Charity registration number SC008167 (Scotland)

Alexander Sloan
Accountants and Business Advisers

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

[redacted]

Charity number (Scotland)	SC008167

[redacted]

Auditor	Alexander Sloan LLP 180 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5SG
Bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Glasgow Charing Cross West Branch 9 Clifton Place Glasgow G3 7JU
Investment Advisers	Evelyn Partners Investment Services Ltd 130 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5SE
Solicitors	[redacted] Diakoneo Legal Services Limited 48 Speirs Wharf Glasgow G4 9TH
Email Address	office@ufcos.org.uk
Website	www.ufcos.org.uk

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the church's Constitution, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The principal objective of the United Free Church of Scotland is the promotion of the Christian faith in Scotland and beyond. This is done in co-operation with other Christian denominations.

The 'day to day' work is carried out through 46 local congregations around Scotland with a total membership of 1,620 at the end of 2024. In local congregations, the main activities include regular services with worship and preaching; meetings for prayer and Bible study; opportunities for meetings of groups for children and young people, Women's Associations etc. Through congregations, pastoral care of members and others is undertaken as well as activities which are intended to be of benefit to the local community. Congregations are encouraged to develop ways of engaging with their local communities by providing activities and opportunities through which such contacts can develop. Church facilities are made available to community-based groups in which church members may be involved as volunteers.

The ministry, activities and mission of congregations are supported, encouraged and overseen by three Presbyteries and by the General Assembly through its Standing Committees. Presbyteries conduct periodic reviews of congregations every five years ('Quinquennial Visitations'). As part of this process, Kirk Sessions within congregations are asked to review their activities over the previous five years and identify their priorities and plans for the coming five years. Presbytery appoints representatives to meet with the Kirk Session and temporal court to discuss and encourage the work locally with a report then brought to Presbytery. At other times, Presbytery will seek to be aware of what is happening in each congregation with a view to visiting as appropriate and offering suitable advice and support. Presbytery can pass matters to the appropriate Assembly Committee with a view to them offering suitable assistance.

The Standing Committees of the General Assembly seek to offer appropriate guidance, support and resources to strengthen the ministry and mission of congregations so that they are better able to develop the work in their communities as they engage in appropriate mission and evangelism.

All areas of the Church rely on the invaluable contribution made by volunteers. In congregations they give leadership (along with the Minister etc.) through the Kirk Session and temporal court, through participation in the leadership of worship, in the organisations and other activities of the congregation to nurture the people within the church and to engage in outreach activities in the community. It is impossible to quantify the amount of time given in this way but it is very considerable and the ongoing work of the church would not be possible without this commitment. Many of those who serve in Presbyteries, Assembly Committees and in the General Assembly itself as well as in denominational activities are also volunteers who serve in this way in addition to their involvement locally.

The Church approves the emphasis of the Declaratory Acts on the love of God for all mankind, the free offer of salvation to all, the obligation of the Universal Church to make known the Gospel throughout the world, and the renunciation of coercion, persecution and intolerance in matters of religion.

Grant Making Policy

The Church considers applications from congregations for grant funding and loan advances. The applications are reviewed within the context of the Church's governing document. Congregations that apply for loan assistance are required to repay the loan over an extended period which is agreed between the General Trustees and the congregation's Temporal Court and an appropriate rate of interest may be charged.

Achievements and performance

During the year, the number of Congregations reduced from 47 to 46. Work in each of the congregations, however, has continued and there have been a number of initiatives to give support and encouragement.

During 2024 the pressures within some congregations caused by declining numbers and an ageing membership led several congregations to decide to seek dissolution.

The Committee structure put in place after the 2020 General Assembly has ensured a more flexible administration. The Committees are as follows:

Governance: with responsibility for

- The administration of the Church Office
- Assembly Arrangements
- Nominations, Safeguarding
- Publications
- Finance (including setting levels of stipends and salaries)
- Ecumenical Relations

Christian Life and Mission: with responsibility for

- Resourcing Mission through the support and deployment of various ministries. Assessing, assisting and supporting new initiatives. Assessing all schedules, including those for ministry, new positions and property
- Supporting the work with Children, Young People and families
- Maintaining and developing world-wide partnerships to enable the Church to have a Global Focus
- Enabling the Church to respond to the issues arising in wider society
- To oversee the training and development of congregational office bearers
- The planning and organisation of national church events.

Ministry: with responsibility for the selection, support, training, recognising and equipping those who minister in the Church.

Some of the achievements of the Committees in the period under review are as follows:-

- The Ministry Committee continues to keep under review the process for the selection, education recognition and equipping of those who minister in the Church.
- The Ministry Committee continues to receive and respond to a number of enquiries for Ministry.
- The Global Focus sub group are continuing links in southern Africa through the Flying Mission in Botswana and in Zimbabwe. Global Focus also continued a Prayer Week initiative during 2023 which was well received and positive feedback was received on how individuals and congregations used the material.
- The National Church Events subgroup organised the annual “Gathering” – a day event held at Lendrick Muir on 16th August. 2024 was the first year that the event was held at Lendrick Muir (having previously been held at Dunblane) and was well attended and well received.
- The Children, Young People and Families sub group held a “Big Weekend” event at Lendrick Muir from 14th to 16th June.
- The work of the Church continues to rely on a substantial number of volunteers including those who serve on the Church’s Committees, Presbyteries and in congregations. Many of these are Elders and members of temporal courts in congregations and, whilst it is impossible to quantify their contribution, without them congregations could not continue their work.
- Congregations are asked to make financial contributions to the central work of the denomination through the ‘Target’ scheme based on membership and also income and the funds held.
- It is recognised that the programme of training, development and mission outlined in this Report requires considerable funds, including contributions from congregations. The General Trustees continue to provide funding in several situations to ensure these developments are advanced.
- 2024 saw the completion of the first Approved Local Preachers’ course and, following assessment, saw the first such local Preachers set apart.

Financial review

Results for the year

The financial statements for the year are set out on pages 11 to 42. Per the Statement of Financial Activities on page 11, the Church reported Net Income (i.e. a surplus) for the year of £617,747 (2023 - Surplus £1,399,268) after realised and unrealised gains on investments of £201,262 (2023 – realised and unrealised gains totalling £91,525) and gain on revaluation of property of £96,500 (2023: £nil). At 31 December 2024, the Church had total reserves of £5,541,204 (2023 - £4,923,457) of which £747,422 (13.49%) related to Restricted Funds (2023 - £708,054 (14.38%)).

Going concern

The Church holds a healthy cash and bank balance and has continued to meet its liabilities, as they fall due, since the year end. The Trustees have therefore prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Reserves policy

It is the Church's policy to maintain unrestricted reserves, i.e. funds not committed or invested in fixed assets, at a level which equates to between three and six months of unrestricted expenditure, currently between £356,000 and £713,000 which provides sufficient funds for ministry, administration and support costs.

The Church's unrestricted general reserves at 31 December 2024 amounted to £3,277,208 (2023: £2,720,884). This excludes designated property reserves which, although unrestricted, are tied up in fixed assets. The level of reserves has increased due to the unusual number of property transactions in the last year.

The level of reserves are considered acceptable to the Trustees.

Principal funding sources

The principal source of the Church's funding is through contributions from individual congregations. Church Funds mainly represent donations, bequests, and legacies given to maintain the general and specific purposes of the Church in both home and overseas mission, to train Ministers and Ministry Assistants and to support congregations, as required, to maintain their witness, ministry and property. In accordance with the terms of such gifts, funds are unrestricted, designated, restricted, or permanent endowment (as defined in this Report) and are applied with income therefrom to further the general and specific purposes and objectives of the Denomination.

Investment policy

The Trustees have engaged Evelyn Partners as investment managers with discretionary authority based on a "medium" relative risk profile with an income orientation from gilts and equities and applying an ethical investment policy avoiding investments where there is a significant involvement in armaments, alcohol and gambling. The investment managers have undertaken an ethical review of the portfolio which was accepted by the Trustees. Portfolio performance is measured using a range of FTSE and APCIMS Indices.

Reviews are carried out from time to time of our relationship with the investment managers, the performance and content of the investment portfolio, on the basis of the policy set out above. The present arrangements are considered to be satisfactory and no material change is proposed.

Pooled investment funds

At the request of individual congregations, the Trustees have agreed investment pooling arrangements in place to invest and manage specific funds on their behalf and to report annually on transactions which have taken place at their request, and on investment/interest income earned and investment performance. These funds are accounted for in accordance with Section 22 of the Charities SORP FRS102 and are detailed in Note 16 of the financial statements.

The shared balances attributable to Congregations are included in the respective congregation's Report and Accounts.

Social Investments

United Free Church of Scotland has a number of social investments which are held to further our charitable purposes. Details of which are found in note 30 of the financial statements.

Statement on Risk

The Governance Committee, as Trustees of the denomination, have implemented a formal risk assessment process. This involves identifying the major types of risks which the Church faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of mitigating them. The Trustees are aware that risk assessment is not a one-off exercise and a review is carried out on an annual basis. This year's review identified the main risks as:-

- Shortage of human resources within congregations so that there may be insufficient people to take on key tasks and ensure proper governance;
- A recognition that a significant proportion of Ministers are likely to retire within the next 5 - 10 years and the need to have more people enter ministry;
- A reduction in the number of congregations able to support a full-time Minister;
- Additional burdens being placed on denominational structures as a result of this shortage;
- A failure to engage effectively with our communities and society;
- The possibility that funds may be put into a new initiative which is not successful;
- The need to ensure good governance within the denomination and compliance with current and future legislation; and
- A significant drop in the value of investments.

The Trustees seek to address these issues in consultation with the other committees of the General Assembly and with the General Trustees. The Committees of the General Assembly are continuing to consult with congregations and Presbyteries in order to develop new arrangements in the most helpful way and to review arrangements set up in recent years to ensure their effectiveness. It is recognized that such initiatives may require significant financial support from the denomination at least for a number of years, but the Trustees consider this to be a worthwhile use of the resources of the denomination, albeit that not all may prove successful. The appointment of part-time Ministers and Ministry Assistants in smaller congregations continues to be of considerable benefit in a number of congregations.

Presbyteries seek to offer advice and support to congregations to ensure good governance locally. As a denomination we are members of the Scottish Churches Committee and the Churches Legislation Advisory Service which assists us in becoming familiar with new legislation as it is introduced. Help from suitably qualified people is sought when this is felt necessary.

Investments are managed by engaging a firm of investment advisers who regularly report to the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The General Assembly will meet in person in Perth in June 2025. Plans are progressing well for the 2025 "Gathering", to be again held at Lendrick Muir.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The governing document of the United Free Church of Scotland is the Manual of Practice and Procedures incorporating the decisions and acts of the Church's General Assembly.

The General Assembly, the Supreme Court of the Church, is a representative body consisting of Ministers and Elders nominated by congregations and elected by Presbyteries. The Manual of Practice and Procedures sets out the respective authorities, responsibilities and duties of the Presbyteries and of the individual congregational Courts. Each congregation of the United Free Church has its own Constitution but is subject to the oversight and review of the Presbytery in which it resides and General Assembly. The United Free Church of Scotland is an unincorporated association.

The United Free Church of Scotland, with all the Churches of the Reformation, acknowledges as its Supreme Standard the Word of God contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

The Church holds as its Subordinate Standard the Westminster Confession of Faith by its Declaratory Acts (United Presbyterian Synod 1879, Free Church Assembly 1892), it recognises the liberty of judgement on points of doctrine which do not enter into the substance of the faith; and it claims the right, as duty may require, to interpret, add to, modify or change her Subordinate Standards, under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, and with a sense of direct responsibility to her Lord.

[redacted]

Appointment, Induction and Training of Trustees

The Trustees are appointed annually by the General Assembly. New Trustees are instructed and guided on their responsibilities and duties at the first meeting which they attend and as new matters arise during their term of office.

The General Trustees

The General Assembly appoints from time to time Ministers, Elders and/or Members of the Church to be 'ex officio' members of the Assembly and in such capacity to be 'The General Trustees of the United Free Church of Scotland'. At the present time, those so appointed are the Moderator of General Assembly, the Principal Clerks and the Convener and Vice Convener of the Governance Committee. The General Trustees are 'ex officio' members of all the Standing Committees of the General Assembly.

The General Trustees hold all property, heritable and movable, on behalf of the Church and of its Standing Committees and, when requested to do so, Funds belonging to individual Congregations of the Church ('Trust Funds') in the name of "The General Trustees of the United Free Church of Scotland". Such Congregational funds are not available to the United Free Church of Scotland and, in accordance with Recommended Practice, have been excluded from the Balance Sheet amounts for Investments and Creditors (see Note 16 and 19 of the financial statements).

The General Trustees report each year to the General Assembly on matters under their specific oversight and administration. The management, accounting and reporting of all the central funds of the Church including property, heritable and movable, and all matters pertaining to finance and compliance with relevant legislation, is the responsibility of the Governance Committee and is set out by that Committee as the 'Trustees' in these financial statements.

Organisational structure

The membership of Presbyteries and Standing Committees, and also the General Assembly, are Elders of the congregations who are nominated or appointed to the various offices and functions and who report back, as required, to their congregations and thus seek to be ‘at one’ in declaring the ‘good news of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God’ to their communities.

The ongoing direction and management of the Church is led by the Standing Committees as appointed by the General Assembly, namely:

- Governance
- Ministry
- Christian Life and Mission

The General Assembly annually appoints Standing Committees to implement its decisions and oversee and plan various aspects of the denomination’s ongoing work and witness and to report thereon to the next General Assembly. These reports, written and verbal, are presented to Assembly for discussion together with paragraphs of deliverance for Assembly decision on their work and their proposals for future activities and plans.

Key Management Personnel

During the year, the Trustees considered themselves, along with the newly appointed General Secretary, Mr. [redacted] as comprising the Church’s key management personnel in charge of directing and controlling the

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the church for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

The Trustees recommend that Alexander Sloan LLP remain in office until further notice.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

[redacted]

Trustee **Trustee**

Date: 30/4/2025

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of United Free Church of Scotland (the ‘church’) for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 church 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 church’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve 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 auditor's report 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 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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' report; or
- proper 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 church'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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 an auditor's report 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with Directors and other management, and from our wider 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 charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- 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 assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company'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

Audit response to risks identified

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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
- requesting correspondence with HMRC, OSCR and the charity's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with 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 auditor's 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.

[redacted]

30/4/2025
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Accountants and Business Advisers
Statutory Auditor

180 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5SG

Alexander Sloan LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the church by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Current financial year	**Notes**	**Unrestricted funds general 2024 £**	**Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £**	**Restricted funds 2024 £**	**Total 2024 £**	**Total 2023 £**
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	**3**	767,288	-	10,773	778,061	1,493,562
Charitable activities	**4**	16,780	-	16,894	33,674	35,288
Investments	**5**	54,037	-	33,606	87,643	67,621
Other income	**6**	981,938	-	26,916	1,008,854	1,169,185
Total income		1,820,043	-	88,189	1,908,232	2,765,656
Expenditure on:						
Investment managment costs	**7**	12,181	-	7,584	19,765	15,482
Charitable activities	**8**	483,944	25,161	42,544	551,649	484,298
Other - congregational stipends	**9**	930,516	-	-	930,516	952,633
Total expenditure		1,426,641	25,161	50,128	1,501,930	1,452,413
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**13**	123,736	-	77,526	201,262	91,525
Net income/(expenditure)		517,138	(25,161)	115,587	607,564	1,404,768
Transfers between funds		39,186	(49,284)	10,098	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:						
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		-	96,500	-	96,500	-
Change in resources attributable to pooled funds	**16**	-	-	(86,317)	(86,317)	(65,500)
Net movement in funds	**10**	556,324	22,055	39,368	617,747	1,339,268
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		2,720,884	1,494,519	708,054	4,923,457	3,584,189
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		3,277,208	1,516,574	747,422	5,541,204	4,923,457

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 42 form an integral part of these financial statements.

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Prior financial year	**Notes**	**Unrestricted funds general 2023 £**	**Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £**	**Restricted funds 2023 £**	**Total 2023 £**
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	1,483,197	-	10,365	1,493,562
Charitable activities	**4**	16,438	-	18,850	35,288
Investments	**5**	23,754	-	43,867	67,621
Other income	**6**	1,115,300	-	53,885	1,169,185
Total income		2,638,689	-	126,967	2,765,656
Expenditure on:					
Investment managment costs	**7**	5,448	-	10,034	15,482
Charitable activities	**8**	385,540	31,758	67,000	484,298
Other - congregational stipends	**9**	952,633	-	-	952,633
Total expenditure		1,343,621	31,758	77,034	1,452,413
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**13**	41,833	-	49,692	91,525
Net income/(expenditure)		1,336,901	(31,758)	99,625	1,404,768
Transfers between funds		253,032	(253,032)	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Change in resources attributable to pooled funds	**16**	-	-	(65,500)	(65,500)
Net movement in funds	**10**	1,589,933	(284,790)	34,125	1,339,268
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		1,130,951	1,779,309	673,929	3,584,189
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		2,720,884	1,494,519	708,054	4,923,457

The notes on pages 15 to 42 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**15**		1,901,534		1,936,783
Investments	**16**		3,862,622		2,893,482
Social investments	**30**		249,067		262,817
			6,013,223		5,093,082
Current assets					
Properties held for sale	**17**	400,000		250,000	
Debtors	**18**	161,177		581,346	
Cash at bank and in hand		504,930		470,900	
		1,066,107		1,302,246	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(1,538,126)		(1,471,871)	
Net current liabilities			(472,019)		(169,625)
Total assets less current liabilities			5,541,204		4,923,457
The funds of the church					
Restricted income funds	**23**		747,422		708,054
Unrestricted funds - general	**24**		3,277,208		2,720,884
Unrestricted funds - designated	**22**		1,516,574		1,494,519
			5,541,204		4,923,457

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 30/4/2025

[redacted]

Trustee **Trustee**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**28**		529,364		59,713
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(401,000)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		184,901		435,400	
Purchase of investments		(1,128,836)		(436,898)	
Proceeds from disposal of investments		360,958		401,317	
Investment income received		87,643		67,621	
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities			(495,334)		66,440
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			34,030		126,153
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			470,900		344,747
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			504,930		470,900

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

United Free Church of Scotland is a registered Scottish Charity (No. SC008167). The charity's principal address is [redacted]

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the church's governing document, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The church is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the church. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant Notes to these financial statements. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the church has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Charitable funds

Funds are classified as either Restricted Funds or Unrestricted Funds, defined as follows.

Unrestricted funds comprise income received for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated Funds represent unrestricted funds which have been earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the charity and specified for a restricted purpose, within these objects, by the donor.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the church is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably. Entitlement usually arises immediately upon receipt, however, in the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Properties which are donated (gifted) to the charity are measured at their fair value unless it is impractical to measure their fair value reliably.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Legacy gifts must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received. This is normally following the granting confirmation, when the administrator/executor of the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Income from Charitable Activities
Income from charitable activities includes income earned both from the supply of goods or services. Such income is recognised or earned as the related goods or services are provided.

Investment income
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised when the shareholder’s right to receive payment is established, measured at the fair value receivable. Generally, this is upon notification by the investment advisor once the dividend has been declared.

Other income
Other income represents income that cannot be reported under the other analysis headings provided within the Statement of Financial Activities and is recognised when the charity is entitled to the income, it is probable that it will be received and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity.

1.5 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.

Liabilities are measured on recognition at historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date. The exception is that certain financial instruments must be adjusted to their present value; these include financial liabilities where settlement is deferred for more than 12 months after the reporting date.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Raising funds
Expenditure on raising funds represents all expenditure incurred by a charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes investment management costs.

Expenditure on Charitable activities
Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by the charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities. The costs of charitable activities presented in the Statement of Financial Activities includes the costs of both direct service provision and the payments of grant awards if applicable.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Grant expenditure
Grants payable are made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects. The award of a grant is recognised as a liability only when the criteria for a constructive obligation are met, payment is probable, it can be measured reliably and there are no conditions attaching to its payment that limit recognition.

In the case of an unconditional grant offer, this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the one-year or multi-year grant. Grant awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity

Other expenditure
Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities and is recognised when it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Governance costs
Governance costs (which are included as a component of support costs in accordance with SORP) comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include those related to constitutional and statutory requirements, external scrutiny (audit or independent examination), strategic management, and other legal and professional fees.

Activity based reporting
To comply fully with the Statement of Recommended Practice would require income and expenditure to be reported by activity. The Trustees are of the opinion that the Church has a single activity, namely the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world, such that there would be no merit or additional benefit to the users of the financial statements in providing further analysis of income and expenditure within the financial statements.

Irrecoverable VAT
Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets (excluding the charity's office building) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The Trustees have adopted a revaluation policy for the office building, which is stated at revaluation less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost (or valuation), less estimated residual value evenly over its expected life.

During the year ended 31 December 2012, the Trustees reviewed their property portfolio and considered that the properties had a remaining useful life of at least 50 years at 31 December 2012. Since the estimated useful lives are significant, impairment reviews will be undertaken annually.

Depreciation is calculated as follows:

Office building	100 years straight line
Equipment	25% straight line
Retirement Homes	50 years straight line from 2012 (previously no depreciation)
Churches	50 years straight line from 2012 (previously over 100 years from 2008)
Manses	50 years straight line from 2012 (previously no depreciation)

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Fixed asset 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 value. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses (realised and unrealised) arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Fair value is deemed to be market value.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the church reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the church’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Taxation

The Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and expenditure therefore includes irrecoverable input VAT.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the church is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

The charity operates a group personal pension plan (defined contribution). The contributions to the scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they become payable.

1.13 Social Investments

Social investments include concessionary loans repayable in more than one year which are initially measured at the amount paid, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect the repayments and any accrued interest and adjusted if necessary for any impairment.

Social investments which see the charity invest in property are valued at amortised cost, although the Trustees have assessed that the residual value of the asset is greater than the cost, hence a depreciation charge of Nil has arisen to date.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. Key estimates applied in the period are as follows:

Estimated value for the receipt of donated assets

Donated assets are measured at their fair value unless it is impractical to measure the fair value reliably. Fair values of properties acquired on dissolution of congregations (connected charities) are estimated based on advice which is taken by the Trustees from professional surveyors and legal advisors at the date of transfer.

Two properties were acquired during the year as a result of dissolutions Valuation options for these properties were as follows:

Kilmaurs

1. Market Value of the entire subjects assuming planning permission for residential redevelopment (in whole or part) - £400,000.
2. Market Value of the entire subjects with the Special Assumption of a 6-month sale period - £350,000.
3. Market Value with the Special Assumption of a sale of the main church and hall for existing use and a sale of the former manse separately - £325,000.

Stonehouse

1. Market Value subject to planning permission for alternative use - £100,000.
2. Market Value subject to a restricted sale period of 6 months - £75,000.
3. Market Value subject to a sale for the existing church use - £75,000.

The charity has applied option 3 to both properties, as these represent the status of the properties at the year end.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements (Continued)

Property sales

Where properties are sold at auction, the disposal date is taken to be the date of the auction at which the properties are sold, this being where a binding sales contract exists rather than the date of entry.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	767,288	10,773	778,061	1,303,197	10,365	1,313,562
Legacies	-	-	-	180,000	-	180,000
	767,288	10,773	778,061	1,483,197	10,365	1,493,562
Donations and gifts						
Target Contributions	191,729	3,913	195,642	183,081	3,736	186,817
Congregations	1,100	1,680	2,780	150	1,587	1,737
Offerings	-	3,063	3,063	-	3,332	3,332
Missions	6,105	-	6,105	4,403	550	4,953
Dissolutions	653,285	-	653,285	1,101,183	-	1,101,183
Other	(84,931)	2,117	(82,814)	14,380	1,160	15,540
	767,288	10,773	778,061	1,303,197	10,365	1,313,562

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable activites income	16,780	16,894	33,674	16,438	18,850	35,288
Charitable activities income analysis						
Camps and conferences	5,602	-	5,602	6,013	-	6,013
Property income	2,050	13,833	15,883	3,340	14,500	17,840
Publications	6,970	3,061	10,031	7,085	4,290	11,375
Other income	2,158	-	2,158	-	60	60
	16,780	16,894	33,674	16,438	18,850	35,288

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Dividends	54,037	33,606	87,643	23,754	43,867	67,621

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Gain on sale of property	59,417	26,916	86,333	169,468	53,885	223,353
Stipends from congregations	922,521	-	922,521	945,832	-	945,832
	981,938	26,916	1,008,854	1,115,300	53,885	1,169,185

The United Free Church of Scotland administers the payroll of Ministers on behalf of congregations. Congregational stipends represent payments by congregations to the Church in relation to the salary costs of their respective Ministers.

7 Expenditure on investment management

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Investment management	12,181	7,584	19,765	5,448	10,034	15,482

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	160,613	157,173
Depreciation and impairment	33,181	41,601
Property costs	77,781	66,315
Office costs	53,073	52,365
Governance costs	17,892	6,780
Subscriptions and recurring donations	6,488	8,469
Publication costs	16,141	21,214
Training & education	24,584	28,104
Denominational costs	141,990	81,617
Donations	19,906	20,660
	551,649	484,298
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	483,944	385,540
Unrestricted funds - designated	25,161	31,758
Restricted funds	42,544	67,000
	551,649	484,298

9 Other - congregational stipends

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Congregational stipends	930,516	952,633

Congregational stipends represents the salary costs of Ministers which are administered by the United Free Church of Scotland. Income received from congregations to cover these salary costs is shown in Note 6 to the financial statements.

10 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	17,892	6,780
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	33,181	41,601
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(86,333)	(223,353)

11 Trustees

	2024 £	2023 £
Honoraria paid in 2024 In 2024, paid to three Trustees. In 2023, paid to two Trustees.	3,824	3,697
Four Trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling. In 2023, paid to five Trustees	207	268
Transfers to congregations	7,644	4,854

The transfers to congregations were paid to the churches of the Principal Clerks in recognition of their release to undertake services on behalf of the charity.

No Trustee made any direct donations to the charity during the year.

Where Trustees are serving Ministers in congregations, then the value of stipends paid by the congregations for such duties have been excluded from this Note.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Ministers/Pastors	36	38
Management & other	3	3
Total	39	41

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and stipends	950,690	962,998
Social security costs	76,921	76,497
Other pension costs	63,518	70,311
	1,091,129	1,109,806

Pastors are appointed by the Ministry Committee who report to the General Assembly.
For completeness, the statistics above include Ministers although they are "office holders" and not employees.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Aggregate compensation	41,700	23,917

12 Employees (Continued)

The Key Management personnel are indicated on page 6.
Two members of key personnel are also serving minsters and their remuneration as individual serving is not included in the key management remuneration balance above.

13 Gains and losses on investments

Gains/(losses) arising on:	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Revaluation of investments	123,736	77,526	201,262	41,833	49,692	91,525

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Office building £	Equipment £	Retirement Homes £	Churches £	Manses £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 January 2024	530,000	13,915	872,316	456,345	460,106	2,332,682
Additions	-	-	-	400,000	-	400,000
Disposals	-	(7,028)	(129,695)	-	-	(136,723)
Revaluation	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000
Transfer to held for sale	-	-	-	(400,000)	-	(400,000)
At 31 December 2024	600,000	6,887	742,621	456,345	460,106	2,265,959
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2024	26,500	13,915	104,337	192,811	58,336	395,899
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	14,852	9,127	9,202	33,181
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(7,028)	(31,127)	-	-	(38,155)
Revaluation	(26,500)	-	-	-	-	(26,500)
At 31 December 2024	-	6,887	88,062	201,938	67,538	364,425
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2024	600,000	-	654,559	254,407	392,568	1,901,534
At 31 December 2023	503,500	-	767,979	263,534	401,770	1,936,783

15 Tangible fixed assets (Continued)

	Office building	Retirement Homes	Churches	Manses
	£	£	£	£
Cost/Valuations comprise the following:				
Office Premises				
11 Newton Place (Historic Cost £18,962)	600,000	-	-	-
Churches	-	-		
Northfield Church	-	-	7,620	-
Darnley Church	-	-	76,120	-
Dalreoch Church	-	-	220,605	-
Darnley Church Hall	-	-	152,000	-
Manses				
Darnley	-	-	-	50,721
Carnoustie	-	-	-	261,385
St Andrews	-	-	-	148,000
Retirement Homes				
Springfield Gardens, Tain	-	61,662	-	-
Ayr Road, Prestwick	-	152,038	-	-
Old Dalmuir Path, Auchendinny	-	127,921	-	-
Wester Inches Park	-	210,000	-	-
Arran View, Mauchline	-	191,000	-	-
	600,000	742,621	456,345	460,106

Retirement homes and manses are included at historic cost. The Trustees are of the opinion that, whilst the residual value of these properties is likely to still exceed cost, it is prudent to provide against impairment at a rate of 2% per annum.

Churches are included at cost and depreciation has been provided at 2% per annum.

The Church Offices were independently valued as at 31 December 2024 on an open market basis by David Allison FRICS on 25 February 2025.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2024	2,893,482	2,893,482
Additions	1,128,836	1,128,836
Valuation changes	201,217	201,217
Cash movements	(25,035)	(25,035)
Disposals	(335,878)	(335,878)
At 31 December 2024	3,862,622	3,862,622
Impairment		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	-
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2024	3,862,622	3,862,622
At 31 December 2023	2,893,482	2,893,482

	2024	2023
Market value	£	£
Industrial Shares and Debentures (UK)	3,072,078	2,299,124
Government Securities (UK)	571,925	360,469
Cash Deposits (UK)	15,599	40,634
Bank and Insurance Company Shares (UK)	203,020	193,255
	3,862,622	2,893,482
Relating to United Free Church of Scotland	2,351,793	1,450,706
Relating to Third Parties (connected charities, detailed below)	1,510,829	1,442,776
	3,862,622	2,893,482

16 Fixed asset investments (Continued)

Pooled investment funds - Share due to third parties (connected charities)
Funds pooled for third parties comprise funds advanced by congregations, Presbyteries and other bodies within the United Free Church of Scotland which the General Trustees have agreed to invest and manage on their behalf. These are detailed below.

	Fund Type	Net Assets brought fwd 1.1.2024	Additions to Asset Pool	Investment Income	Investment Management Expenses	Realised and Unrealised Investmetn Gains	Distributions	Net Assets carried forward 31.12.2024
Brown Memorial	Restricted	1,639	-	33	(7)	75	(48)	1,692
Wallace & Isabella Ower	Restricted	724	-	14	(3)	33	(21)	747
Carnoustie Church	Restricted	2,085	-	42	(9)	96	-	2,214
Largs Manse	Restricted	23,115	-	464	(105)	1,060	-	24,534
Dounby Fund	Restricted	48,891	-	982	(221)	2,242	-	51,894
Presbytery of Glasgow & West	Restricted	948	-	19	(4)	43	-	1,006
Presbytery of the North (Shetland)	Restricted	1,742	-	35	(8)	80	-	1,849
Prayer Union	Restricted	(3,322)	3,528	-	-	-	-	206
Leith Ebenezer Investment Account	Restricted	72,391	-	1,126	(258)	2,757	(20,983)	55,033
E S Martin Annuity Fund - Balbeggie	Restricted	526	-	11	(2)	24	(15)	544
Murray Trust - Balbeggie	Restricted	1,129	-	23	(5)	52	(33)	1,166
Presbytery of the North (Westray)	Restricted	63,865	-	1,273	(287)	2,915	(1,000)	66,766
Bannockburn investment account	Restricted	153,941	-	3,093	(697)	7,060	-	163,397
Bo'ness investment account (Craigmailen)	Restricted	51,583	-	889	(201)	2,132	(16,000)	38,403
Torry investment account	Restricted	76,678	-	1,218	(278)	2,964	(20,000)	60,582
Dundee investment account	Restricted	53,424	-	872	(196)	2,178	(20,000)	36,278
Balintore investment account	Restricted	65,879	-	1,324	(298)	3,021	-	69,926
Broxburn investment account	Restricted	162,253	-	3,190	(718)	7,346	(7,000)	165,071
Northfield investment account	Restricted	97,687	-	1,812	(408)	4,276	(15,000)	88,367
Menstrie investment account	Restricted	139,292	10,000	2,767	(624)	6,352	(7,500)	150,287
Millerston investment account	Restricted	6,871	93,000	425	(100)	869	-	101,065
Shieldhall investment account	Restricted	4,018	-	81	(18)	184	-	4,265
Darnley investment account	Restricted	2,556	-	51	(12)	117	-	2,712
Kilmaurs investment account	Restricted	52	-	1	-	3	(56)	-

16 Fixed asset investments **(Continued)**

Candlish Wynd investment account	Restricted	2,834	-	57	(13)	130	-	3,008
Candlish Wynd Manse Fund	Restricted	376,883	-	7,433	(1,673)	17,086	(16,000)	383,729
Burntisland investment account	Restricted	30,876	-	620	(140)	1,416	-	32,772
Presbytery of the East	Restricted	4,216	864	75	(17)	179	(2,000)	3,317
		1,442,776	107,392	27,930	(6,302)	64,690	(125,656)	1,510,830

17 Properties held for sale

	2024	2023
	£	£
Properties held for sale	400,000	250,000

Properties held for sale	**2024**	**2023**
Churches transferred from Fixed Assets to Current Assets	£	£
Stonehouse	75,000	-
Kilmaurs	325,000	-
Ayr	-	175,000
Alloa, Moncreiff	-	75,000
	400,000	250,000

No cash was paid for these properties, rather they were inherited through the dissolution of local churches. External valuations were completed to arrive at the values to be incorporated within the accounts, with further details on the basis for estimated values provided in note 2. They are treated as current rather than fixed assets as it is the Trustees intention to market for sale.

18 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	156,278	576,930
Prepayments and accrued income	4,899	4,416
	161,177	581,346

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Deferred income	20	10,000	10,000
Funds held for third parties		1,510,830	1,442,776
Accruals		17,296	19,095
		1,538,126	1,471,871

As detailed in note 16 United Free Church of Scotland has pooled investments with connected charities.

The amounts 'Funds held for Third Parties' above represents the share of pooled assets due to connected charities at the year end date.

These show in current liabilities in the Balance Sheet as they may be accessed by the connected charity upon written request.

Investments (fixed assets) may be realised to distribute these funds, hence the large current liability does not pose a concern to the solvency of the charity.

20 Deferred income

	2024	**2023**
	£	**£**
Other deferred income	10,000	10,000

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024	**2023**
	£	**£**
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	10,000	10,000

Deferred Income brought forward and carried forward relates to a donation received from an 'anonymous' donor towards the stipend of a current ministry assistant once he becomes a minister. This happened at the end of 2024, and as such it has been deferred at 31 December 2024 for release in 2025.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	**2023**
Defined contribution schemes	**£**	**£**
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	63,518	70,311

The church operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the church in an independently administered fund.

22 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are the designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees for specific purposes:

	At 1 January 2024	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
By General purposes	503,500	-	-	96,500	600,000
By Ministry	683,085	(10,141)	-	-	672,944
By General Trustees	307,934	(15,020)	(49,284)	-	243,630
	1,494,519	(25,161)	(49,284)	96,500	1,516,574

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
By General purposes	508,800	(5,300)	-	-	503,500
By Ministry	380,826	(10,141)	312,400	-	683,085
By General Trustees	889,683	(16,317)	(565,432)	-	307,934
	1,779,309	(31,758)	(253,032)	-	1,494,519

Designated Property Fund: Represents the net book value of the Church's properties held within Unrestricted Funds.

23 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Change in resources re pooled funds	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Aid	60,242	42,311	(14,394)	-	49,284	3,441	140,884
Student Book	2,033	41	(9)	-	-	93	2,158
Student Grant - Bursary	62,817	1,262	(384)	-	-	2,879	66,574
Werdmuller Trust	14,241	286	(64)	-	-	653	15,116
Scots Church History	19,500	375	(3,664)	-	-	862	17,073
Presbytery of North congregations	13,621	258	(1,058)	-	-	597	13,418
Dalreoch Manse Fund	33,421	671	(151)	-	-	1,532	35,473
Overseas	4,739	7,246	(8,102)	-	10,198	255	14,336
General Trustees - Other Funds	46,821	944	(211)	-	-	2,148	49,702
Women's Home & Overseas Committee	8,355	6,864	(7,768)	-	(100)	377	7,728
Special Aid - Property	442,264	-	(8,020)	-	(49,284)	-	384,960
Pooled Funds - Investments	-	27,931	(6,303)	(86,317)	-	64,689	-
	708,054	88,189	(50,128)	86,317	10,098	77,526	747,422

23 Restricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Change in resources re pooled funds	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Special Aid	290,660	74,061	(35,136)	-	(274,885)	5,545	60,245
Student Book	1,956	39	(9)	-	-	47	2,033
Student Grant - Bursary	60,440	1,209	(276)	-	-	1,444	62,817
Werdmuller Trust	13,702	274	(63)	-	-	328	14,241
Scots Church History	22,471	449	(3,956)	-	-	536	19,500
Presbytery of North congregations	13,106	262	(60)	-	-	313	13,621
Dalreoch Manse Fund	32,157	643	(147)	-	-	768	33,421
Overseas	9,145	10,245	(14,778)	-	-	127	4,739
General Trustees - Other Funds	45,051	900	(206)	-	-	1,075	46,820
Women's Home & Overseas Committee	8,546	4,835	(5,283)	-	-	257	8,355
Special Aid	176,695	-	(9,318)	-	274,885	-	442,262
Pooled Funds	-	34,050	(7,802)	(65,500)	-	39,252	-
	673,929	126,967	(77,034)	65,500	-	49,692	708,054

23 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Admin & Finance:
Special Aid: To give support to retired Ministers and widows.

Ministry:
Student Book: To give recognised students grants to assist with the purchase of books.
Student Grant - Bursary: To give support to those who are training for the ministry with United Free Church of Scotland.
Werdmuller Trust: To provide grants to those who have performed well as students, given at the end of their course.
Scots Church History: To encourage interest in Scots Church history among students and others.
Presbytery of North congregations: to support ministry in the congregations within this Presbytery.
Dalreoch Manse Fund: Receives rental income and reimburses the congregation for expenses. This reflects the denomination's contribution to the manse refurbishment in the past.
Overseas: To develop links and encourage support for missionaries and mission work worldwide.
General Trustees - other Funds: The Prof. Allan Barr Fund provides support for congregations in the East Presbytery.
Women's Home and Overseas Committee: To support work identified by the Women's Committee in Scotland and overseas.

24 Unrestricted funds

These are the unrestricted funds to the charity

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Purpose	23,836	88,955	(175,466)	100,100	492	37,917
Church and Manse building	37,108	746	(5,168)	60,000	1,701	94,387
Ministry	3,925	6,817	(9,189)	(198)	130	1,485
Remuneration	2,131	1,018,101	(1,014,252)	-	37	6,017
Reshaping Mission	111,169	22,209	(20,118)	70,000	5,871	189,131
National Church Events	934	5,545	(10,716)	5,000	16	779
Youth	9,750	7,379	(13,188)	-	378	4,319
Church and Society	4,484	5,982	(3,510)	-	206	7,162
Ecumenical Relations	10,173	204	(46)	-	466	10,797
General Trustees	2,517,374	664,105	(174,988)	(195,716)	114,439	2,925,214
	2,720,884	1,820,043	(1,426,641)	39,186	123,736	3,277,208

24 Unrestricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Purpose	23,871	87,034	(147,284)	60,000	215	23,836
Church and Manse building	35,705	714	(163)	-	852	37,108
Ministry	6,513	(59,181)	(12,007)	68,600	-	3,925
Remuneration	4,129	1,037,332	(1,049,397)	10,000	67	2,131
Reshaping Mission	124,661	16,278	(42,286)	10,000	2,516	111,169
Church plant	(38,791)	-	(1,405)	-	40,196	-
National Church Events	3,615	4,443	(7,696)	457	115	934
Youth	9,682	7,716	(7,900)	-	252	9,750
Christian Education and Evangelism	735	2	(292)	(457)	12	-
Church and Society	3,650	4,754	(4,019)	-	99	4,484
General funds	957,181	1,539,597	(71,172)	104,432	(2,491)	2,527,547
	1,130,951	2,638,689	(1,343,621)	253,032	41,833	2,720,884

Admin & Finance:
General Purpose: To cover the Church's administration costs including arrangements for the General Assembly and the overseeing of finance.
Church and Manse building: To provide support for congregations undertaking repairs to buildings.

Ministry: For the support of Ministers and Pastors.
Youth: To cover the costs of camps and other events for young people, in addition to the employment costs of a youth worker.
Christian Education & Evangelism: To encourage congregational development and provide suitable training, and to support and promote evangelism in congregations.
Church and Society: To fund costs related to commenting on developments in society and provide support for agencies involved in work in this field.
Ecumenical Relations: To enable the development of links with other Churches and ecumenical agencies and encourage local co-operation.
General Trustees: To take responsibility for property belonging to the denomination and oversee as required.

25 Fund Transfers

Fund transfers during the year ended 31 December 2024

	Ref	**Unrestricted Unrestricted Funds £**	**Designated Funds £**	**Restricted Funds £**	**Total £**
Narrative					
From General Trustees Fund to undernoted Funds	(1)	(245,000)	-	-	(245,000)
From General Trustees to Overseas	(1)			10,000	10,000
From General Trustees to Reshaping Mission	(1)	70,000			70,000
From General Trustees to General Purpose	(1)	100,000			100,000
From General Trustees to Church & Manse Building Fund	(1)	60,000			60,000
From General Trustees to National Church Events	(1)	5,000			5,000
From WHO to General Purposes	(2)	100		(100)	-
From ministry to Overseas	(3)	(198)		198	-
Arising on disposal of property	(4)			(49,284)	(49,284)
Arising on disposal of property	(4)			49,284	49,284
Arising on disposal of property	(4)	49,284			49,284
Arising on disposal of property	(4)		(49,284)		(49,284)
		39,186	(49,284)	10,098	-

Fund Transfers during the year ended 31 December 2023

From General Trustees Fund to undernoted Funds	(1)	(120,196)			(120,196)
From General Trustees to Reshaping mission	(1)	10,000			10,000
From General Trustees to Church Plant	(1)	40,196			40,196
From General Trustees to General Purpose	(1)	60,000			60,000
From General Trustees to Remuneration	(1)	10,000			10,000
From CEE to National Church Events	(2)	457			457
From CEE to National Church Events	(2)	(457)			(457)
Transfer re addition of properties	(3)			274,885	274,885
Transfer re addition of properties	(3)			(274,885)	(274,885)
Arising on disposal of property	(4)	68,600			68,600
Arising on disposal of property	(4)		(68,600)		(68,600)
Arising on disposal of property	(4)	184,432			184,432
Arising on disposal of property	(4)		(184,432)		(184,432)
Transfer re addition of properties	(5)		381,000		381,000
Transfer re addition of properties	(5)	(381,000)			(381,000)
Arising on disposal of property	(6)	381,000			381,000
Arising on disposal of property	(6)		(381,000)		(381,000)
		253,032	(253,032)	-	-

(1) Transfer to various Funds to meet shortfalls
(2) Transfer to move funds allocated
(3) Transfer re calendars gifted
(3) Transfer re addition of properties

25 Fund Transfers **(Continued)**

(4) Transfer re disposal of properties
(5) Transfer re addition of properties
(6) Transfer re disposal of properties

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 December 2024:				
Tangible assets	-	1,516,574	384,960	1,901,534
Investments	2,351,792	-	1,510,830	3,862,622
Programme related assets	249,067	-	-	249,067
Current assets/(liabilities)	676,349	-	(1,148,368)	(472,019)
	3,277,208	1,516,574	747,422	5,541,204

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 December 2023:				
Tangible assets	-	1,494,519	442,264	1,936,783
Investments	1,007,673	-	1,885,809	2,893,482
Programme related assets	262,817	-	-	262,817
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,450,394	-	(1,620,019)	(169,625)
	2,720,884	1,494,519	708,054	4,923,457

27 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

28 Cash generated from operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus for the year	617,747	1,339,268
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(87,643)	(67,621)
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(86,333)	(223,353)
Properties acquired through dissolution - gifts in kind	(400,000)	(631,000)
Transfers to GT from third party funds (investments) - gifts in kind	-	(343,010)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(200,992)	(98,293)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	33,181	41,601
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in social investments	13,750	51,767
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	573,399	(22,217)
Increase in creditors	66,255	12,571
Cash generated from operations	529,364	59,713

29 Analysis of changes in net funds

The church had no material debt during the year.

30 Social investments

	Social Investments In Church Buildings of Connected Charties	Social Investments in other properties	Other Concessionary Loans	Total Social Investments
	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024	146,093	83,724	33,000	262,817
Repayments	-	-	(13,750)	(13,750)
At 31 December 2024	146,093	83,724	19,250	249,067

30 Social investments **(Continued)**

(a) Social Investment in Church Buildings - Other Congregations (Connected Charities)
The Trustees of United Free Church of Scotland advanced funds to connected registered Scottish Charities by way of social investment in Church Manses and buildings detailed below.

These are recognised and measured at the amount advanced [adjusted only where there is any any addition or reduction in the percentage share via a further advance by the General Trustees or repayment by the Congregation.
In accordance with the Minute of Agreement between the parties, United Free Church of Scotland is entitled to repayment of the investment based on % held x the 'Final Market Value' of the Property.

This becomes due at particular trigger points, with the primary of those being sale of the Manse/property by the Congregation.

These are not investment properties, they are social investments, and are held in the Financial Statements at amortised cost and not at valuation.

A standard security is registered over each property.

The Trustees are satisfied that there are no indicators of impairment at the year end date.

	Charity Number	Property details	Cost at 31.12.24 and 31.12.23	% investment in property at 31.12.2024 and 31.12.2023
			£	%
Congregation of Northfield United Free Church of Scotland	SC014484	[redacted]	38,000	42.00%
Congregation of Ardeer United Free Church of Scotland	SC002592		23,093	23.00%
The Dundee Congregation of the United Free Church of Scotland	SC011683		85,000	50.00%
			146,093	

30 Social investments **(Continued)**

(b) Social Investment in Other Buildings - Individuals (Connected Persons)
The Trustees of United Free Church of Scotland advanced funds to retired Ministers by way of mixed motive social investment.
These are recognised and measured at the amount advanced.

In accordance with the Minute of Agreement between the parties, United Free Church of Scotland is entitled to repayment of these concessionary loans based on % of the Market Value of the Property when it is sold.

A fixed annual amount is paid in lieu of any interest payments.

These are not investment properties, they are social investments, and are held in the Financial Statements at amortised cost and not at valuation.

A standard security is registered over each property.

The Trustees are satisfied that there are no indicators of impairment at the year end date.

	Property Details	**Advance at 31.12.24 and 31.12.23**	**Entitlement to share of proceeds from sale**
		£	
[redacted]	16 Lady Street, Hilton, Tain	60,000	70.58% of market value
	52 Glendevon Place, Clydebank, Glasgow, G81 4SG	22,500	50% of market value
	Capitalised legal costs	1,224	
		83,724	

30 Social investments **(Continued)**

(c) Other Concessionary Loans

	Repayable over	Balance at 31.12.24 £	Security Held
Cornerstone, St Andrews (registered charity number SC045194)	120 months	19,250	Standard Security
		19,250	