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## Minutes of Joint Sessions on Wednesday Oct 17th.

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The Revd David Gamble, chair of the Methodist Council, took the chair. He welcomed all present and introduced the leaders of each denomination. He outlined the objectives arising from the previous Joint Council in ( ) 1)\* fellowships, inter-action and so forth to the + e, %lo in' lon' te m vision fo both denominations, clarifying and moving blocks to local ecumenical mission and providing updates on joint work and other essential work made.

As led by the Revd D Ma " Wa"elin, - resident of the Methodist Conference, M Mi"e . in' , Vice - resident of the Methodist Conference, and Ms /al Mo ison and the Revd D Michael Ja' essa , Moderators of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

M Gamble introduced the Revd D David ! o nic", General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain

denominations over the centuries, then he invited discussion in brief about the significant events which had shaped the denominations. He continued by considering the differences and similarities between our denominations and concluded with the challenges before us both, as he said them. Our brief discussion took place.

D ! o nic" responded to comments from the floor.

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The Revd D Michael Ja' essa took the chair and outlined the format of the session.

Speakers from both denominations gave their respective views on local ecumenism

of churches. He said that many good stories could be told but it was too easy to lay the blame at the other denomination when something went wrong.



The Revd Robe ta Romin' e , the Revd D Ma tyn Ot"ins and the Revd D David ! o nic" es%onded b iefly to the many comments made and the Gene al Sec eta ies e, %lained ho\$ co:0%e ation had develo%ed fu the bet\$een the denominations ove the %ast fe\$ yea s.

-a%e s JM@) 1 5Wo " \$ith child en and Coun' -eo%le8 and JM@) ( 5Joint - o%e ty St ate' y G ou% >6i st yea ? Re%o t8\$e e tabled and comments and Auestions invited th ou' h the Gene al Sec eta y, the Revd Robe ta Romin' e , and the Couth D ! hild en Staff % esent.

! losin' \$o shi% \$as led by the th ee cha%lains\* the Revd Melanie Smith, the Revd D James ! oleman and the Revd =i' el #a d\$ic"e.

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/ ' Mo nin' \$o shi% \$as led by the cha%lains.

The communication protocol was displayed and those present were reminded to abide by it.

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These were accepted as a correct record. Minutes arising from them were all incorporated within the agenda for the current meeting.

The minutes of the closed session during the March meeting were available for inspection on application to the Chair.

The Moderator invited his chairman to lead an act of devotion on the continued need for conversation and reconciliation following the events of the previous Mission Council meeting.

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Members also presented the report from the Investment Group which had been looked into employment related issues.

The group which comprised Members, the Revd James Meslin, the Revd Professor Stephen Orchard and Mrs Tessa Henry Robinson, with Mr Andrew Middleton in attendance, had identified several areas where more work needed to be undertaken.

1. The strengthening of management expertise. This should include the provision of appropriate training for those charged with managing staff.
- (. The introduction of guidelines for committee convenors to include matters relating to the relationship of convenors, staff secretaries and volunteers should be considered. Such guidelines might be introduced by the nominations committee.
- G. Overview of Human Resources policies should be undertaken.
- E. Inconsistency was noted for all staff where they were based elsewhere in the diocese for management.
- H. Training on the issues of harassment and bullying should be updated.
- F. Care should be taken to resolve tensions between volunteers and paid staff. It should be helpful to have guidelines concerning good practice in communications.

The Investment Group noted that the Assembly Commission was to liaise with the Pastoral Reference and Welfare Committee to assist with building reconciliation and should refer procedural matters to the Chair and Policy Advisory Group.

Mission Council received the report.

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-are O was tabled.

Questions and comments might be raised following the reading of the minutes. This could necessitate a closed session. It was suggested that the Assembly

! ommission mi' ht \$ant to see the minutes of the closed session of Ma ch () 1(.  
>! ontinued in Session J.?

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The Revd John Smith, ! onvene of the <ducation and ; ea nin' ! ommittee,  
info med Mission ! ouncil that the Revd D Susan Du be had indicated that she  
\$ould cease to be - inci%al of Westminste ! olle' e f om the summe of () 1G.  
M Smith said that D Du be k's cont ibution to the life and \$o " of the ! olle' e  
had been immensely valued and \$ished he eve y blessin' and success as she  
%lans fo the futu e.

The Revd - ofesso David Thom%son, chai of the 1R! T ust, announced that the  
Westminste ! olle' e a%%eal had eached LF.Hm due to the ecent ecei%t of a  
la ' e ' ant.

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The Revd Robe ta Romin' e noted that the cu ent te m of M John <llis as

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M s /al Mo ison too" the chai . She \$elcomed the Revd Ruth Gee, the  
- esident <lect of the Methodist ! onfe ence, \$ho \$as the ne\$ Methodist  
e% esentative to Mission ! ouncil.

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The Gene al Sec eta y % esented -a%e 2 and stated that much \$o " \$as  
eAui ed \$ith a ca e to consider many % evious %ieces of \$o " unde ta"en and  
the need to % ovide an ove vie\$ fo %lannin' fo the futu e.

The Gene al Sec eta y % o%osed\*

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3n es%onse to a Auestion M s Romin' e said that comments \$e e eAusted  
s%ecifically e' a din' the timetable and content of the %a%e . She also as"ed if  
the sta tin' %oint \$as co ect.

The Gene al Sec eta y es%onded to comments.

Mission ! ouncil a' eed that the =ominations ! ommittee athe than the Mission  
! ouncil should a' ee the names fo the Medium Te m -lannin' G ou%.

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M s Romin' e % o%osed\*

Mission ! ouncil a' ees that a fundamental % inci%le unde lyin' the st ate' ic  
%lannin' of the 1nited Refo med ! hu ch is the % imacy of the local chu ch and its  
mission.

Many comments \$e e eceived to \$hich the Gene al Sec eta y es%onded.  
6u the discussion % oved inconclusive and the est of the business fom this  
%a%e \$as emainde ed. >! ontinued in Session J.?

reasons, he intended to leave the post of Deputy General Secretary following the meeting of Mission Council to be held in May 2016. The Moderator thanked Mr. M. M. M. for his statement, which would assist the Mission Council in its processes.

Mission Council continued discussion in its 10th meeting. The business of the Staffing

Mission Statement of the following Terms of Reference for the success of  
Human Security Task Group\*

1. To raise awareness of the 1997 General Assembly commitment, and to continue dialogue around the sensitive areas where members of the United Nations have acknowledged differences of view held in good faith.  
(To follow up with the Security Council and Advisory Group to ensure that advice and guidance is offered on the practical complexities that result from the present



As noted at General Assembly, some had asked if it would be possible to use the proposals, and the issue of copy right had the effect been considered by the Mission Committee. The members presented options considered - a new - established a way forward which had been formulated following the discussions by the Mission Committee.

Members responded to questions after the comments and discussion the business was maintained. > continued in Session 7.?

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The Revd John Duell, Convenor of the Committee, presented - a new - and proposed\*

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Mr Duell read a statement from the nominating Group and then proposed\*

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' 3 @ 3 1 and Ms Whitehead was  
' greeted with acclaim.  
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Mr John Ellis, Chairman of the Finance Committee, introduced - a new - . . .

Mr Ellis proposed A

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The Revd Rob Weston, convenor of the Committee, introduced -a%e s 6 and 61.

He explained that the staff for Couth and Childen's Work should be cut in line with budget changes and that a strategy for the next five years had been prepared. -a%e 61?

Mr Weston responded to questions and comments. The new costs should cover the management of Childen and Couth Development Office s.k. =! CDOs? Assembly \$o " but offer less scope for ecumenical \$o ", yet this plan provided a fresh start for \$o " in the future. Consultations with the Staffing Advisory Group were already in process.

Mr Weston proposed\*

Mission Council accepts the report of the Couth and Childen's Work Committee, contained in -a%e 6? and endorses the five year strategy document contained in -a%e 61?. In the meantime, Mission Council agrees to instruct the Assembly appointed Couth and Childen's Work staffing in the \$ay proposed\* educating from the office costs to the office costs, and from the personal assistant costs to the personal assistant costs.

It has been pointed out that it was not normal for such staff costs to be brought to Assembly or Mission Council, it was agreed to delete the \$o ds after the office costs. The amended resolution was then proposed\*

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M s ; e\$ is es%onded to additional Auestions and the e \$as fu the len' thy discussion. 3n the li' ht of comments made the ! onvene \$ithd e\$ the esolution contained in -a%e = and the fou o%tions \$e e tested individually. 6inally O%tion 1 of -a%e =1 found favou \$ith Mission ! ouncil, and the follo\$in' esolution \$as % o%osed\*

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The Revd <li9abeth =ash, the Revd -ete Mee" and the Revd Roy ; o\$es e' iste ed thei dissent f om the decision.

The cha%lain, the Revd D James ! oleman, led the Mission ! ouncil in % aye .

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M s /al Mo ison too" the chai .

The De%uty Gene al Sec eta y announced that the Revd -auline 2a nes \$ould facilitate a discussion conce nin' the minutes of the closed session of Ma ch () 1( at the close of business.

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The Revd Ruth Whitehead, ! onvene of the ! ommittee, % esented -a%e M. Ms Whitehead ' ave the bac"" ound to the Auestions fo the ' ou% discussions. She eAusted ' ou%s to b in' thei findin' s so that a esolution mi' ht be fo mulated fo Mission ! ouncil to conside on 6 iday mo nin' . She es%onded to Auestions e' a din' the numbe s of S! M %osts at % esent and \$hethe they may be ene\$ed. The Auestions elated only to ne\$ %osts.

Mission ! ouncil discussed the offe ed Auestions in ' ou%s. The matte \$as emainde ed and continued in Session J.

! losin' \$o shi% \$as led by the cha%lains, the Revd Melanie Smith and the Revd D James ! oleman.

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O%enin' Wo shi% \$as led by the cha%lains.

The Revd D Michael Ja' essa too" the chai .  
The De%uty Gene al Sec eta y ' ave a se ies of notices.

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The Gene al Sec eta y e%o ted. May () 1G \$ould be a time fo \$ide debate conce nin' the Auestions \$hich had been identified elatin' to one chu ch@thi teen synods. ! CDOs continued to be a Gene al Ossembly % o' amme, ho\$eve lac" of cla ity emained about \$ho \$as the em%loye . 3n due cou se Mission ! ouncil \$ould need to come to a %olicy decision on the issue. 3n o de to enable this to be an info med decision a %a%e \$ould be % e%a ed fo synods to discuss in advance of the ne, t Mission ! ouncil meetin' . Ony %e son em%loyed befo e that meetin' should be on a G yea fi, ed te m cont act. The ;e' al Odvise a' eed that this \$as a % o%e \$ay fo \$a d.

the closed session of March 11 to the Revd Dr David -eel, convenor of the Mission Council agreed that, should they request to see them, the minutes of the closed session could be sent to both the Assembly Mission and the ; a\$ and -olity Advisory Group.

0. > continued from Session O?

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The Revd Ruth Whitehead presented a resolution resulting from the comments received following our discussions on the previous evening.

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Ms Whitehead said that this should be an interim measure, with a new proposal to be brought to Assembly in 1E. Renewal of existing posts should be considered first, although ultimately new posts to be available in January 1G.

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Ms /al Morrison took the chair.

0( > continued from Session H?

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The Revd Rosemary Francis thanked the members for the helpful comments received. She responded to questions and comments. Once again about section 1 of -a < \$e e e, % essed, %a ticularly related to the role of 'overnance. It was clear that whilst some found this analysis helpful this was not the case for most. Ms Francis said that the name 'Stated by Development Group' was still under consideration and could well be improved upon.

Ms Francis proposed the following resolution\*

Mission Council, recognising the need to clarify and simplify the lines of accountability and management in church house, resolves to accept\*

1. the underlying foundation of church house with its six functions of embodiment, 'overnance, compliance, management, advice and implementation and these reside in the United Reformed Church as laid out in the review of the 'ent al Secretary -a < ? as a helpful interim guide

(. the three roles of 'WDE







Mission ! ouncil a' eed that M! OG should decide on the \$ay fo \$a d conce nin'  
Resolution E of -a%e 2.

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The Revd John #um%h eys %aid t ibute to Ms . ay -a is fo he \$o " as edito of  
Refo m du in' the %ast H yea s. Ms -a is \$ould leave he %ost on the 1st  
Decembe () 1(. M #um%h eys info med Mission ! ouncil that sho t and lon'  
te m %lans \$e e bein' made fo the edito shi% of Refo m, and assu ed membe s  
that Refo m \$ould continue.

Ms Ma ie T ubic than"ed M 6 an" . anto fo his \$o " in ! hu ch D Society, and  
said that M . anto \$ould be missed by the Joint -ublic 3ssues Team.

The Mode ato than"ed those \$hose te m on Mission ! ouncil had ended\*

M John 2 o\$N	Couth Wo " Develo%ment Office
M 6 an" . anto	Sec eta y fo ! hu ch D Society
M Ga y ; ei' hton	61RC ! o:Mode ato
M s Jane ; ei' hton	61RC ! o:Mode ato
Miss <mma -u' h	Me sey Synod Re% esentative
M Olan Small	! hai M 1R! T ust \$ho had esi' ned due to health easons
Ms Jo Williams	! hild en4s Wo " Develo%ment Office
Miss . atie 1ns\$o th	61RC Re% esentative

M s Mo ison than"ed membe s of Mission ! ouncil fo thei cont ibutions to the  
business of the ! ouncil+ she also than"ed the Revd Richa d Mo time and M s  
. ystyna -ullen fo thei \$o " in % e%a ation+ M s Ma ' a et ! a ic" Smith fo he  
' uidance and M s 3 ene W en fo the minutes.

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The membe s of the Methodist ! ouncil 3oined Mission ! ouncil.

The 1R! Mode ato s and the /ice:% esident of the Methodist ! hu ch % esided at  
the sac ament of #oly ! ommunion.

3t \$as noted that Mission ! ouncil \$ould meet ne, t f om 1Gth to 1Hth May () 1G  
at #i' h ; ei' h, #oddesdon.