United
Reformed
Church

National Synod of Scotland

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2025

CHARITY NUMBER: SC011907

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees of the United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland (Synod) submit their Report for the year ending 31 December 2025.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Synod is summed up in its Aspirations. These form a dynamic vision statement of our collective identity and who we aspire to be.

OUR ASPIRATIONS

INCLUSIVE

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

RADICAL

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

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

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

CREATION

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

OTHER FAITHS AND NONE

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

DEVELOPMENT

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

JOURNEY

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

PEACE AND JUSTICE

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objects of the Synod, as a gathering of local congregations are, the promotion of worship, fellowship, communication, mutual inspiration and good ecumenical relationships in Scotland; support of Christ's mission at home and abroad; encouragement and advice to local churches and united action in proclaiming the Gospel.
The major activities undertaken by the Synod relate to the support and guidance provided to local churches to enable them to better achieve Christ's mission both in relation to their congregations and the wider community which they serve, and to represent the collective of congregations in both the ecumenical and civic life of Scotland and beyond.

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

1. To continue resourcing and equipping the local church:
   met through provision of support through staff time, educational opportunities and experiences of growth in the wider church.
2. To strengthen ecumenical links:
   met through the work of those responsible for ecumenical work, including ensuring support for ecumenical partnerships and engagement with national ecumenical partners.
3. Pursuing a collective approach to two challenging areas of church life:
   finance and a reduced number of stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacraments.
4. To monitor governance structures within the Synod Structures.
5. To promote understanding of and compliance with new Scottish legislation concerning safeguarding and a renewed safeguarding training framework within the United Reformed Church

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2025 these objectives have been pursued in the following ways:

Resourcing and equipping the local church

The Synod continues to offer support and advice to church secretaries, treasurers and safeguarding co-ordinators in their work. Ministers are mandatorily required to engage in pastoral supervision as a means of reflective practice. The Synod continues to support particular congregations with the challenges of buildings which are not suited to the present-day life of the church. Churches were encouraged and helped towards meeting energy costs by the continuing availability of grants from the Energy Crisis Fund. In 2025 the congregations that benefitted from this were: Augustine United, Bathgate URC, Dunfermline, Giffnock, Morningside United, Nairn URC, Newburgh, Oakshaw Trinity, Peedie Kirk, Port Glasgow, Priesthill, Rutherglen, Shawlands, Stewarton and Stomehouse.

Strengthening Ecumenical Links

The Synod continues to be represented ecumenically through the Scottish Churches Leaders' Forum for inter-church conversation and engagement in civic and political life. Their work is supported by the Ecumenical Officers' Forum. We continue to work particularly with the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Scottish District of the Methodist Church through the Episcopal, Methodist and URC (EMU) Partnership. Our Synod Moderator currently serves as a trustee of Action of Churches Together in Scotland.

Through the year the Synod has again engaged with the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO) and the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). The Synod Mission Committee helps to keep political and social matters, including the climate crisis, on the Synod's agenda.

Developing our Collective Identity

The Synod continues to encourage local congregations through their participation in the wider United Reformed Church and the Ministry and Mission Fund of the denomination. The former is one source of learning and development resources for congregations and the latter is the system used in the United Reformed Church to provide stipends for ministers serving across the denomination. The Pastoral Committee is conducting a review of arrangements for deploying ministers across multiple congregations. The Northerly Synod's grouping continues and is where we can offer mutual support to the ministry and mission of each of the 5 Northerly Synods.

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

Improving governance structures

During the year, work continued to embed the changes to Synod structures and governance adopted in 2024.

Safeguarding

The Synod renewed its Service Level Agreement with the Church of Scotland who provide training, advice and support with safeguarding work and risk assessments of activities. In April 2025 a part time Synod Safeguarding Administrator was appointed to support local congregations with the administration of criminal record checks and training as required of various roles in the church.

FUTURE PLANS

The Synod currently has significant vacancies in key roles including Synod Clerk, Synod Treasurer and Convener of the Resources Committee. The Synod Executive continues to work on ways of seeking appropriate candidates for these roles and to put in place temporary measures to ensure all governance requirements are met.

We continue seeking places where ministry and mission might be developed in different ways as we look to use our resources in ways that benefit the mission of the United Reformed Church in Scotland. This includes ideas to actively promote the use of funds held by the Synod to support local churches.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year the various funds of Synod had net income of £454,431 (2024: £296,063) as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 12. The significant reasons for this increase in net income are as follows:

- The Synod receives substantial funds each year from resource sharing arrangements with the other 12 Synods of The United Reformed Church. These funds, which amounted to £400,000 (2024: £360,000) in the year are a vital part of the Synod's income. Income from this source in 2026 will be £400,000. This income is being maintained at a level consistent with the requirements of Synod and the ability of the process to sustainably meet payments to our Synod and other receiving Synods.
- During the year, the Synod received a donation of £390,000 from a church congregation upon the sale of its church building. (In the prior year, the church at Greenock West was transferred to the Synod with the market value of £127,000 being treated as a donation).

- Expenditure increased by £29,179 to £542,231. This increase relates mainly to an increase in staff costs of £37,474 due to additional staff members and a pay increase; an increase in property costs by £19,919 due to increased repairs; offset by a decrease in grants paid by £32,362 due primarily to reduced grants paid from the Energy Crisis Fund. In the prior year, grants of £85,912 were paid from this fund in comparison to £56,245 in the current year, leaving a restricted fund balance at 31 December 2025 of £6,471 (2024: £62,716).
- There was a gain on the sale of a manse and a church building during the year of £125,131 (2024: £202,656).
- There was an unrealised loss on the revaluation of investments this year of £21,194 (2024: gain of £14,825).

In the prior year, the Synod provided a loan of £180,000 to Dunfermline United Reformed Church to facilitate its acquisition of a property. This loan has monthly repayments to be made over a 15 year period ending February 2040; has interest charged at the Bank of England base rate; and is secured by a standard security over the acquired property. The balance remaining on this loan at 31 December 2025 is £167,796 (2024: £177,860).

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

Investment Policy
The objectives the Synod sets for its investments are to maintain the value of the capital for future use and to provide current income to resource the work of the Synod. Income derived from investments amounted to £13,185 (2024: £14,704). All income from investments held is credited to the Administration & General Activities Fund, and gains and losses also accrue to that fund. The Synod follows the ethical criteria laid down in the investment policy approved by the General Assembly of the URC.

Risk Management

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

- Risk: Financial Sustainability of Synod life impacted by an ageing and diminishing membership
  Mitigation: Financially working with other synods through the Inter Synod Resource Sharing (ISRS) agreement. Consideration is being given to the use of designated funds by the trustees. The Synod budget is presented annually at the Synod meeting.

- Risk: Governance Sustainability of Synod life impacted by an ageing and diminishing membership
  Mitigation: Key tasks are being covered on an interim basis by current office bearers and staff. Efforts to recruit key post holders and committee members continue with clear role descriptions and time commitments outlined. Wider discussion of some requirements of post holders is taking place at denominational level which may ease the situation in time.

Personnel
A Synod Safeguarding Administrator was employed in April 2025 to support the Synod and local congregations in undertaking the required criminal record checks following the full implementation of the Disclosure Scotland Act 2020 and the requirements of the Safeguarding Training framework passed by the URC General Assembly in 2025.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern
Total funds at the balance sheet date were £5,336,354 (2024: £4,881,923), of which £5,208,099 (2024: £4,683,069) are held in unrestricted funds for the purposes set out in Note 3, with the balance of £128,255 (2024: £298,681) relating to restricted funds. £2,631,397 (2024: £3,116,909) is held as heritable property or other tangible fixed assets, with the balance of unrestricted funds of £2,567,702 (2024: £1,566,160) representing the free funds of the charity. Details of the funds held are shown in note 16 on page 24. All designated free funds are held to provide for the long-term needs of the Synod, and there is no certainty about the timing of future expenditure as needs relating to each of the specific designated purposes are not predictable. The general fund has a balance of £1,876,759 (2024: £1,454,253) at the balance sheet date. Ongoing general expenditure is financed out of income from the general fund in each financial period, with any operating deficits being met from assets held within the Church Building Fund by way of annual transfer. The Synod aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves, including designated funds, to meet ongoing running costs and anticipated future expenditure on manses or other new church building projects. Expectations of these needs are revised by the trustees on an annual basis and reserves are sufficient to meet 12 months' anticipated expenditure.

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
The Synod is constituted under the terms of the United Reformed Church Act 2000

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

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Scottish Charity Number	***SCO11907***
Principal Office	***3/2 Atlantic Chambers, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6AE***
Website	*www.urcscotland.org.uk*

Office Bearers:

Moderator	The Revd L Sanderson
Synod Clerk and Company Secretary	The Revd J Adamson (retired 22 October 2025)
Synod Clerk and Company Secretary	Vacant as of 22 October 2025
Synod Treasurer/Accountant	Mr D Walker (retired 31 December 2025)
Synod Treasurer	Vacant as of 31 December 2025
Convenor of Pastoral Committee	Dr E Harley
Convenor of Resources Committee	The Revd N Mark

Trustees:

The full list of trustees as at the end of 2025:

Mr R Christie (Chair of the Board)
Mrs B Paterson
Revd N Mark
Ms L Harrison
Mr M Kirkbride
Revd D Scott
Ms M McLintock
Mr C Gouws
Mr I Pollock
Revd L Sanderson ex officio

Induction and training of new trustees

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

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

- There were no trustees remuneration or other benefits for the year ending 31 December 2025 nor the year ended 31 December 2024, other than as disclosed in note 9 to the financial statements.
- Travel, subsistence and other expenses of £200 (2024: £1,847) were paid to 2 trustees (2024: 4 trustees) during the year.

Advisors 2024

Legal: Ms M Day
Gillespie Macandrew,
5 Atholl Crescent,
Edinburgh, EH3 8EJ

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

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

Investments: CCLA
PO Box 12892
Dunmow
Essex, CM6 9DL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

LHSanderson

The Revd L Sanderson
Moderator

Mr R Christie
Chair of Trustees

Date: 30th August 2026

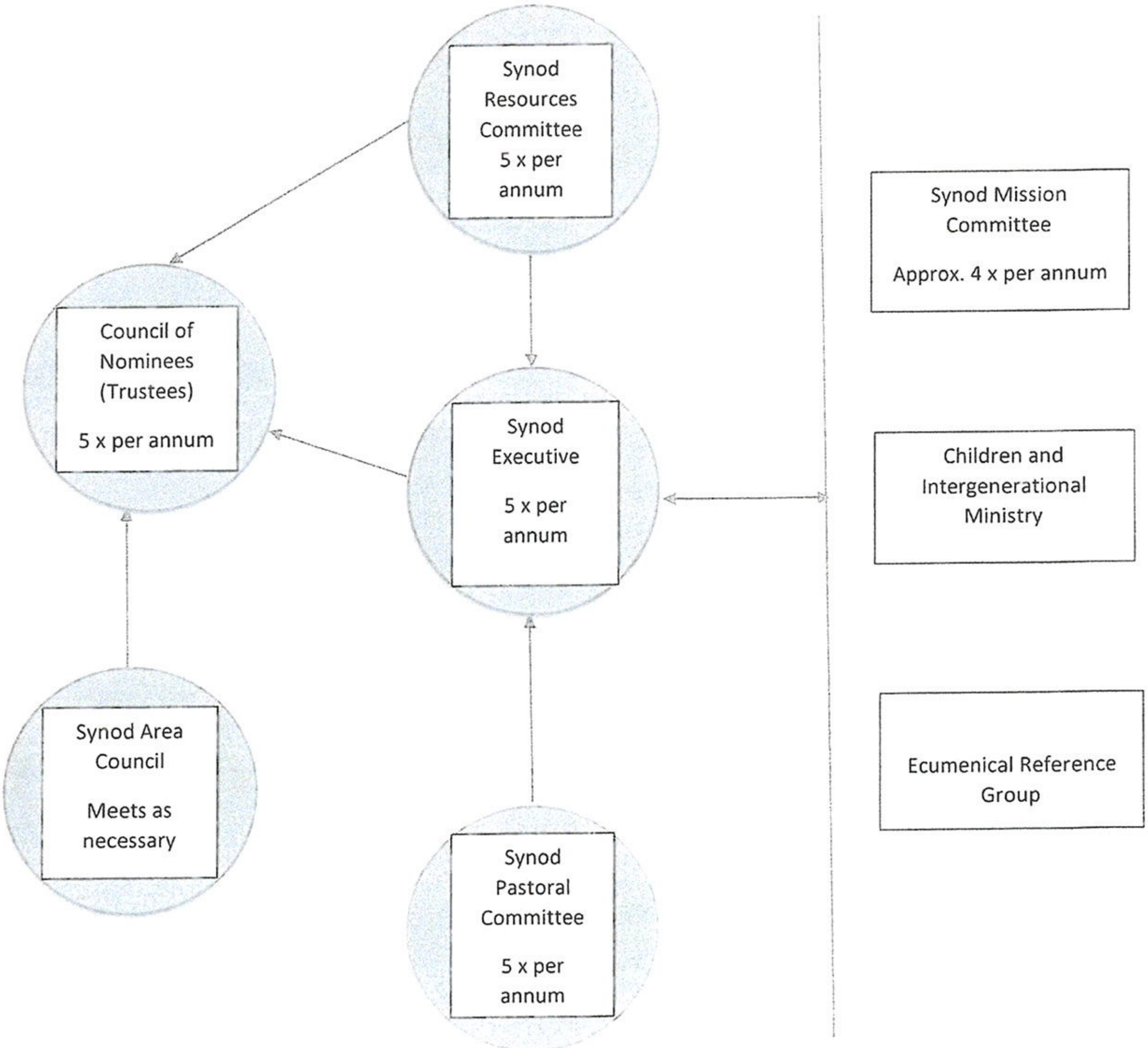
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

Organisational Chart

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

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



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

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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

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

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

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

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We assessed the susceptibility of the Synod's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:
- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:
- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:
- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the Synod's legal advisors.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

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

Armstrong Watson Audit Ltd

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
Caledonia House
89 Seaward Street
Glasgow
G41 1HJ

Date: 31/8/26

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations	5	838,333	-	**838,333**	536,338
Other trading activities	6	8,365	-	**8,365**	18,900
Investments	7	46,027	-	**46,027**	36,396
Total income		892,725	-	**892,725**	591,634
Expenditure on:	8				
Raising funds: investment manager's fees		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities: Synod activities		471,632	70,599	**542,231**	513,052
Total expenditure		471,632	70,599	**542,231**	513,052
Realised gains on disposal of assets		125,131	-	**125,131**	202,656
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(21,194)	-	**(21,194)**	14,825
Total other recognised gains/(losses)		103,937	-	**103,937**	217,481
Net income/(expenditure)		525,030	(70,599)	**454,431**	296,063
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		525,030	(70,599)	**454,431**	296,063
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	16	4,683,069	198,854	**4,881,923**	4,585,860
Total funds carried forward	16	5,208,099	128,255	**5,336,354**	4,881,923

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

All amounts included above relate to continuing activities.

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

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

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	10	2,631,397		3,116,909
Investments	11	393,889		415,083
			3,025,287	3,531,992
Current Assets				
Debtors	12	183,648		190,288
Cash held at bank		2,163,388		1,195,689
Cash		197		300
		2,347,233		1,386,277
Current Liabilities				
Amounts falling due within one year	13	36,166		36,346
Net Current Assets			2,311,067	1,349,931
Total Net Assets			5,336,354	4,881,923
Represented by:				
General Fund	16		1,876,759	1,454,253
Designated Funds	16		3,331,340	3,228,816
Total Unrestricted Funds			5,208,099	4,683,069
Restricted Funds	16		128,255	198,854
			5,336,354	4,881,923

Approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 30 August 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

L H Sanderson

The Revd. L. Sanderson
Moderator

Mr R Christie
Chair of Trustees

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

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Cash Flow Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	304,329	(239,342)
Net cash provided by/(used by) operating activities		304,329	(239,342)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(8,109)	(411,590)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	-
Sale of tangible fixed assets		615,285	419,656
Sale of fixed asset investments		-	-
Interest received		32,842	21,692
Dividends received		13,185	14,704
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		653,203	44,462
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loans advanced to church		-	(180,000)
Loan repayments received		10,064	2,140
Net cash from financing activities		10,064	(177,860)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		967,596	(372,740)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,195,989	1,568,729
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,163,585	1,195,989

The notes form part of these financial statements

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	454,431	296,063
Adjustments for:		
Property donations	-	(127,000)
Depreciation charges	3,467	10,835
(Gains)/losses on investments	21,194	(14,825)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(125,131)	(202,656)
Interest received	(32,842)	(21,692)
Dividends received	(13,185)	(14,704)
Decrease in debtors	(3,424)	5,037
Decrease in creditors	(181)	(170,400)
Net cash provided by/(used by) operations	304,329	(239,342)

2. **Analysis of Changes in Net Funds**

	At 1/1/25 £	Cash flow £	At 31/12/25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	1,195,989	967,596	2,163,585

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Presentation and scope of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, with the exception of investments which are included at fair value and fixed assets which are included at cost less accumulated depreciation, and in accordance with the requirements of:
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102))
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)
- the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and
- the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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

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

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£).

2 Accounting policies

Income

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

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

Expenditure

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

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

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

Taxation

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

Fixed Assets

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

2 Accounting policies (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The charity does not have any key assumptions concerning the future, or other key sources of estimation uncertainty in the reporting year that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

2 Accounting policies (cont.)

Financial Instruments (cont.)

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

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

3 Funds Held

Synod holds funds of the following types:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 Related Parties

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

The Synod held and administered a fund for a separate charity, Inverurie Congregational Mission Trust As at 31 December 2025, the amount held on behalf of Inverurie Congregational Mission Trust was £nil (2024: £1,328). This amount is included in note 13 on page 22.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

5 Income from donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	400,000	-	**400,000**	360,000
Church contributions	-	-	-	12,478
Funds transferred from congregations	390,000	-	**390,000**	-
Property donated by ongoing congregation	-	-	-	127,000
Energy Crisis Fund grant	-	-	-	-
Other donations & legacies	48,333	-	**48,333**	36,860
	838,333	-	**838,333**	536,338

6 Income from other trading activities

	£	£	£	£
Recharges of staff time	4,995	-	**4,995**	4,803
Other Income	3,370	-	**3,370**	1,364
Property rentals	-	-	-	12,733
	8,365	-	**8,365**	18,900

7 Income from investments

	£	£	£	£
Dividends	13,185	-	**13,185**	14,704
Interest	32,842	-	**32,842**	21,692
	46,027	-	**46,027**	36,396

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

8 Expenditure

	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds				
Investment manager's fees	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities				
Staff costs	199,459	-	**199,459**	161,985
Staff travel & expenses	20,659	-	**20,659**	22,508
Office occupancy costs	5,899	-	**5,899**	10,146
Office running costs	24,692	-	**24,692**	18,907
Education & training	18,400	-	**18,400**	20,117
Synod, Committee, Delegates and Link expenses	22,455		**22,455**	9,436
Affiliation fees	11,997	-	**11,997**	11,427
Grants & donations	5,144	70,599	**75,743**	108,105
Property costs	46,286	-	**46,286**	26,367
Legal & professional fees	99,435	-	**99,435**	93,345
Bank Charges	851	-	**851**	646
Balances written off	-	-	-	3,128
Depreciation	3,467	-	**3,467**	10,835
Audit & accountancy	12,888	-	**12,888**	16,100
	471,632	70,599	**542,231**	513,052

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

8 Expenditure on charitable activities (cont.)

Expenditure is stated after charging:	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs: auditors' remuneration		
Fee for current year	**12,888**	16,100
Operating lease payments	**-**	-

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

	2025		2024	
	No. of recipients	£	No. of recipients	£
Grants made to organisations	19	57,687	23	87,383
Grants made to individuals	79	18,056	105	20,722

Grants made to organisations include £56,245 paid to 14 organisations through the restricted Energy Crisis Fund (2024: £85,912 to 15 organisations).

9 Employment Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross salaries	**185,448**	151,591
Social security costs	**7,486**	4,784
Employer's pension contributions	**6,525**	5,610
	199,459	161,985
Average number of employees during period (headcount basis)	**6**	6

The costs above include a stipend paid to an individual from the URC Ministry & Mission Fund (2024: 1). In addition, car allowance payments were made from this Fund to 4 individuals (2024: 3). During the year, the Synod paid £30,084 (2024: £25,046) to this Fund, which is included in gross salaries above.

The trustees consider the Synod Officers - the Moderator, Synod Clerk, Treasurer, Convenor of Resources Committee, Convenor of Pastoral Committee and Convenor of the Executive - to be the key management personnel. The total amount of employee benefits, including employer pension contributions, paid in respect of key management personnel was £22,999 (2024: £19,709). In addition to this, professional fees of £54,990 (2024: £57,780) were paid to the Treasurer until his retiral in December 2025. No employee had emoluments of more than £60,000 in the current or previous period.

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

Pension Costs

Pension contributions shown above include payments of £6,525 (2024: £5,610) made on behalf of 6 employees (2024: 5) to their defined contribution personal pension schemes. The total amount outstanding at the year end in relation to pension schemes was £nil (2024: £nil).

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost	Land & Heritable Properties £	Furniture & Fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2025	3,177,125	5,527	21,311	3,203,963
Additions	-	699	7,410	8,109
Disposals	(490,000)	(214)	-	(490,214)
At 31 December 2025	2,687,125	6,012	28,721	2,721,858
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	64,808	4,047	18,199	87,054
Charge for period	-	263	3,204	3,467
On Disposals	-	(60)	-	(60)
At 31 December 2025	64,808	4,250	21,403	90,461
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2025	**2,622,317**	**1,762**	**7,318**	**2,631,397**
At 31 December 2024	3,112,317	1,480	3,112	3,116,909

11 Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Market value at 1 January 2025	**415,083**	400,258
Acquisitions at cost	-	-
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	**(21,194)**	14,825
	393,889	415,083
Cash held by the investment manager awaiting investment	-	-
Market value at 31 December 2025	**393,889**	415,083

All funds are invested with CCLA in its COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund Inc. The movements in this investment during the year are as noted above.

Income from Investments

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

12 Debtors		2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year			
Loans to Churches	(a)	15,130	9,125
Accrued income		10,676	6,807
Prepayments		5,176	5,621
Held by investment manager		-	-
		30,981	21,553
Amounts falling due after one year			
Loans to Churches	(a)	152,666	168,735
		183,648	190,288

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

13 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		2025 £	2024 £
Funds held on behalf of other charities:			
Inverurie Mission Trust	(a)	-	1,328
Other Creditor		339	514
Accruals and deferred income		35,827	34,504
		36,166	36,346

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

14 Statement of Financial Activities - Prior Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations	536,338		**536,338**
Other trading activities	18,900	-	**18,900**
Investments	36,396	-	**36,396**
Total income	591,634	-	**591,634**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds: investment manager's fees	-	-	**-**
Charitable activities: Synod activities	410,086	102,966	**513,052**
Total expenditure	410,086	102,966	**513,052**
Realised gains on disposal of assets	202,656	-	**202,656**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14,825	-	**14,825**
Net income	399,029	(102,966)	**296,063**
Transfers between funds	99,827	(99,827)	**-**
Net movement in funds	498,856	(202,793)	**296,063**
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	4,184,213	401,647	**4,585,860**
Total funds carried forward	4,683,069	198,854	**4,881,923**

15 Post Balance Sheet Events

Subsequent to the year end, the Synod acquired a manse property at a cost of £397,660. In addition, the Synod received net proceeds from the sale of a manse property and a church building of £491,099, resulting in a loss on sale of £45,901.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

16 Movements in Funds	At 1/1/25 £	Income £	Expenditure 2025	Other Gains / (Losses) £	Transfers £	At 31/12/25 £
Restricted Funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	80,498
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	55,640	-	(14,354)	-	-	41,286
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy Crisis Fund	62,716	-	(56,245)	-	-	6,471
Total Restricted	198,854	-	(70,599)	-	-	128,255
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	1,045,919	25,000	(24,599)	147,403	-	1,193,723
Church Building Manse Fund	1,874,637	-	(21,687)	(22,118)	-	1,830,832
Beith Building Fund	102,309	-	-	-	-	102,309
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	92,013	-	-	-	-	92,013
Synod Development Fund	113,938	-	(1,475)	-	-	112,463
	3,228,816	25,000	(47,761)	125,285	-	3,331,340
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	1,454,253	867,725	(423,871)	(21,348)	-	1,876,759
Total Unrestricted	4,683,069	892,725	(471,632)	103,937	-	5,208,099
Total Funds	4,881,923	892,725	(542,231)	103,937	-	5,336,354

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

Restricted funds are to be used as follows:
Synod Building Fund - these funds are to be applied for the provision of grants for the refurbishment of church buildings within the Synod.
Ministers' and Dependants Aid Fund - these funds were transferred from SCMMPPFT on its closure and are to be applied for the same restricted purposes as were applicable to SCMMPPFT, being the provision of aid to ministers and their dependants.
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund - these funds were to be used to provide a manse for East Kilbride and Hamilton and were fully utilised during the prior year.
Energy Crisis Fund - funding was received from URC Trust to be distributed by the Synod to provide grant assistance to churches towards their heating costs and the cost of energy efficiency projects.

17 Movements in Funds - Prior Year	At 1/1/24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Other Gains / (Losses) £	Transfers £	At 31/12/24 £
Restricted funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	80,498
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	72,694	-	(17,054)	-	-	55,640
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	99,827	-	-	-	(99,827)	-
Energy Crisis Fund	148,628	-	(85,912)	-	-	62,716
Total restricted	401,647	-	(102,966)	0	(99,827)	198,854
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	810,498	152,000	(11,967)	95,388	-	1,045,919
Church Building Manse Fund	2,089,755	14,983	(27,196)	107,268	(310,173)	1,874,637
Beith Building Fund	102,309	-	-	-	-	102,309
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	92,234	-	(221)	-	-	92,013
Synod Development Fund	103,938	10,000	-	-	-	113,938
	3,198,734	176,983	(39,384)	202,656	(310,173)	3,228,816
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	985,479	414,651	(370,702)	14,825	410,000	1,454,253
Total Unrestricted	4,184,213	591,634	(410,086)	217,481	99,827	4,683,069
Total Funds	4,585,860	591,634	(513,052)	217,481	-	4,881,923

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

18 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Bank & Cash £	Other Net Assets £	Investments £	Property £	Other Fixed Assets £	Total Value £
Designated Funds:						
Church Building Fund	442,565	1,678	66,873	682,607	-	**1,193,723**
Church Building Manse Fund	61,420	1,694	-	1,767,718	-	**1,830,832**
Beith Building Fund	63,322	-	38,987	-	-	**102,309**
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	(371)	(2,850)	95,234	-	-	**92,013**
Synod Development Fund	9,727	-	102,736	-	-	**112,463**
General Fund:						
Administration & General Activities Fund	1,458,667	146,961	90,059	171,993	9,079	**1,876,759**
Held on behalf of other charities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted funds:						
Synod Building Fund	80,498	-	-	-	-	**80,498**
Ministers' and Dependants' Aid Fund	41,286	-	-	-	-	**41,286**
East Kilbride & Hamilton Manse Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy Crisis Fund	6,471	-	-	-	-	**6,471**
Total Funds at 31 December 2025	2,163,585	147,483	393,889	2,622,318	9,079	**5,336,354**

19 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds - Prior Year

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

20 APB Ethical Standard - Provisions available for small entities

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