

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

Supporting Paper for Commission of Assembly to be held on 3 October 2018

The report previously circulated to Commissioners detailed the substance of the matter to be discussed in relation to Governance of the Church of Scotland Charity. It has been suggested that it could be helpful to the Commission of Assembly if names of suitable persons who may be willing to serve on the Special Commission were brought forward for consideration whilst recognising the absolute right of the Commission to accept, reject or substitute any or all of these names.

Accordingly, the Council of Assembly at its meeting on 17 September agreed what it believed to be the criteria essential to the successful working of the Special Commission and delegated a group of four non-Convener Trustees to scrutinise a list of twenty-three possible names and propose a group of five who held between them the essential criteria.

The criteria, the selection process and the five names were subsequently submitted to the Executive Officers of the Nomination Committee for approval before being approached to ascertain that, if in the event of their names being accepted by the Commission of Assembly, they would be willing to serve as a member of the Special Commission. Those people who have been approached have received a copy of the Report submitted to the Commission.

Essential Criteria for the Special Commission

- a) Knowledge of and commitment to the Church of Scotland
- b) Knowledge of charity governance in Scotland
- c) Experience of organisational change
- d) Knowledge of Social Care
- e) Legal and financial acumen
- f) External critical friend

Members of the selection group

Dr Sally Bonnar, Convener of the Council of Assembly

Mr David Watt, Vice-Convener of the Council of Assembly

Rev Prof Andrew McGowan, Minister of Inverness East Church

Mrs Norma Rolls, Session Clerk Palmerston Place Church Edinburgh

Supported by Rev Dr Martin Johnstone, Acting Secretary to the Council of Assembly

Recommended Names for the Special Commission

1. As Convener: Rev Professor David Fergusson. A highly respected church leader and academic theologian. He will bring experience of the Church of Scotland and of organisational change, through his work with Edinburgh University. The group felt that he was a natural choice to convene the Commission.
2. James McNeill QC. Practising QC; sits as a judge in the Court of Appeal in Jersey & Guernsey; advises on charity law and had edited a Guide to Charity Law in Scotland published in 2016; served as Procurator for one year; elder and was at one time Session Clerk of Edinburgh St Andrew's and St George's West congregation.
3. Sarah Davidson. Director General within the Scottish Government, with responsibilities for organisational development and operations; has previously held similar roles with a community portfolio. She is a Church of Scotland elder.

4. Morag Ross QC. An advocate, former Trustee of Christian Aid, Chair of the Scottish Churches' Committee and was convener of the Church & Nation Committee when it transitioned to becoming the Church and Society Council. Currently a Convener of the Judicial Commission.

The remaining name will follow.

Dr Sally Bonnar, Convener of the Council of Assembly

Mr David Watt, Vice-Convener of the Council of Assembly

Rev Dr Martin Johnstone, Acting Secretary to the Council of Assembly

28 September 2018