BUC SESSION NEWS RELEASE

The seventh Quinquennial Session of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists met at Stanborough Park church on Sunday, 3 July to consider recommendations from the Nominating Committee, the Constitution Committee, Officers' and Departmental Reports, and to discuss the idea of Restructuring the British Union as first outlined in MESSANGER. Significant time was also spent in break-out groups looking qualitatively at how better the Church can 'Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Across and Reach In'. A fuller report will appear in the regular BUC News on Friday and in MESSANGER. However, for those who were not at the Session – and who did not have opportunity to follow the very popular BUC News Facebook or Twitter feeds, including a picture gallery that grew through the day's proceedings, listed below are the main decisions voted by the delegation.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS:

Officers
BUC President: Pastor Ian Sweeney
BUC Executive Secretary: Pastor Paul Lockham
BUC Treasurer: Mr Victor Pilmoor
Irish Mission President: Pastor David Neal
Scottish Mission President: Pastor Bernie Holford
Welsh Mission President: Pastor John Surridge
Irish, Scottish and Welsh Missions' Secretary-Treasurer: Referred to the new BUC Executive Committee

BUC Departmental Directors
Communication & Media: Pastor Victor Hulbert
Education & Sabbath School: Mrs Anne Pilmoor
Evangelism (Personal Ministries, Church Growth, LIFEdvelopment, & Literature Ministry): Pastor Eglan Brooks
Family Ministries & Children's Ministries: Mrs Heather Haworth
Health Ministries & Women's Ministries: Mrs Sharon Platt-McDonald
Ministerial Association, Discipleship & Continuing Education Coordinator:
Youth, Pathfinders & Chaplaincy Coordinator for Students in Tertiary Education: Pastor Nathan Stickland

BUC Executive Committee
BUC President
BUC Executive Secretary
BUC Treasurer
Newbold College Principal
Stanborough Press Manager
Editor of the BUC MESSENGER
The last section of the afternoon debate focused around the principle of restricting the British Union to enable the primary focus to be mission based and evangelism focused. Chairing the session, Victor Pilmoor noted that things have changed over the years and we need to ask the question, "how can we do things better?" Illustrating his message with PowerPoint, Pastor McFarlane outlined the history of the organisation and structure in the Adventist Church, looked briefly at various models, and then noted that this was a time for consultation to see if there was a will among delegates and membership to look at restructuring in any form. A motion was then put forward, which after extensive discussion and amendments was then voted with an overwhelming majority in favour.

"VOTED: To set up a Study Committee, in harmony with GC Policy, to review the structure of the British Union, with a view to: Eliminate unnecessary duplication, Reduce expenditure on executive/departmental leadership, Provide more resources (financial and human) for local churches, where the mission of the Church is carried out."

Standing Ovation

Three spontaneous standing ovations occurred during the day. The first occurred with Pastor Don McFarlane on the stage with his wife Mary. It was an emotional moment as he said goodbye to the
leadership role that he carried so well over the past five years and offered his full and unequivocal support to the new President, Pastor Ian Sweeney.

The second ovation came in thanking the outgoing Executive Secretary, Pastor Eric Lowe for his conscientious and Godly ministry. His faithfulness and good counsel at countless committees and constituency meetings has been a positive factor in enabling church growth over many years. Pastor Lowe will be retiring at the end of the summer.

Joining him in retirement is Pastor Alan Hodges, outgoing Ministerial and Trust Services director and former Irish Mission President. His kindly demeanour and caring attitude endeared him to many. Pastors Des Boldeau and Curtis Murphy will also be moving on from the roles in Youth and Publishing. Once again the delegates rose to their feet to express appropriate thanks for the way God has led these three men.

The BUC office is quiet this Monday morning. Some staff are at their desks, completing tasks left over from the weekend. Others are taking time to reflect on the Day of Fellowship and the Business Sessions. A new chapter has opened in the history of the Adventist Church in the British Isles. The whole team of Officers, Department Directors and their supporting staff, ask for your prayers as we look forward to working with you, under God's leading, in this new quinquennium.

A small number of pictures from the Sunday Business Sessions are currently available on the BUC News Facebook page. Picture galleries, audio and some video reports will be available on the main BUC website, <www.adventist.org.uk>, before the end of the week.

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to <bucnews@adventist.org.uk> and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <www.adventist.org.uk>. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk>.

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