
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 22 MAY 2015

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the 22nd day of May 2015 years, at 9.15 am, Session VII.

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of Session V being printed and in the hands of members, were submitted and approved.

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HOUSING AND LOAN FUND FOR RETIRED MINISTERS AND WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF MINISTERS

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Trustees of the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund which was given in by Mr Grahame Lees, Chairman.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the Trustees and Staff.
2. Re-appoint Mr R Wright as a Trustee of the Fund.
3. Appoint Rev A McCafferty as a Trustee of the Fund.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:-

Add a new Section 3 and renumber:

Urge the Trustees to give serious consideration to the present practice of halving housing loan repayments and rents charged to widows and widowers of ministers whilst levying full payment on single, divorced and separated ministers and report to the General Assembly of 2016.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

GENERAL TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the General Trustees which was given in by Mr Iain Douglas, Chairman.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and Accounts of the General Trustees.
2. a) Appoint Mr David Menzies CEng, MStructE as a General Trustee.
b) Appoint Mr Iain C Douglas as Chairman and Mr Roger G G Dodd as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and authorise the payment of remuneration of £1,660 to each of them as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the past year.

3. Instruct financial boards of congregations with holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to review whether the monies, both capital and accrued revenue, are optimally invested in light of likely current and future fabric needs and bearing in mind the range of Funds offered by the Church of Scotland Investors Trust.
4. Approve the principle of the creation of a Manse Fund and instruct the Trustees to bring to the 2016 General Assembly proposals for the regulation and financing of the Fund.
5. Affirm that the Church is anxious to make safe its buildings and the activities in them as an expression of care and encourage the Trustees to develop practical and proportionate measures to assist congregations to deal with health and safety matters.
6. Note with concern that the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Grant Scheme exposed weaknesses in the implementation of the planned inspection and maintenance system and highlighted the scale of outstanding roof repairs.

7. Note:
- the completion of the first phase of the Chance To Thrive Project;
 - the lessons for the whole church including that buildings projects should be undertaken in the context of congregational mission;
 - the commitment of the Trustees to further development of the Project in partnership with the Ministries Council.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:-

Add a new Section 8:

Instruct the General Trustees, in consultation with the Council of Assembly, to explore the means whereby the rental income of Manses owned by local trustees

may be treated in the same manner as the rental income on Manses owned by the General Trustees and report to the General Assembly of 2016.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees which was given in by the Rev Ann Inglis, Trustee.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Trust which was given in by Mr John Hodge, Chairman.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Note the Trust's intention to commence 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.
3. Re-appoint Mr Angus W Bethune and the Very Rev John P Chalmers as members of the Trust from 1 June 2015.
4. Appoint the Very Rev Dr E Lorna Hood as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2015.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:-

Delete the existing Section 2 and add new Sections 2 and 3 and renumber:

2. Join with the Trust in congratulating Alwin Samuel on his election as the new Bishop of Sialkot and pray for him as he commences his duties as Bishop within the Diocese of Sialkot.
3. Note 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 to allow the new Bishop of Sialkot time to put a body in place which will be a suitable body to receive the Trust's properties.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust which was given in by Mr Alistair Gibb, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2014.
3. Approve the re-appointments of Mr A A Aitchison, Mrs I Hunter and Mr J G Wilson as members of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2015.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees which was given in by Mr

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the reappointment of Mr Hamish Scott as a Trustee.

CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Central Services Committee which was given in by Mr Bill Steele, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Nomination Committee which was given in by the Rev Kenneth Stott, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Encourage Presbyteries and congregations to consider prayerfully the talents of those known to them and to nominate those who may be able to contribute helpfully to the work of the Church.

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3. Appoint the Rev Neil Glover, Minister of Glasgow: Flemington-Hallside as Convener of the Ministries Council.
 4. Appoint the Rev Graham Duffin, Minister of Loanhead as Convener of the Panel on Review and Reform.
 5. Make alterations to Standing Committees and Councils as set forth in the Report, subject to the following alterations:

Add:

Arbitration Panel

Member Retiring Arthur McDonald

Ministries Council

Vice-Convener Appointed John Dent (Dundee: Logie St John's (Cross)) *Minister Appointed* Alistair Cook (Paisley: Lylesland)

Mission and Discipleship Council *Minister Resigned* Sandi McGill *Members Appointed* Joanna Love DCS (3 yrs) (Glasgow: Colston Milton), Alastair Stark (1 yr) (Glenrothes: St Columba's)

Presbyterial Commission *Convener Appointed* David Burns (Edinburgh: Colinton)

Theological Forum

Elder Appointed Gavin Brydone (Edinburgh: Canongate)

Delete:

Mission and Discipleship Council *Member Appointed* Cara Chalmers (1 yr) (Orwell and Portmoak)

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:-

Add a new Section 6:

Instruct the Committee, in partnership with the Council of Assembly and other relevant Councils or Committees, to explore the barriers involved for people in employment

and students in becoming members of a Council or Committee and how these can be minimised to allow greater participation and diversity and report back to a future General Assembly.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Selection Committee which was given in by the Rev Dr John L McPake, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

Protestations were called for but none was taken.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING OF ACTS

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Standing Committee on the Printing of the Acts of the General Assembly which was given in by the Principal Clerk, and it was remitted to the Standing Committee under Section 26 of the Standing Orders to revise and print the Acts.

The General Assembly adjourned at 12.35 pm to meet again in this Hall this afternoon at 3.00 pm, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL EDINBURGH, 22 May 2015, 12.35 pm

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CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 22 MAY 2015

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the 22nd day of May 2015 years, at 3.00 pm, Session ult.

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

DECEASED MINISTERS, MISSIONARIES AND DEACONS

The General Assembly called for the Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons, which was given in by the Very Rev John Chalmers, and was agreed as follows:

DATE OF DEATH 2014

March	13	Rev Edward Peter Lindsay Thomson, formerly of Cavers and Kirkton linked with Hawick: Trinity
May	17	Rev Brian Frank Cross, formerly of Coalburn
June	3	Rev John Andrew, formerly a Teacher of Religious Education
	4	Rev George Levack Edington, formerly of Tayport
	22	Miss Alison Cunningham DCS, formerly a Community Development Officer for Renfrewshire
July	9	Rev Stafford James Simmonds, formerly of Egypt
	14	Rev George Houstoun Campbell, formerly of Stewarton: John Knox
	16	Rev Jose Roberto Carvalho, formerly of Collace linked with Cargill Burrelton
	21	Rev Robert Brown, formerly of Kilbrandon and Kilchatten
	22	Rev Walter Learmonth, formerly of Ceres and Springfield
	24	Rev Alexander Hamilton Lawson, formerly of Clydebank: Kilbowie
August	1	Rev Richard Malcolm Charlton, lately of Nesting and Lunnasting linked with Whalsay and Skerries as Auxiliary Minister
	4	Rev George Cranston, formerly of Rutherglen Wardlawhill
	10	Rev Thomas Graeme Longmuir, lately of Inverurie: St Andrew's
	28	Rev Rosemary Ann Smith, lately of Dunfermline: Townhill and Kingseat
October	13	Rev Charles Malcolm Henderson, formerly of Campbeltown: Highland
	18	Very Rev Professor Robert Alexander Stewart Barbour, formerly Professor of New Testament Studies, University of Aberdeen
	25	Rev David Howard Philpot, formerly of Kenya and Switzerland
December	23	Rev David Tindal Reid, formerly of Cleish linked with Fossoway: St Serf's and Devonside

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January	3	Rev William Frederick Laing, formerly of Selkirk: St Mary's West
	17	Rev Dr John Wilkinson, formerly of Kikuyu, Kenya
February	1	Rev Alastair David McLay, formerly of Glasgow: Shawlands
	4	Rev Murdoch Mackenzie, formerly of Glenrothes: St Ninian's
	9	Rev George Hunter Fox, formerly of Coalsnaughton
	14	Rev Peter Reynolds Taylor, formerly of Torphins
	17	Rev Louise Jane Duncan, lately of Balerno
March	1	Rev John Donald Henderson, formerly of Cluny linked with Monymusk

	3	Mrs Martha Steedman (nee Hamilton) formerly of India
	7	Rev Catherine Anne Hepburn, lately of West Mearns
	8	Rev Bruce John Laird Hay, formerly of Makerstoun and Smailholm linked with Stichill, Hume and Nenthron
	10	Rev John Paul Tierney, formerly of Peterhead: West as Associate Minister
	19	Rev Samuel Gerald Victor Crawford, formerly of Glasgow: Calton Parkhead
April	1	Rev Walter Vernon Stone, formerly of Langbank
	8	Rev Lawson Richard Brown, formerly of Cameron linked with St Andrew's: St Leonard's
	8	Rev Alasdair William Macdonell, formerly of Haddington: St Mary's
	30	Rev Henry Montgomery Gibson, formerly of Dundee: The High Kirk
May	2	Rev George Cooper, formerly of Kenya and Tanzania
	2	Mrs Nancy Copland DCS MBE, formerly of Home Board Newark Greenock
	2	Rev William Alexander Beck McCabe, formerly of Glasgow: Eastbank

The General Assembly, upstanding, were led in prayer by the Very Rev John Chalmers.

The Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted were held as read and approved.

The Clerks were appointed a Committee to revise the Minutes.

The General Assembly passed an Act appointing a Commission of Assembly in terms of the Act VI 1997.

The General Assembly passed an Act appointing the next General Assembly to be held at Edinburgh on 21st May 2016.

The following people were presented to the General Assembly:

ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Retiring:

Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith, Precentor

COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

New Staff Members:

Mrs Anne Macintosh, Acting General Treasurer

Staff Member Departing:

Mr Iain Grimmond, General Treasurer, 10 years

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Miss Catherine Falconer, Children's Development Worker

Mrs Lorraine Orr, Senior Administrator, CARTA

Mr Phillip Mellstrom, Resourcing Worship Development Worker

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Rev Dr Martin Johnstone, Council Secretary
Janine McKenna, Research and Resource Development Officer,
Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office

SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Pat Lawrence, Manager, Eastwoodhill Residential Home

Retiring Staff:

David Reid, Head of Estates and Health and Safety, 17 years

Margaret Reeves, Support Worker, Rainbow House, 10 years

Margaret Merchant, Secretary to Finance and Resources Director, 15 years

John Picken, Housekeeping Assistant, Adams House Residential Home, 10 years
Margaret Hay, Housekeeping Assistant, Queens Bay Lodge Residential Home, 10 years

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Mrs Karen Gillon, Local Development Officer

Miss Elena Sara, HIV Programme Co-ordinator

Rev Páirc Reamonn, Minister of St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church Jerusalem

CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

New Staff Members:

Mrs Kirsteen Scott, Interim HR Manager

Retiring Staff Member:

Rev Gavin Elliott, Ministries Support Officer

Ministers recently inducted and introduced to their first charge or appointment:

Rev David L Barr, Glenmuick (Ballater) Rev Alastair Bruce, Ellon

Rev Fiona C Bullock, Dun and Hillside

Rev M Rae A Clark, Channelkirk and Lauder Rev Deborah J Dobby, Burra Isle I/w Tingwall

Rev Pamela Gordon, Barrhead Bourock Rev Joananda C Groenewald, Polbeth Harwood I/w West Kirk of Calder

Rev Margaret Hunt, Forfar: St Margaret's Rev Dr Leon Keller, Galashiels: Old St Paul's I/w Galashiels: St John's

Rev Dr Thomas Kisitu, Edinburgh: St Nicholas Sighthill

Rev Dr Nikki M Macdonald, The Upper Clyde

Rev Amanda MacQuarrie, Falkirk: Camelon, Associate Minister

Rev Rhona McDonald, Glasgow: Tron St Mary's

Rev Elspeth M McKay, Echt I/w Midmar Rev David G McNeish, Birsay, Harray and Sandwick

Rev Neil W Meyer, Kintore

Rev Eileen Miller, Glenrothes: St Margaret's Rev John William Murray, Kilmuir and Stenscholl

Rev Alison Notman, Ardler Kettins and Meigle

Rev Gary J Peacock, Irongray Lochrutton and Terregles

Rev David Prentice-Hyers, Troon: Old Rev Mike Robertson, Culloden: The Barn

Rev Elijah W Smith, Glasgow: Queens Park Govanhill

Rev Gordon I Strang, Cromdale and Advie I/w Durnain Bridge I/w Grantown-on-Spey (Inverallan)

Rev Dave A Sutherland, Dumfries: Maxelltown West

Rev Markus Thane, Cumbrae I/w Largs: St John's

Rev Lindsay Turnbull, Hamilton: Trinity

Rev Deborah Louise Van Welie, Polmont: Old

Rev Erica M Wishart, Tranent

Ordained Local Ministers recently introduced to their first appointment:

Rev Kay Brown, Falkirk Trinity

Rev William Crossan, Lorne and Lowland Rev Oonagh Dee, Dumfries and Kirkcudbright

Rev David Maxwell, Netherlee

Rev Jim Murphy, Hamilton Presbytery Rev Margaret Nutter, Craigrownie, Garelochhead and Rosneath St Modans

Rev Grace M F Steele, Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle

Rev Pamela Strachan, Eddleston I/w Peebles: Old

Rev Mary Ellen Thomson, Presbytery Chaplain to Care Homes and Hospitals - Abernethy

Recently Appointed Ministries Development Staff

Rev Rosie Addis, Deaf Development Worker, Ministries Council

Mr John Amalanand, Garthdee I/w Ruthrieston West Church, Aberdeen Mrs Teresa Broere, Aberdeen: Mastrick Parish Church

Mrs Angela Brydson DCS, Annandale and Eskdale Presbytery Deacon

Mrs Donna Hislop, Annandale and Eskdale Presbytery, Youth Worker

Miss Katy Robinson, Edinburgh: Richmond Craigmillar

Mr Alastair Stark, Kirkcaldy: Glenrothes and Leslie

Mrs Eileen Usher, Garthamlock Ruchazie, Cranhill and Craigend East Parish Grouping

Recently Retired Ministers:

Rev David W Clark, Helensburgh: St Andrew's I/w Rhu and Shandon

Rev Ann Inglis, Langton and Lammermuir Kirk

Rev John Lincoln, Balquhiddie I/w Killin and Ardeonaig

Rev T Douglas McRoberts, Malta Rev Agnes Moore, Belshill West Rev Robert Simpson, Callander

Rev Caroline Taylor, Leuchars St Athernase Rev John Thomson, Hamilton: Old

Rev Elizabeth A Waddell, Hamilton: West Rev Alan Ward, Interim Minister

The Moderator addressed all those who had been presented to the General Assembly, conveying the good wishes of the Assembly to them.

The Moderator addressed the General Assembly.

His Grace addressed the General Assembly and concluded with these words: "Right Reverend and well-beloved, your labours are now at an end and now, in the Queen's name, I bid you farewell."

A verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Moderator and members of the General Assembly having bowed to His Grace, the Moderator, turning to the General Assembly, said "Right Reverend: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, sole King and Head of the Church, I now dissolve this General Assembly, and appoint the next General Assembly to be held at Edinburgh on the 21st day of May 2016."

The members of the General Assembly, prior to lining the Quadrangle of the College as His Grace passed from the Assembly Hall, concluded their Session at 4.25 pm with the Benediction pronounced by the Moderator.