

United Reformed Church General Assembly and Methodist Conference

The decision-making bodies of the two churches met in successive weeks at the beginning of July.

The **URC General Assembly** gathered in Edinburgh, with the Revd John Marsh as the new Moderator. His opening address was about pilgrimage and can be read at:

www.urch.org.uk/assembly/assembly2008/mods_address.htm

The General Assembly adopted resolutions including providing a 'living wage' for all church employees, expressing concern for the situation in Zimbabwe, and calling for equality for women in the church. Mark Dowd from Operation Noah gave a presentation focussing on environmental migrants. For more information about the URC General Assembly see

www.urch.org.uk/assembly/assembly2008/assembly08_info.htm

The **Methodist Conference** met in Scarborough. The new President, the Revd Stephen Poxon used themes of hospitality and grace in his opening address. Mr David Walton, the Vice-President, invited Christians to 'choose life'. Both addresses, and all the other debates of the Conference are available to listen to from the Methodist Church website -

www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.webradio

Methodist Conference passed resolutions on the world food crisis, Zimbabwean refugees living in Britain and the situation in Gaza. Conference also spent time considering issues arising out of 'Created in God's Image', a report on human embryology and early human life, and asked that the 1976 Methodist Statement on abortion be revised. Conference engaged in a special debate on what the Church has to say to a rapidly changing society. For more information about the Methodist Conference see

www.methodistconference.org.uk

Baptist Union of Great Britain Assembly

The Baptist Assembly took place in May. The Assembly passed a resolution on caring for church employees, and by affirming the work of Church Action on Poverty, asked that all churches part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain pay all their employees at least a 'living wage', and to follow best employment practice.

Baptists also reflected on issues relating to creation care, and learned that a new resource called 'Future Shape' was in development with Christian environmental organisation A Rocha, and would be rolled out over the coming months.

To learn more about the Baptist Assembly see www.baptistassembly.org.uk

To read press releases from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, including a story of how Baptists in Brixton are working to prevent gun and knife crime, visit

www.baptist.org.uk/news_media/latest_news.html

Faith and Citizenship – Friends or Enemies? 27-28 August 2008, London Metropolitan University

A two-day conference organised by King's College London, the University of Cambridge, London Metropolitan University and London Citizens will explore the possibility that in contemporary European cities, and most particularly London, active religious communities and citizenship are mutually supportive. Cost is £80 (concessions / students: £25) and includes lunches. For more information contact Dr Maurice Glasman on 0207 320 4902 / e-mail m.glasman@londonmet.ac.uk

International Day of Prayer for Peace – 21 September 2008

Churches around the world are invited to pray for peace on 21 September, or the nearest Sunday, a date which is also the United Nations International Day of Peace.

The World Council of Churches has asked that this year there should be a special focus on Pacific island communities. Further information is available from the World Council of Churches website, <http://overcomingviolence.org/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace.html>

A series of prayers, reflections, bible readings and poetry on the theme of peace was prepared by the Joint Public Issues Team for the 2007 Day of Prayer for Peace. These are available to download from http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/jpit_peaceday2007resources.pdf

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is a scheme which sends Christians to live alongside communities in Israel and Palestine, working for peace, supporting people who live there and advocating for an end to the occupation.

There are 13 vacancies for people from the UK and Republic of Ireland for placements in 2009 for either 3 or 4.5 months. Ecumenical Accompaniers are given a living allowance and benefits.

Application packs are available from EAPPI (UK) – www.quaker.org.uk/eappi or telephone 020 7663 1144. The deadline for applications is 22 August 2008.

Hope for Creation: a time for worship and action. Creation Time – 1 September to 4 October

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is providing a programme of resources for Creation Time 2008. These are flexible and include suggestions of various ways in which churches, groups and individuals might choose to focus on a creation theme, either on one occasion or over the five weeks. Visit www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime

Mission and the World of Work – Study Programme

Cliff College - University of Manchester

Master of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Mission in the world of work has been a task neglected for far too long by a church that has become increasingly detached from and thus ill-equipped to engage in mission in the workplace.

The purpose of this innovative programme is to enable participants to equip themselves to reflect on, explore, develop strategies for and access resources to further mission in the world of work more effectively.

The programme will encourage participants to develop their own approaches to mission in the working world in the context of current biblical, theological, historical, economic and sociological insights and of the changing nature of work in contemporary life.

The main teaching week is from Monday 24 November to Friday 28 November 2008. There will be a literature review week of reading and resources in this field of mission from Monday 20 April to Friday 24 April 2009.

For further information, details of costs and a full prospectus and application form, please contact Helen Phipps, Postgraduate Administrator, Cliff College, Calver, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 3XG Tel: 01246 584216 E-mail: postgrad@cliffcollege.ac.uk

Download the prospectus and application form from our website www.cliffpostgrad.org.uk

Contact

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