

The Church of Scotland
General Assembly
2015



ASSEMBLY PAPERS

SATURDAY 16 – MONDAY 18 MAY

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The Church of Scotland
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015

SESSION I – Saturday 16 May – 9.30am

Opening of the General Assembly

1. Constitution of Assembly
(Commissioners are asked to stand for items marked *)

* Psalm 63 (CH4 43)



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. O God, you are my God alone,
whom eagerly I seek,
though longing fills my soul with thirst
and leaves my body weak.
Just as a dry and barren land
awaits a freshening shower,
I long within your house to see
your glory and your power.</p> | <p>2. Your faithful love surpasses life,
evoking all my praise.
Through every day, to bless your name,
my hands in joy I'll raise.
My deepest needs you satisfy
as with a sumptuous feast.
So, on my lips and in my heart,
your praise has never ceased.</p> |
| <p>3. Throughout the night I lie in bed
and call you, Lord, to mind;
in darkest hours I meditate
how God, my strength, is kind.
Beneath the shadow of your wing,
I live and feel secure;
and daily as I follow close,
your right hand keeps me sure.</p> | |

*Version John L Bell (b.1949); music American folk melody arr. John L Bell;
words and music © WGRG Iona Community*

*Prayer**Reading*

Matthew 16: 13-19

Reader: Rev Dr George Whyte, Acting Principal Clerk

*Reflection*** Prayer*

2. Roll of Commissioners laid on the table.
3. Election of Moderator (*Members of Assembly stand when Moderator enters*) and Prayer of Consecration, incorporating the following response:

Leader: Come down, O Love Divine

All: and visit your servant Angus with your blessing

4. Commission to His Grace the Lord High Commissioner to be read, and order given for recording it (*Members of Assembly stand*).
5. Her Majesty's Letter to be read, and order given for recording it (*Members of Assembly stand*).
6. Address by His Grace The Lord High Commissioner, and Reply by the Moderator (*Members of Assembly stand*).
7. Appointment of Committee to prepare an answer to Her Majesty's Gracious Letter.
8. Report of Standing Committee on Commissions.
9. Submission of Standing Orders.
10. Appointment of Committee for arranging Order of Business (*This Committee will meet at the close of the morning session*).
11. Appointment of Panel of Tellers.
12. Appointment of Committee to prepare a Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
13. Intimation of arrangements for the celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 18 May at 9.15am.

Suspension of business for fifteen minutes

14. Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee (Reports 1/1).
15. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/4).
16. Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 2/1).
17. Minutes of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly (Assembly papers p12-p14).
18. Minutes of the Ministries' Appeal Panel (Reports 3/1 and Assembly papers p15).
19. Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases.
20. Report of the Committee on Classifying Returns to Overtures (Reports 5/1).
21. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (Reports 6/1).
22. Joint Report on the Solemnisation of Marriages (Reports 7/1).
23. Report and Supplementary Report of the Council of Assembly (Reports 8/1 and Order of Proceedings p29).

ORDER OF THE DAY – 3.30pm – Council of Assembly

SESSION II – Saturday 16 May – 7 pm

1. Constitution of Assembly

(Commissioners are asked to stand for items marked *)

* Psalm 84 (CH4 52)

Tramps and Hawkers

Scottish Folk Melody, arr J L Bell

1. How love-ly is thy dwel-ling place, O Lord of hosts to me!

2. My thir - sty soul longs ve - hement-ly, yea plea - sant, Lord, they be!
my ve - ry heart and flesh cry out, O li - ving God, for thee.

Verse 1/2 is sung solo before all sing from the beginning

1. How lovely is thy dwelling-place,
O Lord of hosts, to me!
The tabernacles of thy grace,
how pleasant, Lord, they be!
2. My thirsty soul longs vehemently,
yea faints, thy courts to see:
my very heart and flesh cry out,
O living God, for thee.
3. Behold, the sparrow findeth out
an house wherein to rest;
the swallow also for herself
hath found her place to nest;
4. even thine own altars, where she safe
her young ones forth may bring,
O thou almighty Lord of hosts,
who art my God and King.
5. Blest are they in thy house who dwell,
they ever give thee praise.
And blest are they whose strength thou art,
in whose heart are thy ways.
6. *To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is,
and shall be evermore.*

Words: Scottish Psalter, 1929 (alt.)
Music: © WGRG, Iona Community

Reading

1 Peter 2: 1-10

Reader: Mr Massimo Long, Tavola Valdese

Music from Na Clarsairean

Reflection

God's Building Plan

* Prayer

* Psalm 90 (CH4 54)

Athchuinge John MacDonald (1879-1953)

4. Teach us to va - lue life's brief span, and let our minds be tru - ly wise.
 5. At each day's dawn - ing make us glad; fill us with your love all our days;

(4) 'How long, O Lord, till you re - turn?' In mer - cy hear your ser - vants' cries.
 (5) and we will sing a - loud for joy and of - fer you our life - long praise.

Verses 1-3 sung by solo voice (Soloist: Rev Marion Paton, Dundee: St David's High Kirk)

Verses 4 -5 sung by Assembly

Soloist:

1. Lord you have always been our home through every generation known; before the hills or earth were made you are the eternal God alone.
2. From dust we came, to dust return, for in your clear eternal sight a thousand years pass as a day or as a few hours in the night.
3. Our lives like grass spring from the ground and flourish in the morning sun; then evening comes, and brightness fades and we and all our strength are done.

All:

4. **Teach us to value life's brief span, and let our minds be truly wise. 'How long, O Lord, till you return?' In mercy hear your servants' cries.**
5. **At each day's dawning, make us glad; fill us with your love all our days; and we will sing aloud for joy and offer you our lifelong praise.**

*Psalm 90, verses 1-6, 12-14
 Compilers of CH4*

Music © An Comunn Gàidhealach; used by permission

2. Address by Retiring Moderator

* Hymn (CH4 259)

God of the Poor

Beau-ty for bro-ken-ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in the suf-fer-ing, this is our
 prayer. Bread for the child - ren, jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set your king-dom in -
 crease. speak. God of the poor, friend of the __ weak,
 give us com- pas - sion, we pray, melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like _ rain. Come, change our love
 from a spark to a flame. back to verses 3 and 5

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Beauty for brokenness,
 hope for despair,
 Lord, in the suffering
 this is our prayer.
 Bread for the children,
 justice, joy, peace,
 sunrise to sunset
 your kingdom increase.</p> | <p>3. Refuge from cruel wars,
 havens from fear,
 cities for sanctuary,
 freedoms to share.
 Peace to the killing fields,
 scorched earth to green,
 Christ for the bitterness,
 his cross for the pain.</p> | <p>5. Lighten our darkness,
 breathe on this flame,
 until your justice
 burns brightly again;
 until the nations
 learn of your ways,
 seek your salvation
 and bring you their praise.</p> |
| <p>2. Shelter for fragile lives,
 cures for their ills,
 work for the craftsmen,
 trade for their skills.
 Land for the dispossessed,
 rights for the weak,
 voices to plead the cause
 of those who can't speak.</p> | <p>4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
 Oceans and streams,
 plundered and poisoned,
 our future, our dreams.
 Lord, end our madness,
 carelessness, greed;
 make us content with
 the things that we need.</p> | <p><i>God of the poor,
 friend of the weak,
 give us compassion, we pray,
 melt our cold hearts,
 let tears fall like rain.
 Come, change our love
 from a spark to a flame.</i></p> |

*God of the poor,
 friend of the weak,
 give us compassion, we pray,
 melt our cold hearts,
 let tears fall like rain.
 Come, change our love
 from a spark to a flame.*

*God of the poor,
 friend of the weak,
 give us compassion, we pray,
 melt our cold hearts,
 let tears fall like rain.
 Come, change our love
 from a spark to a flame.*

*Words and music Graham Kendrick (b.1950)
 © 1993 Make Way Music; used by permission*

3. Presentation of Delegates and Visitors

* Hymn (CH4 198)

Two Oaks Marty Haugen (b 1950)

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly live, a
 place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes & dreams &
 vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 Refrain
 All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
 and all can safely live,
 a place where saints and children tell
 how hearts learn to forgive;
 built of hopes and dreams and visions,
 rock of faith and vault of grace;
 here the love of Christ shall end divisions:</p> | <p>3. Let us build a house where love is found
 in water, wine and wheat:
 a banquet hall on holy ground,
 where peace and justice meet.
 Here the love of God, through Jesus,
 is revealed in time and space,
 as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:</p> |
|--|--|
- All are welcome, all are welcome
 all are welcome in this place.*
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
 and words are strong and true,
 where all God's children dare to seek
 to dream God's reign anew.
 Here the cross shall stand as witness
 and as symbol of God's grace;
 here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:</p> | <p>4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
 beyond the wood and stone
 to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
 and live the Word they've known.
 Here the outcast and the stranger
 bear the image of God's face;
 let us bring an end to fear and danger:</p> |
|---|---|
5. Let us build a house where all are named,
 their songs and visions heard
 and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
 as words within the Word.
 Built of tears and cries and laughter,
 prayers of faith and songs of grace,
 let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*Words and music Marty Haugen (b.1950)
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* Benediction

Sunday 17 May

- 10.00 am Assembly Service (St Giles')
 12.30 pm Gaelic Service (Greyfriars Kirk)
 1 pm – 6 pm 'Heart and Soul 2015' (Princes Street Gardens)

SESSION III – Monday 18 May – 9.15am

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Commissioners are asked to stand for items marked *)

* Call to Worship

Give thanks to the God of heaven
for God's steadfast love endures for ever. Psalm 136:26

The stone which the builders rejected
 has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing;
 it is marvellous in our eyes.** Psalm 118:22-3

* Psalm 24: 7-10 (CH4 19)

St George's, Edinburgh

1. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high; ye doors that last for aye, be lif - ted up, that
 2. Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors, doors that do last for aye, be lif - ted up that

so the King of glo - ry en - ter may. But who of glo - ry is the King? The
 so the King of glo - ry en - ter may. But who is he that is the King? the King of

migh - ty Lord is this; even that same Lord that great in might and strong in bat - tle is, _ even
 glo - ry? who is this? The Lord of hosts, and none but he, the King of glo - ry is, _ the

CODA

that same Lord that great in might and strong in bat - tle is. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord of hosts, and none but he, the King of glo - ry is.

al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men, a - men, a - men!

Andrew Mitchell Thomson (1778-1831)

1. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high;
 ye doors that last for aye,
 be lifted up, that so the King
 of glory enter may.
 But who of glory is the King?
 The mighty Lord is this;
 even that same Lord that great in might
 and strong in battle is –
 even that same Lord that great in might
 and strong in battle is.

2. Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
 doors that do last for aye,
 be lifted up, that so the King
 of glory enter may.
 But who is he that is the King?
 the King of glory? who is this?
 The Lord of hosts, and none but he,
 the King of glory is –
 The Lord of hosts, and none but he,
 the King of glory is.

Coda:

Alleluia! alleluia!
 alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
 Amen, amen, amen.

The Scottish Psalter, 1929

Prayer

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
 Lord, have mercy

Reading

1 Corinthians 3: 1-15
 Reader: Rev George Cowie, Acting Depute Clerk

Reflection

Our One Foundation

** Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.
 Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus and Benedictus (St Anne Mass, James MacMillan, CH4 651)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, O blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Lord's Prayer**Agnus Dei*

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Prayer

* Hymn (CH4 200)

Westminster Abbey Henry Purcell (1659-1695)



1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and cor-ner - stone,
cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one,
ho - ly Zi - on's help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today:
with your constant loving-kindness,
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.
3. Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
4. Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in might and One in glory
while unending ages run.

7th or 8th century
*trans. *John Mason Neale (1818-1866) (alt.)*

* *Benediction*

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report of the Business Committee.
3. Report of the World Mission Council (Reports 9/1).
4. Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee (Reports 10/1).
5. Report of the Panel on Review and Reform (Reports 11/1).

**MINUTES OF THE APPEAL HEARINGS
BEFORE THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
UNDER THE APPEALS ACT (ACT I 2014)**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION
BY THE KIRK SESSION OF ST COLUMBA GAELIC CHURCH
AGAINST A DECISION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW**

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION
BY THE KIRK SESSION OF IRVINE: MURE CHURCH
AGAINST A DECISION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE AND KILMARNOCK**

HELD AT 121 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH ON FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2015 AT 10AM

Sederunt:

Miss Carole Hope, Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly
The Rev W Peter Graham, Vice-Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly

Ms Laura Dunlop QC, Procurator

Ms Mary Macleod, Depute Solicitor

The Rev Dr George J Whyte, Acting Principal Clerk

Ms Christine Paterson, Legal and Learning Resources Officer

And seventeen members of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly as per the Sederunt Book

The sitting of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly (“the Committee”) was opened with prayer.

GLASGOW: ST COLUMBA’S

Parties were called:

For the Appellants:

Mr Eoghainn MacLean, Advocate

Mr Duncan Mitchell, Session Clerk

For the Presbytery of Glasgow:

The Very Rev Bill Hewitt, Presbytery Clerk

The Rev Stuart Smith, former Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow

Mr Tony Ireland, former Convener of the Buildings Committee of the Presbytery of Glasgow

In terms of Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure set out in Schedule 2 to the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) (“the Act”):

- each Party made comment supplementary to their Written Argument;
- each Party was given the opportunity to make response to the Written Argument lodged by the other Party; and
- each Party answered points raised by members of the Committee.

Parties were removed.

After discussion the Committee upheld the Appeal to the extent that:

- (1) The Committee instructs the Presbytery to suspend the section of the Presbytery Plan insofar as it relates to the congregation of St Columba Gaelic;
- (2) The Committee instructs the Presbytery and the Kirk Session of St Columba Gaelic to negotiate a new section of Presbytery Plan by 30 June 2016. Such section of the Plan is to be based on a mission plan for the congregation which will address the future of buildings. If such a mission plan does include the continued use of the current church buildings, fully costed and fully funded proposals for the

repair and ongoing maintenance of the buildings shall also be set out;

- (3) If such a section of the Plan using the current church buildings cannot be funded, the Committee instructs the Presbytery to bring forward by 31 December 2016 a section of the Plan with appropriate proposals for readjustment of the charge.

Parties were recalled.

This decision of the Committee was read over by the Convener. The Convener stated that in arriving at its decision, the Committee agreed that there was a denial of legitimate expectation but the Committee did not agree that the Presbytery proceeded on the basis of an incorrect material fact. The Convener also confirmed that the decision was taken unanimously by the Committee.

The sitting of the Committee was suspended at 1.40pm.

The Committee reconvened at 2.30pm.

By prior agreement reached at the Appeal Management Hearing, the Procurator did not attend.

IRVINE: MURE

Parties were called:

For the Appellants:

Mr James Anderson, Session Clerk
Mr Derrick Allison
Mr Fraser Cooper

For the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock:

Mr Steuart Dey, Presbytery Clerk
Rev Colin Strong, Appraisal Convener

Mr Dey sought permission to submit a late paper and this was agreed to by the Appellants and the Committee.

In terms of Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure set out in Schedule 2 to the Act:

- each Party made comment supplementary to their Written Argument;
- each Party was given the opportunity to make response to the Written Argument lodged by the other Party; and
- each Party answered points raised by members of the Committee.

Parties were removed.

The Committee agreed to uphold the appeal on the ground that there had been a material irregularity of process inasmuch as the Presbytery has failed to demonstrate that it followed its own criteria in reaching a decision regarding the future of Irvine: Mure.

The Committee agreed to instruct the Presbytery to consider afresh the Plan for the Irvine area ensuring that all parties are fully consulted in the process and that the criteria both of the General Assembly and of the Presbytery are demonstrably followed.

Parties were recalled.

This decision of the Committee was read over by the Convener. The Convener confirmed that the decision was taken unanimously by the Committee. The Convener stated that in arriving at its decision the Committee was making no comment on the merits or otherwise of the proposed linkage.

The Hearing was closed with the Benediction at 4.15pm.

**MINUTES OF THE APPEAL HEARING
BEFORE THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
UNDER THE APPEALS ACT (ACT I 2014)**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL BY THE KIRK SESSION OF SHETTLESTON OLD CHURCH
AGAINST A DECISION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW**

**HELD AT PALMERSTON PLACE CHURCH, PALMERSTON PLACE, EDINBURGH ON
THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2015 AT 9.50AM**

Sederunt:

Miss Carole Hope, Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly
The Rev W Peter Graham, Vice-Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly

Mrs Janette Wilson, Solicitor to the Church
The Rev Dr George J Whyte, Acting Principal Clerk

Ms Christine Paterson, Legal and Learning Resources Officer

And nineteen members of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly as per the Sederunt Book

The Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly (“the Committee”) was opened with prayer.

Parties were called:

For the Appellants:

Ms Susan Waller, Elder

Miss Sheilah Bond, Session Clerk

The Rev Dr Alistair May, Interim Moderator

Ms Marjorie MacDonald, Elder

For the Presbytery of Glasgow:

The Rev Stuart Smith, former Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow

Mr Tony Ireland, former Convener of the Buildings Committee of the Presbytery of Glasgow

Ms Fiona Crawford, Strategy Officer

In terms of Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure set out in Schedule 2 to the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) (“the Act”):

- each Party made comment supplementary to their Written Argument;
- each Party was given the opportunity to make response to the Written Argument lodged by the other Party; and
- each Party answered points raised by members of the Committee.

Parties were removed.

After discussion the Committee decided to dismiss the Appeal and to confirm the building categorisation 3 in the Presbytery Plan.

Parties were recalled.

This decision of the Committee was read over by the Convener. The Convener stated that, in arriving at its decision, the Committee found that there had been no error in Church Law. The Convener confirmed that the decision of the Committee was made by a majority of 15-3. The Convener stated that the Committee commended the congregation for their work and witness and encouraged the Presbytery to support the future united congregation in their continuing care of church and community organisations.

The Hearing was closed with the Benediction at 11.40am.

MINISTRIES APPEAL PANEL – MAY 2015

At Edinburgh, and within the Church Offices, 121 George Street, the sixth day of May 2015 the Ministries Appeal Panel met and was duly constituted with prayer.

Sederunt: Rev Bruce McNicol (Convener), Miss Carole Hope (Vice-Convener), Rev Jennifer Macrae, Very Rev David Arnott and Mr Robin Stimpson.

In attendance: The Acting Principal Clerk.

The Ministries Appeal Panel took up consideration of the Appeal of Mr Junsoo Park in terms of Act IX, 2002 section 12 against the decision of the Assessment Conference of the Ministries Council not to admit him as a Minister of the Church of Scotland.

Mr Park appeared for himself.

There appeared for the Ministries Council the Rev Dr Marjory McLean (Vice-Convener) and the Rev Dr Martin Scott (Council Secretary).

Parties were heard.

Questions were asked

Parties were removed.

Following deliberation the Ministries Appeal Panel resolved unanimously to dismiss the Appeal and uphold the decision of the Assessment Conference not to admit him as a Minister of the Church of Scotland. Parties were recalled and judgement intimated.

The Panel took up consideration of the Appeal of Ms Eleanor Mair against the decision of the Ministries Council and the Presbytery of Dundee to end her candidature.

Mr Arnott declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

The Panel noted that the Ministries Council and Ms Mair had agreed a Joint Motion for consideration by the Panel.

As set out in the Joint Motion the Panel agreed to:-

1. Recall the decision of the Ministries Council Hearing of 22 January 2015.
2. Substitute for that decision the following judgement: "The candidature of Ms Eleanor Mair is terminated, with effect from 22 January 2015, following a complaint made in terms of s.23 of the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry Act (as amended) 2004".
3. Instruct the Ministries Council and the Presbytery of Dundee to minute that the finding of Gross Misconduct has been recalled, and that any future reference to the termination of Ms Mair's candidature, by either body, should be worded only in terms of section 2 above.
4. Permit Ms Mair to withdraw all other grounds of her Appeal.
5. Instruct the Clerk to send an extract minute to the Ministries Council and the Presbytery of Dundee.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

BRUCE McNICOL, *Convener*
GEORGE J WHYTE, *Clerk*

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
OF THE
MINISTRIES COUNCIL
MAY 2015

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Pass an Act amending Act IX 2002 on Admission and Re-Admission of Ministers (as amended) as set out in the Appendix.

REPORT

1. It is the practice of the Church to ensure that there are clear parameters for the hearing of appeals in relation to cases. This applies to the work of the Ministries Council in relation particularly to the selection and training of candidates for the various ministries of the Church. While section 6(6) of Act X 2004 on the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry lists the grounds for appeal, this is not the case in some other key instruments. A recent review of Act IX 2002 on the Admission and Re-Admission of Ministers revealed that no limitation of grounds of appeal is present in that Act as it stands.
2. In the light of this, the Ministries Council presents a simple amendment to Act IX 2002 which limits the grounds of appeal to those already agreed by the General Assembly as appropriate to the parallel Act X 2004. The Council believes that this will offer both clarity in dealing with appeals and consistency across the selection procedures which the Council conducts on behalf of the Church.

In the name of the Council

Neil Dougall, *Convener*
Colin Brough, *Vice-Convener*
Neil Glover, *Vice-Convener*
Marjory MacLean, *Vice-Convener*
Derek Pope, *Vice-Convener*
Martin Scott, *Secretary*

APPENDIX

**ACT AMENDING THE ADMISSION AND
RE-ADMISSION OF MINISTERS ACT (Act
IX 2002)**
Edinburgh, XX May 2015, Session XX

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Admission and Re-Admission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. *In section 12 add a new sentence at the end as follows:*

An appeal can only be brought on one or more of the following grounds: (a) that in the course of the Admissions or Readmissions procedure there were irregularities in the process, (b) that the final decision was influenced by incorrect material fact, or (c) that the Committee acted contrary to the principles of natural justice.

AMENDMENTS TO VOLUME OF REPORTS

On page 1/2 of the Volume of Reports, within the **Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee**, in section 3 'Presbytery Representation', the final phrase should read "...and the total number of Commissions is made up as follows: 356 Ministers, 356 Elders and 29 Deacons".

The following statistics are in addition to those printed in Appendix C of the **Report of the Legal Questions Committee** (p6/10 of the Volume of Reports).

All Presbyteries - Congregational Statistical Return On Roll as at 31st December 2014

PRESBYTERIES	Number of Congregations	Children 17 and under	People 18+ not on Roll	Children receiving Communion
Aberdeen	36	1,820	257	142
Abernethy	10	-	-	-
Angus	34	2,154	161	85
Annandale and Eskdale	20	448	100	22
Ardrossan	26	1,010	129	24
Argyll	60	575	207	48
Ayr	49	2,281	226	38
Buchan	36	959	80	7
Caithness	13	37	41	4
Dumbarton	34	1,475	405	70
Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	33	635	154	16
Dundee	35	1,513	257	35
Dunfermline	24	961	369	81
Dunkeld and Meikle	21	556	126	9
Duns	21	198	127	4
Edinburgh	82	4,416	1,383	481
England	9	119	62	17
Falkirk	36	2,410	220	102
Glasgow	135	10,200	1,626	382
Gordon	29	987	348	80
Greenock and Paisley	50	4,498	368	222
Hamilton	78	6,882	751	174
Inverness	25	824	940	39
Irvine and Kilmarnock	26	1,704	404	115
Jedburgh	16	477	61	43
Kincardine and Deeside	20	872	120	31
Kirkcaldy	25	843	136	121

Lanark	22	1,423	217	114
Lewis	11	332	967	1
Lochaber	15	208	130	-
Lochcarron-Skye	9	171	627	10
Lothian	47	1,471	559	164
Melrose and Peebles	24	421	239	27
Moray	31	683	301	100
Orkney	20	-	-	-
Perth	35	1,193	242	93
Ross	21	364	1,632	1
Shetland	14	130	94	-
St Andrews	35	372	170	10
Stirling	46	1,810	523	87
Sutherland	14	160	375	9
Uist	6	24	141	-
West Lothian	26	2,059	300	110
Wigtown and Stranraer	20	432	67	3
Totals	1,379	60,107	15,642	3,121

On page 10/9 of the Volume of Reports, within the **Report of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations**, in section 6.6, delete “submitted”.

The following is a corrected Proposed Deliverance of the **Church of Scotland Guild**. The version in print in the volume of Reports (18/1) omitted section 1 shown here.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

MAY 2015

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Wish the Guild well as it enters a new three year strategy entitled “Be Bold, Be Strong!” (Section 1.1)
3. Congratulate the Guild on the success of the Project Partnership Scheme over the 2012-15 period. (Section 5 and Appendix IV)
4. Offer prayerful support to the Guild and its new Partnership Projects in the three years 2015-18. (Section 5.4)
5. Welcome the on-going work of the Guild in many areas of the Church’s work. (Section 7)

AFTER ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND DELEGATES

COMMISSIONERS

Presbytery of Edinburgh

Delete Rev John C C Urquhart (25)

Substitute Rev Marjory McPherson,
Ministries Council

Delete Miss Maureen Samuel (52)

Substitute Mr Hugh Crawford, Edinburgh:
Morningside

Presbytery Melrose and Peebles

Delete Rev Bruce Lawrie (99)

Substitute Rev Dr Leon Keller, Galashiels:
Old and St Paul's I/w Galashiels: St John's

Presbytery of Ayr

Add Mr Frank Potter, Kirkmichael (170)

Add Mr James A S Kirk, Straiton (171)

Presbytery of Ardrossan

Delete Mr Alan K Saunderson (201)

Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley

Delete Mr Duncan Ross (240)

Presbytery of Glasgow

Delete Mrs Margaret McLellan DCS (322)

Delete Rev Ronald A S Craig (246)

Substitute Rev Iain Ramsden, (Killearnan I/w
Knockbain)

Presbytery of Falkirk

Add Mr Eric Smith, Brightons (422)

Presbytery of Dunfermline

Delete Rev Dr Ian G Thom (452)

Substitute Rev Dr Gordon F C Jenkins,
(Dunfermline: North)

Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Delete Mrs Mary Tulloch (472)

Substitute Mr Stuart Lynch, Kirkcaldy:
Pathhead

Delete Mrs Muriel Treasurer (571)

Substitute Ms Stella Anderson, Cults

Presbytery of Aberdeen

Delete Rev Hugh M Wallace (559)

Substitute Rev Scott Rennie, Aberdeen:
Queen's Cross

Presbytery of Buchan

Delete Rev Andrew Fothergill (596)

Presbytery of Moray

Delete Mr Alexander Rutherford (619)

Presbytery of Ross

Add Rev Dr Fanus Erasmus, Contin I/w
Fodderty and Strathpeffer (651)

Delete Mr James M McKay (653)

Presbytery of England

Delete Rev Dr Cameron H Langlands (700)

Substitute Rev Alastair Cherry, (Glasgow:
Penilee St Andrew)

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Presbytery of St Andrews

Delete Miss Hilary Byland (829)

Presbytery of Orkney

Delete Mr Stephen Flett (838)

DELEGATES

United Reformed Church

Delete Rev Dr Carla Grosch-Miller (730)

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Delete Rev Nathan Day Wilson (752)

Church of Norway

Add Ms Beate Fagerli (752)

Middle East Council of Churches

Department of Services to Palestinian
Refugees

Delete Dr Bernard Sabella (766)

Wi'am - Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre

Delete Mr Zoughbi Zoughbi (767)

Presbyterian Church of Nigeria

Add Rev Ini Ukpuho (854)

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

General Trustees

792. Rev Dr James A P Jack

Pension Trustees

876. Mr W John McCafferty – 16 May

877. Mr Steven D Kaney – 18-22 May

AMENDMENTS TO ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- P17 677. Mr John MacAulay, **Manish-Scarista**
691. Mr **Alasdair** H McVicar, Westray
- P20 ***Diocese of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East***
776. **Dr** Emil Shehadeh
- P26 Business Committee:
Mrs Marjory Williamson **421**

ADDITIONAL BOX NUMBERS

855. Ms Carol Finlay
856. Rev Elizabeth A Crumlish
857. Ms Suzi Farrant
858. Rev Michael J Mair
859. Rev Bruce H Sinclair
860. Mr Ian Todd
861. Rev Victoria Linford, Presbytery Clerk, Melrose and Peebles
862. Rev Dr Dane Sherrard, Presbytery Clerk, Duns
863. Dr Christopher T Brett, Presbytery Clerk, Argyll
864. Rev Robert S T Allan, Presbytery Clerk, Falkirk

865. Rev Iain M Greenshields, Presbytery Clerk, Dunfermline
866. Rev Rosemary Frew, Presbytery Clerk, Kirkcaldy
867. Mr Douglas G Hamill, Depute Clerk, Kirkcaldy
868. Rev James L Wilson, Presbytery Clerk, Dundee
869. Rev Dougal Edwards, Moderator Designate of the Presbytery of Angus
870. Rev Michael S Goss, Presbytery Clerk, Angus
871. Rev Dr Ian A McLean, Presbytery of Angus
872. Rev Hugh Conkey, Presbytery Clerk, Kincardine and Deeside
873. Mr Ronald W Gunstone, Presbytery Clerk, Ross
874. Rev John McGregor, Depute Clerk, Sutherland
875. Rev James Sharp, Presbytery Clerk, Europe

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

GREETINGS FROM PARTNER CHURCHES NOT ATTENDING

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
We will be keeping you in our thoughts and prayers as you gather.

*Middle East Council of Churches –
Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees*

Our prayers and good thoughts are with you, for the success of the General Assembly.

INTIMATION OF MEETING

The Committee to Nominate the Moderator will be appointed during the General Assembly and will hold its first meeting on Friday 22 May in the Senate Room at lunchtime. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

ASSEMBLY FUTURE – CONSULTATION

The Assembly Arrangements Committee, as part of its remit to consider the future size, shape and frequency of the General Assembly, invites Commissioners to respond to its consultation at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GAfunction> by the end of June.

If you have no access to a computer, please contact the Assembly office for a hard copy.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Convener has given notice that on the **Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 6 of the Deliverance:

After 'elders' add 'and others'.

The Convener has given notice that on the **Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee** he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 7 and renumber:

Appoint the Rev John Cowie to be the Church of Scotland representative on The Esdaile Trust and the Rev Moira McDonald to be the Church of Scotland representative on The Society for the Benefit of the Sons and Daughters of the Clergy of the Church of Scotland.

The Rev Alexander Gunn (500) has given notice that on the **Report of the Legal Questions Committee** he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 9:

Urge Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to ensure that whenever possible a notice of removal is sent when a Certificate of Transference is issued.

The Convener has given notice that on the **Report of the Business Committee** he will move the following:

Agree that, in terms of Standing Order 83*, the Report and draft Deliverance of the Church and Society Council scheduled for Tuesday 19th May (Session IV) shall be taken in a time-bound process of debate and decision according to the following timetable:

		<u>Deliverance Section</u>	
9.45am	Convener's speech		(20 minutes)
10.05am	General questions	Section 1	(10 minutes)
10.15am	Social Justice	Sections 2-6	(30 minutes)
10.45am	Climate Justice	Sections 7-11	(20 minutes)
11.05am	Criminal Justice	Section 12	(10 minutes)
11.15am	International Justice	Sections 13-14	(20 minutes)
11.35am	Education	Sections 15-17	(15 minutes)
11.50am	Health	Sections 18-22	(20 minutes)
12.10pm	Politics and Government	Section 23	(10 minutes)
12.20pm	Developments in the Council's Work	Sections 24-25	(10 minutes)
12.30pm	Lunch		
2.00pm	Order of the Day – Stevenson Prize		(10 minutes)

2.10pm	Sections of Deliverance not yet dealt with	(15 minutes)
2.25pm	Sections not decided to be voted on without discussion	(5 minutes)
2.30pm	Church and Society Council business will conclude	

(*Note this is provisional and depends on the approval on Saturday 16th May of the proposed new Standing Order 83 set out in the Report of the Legal Questions Committee section 4.3)

The Rev Dr John Ferguson (549) has given notice that on the **Report of the Panel on Review and Reform** he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 7 and renumber:

Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider using consensus decision making and invite Presbyteries to review their Standing Orders to allow consensus decision making to take place as and when appropriate.

The Rev David McLachlan (269) has given notice that on the **Report of the Church and Society Council** he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 15 and renumber:

Note the resolution of the European Parliament of 17 December 2014 and the debates in the House of Commons on 13 October 2014, the House of Lords on 29 January 2015 and the Scottish Parliament on 21 April 2015, and urge the UK Government and European Union to recognise without delay the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel, as a contribution to securing lasting peace and justice for all.

The Rev Colin Sinclair (20) has given notice that on the **Report of the Ministries Council** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 17 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end 'in consultation with the Church Art and Architecture Committee'.

The Convener has given notice that on the **Report of the Nomination Committee** he will ask the Principal Clerk to move the following AMENDMENT of Section 5 of the Deliverance:

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

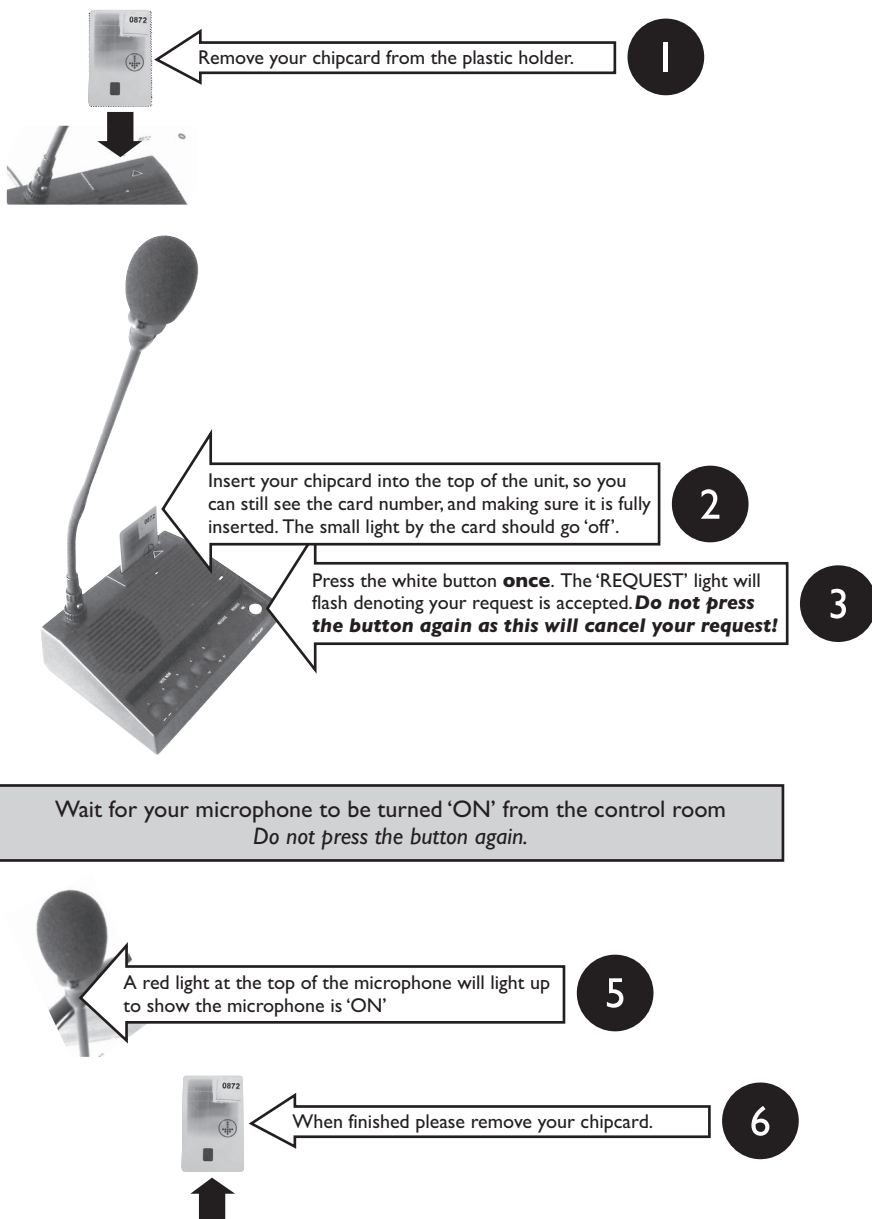
Elder Appointed Gavin Brydone (Edinburgh: Canongate)

Delete:

Mission and Discipleship Council

Member Appointed Cara Chalmers (1 yr) (Orwell and Portmoak)

How do I use the microphone?



PUBLIC NOTICES

Assembly Choir

The Moderator has asked that an Assembly Choir be available to help with the leading of worship on Tuesday 19 May (following the close of business when there will be a presentation by Dr Jane Dawson) and on Friday 22 May for opening worship. Rehearsals will be held at 12.30pm in the Assembly Hall on Monday 18 May and at 8.45am on Friday 22 May. Commissioners who would like to participate are invited to attend those rehearsals. A core group of staff from the Church Offices has already rehearsed the music and will assist. If you would like to sing and want to have the music in advance of the rehearsal, please contact Rev Dr Martin Scott (Secretary, Ministries Council) by leaving a note in box 19. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

