

# THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

## May 2016

### PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Appoint Mr Thomas C Watson as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2016.
3. Re-appoint Messrs Christopher C Mackay and W F Stuart Lynch as members of the Trust from 1 June 2016.

### REPORT

The Church of Scotland Trust, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1932, submits its Eighty-fourth Report to the General Assembly.

#### 1. The Work of the Trust

##### (a) General

The function of the Church of Scotland Trust is to hold properties outwith Scotland and to act as a trustee in a number of third party trusts. During the year it has dealt with various matters which have arisen regarding these properties and trusts. Matters of particular significance are noted hereafter.

##### (b) Third Party Trusts

The Trust is currently trustee of 58 third party trusts which benefit different areas of the Church's work. In 2007 the Trust instigated a Rolling Review Programme for these trusts. The Trust's Secretary and Clerk undertakes a review of the trusts annually, producing reports on half the third party trust portfolio to each of the February and September Trust meetings.

##### (c) Pakistan

The Trust is disappointed once again to report that there has been little progress with the transfer of the Church of Scotland's property interests in Pakistan to a suitable body, in terms of the Church of Scotland Trust Order

Confirmation Act 1958. At last year's General Assembly the Trust was pleased to congratulate Alwin Samuel on his election as the new Bishop of Sialkot. Representatives of the Trust and the World Mission Council met with the new Bishop in early September when assurances were given that a suitable property Trust would be formed to receive the properties before the deadline of 31 December 2015. Despite the Bishop's best efforts this has not happened.

Last year the Assembly noted the Trust's intention to delay commencing discussions with the Pakistani Government with a view to transferring its Pakistani properties to the Government, either national or provincial, in terms of the 1958 Act, to be used for the benefit of the Christian community in Sialkot until 1 January 2016. This deadline has passed with no significant progress and discussions are commencing with the Government. It is hoped that a delegation from both the Trust and the World Mission Council will be able to visit Pakistan in April for various meetings, including one with the Minister for Minorities in the Provincial Government.

The Trust is pleased to have some good news to report. It has been in discussion with the Board of Forman Christian College in Lahore, a Chartered University which since denationalisation has become an internationally recognised educational institution, about transferring

ownership of Murray College in Sialkot to the University. It is intended that Murray College will become a satellite campus of Forman Christian College. Negotiations are going well and the process of denationalising Murray College has commenced. Both the Trust and the World Mission Council believe such a transfer will improve further education in Sialkot for the Christian community.

Representatives of the Trust and the World Mission Council continue to meet with their attorney for Pakistan, Dr Peter David, regularly to monitor developments and agree future strategy. Dr David works tirelessly for the Church of Scotland and has put a system in place for the protection of the Church of Scotland's property interests which has proved to work effectively. The Church is indebted to Dr David for the energy and vigour he applies to his work. Qamar Rafiq was Dr David's Administrative Assistant based in Pakistan until the end of 2015 when he moved to Bath to be with his wife. The Trust would like to record its appreciation to Qamar for the very valuable work he has undertaken for the Church of Scotland in the last few years

As reported for a number of years, the Trust continues to be a party to a number of court cases involving its property interests in Pakistan. The Trust is legally represented in all these cases but, due to the nature of the Pakistan legal system, it is anticipated that the cases will be ongoing for some time.

## **2. Accounts for 2015**

The Trust's Accounts for the year to 31 December 2015 have been independently examined and copies thereof are available on request from the Secretary and Clerk.

## **3. Vice-Chairman**

The Vice-Chairman of the Trust, Mr Christopher N Mackay, will complete two terms, totalling 8 years in office at 31 May 2016. It is recommended that the General Assembly

appoint Mr Thomas C Watson, as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2016.

## **4. Membership**

In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, the following two members retire by rotation on 31 May 2016 but are eligible for re-appointment: Messrs Christopher N Mackay and W F Stuart Lynch. It is suggested to the General Assembly Messrs Christopher N Mackay and W F Stuart Lynch be re-appointed as members of the Trust from 1 June 2016.

*In the name and by authority of  
The Church of Scotland Trust*

JOHN M HODGE, *Chairman*  
CHRISTOPHER N MACKAY, *Vice-Chairman*  
JENNIFER M HAMILTON, *Secretary & Clerk*

## **ADDENDUM**

### **Mr Christopher N Mackay, Vice-Chairman**

Chris Mackay was first appointed Vice-Chairman of the Church of Scotland Trust by the General Assembly of 2000. He served a 4 year term, followed by 4 years as Chairman and then a further 8 years as Vice-Chairman. This has been 16 years of excellent service to the Trust. The Trust has benefited from his legal knowledge and expertise during this time. On behalf of the Church, we would like to record our appreciation to Chris for giving so generously of his time and abilities and we are pleased that he has agreed to continue to serve the Trust as a member.

JOHN M HODGE, *Chairman*  
JENNIFER M HAMILTON, *Secretary & Clerk*