where I was invited to be the guest speaker on health. God opened this door through a chance discussion with a teacher on the merits of good health. I chose the topic of "Healthy Food, Healthy Child". Discussion took place on the danger of soft drinks, free sugars, colour coded labelling and the physical development of the young child.

The next community group to receive a health presentation was the Asylum Seekers Multi-denominational ladies' group in the midland town of Athlone. Subsequently, I have been invited to give further talks and bible studies with these ladies who have health challenges due to the complex nature of their journey to a better life in Ireland.

"What has food got to do with Religion?" was the title of the health presentations which I held in the Longford and Galway Churches during early January. Some church members were convicted to make changes to their diet.

Betty O'Rourke

Trust Services



The Trust Services Department of the church offers a will-making service to its members.

For members in Northern Ireland we use Diamond Heron Solicitors (Anne Copeland, Belfast).

We have not had any requests for wills in the Republic. However, if we do get some requests there is a firm of solicitors we have used in Ranelagh.

Members should let the IM Wills Coordinator know if they wish to make a Will through Trust Services. The Mission will cover the cost of a simple basic Will. All Wills should be processed through our office at the BUC.

The recent three-year period has seen a very low level of activity. It can be difficult to bring the benefits of the Trust Services arrangements to the attention of the membership of the Irish Mission. However, a few members have been provided with the necessary information and in two cases this has led to successful arrangements being made.

The present Wills Coordinator asks to be relieved of his duties and has the following suggestion to make - the provisions of the Trust Services could be made known to more of our members if from time to time these services were published in the Newsletter of the Irish Mission and in other appropriate means of providing information.

Pr. Mart De Groot

Prayer Ministry

*“If My people who are called by My name would humble themselves,
and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

2 CHRONICLES 7:14



When we study the Early Church one can only be in awe at the transformation in the lives of ordinary people through the power of prayer. These ordinary Christians then became extraordinary disciples in spreading the Gospel through the power of prayer and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

If only the present-day church members were to tap into this divine power, we would see unity, like mindedness, transformed lives, and many more people would give their lives to Christ. At the commencement of my role as Prayer Sponsor in late 2016, I was very optimistic of what God would do through my sharing of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and thus started a journey throughout the churches and companies over the next three years.

My experience has been that everybody either has, or is going through, some trials in their lives. On hearing their stories and praying with them, it brought healing, reassurance and a sense that God hears the prayers of His people.

Activities

As my wife is the Irish Mission Health Sponsor, we worked together and travelled as a team to serve Mission members. During 2016, I preached on the power of prayer in the Longford, Galway and Newmarket churches. Bible study groups and prayer meetings were held in these churches weekly.

My first church to visit in 2017 was Sligo. I was very impressed with their leader, who is a woman of prayer and faith. While the group is quite small, prayer is a very important part of their lives. Two visits were made to the Northern Ireland churches. Derry/Londonderry, Coleraine and Banbridge church members and communities have come through traumatic times. They have shared with me the importance of prayer in coping through difficult times.

In August 2017, I had the privilege of leading the early morning West of Ireland Family Camp prayer meetings held on the grounds of Newmarket. The focus was on family values and the power of prayer in strengthening family unity.

In liaison with the Prayer Ministry Women's leader in the West of Ireland, a weekend Prayer Retreat was held at the Mission house, Kilnasoolagh in the autumn 2017.

Weekly prayer meetings and Bible study groups continued to meet in the Galway, Newmarket and Longford churches throughout 2017. Following the weekly prayer meetings, six people were added to the Longford membership through Profession of Faith.

The power of prayer to change lives was the theme of my sermons in the Belfast, Waterford, Ballinacrow, Tralee and Ranelagh churches during 2018. One thing that was evident in all these churches, was that members are very aware of the soon coming of Christ. They realise that personal and corporate prayer needs to be the primary focus in the Christians life. When this happens spiritual growth and revival take place in both their personal life and the church.

“Bringing the Family Back” was the theme for the 2018 West of Ireland Family Camp. The early morning prayer meetings focused on Christian values in the home. The role of prayer in emotional and relationship healing and spiritual revival.

October 2018 was the month in which a weekend Prayer Ministry retreat took place. The venue, Newmarket Church, was attended by members throughout the Mission. Again, prayer meetings and Bible study groups met weekly in the West of Ireland churches.

Prayer outreach to the Community 2016-2019

With the changing culture of Irish society, it has been a privilege to minister through prayer to the refugee groups who are accommodated at five centres throughout the West of Ireland. In many cases, prayer is their only means of hope.

In nursing homes and hospital visits prayer is a central part of my ministry to those whom I met.

Another area of prayer ministry was the privilege of being welcomed into non-member homes and invited to pray with individuals and their families. Requests for prayer have also come through modern technology, not just within the Irish Mission, but also globally.

The 10 Days of Prayer took place each year, in the churches and in private homes throughout the west.

The theme for this year’s Family Camp was focused on the Power of Prayer.

The words of Ellen White come to mind in relation to prayer:

“Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God’s people, than he can close the windows of heaven so that rain cannot come upon the earth.”

True Revival 12.1

Pr. Tony O’Rourke

Women Ministry

Activities

During 2016, the Galway, Cork and Dublin churches held fundraisers to support an orphanage and school in Mariando, Tanzania for albino children. I first became aware of the orphanage on meeting Miranda at the Galway church, who shared with me details of the project. She had been running the orphanage since her retirement as a nurse. She asked for our prayer support, and we fundraised for two Sabbaths in Galway and Ranelagh. A van-load of essentials was sent to Tanzania, along with a donation of twelve hundred Euros.

One of our members, Annie Thomas, with the support of the Dublin churches arranged to have a school built in the Philippines. This was an ongoing building project. Once complete, the children were photographed in front of the school.

Another church member, Natasha is doing great outreach in Dublin and has asked for 5000 books about St Patrick called “The Celtic Connection”, of which she has posted five hundred to school principals around the country with a friendly letter explaining the gift. The rest of the books have been handed out on the St Patrick’s Day parade. These were well received.

Natasha is now working on her next project – a poster to be placed on buses, particularly the busy routes. The fundraising has been arranged through interested friends. Keeping busy, Natasha runs a bible study group from her home every Tuesday. She, along with her son, was also able to visit the Philippines for three weeks and support some of the local health needs.

We have run three Dr Neil Nedley depression recovery programmes in Dublin, first introduced to us by Dr Nomsa who ran the Cuisle Centre at the time. We gained a couple of church attendees as a result. At the end of the course, we treated thirteen regular attendees to a lovely restaurant meal and socialized with them. One young man, now greatly changed in his personal behaviour, attends church and joins in our activities.

Whilst I was caretaker for the Ranelagh church and was overhauling the front garden, a friendly woman stopped to talk. Grace runs the Community and Project Centre and is well-known in the Ranelagh area. She hires workers and volunteers to keep the community looking beautiful. As a result, she has provided our church with bedding plants, planters, and an outside seat. She came to the church to speak with our members, and we now help her as volunteers around the area. We even sang two songs at their Christmas Carol and street concert. Attendees were invited into our church for refreshments.

Cookery demonstrations, health checks, a ‘knit and natter’ group, and ‘seniors club’ continue to be held at the church. The help of physiotherapist Nomsa at the Cuisle Centre by treating regular clients has also made lots of friends in the community. My own health scare enabled me to appreciate the work of church health principles and personnel. Very kindly the Women’s Ministry team arranged for my own treatment at an Adventist health centre in Banya, Bulgaria.

Pastor & Mrs Brennar were invited to Ireland last year after visiting five churches in the UK. They participated in a Family Ministry weekend in Co. Clare. We counted eighty women present and some of the husbands spent time counseling with Pastor Brennar.

Finally, around fifty women signed up for a Women's Ministry weekend at Bunratty Castle in Co. Clare, for rest and renewal. Please encourage young women to meet and join in our activities as we try to prepare them for ministry in the church.

Joan Burch

Cuisle Centre



I took over as Cuisle Centre Manager in September 2017 when the previous manager Nomsa Maphango moved to Southampton. Nomsa had a good structure in place for the Cuisle Centre which made my transition from volunteer to manager smooth.

I would like to thank Nomsa for the hard work she did in the Cuisle Centre since the last Irish Mission Session until September 2017.

Philosophy

I believe that the philosophy underpinning the idea of the Centres of Influence is that our churches need to become more community oriented than they generally are; open 7 days a week for the community, rather than 1 day a week for those commuting to 'church'.

We are working to change the philosophy of how a church sees itself. Is its sole use as a place of worship, or somewhere which makes a real difference in the everyday lives of people?

Through mixing and mingling with people, through meeting them where they are, through supporting them in their needs and becoming friends with them, we are working and praying for opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These days people want to belong, before they believe. We are trying to create a place which people feel is theirs. A place where they are comfortable, confident and involved. As we build real relationships with people, we hope they will come to know us as we truly are. Then we hope for further opportunities, not just to talk to people about Jesus, but show people how Jesus has made a difference in our lives and what He can do for others. We believe it's about building authentic relationships which continue, even when the other person isn't interested in becoming an Adventist.

The Activities and Purpose

We run a wide range of different activities that benefit the community around us. Our most popular activity is the Vegetarian Cookery Class which we run every fortnight throughout the year. There is a lot of interest in this class which is thoroughly enjoyed by our local community. We also have a knitting/crochet group and a Senior's Club. This is well attended by ladies and the occasional man from the Ranelagh area, and is organised with the view that people who are lonely can make friends and have a place to socialise. Each Tuesday, we run a free drop-in health check activity. We have trained nurses who check blood pressure, pulse, oxygen levels and peak flow. People attending the health checks can also fill out a questionnaire about their lifestyle. Their responses are put into a computer programme, and the health age of

their body is determined, with suggestions made to improve lifestyle. We run different health seminars about mental health, diet and lifestyle. A soup kitchen in the winter months is appreciated and Pathfinders have been involved in supporting this activity. Another enjoyable activity is our annual vegetarian community Christmas dinner, where we have a lovely meal, Carol singing and a short talk on the true meaning of Christmas.

There are also services provided by trained professionals. These include a counselling service and massage therapy, which help generate some revenue for the Centre.

The Cuisle Centre also partners with the Children's Ministries Department in Ranelagh Church to provide activities that are for the children in the local community. So far, we've run a Holiday Bible Club, a 'Light Party' (an alternative to Halloween) and a Children's Christmas Party, which tells the children in an interactive way about the true meaning of Christmas.

On Sunday, 10th June 2018, throughout Ireland communities were holding Street Feasts. This was an initiative to help people meet their neighbours and to help combat loneliness. The Cuisle Centre held Street Feast in the car park at the front of the church. We had an international focus because Ranelagh Church is an international church. Members brought food from their home countries. Games, face painting for children and volunteers stood on the street inviting people to come and join in. This was a huge success meeting so many new people who wanted to know more about the centre and the church. We look forward to hosting another Street Feast this year.

The most popular activity is the vegetarian cookery class. This has a solid attendance from the local community. Recently, we had 23 people at the class including 3 church members. It is a very relaxed environment where we encourage people to ask questions during the presentation. Afterwards, everyone gets to enjoy the food! This class is advertised to end at 8.45pm but people stay on longer to enjoy new friendships.

The knitting group is also very popular especially among the more senior ladies in the community when we knit, crochet, sew, or just attend for a chat. It has proved a great opportunity for ladies who are lonely to make friends with others in similar circumstances.

Attendees

Most attendees are from the community and prior to attending the Centre knew very little about the Adventist Church. Since August last year, 4 people now attend church most Sabbaths as a result of attending the Cuisle Centre. It is thrilling to see them wanting to know more about the church. There are a small core group of church members who attend different activities and volunteer their services. I would love to see the activities better attended by our members, because it is so important for the community to meet with the church community and develop friendships.

Conclusion

I want to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of the Cuisle Centre, without whom there would be no Centre of Influence in Ranelagh. The energy and time

the volunteers put in is very much appreciated by the attendees. When regular volunteers are unable to attend, they are very much missed as they have built up positive relationships with the community members.

I would also like to thank the General Conference, Trans-European Division, British Union Conference, Irish Mission and The Emerald Health Foundation for their financial support for this project. A big thank you to Alice Dambaza for helping to manage the accounts. She puts a lot of time and effort into this aspect of the Cuisle Centre.

The greatest lesson I have learnt is that when I took over as the manager, I had a few sleepless nights of how “I” could develop a recently established ministry that would reach the local community and inspire the local church. I soon learnt that “I” had nothing to do with it; God was the one who inspired us. Days when I felt frustrated due to lack of volunteers, or discouragement, were the days that God brought people to the door of the Cuisle Centre, who were searching for answers to life’s big questions.

Heather Keough

Appendix



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

OPERATING POLICY OF THE
IRISH MISSION OF
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Amended November 2018

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

This organization, which is a branch of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, a registered charity in England, Wales and Scotland and hereinafter referred to as "the British Union Conference" shall be known as the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter referred to as "this Mission", and is located in the territory of the Trans-European Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter referred to as "the Trans-European Division". The purposes, policies, and procedures of this Mission shall be in harmony with the purpose and policy of the British Union Conference, the working policies and procedures of the Trans-European Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter referenced to as "the General Conference".

ARTICLE 2 – TERRITORY

The territory of this Mission shall comprise Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The principal office for the transaction of the business of this Mission is fixed and located at 47a Ranelagh Road, Ranelagh, Dublin6, D06 NX99. In an emergency, the Executive Committee may change the location of the principal office on a temporary basis.

ARTICLE 3 – PURPOSE

- (a) The purpose of this Mission (hereafter referred to as "the Purpose") is to further the Purpose of the British Union Conference within the territory.
- (b) In furtherance of the Purpose but not further or otherwise this Mission shall have the following powers, exercisable subject to the direction of the British Union Conference:
 - (i) To employ and remunerate such ministers, officers, teachers and other employees and to engage such volunteers as may be necessary;
 - (ii) To provide or assist in the provision of housing accommodation for such employees and volunteers, to enable them to carry out their duties, and in cases of need for retired employees, and their families;
 - (iii) To provide or assist (by means of grants, loans or otherwise) in the provision or improvement of churches and other buildings for use for the work of local congregations of Seventh-day Adventists;
 - (iv) To establish, conduct and provide financial assistance for schools for the education of children in which religious instruction according to the doctrines and principles of the Seventh-day Adventists is given and to provide financial assistance to students pursuing education according to those doctrines and principles;
 - (v) To publish or assist the publication of religious literature;
 - (vi) To carry out the social mission of the Gospel by the provision of humanitarian aid to those in need in any part of the world;
 - (vii) To establish, operate and provide financial assistance for convalescent, retirement and nursing homes, conducted in accordance with the doctrines and principles of Seventh-day Adventists.
 - (viii) To provide or assist in the provision of services and facilities (including buildings) for health education and medical treatments in harmony with the doctrines and principles of Seventh-day Adventists.
 - (ix) To acquire and dispose of property of any description and wherever situated (subject to such consents as may be required by law);
 - (x) To borrow money with or without giving security (subject to such consents as aforesaid);

- (xi) To raise money by any lawful means other than by permanent trading and to accept gifts either for furtherance of the work of this Mission or for any specific object within or connected with the Purpose;
- (xii) To invest funds in any manner permitted by law other than by means of loans to individuals, firms, or private companies, and for that purpose to obtain and consider professional advice from a person or firm of good repute having the requisite knowledge and experience;
- (xiii) To provide security for the liabilities of The Seventh-day Adventist Association Limited incurred at the request and for the benefit of this Mission. Any such security shall be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee as authorised by resolution.
- (xiv) Otherwise to further the religious mission and charitable work of Seventh-day Adventists in the territory.
- (xv) The trustees shall have power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves out of the income of the charity. The insurance shall not extend to
 - 1) any claim arising from any act or omission which:
 - A. the trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty; or
 - B. was committed by the trustees in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; and
 - 2) the costs of an unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the trustees in their capacity as trustees of the charity.

ARTICLE 4 – COMPOSITION OF THIS MISSION

This Mission shall be composed of such Seventh-day Adventist churches within its territory as have been, or shall be, properly organised and accepted by vote of this Mission in session.

ARTICLE 5 – SESSIONS

- (a) This Mission shall hold regular sessions at intervals of three (3) years at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall determine, in counsel with the officers of the British Union Conference, and a notice of such sessions shall be published at least four weeks (4) before the appointed time of any session in the British Union Conference official paper. In the event that the Executive Committee fails to call a regular session within the triennial period, the British Union Conference Executive Committee may give notice for such a meeting and designate the time and place.
- (b) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the authorised delegates must be present at any regular or special session to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (c) In the event of special conditions arising which make it advisable to postpone the calling of a regular session, the Executive Committee may postpone such sessions for a period not exceeding one (1) year, providing that such action has the consent of at least two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee expressed by personal vote or by signature to a resolution in writing submitted to the members of the Executive Committee. Separate copies of such a resolution may be signed for this purpose.
- (d) The Executive Committee may call an extraordinary session of this Mission at such a time and place as it deems proper by a like notice as for regular sessions when:
 - (i) It is deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, or
 - (ii) It is deemed necessary by the delegates at any regular session, or
 - (iii) It is requested by 60% per cent of the churches through their church boards who have voted by a two thirds majority in favour of the request, or
 - (iv) It is voted by the British Union Conference Executive Committee.

The date for a special session in response to paragraphs (iii) and (iv) above shall not be more than 90 days from the date when the actions described in paragraphs (iii) and (iv) above are communicated to the officers/Executive Committee of the Mission and Union.

- (e) The transactions of such a special session shall have the same authority as those of regular sessions provided that the business transacted at a special session shall be only as provided for in the agenda issued with the publication of the notice of such session.
- (f) In the absence of a timely response by this Mission Executive Committee to paragraphs (ii) to (iv) in (d) above, the British Union Executive Committee may call a special session of this Mission and designate the time and place for such a meeting. The agenda for special sessions shall be included in the notice of the meeting. Notice as to the time and place of special sessions shall be given in the same manner as for regularly scheduled sessions.
- (g) Persons elected at session and those appointed by the Executive Committee normally serve until the next regular session. However, their period of service may be shorter due to resignation, voluntary retirement, or removal from office, for cause, by the Executive Committee or a special session.

ARTICLE 6 – DELEGATES TO SESSIONS

The delegates to a session of this Mission shall be designated as follows:

- (a) The total number of delegates shall be capped at 100. (Not less than 70% of these shall be regular delegates representing local congregations).
- (b) **Regular Delegates**
 - (i) Each local organised church congregation shall be entitled to one (1) delegates without regard to membership. In addition, each recognised congregation of this Mission shall be entitled to a proportional number of regular delegates based on their percentage of this Mission's membership at the end of the calendar year immediately preceding the date of the regular or extraordinary session.
 - (ii) Such delegates shall be chosen by the respective local congregation and shall be members of that local congregation or the Mission church if the congregation is a company.
- (c) **Delegates at Large** (to be less than 30% of the total delegation)
 - (i) All members of the Executive Committee of this Mission.
 - (ii) All attending members of the British Union Conference Executive Committee.
 - (iii) Attending members of the Executive Committees of the General Conference and the Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists. The number of such delegates shall not exceed ten per cent (10%) of the total number of delegates otherwise provided for.
 - (iv) Credentialed and licenced ministers of this Mission.
 - (v) Directors/Sponsors of departments of this Mission.
 - (vi) Denominational employees who hold current Missionary Credentials from this Mission.

ARTICLE 7 – VOTING

- (a) Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any question. The chairman of the session shall in case of equality of votes, have a casting vote providing he has not already voted on the issue. Voting shall be by ballot or electronic means when determined by vote of session.
- (b) All delegates must be present in person at any session in order to be eligible to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.

ARTICLE 8 – AUTHORITY OF SESSION

- (a) The President of this Mission shall serve as chair and the Secretary of this Mission shall serve as Secretary for sessions. The President may designate other individuals to assist in chair duties from time to time. In the event that the President's office is vacant or that the President is unavailable to serve as chair, the session may be called to order by the ranking Union officer present. The first item of business shall be the election of a chair *pro tem*, selected from the delegates present at the meeting. When the election of a President has been completed, the new or re-elected President, if present at the session, shall replace the chair *pro tem*.

In a similar manner, arrangements may be made for a Secretary *pro tem* if the Secretary's office is vacant or the Secretary is unavailable to serve at the session. When election of a Secretary has been completed, the new or re-elected Secretary, if present at the session, shall replace the Secretary *pro tem*.

- (b) This Mission in regular session, shall have power to determine all matters and things for the order and good administration and regulation of its affairs.
- (c) This Mission in regular session shall endorse/approve/develop plans for the conduct of the work as are desirable and in harmony with the policies of the British Union Conference and the Trans-European Division.
- (d) This Mission in regular session shall be governed by rules and procedures based on those published in the General Conference *Rules of Order* unless it has voted to make rules to cover its own procedure that have been submitted to, and approved by, the British Union Conference and the Trans-European Division.

ARTICLE 9 – SESSION COMMITTEES

Prior to each session of this Mission, the Executive Committee shall provide for such temporary committees as may be necessary to conduct the preliminary work for the session.

- 1) The members of the Recommendations Committee may be appointed by their churches prior to commencement of the session, or during the first business session.
 - 2) The Recommendations Committee Report on the Nominating Committee may be voted by delegates before the delegates convene in session by electronic / postal ballot.
 - 3) If elected prior to the delegates convening in business session, the Nominating Committee may also begin its work prior to the convening of the delegates in session.
 - 4) The Nominating Report will be presented to the delegate in session for consideration and voting.
 - 5) The Mission Executive Committee will notify churches of the procedure that will be followed a minimum of four months before a regular session or at the time of calling a special session.
- (a) **Recommendations Committee:** The standing committees of any session shall be nominated by a Recommendations Committee which shall be made up as follows:
- (i) Each church represented in the delegation at the session shall be empowered to choose through and from its delegation, one (1) member for the Recommendations Committee.
 - A. Each church with a membership of at least fifty (50) shall be further empowered to choose through and from its delegation, one (1) additional member of the Recommendations Committee for its first fifty (50) members and one (1) for each additional fifty (50) of its membership or major fraction thereafter.
 - B. The delegates to serve on the Recommendations Committee shall be chosen at, or prior to, the commencement of the session.
 - C. The persons thus selected, together with the British Union Conference President or his designee, who shall act as chairman of this committee, shall be responsible for nominating all standing committees to be appointed by the session.
 - (ii) The Recommendations Committee shall nominate from the delegation the following standing

committees at the session of this Mission:

- A. Nominating Committee
 - B. Other Committees as may be necessary
- (b) **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of from nine to eleven (9-11) members, excluding the chair, who must be duly appointed delegates in attendance.
- (i) The membership shall be balanced, as nearly as possible, between employees of this Mission and lay persons, representing various segments of the work and territories of this Mission.
 - (ii) Incumbent officers and departmental directors / sponsors shall not be members of the Nominating Committee.
 - (iii) Incumbent members of the Executive Committee shall not serve as members of the Nominating Committee.
 - (iv) The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations to those positions for which persons are to be elected at the session meeting and for which budgetary provisions has been made.
 - (v) The Nominating Committee shall also nominate members, other than the ex officio members, for the Mission Executive Committee
- (c) **Credentials and Licences Committee:** This committee shall consist of from five to seven (5-7) members, excluding the chair. The committee shall recommend to this Mission in session the granting of suitable credentials and licences to such employees and lay preachers that the committee shall consider suitable to work in this Mission, and ask this Mission in session to approve the ordination of such men as shall have given proof of their calling to the ministry. The credentials or licences granted or issued by this Mission in session shall remain in force and are valid until the next regular session unless previously terminated by this Mission in extraordinary session. Between sessions the Executive Committee is authorised to perform such duties.
- (d) **Plans Committee:** This committee shall consist of from ten to fifteen (10-15) members, excluding the chair. Should the matters under review and study by the Plans Committee so require, the committee may divide itself into sub-sections for the purpose of drafting proposals to be approved by the full committee prior to presentation to the Session. Alternatively, the delegates in session may vote that the whole delegation spend time to operate as a Plans Committee.

ARTICLE 10 – ELECTIONS

The Executive Officers of this Mission shall be: a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The same person may fill the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

The Executive Officers shall be elected by the British Union Conference at the time of its regular session and by the British Union Conference Executive Committee not less than two (2) years and not more than three (3) years following a regular session.

- (a) This Mission in regular session shall elect:
 - (i) Departmental Sponsors
 - (ii) Members of the Executive Committee
- (b) Persons elected under (a) shall hold their respective offices or appointments until the next regular session of this Mission unless their offices or appointments are previously terminated by this Mission in extraordinary session or by the Executive Committee in counsel with the British Union Conference officers.

ARTICLE 11 – OFFICERS

The Executive Officers of this Mission shall be a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. It is the duty of these officers, in consultation with one another and in counsel with the British Union Conference officers, to carry forward the work according to plans, policies, and programmes voted by the constituency and/or the Mission Executive Committee. These plans, policies, and programmes shall be in harmony with the Fundamental Beliefs and actions adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in its quinquennial sessions.

- (a) The President is the Chief Executive officer and shall report to the Executive Committee of this Mission in consultation with the Secretary and the Treasurer. He shall supervise the general work of this Mission, open and preside at sessions, and meetings of the Executive Committee, and work in the general interests of this Mission in counsel with the Executive Committee. In his leadership he shall adhere to the policies of the British Union Conference, the Trans-European Division and of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, work in harmony with the British Union committee and in close counsel with the Union officers.
- (b) The Secretary, associated with the President as an executive officer, shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee and shall act as vice-chair of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall report to the Executive Committee of this Mission. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of the Mission sessions and of the Executive Committee and to furnish copies of these minutes to all members of the Executive Committee and to the officers of the British Union Conference. The Secretary shall also be responsible for providing information as may be requested by the President or the Union and local Mission committees, and shall perform such other duties as pertain to the office.
- (c) The Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, associated with the President as an executive officer, shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall report to the Executive Committee of this Mission. The Treasurer shall be responsible for providing financial leadership to the organisation which will include, but shall not be limited to, receiving, safeguarding, and disbursing all funds in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee, for remitting all required funds to the Union/Division/General Conference in harmony with the Trans-European Division policy, and for providing financial information to the President and to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for furnishing copies of the financial statements to the British Union Conference officers and make a full report thereof at regular sessions of this Mission and at such other times as may be requested by the President or as prescribed by the Executive Committee and perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

Bank accounts approved by the Executive Committee shall be operated by the Treasurer and/or such other individuals as may be authorised by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 12 – DEPARTMENTAL SPONSORS

Departmental Sponsors - It shall be the duty of the Sponsor in charge of a department to promote the general interests of the work entrusted to that department, to provide such statistical reports as may be required, and to perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office of such departmental Sponsor. Departmental Sponsors shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee and the supervision of the President, and shall occupy an advisory relationship to the field.

ARTICLE 13 – APPOINTMENTS

This Mission in regular session and the Executive Committee between sessions:

- (a) shall appoint such agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons as may be necessary to fulfil the purpose of this Mission; and
- (b) may terminate or vary any such appointment.

ARTICLE 14 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Mission Executive Committee, of which the President shall be the chair and the Secretary / Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Secretary, shall consist of the Executive Officers (ex officio members) of this Mission and nine (9) other persons duly elected by this Mission in session, of whom at least five (5) shall be lay members and in harmony with Article 16 (a), and all its proceedings shall be reported promptly to the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference.
- (b) The officers of the British Union Conference, the Trans-European Division, and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are members ex officio of this Mission Executive Committee; however, their membership shall be in addition to the number detailed above. Any such officers exercising their voting rights at any one meeting shall not make up more than ten per cent of the committee membership present.
- (c) The Executive Committee may delegate any of its functions to sub-committees consisting of three (3) or more persons appointed by them, but at least one (1) member of every sub-committee must be an Executive Committee member, and all proceedings of sub-committees must be reported promptly to the Executive Committee.
- (d) The Executive Committee may appoint committees consisting of three (3) or more persons to advise it on any matter, and may authorise such committees to co-opt non-voting members: all recommendations of such committees must be reported promptly to the Executive Committee for its consideration and decision.

ARTICLE 15 – AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) Between sessions the Executive Committee is delegated the authority to manage the affairs of this Mission exercising all the powers of this Mission in session subject to the Constitution and directives of this Mission in session.
- (b) The power in (a) shall include the acquisition of property (of whatsoever nature) for the use, benefit or purpose of this Mission and the power to manage, dispose of or otherwise deal with that property (subject always to the specific trusts effecting the same). In so far as any such property is vested in the legal corporation of this Mission or any other company, corporation or person to give directions to that body or person as to the management and disposal of such property as this Mission shall deem expedient in harmony with Article 18.
- (c) The Executive Committee in counsel with the British Union Conference officers may between sessions remove, for just and adequate cause, from office any Departmental Director/Sponsor of this Mission, or from the Executive Committee any member thereof, provided that such action has the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee by personal vote.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the implementation of plans and policies made by this Mission in session, and shall report to the next session concerning the implementation of those plans. Copies of plans voted at the previous session, and minutes, shall be made available to delegates at least fourteen (14) days prior to the session. Lists of delegates to a session shall be made available to delegates at the session.

ARTICLE 16 – MEETINGS AND NOTICES

- (a) Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the President, or in his absence, by the Secretary / Secretary-Treasurer in consultation with the British Union Conference officers or upon the written request of the majority of the members thereof.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (e below), any four (4) members of the Executive Committee, including the Chairman, shall, after due notice to the available members, constitute a quorum and shall be empowered to transact any necessary business.
- (c) Minority meetings of less than four (4) members of the Executive Committee, including at least one (1) of

the Executive Officers, may be held for the transaction of emergency business, but all action at such meetings must be reported promptly to the other members of the Executive Committee and shall be minuted at the next regular session of the Executive Committee.

- (d) Notice as to time and place, shall be provided to all members in a reasonable manner, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if the meeting is to take place by electronic conference or similar communications, or at least 96 hours if the meeting is to take place in person.
- (e) Subject to Article 19 any member of the Executive Committee who has any personal or financial interest in any matter to be discussed or determined at a meeting thereof (whether direct or indirect) must declare their interest in advance of any discussion thereon and absent themselves from the discussion, and may not vote nor be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting.
- (f) Electronic consent agendas (written resolutions) may be used to record and approve matters such as the routine applications of policy, travel authorisations, service requests and employment items and any other routine matters that the Executive Committee gives approval for. Fifty-one per cent (51%) of Executive Committee members are required to respond in favour for such actions to stand.
- (g) In this constitution the expression 'meeting' includes, except where inconsistent with any legal obligation:
 - (i) a physical meeting;
 - (ii) a video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation; and
 - (iii) telephone conferencing.

ARTICLE 17 – SOURCES OF FUNDS

- (a) The sources of funds of this Mission shall be;
 - (i) Tithe income from the churches, companies and isolated members or other donors within its territory granted by virtue of their acceptance of the policies of the British Union Conference;
 - (ii) Any other grants made to this Mission;
 - (iii) Any rents arising from property owned by or on behalf of this Mission;
 - (iv) Any returns from investments made by this Mission out of its own resources;
 - (v) Any income arising out of the day to day business operations of this Mission;
 - (vi) Any gifts, donations, legacies, or similar monies made or payable to this Mission;
 - (vii) Any other income in cash or in kind reasonably deemed to be receivable by this Mission.

It being understood that all such income should be subject to legal entitlement on the part of this Mission and be given for and used in the furtherance of its Purpose.

- (b) This Mission may receive, hold in trust, and forward any third-party funds channelled through it to the British Union Conference, Trans-European Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists or, within the territory of this Mission to the Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan or to any Conference, Mission or Seventh-day Adventist institution.

ARTICLE 18 – APPLICATION OF FUNDS

- (a) The funds of this Mission, including all tithe, donations, grants, rents, contributions and bequests shall be paid into such accounts in the name of the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists at such bank or banks as the Executive Committee shall from time to time approve, and shall be withdrawn only by persons authorised by resolution of the Executive Committee. The portion of the tithe which is reserved for this Mission, as specified by policy, and all other funds shall be used in harmony with the financial policies of the Trans-European Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and in the case of donations,

their use shall be in harmony with the specifications of donors and in compliance with government regulations. Tithe is shared with the Union and Division on fixed percentages as set by the British Union Executive Committee and the Trans-European Division Executive Committee, and with the General Conference on fixed percentages as set by the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee.

- (b) All funds received by this Mission for its general purposes shall be applied in furtherance of the Purpose; all funds received or held in trust for another body under 17 (b) shall be transmitted to the governing body thereof; and all funds received for specific objects within or connected with the Purpose shall be applied for the specific objects for which they are respectively given.
- (c) Subject to Article 3 (b) (ii) funds shall not in any circumstances be paid or lent for the benefit of individuals, firms or private companies.
- (d) This Mission shall be responsible for the books of account of the local church Treasurers to be audited at least once each calendar year.

ARTICLE 19 – BUDGET, REMUNERATION, AND EXPENSES

- (a) Not more than one half of the Executive Committee may be employed by this Mission.
- (b) The remuneration and expenses of any such members who are employees of this Mission shall be determined annually by the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference within the parameters set by its Remuneration Audit Committee.
- (a) Subject thereto, no member of the Executive Committee may receive remuneration or any other financial benefit (excepting reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses) at the cost of this Mission, except that the Executive Committee may have the power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves out of the income of the charity. The insurance shall not extend to:
 - (i) Any claim arising from any act or omission which:
 - (A) the members of the Executive Committee knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty; or
 - (B) was committed by the members of the Executive Committee in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; and
 - (ii) the costs of an unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the members of the Executive Committee in their capacity as trustees of the charity.
- (c) The Executive Committee in consultation with the British Union Conference shall determine annually, and may from time to time adjust the remuneration including expenses of all other employees of this Mission within the parameters set by the British Union Conference Remuneration Audit Committee.
- (d) The remuneration and expenses of persons who may be temporarily employed by this Mission, shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 20 – ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

The legal corporation, The Seventh-day Adventist Association Ltd, formed and controlled by the British Union Conference shall be the regular trustee for this Mission to acquire, hold, manage, dispose of or deal with real and (if required by the Executive Committee) personal property for and on behalf of or for the use, benefit, or purpose of this Mission, but subject to any specific trusts relating to such property and generally to conform with such directions, if any, as are from time to time given to it by or on behalf of the British Union Conference.

ARTICLE 21 – AMENDMENTS

- (a) This Operating Policy may be amended at the written direction of the British Union Conference;
- (b) All amendments must be in harmony with the Constitution of the British Union Conference and must not be inconsistent with the Constitution of the General Conference and the working policy of the Trans-European Division.
- (c) No amendment shall be made which would alter the Purpose as set forth in Article 3 (a) and no amendment shall be valid if its effect would be that this Mission or the British Union Conference ceased to be a charity according to English or Irish law.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall promptly provide the Charity Commissioners with a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

ARTICLE 22 – DISSOLUTION OF THIS MISSION

- (a) This Mission may be dissolved only by action of the British Union Conference in regular or extraordinary session.
- (b) After all claims against this Mission have been satisfied, including claims made by any former employees or members of their families arising out of previous employment, any remaining funds shall be transferred to the British Union Conference for application for its Purpose.

TRIENNIAL SESSION MINUTES

Emmaus Centre, Swords, Dublin
Saturday 1 October 2016 at 19:00 and
Sunday 2 October 2016 at 09:30

OPENING SESSION

The 2016 Session was opened with a welcome and prayer by Pastor Dan Serb at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME

At the opening of business 117 of the 146 regular delegates and 20 delegates at large listed were present. The meeting was thus declared open for business, as the quorum is 85.

QUORUM
1

VOTED

to seat Pastor L Edwards and Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Directors), Mr Curtis Samuel and Mr Christian Salcianu (IM pastoral team) and Miss Edith Samambwa (former IM Health sponsor) as additional delegates under the provision of Article 7 (b)(ii) of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATES
2

VOTED

to adopt the schedule of business as published in page 3 of the Session report book as the agenda for the session.

AGENDA
3

Whereas Church delegations had, prior to the session, chosen from their delegates those who would represent them on the Recommendations Committee, and

RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE
4

Whereas the Mission church, comprising delegates from companies, groups and isolated members, had met with Pastor Ian Sweeney prior to the commencement of the session to choose who, from their number, would represent this group on the Recommendations Committee

VOTED

to approve the following list of delegates as the Recommendations Committee under the chairmanship of Pastor Ian Sweeney:

George Wilson	Ballinacrow
Mart de Groot	Banbridge
Ruth Hamblin	Banbridge
Eileen Irvine	Belfast
Paul McCandless	Belfast
Kevin O'Brien	Belfast

Kenny Doherty	Coleraine
Joseph Mhondiwa	Cork
Joan Burch	Dublin Ranelagh
Merel Karaan	Dublin Ranelagh
Nomsa Maphango	Dublin Ranelagh
Sunny Nakka	Dublin Ranelagh
Clid Negosanu	Dublin Romanian
Bogdan Stan	Dublin Romanian
Carmen Stan	Dublin Romanian
Abraham Tharian	Galway
Omina Tshabangu	IM (Dublin West)
Patrick Appiah	IM (Longford)
Simone Coetser	IM (Londonderry/ Sligo)
Day Marira	IM (Waterford/Kilkenny)
Daniel Wilson	IM (Newmarket)
Steven Jamison	Larne

Hymn: “Blessed Assurance”

DEVOTIONAL

Devotional: Pastor Llew Edwards

Theme: “Disciples”

Pastor Llew spoke of the acrostic “BELLS” in describing a disciple’s life.

Bless - others by your actions;

Eat - with a non-Christian once a week;

Listen – to God’s Spirit directing you to others;

Learn – from the gospels daily to be like Jesus;

Sent – recognise we are sent by God to share Him with others.

Pastor Llew then reminded us that God sent His Son to this world to be a revelation of Himself and that Jesus then sent His disciples to continue the same work. In relating a story of a ministerial student who realised he had missed an opportunity to share his passion for God, Pastor Llew encouraged each one of us to be ready to share our passion for God in appropriate ways with those we meet daily.

Whereas Pastor Neal presented the President’s Report as a verbal review, an AV pictorial report, and comments on the report published in the Session Report Book,

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

5

VOTED

to accept the President’s Report as published and presented without question.

Whereas Pastor Paul Lockham presented highlights from the Secretary’s report published in the Session Report Book, and responded to one comment on the report,

SECRETARY’S REPORT

6

VOTED

to accept the Secretary’s Report as published and presented.

Whereas Victor Pilmoor presented highlights with a focus on the Mission, Values, Vitality themes of budgeting in the triennium from the Treasurer’s report in the Session Report Book, and

Whereas Mr Pilmoor distributed copies of the Audited financial statements for the three years concluding 31 December 2015, and

Whereas Mr Pilmoor responded to the questions raised,

VOTED

to accept the Treasurer’s Report as published and presented.

VOTED

to adjourn the First Business Session at 9:00 p.m. at which time the members of the Recommendations Committee convened to begin their work.

Pastor Dan Serb

SUNDAY 2 October 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Ian Sweeney commenced by apologising that he had not bothered about preparing for this morning... He referred to the parable of the “church” in Matthew 25 – first parable shows half the “church” as lazy, then the second seems to reveal that some may “just not be bothered”. Matthew 25:24-30 concludes with a parable about a worthless servant!

We are all called by Christ to be bothered, diligent to use and employ the talents He has given us. At the last day we will all be held accountable. God expects us to live using what we are for His kingdom. To hide our talent(s), to not be bothered, is to deny our place in God’s kingdom. Wherever we can serve God and His kingdom, we need to do so, whether the church recognises it or not. It is a serious thing to neglect using what God has given us. We need to be “bothered”!

Ian Sweeney

BUSINESS SESSION 2

Whereas events on the world stage have led governments to give greater scrutiny to the governance and accountability of charities, especially those that receive revenue returns (Ireland) or gift aid (UK), and

TREASURER’S REPORT

7

MOTION TO ADJOURN

8

Closing Prayer

DEVOTIONAL

OPENING PRAYER

**IRISH MISSION –
CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE ISSUE**

9

Whereas the operations in Ireland have historically been confined to property holding and were under the umbrella of World-wide Advent Missions Ireland (WWAMI) which had a board of seven share-holders, and

Whereas in order to claim revenue returns, WWAMI was rebranded and registered with the Revenue as the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland (SDACI) with the same historic board, and

Whereas it is now apparent that in order to operate effectively in Ireland there needs to be a charity registration that has the members of the executive committee as the controlling board, and

Whereas it is now necessary to change the structure to one that is “limited by guarantee”, and

Whereas to be an operating charity in Ireland there needs to be registered office in Ireland, and

Whereas legal advice, constitutional issues, church authority, etc. will need to be worked through in order to have the trustees of the charity as the same persons elected to be the executive committee of the Irish Mission, and

Whereas there will need to be a majority of the controlling body who are resident in Ireland while at the same time ensuring that the constituency of N. Ireland is proportionately represented and not side-lined,

VOTED

to approve the officers and incoming executive committee working towards establishing an effective charity structure registered in Ireland as a company limited by guarantee where the governing body will be the members of the elected executive committee, the final decision on implementation would be taken at a specially called session.

Whereas Pastor Adam Keough, in addition to the report published in the Session Report Book, shared Psalm 78:1-8 as the principle of youth ministry - passing on faith from one generation to the next. There are three groups involved in this: the home, the church and the church administration. For the past three years, the Youth Ministries of the IM has had three personnel dealing with various aspects of youth ministry. Pastor Keough then spoke of what is needed to keep people in the church – friendship with people and friendship with God, and

Whereas after moving adoption of the report discussion was adjourned until after the Recommendations Committee Report was presented.

Whereas secretary of the Recommendations Committee, Joan Burch, presented the names of persons to be considered for the Nominating Committee and the Credentials & Licences Committee,

**YOUTH MINISTRIES
REPORT
10**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORT
11**

VOTED

to accept the report of the Recommendations committee as follows:

Nominating Committee

Pastor Ian Sweeney	BUC	Chair
Nomsa Maphango	Dublin Ranelagh	Secretary
Angus Rothwell	Ballinacrow	
Sharon Burns	Banbridge	
Kevin O'Brian	Belfast	
Edward McKee	Belfast	
Joseph Mhondiwa	Cork	
Selvin Nakka	Dublin Ranelagh	
Clid Negosanu	Dublin Romanian	
Ippi Mhlangu	Dublin West	
Audrey Moyo	Galway	
Simone Coetser	North West N. Ireland	
Patrick Appiah-Kondu	West of Ireland	
Pastor Ben Pontanar	N. Ireland	
Pastor Tony O'Rourke	West of Ireland	

Credentials & Licences Committee

Pastor Llew Edwards	BUCChair
Joan Burch	Dublin Ranelagh
Caroline Donaldson	Banbridge
Koteswar (Eshu) Kareti	Cork
Pastor Weiers Coetser	N. Ireland
Pastor Adam Keough	Dublin

Plans Committee

Delegate Body

After a short refreshment break the Business session resumed.

Whereas Pastor Keough answered questions from the delegation on the Youth Ministries report,

VOTED

to approve the Youth Ministries report as published and presented.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES
REPORT
(CONT.)
10**

Whereas Edith Samambwa presented highlights from the activities of the Health Ministries Department and the establishment of the Cuisle Centre in Dublin,

**HEALTH MINISTRIES
REPORT
11**

VOTED

to approve the Health Ministries Department, report as published and presented.

Whereas Pastor Weiers Coetser presented the Communications report and answered questions,

VOTED

to approve the Communications Department report as published and presented.

VOTED

to approve the Trust Services Report as published in the Session Report Book.

VOTED

to approve the Adventist Discovery Centre Report as published in the Session Report Book, noting that delegates expressed disappointment that promised supplies and website for Ireland have not materialised.

VOTED

to approve the Ministerial Association Report as published in the Session Report Book.

The business was adjourned for lunch at 12:58 p.m. with a prayer and grace for the meal.

**COMMUNICATIONS
REPORT
12**

**TRUST SERVICES REPORT
13**

**ADVENTIST DISCOVERY
CENTRE REPORT
14**

**MINISTERIAL
ASSOCIATION REPORT
15**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN
16**

BUSINESS SESSION 3

After a prayer, the delegates reconvened business at 2:10 p.m.

Whereas Joan Burch, secretary of the committee, presented the list of credentials for denominational employees,

LICENCES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

17

VOTED

to issue Ministerial Credentials to the following ordained pastors:

Adam Keough
Dan Serb
Ben Pontanar
Weiers Coetser
Lorance Johnson

to issue Commissioned Minister Credential to:

Tony O'Rourke

to issue Ministerial Licence:

Curtis Samuel

to issue Missionary Credentials to:

Marci Neal

to issue Missionary Licence to:

Constantin (Christian) Salcianu

to issue Lay preacher's credentials to the following persons recommended by their local church board:

Ballinacrow

Nigel Murphy
Puru Narasimhaiah
Angus Rothwell
Ben Rothwell
Evelyn Wilson
George Wilson

Banbridge

Caroline Donaldson,
Ruth Hamblin

Belfast

Lynden Christian
Eileen Irvine
Patrinne Irvine
Patrick Lowry
Victor McCormac
Celia Parker

Cork

Eshu Koreti

Drogheda

Eddie McCullagh

Dublin Ranelagh

Mr Joseph Anderson
Mrs Nataliya Didkivska
Mr Jeason Kanagaraj
Miss Nomsa Maphango
Mrs Melanie McKenna
Mrs Nave Ndlovu
Mr Jones O'Rock
Mr Pavan Pallepamu
Mr Petar Popivanov
Miss Cindy Sabanda

Dublin Romanian

Ionut Cioloca
Silviu Marcu
Clid Negosanu
Andrei Rotaru
Andrei (Ion) Rotaru
Bogdan Stan

Dublin West

Akinropo Dare
Iphitule Mhlanga

Galway

Vusa Khumalo
Pat Lynam
Audrey Moyo
Tommy Mulveen
Betty O'Rourke

Larne

Bobby Johnston,
Neville Shields

Newmarket

Lilian Cooper
Makho Madubeko
Precious Madubeko
Ivors Zubovs
Daniel Wilson

Sligo/L'derry/Coleraine

Simone Coetser
Shupai Matewa
Ross McAuley

Pastor Dan Serb led in giving thanks to those who have served the Irish Mission – Pastor Paul Lockham, Mr Victor Pilmoor, Pastor Llew Edwards, Pastor Gavin Anthony – as well as welcoming Mr Earl Ramharacksingh (BUC Treasurer) and Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communications Director), Pastor Lorance Johnson (Cork, Kilkenny and Waterford District) and Mr Christian Salcianu (Dublin Romanian and Dublin West District).

**ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS
18**

Whereas Pastor Lockham led the delegates in considering matters to be considered by the incoming executive committee in forwarding the mission and BUC Strategic plan in the Irish Mission,

**PLANS DISCUSSION
19**

VOTED

to pass on to the incoming executive committee the notes of the ideas and matters raised (Appendix xx)

During the plans discussions, the Nominating Committee brought a report. The secretary, Nomsa Maphango, presented a first reading of the whole report detailing the Executive Committee and departmental sponsors. The report was referred back and the plans discussion continued.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE REPORT
20**

Whereas Pastor Dan Serb presented the draft Vision for the Mission,

Whereas the big impact on people can only take place when we are seen as people who genuinely care, are more visible and involved in our communities, and

Whereas Pastor Serb presented several suggestions on how we can be more visible and involved,

**VISION FOR THE MISSION
21**

VOTED

to record the presentation of the President's Vision for the Mission (Appendix xx)

Whereas the initial nomination of members to serve as the Mission Executive Committee was referred back and after an amendment the report was brought back to the delegation,

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE REPORT –
IM EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
22**

VOTED

to approve the following names to compose the Executive Committee to serve until the 2019 session:

Pastor Dan Serb	ex-officio (President & chair)
Appointed by BUC	ex-officio (Missions Executive Secretary)
Appointed by BUC	ex-officio (Missions Treasurer)
Curtis Samuel	Youth Sponsor
Pastor Weiers Coetser	
Krisztian Andrasi	(Dublin Ranelagh)
Caroline Donaldson	(Banbridge)
Eugene Fola	(Belfast)

Koteswar (Eshu) Kareti (Cork)
Caroline O'Brian (Belfast)
Betty O'Rourke (Newmarket)
Bogdan Stan (Dublin Romanian)

VOTED

to approve the following names to serve as departmental sponsors until the 2019 session:

Youth sponsor: Pastor Curtis Samuel
Associate Youth sponsor (NI): Pastor Ben Pontanar
Associate Youth sponsor (ROI): Pastor Christian Salcianu
Pathfinders sponsor: Bogdan Stan
Health Ministries: Betty O'Rourke
Communications: Clid Negosanu
Associate communications NI: Pastor Weiers Coetser
Associate communications ROI: Pastor Adam Keough
Children's Ministries: Shupai Matewa
Women's Ministries: Joan Burch

Family ministries, Men's' ministries, Prayer ministries, Stewardship & Trust Services were referred to the incoming Executive Committee.

VOTED

to conclude the business of the 2016 Irish Mission Session.

Following some concluding words from retired pastor Dr Mart de Groot the delegation sang "To God be the Glory"

Pastor David Neal

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE REPORT –
SPONSORS**

23

MOTION TO CONCLUDE

CLOSING HYMN

CLOSING PRAYER

.....
D Serb, Chair

.....
P S Lockham, Secretary

SESSION GUIDELINES

Delegates have the right to speak at the Mission Session.

The following is an introduction to understanding the way we keep order and create the space for everyone to be heard. This document also explains what to expect at the Session.

Please read this section carefully so that you will understand your duties, the procedure, and can participate.

The matters dealt with at the Session are as follows:

Reports covering the past three years (often referred to as *triennium*) are presented by the sponsor of that department, and by the two officers (the president, secretary and treasurer). There will be opportunity for each report to be questioned, and comments to be made by the delegates (known as *the floor*) – and only the delegates, directed through the chairperson, who will be the Mission president, or his designee, usually from the British Union Conference. (The person is referred to as *the chair*).

Mission Sponsors and the Executive Committee for the next three years will be elected.

Credentials are authorised to both ministers and lay preachers.

Plans for the following triennium are considered and approved or rejected.

COMMITTEES

Most of the work at a Mission Session is done by committees, but such committees are accountable to the entire delegation. The committees normally appointed by the Session are:

Recommendations Committee

This committee is appointed as one of the first items of business which was done by delegates and met in July to recommend delegates to serve as the Nominating Committee and Credentials & Licenses Committee. Delegates voted on these two standing committees by email or letter.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met on 25 August and the committee report recommends to the full delegation the names of individuals for sponsors of departments of the Mission and the Executive Committee.

Credential & Licenses Committee

This committee is usually a small one to consider the ministers to receive credentials. It also considers the Lay Preachers, who should be credentialed to preach in our Churches.

Plans Committee

The delegation will serve as the Plans Committee and adopt a Strategic Plan with goals and objectives for the next triennium that will be the basis of the Executive Committee's working.

COMMITTEES REPORTS

Reports from Committees can be either:

1. Accepted (by majority vote), or
2. Referred to the appropriate committee.

When a report is referred back, there must be substantive reason for doing so. Personal preference is not considered a substantive reason. Reference to persons in the report from the open floor is not allowed, the whole report should be referred back.

A person having just cause to refer back a recommendation to a committee is given an opportunity to speak to that particular committee. The arguments for or against are then re-evaluated, and a further report brought back to the floor. Normal practice prevents such a report being referred back a second time. At the second presentation of that report it is either accepted or rejected by the floor. If it is rejected, the relevant committee will then reconvene and bring in an alternative proposal. (See under 'Elections' below).

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

To preside over sessions in harmony with procedural guidelines.

To conduct the business of the session as printed in the programme, and take up the reports from the committees.

To work for consensus in decision making by treating each side of an issue with fairness.

To hold speakers to their allotted time, and move business along as expeditiously as possible.

To decide on points of order (in harmony with procedural guidelines).

The chair may vote:

- If the vote is by secret ballot, or
- In order to break a tie, if he/she has not already voted by ballot.

The chair should not become closely involved in session floor debate while in the chair. Should he/she wish to express a personal view, and/or take sides in a debate, the chair should relinquish the position, calling upon another officer to take the chair temporarily.

Duties of the Delegates

To conduct themselves with Christian decorum, realising that they are doing the Lord's business, not making irrelevant, repetitious, unnecessary time-consuming or obstructionist speeches or motions.

To speak only when recognised by the chair.

To address the relevant motion clearly and concisely.

To speak to a motion only once, except as it is necessary to answer a question, or clarify previous remarks.

To begin each comment or question with the delegates name, and church/company.

MOTIONS

Motions fall into four categories:

1. Main Motions.
2. Privileged Motions.
3. Subsidiary Motions.
4. Incidental Motions.

MAIN MOTIONS

The purpose of main motions is to introduce and propose action regarding an item of business.

Only delegates may make motions or speak to motions.

Every motion requires a second.

A majority vote is required for the motions to pass.

It may be amended by a majority vote.

In case of a tied vote, the motion is lost.

The person who made the motion has the right to withdraw the motion and does not need the consent of the person who seconded the motion.

A motion is not in order when another motion is being considered, except

PRIVILEGED MOTIONS (including getting the attention of the chair, on a matter of business that cannot wait).

SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS (which include calling the question – stopping and closing the debate immediately, and voting on the main motion).

INCIDENTAL MOTIONS (which are mainly points of order, usually to object to a decision or ruling of the chair at the time it is made. This motion cannot be amended and is generally debatable).

Voting

Only delegates may vote.

Normally done by the raising of the hand, or standing, or secret ballot.

If there is no objection, (via an Incidental Motion) the chair can declare a vote by common consent.

Where a hand or a standing vote does not show a clear choice, the chair shall appoint tellers to count the vote.

ELECTIONS

All nominations for sponsored positions or executive committee membership shall be made by the Nominating Committee. This precludes nominations from the floor or by any other person.

Only one name shall be presented to the floor by the Nominating Committee for each position to be filled.

The Nominating Committee may choose to present successive partial Reports.

The Nominating Committee shall meet in closed session. However, the officers of higher church organisations can be invited to sit as counsellors with the committee.

Elections shall be by majority vote.

If there is objection to a name or a part of the Nominating Committee report, the objector(s) may move that the report, or the partial report not an individual name be referred back to the Nominating Committee for further consideration. This motion needs a second, is non-debatable, and is decided by majority vote, though it is the usual procedure to accept referral.

A Motion to refer should be based on information which the objector(s) may have and which could be helpful to the Nominating Committee. When referral is voted, or accepted, the objectors must then make known to the Nominating Committee chair the reasons for the objections. At the discretion of the Nominating Committee chair, the objectors may be invited to appear before the Nominating Committee to state their objections.

Persistent referrals back, particularly from the same source, are inconsistent with fairness and good procedure. In this case there is every right to refuse referral and the Nominating Committee report can then be voted upon without further delay.

Please note the reference to objections in 'Committee Reports' above.