

BASIC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

NAME OF COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE:

Ecumenical Relations

BRIEF SUMMARY OF AREA OF WORK:

The Ecumenical Relations Committee is part of the Department of the General Assembly and is responsible for encouraging and enabling an ecumenical vision in Scotland. Members seek to encourage ecumenical engagement through the councils, presbyteries and congregations of the Church of Scotland. The remit of the Committee is to:

- advise the General Assembly on matters of policy affecting ecumenical relations;
- ensure that the members of the committee who are appointed to accompany their respective Council of the Church are appropriately informed and resourced so as to be able to represent the ecumenical viewpoint to that Council;
- nominate people from across the work of the Church of Scotland to represent the Church in assemblies and synods of other churches, ecumenical consultations and delegations to ecumenical assemblies etc;
- call for and receive reports from representatives of the Church of Scotland attending assemblies and synods of other churches and those ecumenical conferences and gatherings which are held from time to time;
- ensure that appropriate parts of such reports are made available to relevant councils;
- ensure that information is channelled from and to ecumenical bodies of which the Church of Scotland is a member;
- ensure that information is channelled from and to other churches in Scotland and beyond;
- ensure the continued development of ecumenical relations by means of the Web and other publications;
- approve guidelines for the setting up and oversight of local ecumenical partnerships;

NAMES OF CONVENER AND SECRETARY:

Convener: Rev Alison McDonald
Secretary: Rev Dr John L McPake

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

Six members appointed by the General Assembly, each to serve as an ecumenical accompanier to each of the five Councils of the Church and the Theological Forum.

A Convener who will act as a personal support for the Ecumenical Officer and a Vice-Convener, appointed by the General Assembly.

A representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland.

One representative from each of three churches drawn from among the member churches of Action of Churches Together in Scotland and the Baptist Union of Scotland

The Committee shall co-opt Church of Scotland members elected to the central bodies of the following ecumenical instruments:

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Conference of European Churches

World Council of Churches

World Communion of Reformed Churches

Community of Protestant Churches in Europe

The General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:

Four day meetings held in the offices at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, usually from 10.30 am to 3 pm. Meetings are normally held in January, March, June and December. An overnight meeting is held in September, starting and ending with lunch.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES, TASK GROUPS ETC:

Task groups formed on an ad hoc basis.