

# BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS

Convener: Rev SJ HANNA

Secretary: Rev WS MARRS

## ‘Serving a mission-hearted church’

1. The General Assembly’s Board of Mission Overseas (BMO) upholds a vision *“to serve a mission-hearted Church, in step with the God of mission, reawakened to the missionary nature of God’s Word, placing mission at the heart of all it is and all it does, from the end of the pew to the ends of the earth.”* (Overseas Board Report to the General Assembly 2005, p 142). The Board is committed to proclaiming Christ and His universal reign and to upholding values of being God-centred, people-focused, church-based and forward-thinking.

2. As BMO seeks to mobilise the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) to this end, the Board’s Mission Review 2005 identified four areas of priority namely: Mission Engagement; Outreach Initiatives; Leadership Development; and Compassionate Ministries. These continue to provide clear foci for the ongoing work of BMO’s four Assembly Committees:

Outreach Ministries Committee                      Para 4 to 10  
Main Issues: Evangelism and Church Planting

Leadership Development Committee              Para 11 to 21  
Main Issues: Evolving leadership development practice; Leaders in training

World Development Committee                      Para 22 to 30  
Main Issues: Micro-credit schemes

Mission Involvement Committee                Para 31 to 50  
Main Issues: Website; Toolkit for Short-term teams; Training Events;

Overseas Teams

3. BMO and its Assembly Committees continue to be served by the Steering Committee which operates as the Business Committee of the Board:

Steering Committee                                      Para 51 to 75  
Main Issues: Review of activities; Staffing

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

4. The initial task of OMC was to examine five major areas of mission and produce guidelines that would help develop policy and strategy to guide the future work of BMO in outreach. Over the last number of years guidelines have been presented to the General Assembly on three of these five areas:

- Hospital and community based healthcare mission

- Mission through education
- Specialist Service Agencies (SSAs)

5. The primary focus of this year's OMC report is the fourth set of guidelines, relating to the Board's work in the area of **evangelism and church planting**. These guidelines have been developed to give direction to PCI for outreach initiatives in its overseas mission. PCI now serves in mission with partner churches across the world, and encourages and assists its partner churches in evangelism and church planting. In certain situations the best approach is for PCI to support personnel commissioned by its partners. At other times, it is right for PCI to provide personnel to meet a presenting opportunity, as the Lord leads and guides.

6. PCI is particularly well placed to develop work in Western Europe. United Kingdom and Irish citizens have more immediate access to learning European languages and have rights, under EU legislation, which allow them to travel and work in several European countries. They are more familiar with the culture than missionaries coming from Africa or Latin America, with more immediate access to learning of European languages. Such a focus on Western Europe may be regarded as the Church working in a widening circle, after the pattern of "*Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). Furthermore, since the major cities of the continent remain places of global importance in which migrants from many nations are to be found, this focus may be regarded as responding to the "*great door for effective work*" (1 Corinthians 16:9) which is currently open. BMO will, therefore, especially seek to be involved in evangelism and church planting in Western Europe. In this, it will seek to co-operate with its European partners, and explore partnerships with other churches and mission agencies. It is BMO's intention that any church plant would come under national church leadership.

7. Church planters need to be well-trained and prepared for long-term work. PCI has a responsibility to ensure that those it supports in mission have been equipped for the task. It has a special responsibility to train those whom it will call and commission for service. On occasions, it may be desirable for the church planter to be an ordained minister. There is a need for specialised courses of study that go beyond standard theological training, and for practical "hands on" experience.

8. The driver for all outreach initiatives must be the presence and power of the living Christ in His Church. BMO prays that PCI will increasingly be marked by a missionary zeal to fulfill the great commission, until all the earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of God.

9. OMC is currently exploring the many issues with regard to sustainable development and crisis intervention and in this regard it is intended that a fifth and final set of guidelines will be presented to the General Assembly in 2011.

10. OMC amended grants for 2010 and proposed grants for 2011 have been agreed totalling £50,000 in each year.

STEPHEN RICHMOND, Convener

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11. Previous reports have highlighted the importance, for leadership development work, of the Guidelines which LDC began developing in its first year of existence. As anticipated in the report to the previous General Assembly, throughout 2009/10 LDC has benefitted from use of a revised and edited version of these; they have proved invaluable as a handbook on leadership development issues pertaining to key areas of mission practice, namely vision and purpose, partnership and strategic resources. The material has had a constant impact upon LDC's ongoing work, from the moment objectives are set for the award of grants and study scholarships to the successful completion of the various training projects to which these relate.

12. An important task, in coming months and years, will be effective communication of the **evolving leadership development practice** to overseas partner Churches and institutions. For new partners, time learning about each other's commitment to and experience of mission is always time well spent, whereas in longstanding partnerships in mission the partners already know one another well. In either case, however, as overseas partners formulate and pursue their particular objectives for the mission of the Church, a growing awareness of PCI's own missional values, commitments and goals will be of special relevance.

13. One area which exemplifies this is the selection by partners of mission-minded scholarship candidates. When choosing those most likely to benefit from the training opportunities which PCI can help them access, and those whose potential is greatest to make a difference within their own contexts, partners will in future be able to make use of suggested selection criteria, including interview questions, and to apply other procedures such as a missional test to the assessment of projects for which PCI support might be sought.

14. Partnership, of course, means not just giving but receiving. It is a two-way process which commits PCI, as part of its faithful engagement in mission, to listening to its partners and learning from them. Fruit of good listening and learning has already been harvested, over the years, by past and present executive staff, as well as through the knowledge and expertise of PCI personnel who have served or still serve in partners' contexts; such experience will continue to inform and enrich the work of the committee in the future.

15. Many LDC guidelines directly address the topic of partnership in mission which has remained a key focus throughout BMO in the last year; this material will continue to help the Board's Steering Committee draw out the full implications of discussion on partnership engendered by last year's BMO report to General Assembly. During 2009/10 a great deal of work was done on a database containing detailed and up-to-date information accumulated in relation to all of BMO's existing partners; although further analysis of this data is still needed, LDC is already anticipating creative interaction with this resource.

16. LDC is also aware that partners still have much more to contribute to PCI's thinking about and practice of leadership development – in mission both overseas and in Ireland – than the denomination has so far been willing or able to hear. New and better ways are therefore needed for facilitating missional

input from our friends and for maximising the impact it will have on the worship, witness and service of PCI.

17. Since LDC was set up, the Convener has been privileged to engage regularly in the theological training of students in France, Latvia & Lithuania and North Africa. As anticipated last year, LDC as a whole now intends moving onto a new footing: In support of BMO executive staff, LDC members hope to play an increasing part in leadership development through appropriate direct engagement with partners. At the time of writing plans are being laid to enable LDC members to undertake short study visits, in autumn 2010, to two training institutions with which PCI already partners in France and Spain. Comprising mainly LDC members, these small study teams will gain first-hand knowledge of the Colleges and of the theological training they provide, engage with their staff and students, learn about the Churches they serve and discover something of the European contexts in which they operate. Europe, together with Asia, constitute two areas of the world to which LDC (in line with the BMO review) is seeking to give a higher priority.

18. LDC hopes to be of assistance to the Mission Involvement Committee (MIC) through the provision of some guidelines which will enable MIC to examine the role that congregations may have in LD work specifically. Whenever PCI sends personnel overseas – often, typically, to engage in LD work – this provides the home congregation with an opportunity to share ownership of the project, supporting the missionary for example through prayer, pastoral care and perhaps in future cost-sharing. However, there are also significant opportunities for involvement with partners' personnel. LDC is therefore committed to making core aspects of its Guidelines available soon to the wider Church – notably congregational mission committees – in the form of a handbook for supporting and getting involved with a leader in training from overseas.

19. **Leaders in training:** For one academic year from September 2009, two members of partner churches have been training and studying at Union Theological College. Ms Rózsa Drabik from the Hungarian Reformed Church in Hungary, and the Rev Zoltán Les from the Hungarian Reformed Church – Transylvanian District in Romania. On 28 March 2010 the Rev Laszlo Orban from the Hungarian Reformed Church – King's Pass District, Romania, was inducted to serve in Special Ministry for a period of two years in First Ballynahinch Congregation.

20. In 2010/11 two leaders in training from the Hungarian Reformed Church will once more be hosted in Belfast; as part of an ongoing review of scholarship provision, LDC will support one candidate from Central or Eastern Europe the following year. It is also anticipated that four leaders in training from Africa – three from Malawi, one from Kenya – will benefit from leadership development scholarships from the Lindsay Memorial Fund in 2010/11. Our partners for these projects are the Livingstonia and Blantyre Synods of CCAP (three students), together with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (one student). Two students are to undertake Masters studies (in both theology and public health), while the others will study for diplomas in theology and in child development respectively. Three of the four students will study in Belfast, where

each will make a valuable contribution to the life of a local PCI congregation. The remaining student will follow a distance learning programme.

21. LDC amended grants for 2010 and proposed 2011 have been agreed totalling £110,000 in each year.

GORDON CAMPBELL, Convener

## WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

22. **World Development Appeal:** The first year of the “**Credit Where Credit’s Due**” World Development Appeal took place during Advent and Christmas 2009. The projects highlighted were in Ethiopia (Tearfund), India (Christian Aid), Cambodia (Tearfund) and Mali (Christian Aid). Strong stories drawn from **micro-credit schemes** reinforced that, with just a little start up help lives can be transformed and communities empowered. The robust and welcomed level of support indicates that the materials produced to explain and illustrate the Appeal struck a chord. They reminded the PCI community of faith that in the midst of the global economic/banking crisis the impact in the developing world was so much greater than in the western world. PCI members responded in generous solidarity.

23. In January and February 2010, £580,000 was contributed to the World Development Appeal. The Committee has disbursed initial grants of £280,000 to Tearfund and £280,000 to Christian Aid. In the same period last year, £508,000 was contributed, indicating that after a challenging year the level of support for the Appeal is strengthening again. Throughout 2009 a total of £580,000 was disbursed to Tearfund and Christian Aid, equally divided between the agencies.

24. In the course of the year, the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Stafford Carson, visited projects of our Tearfund and Christian Aid partners in Ethiopia and the Committee wish to place on record their thanks to Dr Carson for his steadfast support of the work of the Committee in his moderatorial year. Reflecting on his trip, Dr Carson emphasized the importance of good, focused, effective and strategically directed development work. This he termed “sophisticated development” and noted that it is very different from development work grounded primarily in good intentions. He underlined the professionalism of Tearfund and Christian Aid, while stressing that passion for people was neither diminished nor diluted.

25. **Irish Aid Cuts:** Following a 20% cut to the aid and development budget of the Irish Government the Moderator, accompanied by representatives of the World Development Committee, met with the Minister of State for International Development, within the Department of Foreign Affairs. The PCI delegation expressed appreciation for all the Irish Government had done in the field of development and discussed the implications of the cuts.

26. Dr Stafford Carson reviewed his trip to Ethiopia, speaking of how impressed he had been with the work supported by the Irish Government. The Rev Katherine Meyer noted that the Irish public did not want the world’s poorest people to bear the brunt of government cuts in an unfair or disproportionate way. Dr Mark Gray expressed thanks for the consistent support of the Irish

Government for development projects of PCI's partner churches funded through Irish Aid's Civil Society Fund. He noted with concern that the 20% cut in the Irish Aid budget had come at a time when food insecurity was increasing in places like Ethiopia. He continued by observing that by following a focused strategic approach the Irish Government had gained a high reputation for its development work and that nothing should be done to erode this. He concluded by encouraging the Irish Government to reach the goal of contributing 0.7% of gross national income sooner rather than later. In reply, Minister Power said that the Irish Government considers Christian Aid as in the "premier league" of agencies it works with, stated that there would be no further cuts to the aid budget this year and explained the financial background to the matter.

27. **Board of Mission Overseas Allocation:** In 2009 the Board of Mission Overseas allocation of the World Development Appeal was £36,000. The Board has used £30,000 in support of the second year of a "Livelihood Security" project of the CCAP Blantyre Synod, and £6,000 in support of a project undertaken by the Adult Basic Education Society (ABES) focused on non-formal primary education among poor women and children in Pakistan.

28. **Moderator Supported Haiti Appeal:** Following the devastation of the earthquake in Haiti, a Moderator Supported Special Appeal was launched. As of March 2010 almost £650,000 had been contributed. Tearfund and Christian Aid are both involved in long-term work in Haiti and both have the capacity to use any contributions given to them. BMO has no partner church ties to Haiti. In light of this the Haiti Appeal has been divided equally between Christian Aid and Tearfund.

29. **Climate Change and the Copenhagen Conference:** The issue of climate change will continue to be important in the development agenda. Post-Copenhagen, Christian Aid report that: (1) The Copenhagen Accord was driven by a select group of countries acting in a largely unrepresentative and unaccountable way; (2) The level of ambition of the Accord is too low in terms of carbon emissions reduction; (3) More clarity is needed about financial support proposed for developing countries.

30. **Credit Where Credit's Due:** The projects highlighted for the second year of the "Credit Where Credit's Due" World Development Appeal, to run in Advent and Christmas 2010, will be in Burkina Faso (Christian Aid) and Tanzania (Tearfund). They will again be grounded in scriptural teaching about credit and stewardship, remembering that, as John Calvin puts it, "It is not enough to abstain from acts of injustice, if thou refuse thy assistance to the needy." There is an imperative to be active contributors to the well-being of the poor and marginalised. In supporting the World Development Appeal people are encouraged and facilitated to do just that, knowing that through Christian Aid and Tearfund they are not only working with relief and development agencies of great expertise, but also participating in the mission of God to the world.

MARK GRAY, Convener

## MISSION INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

31. MIC continues to be encouraged by the involvement of an increasing number of individuals and congregations in God's global mission. As MIC has reflected on its role as both a supporter and encourager of mission involvement across PCI, it has adopted words from Ephesians 4:12 as its biblical mandate and as a focus for its work. MIC exists, therefore, to **'equip God's people for works of service'**.

32. In order to equip God's people more effectively for works of service, four **MIC Working Groups** have been established. These are the Communications, Mission Mobiliser, Congregational Support and Mission Opportunities Groups. The remits of these groups are closely aligned with the four key components (Informing, Envisioning, Equipping, Engaging) of the 'Mission Engagement Learning Circle' that was presented to the General Assembly by BMO in 2006. Significantly, the Mission Opportunities Working Group has been established as a joint working group between BMO and the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry, thus bringing the 'PCI Overseas Teams' components of each Board's work under the direction of a single group.

33 **Equipping through ... Informing:** The new **BMO web-site** ([www.pcimissionoverseas.org](http://www.pcimissionoverseas.org)) was launched in September 2009 and has already proved to be, not just a very useful site, but a very well used one. The site is aimed primarily at PCI members and provides a comprehensive source of information and news about the overseas mission work of PCI - covering the countries, places and partners with which PCI and its missionary personnel are linked. A review was carried out of the BMO policy on the use of photographs of mission personnel on the website. This resulted in the photographs of the children of missionary personnel being removed and safeguards relating to the information made available on the website being strengthened.

34. BMO's **'Missionary Poster'** was updated for the 2009/10 church year and was well received. Work is currently underway on the design and production of a new range of promotional material that will allow information on mission personnel to be displayed in a format that best fits its intended 'audience', whether that be an individual, group or congregation.

35. In response to the **SPUD** resolutions that were brought to the 2009 General Assembly, discussions are underway with SPUD delegates as to how PCI's young people can best be educated about, engaged in and mobilised for mission through more effective communication of BMO's work and the formation of links with the children and young people of BMO's overseas personnel. It is hoped that significant progress will be made on this through the inclusion and participation of young people on selected MIC working groups.

36. MIC was represented at SPUD's "Big Event" on 21 November 2009 in Church House and the 'Mash Up' that took place at the Kilbroney Centre, Rostrevor on 20 February 2010. At the former, MIC representatives worked together with the Board of Mission in Ireland, to make a joint presentation on the theme of 'the Missional Church', seeking to envision our young people regarding the importance of holistic mission both locally and globally.

37. The young people were given a chance to prayerfully reflect on accounts of different communities, both at home and abroad, fictional and non-

fictional. They considered how far these reflected their own communities, and went on to explore how we both identify and respond to needs in both local and global communities. The young people were asked what makes them care about the lives of others. Being loved by God, they said, meant that they loved others. They were convinced that we must build relationships with people, that we learn their stories, and that our greatest resource in responding to these people's needs is God. The young people were encouraged to work *with* God, not just for Him. Prayer, patience, and being prepared to answer tough questions were all things that the young people felt were important to ensure that the Biblical message of caring for others is translated from Word into action. The young people felt strongly that greater cooperation between the Mission Boards would be beneficial, and were keen to maintain a voice in the ongoing conversations surrounding holistic mission and community engagement.

38. **Equipping through ... Envisioning:** Three regional **Celebration of Global Mission** evenings have been held this 'church year' with 'Celebrations' being held in Church House and Ardstraw in October 2009 and in Banbridge Road, Dromore in March 2010. Attendances were encouraging and the feedback positive for each of these events. While venues for the autumn of 2010 have still to be confirmed, MIC is keen to ensure that the location of venues reflects the wide geographical spread of our denomination. MIC also seeks the help of ministers, Presbytery and Congregational Mission Agents in encouraging people of all ages to attend these events in order that they might be envisioned for mission as they hear first hand of what God is doing in his world today.

39. Recognising that the best advocates for global mission are so often those who are serving or who have served overseas, MIC seeks to equip mission personnel on home assignment for the task of deputation in order that the experience is a positive one for both speaker and listener alike. To this end a **Deputation Training Day** was held in October 2009 for the mission personnel on home assignment at that time. The demand for speakers still outweighs the number of mission personnel available however, and as last year's report indicated, it is MIC's desire to establish a broader pool of **Mission Mobilisers**. Unfortunately, plans to run a training event for this group in January had to be postponed. It is hoped, however, that this work will move forward significantly over the coming months.

40. **Equipping through ... Training and Support:** In response to the increasing number of congregations sending individuals and/or teams overseas – whether short or long-term – MIC wants to help PCI's congregations as they serve as both senders and those being sent.

41. MIC wishes to encourage congregational leaders to stand back and take time to think about the 'why' and 'when' of sending teams overseas rather than automatically jumping onto the 'Overseas Teams' bandwagon. In other words, instead of saying, "We've a Team – where can we go and what can we do?" congregations are encouraged to first of all address the question, "Is God calling us to go or stay?" To help congregations address this, MIC is in the process of producing a congregational '**Toolkit for Short-Term Teams**'. For those congregations who decide that the answer is 'Go', the Toolkit will also provide, amongst other things, checklists and advice on matters such as developing good partnerships, understanding expectations, maintaining your

spiritual health, travel, safety overseas and finance. MIC believes that this Toolkit will help whole congregations, not just the 'team', to be better prepared and less likely to make mistakes. Sections of the kit are currently being trialled by various congregational teams and it is hoped to be able to make the Toolkit available to all congregations early in the new 'church year'.

42. While training resources can, and do, provide worthwhile and necessary guidance on various aspects of the 'sending' process, MIC would also encourage congregations to avail themselves of the various **training events** that are available. A new training event, **Briefing for Senders**, was run by BMO in March 2010 in conjunction with the Mission Agencies Partnership (MAP). This one day, interactive workshop seeks, through discussion and expert input, to provide congregational leaders with an understanding of the issues that they should be considering as they help teams or individuals prepare for service overseas.

43. With significant numbers of PCI congregational, as well as BMO and YAC, teams going overseas each year, BMO's **Overseas Teams Training (OTT)** day has become an important and well established event in the training calendar. OTT aims to provide relevant, practical advice and training on topics not normally or easily covered by individual teams in their pre-departure preparations. Feedback year-on-year has enabled the programme to be fine-tuned to suit needs. Overall, OTT has been well-received and appreciated by those who have attended and, again, MIC commends this training opportunity to all who are taking teams overseas.

44. A mission trip should not end when those involved arrive back in the UK or Ireland. Taking time to debrief teams or individuals after they return home from overseas is very important, even if they have only been away for a week or two. The aims of debriefing are many, but include helping those returning home appreciate that 'Re-entry' can have its difficulties and advising them on how to cope with any issues that may crop up. Debriefing also provides an opportunity for individuals, teams and congregations to ask, "What next?" and to look at how the experience can be integrated into the life of the individual and/or congregation. A good debriefing can mean that an overseas visit becomes a life-changing mission experience rather than simply being a great trip! The best people to carry out debriefing are those in the congregational leadership who were involved in the sending process and those who will have an on-going responsibility for the individual's pastoral care. MIC understands that many in congregational leadership will feel ill-prepared for this task and so the **Debriefing for Senders** training event aims to equip congregational leaders and team leaders for this vital task. Now in its second year, this event has proved very worthwhile and has been well received by all who have attended.

45. **Equipping through ... Engaging:** While many members of PCI have the opportunity to serve on short-term overseas teams through their own congregation, opportunities also exist for individuals to join one of **PCI's Overseas Teams**. Indeed, the number of applications received this year for BMO's and YAC's Overseas Teams would indicate that centrally organised teams are still a necessary provision for individuals who wish to be part of a broader denominational or specialist team or for whom the option of serving on a congregational team does not currently exist.

46. When establishing short-term overseas teams, BMO focuses on doing what congregations aren't able or choosing to do, and offers team opportunities that complement what's going on at congregational or presbytery level. This summer, for the sixth year running, BMO will be sending an all-age team to **Ukraine**. This team will lead an English-language teaching camp for young people, with members having the opportunity to share their faith through music, drama and discussion groups.

47. BMO will also be sending two teams to **Malawi**. One team, rather than having a particular 'job to do', will, instead, have the opportunity to '**Go ... See**' a variety of projects in a number of locations. The purpose of this team, which is comprised (largely) of congregational leaders, is for the participants to gain a better understanding of the Malawian context and to see what opportunities exist for establishing potential partnerships with congregations or projects in Malawi. The other Malawi team, in a joint venture with YAC, is comprised of early years teachers and early childhood development specialists. This specialist **Teacher's Team** will be supporting the work of Diane Cusick and Fiona Innes in Mzuzu through the provision of training workshops for Malawian early years teachers.

48. MIC is glad to help individuals, congregations and other mission boards and organisations to identify special projects from a wide range of partner church activities. In 2008/2009 the Youth and Children's project entitled Treasure Box raised £97,000 for Sunday School Development in Malawi and the Boys' Brigade Appeal entitled 'Trees please...' in Kenya, Jamaica and Palestine raised £15,083. By March 2010 *Presbyterian Women's Birthday Project* for 2009/2010, supporting the Vine Centre in Belfast and a women's project in Nepal, had raised over £43,000.

49. On the understanding that United Appeal targets have been met, the Board continues to offer the service of channelling funds from 'extra mile' giving, ensuring that, where appropriate, a refund of tax paid by the donor is received under the Gift Aid scheme. Once again, appreciation is expressed to those who have given so faithfully in this way.

50. MIC amended grants for 2010 and proposed grants for 2011 have been agreed totalling £10,000 in each year.

MARK WELSH, Convener

## STEERING COMMITTEE

51. **Review of the activities of the Board:** At the request of the Priorities Committee of the General Board, BMO undertook a review of its activities in early 2010.

52. The Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities Report to the General Assembly in 2002 indicated that at central level, 'Mission and Ministry' Boards should exist to "encourage, facilitate and resource mission and ministry at local congregational level." While this policy was primarily concerned with mission and ministry within Ireland, nevertheless, BMO is aware that the same holds true for global mission engagement. It means encouraging further developments in mission education and training; and hands on involvement by congregations that goes beyond contributing prayerfully and financially to a more direct

involvement in global mission. This is a key priority for BMO at this time, and is being taken forward by the Mission Involvement Committee.

53. When it comes, however, to the responsibility for sending personnel, this has been viewed as a specialised activity to be undertaken centrally by BMO as a way to “enable local congregations together to be involved in wider mission and ministry, where such mission and ministry would not be possible alone.” (Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities 2002). Working together with our partners around the world to highlight needs and opportunities, the sending of missionaries overseas has remained a core activity of the General Assembly since its inception in 1840. It could be said that this has been part of the DNA of our Church, and BMO plans to continue to place personnel strategically in overseas contexts depending on God’s calling.

54. When PCI commits to sending mission personnel into overseas settings and as people tell their story in mission, other resources have followed, namely funds and prayer. In 2009 there were restricted donations of £977,084 towards the work of partner churches in which BMO personnel have been engaged. Bearing in mind the level of giving in this area, it is proposed that the Board scale down the central payment of grants to partners who benefit from these restricted donations from individuals and congregations committed to extra mile giving, having met their United Appeal Board target of honour. At the same time, however, the Board will endeavour to maintain grant funding to partners where there are no mission personnel. A new and robust grant application process will also be implemented.

55. By proceeding in this way, funds would be freed up for expenditure in the strategic area of mission education and involvement. Indeed a recent review of staffing has highlighted a particular need for a training role to be taken up in this area. BMO wish to appoint a Mission Training Officer, and generally expand our work in this key role of facilitation. This would require no new money from the United Appeal.

56. In summary therefore, BMO’s budgetary plans for 2011 are to continue existing work (by equipping God’s people here in Ireland for growing involvement in global mission and by sending mission personnel), while scaling down the payment of grants to overseas partners, in a carefully managed way, wherever restricted donations provided by the wider church are already at a significant level.

57. **Partnership:** Outstanding questions on partnerships highlighted in the 2009 BMO General Assembly Report continue to be taken forward. Particular attention is being given to the concern voiced for some time that PCI has failed to have a voice on the unfolding situation in the Middle East. In February 2010, BMO convened a panel on the Middle East situation, with a view to finding a place for a Panel on the Near East within existing structures.

58. Amended block grants for 2010 and proposed block grants for 2011 were agreed totalling £30,000 in each year.

59. **Partner Church Visits and Visitors:** In the past year the following overseas visits were made to attend consultations and conferences called by partner churches and missions organisations, and to offer pastoral support and encouragement to BMO missionary personnel:-

- Portugal: Professor Bill Addley and the Rev Uel MARRS visited James, Heather, Alana & Lucy Cochrane and attended the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Portugal's 64th Synod Meeting from 8 to 12 June 2009.
- Romania: Miss Dobbie McCaughan, a BMO pastoral advisor, visited Cluj to meet with Darren and Nicola Aitcheson, from 7 to 15 July 2009.
- Ukraine: BMO's team to Ukraine went ahead as planned from 9 to 21 July 2009.
- Romania: The Rev John and Mrs Joan Hanna visited Darren and Nicola Aitcheson and Csaba, Ilona, Jázmin & Carissa Veres from 26 to 30 July 2009.
- Ethiopia: The Rt Rev Dr Stafford Carson and his wife Patricia visited with partners of Christian Aid and Tearfund from 31 July 2009 to 13 August 2009.
- Brazil: Professor Bill and Dr Ruth Addley and Miss Helen Johnston visited Naomi Keefe in Recife and attended the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the Presbyterian Church in Brazil from 4 to 17 August 2009.
- North Africa: Professor Gordon Campbell to deliver teaching on the Gospel of John to students of the Augustine Institute from 6 to 12 September 2009.
- Kenya: The Rev Stephen Richmond attended the Presbyterian Church of East Africa's official opening of the Galana Bridge from 25 to 31 October 2009.
- Spain: The Rev Uel MARRS attended the Synod of the Spanish Evangelical Church (IEE) in Barcelona from 9 October to 12 October 2009.
- England: The Rev Uel MARRS, Miss Helen Johnston, Mrs Joan Scott, the Rev Mark Welsh, Dr Heather Williamson and Miss Deborah Ford attended the Global Connections Annual Conference entitled 'The Whole Church Taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World' at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire from 4 to 6 November 2009.
- Malawi: Mrs Dorothy Marshall, PW President and Mrs Edna McIlwaine, PW Overseas Vice President from 7 to 25 November 2009.
- Romania: The Rev Uel MARRS visited with the leadership of the Transylvania Church District; Csaba, Ilona Jázmin & Carissa Veres; and the Board of the Caleb House from 22 to 26 November 2009.
- England: The Rev Adrian Moffett attended Global Connections Europe Consultation at Redcliffe College from 4 to 5 January 2010.
- France: Professor Gordon Campbell to teach at the Free Faculty of Reformed Theology (FLTR) from 4 to 8 January 2010.
- Nepal: The Very Rev Dr Trevor Morrow and Mr Nigel Eves to meet with UMN and partner organisations; lead a retreat for

UMN personnel and Nepali pastors; and visit Joe and Janet Campbell, Grenville, Georgie, Toby, Ollie and Lulu Hopkinson from 21 February to 5 March 2010.

- Ukraine: The Rev Uel Marrs to visit Jenni Wolfe and meet the leadership of the Transcarpathia Church District of the Hungarian Reformed Church in May 2010
- Latvia: Professor Gordon Campbell to deliver teaching on the Gospel of John to students and ministers at the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary from 29 May to 5 June 2010

60. During the past year BMO was delighted to receive the following visitors from partner churches and mission organisations:

- The Rev Dr Nuban Timo (Moderator), the Rev Kameli-Maleng (vice Moderator), the Rev Souk (Synod Administrative Secretary) and Mrs Sayuna (Synod Council member) from the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor, Indonesia, from 25 May to 6 June 2009
- The Very Rev David Gathanju, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, from 29 May to 4 June 2009 for the General Assembly.
- Prof Kihumbu Thairu, Vice Chancellor of the Presbyterian University of East Africa, Kenya on 23 June 2009.
- A delegation of Nepali politicians and civil servants – Mr Rakam Chemjong, Mr Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Mr Ramesh Lekhak, Mr Punya Prasad Neupane, Mr Madhab P Paudel, Mr Sadhu Ram Sapkota from 12 to 20 September 2009.
- The Rev Maqsood Kamil, Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, from 12 November to 16 November 2009.
- Mrs Josephine Soko from the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod, Malawi, from 7 February to 31 March 2010.
- The Rev Gertrude Kapuma, Head of Station, Mulanje Mission, CCAP Blantyre Synod, Malawi, from 9 to 23 March 2010.

61. **Office Staff and volunteers:** BMO is once again very grateful to its full time staff who, in handling a heavy workload, have carried out their work with great efficiency and enthusiasm. At present the executive staff team is comprised of the Overseas Secretary; Mission Involvement Development Officer, and Personnel Officer (Overseas). Over the past year they have been ably supported by an administrative staff team which has included a Senior Administrative Officer; two Senior Secretaries; and a Secretary/Receptionist (temporary). In September 2009 BMO expressed its gratitude to Mrs Muriel Manson who retired on 31 August 2009 after fourteen years of dedicated service. Following recent staff retirements existing work in the office has been reviewed and evaluated. It is hoped in the near future to fill the vacant posts of Secretary and Senior Secretary. We also extend appreciation to those who, from time to time, help out in the office on a voluntary basis.

62. Aside from the full-time staff in the Mission Overseas Office, many members of the Board willingly sacrifice of their time, energy, gifts and experience to serve on the BMO's Assembly and Board Committees. Gratitude is extended to all who, on behalf of the Board over the past year, have attended consultations with partner churches, visited missionaries in their country of service and spoken in PCI congregations about the work overseas.

63. BMO's membership of Global Connections enables it to keep up to date with new thinking and initiatives in world mission. The opportunity to work alongside other agencies and societies in the local context through the Mission Agencies Partnership (MAP) is valued. As members of the British and Irish Association of Mission Studies (BIAMS), BMO is further able to reflect upon mission. In the past year BMO has been represented at a number of forums and conferences examining a broad range of mission related issues.

64. **Personnel:** BMO thank God for His faithfulness and provision for all BMO mission personnel who share their lives, gifts and skills in different nations and continents around the world – see Appendix A. The Board continues to strive to encourage and support them as they share the good news with people from different languages and cultures.

65. In the past year Calls were issued as follows: Miss Fiona Innes to missionary service in Malawi as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in the Early Childhood Development Department of the CCAP Livingstonia Synod; the Rev Laszlo Orban, a minister of the King's Pass District of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Transylvania, to Special Ministry for two years in First Ballynahinch Presbyterian Church; Mr Volker and Mrs JinHyeog Glissmann, members of Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church, to Missionary Service in Malawi where Volker will serve as Executive Director of TEEM (Theological Education by Extension Malawi). Together with their children Lina, Micha and Lukas, they plan to depart for Malawi during July 2010.

66. In June 2009, Miss Jenni Wolfe was commissioned by the Congregation of First Islandmagee for service under the Board's Ignite category as a Language Assistant in the Reformed school and congregation of Nagyberég, Ukraine.

67. Appreciations are recorded for Miss Margaret Young (Malawi 1995 – 2009), Miss Heather Lennox (Jamaica 2003 – 2009) and for the Rev David and Mrs Maggie Steele (Malawi 2001-2010) who resigned from the service of the Board during 2009/10.

68. During the last year memorial minutes were recorded and sympathies expressed in respect of the Rev Norman Hunter who passed away on 12 May 2009, having served in Malawi from 1965 to 1972, the Rev William (Bill) McReynolds who passed away on 17 January 2010, having served in India from 1946 to 1960, and Miss Shirley Rutherford who passed away on 8 February 2010, having served in Malawi from 1997 to 2001. Full details of memorial minutes are held in the BMO office.

69. Working in conjunction with MAP (Mission Agency Partnership), with whom BMO continue to take an active role, a weekend retreat was organised and run once again this year. This provided an opportunity for pastoral encouragement for BMO mission personnel and Presbyterians serving with

other mission agencies. An appropriate programme for the children, sometimes referred to as 'third culture kids,' was also part of this weekend.

70. BMO is grateful for the ongoing services of Miss Dobbie McCaughan and the Rev Brian Hughes who comprise the Pastoral Adviser Team. It is hoped to add to the team in the coming year.

71. **Finance:** The ongoing commitment by PCI members to support the work of mission in a wide variety of ways brings ongoing encouragement. Thanks are recorded to individuals and congregations who year after year have provided financial support through the United Appeal, and for all that the United Appeal Board does to ensure that the target of honour for the total appeal is reached each year. BMO received £1,050,000 from the United Appeal Board in 2009, and £1,000,000 has been approved by UAB for 2010.

72. The married couples' furlough allowance, which is the benchmark to the setting of all other missionary allowances, was increased for 2010 by 1% to £22,087. A detailed review of missionary allowances is currently underway. The accounts for the year ended 2009 show a cash surplus of £8,022.

73. Once again the Board of Mission Overseas is very grateful for the ongoing support of *Presbyterian Women (PW)* whose office bearers, central committee and members continue to contribute faithfully to the work of the Board. In 2009, the Annual Grant made by PW to the work of the Board was £200,000. BMO commends the PW for their enthusiasm and commitment to the work of PCI in mission beyond the shores of Ireland, and thanks its members for their prayerful and practical support of BMO mission personnel.

74. BMO is once again indebted to the Board's Finance Officer (Overseas), Mr Mervyn Whittle, for his ongoing commitment to monitoring income and expenditure, finalising budgets and accounts, and for devoting a great deal of his time, energy and expertise to the ongoing maintenance work of the BMO properties. We also express thanks to the staff of the Finance Office for their support and guidance.

75. The Board gives all honour, praise and thanks to God for His guidance and sustaining grace over this past year, and ever seeks to bring glory to His Name.

## APPENDIX A

In the main report most of the names of BMO mission personnel have not been mentioned but their names, spheres and category of service are listed below and are to be taken together with this report.

### ***INTEGRATE CATEGORY – service of two or more years***

#### **BRAZIL**

Naomi Keefe	2004	Outreach programme, The Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB), Casa Caiada, Recife
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**GREAT BRITAIN**

Christopher & Nivedita Benjamin	1989	Ministry among Asians in Wembley, London
Edwin & Anne Kibathi	2009	Ministry among East Africans in East London

**INDIA**

Linda Jackson	1996	Teacher
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**INDONESIA**

Mervyn & Raing McCullagh	1998	Organisational Consultant
	2007	Community Development
Barry McCroskery	2004	International Partner Relations & Diaconal Work (social witness), Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (GMIT), Kupang

**KENYA**

Stephen & Angelina Cowan	1985 1989	Outreach & Development Work, Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), Tuum
Naomi Leremore	1991	Teacher for Centre for Early Childhood Education and development of Sunday School materials, PCEA, Nairobi
Derek & Linda Roulston	1998	Outreach & Development Work, PCEA, Timau
Gary & Mary Reid	2000	Outreach & Development Work, PCEA, Olkinyiei

**MALAWI**

Diane Cusick	1995	Pre-school teacher training, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Livingstonia Synod, Mzuzu
Robin & Helen Quinn	2004	Lay Training Centre and Livingstonia Theological College, CCAP Livingstonia Synod, Ekwendeni
Una Brownlie	2007	Nursing, David Gordon Memorial Hospital, CCAP Livingstonia Synod, Livingstonia
Neil & Sara Kennedy	2008	Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics & Child Health – College of Medicine of the University of Malawi & Consultant Paediatrician in the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre
Fiona Innes	2010	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Early Childhood Development

Programme, CCAP Livingstonia Synod,  
Mzuzu

### NEPAL

Joe & Janet Campbell	2006	Lead Advisor in Conflict Transformation & Pastoral Care with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), Kathmandu
Grenville & Georgina Hopkinson	2008	Strategy and Development Policy Director, UMN

### PAKISTAN

Ron & Hilary McCartney	2007	Teaching, Forman Christian College, Lahore
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### PORTUGAL

James & Heather Cochrane	2008	Leadership training, Bible teaching and Discipleship, Portuguese Bible Institute (IBP), Faro
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### ROMANIA

Csaba & Ilona Veres	2001	Programme Co-ordinator, IKE-YMCA
	1993	Mera Children's Project, Aksza Mission & Caleb House, Cluj

### SPAIN

Derek & Jane French	2000	Student outreach with Grupos Biblicos Unidos (GBU), Bilbao
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### *IGNITE CATEGORY – service of up to one year*

### MALAWI

Maurice & Helen Kennedy	2008	Schools Renovation & Refurbishment Programme, CCAP Blantyre Synod, Blantyre
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### UKRAINE

Jenni Wolfe	2009	Language Assistant, Nagyberegi Reformatus Liceum (NBRL), Transcarpathia Church District of the Hungarian Reformed Church
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### CANDIDATES IN MISSION

Volker & Jin Hyeog	2010	Executive Director, Theological Education by Glissmann Extension in Malawi (TEEM), Zomba
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**RESOLUTIONS**

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly give thanks for the faithful service and dedicated witness of PCI's missionary personnel and their families serving overseas, and encourage BMO to continue in its established role of sending out missionary personnel in response to the Call of God and the invitation of PCI's partners.
3. That the General Assembly give thanks for the witness of all who come from partner churches to study and serve in Ireland, and encourage all BMO Assembly Committees to foster a climate in which PCI's partners can make an increasing contribution to the denomination's thinking about, and practice of, mission today, both in Ireland and throughout the world.
4. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to equip their members for involvement in global mission and to avail themselves of the information, insight and training provided by BMO's resources and events.
5. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to seek opportunities for active involvement in leadership development projects, especially through engagement with, and support of, leaders in training from partner churches.
6. That the General Assembly acknowledge the guidelines on church planting and evangelism and affirm their continued commitment to encourage and assist partner churches in this work.
7. That the General Assembly give thanks that in difficult times support for the World Development Appeal is strengthening.
8. That the General Assembly give thanks that, confronted with suffering and devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti, Presbyterians in Ireland responded with generosity, bringing hope in the midst of destruction.
9. That the General Assembly give thanks for the support raised by the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry, the Junior Boys' Brigade, and Presbyterian Women for the mission of partners in Malawi, Kenya, Jamaica, Palestine and Nepal, and for every expression of 'extra mile' giving by the wider church; and recognise especially the very generous grant received from PW in 2009.
10. That the Board of Mission Overseas, with its associated working Committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 279 of the Code as follows: