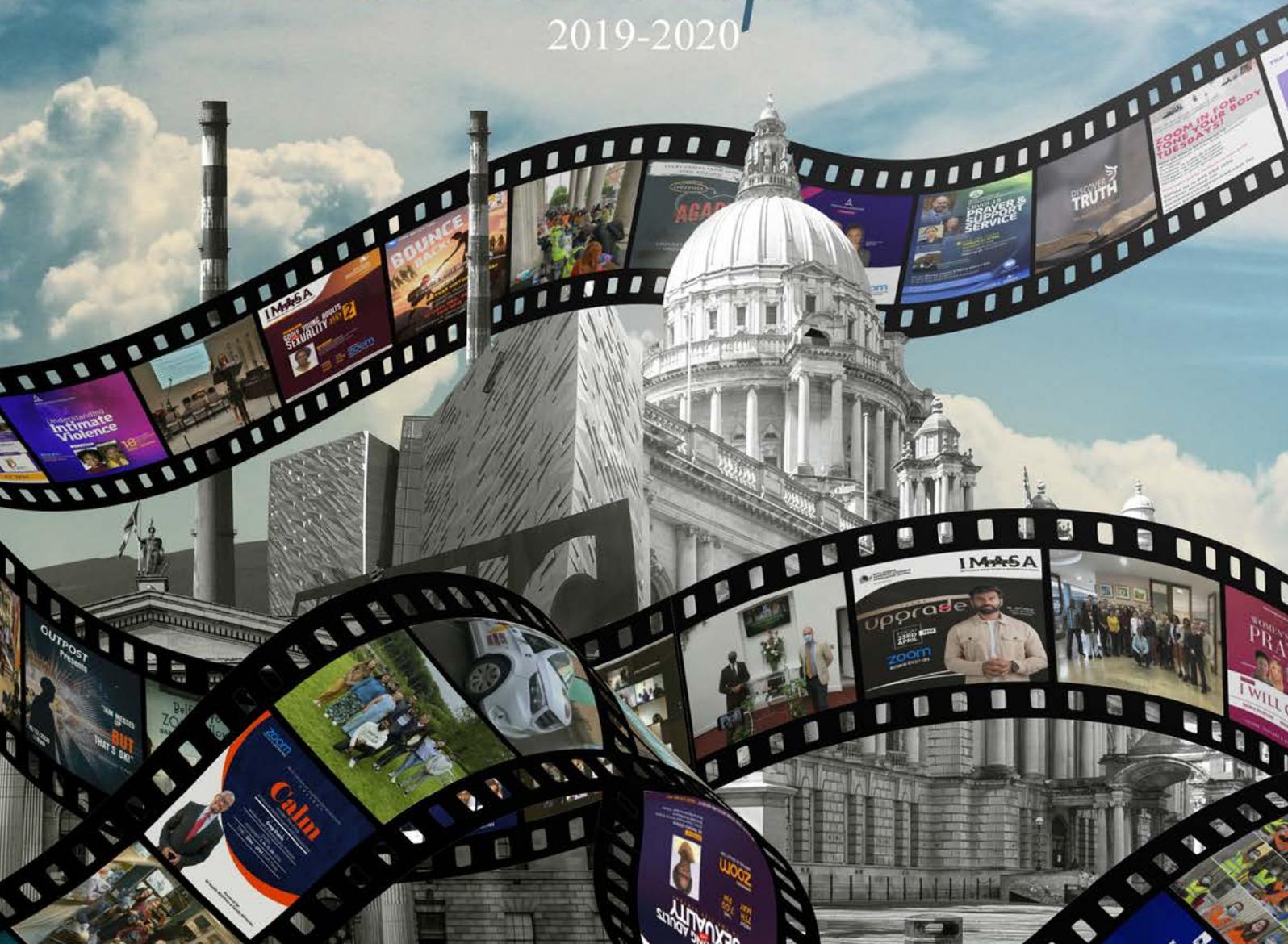




ESTABLISH. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.

Irish Mission *session report* 2019-2020



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Introduction

Welcome to the Session of the Irish Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On behalf of the Irish Mission Executive (Pastor Jacques Venter, our Mission Executive Secretary, and the Mission Treasurer, Mr Earl Ramharacksingh), may I extend a very warm welcome to everyone attending this important session.

We are pleased to welcome Pastor Ian Sweeney, the British Union Conference President, as well as Pastor John Surridge, the Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference. Our other guests from higher church organisations are also very welcome indeed here in Northern Ireland.

We extend our grateful thanks to Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church for stepping in to host this session. Originally, we had planned to meet in 2022; but, as previously explained in communication to the wider members of the Irish Mission, it was felt strategically necessary to bring the Session forward by one year. Having done this, with the support of the British Union Conference, we are able to synchronise the Irish Mission Operating Policy with the Constitution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland and the quinquennial cycle of the British Union Conference.

We are also meeting during unparalleled times in Earth's history. When we last met in session for the 2019 Triennial Session, no one could have foreseen what would soon take place just a few months later. The worldwide devastation of the COVID-19

pandemic has been well documented in the news, both internationally and here in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Our faith, however, remains strong, and through all of this we have seen God's goodness; and it is our prayer that the Session will be a time of encouragement and inspiration, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, that in all things the Lord Jesus Christ may be honoured.

This booklet contains reports from the Irish Mission officers and sponsors covering the two-year period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020. It also contains the Irish Mission Operating Policy and the minutes of the 2019 Session, plus a section on guidelines for understanding the rules of order for the Session. We recommend that delegates make themselves familiar with the contents of this booklet prior to attending the Session.

We have sought to prepare carefully for the Session and are grateful for the elected delegates who will be present. We ask that you earnestly seek the Lord's blessing on the work of the Mission, and that together we will call on the Spirit of God to guide us in all we say and do.



Pastor Dan Serb
Irish Mission President

President's Report



Pastor Dan Serb
Irish Mission President

Introduction

'For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.' —Romans 11:36, NIV

Whenever compiling a report, after the initial sense of being overwhelmed by the task, what comes next is the fear of leaving out anything important. Considering that this is all about God's work, and thus that everything that has happened in the Church during this time *is* important, I feel that I need to begin by recognising that this brief account won't do justice to God's merciful and providential moving in our Mission. Also, I wish to encourage you to read all the reports so that you can have a better picture of all God's blessings.

The period we are covering at this session is one that will be remembered in history, as we are looking back at the time from before the pandemic had started to (hopefully) a gradual regression of its hold on the world. Immediately after the 2019 Session, we began planning for the following three years, not knowing that within a matter of months our churches would be closed and new means of ministry would have to be found.

A promotional poster for a Zoom meeting. The background is a gradient of green and blue. At the top right is the logo of the Irish Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists. The text reads: 'IRISH MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PRESENT COVID-19 PRAYER & SUPPORT SERVICE'. Below this, it says 'LIVE ON ZOOM SABBATH 21 ST MAR. @12NOON-1.30PM' and provides the Zoom link 'https://zoom.us/j/8010767285' and Meeting ID '8010767285'. There are three small portrait photos of speakers: Pastor Dan Serb, Ms. Jennith Darryl Ligue, and Dr. Raymond Ehiemere, each with their name and title. At the bottom, it asks 'Are you Worried, Anxious & Asking Where's God in this COVID-19 Pandemic? Bring all Your Prayer Requests & Questions'. It also includes contact information: 'PS: Please Share and Invite Friends and Family to Join Online For More Info, WhatsApp/Text: 0838253003' and the Zoom logo. At the very bottom, it says 'Organized by PCM & IMASA'.

Ministry During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic has been a challenging, unusual, and trying time for many people. Much unrest, confusion and loss has been (and still is being) experienced across the

world, and the Church has not been immune to its impact and effects. In the midst of it all, though, the Church in the Irish Mission continued to serve and to grow; many tireless and selfless people have made this time one to remember for other reasons than loss and heartache.

Online Zoom and YouTube meetings have been the norm, and both churches and departments ran timely and relevant services and seminars during this year, with special focus on prayer, family, health, children, and youth. At the initiative of one member in the Cork church, unassumingly and quietly, members of the Irish Mission donated almost €10,000 to assist two Adventist schools and one Adventist hospital in India and a missionary project in Peru as they encountered financial difficulties caused by the pandemic. The Mission also held two online Days of Fellowship (2 May and 12 September 2020).



Well-established ministries such as the *Cuisle Centre* in Dublin Ranelagh Church and the *Prehen Centre* in Derry/Londonderry Church laid great plans for community service. Lockdown restrictions caused interruptions, but their service of care and nurture continued beyond the venue-based programmes. Moreover, new and revived ministries blossomed, such as the *Adventist*

Community Services. ACS has been one of the most active and community-involved ministries during this trying time, serving the vulnerable on the streets of Dublin as well as distributing aid in Cork, Tralee, and other areas within the Mission. (For more information, read the ACS report in this booklet, starting on page 23.)

Here are some more ministries and initiatives developed during this time period:

1. **Discover Truth** is the rebranding of an ongoing ministry which distributes literature in Dublin, and it has branched out to other towns and cities within our territory. This ministry was formally organised in 2020 by lay members of churches in Dublin under the guidance of Pastor Christian Salcianu, and it has since grown to include volunteers from various counties within the Mission. The main aim is to engage Seventh-day Adventist members in spreading the Gospel and the three angels' messages in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These Adventist missionaries – adults, youth, and children alike – are finding joy in distributing literature and engaging in conversation with people. In return, those people, who are hungering for truth and hope, are discovering a better way to live. The ministry's volunteers report on a weekly basis about items of literature distributed in their hundreds, about prayers with and for people, and about passers-by who ask to join Zoom Bible studies (or, later, enrol in online Bible studies).



Here are some of the areas of ministry Discover Truth already has in existence:

- Website (<https://discovertruth.ie>)
- Online Bible studies/Adventist Discovery Centre (Irish branch)
- Zoom Bible class and YouTube videos

- Street evangelism (groups)
- Free Bible Project
- Flyer distribution

Also, here are some of the current projects:

- Publishing of an extract of the final 14 chapters of *The Great Controversy* (a book other countries have successfully used before); it will be entitled *The Final Countdown* and will be just under 200 pages
- Podcast of the Daniel 2 article, *The Final Countdown* (<https://discovertruth.ie/the-final-countdown/>)
- Sanctuary video series by 'Europe4Jesus'
- Additional Zoom Bible study series: 'Focus on Prophecy'
- Promotional gifts: bookmarks, pens, and T-shirts advertising the ministry's website

One of the future projects for 2022 is to publish a revised edition of *The Celtic Connection* in collaboration with Stanborough Press. The aim is to distribute it to every home in Ireland.

(This information was taken from a report on the *Discover Truth* website; for more in-depth information, visit <https://discovertruth.ie/report-and-appeal/>.)

- 2. *The Storehouse App*.** With the onset of the pandemic, it became evident that giving would be problematic in the absence of in-person meetings. As a result, when the opportunity presented itself we embraced the possibility of partnering with an app-development company in South Africa for the creation of a giving app. Much of 2020 was spent in developing the app, under the competent care of Pam Petersen, and the product is currently available on Android phones. We are awaiting feedback from Apple to make it available on iPhones as well.
- 3. *Centre for Conflict Resolution Europe (CCRE)*.** 'Reconciliation is the heartbeat of the Gospel and God's longing for humanity' (Derwin L. Grey, *The High Definition Leader*). This quote lies at the heart of the partnership between the

Irish Mission and the *Centre for Conflict Resolution* from La Sierra University in the USA. The partnership began in October 2019 when twenty people (18 from the Irish Mission) were trained as mediators. The training was organised by the *Centre for Conflict Resolution* and the *4Civility Institute*, and the graduates were certified with the *Mediation Institute of Ireland*. That was followed by Advanced Mediation Training during August-September last year (2020) via Zoom. During the following months, there were a number of online meetings where a number of the mediators came together as founding members and launched the *Centre for Conflict Resolution Europe (CCRE)*, which was recognised as an official ministry of the Irish Mission at the 10 January 2021 Executive Committee meeting.



The main goals of the CCRE are: (1) to run awareness and training programmes within local churches, (2) to provide mediation services and conflict resolution education to the community, and (3) to facilitate mediation training across Europe and the UK; moreover, CCRE would provide certification for those trained as mediators.

Currently, the Centre (in partnership with our USA sister centre) is running mediation training with pastors from the South England Conference and the North England Conference; moreover, a pilot project regarding a 'kindness' survey is being prepared for our youth under the leadership of Helena Kunova.

For more information on this ministry, visit <https://www.ccreurope.org>.

4. **BelievAble Talks.** Even though I am an administrator currently, I am – above all else – a pastor with a passion for youth and for reaching the secular mind. During the pandemic, I took time to draw together research spanning a few years, and, alongside a very dedicated and talented team, produced a documentary series addressing the often contentious relationship between religion and science. The main platform of this ministry is <https://www.believabletalks.com>, and the first project was the launch of the series, **'Beyond the burden of proof'**. This is a seven-part series which focuses on faith, truth and reality, religion and violence, cosmology, the theory of evolution, morality, and the future. The presentations are not sermons or Bible studies, and the objective is to provide an 'open door' for further enquiry on spiritual matters.

For more information on this ministry, visit <https://adventist.ie/news/article/go/2021-08-04/believable-talks-a-new-ministry-for-reaching-the-secular-mind/>.

Building projects

The Irish Mission has been blessed with a number of properties which facilitate both worship and mission. In addition, in 2017, the Cork church building was bought and dedicated. Also, there is Kilnasoolagh Family Camp in the West of Ireland, which we seek to maintain (and, funds permitting, develop)

so that the Mission's children, youth, and various churches can make use of its facilities.

One project that has been ongoing in the Mission is the purchase or building of a second property in Dublin which would serve as both a church for the growing Dublin membership and a centre of influence/community centre. In 2017, the Mission was awarded part of the 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Overflow by the General Conference, and since then the administration and Dublin leadership and membership have been seeking opportunities for this project to be realised. Among the scarce possibilities found was the rare opportunity to be part of a first-in-Europe multi-faith campus. The Administration and Executive Committee proceeded to make the necessary queries, and, after a number of meetings with the agent and various religious groups, the Irish Mission was given the opportunity to build a 500-capacity church and mission centre. However, after consultation with the Dublin members seeking places of worship and prayerful consideration, the administration and Executive Committee decided to withdraw from the project. As a result, we are currently assisting two Dublin congregations in the purchase of two properties: one for the Dublin Romanian church and the Irish Mission head office, and the other for the Dublin West congregation and a centre of influence.



Previous Session Plans and Initiatives

Reports such as this one are about counting (and enumerating) our blessings; they are also about accountability. Therefore, let us revisit the plans and initiatives we set forth in the previous session (just over two years ago):

1. *Complete SDACI registration.* This process was completed towards the end of 2020 due to God's blessing and the great work done by Pastors Paul Lockham and Jacques Venter. We also wish to thank Whitney Moore solicitors for their assistance.
2. *Complete Second Dublin Church and Centre of Influence project.* The progress made regarding this project has been highlighted in the section above.
3. *Complete establishment of SDACI head office building in Dublin.* Same as point 2.
4. *Co-opt more lay Bible workers.* As the pandemic restricted travel, many of the current Bible workers had to carry out their duties online. During this time, the administration identified no need for further recruitment. However, we do envisage that the situation may change; if anyone feels called to assist as a volunteer Bible worker, please contact me at dan@adventist.ie.
5. *Employ (on a one-year contract basis) two adult youth workers (one for the Dublin area and one for the Belfast area).* The situation described at point 4 is applicable here, too. However, together with Pastor Jefferson Melki, we will explore the possibilities of meeting this goal (finances permitting), or finding other means of adequate youth care in the two territories.
6. *Employ an extra minister for the West of Ireland area.* As of July 2021, there has been a district realignment exercise which saw the formation of two new districts: the Cork-Tralee district under the leadership of Pastor Ben Pontanar, and the Longford-Limerick-Waterford district. After prayerful and careful planning, the Executive Committee made a request that the Trans-European Division/GC partner with the Irish Mission in bringing in a

Global Mission pioneer/church planter to the city of Limerick. The request was met favourably by the Division/GC, and the Irish Mission administration is currently in the process of finalising arrangements for a Newbold College graduate to join the Mission and take over the newly formed district. Moreover, plans are in effect whereby Pastor Doug Batchelor is scheduled to conduct an evangelistic campaign in Limerick City in May 2022.



7. *Develop and implement an in-detail strategy for church growth and evangelism for Northern Ireland.* A number of meetings took place between the Administration and Northern Ireland local church leaders and pastors, and various items were identified to be built into specific strategic plans in the area. Moreover, we mention here Pastor Lorance Johnson's new appointment, on 1 July 2021, as pastor of the Belfast church.
8. *Launch Adventist Professionals Ireland (to include both Northern Ireland and the Republic).* Meetings have taken place with ASi Europe leadership, and an ASi Ireland organisational/constituency meeting is scheduled for the second part of the year.
9. *Assess feasibility of reopening ADRA Ireland.* The administration held meetings with both ADRA Europe and ADRA-UK, and it has been agreed that, right now, the reopening of ADRA Ireland is not feasible. If the situation changes, the Irish Mission membership will be informed. We are therefore even more appreciative of the great work done by ACS.

Staff and Pastoral Team

Name	Position/Role	Responsibilities/District
Serb, Dan	President <i>Elected Personnel</i>	Office Kilkenny/Waterford
Venter, Jacques	Executive Secretary <i>Elected Personnel</i>	Office
Ramharacksingh, Earl	Treasurer <i>Elected Personnel</i>	Office
Johnson, Lorange	Ordained Minister	Belfast
Keough, Adam	Ordained Minister	Dublin Ranelagh
Keough, Heather	Manager	Cuisle Centre – Dublin
Melki, Jefferson	Intern Minister	Irish Mission Youth Drumcondra
O'Rourke, Tony	Commissioned Minister	Galway Newmarket-on-Fergus Longford
Petersen, Gideon	Ordained Minister	Londonderry Coleraine Sligo
Petrovski, Ivan	Ordained Minister	Ballinacrow Drogheda Portlaoise
Pontanar, Ben	Ordained Minister	Cork Tralee
Salcianu, Christian	Ordained Minister	Dublin West Dublin Romanian
Willis, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Banbridge Larne

Sponsors

Department	Name/s
Youth Ministries	Pastor Jefferson J. Melki
Public Campus Ministries (IMASA)	Pastor Greg Davis
Adventurers & Pathfinders Club	Bogdan Stan
Health Ministries	Nomsa Gusha-Zinyemba
Trust Services	BUC
Family Ministries	Precious Madubeko
Children's Ministries	Petar Popivanov
Women's Ministries	Lilian Cooper
Men's Ministries	Nqabeni Hlongwane
Media & Communication Associate M&C Sponsor	Pastor Christian Salcianu Pastor Andrew Willis (as of July 2021) Pamela Petersen

Department	Name/s
Prayer Ministries	Pastor Lorance Johnson
Stewardship	Angus Rothwell
Church Growth/PM/SS	Pastor Dan Serb
Adventist Community Services Associate ACS	Helena Kunova Ionut (Johnny) Cioloca
RoI Safeguarding	Heather Keough
NI Safeguarding	Patrinne Irvine

Bible Workers

Name	Church/Company/Group
Buggle, Ciaran	Drogheda
De Groot, Mart	Monaghan
Dube, Philani	Northern Ireland
Fortunato, Amerson	Limerick & Roscommon (Portuguese-speaking groups)
Gajamaranahalli, Puru	Kilkenny
O'Rourke, Elizabeth	West of Ireland
Matewa, Shupai	Sligo
Wilson, Evelyn	Portlaoise



Ministry would not happen without the dedicated and often sacrificial work of our pastors. Considering the unusual nature of the last two years, many of our ministers forfeited their leave to make sure that the 'new normal' addressed the spiritual and other needs of their members. As administration, we endeavoured to provide all the support necessary for them to carry

out the ministry of care and evangelism. As a team, we had regular meetings, more frequently than before the onset of the pandemic, and discussed ways and means of carrying out effective ministry. A notable new initiative concerns the emotional and psychological health of our pastors, with the Irish Mission joining the rest of the BUC in signing up our pastors and their families with *Ministry Care Line* in the USA. Through this service, our pastors and their family members benefit from free online counselling services provided by qualified Adventist professionals. In February 2021, we also welcomed Pastor Jefferson Melki to the Irish Mission pastoral team; Pastor Jeff has taken over the Drumcondra church in Dublin, and is also the Irish Mission Youth Sponsor (<https://adventist.ie/news/article/go/2021-02-19/introducing-pastor-jeff-our-new-im-youth-sponsor/>).

Future Plans

At one of our most recent pastoral meetings, it was agreed that the Mission's growth and nurture strategy would be discussed and set

forth as a team. There are two areas I should mention in this report:

1. The establishment of a digital media ministry with the further goal of an Irish Mission media centre, and
2. Our ongoing commitment to carry out the previous session's mandate to facilitate the status transition from Mission to Conference.

As for the *Vision for the Mission*, the team has agreed to recommend that we continue with the one voted in 2019: **Establish. Empower. Engage.** Here is a brief refresher:

ESTABLISH

'That He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.'
(1 Thessalonians 3:13, NKJV)

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.

EMPOWER

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'
(Acts 1:8, NIV)

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. 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, and Bible study time be an opportunity for the Spirit to *empower* us to be witnesses of that which the Lord works within us.

ENGAGE

'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, ESV)

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-to-receive message 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.

Words of Thanks

We are still in the grip of the pandemic at the time of writing this report. I thus wish to acknowledge the wise and immediate response and guidance of the British Union Conference leadership and various directorships at the onset of and throughout the pandemic.

Also, I want to thank the Irish Mission pastoral team, Bible workers and sponsors, Executive Committee members, volunteers, and all their families, for their tireless, sacrificial, and dedicated commitment to service and ministry; many of them worked long hours and immersed themselves in innovative and new ways of ministry in order to ensure that church members continued to receive adequate pastoral care.

Moreover, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Irish Mission members

and friends who have exercised patience and understanding towards us, the administration, and have faithfully continued to worship, to minister to the community, and to return their tithes and offerings – your faithfulness and generosity have ensured that the Mission was able to adequately plan for the future. We also thank our various partners (old and new) who've added extra blessings to the efforts made in both nurture and ministry: *Emerald Foundation, Versacare,* and *La Sierra Centre for Conflict Resolution*, to mention a few.

I then wish to thank my administration colleagues for their continued support and grace extended to me: Mr Earl Ramharacksingh and Pastor Jacques Venter. Working alongside you has been a blessing and an absolute pleasure! Your dedication to God and love for the Church have been (and continue to be) an inspiration to me.

Special thanks to Marci Neal, whom we said 'goodbye' to in October 2020. Marci has been a tremendous blessing to this Mission. She's been a most efficient and friendly servant to the needs of all the churches, as well as the greatest support and friend to me personally.

I wish to also express my deepest appreciation to my wife Oana and our children (Emma, Emilio, and Ayana). Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for the peace I feel, which allows me to do my work the best I can.

Last but not least, I thank God for His unconditional love and boundless mercy! As we peer into new horizons, may the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace (see Numbers 6:24-26).

Secretary's Report



Pastor Jacques Venter
Executive Secretary

The previous report for 2019 was written by Pastor Paul Lockham, who served as Executive Secretary for the Mission until 31 January 2019, at which time he took early retirement. Since then, I have had the privilege to serve the Mission in this capacity. Although the report from Secretariat is statistical, it is important to never forget that each number represents a person for whom Christ died.

This report covers 2019-2020 and will look at the following areas: charity registration in the Republic of Ireland since the last session, membership changes in the Mission, and membership growth and staffing.

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. By April 2018, the Revenue indicated it was happy with the new structure submitted in early 2017. The new structure included a draft constitution consisting of

a memorandum and articles of association (attached at the end of this report), which was drawn up in consultation with the GC Legal Counsel, Karnik Doukmetzian and Whitney Moore.

The last hurdle was cleared in June 2020 when the Charities Regulator approved the SDACI Constitution. At the same time as completion, Pastor Dan Serb (IM President) and all outstanding members of the Executive Committee not previously appointed as directors for SDACI were appointed. The new structure therefore allows the IM President to chair the Board of Director meetings.

As previously communicated to all our members, the next step meant synchronising the IM Operating Policy with the five-year cycle of the SDACI and BUC constitutions. The SDACI Constitution was created to model the five-year cycle of the BUC Constitution. Until this year the BUC has made use of a three-year administrative cycle for the Missions, but the new 'Model Operating Policies for Missions' allows Unions to change this timeframe. The incoming BUC Executive Committee will

make this change to the IM Operating Policy after the BUC Session in 2021.

The IM is fortunate that our re-registration as SDACI in the Republic of Ireland has coincided with the 2021 BUC Session, causing the two constitutional cycles to synchronise. The last piece of the puzzle was to synchronise the IM Operating Policy with the BUC and the SDACI five-year cycle by bringing the IM Session forward to the fourth quarter of 2021. If this had not been done it would have caused major disruption in the way the IM could function in the Republic of Ireland under the SDACI Constitution and may potentially have placed our status as a charity under unnecessary risk.

Synchronisation will eliminate immediate and long-term conflicting legislation practices between the IM Operating Policy, the SDACI Constitution and the BUC Constitution that would be detrimental to our work in the Republic of Ireland. More importantly, it will help us to function effectively within the requirements of each country's legislation without disrupting our objective to share the Gospel with Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In the meanwhile, the Board of SDACI has been working to seek revenue returns for

the current and previous years. We want to especially thank Marci Neal, Oana Serb, and (currently) Heather Keough for helping us with this process.

Membership

The membership report for this session will focus on the past five years, starting at the beginning of the previous triennium. At the beginning of 2016 membership stood at 809. Based on reports received from local congregations, the reported membership at 31 December 2020 had risen to 1,038. The result is a net increase of 229, or 22.06% over five years, as seen in the graphic below.

During the period under review the membership has grown 10.9% as a result of baptisms, with a further 15.3% in members transferring in from other places. 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 33.6% of all who joined. It is important to take into account that most of 2020 included churches being closed due to COVID-19. However, it also 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.



Year	Jan	Adjust	Baptism	Re-baptism	Profession of Faith	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Death	Dropped	Missing	Dec	Gain/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
2019	929	18	29	1	8	27	16	1	0	0	995	66
2020	995	-1	12	0	10	49	24	2	1	0	1,038	43
Five-year Total		24	113	2	38	159	79	14	5	9		229

There was a 7.6% 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 1.3% loss of membership was accounted for by those members who died during the past five years. Sadly, 1.3% 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 a large land area, dispersed membership and limited resources for paid pastoral staff. Sometimes this challenge can be a positive thing when enough members come together to form a recognised company or church. At our previous session we welcomed Longford into the sisterhood of Irish Mission churches, while earlier in 2021 the IM Executive Committee approved Company status for Drogheda, Kilkenny and Portlaoise. We now have listed 21 recognised congregations, of which 13 are organised churches, with the remainder a mix of recognised companies and groups.

As mentioned above, in any report about membership, we record the number of members who have died. It is only appropriate to recognise them, and their lives are remembered by family, friends, and others whom we may not know they influenced. They are Fiona Morton (2016, Coleraine); John McNamara (2016, Galway); Ruby Henderson (2016, Belfast); Roberta Montgomery (2016, Banbridge); Victor McCormac (2018, Belfast); Anna

Isobel Graham (2018, Londonderry); Bobby Johnston (2018, Larne); Jean Agnew (2018, Larne); Evelyn Finlay (2018, IM Church); Marlene Moffett (2019, IM Church); and Thomas Ward (2020, Galway).

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

Staff

In June 2019 Heather Haynes, who served Ballinacrow and the youth in the greater Dublin area, accepted a call to Norway. In August 2019 Pastor Ivan Petrovski and his family joined the pastoral team, and they currently serve the Ballinacrow/Drogheda/Portlaoise district of churches. Pastor Weiers Coetser accepted a call to the South England Conference as of September 2019; and, while the Mission searched for his replacement, Pastor Chris Peake, a retired pastor from England, covered Coleraine and Londonderry until Dr Gideon Petersen and his wife joined the pastoral team in that district in December 2019.

More recently – in October 2020 – the IM Executive Committee, after careful consideration, took the decision to abolish Marci Neal's role as Personal Assistant to the IM President, making her redundant. The Mission is extremely grateful for the generous and kind way in which Marci served the Mission with sacrificial effort. We will always be indebted to her contribution and will miss her presence.

In February 2021, the Mission appointed Mr Jefferson Melki as IM Youth Sponsor and intern pastor for Drumcondra. 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.

Thanks

I would like to thank those who serve their congregation, and the wider church, in the role of local church clerk. It is an important role, both for keeping 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. I want to especially thank Marci Neal and Sophia Prince (former secretary to the BUC secretariat) who supported and taught me as I came to terms with this role. I also want to thank Kerrine Guthrie, secretary to the BUC secretariat, who has supported me in the work of the Missions' secretariat since February 2019. Foremost, I give thanks to our gracious God, who not only knows each of us by name, but seeks to draw each child of this world to Himself.

Treasurer's Report



Mr Earl Ramharacksingh

Treasurer

Introduction

We are witnessing monumental events in our lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic took a grip in the British Isles in March 2020, and in total 4.4 million people have lost their lives worldwide, with the resultant financial consequences of lost jobs from financially damaged businesses. We have not seen the likes of this before.

However, we should focus on the good work that has happened, with so many positive outcomes to report during this period.

Proverbs 3:9, 10 (NIV) says, 'Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.' With this Bible verse in mind I would like to thank God for the faithfulness of our church members, in spite of the impact of COVID-19; and also for the committed pastors and lay leaders.

Due to God's intervention and careful management of resources and financial operations, the Irish Mission has done exceedingly well in the last three years.

Tithe

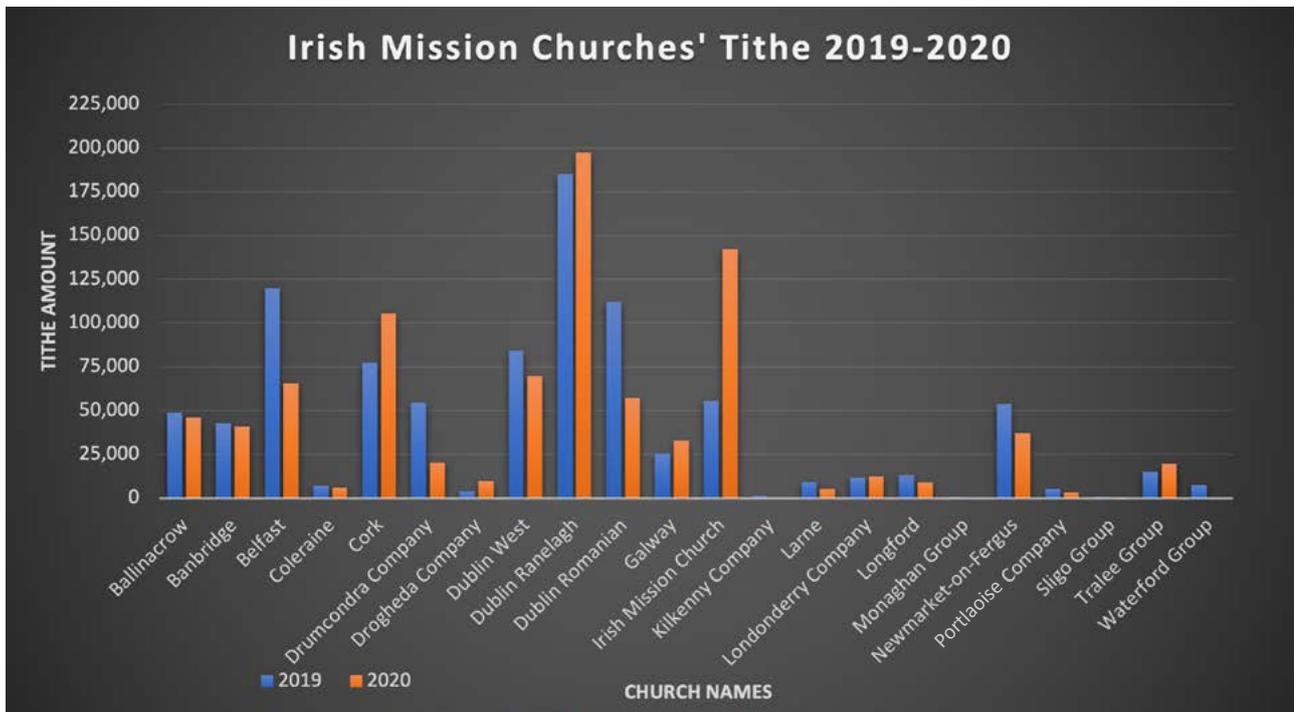
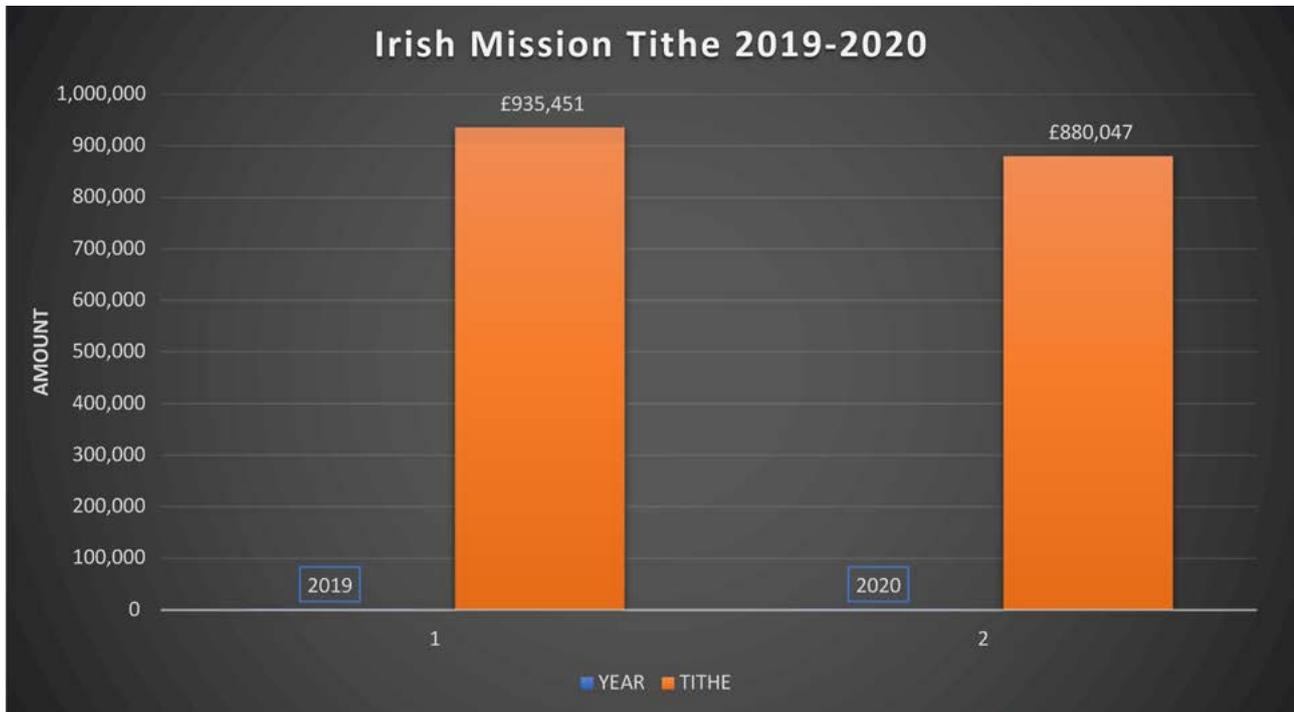
Over the last two years £1.82 million in tithe has been returned (see tithe bar charts below). This represents a 9% increase over the previous two years (2017-2018). We thank God for His blessings during these challenging times.

Support

The Irish Mission is part of a larger fellowship within the British Isles. Over the period we have contributed £363,099 to the World Field and received appropriations of £320,000 from the British Union Conference.

Gift Aid

One of the true blessings of returning tithe and offerings in Northern Ireland is that we are able to claim from the Government 25p for every £1 returned by tax-paying members. For the last two years this amounted to £48,177 (see chart below). This much-needed extra income helps with the capital and evangelism needs in our local churches.



Tax Effective Giving (ROI)

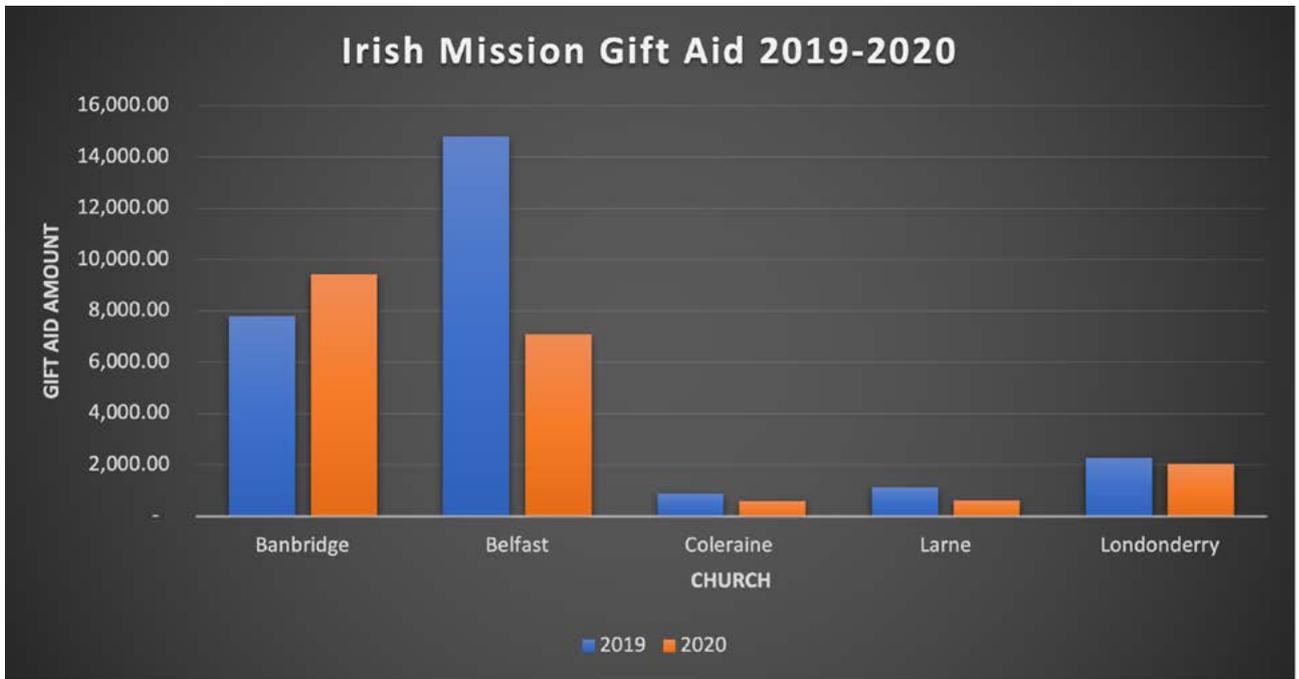
In Republic of Ireland there is a scheme called Tax Effective Giving. This scheme includes donors regardless of their tax status (PAYE or self-assessed). The tax relief is given at a blended rate of 31%, regardless of the rate of tax paid by the donor, and this will be on a grossed-up basis. The qualifying threshold remains at €250.

We have claimed €63,839.42 in Tax Effective Giving (TEG) claims for the years 2016 and

2017, and the claims for 2018 and 2019 are being processed. We would like to thank Heather Keough for helping us in preparing these claims.

Expenditure

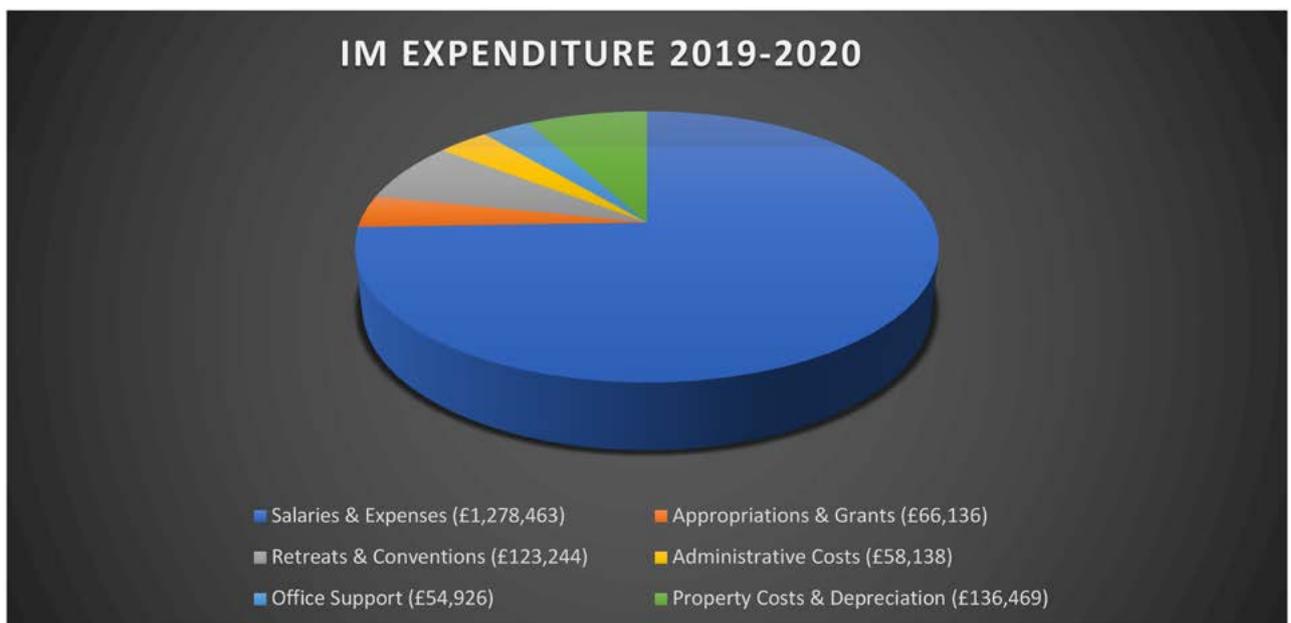
The above income has enabled us to budget accordingly, with an actual expenditure of £1.72 million for the period (see pie chart below). As you can see from the pie chart, nearly three quarters of the budget is utilised for ministers' and



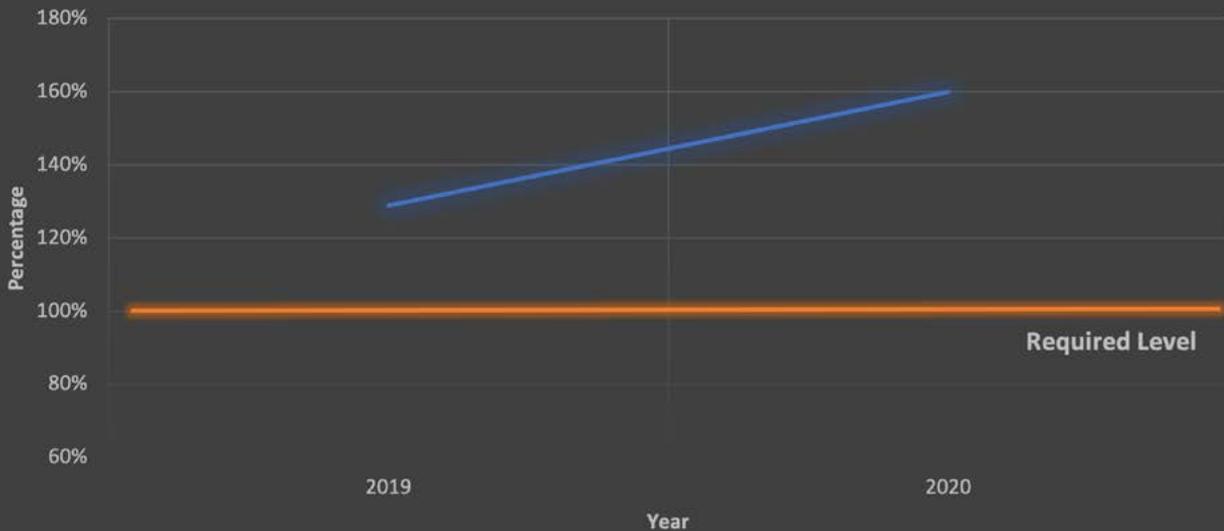
workers' salaries and expenses. Retreats and conventions will have an attendee fee income to offset these costs. We recognise the impact that attending youth retreats, camporees, women's ministry events, family life envisioning weekends and Days of Fellowship has on the lives of our members as they fellowship and support each other on their spiritual life journeys. Unfortunately, from March 2020 we didn't have physical retreats and conventions due to COVID-19, but many of our programmes have moved to a virtual platform.

Balance Sheet

(See General Conference auditors' report, starting on page 81.) 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. These are financial factors that the General Conference has decided should be at 100% as a minimum requirement to ensure the ongoing financial health of the organisation.



IRISH MISSION WORKING CAPITAL 2019-2020



IRISH MISSION LIQUIDITY 2019-2020



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.

Thanks

Having left public practice in 1992 to work for the Church, I have found these last 29 years an interesting and challenging experience, but most rewarding. These last five years I would thank Daniel Smith and Aftab Barki

for their unstinting work in managing the income and expenses of the office. I would like to thank Marci Neal for her tremendous service in the Irish Mission office for many years. I have also appreciated the knowledge and experience shared by Pastors Dan Serb and Jacques Venter. It has been an exciting five-year journey with them and the current Executive Committee.

Adventist Community Services Report

Johnny Cioloca *ACS Sponsor*

Helena Kunova *ACS Cork*

Cork

Our journey started in 2018. In that year we explored our options regarding how to serve in the Cork community. Firstly, we got in touch with a local canteen, Penny Dinners, to serve the homeless people. We found that the best way to help was to organise a group of volunteers to come to the canteen every six weeks. We were doing any type of work to keep the canteen going, such as tidying up the warehouse, washing dishes, serving food to people. . . . But still we wanted to help more, and that's why we collected useful items for needy children – clothes, shoes, toys, and baby items such as baby wipes and nappies – donated by our church members and others.



In the run-up to Christmas we agreed with the management of Penny Dinners to organise a shoebox appeal, enabling us to help children in need again. This time we decided to look after babies and teenagers, and the project lasted almost three months, during which time church members and others donated money to help. By the end of the project we had collected 2,000 euros, with which we purchased enough items to fill 100 shoeboxes (50 for babies and 50 for teenagers). It was very successful, and each church member was involved.



The following year, maintaining our partnership with Penny Dinners, we once again organised a group of volunteers every 6 weeks to go and help with running the canteen, and for the second year running we successfully collected items for children in need. All church members wanted to be involved.



During 2019 we were trying to find another organisation to partner with in caring for poor families. We got in touch with Focus

Ireland Cork, and together we came up with the Christmas project, 'Family Hampers'. We didn't want to cancel our Christmas shoeboxes with Penny Dinners, so we decided to run both Family Hampers and the shoeboxes project together. After three months of running the project, we were again able to collect 2,000 euros from church members and others. The involvement was amazing. We spread the funds raised equally between both projects. God blessed this effort, and we were able to provide 50 shoeboxes for children in association with Penny Dinners, as well as 62 single hampers and 17 family hampers, including items for 36 children, in association with Focus Ireland Cork.



The shoeboxes project in 2018 was so successful that we shared the project with churches in Kilkenny, Waterford and Tralee. All three were happy to join. Kilkenny Church and Waterford Church were supporting poor families with family hampers through Focus Ireland in their local area. Tralee Church supported poor women with single hampers through the Novas organisation in Tralee.

Overall, 190 shoeboxes/family hampers were prepared. Altogether, four churches served 270 people, including children. God be praised.



2020 was a very challenging year. We managed to organise one group of volunteers to go to Penny Dinners in February, but then COVID-19 arrived. The way we served had to change, as COVID-19 had closed the doors to all activities in Penny Dinners. We found out we could help at Focus Ireland Cork, where clients were desperate for food. They were really struggling. On 17 April we came to the front of their office with our first food supplies delivery. Every single week we were coming with food. Our last delivery was at the end of August.



During this time Kilkenny Church was involved as well. Focus Ireland asked for help to support a young man in Clonmel. From May 2020 the church has been preparing food supplies for him every week.

Dublin

Started in 2017 in one of the Dublin SDA churches, ACS Dublin grew step by step, having this vision: *serve communities in Christ's name*. One can read our history here: <https://acsdublin.org/about>. We began by helping other organisations and

learning from their way of doing things. At the right time, by summer 2019, we came forward, serving in the *Adventist* way as #theSaturdayPeople.



What we do can be highlighted in four lines:

- Come out of our comfort zones (homes, church pews, offices) and
- Serve those struggling (the homeless, poor families, immigrants) by way of
- Meeting some basic needs (hot food, clothes, sleeping bags, other forms of support):
- All done in Christ's name (free of charge, with a servant approach).

We guide our efforts by following Jesus' example and method. In the Bible we read:

'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve' (Matthew 20:28, NIV).



In *The Ministry of Healing* by Ellen White (p. 143) we read:

'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."

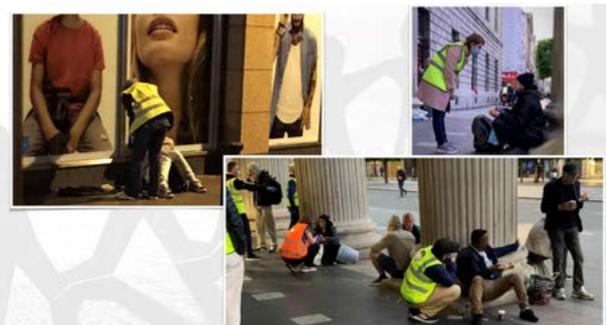
The needs of people cannot be cut in slices to fit the years of a required report. Accordingly, we served before and during the pandemic. Sometimes limited by government regulations, other times going the extra mile, we continued and even grew exceptionally.



To God's glory we report the following 10 key achievements:



1. **Weekly soup run efforts** in Dublin city centre – every single Saturday night (see our weekly report at: www.facebook.com/acsdublin). Prior to that it was a quarterly and then a weekly effort.
2. Involving some **100 volunteers per month** from three churches in Dublin: Dublin West, Ranelagh and Romanian. Individual volunteers from Ballinacrow and Drumcondra helped also.



3. **Involving youth.** Every third Saturday of the month ACS Dublin is being served by

the youth of our churches. Our efforts on Global Youth Day have been shared as inspiration by the BUC, TED and GC youth departments (<https://www.facebook.com/csalcianu/posts/447458153186885>).

4. **Involving kids.** One boy donated half of his birthday gifts to ACS Dublin. Based on his example, we built Jerry's Fund to help other kids (<https://acsdublin.org/2020/10/26/standing-on-tip-toes/>). At times the preteens have been helping, either as a group or volunteering along with their parents.
5. **Involving non-Adventist people.** Many times in our midst one will find a first-time volunteer, counting tens of friends and colleagues of a different nationality, religion or racial background. Other organisations were helping us also.
6. **Managing and developing ACS Dublin** to have storage, a van, a bank account (AIB), an HSE-registered kitchen, a website and other social media accounts, a newsletter, and a servant-leadership team.



7. **The Adventist name** is being advertised on a regular basis: on the vests of volunteers, and on the van serving us weekly. More than once we have been asked about it – who we are, what we believe in, and so on – by people passing by, by Garda officers, by people joining our efforts.

8. Making the Irish Mission aware of our efforts and helping organise a **department** within the Irish Mission. ACS has a day of emphasis in the IM calendar (23 October 2021) and a budget, and leaders from other areas (west of us) are making enquiries in order to replicate our efforts.
9. **Overseas.** On one occasion, sponsored by the Dublin Romanian church, we transported medical supplies donated by Mater Hospital to hospitals in Romania. Three large donations of clothes, goods, toys and other items went to people in need in Moldova (summer 2020, spring and summer 2021).



10. **Serving as a platform for other efforts.** Examples: a table of free books along with food and clothes; offering recommendation letters for volunteers when applying for jobs; inspiring other ministries for organisation and management (Discover Truth).

Looking back over the last two years of ministry, the servant-leaders of ACS Dublin thank God for His leading, and thank church volunteers for their continual support. We appreciate the support and funding coming from individual donors, as well as from the Irish Mission and the Emerald Foundation.

We pray to have a building soon (with the Dublin West congregation) where all the services, efforts and meetings will have a permanent place. Based on developments to follow, we might do well to reconsider having an ADRA branch in this European Union territory within the British Union Conference.

Adventurers and Pathfinders Report

Bogdan Stan Sponsor

2020 was a challenging year for all the people on Planet Earth, and the life in our church was impacted by the social environment in good and bad ways. From the beginning we were surprised to see that a virus could stop our normal lives and effect huge changes in the way we do things, especially in the way we worship. Now we can see that we managed to adapt to the situation, and by God's grace to move forwards and accomplish great things through His power.

IM Team



Bogdan Stan – Dublin
Romanian Church
Area 4 – Northern Ireland
– cover



Elder Makho –
Newmarket Church
Area 1 – Galway,
Newmarket, Tralee, Cork



Elder Merrell – Ranelagh
Church
Area 3 – Dublin,
Drogheda, Longford



Roxana Stan – Dublin
Romanian Church
Area 2 – Portlaoise,
Kilkenny, Ballinacrow

Budget

Year	Allocated Budget	Spent Budget
2019	£5,500	£19,121
2020	£5,500	£1,000
2021 – up to 09/08/21	£3,500	£1,500

In 2019 we travelled a lot for PBE and ABE, and as a Mission we also participated in the TED Camporee and went to Oshkosh International Camporee. Mainly, the money was spent on camp gear for the Pathfinder

Department, subsidies for ABE and PBE finalist teams at the Union and Division-level events, and the May Camporee.

In 2020 the pandemic came, and all our physical activities were cancelled: therefore, we moved online. The main items of expenditure were the Zoom licence, the website domain name, and hosting.

The main expense for 2021 was also the Zoom licence. However, we are planning to update our department website, and most probably that will be an extra expense. Also, the domain name and hosting will need to be renewed.

Plans and Strategy

a. Teens Training

At the last session we presented a plan to include the youth in the leadership and activities of the department. I am glad to say that Pathfinders are getting involved in their local clubs to help the directors where they need them. When it comes to the Mission, we had Pathfinders presenting BUC e-honours. We also had Pathfinders actively involved in the PBE and ABE.

As part of the programme, Jean-Ellis Gbessia from Ballinacrow had his travel expenses sponsored, half by the department and half by Erin, to attend the Oshkosh International Camporee and learn from the camp how to organise a big event. All his other expenses were supported by our family and his parents.



Interview (Jean-Ellis Gbessia)

Ep 1 | 3m | Brenda Walsh

Miss Brenda interviews Jean-Ellis Gbessia at the 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, WI

There was one more young person from Ranelagh Church shortlisted to join us, but he had to decline, as he was due to go on

a mission trip to the Philippines. They were chosen based on their proven leadership skills, as demonstrated in camps and in the local clubs.

b. ABE and PBE

The success of the ABE and PBE, when it comes to the spiritual life of our children, causes us to continue to improve the ABE and PBE in all the clubs; also to help and support them with whatever is necessary, not only to continue, but also to grow in Christ from year to year.

We will continue to train our youth and leaders to become equipped and ready to face any challenges in their local clubs, to develop their spiritual life and to help the little lambs they pastor to know and choose their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

c. Camps

After the real experience we had in the TED Camporee as a Mission, we decided to prepare for and participate in the main events organised by the BUC, and the TED, and even the International Camporee in the US in 2024. As clubs we are now moving to the next stage in our development, where in the camps each club is going to cook for itself.

IM Pathfinder Department Activities

TED Camporee – 2019

The Trans-European Division Camporee was in London in 2019, and as a Mission we decided to travel over and have the experience of 3,500 people worshipping Jesus from different countries in our Division. From the Irish Mission, 55 Pathfinders and staff travelled to London, and we had a great experience. Now we are looking forward to Latvia 2022.

Oshkosh Camporee – 2019

The International Camporee took place in Oshkosh, USA. There were 55,000 Pathfinders from all over the world coming together for one week. From Ireland we were six people travelling to the camp, two adults and four Pathfinders – two of them being baptised on the last day of the camp,



TED Camporee – 2019

along with another 1,000 Pathfinders. We are looking forward to the next camporee in 2024.



*Ariana Stan – Dublin
Romanian Church*

*Laura Rotaru - Dublin
Romanian Church*

PBE/ABE 2019-2021

2019 was a great year for Adventurers and Pathfinders. This was the first year to have Adventurers Finals in Newbold College, which we attended with six Adventurer teams from Ireland – three of whom achieved first place, two second place, and one third place. This was an historic event for the IM. We also had three Pathfinder teams qualify for the semi-finals. All received first place and qualified for the USA finals in Chicago, but one of them got the highest score among the Missions and received a £5,000 subsidy from the BUC.

This was also an historic event for the Irish Mission.

2020 started with the physical experience at the local and Mission level of ABE and PBE, having 11 teams qualify for the Union level (six Pathfinder and five Adventurer teams). With the pandemic starting in March, just before the Union-level event, the next physical events were cancelled.

In **2021**, working closely with the BUC, TED and NAD in preparation for the ABE and PBE, we moved online, and in this way we gave all the teams a chance to participate in the Bible Experience. From the Irish Mission we had six Pathfinder teams qualifying at the Union level and four Adventurer teams, of which five Pathfinders qualified at the Division level and participated in both the NAD (two teams got first place) and TED (four teams got first place) finals. We are very proud of the Adventurers, because they achieved first place all the way, and they are among the first clubs in the TED to both participate and receive first place.

In 2021, in total, more than 1,600 Pathfinders and Adventurers participated in the Bible Experience from Europe and the North American Division, with new countries such as Latvia, Poland, Chile and the Netherlands joining, all of which performed very well.

For 2022 we are planning to use a hybrid arrangement to make it possible for all the clubs to participate, no matter what their economic or social situation is, being inspired by the Portlaoise Adventurer Club and Fireflies Community Club as proof that great things can be achieved with few resources.

Fireflies Pathfinders Community Club Project

My wife and I decided to start this project in Celbridge based on the community children attending our youth meetings, organised in our house. In the club are ten children: three who attend church, two from families which are not coming to church any more, and five from the community. Among the staff are three youth who are not attending church any more. With this club we managed to achieve first place in PBE all the way, including NAD and TED finals, in the first year of participation. We also managed to organise a camp in September 2020, by God's grace. We hope to get more people from the church involved to help us grow more, as it is very difficult to cope with everything when you don't really have people to help you.



The Final Countdown Series for Adventurers and Pathfinders

The Final Countdown was a series of events held over thirteen Fridays, especially designed for Adventurers and Pathfinders to cover the topic of Jesus' second coming. Some of the videos from the presentation are available online on our website and Facebook page, and we are happy to say that we had people from different continents joining us.

Presentation II - Do you know the way?



E-awards and Honours 2020-2021

The e-honours and awards were started by the BUC with full support from all the Conferences and Missions, having the scope of keeping our Pathfinders and Adventurers active through the pandemic. As a Mission we had to host and present honours and awards, and it was great to see the Belfast club presenting, and Pathfinders from different clubs across the Mission also being involved. In one year we managed to cover more than 350 Pathfinder honours and 350 Adventurer awards, creating a great legacy and database for all the clubs worldwide.

BUC Challenge Accepted 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic made us change the plans we had for this summer, as the restrictions had not been lifted; therefore the BUC Camporee this year was also cancelled. However, the BUC Challenge came in to bring us together and to help us continue to be active and worship together, even if we are living in challenging times. From the Irish Mission, Newmarket Pathfinders and Adventurers, Cork Clovers and the Fireflies Community Club accepted the challenge. All the club members were challenged to walk, run, swim, cook, worship together, and improve their fitness each morning for a month, and much more.



During this period there was a special occasion: Elder Makho received the Legacy Award, which is a special recognition for individuals who have served for 40 years or more in the Pathfinders Department. We can only thank God for his service and wish him as many years as God will allow to serve with the same passion.



Pathfinders World Day and 70 Years of Pathfinders

In September 2020 we commemorated 70 years of Pathfinders, and it was a great experience to see that the main event and pin were designed by the BUC. As a Mission we also participated in the virtual programme, and it was great to see Pathfinders joining from all over the world.

Leaders' Prayer

A few weeks ago, we decided to follow the example of the apostles in praying for the activities and plans we had, but also for all the families of those actively involved in God's work. Therefore, every Sabbath morning from 7am, we have been praying for all the leaders – and, if you want, feel free to join us.

IM Pathfinders and Adventurers Patch

After a few years of debate, we finally have an IM patch, which is going to be available to all the clubs very soon. The patch was

designed by Jean-Ellis from Ballinacrow Church and updated to the BUC template.

The IM patch is expected to be available for clubs to buy before the session starts.

Master Guide Training



Master Guide training was started in Area 1 and Area 3 by Elder Macho and Elder Merrell, with an invitation extended to all the other areas. Unfortunately, the training was also affected by the pandemic, and many of the participants didn't finished the training.

However, Elder Max from Cork Church managed to do all the MG requirements, and he will be invested at the earliest opportunity as a new Master Guide in the Irish Mission.

May Camporee

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our May Camporee was cancelled in 2020 and 2021. A report on the May Camporee for 2019 was presented in the previous session.

However, the 2022 May Camporee – if, by the grace of God, it goes ahead – will have as the main guest Pastor Doug Batchelor. As the expected numbers for this camp are high, we decided to move the location of the camp to the Portlick campsite, noting that as the Pathfinders Department we are looking to use the church premises in Newmarket-on-Fergus; and, in the name of all the clubs in the Irish Mission, we request that those premises conform to the legal standards used not only by the Pathfinder Department, but by all other departments in the Mission willing to use it.

Future Plans

Our main aim for the future is to bring as many children as possible to Christ and to keep the ones we have in the church. As directors, we all want to bring 'the advent message to all the world in our generation', and we feel that we have a great responsibility on our shoulders – and that is the preparation of our youth. By God's grace, we will continue the great work, no matter

who is going to lead. We have only one purpose: the salvation of our children.

Thank You

To God – for the privilege of serving the youth and blessing our Mission and the Pathfinder movement, which has 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 doing something for the Pathfinders and Adventurers.

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

To All Directors and Instructors – the only thing I can say is, 'God bless you all for your commitment!'

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

Children's Ministries Report

Petar Popivanov *Sponsor*

I took over the Children's Ministries (CM) Department in October 2019 from the previous sponsor, Shupai Matewa. I would like to thank Sister Shupai, who began the hard work to establish the basis of a more organised ministry.

Background and Challenges:

Three distinct characteristics outline the context of CM in the Irish Mission:

- It is still in its infancy. Insofar as I am a leader, I would have loved to see a more structured and coherent organisation than the one I inherited; I must admit that we still have a long way to go.
- It is unique from church to church. Each church has designed its own CM in a very distinctive way. Some churches have appointed CM leaders, and have organised teams and yearly budgets. They have adopted various programmes and activities and embedded CM into the fabric of their existence. On the other end are churches which, regardless of their membership, buildings and number of children, have chosen not to have designated CM leaders. In these instances, I have communicated with their pastors.

Most churches fall between the above two categories, and CM is present in various activities such as Sabbath School, children's story, messy church etc.

- Knowing what CM is *not*. I have been asked on numerous occasions if CM is not the same as the Pathfinders, and why we should have both in one church. This is quite understandable, as a degree of overlap exists between these two ministries, especially in terms of the similar age groups they target. In many instances, the same volunteers take part in both as well. However, while the Pathfinders ministry follows a structured curriculum, I find that CM offers spiritual support that is amenable to the individual church, family and kids' needs. In this regard, CM and Pathfinders complement each other.

Philosophy

In my ministry, as in my parenting, I have adopted the following simple yet profound truth: the children have two needs – to be loved unconditionally, and to have safe boundaries. In fact, I believe that this is how God parents us too. In ministry language, this translates into teaching children to

know Jesus, rather than just to know about Him. It also encourages parents, teachers and pastors to present the Bible not as disconnected stories, but as one coherent narrative pointing to the Cross. A grace-soaked ministry offers to children security and delight in the Lord. It leads kids to new discoveries, building a lifelong relationship with Jesus. It brings into the world future men and women full of compassion and empathy to others.

Activities

Church Visits and Contacts

In January and February 2020, I visited Portlaoise, Ballinacrow, Belfast, Cork and Kilkenny churches, where I took part in children's Sabbath School, and also handed out copies of the colouring book *Discovering Jesus in the Bible* by Elizabeth Talbot and preached during the main service. I had arranged visits to Galway, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Longford and Banbridge. My ambition was to connect with local CM leaders and establish a network where we could support each other in building stronger local ministries. The highlight of 2020 was a planned weekend of training CM volunteers during April by Linda Koh (CM Director from the GC) and Clair Sanches-Schutte (CM Director at the TED). The COVID-19 public health restrictions cancelled the event and deferred my further church visits. However, I managed to establish contacts with CM leaders in Dublin West, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Longford, Tralee, Galway and Drogheda.

Letters from God

With the church closures in March 2020, God reached the children through the post. More than 100 children received 'letters from God' weekly for three months. In them they were reassured about the unquestionable care and love of our Saviour. Even kids in the USA, Spain, Finland and Japan have received letters through their leaders. I recently got a request from Kenya, so this ministry is still going on around the globe.

BUC Christmas Concert

Eighty-eight kids from the Mission presented two songs and two recitals in the 2020 BUC Christmas concert.

Christmas Gift

Ninety-six colouring books, *Discovering the Miracles of Jesus*, were posted as Christmas gifts to children.

Kids' Church

Since September 2020, Kids' Church has continued to minister to and reach children across the Irish Mission and further afield throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Designed for all children up to the age of around 12 years, the 'Dig into the Bible in One Year' programme has provided more than fifty weekly worship opportunities through stories, object lessons, videos, songs and arts & crafts. Fifteen volunteers from Ranelagh SDA Church have been tirelessly engaging kids and parents from across the Mission to ensure the virtual format offers equal opportunities for participation. Recently, two volunteers from the Belfast and Ballinacrow churches have joined the kids' church leaders' team.

The kids' church continues in September 2021 with a new series, 'Dig into the Heart of God'. Our prayer is that soon a new 'tween church' will be premiered as well, in a joint initiative between the CM and youth departments. It will address ages 10-16.

VBS

Starting on 5 July for five consecutive evenings, more than sixty-five kids joined the Israelites in their 'wilderness escape'. Each day, a Bible story presented by Moses and his friend engaged kids in bringing the Exodus alive. Meeting other kids in 'tribe time' made the virtual experience a true encounter with God and His guiding power. Kids' hands got busy with the wilderness arts and crafts. We learnt to trust God.

Future Needs, Plans and Direction

Two words outline the current needs and future pace of CM – 'networking' and 'digitalisation'. Stronger connections between local CM leaders are needed to enrich the opportunities and experiences we provide to children. The pandemic has demonstrated to us adults something that children already knew – virtual platforms offer unlimited opportunities. The future of CM lies not only

in strong local departments, but in advanced digitalisation in our ministry. My prayer is that God would guide our leaders to invest resources in this regard.

I would like to thank the IM for trusting me with the responsibility to labour in this field. I would like to thank the CM leaders and pastors from the local churches for their responsiveness and faithful commitment. I

am immensely blessed to have the Ranelagh CM team, whose love and dedication know no limits. I would like to thank the kids and their parents for their partnership in the last two years. As much as I followed God's calling to minister to the little ones, they ministered to me too, and today I am who I am due to their fresh and organic view of God's unfailing love.



Family Ministries Report

Precious Madubeko *Sponsor*

The Family Ministries Department was set up as a new ministry with the objective of facing the challenges that families encounter; and, by addressing these, to make the membership better able to grow in faith and to strengthen the church. My vision was to work in this portfolio with my family – my husband and two daughters – in line with the Mission’s theme of ‘Establish, Empower and Engage’. The first step was:

Establish: Establish family faith by encouraging family worship in the families of the Irish Mission. Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, this was achieved in a few churches, such as Kerry and Ballinacrow, in the form of workshops. In these workshops we addressed issues of conflict resolution, communication and the value of family devotions. This was achieved by a presented sermon, games and exercises. The objective was to create an intergenerational learning environment for the whole family. These sessions were well received, and appointments for four other churches were pending.

Empower: The plan was to hold training workshops for families to learn about

different ways to conduct and enjoy family worship. We hope to address the role of different family dynamics between singles, widows, orphans and grandparents. We are to engage people who are experienced in various aspects, such as messy church, children’s worship, and creative adult worship, to tease out ways to maintain the interest of the young people in the church. As part of my empowerment, I attended the BUC intergenerational worship training over Zoom, and it was the most eye-opening experience of my year. It brought a clear understanding that we need to adopt progressive ways to interact with others when sharing the Gospel, especially with young people. This training included many practical workshops which will be beneficial to families.

Engage: The plan at this stage was to encourage family units to participate actively in church life in whatever role or sphere they felt comfortable, using some of the skills learnt in the dynamic family worship workshops, which hopefully they will be using at home. The hope was that, as families gained confidence in experiencing God’s love and presence, they could

incorporate their extended family members in a more non-threatening approach.

Having laid out the broad plan, I must hasten to point out that most of this was not achieved. I personally found COVID-19 lockdowns very difficult, and I was Zoomed out and could not manage to co-ordinate such meetings (not for lack of trying). Two programmes were planned, and outlined speakers were approached, but there was so much rescheduling that they eventually did not take place.

We were, however, able to collaborate with the Health Ministries Department in presenting a Zoom health talk on 'Calm Amidst the Crisis' on 28 November 2020. This was a beautiful programme by Pastor Davis,

talking about 'Love Worth Finding'. I am grateful for Nomsa Gusha-Zinyemba, who was instrumental in putting this programme together.

Finally, to end off the year we conducted a WhatsApp daily devotional that was focusing on issues affecting the family. There were more than fifty participants, and it was a true blessing to hear the positive feedback. I was especially blessed by members of our own Mission, Pastor Tony and Caroline O'Brien, who contributed beautiful devotionals.

All in all, it was a blessing serving in this capacity, even though I did not get to do what I initially set out to do. I trust that God was able to touch someone with what little we were able to do.

Health Ministries Report

Nomsa Gusha-Zinyemba *Sponsor*

Women's Ministries Annual Afternoon Tea

I presented for the first time as Health Ministries Sponsor at the Women's Ministries Annual Afternoon Tea at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Limerick in November 2019. The title of the presentation was 'Stepping in the Right Shoes'. Women at this event were challenged to consider the challenges that may arise due to incorrect footwear. This presentation was very well received. An introduction to the walking challenge was introduced at the end of this presentation.

'Escape Your Couch' Presentation

The first two months of 2020 involved visiting a few churches within the Mission, raising awareness on the importance of reducing sedentary behaviour. The presentation was entitled 'Escape Your Couch'. The overall message was 'Move more, sit less'. The churches visited were Dublin West, Ranelagh, Galway, Derry Church and Belfast. However, I was unable to conduct in-person visits due to the lockdown and COVID-19 restrictions.

#IM31DAYSOFWALKING Challenge

One of the main things that I tried to focus on was putting the health message into

practice. A few challenges were introduced to help with that. The IM 31 Days of Walking Challenge was first introduced in January 2020, and it became an annual challenge after that. The idea was to encourage as many people as possible to walk a minimum of 30 minutes every day in the 31 days of January: a great way to start the year, especially for those whose new year's resolution was to live a healthy lifestyle. This challenge took off very well on Facebook, where people updated pictures of their walks using the hashtag #IM31DAYSOFWALKING. Pastor Adam Keogh and his family promoted the challenge in December on several Facebook pages, and that led more people to join. A number of our members training to be Master Guides participated in the challenge and were sending their updates on a WhatsApp group thanks to Precious Nyoni Madubeko, who was in charge of the group. Surveys were conducted following the challenge each year, which showed that we had participants from different counties in Ireland, the United Kingdom, India and South Africa! Here are some of the testimonials from the participants:

'I feel very energetic and motivated, and I will keep walking.'

'It was an amazing experience, especially knowing that there were dozens of other people doing it.'

'It was an amazing experience. Knowing that I am not alone motivated me every single day.'

Following the 2021 walking challenge, there was a request for the walking challenge to be issued twice a year.

Sugar Smart for Spring

Continuing with the theme of putting the health message into practice, once again the members and those in their communities were challenged to give up sugar for the 31 days in March 2020. This turned out to be very challenging for many. People shared their experiences on a WhatsApp group that was created by one of the Ranelagh church members, as well as on Facebook. The social media hashtag was #SUGARSMARTSPRING. This challenge was meant to give people an idea of the amount of sugar and refined foods that they were consuming in a day, and to encourage them to make healthy choices.

Joyful June 2020

A happiness calendar was emailed around to pastors and sponsors with activities to do daily for the month of June. This was to be shared around the Mission. The calendar consisted of different activities to do for the month of June, aimed at making June 2020 a joyful month.

Tone-Your-Body Tuesdays

Due to the lockdown and the pandemic, we, like most people, decided to use Zoom as a way of reaching out to members across the Mission. The IM Health Ministries Department teamed up with Rick Roberts Fitness and conducted Zoom exercise classes every Tuesday for four weeks, starting on 16 June and lasting until 7 July 2021. The exercise classes were for beginners and intermediate exercisers. We are grateful to Rick Roberts Fitness for his dedication. Very few people attended these classes on a

weekly basis, but those who attended found the classes to be beneficial.

The Modern Woman and Balance Seminars

These seminars took place in September 2020 in collaboration with the Irish Mission Women's Ministries Department. Presentations were held via Zoom. We had a presenter from the United Kingdom (Edith Samambwa) and from South Africa (Elona Hlatshwayo). Edith Samambwa (former Irish Mission Health Ministries sponsor and former Cuisle Centre manager) presented on women's health and gave insights on how to balance female hormones for fertility and success. Elona Hlatshwayo (CEO and founder of Bizpreneur) challenged women to think about legacy building and how to enjoy their legacy.

'Calm Amidst the Crisis' Seminars

Pastor Greg Davis (psychotherapist/certified relationship specialist) presented a four-part series in the month of November 2020. The topics presented were 'Your Faith and Your Mental Health', 'Safeguarding Your Mental Health', 'A Focus on Mental Health', and 'Relationships: Building Love at Home'. These sessions were presented via Zoom, as we were still in the middle of a pandemic. They were very well attended across the board, as well as being informative. The Mission's Health Ministries Department collaborated with the Mission's Family Ministries Department for the final two sessions of these seminars. All of them were a blessing and got many people to engage at the end of each session. Presentations were thoroughly researched and well prepared. We praise the Lord for blessing us with such knowledgeable people within the Mission. These seminars were well-timed due to the lockdown and pandemic.

Serving as the Irish Mission Health Ministries Sponsor has been a blessing, an honour and a learning curve. I have learned that when God calls, He provides. He provides ideas, speakers and ways to reach His people.

Men's Ministries Report

Nqabeni Hlongwane *Sponsor*

Unprecedented, new normal, difficult times, social distancing, isolation and self-isolation, quarantine . . . when will this end?

These are some terms and phrases that suddenly became part of our vocabulary in the past year. Initially plans were set aside, frozen, then thawed, but unfortunately these plans were severely impaired.

The men's ministry is for men, and not about men. It is a platform where men can support each other, as it is written in Proverbs 27:17 (NIV 1984): 'As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.' The aim was to equip one another, serve one another and fellowship with each other.

The men's ministries are still considered to be a 'non-core ministry' for men; where it exists, different emphases and operational strategies are employed. The biggest challenge was for men to find time for this ministry in the midst of other demands from home, work and other church engagements.

The strategy was to 'collaborate with other ministries' to engage men. In particular, the family ministries and women's ministries were seen as essential support structures.

The second opportunity was to engage and integrate men of all ages into the ministry. There are typically three generational stages of men in the Irish Mission:

- Young men
- Middle-aged men
- Elderly men

Young boys and men look up to role models. It would be a beautiful thing to behold if young people had role models within our church. There are a few churches with active men's ministries departments. The Cork church and the Dublin churches had active men's ministries. There is a very active WhatsApp group for men for the Irish Mission.

Online talks, seminars and discussions

The ministry pushed the boundaries of the comfort zone in topics selected for discussion. Some of the popular discussion sessions were on intimacy within marriage and parenting. A number of women joined us in some meetings, though some were strictly for men. The reason for restricting them to men only was to create a platform

where men felt comfortable to discuss issues with each other openly.

The Irish Mission Men's Ministry Department linked with the South England Conference, which has a well-established Men's Ministries Department. Men in Ireland benefited immensely from the Monday evening online forums. The discussions were frank, robust and challenging, yet edifying. We express our gratitude to Brother Devon Boyd for accepting us in their ministry. We also joined other men in other divisions, such as South Africa.

As a new department, it was difficult to find its space and fit. I would like to thank all men

for being with us on this journey. Thanks to families for supporting your men, your fathers, your sons, your brothers.

It is my hope that in the near future there will be active plans to mentor young men and new fathers; to engage and support older men, drawing from their wells of wisdom. We all hope, as the restrictions ease, that there will be opportunities for personal interactions and engagements such as hiking, sports, and weekends out. It has been a joy, a privilege and a blessing to co-ordinate this ministry. God bless the men in the Irish Mission, God bless all their families, and God bless the Irish Mission.

Prayer Ministries Report

Pastor Lorance Johnson *Sponsor*

At the commencement of the term in 2019, the goal of the Prayer Ministries Sponsor, under the theme: 'Established, Empowered, Engaged', has been to raise the spiritual business of prayer to a more prominent place in the life and function of the Irish Mission membership.

The objectives therefore were the following:

1. Enhance the prayer life of pastors.
2. Engage all those who have a passion for prayer to form an army of praying soldiers.
3. Emphasise our special days and weeks when the focus is on prayer – Ten Days of Prayer, Week of Prayer.
4. Equip ourselves with resources and tools to learn the disciplines of prayer and fasting.
5. Encourage and strengthen our faith in the power of prayer through video testimonies.
6. Empower every believing soul to embrace this wonderful means of communicating with our Lord.

Despite the challenges that have impacted all of us over the past 15 months, our great Lord permitted the following to be realised:

The Forming of an IM Prayer Group

The invitation was sent out to all interested members to form an Irish Mission prayer group that would be prepared to pray for the strategic plan, as well as any challenges that confront our Mission. We are thankful to have a core group of praying people from around the Mission that have been involved in supporting the Mission in its prayer endeavours. We do hope to really have this grow to a vast number and to be more active.

Emphasising Special Days and Weeks of Prayer

Over the course of the term, we have intentionally arranged to have corporate prayer seasons. The unfortunate lockdown situation in March 2020 opened the door to the use of alternative means to meet through Zoom, which actually turned out to be a tremendous blessing.

We held our first Irish Mission-wide special prayer session that took place each Thursday evening for 14 nights. The purpose was to ensure that, as a church family separated by lockdown regulations, we could find fellowship, strength and support through worship and prayer. This

was followed by our first corporate Week of Prayer in November of 2020, led by our very own pastoral team. Beginning on 6 January 2021, we all came together again for our Ten Days of Prayer that culminated in a special Prayer Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 16 January. We were truly blessed to be spiritually challenged and encouraged by Pastor Pavel Goia from the General Conference Ministerial Association.

Empowering Our Members to Embrace the Wonderful Means of Communicating with God through Prayer

We were thankful that prior to the lockdown we could focus our West of Ireland Family Camp theme on prayer and how to develop a real, personal relationship with God through prayer. The theme was 'Prayer Works! Trust Me!' We invited Pastor Pavel Goia, who travelled from the United States to minister to all our campers.

The Launching of 'Answer to Prayer' Videos

We praise God for the opportunity to launch a project that would serve to encourage and strengthen the faith of our membership in the power of prayer through video testimonies. We are so thankful to those who were willing to share their story of how

God intervened in their lives in a real way. This is a project to which we would like to see many more contributing on a regular basis. It will be a witness to those that go on our Facebook page that our God is real and that He hears and answers prayer.

Outstanding Objectives

There were two outstanding objectives that we were not able to address: (a) to enhance the prayer life of pastors, and (b) to equip ourselves with resources and tools to learn the disciplines of prayer and fasting. This, I do hope, will be adopted in future plans. For this second objective, I planned to achieve this in part by visiting the churches across the Mission and having a full day where the focus would be on equipping us as a people. However, this was curtailed due to lockdown regulations.

Word of Thanks

I would like to express my thanks for all the support given by our members during this challenging term; for the help and prayers of our IM prayer team; for the support of my wife, Joan, and daughter, Rebecca; for the wonderful team of pastoral colleagues; and for the direct commitment to this ministry by our president, Pastor Dan Serb.

Public Campus Ministries Report

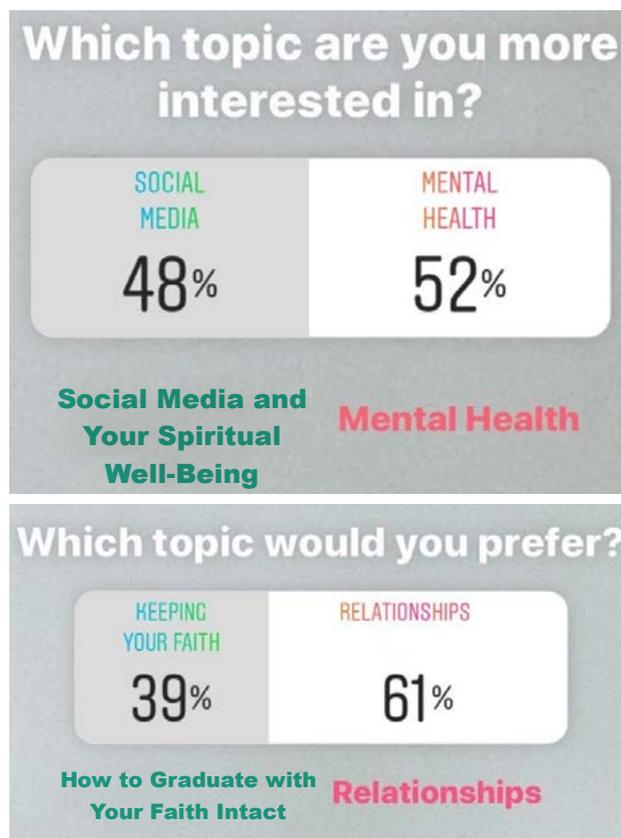
Pastor Greg Davis *Sponsor*

Objectives

To build a vibrant campus ministry by connecting with and mobilising young people within and outside the church for a deeper personal experience and relationship with God, and stronger social and emotional support among members.

Under the auspices of the Irish Mission Public Campus Ministries (PCM), the second batch of leaders of the Irish Mission Adventist Students Association (IMASA) were elected and inducted into office on 30 June 2019 at the Newmarket church. The IM PCM Sponsor, Greg Davis, hosted both the outgoing and the incoming officers in his residence to socialise and plan for the new academic year.

To ensure that programmes and events organised are properly tailored to meet the needs of the demographic, the IM Adventist Students Association conducted a survey to offer a better understanding of the needs of young people in the Mission. The findings, as indicated below, informed the basis of nearly all the programmes run for the rest of the period in question.



While undoubtedly rocked by the pandemic, IM PCM, led by IMASA, made the following advances in the time elapsed:

EVENT: Day of Fellowship/Global Youth Day (21 March 2020) – CANCELLED

- This was planned in association with Cork SDA Youth Ministries as an event where students would both be ministered to and minister to others in the community.
- It was cancelled due to the pandemic.

INITIATIVE: WhatsApp Group Scripture Boost

- As an initiative of the vice presidents for spiritual affairs, scriptural encouragement was posted weekly/fortnightly in the IMASA WhatsApp group from 24 July 2019 up until 18 February 2021.
- This was initially shared on the IMASA Instagram page too.

INITIATIVE: 7-Day Prayer Challenge (14-21 July 2019)

- As an initiative of the vice presidents for spiritual affairs, a prayer group of about seven people was formed on Google Hangouts.

EVENT: COVID-19 Prayer & Support Services (21 March 2020 & 28 March 2020)

- Spearheaded by the IMASA Sponsor, these events were held to promptly address the worry and anxiety brought on by the pandemic. The guest speakers who joined virtually included the General Conference PCM Director, Pastor Dr Stefan Moon, and his family.
- Both events were well attended and appreciated, as it was the very first COVID-19 response event organised in the Irish Mission.

EVENT: Bounce Back! End-of-Year Retreat (16-20 December 2020)

- After months of inactivity caused by the pandemic, Bounce Back! was planned in partnership with The Outpost to provide a much-needed revival of the IMASA initiative and to boost the morale of the Irish Mission's students.
- This retreat consisted of:
 - A relationship panel featuring the BUC Family Ministries Director, Pastor Les Ackie

- A mental health panel, featuring IMASA/PCM Sponsor & mental health clinician, Pastor Greg Davis
- Testimonies and special items
- Presentation and Q&A with Dr Tihomir Lazic
- Online social hosted by Willy Elmira
- This event was well attended and also saw the launch of the IMASA YouTube Channel, and was the impetus for IMASA Speaks.

INITIATIVE: IMASA Speaks

- On 5 March 2021, IMASA Speaks, a Zoom and YouTube livestreamed event, launched with a discussion on self-care.
- Follow-up IMASA Speaks sessions include:
 - A panel addressing 'Social Media and Your Spiritual/Mental Well-being': Maureen Hamblin, etc.
 - 'Upgrade', Parts 1 & 2 – sermons by Youth Sponsor, Jeff Melki
 - Presentations and Q&As on 'Godly Young Adults and Sexuality', Parts 1 & 2 on 7 & 21 May with Dr Temitayo Odeswusi (lecturer, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland)
 - Presentations on 'Racism & Discrimination: How Should the Christians Respond?' (4 June) by Dr Jamie Kowlessar, senior pastor, Dallas City Temple Adventist Church
 - 'Impact of Racism on Mental Health and Well-being' on 18 June 2021, led by Greg Davis, PCM Sponsor and mental health clinician and relationship therapist
 - Panel discussion and presentation by Pastor Mart on faith and academics

Counselling and Support

The department witnessed a significant increase in requests for short-term counselling and emotional support. The most common presenting issues included but were not limited to anxiety, loneliness, isolation, accommodation, homesickness, break-ups, relationships and family matters, financial difficulties, COVID-19 and the vaccines against it, suicidal thoughts, addiction, depression, and academia-related issues. It also, interestingly, dealt with issues such as struggling with faith, isolation, and not feeling welcome in church.

Other points of note

1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PCM & IMASA could not organise its annual congress in June 2020. Upon consultation with the IM President, the incumbent leaders were requested to hold the fort for another tenure. The majority gladly accepted and have worked up to date. The next congress is slated for 20 and 21 August 2021, and it is expected to be virtual.
2. The WhatsApp group has been a communal space for people to share their events, such as Outpost events and the weekly [truth]LINK Bible study, an organic, grassroots movement led by Willy Elmira and supported by the IMASA General VP, Omari Norman, which filled the period of IMASA inactivity and continues to date, attracting students across Ireland.

Personal Evaluation

Despite the challenges encountered by IMASA, the leaders adopted innovative ways such as Zoom, YouTube, Facebook Live, Slido and creative graphic designing to create awareness and ensure participation. IM PCM extended invitations to experts and

professionals in and beyond the Mission as guest speakers, including the General Conference PCM Director and the TED PCM Director.

Recommendations

I recommend that the new sponsor intensify the mobilisation agenda to attract more members. There would be need to pay attention to the mental health and relationship needs of the target group of this ministry and their struggle with faith matters. I also recommend that the new sponsor solicit the personal support and engagement of pastors, elders, and youth leaders to ensure the growth of this ministry. There would also be the need for more collaboration with other PCMs, especially in the UK, for exchange programmes and ideas. This could include a joint congress and so on.

Finally, involving the IMASA President and PCM as observers on the Executive Committee could foster a better understanding of the needs of both the PCM and the Irish Mission.

Stewardship Report

Angus Rothwell *Sponsor*

Everything we have is a gift from God – our life, our family, our resources and our time. When we decide to put God first, we will realise that it is a great privilege to serve Him in all areas of our lives.

The mission of the Stewardship Department overlaps with almost every other department in our church: for example, when we support ADRA or the Samaritan Fund, we are being good stewards of the resources that God has given us. When we support our local children's ministry or family ministry, we are being faithful stewards of the time God has given us towards the children and family members we share our lives with. When we support our church by being faithful and generous with our tithes and offerings, we are playing a part in spreading the Gospel and being faithful stewards with the resources God has blessed us with.

There were many challenges when COVID-19 came to Ireland, and we all had to learn to do all of the above differently – ministering, giving and so on.

During this COVID-19 period we communicated through Zoom, videos and emails.

- On 30 May 2020, a video was sent to every church with a message of gratitude for the faithfulness of church members.
- From 29 November to 5 December 2020 was World Stewardship Week of Revival, for which readings from the General Conference were sent to the churches. Some people read them during their personal study time, while some churches were able to study the material together during their weekly study and prayer meetings.
- A short video message was sent out, with the theme that love for God is the greatest motivation for willing service and enthusiastic stewardship. Some churches were able to include this video during their service on Worldwide Stewardship Sabbath.
- A Zoom meeting was held in January 2021. The guest speaker was Pastor Paul Lockham, who is the Trans-European Stewardship Director. Between 70 and

80 households joined to listen to the very inspiring talk and discussion afterwards.

- The Stewardship Department of the General Conference prepared an excellent 'God first' stewardship newsletter online each month; this was sent to each church through the local pastor. This is excellent material, with some great articles for both children and adults.

It was an honour to be asked to promote stewardship in our church. I would like to thank all those who helped me in every way, including through giving advice and passing on the information.

I would like to encourage everyone to keep God first and at the centre of your life. True love for God will always result in willingness to serve Him.

Women's Ministries Report

Lilian Cooper *Sponsor*

Big plans were scheduled for the Women's Ministries Department in 2020. In March of 2020 a women's retreat was booked at The Horse and Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary. More than seventy ladies had booked and paid for the event. Speakers and flights were booked, welcome packs for the event were ready, and then the pandemic upset everything – or did it? We were suddenly thrown into the unknown. But God knew what plans He had for the Irish ladies.

Online Was the Answer...

Women's ministries were moved to Zoom to connect with the ladies. During the first lockdowns, Zoom was a blessing to us all, as we were able to continue fellowshipping and supporting each other. From May 2020 to December 2020, we hosted two meetings a month. It was absolutely fantastic – all ladies got on board, for every meeting we had a different speaker and a different host, and at the end of each meeting we had a Question & Answer session. The attendance at our Zoom meetings ranged from 80 to 190. In 2021 we continued with online meetings, but held them once a month.

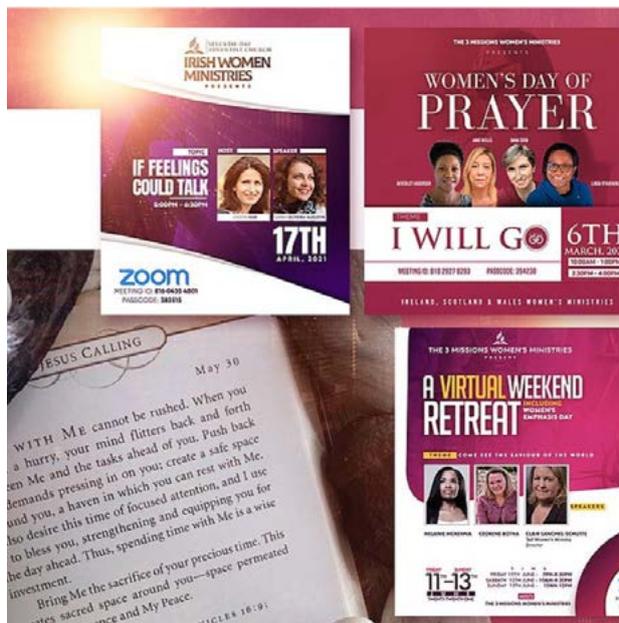
Women's Health Month – The Modern Woman and Balance

We teamed up with the Irish Health Ministries Department for the month of September 2020, and we focused on women's health. During the month of September, we had two meetings. The two speakers both focused on different topics. One spoke about 'Your hormones for balance, fertility and success'; and the other speaker spoke about legacy: 'Build your legacy, and live to enjoy it'.

Irish Mission Women's and Health Ministries Department
presents
**The Modern Woman
& Balance**
Saturday, 26 September 2020 at 5pm
Dona Hlatshwayo
Build Your Legacy, Live to Enjoy It!

3 Missions Virtual Day of Fellowship – Online

On the International Day of Prayer, the Scottish, Welsh and Irish Missions' women came together for a day of fellowship. Our theme for the day was 'I Will Go', and our main speaker was Pastor Linda Asare, the South England Conference Prayer Co-ordinator. For seven days leading to the day of fellowship, one of the ladies every morning shared online a five-minute devotional titled 'Focus on your calling – a challenge'. We were all blessed on the day of fellowship.



Snippet of some of the flyers shared among the ladies to promote our events

3 Missions Virtual Women's Weekend Retreat

The theme for this retreat was 'Come and See the Saviour of the World'. Our main speaker was Clair Sanches-Schutte – TED

Women's Ministries Director. Throughout the weekend we were blessed with testimonies, musical items and special messages of encouragement from across the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Missions.

WhatsApp Group

As a ministry we had to adapt and find ways to connect. We created the Irish ladies' Women's Ministry WhatsApp group. Technology has surely allowed us to connect with those that we might not have been able to connect with in person. We share devotionals on this platform and even hold a 24-hour prayer line. The supportive environment has bound ladies together with cords of love to create a loving community.

Support from the ladies

When you ask for help from ladies, you are sure to get it. . . . I feel blessed to be working with the ladies of the Irish Mission, because without them all this could never have happened. We all have different gifts/talents, and when we put them together amazing things happen – and that is exactly what the Women's Ministries Department did. I feel I need to mention Busi Msipha. She was our IT Director, and without her help while fellowshipping online we would have struggled.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all, and also to express how honoured I have been to serve as the Women's Ministries Sponsor.

Youth Report

Aaron O'Brien

IM Youth Outpost Leader (Aug 2019 – Dec 2020)

During the years of 2019 and 2020, Outpost grew with the events we brought into the youth ministry in Ireland and Northern Ireland, with weekends and days out to monthly church services. With more than eighty attendees, there was an Outpost weekend in Belfast in December, with talks from many brilliant speakers, and ice skating brought some great memories. Then in March 2020, due to COVID-19, we joined the world in using Zoom, and also we increased to three Outpost services a month, with

speakers from all over the globe: America, Hawaii, Serbia, South Africa and many other places. Along with this, a Friday evening worship service was livestreamed on Facebook and Instagram to bring in the Sabbath weekly over lockdown. Now, with a new youth ministry team in 2021 and many years to come, there are plans to bring the youth closer to God and each other, to create amazing memories, and to bring glory to God, as in years past.





Appendices

SESSION AND PROCEDURAL 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 and the procedure, and so that you can participate.

The matters dealt with at the Session are as follows:

- Reports covering the past three years (often referred to as the past *triennium*) are presented by the sponsor of that department, and by the two officers (the president and secretary/treasurer). There will be opportunity for each report to be questioned, and for comments to be made by the delegates – and only the delegates (known as *the floor*) – 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 was 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 & Licences

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.

Credentials & Licences Committee

This committee is usually a small one to consider the ministers to receive credentials. It also considers the lay preachers who should be credentialled 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.

Committee Reports

Reports from committees can be either:

1. Accepted (by majority vote), or
2. Referred back 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 to 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 to 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 delegate's 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 motion 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 voting is 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.

TRIENNIAL SESSION MINUTES 2019
IRISH MISSION SESSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

TRIENNIAL SESSION MINUTES

Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sunday 6 October 2019 at 9:00am

OPENING EXERCISES

Welcome & Introductions:	Pastor Dan Serb
Opening Prayer:	Pastor Emmanuel Osei
Devotional Address:	Pastor Ian Sweeney

Referencing Galatians 6:14, Pastor Sweeney explained that the apostle Paul was addressing those who boasted about their scholastic achievements and how spiritually superior they were. Paul could have boasted about several things – his zeal, that he was a graduate of the University of Israel, of his achievements as an evangelist, as a scholar, etc. But he only wanted to boast about the cross and glory of Jesus Christ.

The greatest boast we can make is when we boast in our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and make Him known across the Mission.

Prayer: Pastor Ian Sweeney

BUSINESS SESSION 1

Chair: Pastor Dan Serb

Pastor Jacques Venter advised the chair, Pastor Dan Serb, and the delegation that, as at that point in time, 67 out of the 93 delegates had registered, which was 72% of the nominated delegates, and that a quorum was met for the business of the session to commence.

VOTED

to accept Longford into the sisterhood of the Irish Mission churches and to seat its delegate.

VOTED

to seat Pastor Emmanuel Osei (SEC President) as additional delegate at large.

QUORUM

1

LONGFORD CHURCH

2

ADDITIONAL DELEGATES

3

VOTED

To seat the following invitees with voice but no vote:

Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communications Director)

Pastor Chris Peake (retired pastor)

Pastor Maureen Rock (Director for the Adventist Discovery Centre)

VOTED

to approve the seating of Mrs Sophia Prince as recording secretary.

VOTED

to approve the appointment of Pastor John Surrige as parliamentarian for the Session.

VOTED

to waive the reading and accept the minutes of the 2016 Irish Mission Session that were also included in the session report book.

VOTED

to waive the reading of the printed reports and to record them as presented.

VOTED

to adopt the printed programme as the agenda for the session business, with one correction: President's vision of the church and strategic plan moved to after Treasurer's report.

VOTED

to approve the recommendation that all the delegates become the Plans Committee for the duration of the Business Session.

Pastor Dan commenced the President's report by pointing out that 'growth', 'challenges', and 'opportunities' are three key words used to describe the Mission over the triennium.

INVITEES

4

RECORDING SECRETARY

5

PARLIAMENTARIAN

6

2016 SESSION MINUTES

7

SESSION REPORTS

8

AGENDA

9

PLANS COMMITTEE

10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

11

There was growth across the Mission. Challenges were dealt with adequately, but always in the right spirit. Opportunities were presented because the IM is a dynamic organisation, and it is hoped that the Mission will have the chance to take them on later.

Reference was also made to the investment in staff through additional budgets, which allowed us to employ Pastor Ivan Petrovski. Pastor Chris Peake provided additional part-time support in Northern Ireland while we wait for the arrival of a new pastor. Currently, eight Bible workers are supporting the work in the IM.

Furthermore, Pastor Dan highlighted the investment in pastoral training and the investment in the youth through the Outpost Youth Project, Pathfinders, and IMASA (Irish Mission Adventist Student Association).

VOTED

to accept, as is the custom and practice, the President's report without question.

Pastor Paul Lockham (retired 31 January 2021) presented highlights from the printed report and summarised the membership changes.

During the past triennium the IM ExCom under the instruction from the previous session applied for derogation to our charity status in the Republic of Ireland, where we are registered as the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland (SDACI). The process was followed but is still in motion. The Charities Regulator was happy with the framework on the basis that the Board of Directors make the decisions on financial matters. However, the Irish charity regulator did not sign off on our request for the purpose of further consultation. It has been three years since the vote was taken by this body and we are still working on it actively.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(CONT.)

11

SECRETARY'S REPORT

12

Turning the attention to the membership, Pastor Paul highlighted an increase to 929 members across the Mission over the triennium. Membership doubled in 13 years. The expectation is that the next doubling will have taken place in less than 13 years. There were 72 accessions by baptism (8.9%), 20 by profession of faith, and 83 transfers of membership. This shows greater growth by transfer than baptism. There was also a loss of 4.82% by transfer, 1.61% by death.

VOTED

to accept the Secretary's report as printed and presented.

Pastor Lockham offered a prayer of thanksgiving for those members who had died over the triennium. We look forward to the day when Christ returns to see our loved ones.

Mr Earl Ramharacksingh commenced by reporting a 36% increase in tithe over the triennium. Referring to the re-registration of SDACI, Earl pointed out that it will allow the Mission to claim the revenue returns (similar to Gift Aid), which could amount to thousands of pounds in revenue.

The expenses statement shows that salaries take up 72% of all expenses. Support from the Emerald Foundation has been significant and steady, with over £150K to the IM in funding over the triennium. Earl commented that the IM's liquidity is healthy and within target. He also acknowledged and thanked Mr Victor Pilmoor, who served the Mission for over 15 years.

Following discussions and questions, it was

VOTED

to accept the Treasurer's report as printed and presented.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

(CONT.)

12

REMEMBRANCE

13

TREASURER'S REPORT

14

VOTED

to record our acknowledgement of and appreciation for the many years of service to the IM by Paul Lockham as Executive Secretary, Victor Pilmoor as Treasurer and Pastor Weiers Coetser – pastor and Communication Sponsor.

The meeting was adjourned for a short break.

BUSINESS SESSION 2

Chair: Pastor Dan Serb

Pastor Dan Serb outlined the strategic vision for 2019-2021 with the following key focus areas:

1. To proceed in prayer for SDACI registration to be completed.
2. The second building in Dublin project is ongoing. One option is to have the land which the council is presenting as a religious hub for different religious groups: a unique project that would receive tremendous coverage. Another area and building in Dublin to purchase.
3. Ongoing development of Kilnasoolagh Campsite.
4. Employ and engage more staff – a full-time youth pastor, a district pastor in NI.
5. Youth & church growth is significant now in the Mission.
6. Develop and implement a strategy for church growth and evangelism in NI.
7. Support Adventist education – Galway School is rented out now. Will challenge Galway to start a school again in 3-5 years. Would encourage Adventist members to support Adventist home schooling.
8. Launch Adventist Professionals – Ireland
9. Adventist Community Services – to appoint someone to lead out in Ireland.
10. Change of status from Mission to Conference.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

**PAUL LOCKHAM,
VICTOR PILMOOR &
WEIERS COETSER**

15

PLANS COMMITTEE

16

After discussions and questions, it was

VOTED

to accept the strategic plan as presented to inform the actions of the IM Executive Committee for 2019-2021.

Pastor Ian Sweeney (BUC President) set about presenting to the delegates the processes involved in moving from a Mission to Conference status. Pastor Sweeney further explained that on invitation from the IM Executive Committee he is highlighting the enviable direction the Mission appears be travelling in, which will lead to Conference status in the future. At this stage the delegates are not called upon to take a vote.

Whereas the Recommendations Committee met on 21 July 2019 to recommend the delegates to serve as the Nominating Committee, and

Whereas the delegates voted via email,

VOTED

to record that the following delegates were asked to serve as the Nominating Committee:

Marian Cully	Banbridge
Pastor Lorance Johnson	IM
Merrell Karaan	Ranelagh
Pastor Adam Keough	IM
Precious Madubeko	Newmarket-on- Fergus
Max Mkandwire	Cork
Heather Robinson	Larne
Andrei Rotaru	Dublin Romanian
Angus Rothwell	Ballinacrow
Caroline Swain	Belfast
Abraham Tharian	Galway

PLANS COMMITTEE

(CONT.)

16

**MISSION TO
CONFERENCE STATUS**

17

**RECOMMENDATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORT
- NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

18

Whereas the Recommendations Committee met on 21 July 2019 to recommend the delegates to serve as the Licences & Credentials Committee, and

Whereas the delegates voted via email,

VOTED

to record that the following delegates were asked to serve as the Licences & Credentials Committee:

Beni Hlongwane	Ballinacrow
Eileen Irvine	Belfast
Joan Muldrew	Banbridge
Koteswar Kareti	Cork
Pastor Tony O'Rourke	IM
Pastor Christian Salcianu	IM

VOTED

to accept the recommendation from the Licences & Credentials Committee to record the following licences and credentials as voted by the British Union Conference and IM Church Boards:

Ministerial Credentials (BUC)

Pastor Lorance Johnson
Pastor Adam Keough
Pastor Ivan Petrovski
Pastor Ben Pontanar
Pastor Christian Salcianu
Pastor Dan Serb
Pastor Andrew Willis

Commissioned Minister Credentials (BUC)

Pastor Tony O'Rourke

Missionary Credentials (BUC)

Marci Neal

Lay Preachers (Local Church Boards)

Ballinacrow: Aidas Braziatas
 Purushotham Gajamaranahalli
 Beni Hlongwane
 Nombulelo Mawuli
 Nigel Murphy
 Sharon Murphy

**RECOMMENDATIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT – LICENCES
& CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE**

19

**LICENCES &
CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE REPORT**

20

	Angus Rothwell
	Ben Rothwell
	George Wilson
Banbridge:	Caroline Donaldson
	Joseph Donaldson
	Ruth Hamblin
	Tom Neal
	Andre Vieira
Belfast:	Lynden Christian
	Philani Dube
	Eileen Irvine
	Patrinne Irvine
	Patrick Lowry
	Kevin O'Brien
Cork:	Honeylette Cao
	Zachariah Devanesamani
	Pedro Duarte
	Koteswar Kareti
	Helena Kuna
	Ezebuchi Nwafor
	Pedro Silva
	Mahesh Vadapalli
Drogheda:	Emmanuel Afolayan
	Ciaran Vugle
	Eddie MacCullagh
Dublin Romanian:	Ionut Cioloca
	Alex Sirbu
	Bogdan Stan
	Ciprian Stan
Dublin West:	Catalin Andronic
	Ciaran Buggle
	Ropo Dare
	Axel Dominguez
	Iphithule Mhlanga
Galway:	Vusa Khumalo
	Pat Lynam
	Audrey Moyo
	Tommy Mulveen
	Chioma Ojeani
	Betty O'Rourke
	Abraham Tharian

LICENCES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

(CONT.)

20

Kilkenny: Day Marira
 Longford: Patrick Appiah
 Bernard Owusu
 Newmarket-on-Fergus: Lilian Cooper
 Precious Madubeko
 Daniel Wilson
 Portlaoise: Evelyn Wilson
 Ranelagh: Joseph Anderson
 Natasha Didkivska
 Willy Elmira
 Jeason Kanagaraj
 Melanie McKenna
 Nave Ndhlovu
 Pavan Pallepamu
 Sudhakar Pamu
 Petar Popivanov
 George Sisson
 Roscommon: Pastor Joabe Soares
 Tralee: Luke Kowoovski
 Waterford: Christopher Zygmunt

LUNCH

BUSINESS SESSION 3

Chair: Pastor Dan Serb

Whereas discussion and questions continued,

VOTED

to enable the IM Executive Committee to explore the process of moving from Mission to Conference within the BUC.

Whereas the Nominating Committee met on 25 August and again today, and

Whereas the Nominating Committee report for departmental sponsors and the Executive Committee was read and seconded by delegates:

LICENCES & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

(CONT.)

20

MISSION TO CONFERENCE STATUS CONTINUED

21

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT –

SPONSORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22

VOTED

to accept the Nominating Committee report and request the following persons to serve the Mission as departmental sponsors and the Executive Committee until the next IM Session.

Departmental Sponsors

Adventurers & Pathfinders:	Bogdan Stan
Associates:	Sponsor and Club Directors to bring recommendation/s to the incoming Executive Committee
Children's Ministries:	Petar Popivanov
Church Growth/Personal Ministries/ Sabbath School:	Referred to incoming Executive Committee
Community Services:	Referred to incoming Executive Committee with the recommendation of assessing the plausibility and practicality of reviving ADRA Ireland
Family Ministries:	Precious Madubeko
Health Ministries:	Nomsa Gusha-Zinyemba
Media & Communications:	Pastor Christian Salcianu
Associates	Referred to incoming Executive Committee
Men's Ministries:	Ngabeni (Beni) Hlongwane
Prayer Ministries:	Pastor Lorance Johnson
Stewardship Ministries:	Angus Rothwell
Trust Services:	Referred to incoming Executive Committee
Women's Ministries:	Lilian Cooper
Youth & Campus Ministries:	Pastor Greg Davis
Associate (ROI)	Pastor Adam Keough
Associate (NI)	Pastor Andrew Willis

IM Executive Committee

Pastor Dan Serb	President (<i>ex officio</i>)
Pastor Jacques Venter	IM Executive Secretary (<i>ex officio</i>)
Mr Earl Ramharacksingh	IM Executive Treasurer (<i>ex officio</i>)
Honeylette Cao	
Ionut Cioloca	
Caroline Donaldson	
Pastor Lorance Johnson	
Caroline O'Brien	
Betty O'Rourke	
Pastor Andrew Willis	
Iphithule Mhlanga	
Jeason Kanagaraj	

A brief synopsis of the work of the Cuisle Centre over the period was given by Heather Keough, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Cuisle Centre report as printed and presented.

A brief synopsis of the work of the Youth Ministries Department over the period was given by Pastor Dan Serb, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Youth Ministries report as printed and presented.

A brief synopsis of the work of the Children's Ministries Department over the period was given by Shupai Matewa, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Children's Ministries report as printed and presented.

A brief synopsis of the work of the Health Ministries Department over the period was given by Betty O'Rourke, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Health Ministries report as printed and presented.

CUISLE CENTRE

23

YOUTH MINISTRIES

24

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

25

HEALTH MINISTRIES

26

A brief synopsis of the work of the Adventurer & Pathfinder Ministries Department over the period was given by Bogdan Stan, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Adventurer & Pathfinder Ministries report as printed and presented.

A brief synopsis of the work of the Women's Ministries Department over the period was given by Joan Burch, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Women's Ministries report as printed and presented.

A brief synopsis of the work of the Communications Department over the period was given by Pastor Weiers Coetser, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Communications Department report as printed and presented.

A brief synopsis of the work of the Prayer Ministries Department over the period was given by Pastor Tony O'Rourke, who moved acceptance of the report.

After brief discussion and questions,

VOTED

to accept the Prayer Ministries report as printed and presented.

CLOSING EXERCISES

Chair: Pastor Dan Serb

**ADVENTURER
& PATHFINDER
MINISTRIES**

27

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

28

COMMUNICATION

29

PRAYER

30

Pastor Dan Serb invited an expression of appreciation for those who worked behind the scenes to make the session run, especially Marci Neal, Sophia Prince and Belfast Church for hosting and providing lunch.

As part of his closing remarks, Pastor Dan Serb reminded the delegates of the Mission's vision for the next triennium: Established, Empowered, Engaged – the theme for the session throughout the day and for the next three years.

Though the Session is about the business of the church, it is also about a God who loves us, has not forgotten us, and wishes us to share the Gospel with the world. Quoting 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Pastor Dan reminded the delegates to keep their hearts established in the Lord.

Every day we need to consecrate our hearts to the Lord. Once established, we will be empowered and receive His Spirit. We will be engaged to proclaim the Gospel to the rest of the world in growing His kingdom.

Pastor Dan charged the members to look forward to seeing God coming to take us home.

VOTED

to adjourn the Triennial Session of 2019.

The Session was concluded by the singing of the hymn 223 from the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, and the benediction was offered by Pastor Jacques Venter.

THANKS

CLOSING REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER & HYMN

D. Serb

Chair

J. Venter

Secretary



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

**OPERATING POLICY OF THE
IRISH MISSION OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

Amended November 2018

OPERATING POLICY OF THE IRISH MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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 referred 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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF
BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
For the two years ended 31 December 2020



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST[®] CHURCH

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

IRISH MISSION

Two years ended 31 December, 2020

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



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

Moore Kingston Smith LLP have audited the financial statement of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Organisation) for the two years ended 31 December 2020, from which the accompanying summarised financial statements of the Irish Mission (Organisation) are derived. These consist of statements of financial position and the related statements of financial activity and changes in the fund balances for the years then ended.

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 BUC for the two years ended 31 December 2020.

Basis of our opinion

The annual audits were conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK). In the auditors' reports dated 16 February 2021 and 26 July 2021, 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 BUC, as at the end of each year, and the results of its operations for each year, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted 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.

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

General Conference Auditing Service

26 July 2021



**BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Statement of Financial Position
for the two years ended December 31, 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
ASSETS			
<u>Current assets</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,168,825	1,016,183	887,577
Accounts receivable, net	103,698	20,635	21,160
Loans receivable - current portion	16,296	16,296	16,296
Total current assets	<u>1,288,819</u>	<u>1,053,114</u>	<u>925,033</u>
<u>Land, buildings, and equipment</u>	<u>2,011,476</u>	<u>2,037,055</u>	<u>2,072,913</u>
<u>Other assets</u>			
Loans receivable - noncurrent	27,372	45,189	67,408
Total other assets	<u>27,372</u>	<u>45,189</u>	<u>67,408</u>
Total assets	<u><u>3,327,667</u></u>	<u><u>3,135,358</u></u>	<u><u>3,065,354</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
<u>Current liabilities</u>			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	237,907	257,471	171,637
Total current liabilities	<u>237,907</u>	<u>257,471</u>	<u>171,637</u>
NET ASSETS			
Unallocated tithe function	(48,070)	(182,264)	(193,788)
Unallocated non tithe function	751,927	541,857	505,602
Allocated functions - operating Invested in plant function	502,642 2,011,476	481,239 2,037,055	508,990 2,072,913
Total net assets	<u>3,089,760</u>	<u>2,877,887</u>	<u>2,893,717</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>3,327,667</u></u>	<u><u>3,135,358</u></u>	<u><u>3,065,354</u></u>

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Statement of Financial Activity
for the two years ended December 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2016-2018</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITY				
<u>Earned income</u>				
Net tithe income	616,033	656,687	1,272,720	1,831,050
Donation income	85,179	30,317	115,496	101,268
Other operating income	128,111	19,887	147,998	70,495
Total earned operating income	<u>829,323</u>	<u>706,891</u>	<u>1,536,214</u>	<u>2,002,813</u>
<u>Operating expense</u>				
Employee-related expense	635,030	644,763	1,279,793	1,607,824
Administration & general expense	100,547	124,933	225,480	334,134
Departmental expense	26,640	95,886	122,526	213,931
Total operating expense	<u>762,217</u>	<u>865,582</u>	<u>1,627,799</u>	<u>2,155,889</u>
Inc. (decr.) before appropriations	<u>67,106</u>	<u>(158,691)</u>	<u>(91,585)</u>	<u>(153,076)</u>
<u>Operating appropriations</u>				
Appropriations received	189,856	215,341	405,197	603,800
Appropriations disbursed	(45,089)	(72,022)	(117,111)	(152,843)
Net appropriations retained	<u>144,767</u>	<u>143,319</u>	<u>288,086</u>	<u>450,957</u>
Increase (decrease) after oper. approp.	<u>211,873</u>	<u>(15,372)</u>	<u>196,501</u>	<u>297,881</u>
CAPITAL				
Capital appropriations	-	-	-	
Other capital income/(expenditure)	-	(458)	(458)	1,204,865
Net increase (decrease) for year	211,873	(15,830)	196,043	1,502,746
Net assets, beginning of year	2,877,887	2,893,717	2,893,717	1,390,971
Net assets, end of year	<u>3,089,760</u>	<u>2,877,887</u>	<u>3,089,760</u>	<u>2,893,717</u>

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
for the two years ended December 31, 2020

	Balance 2020	Changes 2020	Changes 2019	Balance 2018
<u>Unallocated operating</u>				
Tithe	(48,070)	134,195	11,523	(193,788)
Non-tithe	751,927	751,927	(505,602)	505,602
Total unallocated	703,857	886,122	(494,079)	311,814
<u>Restricted operating</u>				
Temporarily restricted				
General evangelism	22,796	-	-	22,796
Dublin evangelism	33,148	-	(47,752)	80,900
Cork project	-	-	(11,904)	11,904
Dublin Cuisle Centre	43,329	(3,270)	46,599	46,599
West of Ireland	48,000	-	-	48,000
Other restricted	6,018	-	5	6,013
<u>Designated operating</u>				
Dublin evangelism	33,148	-	(555)	33,703
Youth camp	65,994	-	25,630	40,364
Eniskillen house	189,845	-	741	189,104
Emerald Foundation	43,001	-	11,418	31,583
Exchange rate fluctuation	51,512	25,674	(21,579)	47,417
Other designated	-	-	2,794	(2,794)
Total allocated funds	502,642	22,404	5,397	508,990
Invested in plant	2,011,476	(25,579)	(35,858)	2,072,913
Total unallocated property	1,883,261	(25,579)	(35,858)	2,072,913
Total all funds	3,089,760	882,947	(524,540)	2,893,717

**BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION**

**Notes to the financial statements
For the two years ended December 31, 2020**

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 Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (BUC) is a registered charity which encompasses the Missions in Ireland, Scotland and Wales 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 they 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 Organisation, without consolidating the accounts and activity of the entities referred to above.

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 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 30 June 2021.

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 the Organisation is held in the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Association, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BUC.

Note 3 – Pension Commitment

Following the closure of the defined benefit retirement plan to new service credit on 01 January 2014, the BUC has decided to disclose the total past deficit in its financial statements. In return, the Organisation has committed to funding the deficit by a percentage of its tithe income in future years. The Organisation has therefore removed the liability to future pensions from its financial statements.

**BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
IRISH MISSION**

**Notes to the financial statements
For the two years ended December 31, 2020**

Note 4 – Denominational working capital and liquidity

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<u>Working capital statement</u>			
Current assets	1,288,819	1,053,114	925,033
Current liabilities	237,907	257,471	171,637
Total working capital	<u>1,050,912</u>	<u>795,643</u>	<u>753,396</u>
Recommended working capital:			
20% of operating expenses	152,443	173,116	150,477
Allocated net assets	502,642	481,239	508,990
	<u>655,085</u>	<u>654,355</u>	<u>659,467</u>
Working capital excess (deficit)	<u>395,826</u>	<u>141,288</u>	<u>93,929</u>
Percent of recommended working capital	<u>160%</u>	<u>122%</u>	<u>114%</u>
<u>Liquidity statement</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,168,825	1,016,183	887,577
Total liquid assets	<u>1,168,825</u>	<u>1,016,183</u>	<u>887,577</u>
Less commitments:			
Current liabilities	237,907	257,471	171,637
Allocated funds	502,642	481,239	508,990
Total commitments	<u>740,549</u>	<u>738,710</u>	<u>680,627</u>
Net liquid assets	<u>428,276</u>	<u>277,473</u>	<u>206,950</u>
Percent liquid assets to commitments	<u>158%</u>	<u>138%</u>	<u>130%</u>



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