



The Church of Scotland

# General Assembly 2025

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

SATURDAY 17 – THURSDAY 22 MAY

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**Free WiFi is available throughout the Assembly Hall**  
**Network: General Assembly**  
**Password: assembly2019**

## NOTES

1. The General Assembly stand:-
  - (a) when The Lord High Commissioner or the Moderator enters the Hall before the constitution of any Session;
  - (b) when His Majesty's Letter to the General Assembly is read;
  - (c) when The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly, or the Moderator addresses The Lord High Commissioner; and
  - (d) when a distinguished visitor is brought into the Hall to address the General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly do not stand when The Lord High Commissioner retires from the Hall.

### **IN PERSON COMMISSIONERS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES**

In person commissioners may claim up to £100 per night for accommodation and up to £20 per day for out-of-pocket expenses. When commissioners are staying with family or friends, a one-off allowance of up to £80 may be claimed towards a token gift for hosts.

Expense Claim Forms will be received in the Assembly Office  
or can be emailed to: [commissionerexpenses@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:commissionerexpenses@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
within 21 days of the close of the General Assembly.

**Voting Handsets must be returned to the Assembly Office or handed  
in with Expense Claim Forms as above in order for claims to be processed.**

**Expenses may only be claimed by Commissioners who have recorded their  
attendance at a minimum of 13 out of 17 sessions of the Assembly.**

**Expenses will not be paid to those attending online.**

## **TRAINING FOR ONLINE ATTENDANCE**

If you are attending the Assembly online please ensure you sign up for the one of the training events, on which information will be emailed to you separately.

## **CONTACT US**

In the first instance please email: [pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk) with any queries.

## **EVENTS AND RESOURCES**

An exhibition area will be available in the Martin Hall throughout the Assembly, with Church Departments and Christian organisations offering a variety of informative and inspirational resources. Conveners of a number of reporting bodies will also be available in this area, at pre-advertised times, to answer Commissioners' questions in advance of delivering their Report.

**I. Assembly Office-Bearers and Procedure Committee**

<b>ASSEMBLY OFFICE-BEARERS</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>No.</b>
Moderator	Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson	500
Moderator-Designate	Rev Rosie Frew	497
Chaplains	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell	496
	Rev Norman A Smith	502
Principal Clerk	Rev Fiona Smith	501
Depute Clerk	Ms Christine Paterson	499
Procurator	Mr Jonathan Brodie KC	495
Law Agent	Miss Mary Macleod	498
Precentor	Rev Colin Renwick	492
Chief Steward	Mr Alexander F Gemmill	
Depute Steward	Mr Simon Bolam	
Assembly Officer	Mr William Mearns	
Depute Assembly Officer	Mrs Karen McKay	

<b>PROCEDURE COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>No.</b>
Convener	Rev Michael Mair	494
Vice-Convener	Rev Sheila Kirk	493

**II. Index of Presbyteries**

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### III. Roll of Commissioners

#### 1. Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

##### Minister

1. Rev Reuben Addis, Edinburgh: Gorgie and Palmerston Place
2. Rev James D Aitken, Edinburgh: Corstorphine St Ninian's
3. Rev Dean L Batchelor, Edinburgh: Gorgie and Palmerston Place
4. Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, Edinburgh: Morningside
5. Rev Daniel Carmichael, Depute Presbytery Clerk \*
6. Rev Julia A Cato, Edinburgh: Northwest Kirk, Cramond and Pennywell
7. Rev Alan Childs, Edinburgh: Corstorphine Craigsbank
8. Rev David Clarkson, Edinburgh: Barclay Viewforth
9. Rev Fergus M Cook, Edinburgh: Blackhall St Columba's
10. Rev Lourens De Jager, Edinburgh: Meadowbank and Willowbrae
11. Rev Jane Howitt, Chaplain, Heriot Watt University \*
12. Rev Fiona Kennedy, Edinburgh: Polwarth
13. Rev Gordon Kennedy, Edinburgh: Craiglockhart
14. Rev Laurene M Lafontaine, Edinburgh: Broughton St Mary's
15. Rev Ian A MacDonald, Edinburgh: Holy Trinity
16. Rev Robert A Mackenzie, Edinburgh: Leith and Restalrig
17. Rev Dr Mary A MacLeod Rivett, Edinburgh: Granton
18. Rev Stephen Manners, (Kelso Country Churches)
19. Rev Alex T McAspurren, Edinburgh: Reid Memorial
20. Rev Peter Nelson, Edinburgh: St John's Colinton Mains
21. Rev Thomas S Riddell, Auxiliary Minister, Linlithgow and Avon Valley
22. Rev George Vidits, Edinburgh: St Stephen's Comely Bank \*
23. Rev Julia C Wiley, Armadale

##### Elder

24. Miss Fiona E Beveridge, Edinburgh: Meadowbank and Willowbrae
25. Mrs Rachel Cadell, Edinburgh: Greenbank
26. Mrs Helen Cox, Edinburgh: The New Town
27. Mrs Audrey Downie, Edinburgh: Polwarth
28. Mr John Duncan, Edinburgh: Gorgie and Palmerston Place
29. Mr George Ferguson, Abercorn, Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh
30. Mrs Barbara R Finlayson, Edinburgh: The New Town\*
31. Mr Alan Fisher, Edinburgh: Northwest Kirk, Cramond and Pennywell\*
32. Mrs Helen Hannan, Edinburgh: Inverleith St Serf's
33. Dr Hazel Hastie, Presbytery Clerk

34. Miss Carole Hope, Edinburgh: High (St Giles')
35. Mrs Doreen Jones, Edinburgh: Duddingston
36. Miss Lyndsay Kennedy, Edinburgh: Greenbank
37. Miss Elizabeth A Mackie, Edinburgh: St John's Colinton Mains
38. Mr William McKay, Edinburgh: Kirkliston
39. Mrs Margaret Nimmo, Edinburgh: Meadowbank and Willowbrae
40. Mr Graham Rogers, Edinburgh: Broughton St Mary's
41. Dr John Sharp, Edinburgh: Pentlands
42. Mr Paul Spencer, Edinburgh: Corstorphine Craigsbank
43. Mr Mike Stears, Strathbrock
44. Mrs Sheila Ward, Edinburgh: Slateford Longstone
45. Mr David Wilkie, Broxburn
46. Mr Duncan Wilson, Edinburgh: Fairmilehead

##### Deacon

47. Mrs Margaret Gordon DCS, Edinburgh: Currie
48. Mr Gordon Pennykid DCS, Edinburgh: South East Edinburgh

#### 3. Presbytery of Lothian and Borders

##### Minister

49. Rev Alistair W Cook, Hawick: South Churches
50. Rev Dr David J Graham, North Berwick: Abbey l/w Dirleton
51. Rev Andrew N Haddow, Coldingham and St Abbs l/w Eyemouth
52. Rev Douglas A Hamilton, Traprain
53. Rev Dr Robin E Hill, Gladsmuir l/w Longniddry
54. Rev Dr Adam J J Hood, Berwick upon Tweed: St Andrew's Wallace Green and Lowick
55. Rev Malcolm S Jefferson, Lyne and Manor l/w Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie\*
56. Rev Colin D Johnston, Cheviot Churches
57. Rev Malcolm M Lyon, Musselburgh: St Michael's Inveresk
58. Rev Malcolm M Macdougall, (Broughton l/w Skirling l/w Stobo and Drumelzier l/w Tweeds)
59. Rev Keith L Mack, Dalkeith St John's and Newton
60. Rev Douglas G McNab, New Machar
61. Rev Dr Alexander L Milton, Musselburgh St Andrew's High
62. Rev Sheila W Moir, Dryburgh District Churches
63. Very Rev Colin Sinclair, (Edinburgh: Palmerston Place)
64. Rev Lorna M Souter, Cockpen and Carrington l/w Lasswade and Rosewell
65. Rev Elisabeth Spence, (Pioneer Minister, Hopefield Connections)

##### Elder

66. Ms Audrey Arthur, Musselburgh: Northesk
67. Ms Stephanie Bell, Cavers and Kirkton

68. Mr Alex M G Campbell, Lammermuir Parish
69. Dr Christine Donnelly, Eddleston
70. Mr Scott Elliot, Hawick: Burnfoot
71. Mrs Fan Heafield, Selkirk and Ashkirk
72. Mr David Henderson Howatt, Kirkud and Newlands
73. Mrs Margaret Hurst, Loanhead and Bilston
74. Mr Alasdair Hutton, Kelso North and Country Churches
75. Mrs Morag McKeand, Jedburgh and Oxnam
76. Mr Stewart Meikle, Haddington: St Mary's
77. Mrs Elizabeth Parker, Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn
78. Mr John Pollitt, Bowden and Melrose\*
79. Mrs Agnes Renton, Gorebridge Parish Church
80. Mr Michael Rowe, Coldstream and District Parishes
81. Mrs Jacqueline Waugh, Haddington West

**Deacon**

82. Mrs Marilyn Steele DCS, (Edinburgh: Granton)

**7. Presbytery of the South West**

**Minister**

83. Rev Hilary Beresford, Kilwinning: Mansefield Trinity
84. Rev Eric Boyle, Kirkcowan l/w Wigtown
85. Rev Hugh T Brown, Depute Clerk\*
86. Rev David S Cameron, Kilmarnock: New Laigh Kirk
87. Rev Donald Campbell, Dumfries: St George's
88. Rev Stephen F Clipston, Auchinleck l/w Catrine
89. Rev Theodore Corney, Ballantrae and St Colmon
90. Rev Morag Crossan, Eskdale and Liddesdale l/w Canonbie United
91. Rev David Donaldson, Assistant Minister, Hurlford
92. Rev Dr Frances M Henderson, Lockerbie Dryfesdale, Hutton, Corrie and Applegarth
93. Rev Dr David Hume, Alloway and Fisherton
94. Rev Andrew Muir, Stranraer
95. Rev Stephen Ogston, Luce Valley and Inch l/w Portpartrick l/w Stoneykirk
96. Rev Gary J Peacock, Irongray, Lochrutton and Terregles l/w Dumfries: St Michael's and South\*
97. Rev Mandy R Ralph, Annbank l/w Tarbolton
98. Rev Dr Barbara Suchanek Seitz, Ayr: St James'
99. Rev John A Urquhart, Kilmaurs: St Maur's Glencairn
100. Rev Neil Urquhart, Irvine: United
101. Rev Dr Allan Vint, Mauchline l/w Sorn
102. Rev Knowledge Zinduru, Isle of Arran

**Elder**

103. Mrs Mary Brown, Annbank
104. Mr Steve Flower, Leswalt
105. Mr Kenneth Gibson, Stevenston
106. Mrs Janice Grant, Kilmarnock: New Laigh Kirk
107. Mr Gordon Gray, Prestwick: Kingcase
108. Mrs Jean C Q Hunter, Isle of Arran

109. Mr Peter Kennerley, Stair
110. Mrs Gillian Lynn, Stoneykirk\*
111. Mr Gordon MacDonald, Prestwick: Kingcase\*
112. Dr Hal Maxwell, Ballantrae
113. Mrs Maureen G McNae, Tarbolton
114. Mr Colin Mitchell, Dunscore
115. Mrs Pamela M Mitchell, Dunscore
116. Mr Andrew A Morton, Mauchline
117. Mrs Christine Murray, Presbytery Clerk
118. Mr Douglas Simpson, Thornhill
119. Mrs Katrina Templeton, Ayrshire Mission to the Deaf
120. Mr Ivor D Waddell, Kirkcudbright
121. Mr Russell A Wyllie, Mauchline
- 122.

**Deacon**

123. Mrs Barbara Urquhart DCS, School Chaplain\*

**14. Presbytery of Clyde**

**Minister**

124. Rev Sandra Black, Interim Minister, Paisley: West
125. Rev Lynsey Brennan, Baldernock l/w Milngavie: St Pauls
126. Rev Stuart Davidson, Pioneer Minister, Paisley North End
127. Rev Robbie Hamilton, Presbytery Clerk\*
128. Rev Ann Knox, Inchinnan
129. Rev Dr Thorsten Koenig, Assistant Minister, Kilmacolm Parish Church
130. Rev Gregor McIntyre, Clydebank: Faifley and Duntocher
131. Rev Tim Mineard, Barrhead: St Andrew's
132. Rev Francis E Murphy, Greenock: East End
133. Rev David Nicolson, Erskine
134. Rev Teri Peterson, Gourrock: St John's
135. Rev Hazel Shaw, Paisley: St George's
136. Rev Stuart Steell, Renfrew: Trinity

**Elder**

137. Mr Paul Birch, Bridge Of Weir: Freeland
138. Mr Alistair Burrow, Bearsden: New Kilpatrick
139. Mrs Helen Eckford, Port Glasgow: New
140. Dr Katie Hart, Bearsden: Baljaffray
141. Mr Robert M Kinloch, Lomond\*
142. Mr John Kitson, Paisley: Abbey\*
143. Mr James McGrouther, Clydebank: Faifley and Duntocher
144. Mrs Rhona Raeburn, Milngavie: St Paul's
145. Mrs Elizabeth Stewart, Dalmuir: Barclay
146. Mr Douglas Thomson, Bonhill
147. Mrs Moira Thomson, Bonhill
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## 16. Presbytery of Glasgow

### Minister

150. Rev Jade Ableitner, Eaglesham
151. Rev Norman Afrin, Glasgow: Sandyhills
152. Rev Dr S Grant Barclay, Presbytery Clerk\*
153. Rev Richard Baxter, Glasgow: Kelvin West
154. Rev David R Black, Glasgow: Pollokshields
155. Rev Dr Richard G Buckley, Glasgow: Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond
156. Rev Stuart J Crawford, Glasgow: King's Park
157. Rev Peter L V Davidge, Glasgow: Calton Old l/w Gorbals
158. Rev Laura Digan, Glasgow: Whiteinch\*
159. Rev Adam J Dillon, Glasgow: Sherbrooke Mossparc
160. Rev Alastair S Duncan, Glasgow: St George's Tron
161. Rev Tara P Granados, Glasgow: Ibrox
162. Rev Derek Hughes, Glasgow: Easterhouse
163. Rev Joseph A Kavanagh, (Glasgow: Mearns)
164. Rev Stuart Love, Glasgow: Clincarthill
165. Rev John B MacGregor, Cadder
166. Rev Dr Kleber Machado, Glasgow: St Andrew's West
167. Rev George C Mackay, Glasgow: Broomhill Hyndland
168. Rev Mark Malcolm, Chryston
169. Rev Mark McKeown, Moodiesburn
170. Rev Christopher Rowe, Glasgow: Colston Milton
171. Rev Aquila R Singh, Glasgow: Fernhill and Cathkin
172. Rev David G Slater, Gartcosh
173. Rev Prof Roger D Sturrock, Glasgow: Kelvin West
174. Rev Ben Thorp, Glasgow: Sandyford Henderson Memorial\*
175. Rev Dr Philip Wright, Kirkintilloch; St Columba's Hillhead

### Elder

176. Mr Graeme D I Barrie, Glasgow: Easterhouse
177. Mr John Bradley, Glasgow: Kelvin West
178. Mrs Christina L Brownlie, Glasgow: Cardonald
179. Mr Christopher Dunn, Cumbernauld: Trinity
180. Mrs Hilda Dunn, Cumbernauld: Trinity
181. Mrs Marion Dunn, Glasgow: Tron St Mary's
182. Mr Alexander Glen, Glasgow: Sandyford Henderson
183. Miss Helen Y Gough, Glasgow: Shawlands Trinity
184. Mrs Evelyn Greechan, Glasgow: Knightswood Anniesland Trinity
185. Ms Una L Heaney, Glasgow: Sherbrooke Mossparc\*
186. Mr Leslie H Hooper, Glasgow: Shettleston New\*
187. Mr Peter Kay, Glasgow: Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond
188. Mr Kenneth Lockhart, Whiteinch
189. Miss Fiona Macdougall, Glasgow: Castlemilk
190. Mr Gordon J MacFarlane, Glasgow: Clincarthill

191. Ms Shirley J Maxwell, Glasgow: St John's Renfield
192. Mrs Isabel McDerment, Glasgow: Scotstoun
193. Mr Alan Murray, Glasgow: Springburn
194. Mr Graham Murray, Torrance
195. Dr Garry K Osbourne, Glasgow: Sandyford Henderson Memorial
196. Mr John Sharp, Glasgow: Sandyhills
197. Mr Alastair Sim, Stepps
198. Mr David W H Smith, Glasgow: Toryglen
199. Mrs Edith M M Watt, Glasgow: Bridgeton St Francis in the East
200. Mr Andrew Wilkin, Kirkintilloch: St David's Memorial Park
201. Ms Helen Wright, Glasgow: St George's Tron

### Deacon

202. Mr J Paul Cathcart DCS, MDS, Glasgow
203. Mr David Nicholson DCS, (Cumbernauld: Kildrum)

## 17. Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale

### Minister

204. Rev Robert Allan, Falkirk: Trinity\*
205. Rev Ross Blackman, Hamilton: Old
206. Rev Scott Burton, Falkirk: Upper Braes
207. Rev Fiona Crawford, Presbytery Clerk\*
208. Rev Stewart Cutler, Stonehouse: St Ninian's LEP
209. Rev Dr Peter H Donald, Airdrie: Cairnlea
210. Very Rev Sally Foster- Fulton, UK and Global Church Ambassador, Christian Aid
211. Rev Dr Jean Gallacher, Dunipace
212. Rev Bryan Kerr, Lanark: Greyfriars
213. Rev Jonathan Lyall, Law
214. Rev Murdo C Macdonald, Blantyre: Livingstone Memorial
215. Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald, Upper Clyde
216. Rev Louise E Mackay, Lanark: St Nicholas
217. Rev Iain M T Majcher, Bothwell
218. Rev Ronald Matandakufa, Grangemouth: Kirk of the Holy Rood
219. Rev Dr Alistair S May, Motherwell: Dalziel St Andrew's
- 220.
221. Rev Dr Elijah O Obinna, Carluke: Kirkton
222. Rev Jillian Storrie, Wishaw: Assistant Minister, Cambusnethan North
223. Rev Fiona Nicolson, Coatbridge: New St Andrew's
224. Rev Kipchumba Too, Denny: Westpark
225. Rev Debbie Van Welie, Polmont: Old
226. Rev Anne White, Carluke: Forrest Kirk

### Elder

227. Mr Alastair Blackstock, Strathaven: Trinity
228. Mr David Calvert, Airdrie: Cairnlea
229. Ms Ruby Davidson, Strathaven: Trinity
230. Mrs Lesley Ewing, Carluke: Kirkton

- 231. Ms Jean Giggie, Overtown
- 232. Mrs Karen Gillon, Carluke: Forrest Kirk
- 233. Mrs Catherine Gold, Kirkmuirhill\*
- 234. Mr William Henderson, Blantyre: Old
- 235. Ms June Irvine, Newmains: Coltness Memorial
- 236. Mrs Lorna Laughland, Stonehouse: St Ninian's
- 237. Mr David MacRae, Motherwell: South\*
- 238. Mr John Martin, Larkhall: New
- 239. Mr Tom McCallum, Lanark: St Nicholas
- 240. Mr Ian Monteith Mathie, Wishaw: New Kirk
- 241. Mrs Judith Norton, Upper Braes
- 242. Mr Scott M Paget, Lanark: Greyfriars
- 243. Mr David I Paterson, Holytown
- 244. Mr Douglas Pearson, Uddingston: Burnhead
- 245. Mrs Janet Rhodes, Denny: Old
- 246. Mr G Ross Strang, Falkirk: St Andrew's West
- 247. Mr Robert Williams, Shotts: Calderhead Erskine
- 248. Mrs Jean Ewart, Wishaw: New Kirk

#### **Deacon**

- 249. Mrs Lorraine Gilroy DCS, Airdrie: New Monklands

### **24. Presbytery of Fife**

#### **Minister**

- 250. Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, (Edinburgh: Cramond)
- 251. Rev Jane Barron, Ceres, Kemback and Springfield
- 252. Rev David C Cameron, (Dalmeny l/w Queensferry)
- 253. Rev Arthur Christie, (Kilrenny l/w St Ayle Parish, Anstruther and Cellardyke)
- 254. Rev Andrew C Donald, Kirkcaldy: Pathhead
- 255. Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Dunfermline: St Margaret's
- 256. Rev Alan W D Kimmitt, Heart of Fife\*
- 257. Rev Eileen Miller, Fife Presbytery Pastoral Co-ordinator
- 258. Rev Josh Milton, Kirkcaldy: Hope
- 259. Rev Allan Morton, Leven, St Kenneth's
- 260. Rev James Reid, Burntisland and Kinghorn\*
- 261. Rev Alec Shuttleworth, Presbytery Clerk
- 262. Rev Sarah Smith, Forthview
- 263. Rev Gayle Taylor, Dunfermline: St Leonard's

#### **Elder**

- 264. Mr George Drummond, Kirkcaldy: Langtoun Central Church
- 265. Mrs Lorraine E Fraser, Dunfermline: Abbey\*
- 266. Mr Andrew Gilmour, Largo Parish Church
- 267. Mrs Pauline Hoey, Gillespie Memorial Church
- 268. Mrs Ena Hudson, Burntisland and Kinghorn Church
- 269. Mrs Morag Michael, Langtoun Central Church Kirkcaldy
- 270. Mr Robin Millar, Lochgelly and Benarty: St Serf's
- 271. Mr Alexander Muirhead, Carnock and Oakley
- 272. Mrs Alison Oliver, Heart of Fife

- 273. Mr Ewan Oliver, Fife, Eden Tay
- 274. Mrs May Russell, Kirkcaldy: Hope
- 275. Dr Michael J Stewart, Boarhills, Dunino and Holy Trinity: St Andrews
- 276. Mrs Fiona Todd, Dunfermline: St Columba's

#### **Deacon**

- 277. Mrs Pamela Scott DCS, Deacon, Lochgelly and Benarty: St Serf's

### **28. Presbytery of Perth**

#### **Minister**

- 278. Rev Stephen A Blakey, The Isla Parishes
- 279. Very Rev Albert Bogle, (Bo'ness: St Andrew's)
- 280. Rev Sang Y Cha, Alloa: St Mungo's
- 281. Rev Brenda Elwell Sutton, Dundee: Northeast
- 282. Very Rev Dr W Martin Fair, Pathways to Ministry Manager
- 283. Rev Dr John Ferguson, Presbytery Clerk
- 284. Rev Dr Andrew Gardner, Dunblane; St Blane's l/w Lecropt
- 285. Rev Michael S Goss, Carnoustie: Trinity
- 286. Rev Alexander Gunn, (Aberfeldy l/w Amulree & Strathbraan l/w Dull & Weem)
- 287. Rev Dan Harper, Bridge of Allan
- 288. Rev Simon Hessett, Assistant Minister, Stirling: Holy Rude Viewfield
- 289. Rev Margaret J Hunt, Forfar: All Souls
- 290. Rev Anita Kerr, Dundee: Kingsgait
- 291. Rev Ellen Larson Davidson, Gargunnoch l/w Kippen and Norrieston l/w Port of Menteith
- 292. Rev Grant R MacLaughlan, Dundee: Westgait
- 293. Rev Emma McDonald, Pioneer Minister,
- 294. Rev Scott McInnes, Stirling: North
- 295. Rev John K Orr, The Glens and Kirriemuir United l/w Oathlaw Tannadice
- 296. Rev R Fraser Penny, Dunkeld\*
- 297. Rev Timothy J Podger, OLM\*
- 298. Rev Marc A Prowe, Carse of Gowrie
- 299. Rev Anne Redpath, Presbytery Chaplain
- 300. Rev Attie Van Wyk, Stirling: Park
- 301. Rev James C Stewart, Perth: Letham St Mark's
- 302. Rev Lorna Tunstall, Dundee: Broughty Ferry
- 303. Rev Allan J Wilson, Aberdalgie and Forteviot l/w Dunbarney and Forgandenny

#### **Elder**

- 304. Mrs Margaret Adamson, Dundee: Kingsgait
- 305. Mr Malcolm Cameron, Perth: Kinnoull
- 306. Miss Marjorie Clark, Perth: St Matthew's
- 307. Mrs Shan Coombs, The Glens and Kirriemuir United
- 308. Dr David Frame, Pitlochry
- 309. Mrs Alison Gillies, Dunkeld\*
- 310. Mr Douglas Gow, Edzell
- 311. Miss Yvonne M Grant, Monifieth South Angus
- 312. Mr Daniel Gunn, Dunblane: St Blane's



313. Mr Peter Hobbs, Dull and Weem
314. Mr David Inglis, Monifieth South Angus
315. Mrs Christine Johnston, Dundee: Broughty Ferry
316. Mrs Debbie Johnstone, Dundee: Law
317. Mrs Louise Kentley, Bridge of Allan
318. Mrs Anne Lamond, Scone and St Martin's
319. Mrs Sheena Lamond, Carse of Gowrie\*
320. Mr Gordon McFarlane, Kinross shire Parish Church
321. Mr Ian McVean, Balfron and Fintry\*
322. Mrs Joan Murdoch, Comrie
323. Mr Peter Murdoch, Stirling: Park Church
324. Mr John Murie, Stirling: St Mark's
325. Mrs Tricia Inglis, Monifieth: South Angus
326. Mrs Christina Paterson, Bridge of Allan
327. Mrs Lynn Podger, Monifieth South Angus
328. Mrs Valerie Rose, Alloa: Ludgate

#### **Deacon**

329. Mrs Sheila Wallace DCS, Blair Atholl l/w Pitlochry

### **31. Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles**

#### **Minister**

330. Rev Ian M Aitken, Aberdeen: St Mary's
331. Rev Stella L Campbell, Presbytery Clerk
332. Rev Jonathan A Clipston, Brimmond\*
333. Rev Dr Mary Cranfield, Culsalmond and Rayne l/w Daviot\*
334. Rev Michael C Engelbrecht, St Andrew's Lhanbryde and Urquhart
335. Rev Eduard Enslin, Bellie and Speymouth
336. Rev Dr Edmond Gatima, Aberdeen: South
337. Rev J Peter N Johnston, Aberdeen: Devana
338. Rev Elspeth M McKay, Huntly Strathbogie Drumblade
339. Rev Geoffrey D McKee, Lossiemouth
340. Rev Neil W Meyer, Bennachie
341. Rev Sheila M Mitchell, Bennachie
342. Rev Andrew Morrison, Arbuthnott, Bervie and Kinneff
343. Rev Dr Julia Pizzuto-Pomaco, Peterhead: New
344. Rev Holly Smith, Mid-Deeside
345. Rev Moira Taylor Wintersgill, Orkney Islands
346. Rev Robert Fowlie, Longside
347. Rev Christopher Wallace, (Orkney)
348. Rev Edson Ducque de Castro, Aberdeen: Hillside

#### **Elder**

349. Mrs Sarah Aitken, Aberdeen: Stockethill
350. Mrs Ann M C Bowie, Bellie and Speymouth
351. Mrs June Edmonstone, Elgin
352. Mr Iain H Hunter, Aberdeen: Mannofield\*
353. Ms Linda Lawton, Stonehaven: Fetteresso
354. Mr Stuart Lynch, Elgin\*
355. Miss Ursula (Ruth) Mackenzie, Peterhead: New

356. Mrs Elizabeth Macrae, Elgin
357. Mr Grant Petrie, St Andrew's Lhanbryd and Urquhart
358. Mr Matthew Philip, Aberdeen: Springfield
359. Mrs Hilda O Smith, Aberdeen: Devana
360. Lord James Wallace, Orkney Islands
361. Mrs Karen Whyatt, Mid-Deeside
362. Mrs Sandra Wright, Aboyne Dinnet
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#### **Deacon**

367. Miss Fiona Blair DCS, Parish Assistant Kingshill

### **42. Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands and Hebrides**

#### **Minister**

368. Rev J Edward Andrews, (Armadale)
369. Rev Stuart Finlayson, Community Pioneer, Assistant Minister, Forres
370. Rev Charles Finnie, Alvie and Insh l/w Rothiemurchus and Aviemore\*
371. Rev Heidi Hercus, Lochbroom and Ullapool
372. Rev Thomas MacGregor, Inverness: Kinmylies\*
373. Rev Janet MacKellar, OLM
374. Rev Linda Walker, Nairn: Old
375. Rev Donald McCorkindale, Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian l/w Acharacle and Ardnamurchan
376. Rev Thomas Douglas McRoberts, (Malta: St Andrew's Scots Church)
377. Rev Irene Munro, OLM
378. Rev Everisto Musedza, Cowal Kirk
- 379.
380. Rev John M Nicholson, Strath and Sleat
381. Rev Monika Redman, Urray and Kilchrist
382. Rev David Sim, Fort William Kilmallie l/w Kilmonivaig
383. Rev Dr John Sterrett, Golspie
384. Rev Dorothy Wallace, West Lochfyneside: Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair
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#### **Elder**

387. Ms Aline Aitkin, West Lochfyneside: Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair
388. Mrs Catherine M Chambers, Ferntosh\*
389. Mrs Elizabeth Geddes, Pentland Parish
390. Mrs Alison Hay, West Lochfyneside
391. Dr William Leigh Knight, Colonsay and Oronsay
392. Miss Christine Mackenzie, Inverness: Old High St Stephen's\*

- 393. Mrs Fiona MacLean, Urray and Kilchrist
- 394. Mr James Maxwell, Fearn Abbey and Nigg
- 395. Mr Mike Ronaldson, Inverness: Trinity Dalneigh
- 396. Dr Helen Stewart, South West Ross
- 397. Ms Jeneffer Zielinski, Cowal Kirk
- 398.
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**Deacon**

- 406. Mrs Dorothy Getliffe DCS, (Inverness Presbytery)

**44. Presbytery of Lewis**

**Minister**

- 407. Rev William Heenan, Stornoway: St Columba
- 408. Rev Donnie Macdonald, OLM
- 409. Rev Hugh Stewart, Lochs-in-Bernera l/w Uig\*

**Elder**

- 410. Mr Hamish Duncan, Stornoway: High
- 411. Mr Derek Maclean, Stornoway: St Columba
- 412. Mr Iain Macleod, Stornoway: Martin's Memorial\*

**47. Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands**

**Minister**

- 413. Rev Alistair Cumming, Presbytery Clerk\*
- 414. Rev Scott McCarthy, Corby
- 415. Rev William McLaren, London: St Columba's
- 416. Rev Canon Prof Paul Middleton, University of Chester
- 417. Rev Justin Taylor, Guernsey: St Andrew's in the Grange

**Elder**

- 418. Dr Hilary Boyle, Guernsey: St Andrew's in the Grange
- 419. Mr Geordie Fergusson, London: Crown Court
- 420. Miss Elizabeth Fox, London: St Columba's
- 421. Mrs Susan Pym, London: St Columba's\*
- 422. Mr Ian Russell, London: St Columba's

**48. Presbytery of International Charges**

**Minister**

- 423. Rev Derek G Lawson, Presbytery Clerk\*
- 424. Rev Roshan Mendis, Colombo, Sri Lanka: St Andrew's Scots Kirk
- 425. Rev Beata (Betsi) Thane, Malta: St Andrew's Scots Church

**Elder**

- 426. Mrs Jo (Josephine) R Austen, Malta: St Andrew's Scots Church\*
- 427. Mrs Christine Colliar, Geneva

- 428. Mrs Gillian Mailler, Colombo, Sri Lanka: St Andrew's Scots Kirk

**49. Presbytery of Jerusalem**

**Minister**

- 429. Rev Muriel Pearson, Tiberias: St Andrew's\*

**Elder**

- 430. Ms Heather Dobson, Jerusalem: St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church\*

*\*denotes membership of the Commission of Assembly 2025-2026*

**UK ECUMENICAL DELEGATES**

**Church of England**

- 440. Rt Rev Rob Saner-Haigh, Bishop of Penrith (Saturday, Monday)

- 543. Rev Tim Norwood, National Officer for Local Ecumenism (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

**United Reformed Church**

- 435. Rev Tim Meadows, Moderator

**Presbyterian Church of Wales**

- 437. Rev Aneurin Owen, Moderator

**Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland**

- 433. Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

**Scottish Episcopal Church**

- 441. Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus and Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness

**United Free Church of Scotland**

- 431. Rev Colin Brown, Moderator

**United Reformed Church (National Synod of Scotland)**

- 439. Rev Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator

**Methodist Church in Scotland**

- 438. Rev James Patron-Bell, Ecumenical Officer

**Religious Society of Friends – General Meeting for Scotland**

- 434. Michael Hutchinson, Clerk (Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)

- 436. Susan Mitchell, Assistant Clerk (Wednesday)

**The Salvation Army**

- 432. Major David Cavanagh, Assistant Secretary for Scotland

**Congregational Federation in Scotland**

- 442. Rev Alister G Weighton, Chair

**DELEGATES FROM ECUMENICAL BODIES**

**Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**

- 443. Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary

**Churches Together in England**

- 546. Rt Rev Mike Royal, General Secretary

**OVERSEAS DELEGATES**

**AFRICA**

**Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa**

- 452. Rev George Marchinkowski, General Secretary
- 450. Rev Tafadzwa Kasere, Minister, Presbytery of Zimbabwe

**UK Presbyterian Church of East Africa**

- 453. Rev Jesse Munyoroku, Parish Minister

### **Presbyterian Church of Nigeria**

444. His Eminence, Dr Ekpenyong Akpanika, Moderator of the General Assembly

### **Presbyterian Church of Ghana**

457. Rev Emmanuel Kwame Tettey, Minister

## **AMERICAS**

### **Presbyterian Church (USA)**

458. Ms Kate Trigger Duffert, Associate Stated Clerk

## **ASIA**

### **Presbyterian Church of Korea**

451. Rev Dong-Hyun Kim

### **Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea**

446. Rev Baek Yong Seok, General Assembly Secretary

455. Rev Dr Sungkook Park, Executive Secretary, Partnership & Ecumenical Relations

## **EUROPE**

### **Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren**

447. Mr Martin Balcar, Secretary for Ecumenical and International Relations

### **Waldensian Church, Italy**

448. Pastor William Jourdan, Member of the Waldensian Board

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East**

454. Most Rev Hosam Elias Naoum, Diocese of Jerusalem

### **Synod of the Nile of the Evangelical Church of Egypt**

445. Rev Ragaai Ataa

### **National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon**

456. Preacher George Shammas

## **VISITORS**

### **Presbyterian Church of Nigeria**

459. Mrs Arit Offiong Akpanika

### **Presbyterian Church (USA)**

550. Mrs Susan Trigger

### **Presbyterian Church of Korea**

551. Rev Mijung Kwon

### **The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East**

460. Mrs Refaa Sameeh Bishara Naoum

## **CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

### **Assembly Trustees**

467. Mrs Jean Couper

470. Mr Ian Forrester

472. Mr Crawford Gillies

473. Mr David Harrison

474. Ms Miranda Heggie

475. Rev Barry Hughes

478. Ms Jennifer MacDonald

485. Mr Geoff Miller

490. Mr Michael Yuille

491. Rev Dr Philip Ziegler

### **Chief Officer**

476. Mr Dave Kendall

### **Faith Action Programme Leadership Team**

481. Rev Thomas MacNeil

### **Church of Scotland Pension Trustees**

548. Miss Lin Macmillan (Saturday and Monday)

549. Mr Stuart Stephen (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

### **Stewardship and Finance**

487. Mrs Leanne Thompson

### **Ecumenical Relations Committee**

489. Mrs Pauline Weibye

### **Ecumenical Relations Officer**

484. Rev Dr John McPake

### **General Treasurer**

486. Mrs Jenny Simpson

### **General Trustees**

488. Mr Brian Waller

### **Head of Communications**

480. Ms Ruth MacLeod

### **Head of Human Resources**

482. Mrs Elaine McCloghry

### **Head of Ministries and Mission**

465. Mrs Kay Cathcart

### **Legal Questions Committee**

479. Rev Dr Marjory MacLean

### **Life and Work Editor**

483. Mrs Lynne McNeil

### **Safeguarding Committee**

462. Ms Debs Blackhurst

### **Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Officer**

463. Mr David Bradwell

### **Social Care Council**

468. Mrs Viv Dickenson

464. Dr Michael Cantlay

### **The Guild**

466. Mrs Kay Coull, National Vice- Convener (shared attendance)

469. Mrs Morag Duncan, National Vice- Convener (shared attendance)

### **Theological Forum**

471. Rev Dr Liam Fraser

### **Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund**

461. Mrs Hazel Bett

## **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Clyde**

524. Miss Martyna Bakon

### **Fife**

522. Miss Helen Alexander

527. Mr David Buik

### **Forth Valley and Clydesdale**

541. Mr Aidan Wansbrough

### **Glasgow**

526. Mr Nicholas Budgen

### **Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands and Hebrides**

525. Miss Lizzie Brayshaw

**Lothian and Borders**

- 530. Miss Stephanie Hartley
- 531. Mr Daniel Hughes
- 532. Mr Kevin Jack
- 539. Mr Samuel Torrence

**North East and the Northern Isles**

- 523. Mr Shawn Alexander
- 528. Mr Joe Clarke
- 529. Miss Elizabeth Fyvie
- 534. Miss Christine Meyer
- 536. Ms Anna Pizzuto-Pomaco
- 547. Miss Cheryl Alexander

**Perth**

- 533. Miss Sarah Mathieson
- 540. Mr Arran Walker
- 542. Mr Jack Wilkie

**South West**

- 535. Miss Imogen Paterson
- 537. Miss Madalyn Sailors
- 538. Ms Emma Teichert

**PROBATIONERS AND FAMILIARISATION CANDIDATES**

**Clyde**

- 504. Mr Chris Barlas, Probationer
- 506. Mrs Aileen Binner, Probationer OLM

**Edinburgh and West Lothian**

- 508. Mrs Joanna Black, Probationer
- 510. Mr Shahrukh Gill, Probationer
- 511. Mrs Elaine Hogan, Probationer OLM
- 521. Miss Elaine Wood, Probationer

**Fife**

- 512. Mr Alex Johnson, Probationer
- 520. Mr Alastair Stark, Probationer

**Glasgow**

- 503. Mr Gary Bainbridge, Probationer
- 514. Dr Allan Lafferty, Probationer
- 515. Mr Callum Macfarlane-Grieve, Probationer
- 516. Mr William McCulloch, Probationer

**Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands and Hebrides**

- 507. Mr James Bissett, Probationer

**Lothian and Borders**

- 509. Mrs Sarah Cook, Probationer
- 518. Mr Michael McMullin, Probationer

**North East and the Northern Isles**

- 519. Mr Mike Newlands, Probationer

**Perth**

- 505. Rev Karlien Becker, Familiarisation Candidate
- 517. Mr Alan McKay, Probationer

**South West**

- 513. Mr Andrew Johnstone, Probationer

## **IV. Order of Business**

### **Saturday 17 May 2025 – Opening Day**

#### **Session 1: 10.00 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Submission of Roll of Commissioners.
3. Election and installation of Moderator.
4. His Majesty's Commission to the Lord High Commissioner.
5. His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter to be read and order given for recording it.
6. Address by the Lord High Commissioner and reply by the Moderator.
7. Address by Retiring Moderator.
8. Appointment of the Committee to Prepare Answer to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter.
9. Report of the Standing Committee on Commissions.
10. Submission of the Standing Orders.
11. Appointment of the Procedure Committee.
12. Appointment of Committee to prepare a minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
13. Intimation of arrangements for a celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 19 May, at 9.15 am in the Assembly Hall and online.

*Circulation Break*

#### **Session 2**

1. Presentation of Delegates and Visitors.
2. Section 2 of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee regarding proposed changes to Standing Orders.
3. Report of the Assembly Business Committee (Reports 1/1).
4. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/5).

*Lunch*

#### **Session 3: 2.00 pm**

1. Report of the Procedure Committee – Proposal of the Consent Agenda (see page 14 below).
2. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (Reports 2/1).
3. Report of the Presbytery Review Committee (Reports 3/1).
4. Section 3 of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee regarding the proposed Presbytery Review Act.

*Circulation Break*

#### **Session 4**

1. Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases – Returns to Overtures (Reports 4/1).
2. Report of the Theological Forum (Reports 5/1).
3. Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (Reports 6/1).
4. Report of the Ethical Oversight Committee (Reports 7/1).

### **Monday 19 May 2025**

#### **9.15 am**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion.

*Circulation Break*

#### **Session 5: 10.30 am**

1. Report of the Procedure Committee.
2. Report and Supplementary Report of the Assembly Trustees (Reports 8/1 and Order of Proceedings p30) and Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow (Order of Proceedings p28).
3. Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees (Reports 9/1).

*Lunch*

#### **Session 6: 2.00 pm**

1. Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee (Reports 10/1).
2. Report of the Safeguarding Committee (Reports 11/1).
3. Report of the Registration of Ministries Committee (Reports 12/1).

*Circulation Break*

#### **Session 7:**

1. Joint Report of the Theological Forum and the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team on Assisted Dying (Reports 13/1).

### **Tuesday 20 May 2025**

#### **Session 8: 9.15 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes
3. Report of the Procedure Committee.
4. Report and Supplementary Report of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team ("FAPLT") (Reports 14/1 and Assembly Paper) and Joint Supplementary Report of FAPLT and the Assembly Trustees (Order of Proceedings p32).

*Circulation Break*

**Session 9**

1. FAPLT Report, Supplementary Report and Joint Supplementary Report contd.

*Lunch*

**Session 10: 2.00 pm**

1. FAPLT Report, Supplementary Report and Joint Supplementary Report contd.

*Circulation Break*

**Session 11**

1. FAPLT Report, Supplementary Report and Joint Supplementary Report contd.
2. Joint Report of FAPLT and the Legal Questions Committee (Reports 15/1).

**Wednesday 21 May 2025**

**Session 12: 9.15 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes.
2. Report of the Procedure Committee.
3. Report of the Committee to draft a reply to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter.
4. Report of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces (Reports 16/1).

*Circulation Break*

**Session 13**

1. Report of the Church of Scotland Guild (Reports 17/1).
2. Report of the Social Care Council (Reports 18/1).
3. Report of the Church of Scotland Trust (Reports 19/1).
4. Report of the Iona Community Board (Reports 20/1).

*Lunch*

**Session 14: 2.00 pm**

**FAPLT CONFERENCE SESSION – 1 HOUR**

*Circulation Break*

**Session 15**

1. Report of the General Trustees (Reports 21/1).
2. Report of the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund (Reports 22/1).

**Thursday 22 May 2025**

**Session 16: 9.15 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Procedure Committee.
4. Report of the Nomination Committee (Reports 23/1).
5. Report of the Selection Committee if required.
6. Remaindered business if required.
7. Draft Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted to be read if required.
8. Report on the Printing of Acts.
9. Protestations called for.
10. Appointment of Committee to Prepare Minutes.
11. Act appointing the Commission of Assembly.
12. Act appointing the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh and online on XXX May 2026.

*Lunch*

**Session 17: 2.00 pm**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
3. Presentations to the Moderator.
4. Moderator addresses the General Assembly.
5. The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly.
6. National Anthem.
7. Dissolution.

THE BENEDICTION

**Note**

*It is hoped that this timetable will be adhered to but items could arise earlier or later than the times specified.*

**CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS – proposer: Procedure Committee (Session 3)**

Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 24/1).  
Report of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust (Reports 25/1).  
Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees (Reports 26/1).

## V. Proposed Committees

### Committee to Prepare an Answer to His Majesty's Gracious Letter

Very Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson	500
Mr Alisdair Hutton	74
Mrs Christine Murray	117

### Committee to Prepare Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons

Very Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson  
*Principal Clerk*  
*Depute Clerk*

## VI. Information on Questions, Comments, Motions and Voting

**The Standing Orders govern how business is conducted at the General Assembly. They are included at Section X in this Order of Proceedings; please familiarise yourself with them before the Assembly opens.**

**Below is a summary of how you can do some key things at the Assembly.**

### **ASKING QUESTIONS**

You will see from the Standing Orders that questions are always in order. However, the usual time for asking general questions on the Report or on the work of the Committee is immediately after a Convener has presented the Report and moved the deliverance. At this point the Moderator will ask for questions, before moving to section 1 of the proposed deliverance.

Questions which relate to specific sections of proposed deliverance should be asked when the Assembly is considering the relevant section of deliverance.

**If you are in-person:** If you have a mobile, or portable, device, you can use it to register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub as set out in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively, there will be stations placed in the Hall where you can use your commissioner number to enter a “request to speak”, choosing to ask your question either at the start or against the relevant section(s) of deliverance. Be ready to speak at a microphone in the Hall.

**If you are online:** To ask a question you should register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub, choosing to ask it either at the start or against the appropriate section of deliverance. Details of how to do this through the Hub will be shared at the training events and in a video to be made available to you.

You can register your “request to speak” at any time in advance of the debate taking place, or “on the spot”.

### **MAKING COMMENTS**

General comments should be made when section 1 (“Receive the Report”) is being considered; more specific comments should be made when the Assembly is considering the relevant section of deliverance.

**If you are in-person:** Again, if you have a mobile, or portable, device, you can use it to register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub as set out in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively, there will be stations placed in the Hall where you can use your Commissioner Number to enter a “request to speak” against the relevant section(s) of deliverance. Be ready to speak at a microphone in the Hall.

**If you are online:** Again, you should register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub against the appropriate section of deliverance. Details of how to do this through the Hub will be shared at the training events and in a video to be made available to you.

You can register your “request to speak” at any time in advance of the debate taking place, or “on the spot”.

### **MOVING MOTIONS**

At each Assembly various “motions” are considered. These mainly consist of the proposed sections of deliverance appearing in Reports from Standing Committees. However, any Commissioner can move a motion to amend a proposed section of deliverance, offer an alternative section to the one proposed or to add a new section of deliverance. (To remove a section of deliverance, see below).

If you want to do any of these things, you need to submit a “Notice of Motion” to the Clerks. It helps everyone if you can give as much advance notice as possible of your motion. The Clerks may contact you about the text of your proposed motion.

#### **Types of motion**

When you prepare a Notice of Motion, you need to decide what sort of motion you want to propose. Options are:-

1. **amendments** – adding words to or removing words from a section of proposed deliverance but leaving the basic meaning intact. You can also propose an amendment to another commissioner’s amendment.
2. **counter-motions** – proposing an alternative to an existing section of proposed deliverance which, if approved, would be distinctly different from the section proposed by the Standing Committee (i.e. if your counter-motion is accepted by the Assembly it would mean that the originally proposed section falls).
3. **new section of deliverance altogether** – adding to the Standing Committee’s work or affirming a priority. Such a motion needs to fall within the relevant Standing Committee’s remit. For a motion which relates to a matter falling within a Committee’s remit but to which no reference is made in the Report, you must give the relevant Convener reasonable notice in writing.
4. **If you simply don’t think that the Assembly should accept a section of proposed deliverance**, there is no need to move a motion stating the direct negative. Instead, when the Assembly is considering that section of deliverance, you should speak to explain why you encourage a vote against it.

The Moderator is the final judge of the category into which a motion falls.

#### **How to submit a Notice of Motion:**

**If you are in person:** If you are in the Hall with a device enabling you to do so, you can use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively you can email a duly completed notice of motion form to the Clerks of Assembly using [pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk), or you can complete and return to the Clerks at the top table or to the Assembly Office a paper notice of motion form.

**If you are online:** You should use the Assembly Hub to register a notice of motion in advance in respect of the relevant section(s) of deliverance. Details of how to submit a motion through the Hub will be shared at the training events and in a video to be made available to you.



**Procedure for taking Notices of Motion:**

If you submit a notice of motion, by whatever method, a notification that you wish to speak will automatically be generated.

***If you are in person:*** You should be ready to speak at a station in the Hall.

***If you are online:*** You should be ready to be called to speak by the Moderator.

When the Assembly reaches the appropriate place in the debate for your motion to be moved, the Moderator will call you to speak. The advantage of using the Assembly Hub will be that other Commissioners will be able to see your motion in advance.

The Moderator will ask you to read what you propose (or the Clerks will do this) and the text will be shown on the screens in the Hall and the live feed. The Moderator will then invite you to tell the Assembly why you believe your proposal is the right one. You have up to five minutes to speak.

All motions must be seconded. Ideally you should arrange a seconder in advance. A fellow commissioner will be able to second your motion using the Assembly Hub, or alternatively, a motion can be seconded by an in person commissioner in the Hall. If no one is willing to second it, your motion falls.

Seconding can be formal so a seconder does not need to speak in support of a proposal but if they wish to do so, they should also be ready, depending on whether they are in person or online, to speak at a station in the Hall or should register a "request to speak" on the Assembly Hub.

Once your motion has been moved and seconded, there will be debate at the end of which you will be asked if you wish to say anything else to convince the Assembly. After that, the Convener presenting the Report will be asked to give their response and then the Assembly will decide on the matter by voting.

**VOTING**

***If you are in person:*** You will vote using a Bluetooth handset supplied to you at the Hall.

***If you are online:*** You will vote using the Assembly Hub.

Also, we may use a process for **quick approval of certain sections of proposed deliverance** rather than taking a formal vote on every occasion. This will involve the Moderator ascertaining the view of the Assembly by asking in person commissioners to stamp their feet or stand and at the same time asking online commissioners to "raise a hand" on Zoom.

**VII. Remits of GA Standing Committees and Other Bodies**

A	COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES WHICH CAN BE INSTRUCTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
B	COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES WHICH DO NOT REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
C	TRUSTS WHICH REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT CANNOT BE INSTRUCTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**A – COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES WHICH CAN BE INSTRUCTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Committee or other Body	Remit
Assembly Business Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make all necessary arrangements and to order the business for the General Assembly and Commissions of Assembly.</li> <li>To have oversight of and keep under review the functions, the membership, the processes and procedures of the General Assembly.</li> <li>To advise the Moderator on his or her official duties if so required and to have oversight of the election, role and function of the Moderator.</li> <li>To be responsible to the General Assembly for the care and maintenance of the Assembly Hall and the Moderator's residence and for all arrangements in connection with the letting or other use of the Assembly Hall.</li> <li>To act in routine matters not the business of other General Assembly Standing Committees or the Trustees in accordance with the accepted practice and procedure of the Church.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Assembly Trustees Constitution Appendix 2]</p>
Assembly Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To hold the entire heritable and moveable property, assets, securities, investments and income held by or for the Church for the following objects:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To offer Christian worship, fellowship, instruction, mission and service;</li> <li>To bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry;</li> <li>To labour for the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout the world.</li> </ol> </li> <li>In doing so:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek to build and strengthen local congregations as centres of worship, care, nurture, service, witness and mission;</li> <li>To promote, in partnership with other churches, the ministry and mission of the Church throughout all of Scotland, with particular reference to its poorest and most remote areas remote areas;</li> <li>To support the work of ecumenical bodies and other agencies in Scotland and elsewhere in the world;</li> <li>To be able to make such provision of support, if any, to other charitable bodies having similar aims as those foregoing, as may seem appropriate in a common pursuance of the foregoing objects.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>[source: Assembly Trustees Constitution]</p>
Assembly Trustees – Central Services Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To act as one of the employing agencies of the Church and make recommendations to the Assembly Trustees on the staffing and resourcing requirements of the employing agencies of the General Assembly (other than staff directly employed by the Councils) and on the terms and conditions of the staff for whom it is the employing agency.</li> </ul>
Assembly Trustees – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To offer assistance and advice to the Assembly Trustees in the development of strategies, programmes and projects on matters of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.</li> <li>To promote and develop work to improve awareness and understanding around issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Church of Scotland.</li> <li>Report to the Assembly Trustees on progress made in discharging the remit.</li> </ul> <p>[source: EDI Terms of Reference]</p>

Assembly Trustees – Finance Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advise and assist in the analysis of the Church’s income and expenditure plans, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>budget preparation;</li> <li>the funding of presbyteries;</li> <li>the financial strategy of Crossreach;</li> <li>the financial viability of other key activities;</li> <li>income generation and cost reduction options;</li> <li>spending priorities; and</li> <li>the management of Church funds.</li> </ul> </li> <li><i>To advise and assist on any financial matters that the Assembly Trustees, General Treasurer and the Finance Department wish to bring to the Group.</i></li> </ul> <p>[source: Assembly Trustees/Stewardship and Finance]</p>
Assembly Trustees – Israel Palestine Sub-Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have delegated authority from the Assembly Trustees for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversight of the Church’s work and relationships in Israel and Palestine;</li> <li>Management, maintenance and oversight of the Church’s establishments in Israel (“the Establishments”), which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scots Hotel, Tiberias</li> <li>St Andrew’s House Hotel, Jerusalem</li> <li>Tabeetha School, Jaffa</li> <li>St Andrew’s Memorial Church, Jerusalem</li> <li>St Andrew’s Church, Tiberias;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Management, maintenance and oversight of land owned by the Church in Safed (currently leased to the Israeli Ministry of Health) and a cemetery in Tiberias.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of the Assembly Trustees]</p>
Assembly Trustees – Seeds for Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To administer the provision of funding to support the numerical and spiritual growth of the Church through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing mission through new worshipping communities;</li> <li>Developing and nurturing faith in those under the age of 40; and</li> <li>Fostering discipleship and revitalisation within established congregations, with the aim of growing an existing congregation or developing a new worshipping community.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>[source: Seeds for Growth Fund Regulations 2022]</p>
Assembly Trustees – Trustees’ Governance Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that the Assembly Trustees fulfil their legal and functional responsibilities in all respects.</li> <li>To advise and assist the Assembly Trustees in the exercise of the supervisory function of the component elements of the Church as required by the Church’s Designated Religious Charity status, and shall oversee compliance by Forums, Committees, Congregations and Presbyteries in the proper discharge of their duties and responsibilities under charity and accounting legislation and General Assembly Acts and Regulations.</li> <li>To assist the Trustees in their duties to: a. maintain a Code of Conduct for all Agencies of the Church as defined in clause 74 of the Constitution and Remit and supervise compliance with that Code by all members of such Agencies; b. maintain a Code of Conduct for the Trustees, adhere to it and supervise compliance with that Code by all Trustees; c. maintain, and in consultation with the Agencies subject to a periodic review, an appropriate Scheme of Financial Delegation such as that set out in Schedule F of the Constitution and Remit to be followed by the Agencies; d. maintain, and in consultation with the Agencies subject to a periodic review, an appropriate Scheme of General Delegation; e. ensure that all necessary policies are in place and regularly reviewed.</li> <li>To receive regular reports from the Audit Committee and the Audit Committee should in turn receive copies of the Minutes from the Governance Group.</li> <li>To keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management arrangements of the Unincorporated Entities.</li> <li>To advise and assist the Trustees on the governance aspects of management, resourcing, organisation and administration and shall undertake such other functions as may from time to time be delegated to or referred to it by the Trustees</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) each Trustee is aware of the terms of this Constitution;</li> <li>(b) each Trustee is aware of the deliverances from the most recent General Assembly;</li> <li>(c) each Trustee is aware of her or his role as an Assembly Trustee;</li> <li>(d) each Trustee is aware of the need to act with independence of mind and with probity;</li> <li>(e) the delivery of the work of the Charity and the Agencies is founded upon good operational and financial plans;</li> <li>(f) the effective working of the Trustees is enabled through the body of Trustees having appropriate skills, experience and diversity;</li> <li>(g) the Trustees exercise the controls necessary to ensure that the strategic priorities, policies and decisions of the Assembly are implemented effectively and efficiently and establish appropriate checks on management, financial control mechanisms and risk appraisal; and</li> <li>(h) the Trustees and the Agencies are open and accountable in their actions, enabling good communication among themselves and with staff, with others working within the Church, with members of the Church and with those with whom the Trustees and the Agencies engage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>To establish, maintain and keep under review an appraisal system for the Trustees which is in accordance with current good governance practice, as provided for in Schedule B of the Constitution and Remit.</li> <li>To exercise the functions provided for in Schedule B of the Constitution and Remit in respect of complaints regarding possible material breaches of duty by Trustees.</li> </ul>
Audit Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The General Assembly has established the Audit Committee (the “Committee”) to advise and assist the Assembly Trustees in the oversight of financial reporting, systems of internal control and processes related to these systems.</li> <li>Membership of the Committee shall be as set out in [the Standing Orders of the GA]. The Committee shall review its terms of reference and its own effectiveness annually and shall recommend any changes to the Trustees. The Committee’s review and work shall be appraised by the Governance Group of the Trustees.</li> <li>The Convener of the Committee shall be entitled to attend a meeting of the Trustees or their Governance Group of the Trustees on any matter which the Committee believes to be of sufficient importance.</li> <li>The Convener of the Committee shall be entitled to report directly to the General Assembly on any matter which the Committee believes to be of sufficient importance.</li> </ul> <p>[Source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
Committee on Chaplains to His Majesty’s Forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To keep abreast of Ministry of Defence policy and make a contribution to the formulation of this as it concerns the spiritual well-being of the women and men of the Armed Forces of the Crown.</li> <li>To take an interest in the recruiting of chaplains and in their welfare.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Fund exists to support retired Church of Scotland ministers, and widows, widowers, separated or divorced spouses and separated or former civil partners of Church of Scotland ministers, in need of help with housing.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report and Guidance on website]</p>
Delegation of the General Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To issue a Unitary Constitution to congregations which have adopted that constitution.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Congregational Constitutions Act 1964]</p>
Ecumenical Relations Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage and enable an ecumenical vision in Scotland.</li> <li>To seek to encourage ecumenical engagement through the councils, presbyteries, and congregations of the Church of Scotland.</li> <li>To promote understanding through ecumenical working drawn from international and European levels.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
Ethical Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be an advisory group to help the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (COSIT) to focus on the theological and ethical background of what the Church should be investing in, consider the complexities of the investment options, and be a space for intelligent conversations that can support the COSIT to provide the investment managers with very specific briefs, in line with the Church’s values.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2023 Report of the Special Committee on the Ethics of Investment Practice]</p>

Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (FAPLT)	<p>FAPLT shall lead and deliver the Faith Action Programme to enable the delivery of the Church's identified priorities. It shall implement the strategic objectives of the General Assembly and the strategic priorities of the Assembly Trustees and shall work with the Assembly Trustees, the General Trustees, Presbyteries and other parts of the Church to achieve a collaborative approach with the purpose of nurturing the people of the Church in their witness, worship and service. In particular, it shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support the ministries of the Church</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review recruitment processes for the recognised ministries of the Church, creating pathways that attract and allow the Church to recruit the required number of leaders for the recognised ministries for which they are suited and called</li> <li>ii. Review and administer the selection processes for recognised ministries</li> <li>iii. Provide pastoral support for the recognised ministries</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Equip inspirational leaders and disciples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Create a single, integrated training programme supporting all levels and aspects of Church life</li> <li>ii. Provide support to the local as required in respect of education, worship and mission and discipleship</li> <li>iii. Assist Presbyteries as requested to create accessible platforms for the sharing of good practice across the Church</li> <li>iv. Support and enable digital ministry both in delivery and roll-out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Engage with congregations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Resource congregations in the work of campaigning and advocacy for justice, peace, inclusion, neighbourliness and the integrity of creation</li> <li>ii. Support and enable congregational engagement with the work of the Church outside Scotland and congregational involvement with Christian Aid</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Engage with the wider world</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Develop and maintain mutually enriching relationships with partner churches at home and in the wider world</li> <li>ii. Identify appropriate opportunities to engage with those displaced</li> <li>iii. Identify appropriate opportunities to support peacemaking and peace-building</li> <li>iv. Build appropriate interfaith relationships which lead to mutual understanding and respect</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Public Witness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Share the ideas and experience of the Church with government, parliamentarians, ecumenical partners, faith groups, and civil society and support the exchange of information and opinions between national institutions and Presbyteries and congregations in the pursuit of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation</li> <li>ii. Speak truth to power on issues of poverty, marginalisation, violence, peace and justice, environmental protection and sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Work with Presbyteries on Mission Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Together with the General Trustees, assist in ensuring appropriate and robust Presbytery Planning and necessary readjustments in the context of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) or replacement legislation</li> <li>ii. Assist in the provision of Specialist Ministries</li> <li>iii. Ensure appropriate MDS recruitment, deployment and management processes</li> <li>iv. Identify needs for planting and growing of new contextually relevant worshipping communities</li> <li>v. Work with other agencies to develop fresh expressions of Church.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Assembly Trustees]</p>
FAPLT – Mission Support Programme Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipping, inspiring, resourcing and supporting the Church locally, at Presbytery and at the National level in mission.</li> <li>• Engaging with congregations through international education and support.</li> <li>• Supporting new ways of being Church.</li> <li>• Overseeing international partnership support.</li> <li>• Support congregations to walk together with people locally and globally, building relationship and learning and sharing practice.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Assembly Trustees]</p>

FAPLT – People and Training Programme Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recruitment, training and formation of those in the Recognised Ministries of the Church of Scotland.</li> <li>• The training, discipleship and support of members and elders of the Church of Scotland and maintaining key partnerships including those with Presbyteries and Academic Partners.</li> <li>• Alongside Presbyteries, recruiting, resourcing and training people intentionally for the mission of God, especially nurturing those who are new to faith.</li> <li>• Supporting ministries and learning through the ASCEND programme.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Assembly Trustees]</p>
FAPLT – Public Life and Social Justice Programme Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipping the Church to pursue God’s mission of inclusivity, social justice and care for creation in Scotland and around the world.</li> <li>• Supporting activities of Presbyteries and congregations in engaging with national and international issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation, with a priority for inclusion of those who are marginalised or struggle against poverty.</li> <li>• Engaging policies which contribute to public life by developing and sharing the witness of the Church with government, parliament, ecumenical partners, faith groups, and civil society, and supporting the exchange of information and opinions between national institutions and Presbyteries and congregations.</li> <li>• Providing a space in which to explore theologically, reflect, discuss and respond as a Church to important public matters that arise.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Assembly Trustees]</p>
FAPLT – Presbytery Mission Planning Programme Implementation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be responsible for all aspects of Mission Planning in terms of Act VIII 2021, in liaison with Presbyteries, and nurture and review strategic relationships with Presbyteries and other stakeholders, communicating effectively and appropriately in partnership.</li> <li>• Advise on bases of adjustment and reviewable charges.</li> <li>• Maintain documentation of Presbytery plans and associated records, including publicly available information and how the data collated from Presbytery Plans can be stored and accessible for use by relevant parties in strategic planning and development. 3. Monitor annual evaluation and development plans.</li> <li>• Deal with requests from Presbyteries for revisions of their plan.</li> <li>• Work to support Presbyteries in implementing Mission Plans and other areas relating to adjustment and inform the appropriate bodies of the resources, experience and support that PMPIG can provide along with how they might shape thinking around realistic planning for the future with Presbyteries.</li> <li>• Work with Presbyteries and liaise with the General Trustees in the classification and use of buildings and applications for work at buildings.</li> <li>• Monitor all aspects of Guardianships.</li> <li>• Monitor the overall patterns and trends in Mission Planning.</li> <li>• Undertake policy development for Mission Planning in partnership with all relevant parties.</li> <li>• To take such actions as required for it carry out its duties and functions, including but not limited to offering advice, consulting with, and issuing guidance to the national Church, Presbyteries and Congregations.</li> <li>• FAPLT may call in any decision or matter for its own consideration. The Group may remit any decision or matter to FAPLT for its consideration.</li> <li>• Except in so far as retained by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (‘FAPLT’), to exercise the duties of the Team in respect of Presbytery Planning and Presbytery Mission Planning including but not restricted to those set out in: Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003); Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) as temporarily amended; Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021); Section 31 of the Faith Nurture Forum’s Deliverance to General Assembly 2021.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Assembly Trustees]  <i>[Note: This remit may change so that PMPIG becomes part of a larger Presbytery Partnership Support Programme Group]</i></p>

FAPLT – Resource and Presence Programme Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that net revenues are maximised through the resources available within the Faith Action Programme.</li> <li>The business output for Life &amp; Work.</li> <li>Maximising the use of furlough properties.</li> <li>Overseeing the place of John Knox House/ Scottish Storytelling Centre.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Assembly Trustees]</p>
Iona Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To report to the General Assembly, and, through the Assembly, to the wider Church, on the activities, concerns and current aspects of the life and work of the Iona Community.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Information for new members form]</p>
Legal Questions Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advise on legal questions, whether of Church or civil law, referred to it by the General Assembly, by the Principal Clerk or by any agency of the General Assembly.</li> <li>To assist in formulating responses to consultations opened by the Scottish and UK Governments and other bodies.</li> <li>To provide the legislative drafting service for agencies of the General Assembly.</li> <li>To advise on reform to Church law in terms of practice and procedure.</li> <li>To report to the General Assembly on proposed amendments to Standing Orders.</li> <li>To inspect annually records of Agencies of the General Assembly.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of the Legal Questions Committee]</p>
Nomination Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify Ministers, Deacons, Elders and Members of the Church of Scotland with particular skills and experience for serving on the Standing Committees of the General Assembly.</li> <li>To work with the Standing Committees to ensure an open and transparent process for identifying the Convener or Vice Convener as suggested by the relevant Standing Committee.</li> <li>In the case of some Committees, Groups or other bodies, where the Nomination Committee does not itself select nominees, to assist with the appointment process in another way.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of Nomination Committee]</p>
Presbytery Review Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be responsible for Presbytery Review through a flexible five-year cycle in which two or three Presbyteries are reviewed each year by a Review Group which reports back to the Committee.</li> <li>Provide a Summary Report to the GA for Presbytery Reviews carried out each year.</li> <li>To be satisfied that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>each Presbytery Review is thorough and forward looking;</li> <li>good practice is highlighted and shared across the Church;</li> <li>problems are faced and tackled with appropriate support and input; and</li> <li>non-compliance is addressed and rectified.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Inspect annually the records of Presbyteries.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2024 Report of the Legal Questions Committee and draft Act]</p>
Registration of Ministries Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To deal with various applications related to the Registration of Ministry under the Registration of Ministries Act 2017, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receiving applications for Category O Registration and interviewing the applicant;</li> <li>Dealing with applications from individuals registered in Category S;</li> <li>Dealing with applications for change of Category of registration from persons who left a post for reasons of ill health.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>[source: Registration of Ministries Act 2017/Church of Scotland website]</p>

Safeguarding Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To agree and ensure the implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures to secure the protection of Church communities, including volunteers, paid office holders, employees and members of the public.</li> <li>• To oversee the Safeguarding Service to ensure satisfactory performance and service delivery.</li> <li>• To provide information and advice about good safeguarding practice to all agencies of the Church including congregations, Presbyteries, General Assembly standing committees and statutory corporations and to individuals within these bodies.</li> <li>• Working with Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries, to ensure that all agencies of the Church work within the parameters of, and comply with, the Safeguarding Act 2018.</li> <li>• To ensure that safe recruitment practices are implemented across the Church, including appropriate overseas checks.</li> <li>• To carry out risk assessments as required in relation to conviction and vetting information and ensure that covenants are in place for managing those who pose a risk.</li> <li>• To ensure that the Safeguarding Service has sufficient resources in place for efficient and effective running of the service.</li> <li>• To ensure that suitable safeguarding training is provided to all ministers, volunteers and paid workers undertaking regulated work, to staff of the national office, trustees and other relevant parties.</li> <li>• To provide safeguarding services to connected third party organisations as may be determined from time to time by the Committee.</li> <li>• To liaise with internal and external stakeholders on safeguarding matters.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Safeguarding Service]</p>
Social Care Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To deliver and support a range of social care programmes in Scotland, operating under the name CrossReach.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
Theological Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To articulate and develop the doctrinal understanding of the Church in accordance with Holy Scripture and with reference to the confessional standards of the Church of Scotland.</li> <li>• To express the theological vision of the Church in its worship, fellowship, witness, and mission in and beyond contemporary Scotland.</li> <li>• To respond to particular theological requests as and when these arise from the General Assembly, the Council of Assembly, and the ecumenical partners of the Church.</li> <li>• To draw to the attention of the General Assembly theological matters which the Theological Forum considers to be of pressing contemporary relevance.</li> <li>• To stimulate wider theological reflection throughout the Church on key doctrinal, ethical, and apologetic matters through the provision of appropriate materials and other activities.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>



**B – COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES WHICH DO NOT REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Committee or other Body	Remit
Committee to Nominate the Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive recommendations of names of ministers, deacons or elders proposed as the next Moderator.</li> <li>• To decide on the gifts, experience and other qualities which are required for the post of Moderator at the relevant time, prepare a shortlist from among the recommendations which the Committee has received, meet with all persons on the shortlist; and select a nominee from among those on the shortlist.</li> <li>• To inform the Principal Clerk of the name of the Moderator- Designate no later than 31 October each year.</li> </ul>
Life and Work Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the work of the Editor of Life and Work, acting in a collaborative, but not regulatory, matter in relation to the Editor.</li> <li>• To meet at least twice per annum with the Editor to ensure that they are familiar with the current issues and challenges which he or she faces in producing a magazine which is readable and saleable to a wide audience within the Church and beyond.</li> <li>• To be contacted by the Editor when he or she believes a perspective or particular issue requires some guidance and opinion from a group trusted by the Church to be honest and concerned about the integrity of the magazine and its service in the mission of the Church.</li> </ul> <p>[source: GA 2019 Report of the Mission and Discipleship Committee]</p>

**C – TRUSTS WHICH REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT CANNOT BE INSTRUCTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Name of Trust	Remit
Chalmers Lectureship Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To appoint a lecturer (or joint lecturers) to hold the Chalmers Lectureship for a period of up to 4 years.</li> <li>To arrange for a series of at least six lectures to be delivered publicly by the lecturer(s) on the doctrine of the Church and the Kingdom of Christ or any subject relating to that; and endeavour to arrange for publication of these lectures.</li> </ul> <p>[source: The Chalmers Lectureship Conditions of Trust]</p>
Church Hymnary Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A trust whose purposes include the advancement of the Christian faith through the promotion and development of hymnody in Scotland with particular reference to the Church of Scotland by assisting in the development, promotion, provision and understanding of hymns, psalms and paraphrases suitable for use in public worship... to enable the Church, and in particular the Church of Scotland, to worship in ways which are relevant to individual congregations or groups of congregations.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
Church of Scotland Investors' Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A trust whose purpose is to offer the councils, committees and congregations of the Church of Scotland a simple and economical medium for the investment of their funds.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
Church of Scotland Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A trust whose purpose is to hold Church of Scotland properties outwith Scotland and to act as trustee in a number of third-party trusts.</li> </ul> <p>[source: Church of Scotland website]</p>
General Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statutory body whose purposes include the holding of titles to land and buildings on behalf various councils and committees of the Church of Scotland.</li> <li>The management and administration of congregational land and buildings, the purchase and disposal of heritable property, the application of sale proceeds, technical and financial assistance to congregations, buildings and insurance, care of and work to buildings, property letting and other related areas of work.</li> <li>Operating the Central Fabric Fund: (a) in making grants and loans to congregations for costs relating to the purchasing, building, repairing and improving of Churches, Church Halls and Manses; (b) at the discretion of the General Trustees, meeting the cost, wholly or partially, of employing Presbytery Buildings Officers; and (c) in certain other special cases as determined by the General Trustees.</li> <li>Holding a restricted sub-fund for each Presbytery within the Central Fabric Fund.</li> <li>Operating the Consolidated Fabric Fund for the benefit of individual congregations and consisting of: (i) Capital Accounts holding funds derived from the sale of heritable properties where title is held in the name of the General Trustees or where title is held in the name of local trustees but is subject to the direction and regulation of the General Assembly as regards to management and disposal; and (ii) Revenue Accounts holding rental receipts from heritable properties and investment income.</li> <li>Holding within the Consolidated Fabric Fund all congregational heritable properties vested in the General Trustees.</li> </ul> <p>[source: The Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act V 2024)]</p>
Church of Scotland Pension Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be responsible for the Church's three defined benefit pension schemes, which are now closed to future accrual and new members. The schemes are for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers and Overseas Missionaries (including sections for Ministers Main Pension Fund, Widows and Orphans and the Contributors Fund);</li> <li>Staff (including sections for staff of the Social Care Council and of the Central Services Committee);</li> <li>Ministries Development Staff (previously known as the scheme for Presbytery and Parish Workers).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

VIII. Presbytery Overture

Presbytery of Glasgow  
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## Overture

### **Overture as to the Congregational Contributions Giving to Grow Regulations (Regs I 2022) From the Presbytery of Glasgow**

Whereas:

1. The Congregational Contributions Giving to Grow Regulations (Regs I 2022) (the 'Regulations') stipulate that each charge shall pay a Giving to Grow contribution which includes a component for Shared Activities which is determined by section 16(c) of the Regulations to be 10%.
2. The Supplementary Report of the Assembly Trustees to the General Assembly 2022 describes at sec 2.1 (p.02) Shared Activities as including "the activities which provide support for the Church's mission as well as ensuring it complies with statutory regulations, safeguarding functions and best practices"
3. In the period during which the Regulations have been in force there has been a significant decline in the Shared Activities provided by national agencies, including *inter alia*:
  - (a) the cessation of the HIV Programme;
  - (b) the reduction of Priority Area staff by approximately 8 posts to 2;
  - (c) the substantial reduction in national funding for Sanctuary First;
  - (d) the cessation of the National Youth Assembly; and
  - (e) the cessation of national administration for the reimbursement of travel expenses for Ministers and MDS staff.
4. The congregational contributions required of congregations in terms of the Regulations are, in some cases, proving burdensome.
5. It is appropriate for the Assembly Trustees to review the level of the Shared Activities component of the Regulations to determine a lower proportionate figure.

Therefore:

It is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Glasgow to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that the Assembly Trustees should review the percentage (10%) that forms the Shared Activities component of the Contribution for each charge gathered by the Congregational Contributions Giving to Grow Regulations (Regs I 2022) and consider whether the Trustees might bring a proposal to amend the Regulations so as to reduce that percentage, to the General Assembly of 2026.

Or to do otherwise as to your Venerable Court may seem good.

## Proposed Deliverance

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to review the percentage (10%) that forms the Shared Activities component of the Contribution for each charge gathered by the Congregational Contributions Giving to Grow Regulations (Regs I 2022) and consider whether the Trustees might bring a proposal to amend the Regulations so as to reduce that percentage, to the General Assembly of 2026.

**IX. Supplementary Reports**

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## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES MAY 2025

### Proposed Deliverance

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Supplementary Report.
2. Approve the granting by the General Assembly of a formal indemnity in favour of the Pension Trustees to indemnify them in respect of personal liabilities that might arise in connection with the running of the Church's three defined benefit Pension Schemes, which closed on 31 December 2013, and authorise the Moderator and Principal Clerk to sign the Indemnities on behalf of the Assembly.
3. In light of the Scottish Government's proposed changes to the Scottish Charity Audit Threshold, pass the amendments to the Presbytery Finance Regulations (Regs III 2016) set out at Section 2.2 of this Supplementary Report and to the Congregational Finance Regulations (Regs II 2016) set out at Section 2.3 of this Supplementary Report.

### Report

#### 1. INDEMNITY FOR THE PENSION TRUSTEES IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL LIABILITIES

**1.1** The Trustees of the Church's three defined benefit Pension Schemes (the Church of Scotland Pension Scheme for Ministers and Overseas Missionaries (the "Ministers Scheme"), The Church of Scotland Pension Scheme for Staff (the "Staff Scheme") and The Church of Scotland Pension Scheme for Ministries Development Staff (the "MDS Scheme") (together referred to as the "Schemes")) have carried out a review of the Rules of the Schemes. They have concluded that there are some gaps in the indemnities and protections provided to them by the terms of the Rules, specifically in relation to omissions in decision-making and unintentional breaches of law, and accordingly, they have requested an additional indemnity for each Scheme from the Church in respect of these. Excluded from the terms of this indemnity will be liabilities caused by fraud or dishonesty, by an act or omission which a trustee knew (or should have known, with the benefit of professional advice received at the time) to be a breach of trust, or by wilful neglect or default.

**1.2** As the Pension Trustees are reporting to the General Assembly, the Ministers Scheme is well funded, with all the money needed to pay benefits and expenses held within the Scheme. The Staff Scheme and the MDS Scheme are fully insured, as they moved to buy-in at the end of 2024. This means that all future payments to members under the Staff Scheme and the MDS Scheme are guaranteed under an insurance policy put in place by the Pension Trustees and these Schemes have accordingly been de-risked. It is anticipated that both Schemes will move to buy-out in the near future (this means that the "blanket" insurance policy is replaced by individual policies with each pensioner). It is customary for Pension Trustees to be granted an indemnity against personal liabilities by the pension scheme employer when schemes are bought out by an insurance company and then wound up.

**1.3** The Assembly Trustees have carefully considered the terms of the indemnities requested by the Pension Trustees and have concluded that the risk to the Church's assets in granting them is low, for three reasons:

1. The Ministers Scheme is in good financial health and the Staff Scheme and MDS Scheme are fully insured, with all benefits guaranteed. It is anticipated that the Ministers Scheme will also move to buy-in within the near future.
2. There is trustee liability insurance cover in place which provides cover for both the Assembly Trustees and the Pension Trustees with an aggregate liability cap of £10m and the Pension Trustees have committed to maintaining this cover unless agreed otherwise with the Church and, on the winding-up of one or more of the Schemes, to putting appropriate run-off insurance in place, the cap and duration of such cover to be agreed with the Church. This would be the first point of recourse for the Pension Trustees were a claim to be made against any of them in a personal capacity. Further, no claim on the Church's indemnities could be made if the claim was subject to an effective discharge provision granted in favour of the Pension Trustees by the Scheme Rules, or if it could be recovered by the Pension Trustees under the terms of professional indemnity insurance maintained by their professional advisers. The indemnities would only come into play if these protections failed.
3. The potential liabilities of the Pension Trustees, and thus of the Church under the indemnities, is reducing each year as no further benefits have been accrued since they closed on 31 December 2013.

**1.4** The General Assembly is therefore invited to approve a Deliverance authorising the Moderator and the Principal Clerk to sign the indemnities on its behalf. Any decisions on how an indemnity would be honoured, in the unlikely event of a claim being made and the assets of the Unincorporated Entities proving to be insufficient, would be at the discretion of a future General Assembly.

#### 2. CHANGES TO THE SCOTTISH CHARITY AUDIT THRESHOLD

**2.1** The Scottish Government has committed to increasing the Scottish charity audit threshold from gross income of £500k per annum to gross income of £1m. The detail will be within the amendments to The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 which are to be introduced in Autumn 2025. However, the change impacts the Presbytery Finance Regulations (Regulations III 2016) and Congregational Finance Regulations (Regulations II 2016) which both stipulate the threshold for audit being required is gross income of £500k. The announcement was made after the deadline for the main Assembly Trustees report to the General Assembly, therefore changes to these Regulations to bring them in line with The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), require to be made in this Supplementary Report.

**2.2** The following amendments are therefore proposed:

Section C1 of the Presbytery Finance Regulations (Regulations III 2016) from:

"If the gross income of the Presbytery exceeds £500,000 in the current financial year an audit shall be conducted".

Is changed to read:

"If the gross income of the Presbytery exceeds the threshold set out in The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), an audit shall be conducted".

**2.3** Section C1 of the Congregational Finance Regulations (Regulations II 2016) from:

"If the gross income of the congregation exceeds £500,000 in the current financial year an audit shall be conducted".

Is changed to read:

"If the gross income of the congregation exceeds the threshold set out in The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), an audit shall be conducted".

*In the name of the Committee*

DAVID CAMERON, *Convener*  
GEOFF MILLER, *Vice-Convener*  
BARRY HUGHES, *Administrative Trustee*

JOINT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM AND THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES ON LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE MAY 2025

Proposed Deliverance

The General Assembly:

- 1. Receive the Joint Supplementary Report.
- 2. Celebrate the history and impact of Life and Work as the Church of Scotland’s magazine over many years, and acknowledge and thank all of its dedicated staff for their contributions (Section 1).
- 3. Note the financial deficits resulting from falling readership of Life and Work and agree to cease production in the current format (Sections 2.1 – 2.3).
- 4. Note work is commencing to explore an alternative, financially sustainable membership magazine that sits within a wider communications strategy for the Church of Scotland (Section 5.4).

Report

1. LIFE AND WORK

1.1 Current status

1.2 Life and Work has been in existence for 146 years, bringing news and encouragement to many Church of Scotland members throughout that time. Editorially independent, and firmly rooted in the affairs of the Church, over the years it has aimed to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church goers across the spectrum. It has a special place in the Church’s heart, connecting people to key events and interesting updates in the life of the denomination and wider world throughout its history.

1.3 In recent years, as with many other print magazines, readership of, and subscriptions to, Life and Work have fallen significantly, as production costs have increased. Whereas previously the magazine worked as a standalone business generating surplus income, the magazine now requires significant investment year on year from central funds to underwrite its production. It is therefore with a very heavy heart that this report is now being presented to the Assembly for it has come to the point where the Church cannot continue to sustain Life and Work in its current print form.

2 CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS

2.1 Considerable work has been undertaken in recent years to place the magazine back onto a sound financial footing with a number of significant changes in style and content in the hope of increasing circulation. The circulation figures, as recorded by the Stewardship and Finance Department as of December 2024 record 4,011 set against the Church of Scotland membership of 245,000.

2.2 In recent years, an emphasis has been made on digital copies, but this also has not borne fruit. Digital sales income was £890 in 2017, and £8,391 in 2024, but this increase is against a decrease in print sales from £427,319 in 2017 to £209,414 in 2024.

2.3 Other revenue streams have also been investigated including branding, sponsorship, and grant funding. From a financial standpoint, costs such as printing and distribution have been driven down over the last few years and are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Advertising revenue has also seen reductions, dropping from £220k in 2017 to £97k in 2024. Prior to 2021, the financial results of Life and Work gave a steady surplus of around £50K per annum on average. Since then there has been a yearly loss.

Year	Net profit / (Loss) £
2017	66,684
2018	56,864
2019	45,953
2020	26,084
2021	(28,884)
2022	(6,635)
2023	(25,240)
2024	(133,323)

Table 1: Surplus and Deficit of Life and Work Magazine across the years

2.4 The original 2025 budget was forecast as being a deficit of £237k followed by an increasing year on year deficit position.



### 3 EXTERNAL REVIEW

**3.1** The Resource & Presence Programme group was given oversight of the operations of the magazine with the creation of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (FAPLT) in May 2023. They identified early on that the magazine was facing significant financial challenge. In mid-2024 an independent consultant working *pro-bono* was asked to conduct a review of the magazine, examining both the business model and the content of the publication. This review lasted three months, and the staff of Life and Work contributed very helpfully to this piece of work.

**3.2** The review concluded that the magazine had a dwindling readership, high running costs and was in need of a relaunch with a significantly different focus and style; and that the magazine was not sustainable in its current form, with costs continuing to rise and readership continuing to drop. A complete overhaul of the content was required in order to attract a new readership and for the content to align with the current needs of the Church of Scotland. In summary, not only is the magazine facing significant financial problems but its style and content is such that it would not appeal to a new generation of readership.

### 4 THE FUTURE

**4.1** A Church publication has the potential to enthuse people and make them proud to be members of the Church of Scotland. It plays an important role in communicating with members and creating and consolidating our community. Despite regular attempts at reviewing design and content, the magazine as it stands does not entirely fulfil this purpose, except to a small section of Church membership.

**4.2** Life and Work has played a significant part in the Church of Scotland's life and witness. Work will commence in seeking to find a way that the legacy of the magazine can continue in a different format which appeals to a wider readership and, like all other aspect of the Church's work, is financially sustainable.

**4.3** This will form part of the developing internal communications strategy that seeks to provide a focus on and support to the Church of Scotland community both in Scotland and beyond. This internal communications strategy will be focused across a number of areas including support for local leadership, ministry, sustainable finances and the younger generation. Key to delivering on this will be the Digital Transformation Project which is now well under way and covered in more detail within the main report of the Assembly Trustees.

**4.4** FAPLT and the Assembly Trustees would like to extend their thanks to the dedicated and long serving staff of Life and Work, to the Life and Work Advisory Committee and to those that have contributed to the magazine across the years. We recognise that the uncertainty of the last few months has been difficult for the staff and it is with considerable regret that we must recommend to the Assembly that the current model of magazine is brought to an end by October 2025 with the date of the final edition to be confirmed. Subscribers will be reimbursed for any unexpired portion of their subscription for the year.

**4.5** We hope to be able to report to next year's Assembly on a new, financially sustainable membership magazine sitting within a well-developed internal communications strategy which will bring increased connectivity across the Church.

*In the name of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Assembly Trustees*

TOMMY MACNEIL, Convener  
ALISTAIR CUMMING, Vice-Convener, Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and Convener  
of the Resource & Presence Programme Group  
KAY CATHCART, Head of Ministries and Mission  
DAVID CAMERON, Convener, Assembly Trustees  
BARRY HUGHES, Administrative Trustee

## X. Standing Orders

**Note: The Assembly Business Committee will propose that new Standing Orders be adopted at this Assembly, so these existing Standing Orders are likely to be replaced. The proposed new Standing Orders can be found as Appendix B to the Report of the Assembly Business Committee, in the Volume of Reports.**

- I. Commissions .....
- II. Conduct of Business .....
- III. Members not Commissioners .....
- IV. Committee Reports and Overtures .....
- V. Conduct of Cases .....
- VI. Order of Debate .....
- VII. Committees and their Membership .....
- VIII. Alteration and Suspension .....

*Note: Generally, references to "laid on the table" shall include "circulated electronically in advance".*

### I. COMMISSIONS

- 1. Roll of Presbytery.** Each Presbytery Clerk shall, by 15 December of each year, transmit to the Clerks of Assembly the number of charges, appointments and deacons specified in section 21 of Act VI 2023 – all as at 30 November immediately preceding.
- 2. Presbyterial Representation.** The Clerks of Assembly will thereafter intimate to Presbyteries what will be their representation in the ensuing Assembly. Any queries shall be settled by the Assembly Business Committee at the request of the Clerks. The decision of the Assembly Business Committee shall be subject to review by the Assembly on Petition by the Presbytery concerned.
- 3. Question Arising.** Should there arise between the month of December and the opening of the Assembly any question regarding representation not provided for in these Orders, the Assembly Business Committee shall have power to dispose thereof.
- 4. Transmission of names and details of Commissioners.** The names, in alphabetical order, full postal addresses, email addresses, charges and types of commission (ie minister, deacon or elder) of Commissioners from Presbyteries, shall be transmitted by Presbytery Clerks to the Clerks of Assembly not later than 31 January in each year so far as they have been elected by that time. In transmitting the names of Commissioners to the Clerks of Assembly, the Clerk of each Presbytery is certifying that to the best of his or her knowledge the Elders named therein are bona fide ruling Elders and are commissioned by the Presbytery.
- 5. Committee on Commissions.** The Committee on Commissions shall consist of the Clerks and the Convener of the Assembly Business Committee; the Principal Clerk shall be Convener. The Committee shall prepare and circulate a list of Commissioners for submission to the Assembly. Along with the said list a copy of the Standing Orders of the General Assembly shall be made available to each member. The Clerks shall arrange to forward to each Commissioner, at least one week before the opening day of the Assembly, an electronic copy of the volume of Reports and Proposed Deliverances and a copy of all Assembly Papers then available.
- 6. Objections.** During the sittings of the Assembly, the Committee on Commissions shall, if called upon, or if it shall appear to it necessary or expedient so to do, hear any person whose Commission is objected to in support of his or her Commission, and also any person or persons who may object to such Commission, and the Committee on Commissions shall have power to settle any such matters.
- 7. Late Commissions.** It shall be competent at any time prior to the opening of the Assembly to lodge with the Clerks of Assembly Commissions which have not previously been transmitted to them; and the Committee on Commissions shall settle any queries as to whether or not such Commissions are valid. Once the Assembly has opened and the Roll of Commissioners has been laid on the table, no further Commissions may be received.
- 8. [ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY] Assembly Hub for online attendees.** All Members attending the General Assembly online shall require to use the Assembly Hub software application (the "Assembly Hub") to participate in the General Assembly as set out below. All such persons shall be supplied in advance with login details to the Assembly Hub and training on its use shall be made available. In particular, the Assembly Hub shall be used by online attendees throughout the General Assembly to do the following:
  1. to follow the business of the General Assembly, read sections of deliverance and vote on them;
  2. to submit notices of motion (to amend an existing section of deliverance, to propose a counter-motion to an existing section of deliverance, or to propose a new motion);
  3. to second a notice of motion; and
  4. to indicate a request to speak (ask a question, make a comment or raise a point of order).
- 8A. [ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY] In Person/Online Participation.** Members may participate in person or online at the General Assembly. A person shall be designated in advance by the commissioning Presbytery as either an in person or an online attendee for the entire duration of the Assembly. No change to a person's status as an in person or online attendee shall be possible after 28 March, save only in the following circumstances: if an in person attendee becomes ill and unable to attend the Assembly in person, they shall advise the Office of the General Assembly as soon as possible by emailing [pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk). When doing so they may request to change to being an online attendee and the Office of the General Assembly shall enable this if possible.

## II. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

### (a) OPENING SESSION

9. **Convening.** The Commissioners elected to serve in the Assembly shall convene on the day and at the hour fixed for the meeting of the Assembly, and, after prayer by the Moderator of the preceding Assembly, the List of Commissioners shall be laid on the table.
10. **Election of Moderator.** The election of a Moderator shall then be made.
11. **His Majesty's Commission.** His Majesty's Commission to the Lord High Commissioner shall then be read and ordered to be recorded.
12. **His Majesty's Letter.** His Majesty's Letter to the Assembly shall then be read and a Committee shall be appointed to prepare an answer thereto.
13. **Standing Orders.** The Standing Orders shall be laid on the table.
14. **Committee on Commissions.** The Report of the Committee on Commissions (SO 5) shall be called for and disposed of.
15. **Order of Business.** The Assembly shall appoint a Procedure Committee, the Convener and Vice-Convener thereof normally to be the Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Assembly Business Committee. The Assembly Business Committee shall prepare and circulate electronically before the commencement of the Assembly, a proposed Order of Business for the Assembly. The proposed Order of Business shall be put to the Assembly for approval on the opening day.

### (b) PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

16. **The Procedure Committee** shall consist of the Convener and Vice-Convener, plus the Moderator, the Clerks, the Procurator and the Law Agent.
17. **Remit.** The Procedure Committee shall be wholly responsible for any re-ordering of the business of the General Assembly.
18. **Selection Committee.** Commissioners to the General Assembly shall be free to nominate other commissioners to serve on the Selection Committee. The names of those proposed shall be brought before the first meeting of the Procedure Committee which, in turn and without being limited to those names proposed by commissioners who are not among its members, shall nominate a Selection Committee of twenty commissioners, including a Convener and Vice-Convener, whose function it shall be to select and submit to the Assembly for their approval names of persons to serve on all Special Commissions and Committees appointed during the sittings of the Assembly. Such persons need not be commissioners.
19. **Communications.** All letters addressed to the Moderator for the purpose of being communicated to the Assembly shall, in the first instance, be laid before the Procedure Committee, which shall advise the Moderator as to their disposal.
20. **Materials for Assembly Members:** Requests for permission to distribute material electronically to Assembly Members shall be submitted to the Assembly Business Committee before the commencement of the Assembly, and requests received thereafter shall be submitted to the Procedure Committee. Any other Committee concerned should be informed and supplied with electronic copies, if available, of the material to be distributed.

### (c) DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES

21. **The Lord's Supper.** The Assembly shall celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at a time appointed by the General Assembly at its opening session.
22. **Acts of Worship.** The Moderator shall be responsible to the Assembly for the conduct of all acts of worship, and shall consult the Assembly Business Committee or the Procedure Committee anent any proposed innovation in such conduct.

### (d) MISCELLANEOUS

23. **Minutes.** The minutes of each day's proceedings, if available, together with the Agenda for the following day or days, intimations of meetings of Committees, and Notices of Motion, shall be circulated as the "Assembly Papers", and shall be made available for all members. The Minutes, being taken as read and full opportunity having been given for correction, shall be approved as available. It shall always be in order at the close of any particular item of business to move that the Minute thereanent be adjusted and approved. Before the dissolution of the Assembly a small Committee, appointed for the purpose, shall be authorised to approve the Minutes not already approved by the Assembly.
24. **Quorum.** The quorum of the Assembly shall be thirty-one, of whom not less than sixteen shall be Ministers. Any Member may at any time call the attention of the Moderator to the fact that there is not a quorum present, and if, on a count being made, it is found that such is the case, it shall be the duty of the Moderator to suspend or adjourn the session.
25. **Tellers.** The Assembly Business Committee shall submit for the approval of the Assembly at their first session a proposed Panel of Tellers. (See SO 105.)
26. **Acts of Assembly.** The Committee on Commissions (SO 5) shall arrange for the text of the Acts of Assembly to be finalised and shall arrange for a list of the proposed Acts of Assembly to be circulated in advance in the Assembly Paper, which shall be considered on the last day of the Assembly.

**27. Examination of Records.** Minutes of the Standing Committees of the Assembly shall be examined by the Legal Questions Committee. The Committee shall report thereon to the General Assembly.

**28. Returns to Overtures.**

- (a) A Committee on Overtures and Cases, consisting of the Clerks, Procurator and Law Agent of the Church (with the Principal Clerk as Convener) shall advise any Committee or individual on the procedure to be followed in respect of measures requiring process under the Barrier Act.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, measures other than Acts of Assembly may be referred for the consideration of Presbyteries, in which case they shall be presented to the General Assembly in the form of an Overture set out as an Act.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, it is open to the General Assembly to decline to consider any motion of which it believes inadequate notice has been given, considering the nature of its content.
- (d) Measures remitted to Presbyteries by an Overture under the Barrier Act shall be accompanied by a note of the voting figures in the General Assembly, the text of the relevant Report and a note by the Clerks explaining any technical or legal matters contained in the Overture.
- (e) All Presbyteries shall make a return in respect of every Overture sent down under the Barrier Act. The return shall be made upon the schedule sent electronically to the Presbytery Clerk for the purpose, transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly, and then submitted to the Committee on Overtures and Cases. The Committee shall classify the returns and make a report to the next Assembly. It shall be the duty of the Committee to report not only the number of Presbyteries for and against an Overture, but also the numbers voting in the Presbyteries as reported in the schedule.
- (f) The Report of the Committee shall include the text of such Overtures as have been approved by a majority of Presbyteries.
- (g) The Assembly Business Committee shall ensure that the Committee's Report classifying returns is taken by the General Assembly no later than session 2 thereof, and in any case before any debate that in the opinion of the Committee on Overtures and Cases would more usefully follow consideration of the Committee's Report.
- (h) The Report of the Committee shall be given in to the Assembly by the Principal Clerk, with the reply to the debate on the merits of the measure given by the relevant Convener. Both should be available to answer questions, as appropriate.

**29. Special Commissions and Committees.**

Special Commissions or Committees will only be appointed where the General Assembly has no existing Standing Committee to which the matter under consideration can, in all the circumstances, properly be remitted. In normal circumstances, business proposed by Councils or Committees of the General Assembly or proposed by Commissioners in the course of debate shall be remitted to one or more of the appropriate Standing Committees listed in SO 113. When, from time to time, a Standing Committee requires to co-opt relevant expertise in order to fulfil the work remitted to it by the General Assembly, it should acknowledge the same in its Report to the General Assembly.

**30. Closing of Assembly.**

When the business set down for the last day of the Assembly has been disposed of, the Assembly shall be closed by addresses by the Moderator to the Assembly and to the Lord High Commissioner, and by an address by the Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly, during an act of worship, and dissolved according to the practice of the Church.

**III. MEMBERS NOT COMMISSIONERS**

**(a) MEMBERS *ex officio***

**31.** These are the Moderator of the Assembly, on election, and the immediately preceding Moderator, the Clerks, Procurator, and Law Agent, and also the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Procedure Committee upon their election. They have all the rights and privileges of Commissioners.

**(b) CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, DELEGATES AND VISITORS – DEFINITION**

**32. Corresponding Members.** Representatives of Departments and Standing Committees as stated in SO 33.

**Delegates from other Churches.** Representatives of other Churches who come in response to an invitation from the Principal Clerk sent at the request of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team or from the Ecumenical Relations Committee to their Church to send a delegate or delegates to the General Assembly and who are duly accredited by the Courts or equivalent authority of their Churches.

**Visitors.** Visitors from other Churches who come with a Letter of Introduction from Assembly or Presbytery Clerks or equivalent officer of their Church.

**33. Corresponding Members**

1. (a) Each of the following bodies shall have the right to appoint for each day of the General Assembly, one member or staff-member to act as a Corresponding Member: the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, the Social Care Council, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the General Trustees, the Church of Scotland Guild, the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund, the Legal Questions Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Safeguarding Committee, the Stewardship and Finance Department, the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees and the Theological Forum.
- (b) Each such body will advise the Assembly Business Committee not less than one week before the commencement of the General Assembly of the name of the Corresponding Member appointed for each day. The names of Corresponding Members appointed under this Standing Order shall be included in the Assembly Papers.

2. The Chief Officer, the Head of Ministries and Mission, the Secretary of the Social Care Council, the Ecumenical Officer, the Editor of Life and Work, the General Treasurer, the Head of Human Resources, the Convener of the Nomination Committee, the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Officer and the Head of Communications shall be Corresponding Members when not Commissioners.
3. The Assembly Trustees, being the Charity Trustees of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees of the General Assembly, shall also be Corresponding Members when not Commissioners.

**34. Status.** Corresponding Members of Assembly shall be entitled to attend all sessions of the same and to speak on any matter before the Assembly affecting the interests of their Council or Committee, where applicable, but shall not have the right to vote or make a motion.

#### **(c) YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **35. Status**

- (i) Presbyteries shall be entitled to appoint persons to serve as Youth Representatives as follows:
  - (a) Each Scottish Presbytery other than *Clèir Eilean Ì (the Presbytery of the Highlands & Hebrides)* and the Presbytery of Lewis may appoint up to four Youth Representatives.
  - (b) *Clèir Eilean Ì (the Presbytery of the Highlands & Hebrides)* and the Presbytery of Lewis may together appoint up to four Youth Representatives.
  - (c) The Presbyteries of England, International Charges and Jerusalem may each appoint one Youth Representative.
- (ii) Each Youth Representative shall be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five on the opening day of the General Assembly. They shall be involved in the life of a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery and shall be regularly involved in the life and worship of the Church of Scotland. The minister of the congregation shall provide confirmation of this involvement if asked by the Presbytery of the bounds.
- (iii) The names of Youth Representatives shall be passed to the Clerks of Assembly by 31 January each year. If a Presbytery does not use fully its entitlement to appoint Youth Representatives in any given year, its unused entitlement may be allocated to another Presbytery or Presbyteries at the discretion of the Clerks of Assembly.
- (iv) Youth Representatives shall be entitled to speak and move motions but not to vote:
  - during debates on Committee reports, and
  - during debates on Overtures.
- (v) Youth Representatives shall not be entitled to speak, move motions or vote:
  - during debates on Petitions or cases, and
  - during debates on matters affecting General Assembly procedure or Standing Orders.
- (vi) Youth Representatives shall not be members of the Commission of Assembly.

##### **Oversight**

- (vii) The Faith Action Programme Leadership Team shall take responsibility for Youth Representatives and shall extend to them appropriate hospitality.

#### **(d) PROBATIONERS AND FAMILIARISATION CANDIDATES**

##### **35A. Status**

- (i) Persons who are, or have very recently been, (a) in training for Ministries of Word and Sacrament or for the Diaconate and undertaking a Probationary placement ("Probationers"), or (b) Admissions candidates undertaking a Familiarisation placement ("Familiarisation Candidates"), shall be entitled to attend the General Assembly with rights as set out below.
- (ii) The Faith Action Programme Leadership Team shall supply to the Assembly Clerks by 31 March each year the names of those Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates which it proposes attend that year's Assembly. Each Probationer and Familiarisation Candidate shall attend only one Assembly in that role.
- (iii) Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates shall be entitled to speak and move motions but not to vote:
  - during debates on Committee Reports, and
  - during debates on Overtures.
- (iv) Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates shall not be entitled to speak, move motions or vote:
  - during debates on Petitions or cases, and
  - during debates on matters affecting General Assembly procedure or Standing Orders.
- (v) Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates shall not be members of the Commission of Assembly.

##### **Oversight**

- (vi) The Faith Action Programme Leadership Team shall take responsibility for Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates and shall extend to them appropriate hospitality. Their accommodation, travel and subsistence expenses will be met as if they were Commissioners.

#### **(e) DELEGATES AND VISITORS**

**36. Reception.** Delegates from other Churches shall be received and welcomed by the Moderator. The Assembly Business Committee is authorised, after consultation with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Ecumenical Relations Committee, to recommend to the Moderator to invite two specified delegates to convey greetings briefly after all the delegates have been received and welcomed by the Moderator.

**37. Status.**

- (i) Delegates to the Assembly shall have the right to attend all sessions and to speak on all matters before the Assembly, except when the Assembly are exercising judicial functions, but shall not have the right to vote.
- (ii) Visitors shall have the privilege of seats in the Assembly but without the right to speak or vote. As in the case of Delegates, the officials of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, or other relevant Council or Committee shall extend appropriate hospitality to Visitors.

**38. Oversight.** The officials of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and other Councils or Committees which may be interested in Delegates, shall see that Invitations to Assembly functions are procured for the Delegates, and that the Members of Assembly shall do everything in their power to make the visits of all the Delegates pleasant and profitable.

**(e) NON-MEMBERS**

**39. Guest Speakers.** Where any Committee wishes that one of its members or staff members, not being a Member of Assembly, should have an opportunity of addressing the Assembly in connection with the discussion of its Report, the Convener shall seek the permission of the Moderator; for the avoidance of doubt, such permission may be sought during a debate. Where any Committee wishes that a person, not being a Member of Assembly or member or staff member of that Committee, should address the Assembly, the Convener shall submit the name of such person for approval to the Assembly Business Committee before the Assembly opens, or to the Procedure Committee during the sittings of the Assembly, and the decision of the Assembly Business Committee or Procedure Committee shall be final, unless the Assembly themselves shall resolve in terms of SO 129 hereof to dispense with the observance of Standing Orders in respect of that particular matter.

**40. Conference Sessions.** The Assembly Business Committee, or the Procedure Committee, in consultation with other Councils and Committees as appropriate may invite the General Assembly to meet in conference sessions and arrange for guest speakers to address such sessions. Councils and Committees shall also be free to invite guests, whom they consider to have a particular interest in the matter under discussion, to participate in the debate. When the General Assembly is meeting in conference no resolutions shall be framed or decisions taken. Expert speakers invited to address the conference shall be allowed a maximum time of fifteen minutes. All other speeches shall be limited to five minutes.

## IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OVERTURES

**(a) REPORTS**

**41. Transmission.** Reports of all Committees reporting to the Assembly shall be transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly not later than the first Monday after the third Tuesday in February each year provided that, by arrangement with the Clerk of Assembly, a Statement and Proposed Deliverance on the Budget of the Church, report on Congregational Statistics as reported by Kirk Sessions through Presbyteries and report on Statistics of Ministry may be submitted at a later date, but in time to be included and circulated with the Reports. All Reports shall be accompanied by the Deliverance to be proposed to the Assembly, and when the Proposed Deliverance exceeds two sections each section shall be numbered consecutively.

**42. Circulation of Reports and Proposed Deliverances.** It shall be the duty of the Clerks to arrange for all such Reports and Proposed Deliverances to be circulated in the authorised form to each Member of Assembly at least one week before the day of meeting. All Reports so distributed shall be held as read. Each Committee shall immediately after the rising of the Assembly furnish the publisher of the Reports with the number required for circulation.

**43. Oral Reports and Reports of Sub-Committees.** Oral Reports shall not be received, and no Sub-Committee shall give any Report to the Assembly.

**44. In Retentis.** Reports shall not be engrossed in the Minutes, but a copy of each Report certified by one of the Clerks as being that given to the Assembly, shall be kept in retentis; and the Reports thus collected shall be preserved among the other Records of the Assembly.

**45. Questions on Reports.** After the Deliverance on the Report of any Committee has been moved and seconded the Assembly, before dealing with any other motions or amendments thereon, shall have opportunity for asking questions on the Report, this being without prejudice to the right of Members to put questions, with the leave of the Assembly, at any subsequent stage.

**[ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY]**

**[If attending in person]:** If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively an in person attendee may use one of the stations placed in the Hall to enter a "request to speak" against the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

**[If attending online]:** Members who wish to ask a question or to make a comment on a Report should use the Assembly Hub to enter a "request to speak" against the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

**46. Questions requiring Notice.** It shall be in order to ask questions of the Convener regarding any matter in the care of the Committee to which no reference is made in the Report but in such cases timeous notice shall be given to the Convener.

**[ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY]**

**[If attending in person]:** If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively an in person attendee may use one of the stations placed in the Hall to enter a "request to speak" against the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

**[If attending online]:** Members who wish to ask a question or to make a comment on a Report should use the Assembly Hub to enter a “request to speak” against the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

**47. Deliverance.** The final Deliverance of the Assembly upon the Report of any Committee shall follow immediately after the consideration of that Report, except in the event of a special reason for the contrary having been approved by the Assembly and recorded in the Minutes.

**48. Late Reports.** Reports of Committees appointed during the sittings of Assembly, if they propose any motion not already circulated to Members, shall be submitted to the Clerks of Assembly at least one day prior to their being considered, and included in the “Assembly Papers”.

#### **(b) OVERTURES**

**49. Transmissions.** All Overtures from Presbyteries passed on or before 24 April shall be sent to the Clerks of Assembly not later than that date in each year. Overtures from Commissioners shall be lodged with the Clerks not later than noon on the third last day of the meeting of the Assembly, unless the Assembly for special reason decide otherwise.

**50. Circulation of Overtures.** The Clerks shall arrange for the circulation of Overtures to Commissioners, at the expense (if any) of those promoting them, either with the papers for Cases or in the “Assembly Papers”.

**51. Form.** Overtures should contain a brief statement of the matter to be brought before the Assembly together with a Proposed Deliverance, of which the first section shall be “The General Assembly receive the Overture”.

**52. When Taken.** Overtures relating to matters under the care of the Committees of the Church whose reports are on the Agenda for one of the first two days of the Assembly shall be assigned by the Assembly Business Committee (unless the Committee on Overtures and Cases decides not to transmit) to the place in the discussion at which they shall be introduced to the Assembly. In other cases this shall be done by the Procedure Committee. When the Proposed Deliverance of an Overture is capable of being treated as a counter-motion or amendment to the Proposed Deliverance of a Committee, or as a new section of such Proposed Deliverance, it shall be so treated.

**53. Grouping.** Overtures on the same or cognate subjects shall be grouped by the Assembly Business Committee or Procedure Committee of the Assembly and only one speaker shall be heard introducing each group.

**54. Introduction.** An Overture from a Presbytery may be introduced by any member of that Presbytery, specially appointed for the purpose, at the bar; or by any one of its Commissioners to the Assembly in his or her place as a Commissioner.

#### **(c) GENERAL**

**55. Matters Relating to Stipend.** It shall not be competent for the Assembly, without due notice of motion in the hands of Commissioners in proper form (for example as a Proposed Deliverance, Notice of Motion or Crave of a Petition), to debate any proposal which might impact directly on or which might bring about binding changes to the terms and conditions of ministers which relate to stipend or stipend scales.

**56. Proposals with Budgetary Implications.** Prior to making any proposal, Commissioners should give due consideration as to whether this will incur the use of additional resources or affect the incoming resources for the Church’s work, ie whether the proposal has budgetary implications. Advice on any proposal can be sought from the General Treasurer. A proposal with budgetary implications must be in the hands of Commissioners in proper form providing due notice (for example, as a Proposed Deliverance, Notice of Motion, or Crave of a Petition). Specifically, to ensure sensible budget controls:

- (a) Any proposal which involves potential new or additional expenditure whether of a one-off or recurring nature, must be accompanied by a statement specifying where funding will be found, whether by a reduction of existing expenditure; funding external to the Church or from additional funding provided by congregations.
- (b) Any proposal which results in a potential reduction in income, including a reduction in the funding provided by congregations, must be accompanied by a statement of where replacement funding will be found or expenditure reduced to compensate for the reduction in the income.

The Assembly Trustees and/or the General Trustees, as applicable, shall have the right to comment upon any proposal in category (a) or (b) before any decision is taken.

**57. Declaratory or Interim Act.** The draft of any proposed Declaratory or Interim Act, as also the draft of any Overture which it is proposed to transmit to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act (other than any Overture circulated in the volume of Reports), shall be circulated to Members and laid on the table of the Assembly at least one day before a Motion for the passing of such Declaratory or Interim Act, or for the transmission of such Overture to Presbyteries, is made in the Assembly.

### **V. CONDUCT OF CASES**

**58. Commission of Assembly.** The rules of procedure for the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly shall be as set out in Schedule 2 to the Appeals Act (Act I 2014). Standing Orders 59 – 61 apply where a matter is being brought before the Commission of Assembly in terms of those powers of the Commission of Assembly not being exercised by the Appeals Committee, or before the General Assembly, being a petition, a reference or an appeal on a matter of doctrine. In Standing Orders 59 – 61 references to the General Assembly shall be taken to refer where appropriate to the Commission of Assembly and all references shall be so construed *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **(a) LODGING OF PAPERS**

**59. Appeal; Dissent and Complaint; Petition.** The papers in all cases intended to be brought before the Assembly, whether Appeals or Dissents and Complaints against the judgement of inferior courts, or Petitions, should be lodged with the Clerks of Assembly not later than 24 April, and must be lodged not less than fourteen days before the opening

session of Assembly; except in the case of judgements pronounced within sixteen days of the meeting of Assembly, in which case they shall be lodged within forty-eight hours of the judgement being pronounced.

**60. (a). Reference.** In the case of Reference of a matter from an inferior court for the judgement of the Assembly the same limits as to time for lodging of papers in the case shall apply as in SO 59.

**(b). Reference of Matter Previously Considered.** Where the matter of a Reference has previously been under consideration of the Assembly, the Reference shall state the date when the matter was previously before the Assembly and shall narrate the Assembly's Deliverance thereon.

**61. Answers.** It shall be competent for all parties claiming an interest in the subject matter of an Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition to lodge Answers thereto complying with the requirements of this SO 61. Answers may be lodged any time after the Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition is received by the Clerks, but not later than seven days before the opening meeting of Assembly. Answers shall be in the form of articulate numbered Answers to the narrative contained in the Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition, indicating in particular matters of fact that are admitted and denied, and shall set forth a concise statement of the Respondent's case, together with a crave specifying the action the Assembly are invited to take thereanent.

#### **(b) PROVISION OF PAPERS**

**62. Circulation.** It shall be the duty of the Clerks on receiving papers that are to come before the Assembly in connection with cases to arrange to have these circulated to Members in authorised form.

**63. In Private.** Papers relating to business dealt with by Presbyteries in private, or which the Committee on Overtures and Cases (SOs 70 – 71) consider should be taken in private, shall be circulated separately and may be dealt with by the Assembly in private.

**64. Cost of Circulation of Papers.** In cases of discipline brought before the Assembly by the Judicial Commission, by Reference from a Presbytery, or by complaint by a minority of the Court, the expense of circulation (if any) shall be borne by the Assembly Business Committee; in other circumstances by the Complainer or Appellant. In all other cases the expenses of circulating papers (if any) for the use of Commissioners shall be borne by the party having interest in the same or desiring a Deliverance from the Assembly.

**65. In Retentis.** A copy of every circulated paper shall be kept by the Clerks of Assembly to be retained among the Records of Assembly.

#### **(c) CIRCULATION OF PAPERS**

**66. Date of Dispatch.** A copy of all papers transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly not later than 24 April shall be forwarded by them to each Member of Assembly at least one week before the opening day of the Assembly.

**67. In Private.** The Clerks of Assembly shall not issue in advance to Members the papers in cases which they think require to be conducted in private, until specially instructed by the Assembly so to do; but shall report such cases to the Convener of the Procedure Committee, for the information of that Committee, immediately after its appointment.

#### **(d) INTIMATION TO PARTIES**

**68. Appeal; Dissent and Complaint.** In all cases coming before the Assembly by Appeal or Dissent and Complaint it shall be the duty of the Clerks of Assembly to inform the parties on both sides as soon as possible of the time at which such case is likely to be taken by the Assembly. Such intimation shall, unless in a specific case the Assembly determine otherwise, be regarded as sufficient notice.

The Clerks shall further be bound, on application made to them for the purpose, to supply a copy of all papers circulated in pursuance of the foregoing Orders to the opposite party or parties in any case, or to his or her or their duly accredited Agents.

**69. Petition.** In every Petition it shall be the duty of the Petitioner to make such intimation of the Petition as may be necessary having regard to the nature of the Petition. Such intimation shall be made not more than seven days later than the time when the Petition is lodged with the Clerks of Assembly as provided in SO 59 above; and along with the Petition there shall be lodged a certificate signed by the Petitioner or his or her Agent setting forth the names of the parties to whom such intimation has been made or is to be made. The Assembly may refuse to dispose of any Petition if in their opinion sufficient intimation thereof has not been made.

#### **(e) TRANSMISSION TO ASSEMBLY**

**70. Committee on Overtures and Cases.** All papers lodged with the Clerks in cases of every sort in terms of the foregoing Orders shall be laid by them before the Committee on Overtures and Cases, which shall consider the same and report to the Assembly.

**71. Decision not to Transmit.** If the Committee on Overtures and Cases shall decide not to transmit to the Assembly any papers in cases duly lodged with the Clerks of Assembly it shall report the same to the Assembly at their first Session, or at the Session next after such decision, with its reasons for not transmitting the papers, and parties shall be entitled to be heard thereon at the bar of the Assembly. Intimation of a decision not to transmit papers shall be made to the parties concerned as soon as possible, and in time to allow of their being represented at the bar when the decision not to transmit is reported to the Assembly.

**72. In Private.** The Procedure Committee shall, in its first Report, specify any case which in its judgement requires to be conducted in private, and any case which does not appear to it to be of that character although the Clerks of Assembly may have reported it as such. The Assembly shall thereupon determine by a special Deliverance, at what stage in the proceedings the papers in such a case shall be issued to the Commissioners. In every case which the Assembly appoint to be conducted in private the instruction to issue the papers shall be accompanied by a special exhortation to the Commissioners to keep them private.



**73. Proposed Legislation.** All Overtures from Presbyteries or from Commissioners which propose the introduction of new or the amendment of existing Acts (or Regulations) shall contain the precise terms of the legislation which they propose; and the Committee on Overtures and Cases shall not transmit to the Assembly any Overture which is deficient in this respect, provided always that the Clerks and Procurator shall be available to assist with the framing of such proposals.

**(f) HEARING OF CASES**

**74. Announcement.** Before parties are heard in any contentious case the Clerk shall read the following announcement, viz – “The Commissioners are reminded that justice requires that all the pleadings at the bar should be heard by all those who vote in this case, and that their judgement should be made solely on the basis of the pleadings.” Immediately before a vote is taken in such a case, the Clerk shall read the following further announcement, viz – “The Commissioners are reminded that only those who have heard all the pleadings at the bar are entitled to vote in this case.”

**75. Appeal; Complaint; One Appellant.** In cases brought before the Assembly by Appeal, where there is only one appellant (or one set of appellants concurring in the same reasons of Appeal) and only one respondent (or one set of respondents concurring in the same answers to the reasons of Appeal) the case for the appellant (or set of appellants) shall be stated by him or herself or by his or her counsel, who at the same time shall submit such argument upon the case as he or she shall think fit. The party or counsel so stating the Appeal shall be followed by the respondent or his or her counsel who likewise shall submit such arguments upon the case as he or she shall think fit. At the close of the statement for the respondent the appellant shall be entitled to be again heard, and the respondent shall also be entitled to be heard in answer to the second speech for the appellant and if, in his or her final answer, the respondent shall state any fact or submit any argument not adverted to in his or her answer to the opening statement for the appellant, the appellant shall be entitled to a reply upon the new matter introduced in the final answer for the respondent. With the exception of this right of reply, so limited, more than two speeches shall not be allowed to any party at the bar.

**76. Appeal; Complaint; More than one Appellant.** In such cases as those referred to in SO 75 if there is more than one appellant (or set of appellants) insisting on the Appeal, or more than one respondent (or set of respondents) supporting the judgement appealed against, (a) on different grounds, or (b) in separate reasons or answers, each appellant shall be entitled to open and state his or her separate case, and each respondent shall be entitled to make his or her separate answer, and the debate shall be closed with a reply for the several appellants; provided always that it shall be competent to the parties, with consent of the Assembly to make any arrangement for conducting the debate other than herein prescribed, if it shall have the effect of limiting, further than is herein done, the number of speeches to be made from the bar.

**77. Appeal; Complaint; Who may appear.** Any Member of an inferior court whose judgement is brought under review of the Assembly may appear at the bar in support of the judgement; but, when Commissioners have been specially appointed by the inferior court to support its judgement, the Assembly shall not hear any Member of such court other than the Commissioners so appointed, unless any Member not so appointed but wishing to be heard can show a separate and peculiar interest to support the judgement; and in all such cases it shall be competent to the Assembly to limit the number of Members of an inferior court who shall be heard in support of the judgement under review.

**78. Dissents and Complaints.** In SOs 75 to 77, “Appeal” includes “Dissents and Complaints” and “Appellant” includes “Complainer”.

**79. Petition.** In cases brought before the Assembly as the court of first instance by Petition, the party promoting the application shall be entitled to be heard in support of the same; and the Assembly shall also hear an answer from any party at the bar claiming to be heard whom it shall consider to be a proper respondent, and the debate at the bar shall be closed with a reply from the person promoting the application.

**80. Reference.** In cases brought before the Assembly by reference from a Presbytery the reference shall be stated to the Assembly by a Member of the referring court, specially appointed for the purpose, at the bar if not a Commissioner, or in his or her place as a Commissioner if a Commissioner from the Presbytery. The Assembly shall thereafter hear the parties in the case referred in such order as the nature of the case may seem to require, keeping in view the regulations in SOs 74 to 79.

**81. Readjustment Cases.** In cases arising from Act VII, 2003, when a request for determination follows a decision of the Partnership Development Committee not to concur in the judgement of a Presbytery, the Convener, or other member of the said Committee, shall be heard at the bar if not a Commissioner, or in his or her place as a Commissioner if a Commissioner, immediately after the request for determination has been stated. After the initial statement and the response by the said Committee when applicable, the General Assembly shall hear at the bar such parties in the case as are not represented by Commissioners, in such order as the nature of the case may seem to require.

## VI. ORDER OF DEBATE

**(a) ORDER OF THE DAY**

**82.** When the Assembly have resolved that a case or other piece of business shall be taken up at a certain hour mentioned in the Order of Business, such case or other piece of business shall be taken up not later than the hour fixed and the business before the Assembly, if not finished at the hour named, shall be adjourned, provided that, in the case of an Order of the Day following the Report of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, such unfinished business shall not be taken up. If, in the opinion of the Moderator, it would be in accordance with the general convenience of the Assembly, the Moderator may allow the transaction of the business then actually under discussion to continue for a period of not more than fifteen minutes beyond the specified time, but no fresh business shall be commenced.

## (b) MOTIONS

### 83. Time-bound

On the motion of the Procedure Committee or moved as part of the deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee, the General Assembly may resolve that the Report and draft Deliverance relating to a particular Council or Committee's Report be taken in a time-bound process of debate and decision. Such a motion shall be moved at least 24 hours in advance of the presentation of the Report concerned.

Having so resolved the General Assembly shall operate the following timetable:-

- a) Start times shall be allotted to specified Sections of the Report and to the related sections of the draft Deliverance. Discussion of any Section of the Report shall not commence later than its allotted start time, but may begin earlier if debate of the previous Section has been completed.
- b) If discussion and debate of a particular Section of the Report has not been concluded within its allotted time, then further consideration of associated sections of the draft Deliverance shall be sisted and the General Assembly shall take up the next Section of the Report.
- c) If, at the close of the debate on the last Section of the Report, there is still time before the Order of the Day requires to be implemented or business is due to conclude, then the General Assembly shall return for further debate of any outstanding sections of the draft Deliverance remaining relative to each Section of the Report.
- d) If the Order of the Day or anticipated close of business is imminent, then any outstanding sections of the draft Deliverance shall be voted upon without debate, except that other motions circulated in the Daily Papers shall also be taken, without debate, the Convener simply having the right to indicate whether or not the Council or Committee is willing to accept the motion.
- e) Where motions appearing in the Daily Papers do not relate directly to the Report and draft Deliverance proposed by the Council or Committee, they will be taken either at the end of the appropriate Section, if there is time available according to the allotted timetable, or at the end of the appropriate Section when the procedure leading to the Order of the Day (or close of business) is being implemented.

**84. Right to Move.** Any Commissioner to the Assembly may make a motion upon any matter coming regularly before the Assembly; and on rising to do so he or she shall read the terms of the motion having previously handed the same in writing on the form provided to the Assembly Office or other point of collection intimated to the General Assembly. It shall be in order to move a motion regarding any matter in the care of a Committee to which no reference is made in the Report of that Committee, provided that reasonable notice has been given in writing to the Convener before presentation of the Report. The mover of any counter-motion or amendment may reply to the discussion of his or her motion, immediately before the Convener closes the debate.

**85. Withdrawal.** When a motion has been duly seconded it shall not be competent to withdraw it, or to make any alteration upon it, without the permission of the Assembly.

**86. Priority of Deliverance over other motion.** The Deliverance on the Report of a Committee shall take precedence of any other motion on that subject.

**87. Committee Convener.** The Convener of a Committee when a Commissioner, on giving in the Report of that Committee, shall move the Deliverance proposed in terms of SO 41. A Convener, when not a Commissioner, shall be allowed to submit the Report of the Committee, and to give explanations in the subsequent discussion. In such a case the Principal Clerk, whom failing, the Depute Clerk, shall formally move the Deliverance. In all cases the Convener shall have the right of replying to the debate.

**88. Introducer of Overture.** The Introducer of an Overture, if a Commissioner, shall move the Deliverance; and if he or she is not a Commissioner the Principal Clerk, whom failing the Depute Clerk, shall formally move the Deliverance. The Introducer, whether a Commissioner or not, may answer questions or give explanations in the course of the debate and, if a Commissioner, may reply to, the discussion immediately before the relevant Convener closes the debate.

**89. Notice of Motion.** Commissioners are encouraged to give advance Notice of motions. Any Commissioner may, during the sittings of the Assembly, give advance notice of Motion on any subject due to come regularly before the Assembly, other than a contentious case. Notices of Motion so given in shall, if received in time to do so, be included in the "Assembly Papers" not later than the day on which the business is to be taken. Such circulated Notice of Motion shall confer no right of priority of moving same, the Moderator being the sole judge of the order in which Members are entitled to address the Assembly.

### [ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY]

**[If attending in person]:** If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively an in person attendee may email a duly completed notice of motion form to the Clerks of Assembly using [pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk), or may complete and return to the Clerks at the top table or to the Assembly Office, a paper notice of motion form.

**[If attending online]:** Members should use the Assembly Hub to register a notice of motion in advance in respect of the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

**[For all attendees]:** All persons entitled to do so are asked to register a notice of motion before the start of the relevant Standing Committee's business slot, i.e. before debate on the relevant Report starts

## (c) THE DEBATE

**90. The Chair.** Every speaker shall address the Assembly through the Moderator, and the correct address is "Moderator".

**91. In Support.** When a motion or motions have been made and seconded, any Member (including a formal seconder in terms of SO 95) may take part in subsequent debate.

**92. Speeches.** (1) Except as provided in SOs 84 and 87, no Member may speak twice on the same question except in explanation, and then only by special permission of the Assembly. (2) Members shall make relevant declarations of interest where the topic of debate makes it appropriate to do so.

**93. Point of Order.** Any Member may rise to speak to a Point of Order. A speaker is not to be interrupted unless upon a call to order. When so interrupted he or she shall cease speaking, and shall resume his or her seat until the Point of Order is decided. The Member calling to order shall state the grounds for so doing; and the speaker who has been interrupted may briefly reply in explanation, to show that he or she is not out of order, but no other Member may speak to the Point of Order unless with the permission or at the request of the Moderator, with whom the decision of the point rests, though the Moderator may put the point to a vote of the Assembly.

**94.** There shall be no right of reply to a debate except as provided for by SOs 84 and 87.

**95. Limits.** All speeches shall be limited to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions:

(i) COMMITTEES	
Convener giving in the Report of his or her Committee and moving thereon (seconding to be formal)	15 minutes
Convener responding to a question	4 minutes
(ii) OVERTURES	
Introducing an Overture and when the Introducer is a Commissioner, moving thereon	10 minutes
Mover of other Motions in relation to Overture (seconding to be formal)	10 minutes
(iii) PETITIONS	
Speeches of Petitioners	10 minutes

**96. No Time Limit.** The time limits shall apply, except in the following cases:

- when the Assembly are debating specific proposals for change under Barrier Act procedure;
- when the Assembly are exercising judicial functions;
- in Petitions when, for special reasons, the Committee on Overtures and Cases reports that the circumstances demand an extension, and when the General Assembly adopt that opinion;
- in any other matter when the Assembly Business Committee (in respect of the Order of Business for the first two days) or the Procedure Committee (in respect of the Order of Business for the subsequent days) declares that, in its opinion, such matter is of exceptional importance, and when the Assembly adopt that opinion.

#### (d) DEALING WITH MOTIONS

**97. Character of Motions.** Motions shall be considered as belonging to one of the following categories, and shall be dealt with as prescribed, viz:

- The original Motion.
- Counter-Motions – being Motions contradictory or negative of the original Motion or of a substantial part of the original Motion.
- Amendments being Motions not substantially contradictory of the original Motion or Counter-Motion, but for making deletions, alterations, or additions thereto without defeating its main object.
- Amendments of amendments already moved and seconded.

**98. Moderator to Judge.** The Moderator shall be judge of the category to which any Motions shall be considered to belong, and the ruling of the Moderator shall be final.

**99. Grouping of Amendments.** When to any Proposed Deliverance there has been given notice of amendments which differ from each other only slightly in their general tenor, the Moderator shall decide whether or not to permit more than one of such amendments to be moved.

**100. Voting on Amendments.** When an amendment (Category 3) has been proposed it shall be disposed of by the Assembly before any other counter-motion or amendment is proposed. However, it shall be in order for an amendment of an amendment (Category 4) to be proposed, seconded and debated, after which the Moderator shall take a vote "For" or "Against". When all such Category 4 motions have been so disposed of, the Assembly shall complete its consideration of the original amendment (Category 3) and the Moderator shall take a vote "For" or "Against" the original amendment amended or unamended as the case may be. For the avoidance of doubt, it is affirmed that the order of debate for Category 3 and Category 4 motions shall be the same except as herein provided and that the provisions of SO 87 shall apply to both.

**101. Voting on Motions.** After all amendments, if any, have been disposed of, the Moderator shall take a vote between all Motions in Categories (1) and (2), and in doing so shall adopt the following procedure. A vote shall be taken in one of the methods provided below, between all the Motions in the order in which they were made, beginning at the first. Each Commissioner may vote for one Motion only. If, on the numbers being announced, one Motion has obtained a clear majority of votes, all the other Motions shall fall; but if no Motion has obtained a clear majority, the Motion having the smallest number of votes shall be struck off and a vote taken between the remaining Motions; and the Assembly may determine.

**102. Voting for Appointments.** In the case of voting for appointments to vacant offices in the Church, where there are more than two nominations the Assembly shall vote separately on all the names proposed, and, unless there be a majority in favour of one over all the others combined, the one having the lowest number shall be dropped, and the Assembly shall again vote on those that remain.

**103. Deliberative Vote.** The Moderator or Acting Moderator in the Chair shall have no Deliberative Vote.

**104. Casting Vote.** If in any division there shall be an equality of votes for two proposals before the Assembly, the Moderator shall have power to give a deciding vote; and if in the course of the voting as provided in SOs 100 and 101 above, there should be an equality of votes for the two Motions having fewest votes, the Moderator shall have power to give a deciding vote and the Motion for which the Moderator shall vote shall be retained for the purpose of the next vote of the Assembly.

#### **(e) TAKING THE VOTE**

**105.** The Moderator may, in any circumstances and at his or her sole discretion, ascertain the mind of the Assembly by asking the Commissioners to stand in their places, and shall intimate to the Assembly on which side there is in his or her opinion a majority. Unless the opinion of the Moderator so intimated is at once challenged, it shall become the decision of the Assembly. If any Commissioner challenges the opinion of the Moderator, the Assembly shall proceed to take an electronic vote using a system approved by the Assembly Business Committee. Alternatively, it shall be open to the Moderator, again at his or her sole discretion and in any circumstances, to ascertain the mind of the Assembly by recourse to the use of electronic voting. After all votes have been counted the Moderator shall intimate the result of the voting which will become the decision of the Assembly. In no circumstances shall a second vote be taken on a matter which has already been the subject of a vote by electronic voting. The Procedure Committee shall ensure that Commissioners are familiar with the method of electronic voting and will appoint Tellers to assist Commissioners, where necessary, with the process of casting votes and to assist the Assembly with the process of voting by paper ballot which shall be a competent alternative to the taking of a vote by electronic means in the event of a failure in the electronic voting system.

#### **[ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY]**

**[For all attendees] Quick approval of business:** The Moderator shall have discretion to gauge approval, without need formally to vote, of any section of deliverance by combining the following indications and forming a view: having taken into account any "requests to speak" which have been registered, they may ask in person commissioners to stamp their feet or stand and at the same time may ask online commissioners to "raise a hand" on Zoom to indicate approval of a section of deliverance. If following use of this procedure any commissioner requests a formal vote, then the Moderator shall call for an electronic vote to take place.

#### **Where an electronic vote is used, it shall proceed as follows:**

**[If attending in person]:** An in person attendee shall vote using a Bluetooth handset supplied to them at the start of the Assembly. Voting for such persons via the Assembly Hub will be disabled.

**[If attending online]** An online attendee shall use the Assembly Hub to vote. In the event of a failure in the technology operating the Assembly Hub, online attendees shall vote using Zoom Polls or shall use such other voting mechanism as may be prescribed at the time by the Procedure Committee.

**[For all attendees]:** The votes from both from in-person attendance and the Assembly Hub shall be added together and the result shall be announced by the Moderator. The voting figures shall be minuted where the Moderator, in his or her discretion, specifically requests this, or where the Clerks of Assembly decide that it would be appropriate to do so. In no circumstances shall a second vote be taken on a matter which has already been the subject of a vote by electronic voting.

#### **(f) DISSENTS**

**106. Entering.** Any Commissioner dissatisfied with a judgement of the Assembly, which has not been unanimous, has the right to enter his or her dissent against it; but no dissent can be given in until the matter to which it refers has, for that session, been disposed of, the Minute adjusted, and the Assembly is ready to proceed to other business.

**107. Adhering.** When a dissent has been entered, it is in order for any other Commissioner present when that judgement was pronounced to adhere to such dissent. No other's adherence may be entered.

**108. Reasons.** A person dissenting may do so with or without giving in reasons of dissent. If he or she dissent for reasons given in at the time, or to be afterwards given in, such reasons shall, if received by the Assembly as proper and relevant, and provided they are given in before the close of the next session (or, when made on the last day of the Assembly, before the close of the same session), be recorded in the Minutes.

**109. Answers.** If the Assembly appoint a Committee to prepare answers to reasons of dissent, the Report of the Committee shall, except on the last day of the Assembly, be in the "Assembly Papers"; and, as approved by the Assembly, shall be included in the Minutes, if the reasons of dissent have been so circulated.

**110. Record of Dissents.** Reasons of dissent and answers thereto when not entered in the Minutes, shall be kept in a separate Record of Dissents.

#### **[ADDITIONAL WORDING APPLYING TO A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY]**

**[If attending in person]:** If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may email their dissent as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively, an in person attendee may sign the list provided by the Assembly Office.

**[If attending online]:** A dissent shall be entered or adhered to by sending an email to: [pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk) with the subject line stating "Dissent against....[insert name of Standing Committee and number of relevant section of deliverance]". To be recorded in the minute, any such email must be received by the Clerks by the close of the last session of the Assembly.

## VII. COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP

### (a) COMMITTEES

**111. Committees.** The Committees of the General Assembly shall be those listed in SO 113 together with such *ad hoc* Committees as the General Assembly may appoint from time to time. Clerical services for the *ad hoc* Committees shall normally be provided by the staff of the Principal Clerk's Department.

**112. Quorum.** Save for those bodies where provision is already made for a quorum, the quorum of Standing Committees of the General Assembly listed in SO 113 shall be three. When a meeting ceases to be quorate, business must be suspended. The quorum shall apply also to sub-committees and other bodies constituted from the relevant Standing Committees where such sub-committees and other bodies have decision-making powers, but not otherwise.

**113. Membership.** The Standing Committees of the General Assembly shall have membership as follows, General Assembly appointments being made on the nomination of the Nomination Committee except where otherwise stated.

1. **Assembly Business Committee** ..... 16/17  
 Convener, Vice-Convener, 2 members of the Legal Questions Committee (Convener and another member involved more in judicial matters to be nominated by the Legal Questions Committee), a further 6 members made up of ministers and elders with experience of the General Assembly appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, with the following members *ex officio*: the Moderator and the Moderator Designate, the Principal Clerk, the Depute Clerk, the Solicitor, the Procurator and the General Treasurer. The Convener and Vice-Convener are also to serve as Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Procedure Committee.
2. **Assembly Trustees** ..... 14  
 12 trustees appointed (from which shall be drawn the Convener, Vice-Convener, and Administrative Trustee. In addition to appointed Trustees, the Assembly Business Committee and the General Trustees shall each appoint one of their members as a representative who shall be entitled to attend all meetings as a corresponding member but without a right to vote or make a motion, such member being eligible to serve for a maximum period of three years.
3. **Audit Committee** ..... 6  
 Convener, who shall not be an Assembly Trustee, three voting members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, all of whom shall be independent of the Unincorporated Entities and at least one of whom shall have recent and relevant financial experience, and two additional voting members appointed by the Assembly Trustees. The quorum shall be three voting members, at least one of whom is a Trustee member. The Chief Officer and the General Treasurer shall attend without a right to vote or make a motion. In addition, other officials, as required by the Committee, may be in attendance from time to time without a right to vote or make a motion. Representatives of the External and Internal Auditors, shall be entitled to attend all meetings but without a right to vote or make a motion.
4. **Church Hymnary Trust**  
 Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.
5. **Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund**..... Up to 11  
 Up to 3 ministers and 1 member appointed by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, who having served a term of 4 years shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second 4 year term;  
 Up to 4 appointed by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trustees, who having served a term of 4 years shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second 4 year term;  
 Up to 3 appointed by the Baird Trust, for a term of office determined by that Trust.  
 Any Trustee (other than one appointed by the Baird Trust) may serve for up to a further two four-year terms if elected also as Chairperson or Depute Chairperson
6. **Church of Scotland Investors Trust**  
 Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.
7. **Church of Scotland Trust**  
 Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.
8. **Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces** ..... 10  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and four members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee. There is also 1 non-voting member: a representative from and appointed by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team.
9. **Delegation of the General Assembly**..... 4  
 The Clerks of Assembly, the Principal Clerk as Chair, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church, *ex officio*.
10. **Ecumenical Relations Committee** ..... 10 plus representatives and co-optees
  - a) 8 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, 1 to be attached, for the purposes of ecumenical accompaniment, to the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team.
  - b) Convener who will act as a personal support for the Ecumenical Officer, and Vice-Convener, appointed by the General Assembly.
  - c) A representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland appointed in virtue of the Saint Margaret Declaration; a representative of the Scottish Episcopal Church appointed in virtue of the Saint Andrew Declaration; a representative of the Church of England appointed in virtue of the Columba Declaration, and 1 representative from each of 2 churches drawn from the following: the Baptist Union of Scotland, Congregational Federation (Scotland), Methodist Church; Religious Society of Friends, Salvation Army; United Free Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, each to serve for a period of four years.

- d) The Committee shall co-opt Church of Scotland members elected to the central bodies of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE, formerly the Leuenberg Fellowship of Churches).
- e) Meetings of the Committee shall normally be held with all members, representatives and co-optees invited, but a meeting may also be called only for voting members, being those appointed under paragraphs a) and b) above. Where the full Committee is meeting, only those persons appointed under paragraphs a) and b) above shall be entitled to vote, but before any vote is taken the views of members representing other churches shall be ascertained.

11. **Ethical Oversight Committee** .....9

9 people, each of whom shall serve no more than two three-year terms, to be populated as follows: 3 persons who shall be trustees of the Investors Trust, 1 person from the General Trustees, and 5 appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee; of these 5, 3 will have a social justice and/or world church background; 1 will be a parish minister; and 1 will be thirty years of age or under at first appointment.

12. **Faith Action Programme Leadership Team** .....44

The Leadership Team will comprise a) a Convener appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee b) 5 Vice Conveners, appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, to deputise for the Convener when unavailable and lead Programme Groups (with 1 of the Vice Conveners to be designated, on the recommendation of the Nomination Committee, as Deputy Convener) c) 5 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee d) 12 members appointed by Presbyteries. There will be 1 such member for each Presbytery or Presbytery grouping e) The Convener, or substitute, of the Theological Forum f) The Convener, or substitute, of the Ecumenical Relations Committee. No Assembly Trustee, member of another Agency of the Church or employee of the Church will be eligible to be a member. The quorum will be 5 members. The Convener will have a casting vote. The Convener will be appointed for a term of four years. Of the Vice Conveners 2 will be appointed for two years and 3 for three years as decided by the Nomination Committee. Subsequent to those first appointed, the Convener and Vice Conveners may be appointed from existing members and will conclude service at the conclusion of their term as Convener or Vice Convener. Of the other Members of the Leadership Team first appointed, one third will serve for four years, one third for three years and one third for two years as decided by the Nomination Committee.

Five Programme Groups will report to the Leadership Team and will have written delegated authority from the Leadership Team to take forward their respective elements of the Faith Action Programme. This will include the development of strategy and policy, and working alongside staff members in their implementation.

Each Vice Convener will lead a Programme Group. No other members of the Leadership Team will be a member of a Programme Group.

Programme Groups, with the exception of the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group (PMPiG), will each consist of 4 members, appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee plus their Programme Group Leader. Of the 4 members, 2 will serve for four years and 2 for three years as decided by the Nomination Committee. PMPiG will consist of six members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee plus their Programme Group Leader. Subsequent to the initial appointments, all Programme Group members other than Leaders, will serve four years. Programme Groups will have power to co-opt members to their Group, subject to approval by the Leadership Team. The number of co-opted members will not exceed the number of General Assembly appointed members, and only General Assembly appointed members will have the right to vote on decisions of the Programme Group.

Programme Groups may form short-life Task Groups to assist or advise them in the delivery of the Faith Action Programme. With the exception of the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group, such Groups will comprise no more than 5 individuals (of whom no more than 2 may be non-members of the Church), and be headed by a Programme Group member, with freedom to select other persons, including members of staff, as co-optes. The remit and composition of each such Group will be agreed by the Leadership Team and reviewed annually, should the task for which it is formed not be completed within a year. Task Groups will report to the relevant Programme Group. The number, size, remits and activities of such Groups will be approved by the Leadership Team Convener and reported to the General Assembly.

13. **General Trustees**

Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.

14. **Iona Community Board** .....20

Convener and 5 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee;

6 members appointed by and from the Iona Community, 2 changing each year;

The Leader of the Iona Community;

1 member appointed by and from Clèir Eilean Ì, the Presbytery of the Highlands and Hebrides.

In addition the Board will invite 6 member churches of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) to appoint a representative member to the Board, such members being eligible to serve for a maximum period of 4 years.

15. **Judicial Panel** .....30

30 people being ministers, elders, deacons and members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly. All members of the Judicial Panel shall be qualified to practise as lawyers or shall be experienced in the law and practice of the Church. Notwithstanding SOs 114 and 118, the members of the Judicial Panel shall initially be appointed for a term of four years, and shall be eligible for reappointment for further terms of four years.

16. **Legal Questions Committee** ..... 16  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 10 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, the Clerks of Assembly, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church.
17. **Life and Work Editorial Advisory Committee** .....9  
Convener and 7 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee together with the Principal Clerk as an *ex officio* member. The members should represent a wide range of theological opinion and perspectives, with an interest and particular gifts to offer the Committee, for example journalism, magazine production, former contributors. The Committee may co-opt members with particular gifts or information.
18. **Ministries Appeal Panel** .....5  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 3 members appointed by the General Assembly. At least 1 member shall be legally qualified, at least 1 shall be a minister and at least 1 shall be an elder.
19. **Mission Plan Review Group** ..... 15  
A group of fifteen persons appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee and in line with the process for appointing persons to other judicial bodies. Additionally, the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the General Trustees shall be entitled to make suggestions to the Legal Questions Committee as to persons who are suitable for appointment to the Group, but the final decision as to nominees shall rest with the Legal Questions Committee. The members of the Group shall be suitably experienced members of the Church.
20. **Nomination Committee** .....20  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 18 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee. Notwithstanding SO 118, no member of the Committee, having served a term of 4 years, shall be eligible for re-election until after a period of 4 years, except for special cause shown. The Convenership of the Committee shall be for 3 years.
21. **Nomination of the Moderator Committee** .....12  
Twelve persons comprising eleven ministers and elders nominated by Presbyteries plus one deacon selected at random by the Clerks of Assembly. The ministers and elders on the Committee shall be selected as follows: each Scottish Presbytery (provided that in the case of *Clèir Eilean Ì (the Presbytery of the Highlands & Hebrides)* and of Lewis, this means the two Presbyteries working together) shall nominate 1 minister and 1 elder to populate the Committee; the Presbyteries of England and the Channel Islands and of International Charges shall nominate 1 minister or elder for the Committee in each alternate year, the first nomination being made in 2024 by the Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands. Upon receipt of all the nominations, the Nomination Committee shall select for appointment 1 or other of the nominees from each Scottish Presbytery, and shall appoint the nominee from the Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands or International Charges, to create a Committee which is representative of the diversity of the whole Church. The Committee is to be convened by the immediate past-Moderator of the General Assembly, failing which by another former Moderator of the General Assembly.
22. **Personnel Appeal Group** .....12  
12 members appointed by the General Assembly with the Solicitor of the Church as Secretary, each appointed to serve a four-year term with the option of appointment for a further four-year term. Members shall not include any former or current members of staff of any of the Church's Employing Agencies (including the Social Care Council), nor any current Council or Committee member.
23. **Presbytery Review Committee**..... 13  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 11 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, together with the Principal Clerk and the Depute Clerk as *ex officio* members. In making nominations to the Committee, the Nomination Committee shall seek to ensure a balance of ministers, elders and members on the Committee, and also shall aim for geographical balance. Membership of the Committee shall include persons with considerable experience of Presbytery life, of Church life, of regulatory functions, of charity governance, of Church law, practice and procedure and of the operation of Church courts. Appointments shall be for a three-year term with some initial appointments being of shorter terms to stagger those stepping down from the Committee in future years. No current employee of a Presbytery shall be a member of the Committee or co-opted onto a Review Group.
24. **Registration of Ministries Committee**.....7  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 5 members. 1 member is appointed by the Legal Questions Committee, 1 member by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and 5 members by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee. The Convener and Vice-Convener are appointed by the General Assembly from the General Assembly appointees. The 5 members appointed by the General Assembly shall include one member who is legally qualified, at least one Minister of Word and Sacrament and at least one elder. One or other of the Clerks to the General Assembly and the Head of Ministries and Mission attend the Committee *ex officio* in an advisory capacity but are not members. The Committee is clerked by a staff member of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team; this person is not a member of the Committee.
25. **Safeguarding Appeal Panel** .....6  
A Panel of 6 persons appointed by the General Assembly, being persons with Safeguarding and other relevant experience, and including at least two persons who shall be qualified to practise as lawyers or who are experienced in the law and practice of the Church, and at least two ministers. None of the Panel shall be a current or former employee of any of the Employing Agencies or a current member of the Safeguarding Committee. The Panel will be clerked by the Principal Clerk or the Depute Clerk.



26. **Safeguarding Committee** ..... 11  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 6 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, 1 representative (voting member) from and appointed by each of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Social Care Council, the Solicitor of the Church, the National Adviser (Head of Safeguarding) as Secretary to the Committee, the Chief Officer and up to 4 members co-opted by the Committee for their expertise. For the avoidance of doubt it is declared that only the following persons will be entitled to vote: Convener, Vice-Convener, the six Assembly appointed members and the two representatives from each of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Social Care Council.
27. **Social Care Council** .....12  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 9 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, with the Chief Executive Officer of CrossReach as a non-voting *ex officio* member. At least one member shall be a Church of Scotland minister.
28. **Theological Forum** ..... 13  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 11 members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, the membership being selected to provide an appropriate balance of (a) ministers of Word and Sacrament, (b) members of academic staff from the Divinity Schools (or equivalent) of Institutions of Higher Education in Scotland, (c) elders and (d) members drawn from the wider membership of the Church chosen for their particular expertise, experience or provenance.

**(b) MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

114. **Period of Service.** All Members of each of the Standing Committees shall retire after serving for four years.
115. **Representatives.** Bodies entitled to appoint representatives shall be permitted to make changes in their representation for special reasons in any year.
116. **Non-attendance.** The name of a Member shall be removed from any Standing or Special Committee which has met three times or oftener between 1 June and 1 March unless he or she has attended one-third of the meetings held within that period. Attendance at meetings of Sub-Committees shall for this purpose be reckoned as equivalent to attendance at the meeting of the Committee itself.
117. **Replacement.** When a Minister, Elder, or Member of any Standing or Special Committee is unable to accept the appointment, or where from any cause vacancies occur in Committees during the year, that Committee, after consultation with the Convener of the Nomination Committee, may appoint a Member to take the place of the Member whose retirement has caused the vacancy. All such appointments, if for a longer period than one year, shall be reported for confirmation through the Nomination Committee to the General Assembly.
118. **Re-election.** A Member retiring from a Council or Committee by rotation, or having his or her name removed for non-attendance, shall not be eligible for re-election to that Council or Committee until the expiry of one year thereafter, unless the Assembly are satisfied, on the Report of the Nomination Committee, on information submitted to it by the Council or Committee concerned, that there are circumstances which make re-election desirable; but where more than one member is due to retire then not more than one-half of the retiring members be so re-elected. No Member shall normally serve for more than two consecutive terms of office. (If possible 20 per cent of the Assembly appointed members of Councils or Committees should be under the age of 35 at the time of their appointment). A Member appointed in the room of one deceased, resigned or removed, or of one appointed as Convener or Vice-Convener, shall serve for the remainder of the period for which the person was appointed whose place he or she takes, and on retiral shall be eligible for re-election if he or she has not served for more than two years. A retiring Convener shall be eligible for re-election as an additional member of the Council or Committee concerned to serve for one year only immediately following tenure of office as Convener.
119. **Eligibility.** No person shall be a Member of more than three Councils or Committees at the same time. Appointments *ex officio* shall not be reckoned in this number. This rule shall not apply to those for whom the Nomination Committee is prepared to give special reason to the Assembly for their appointments to more than three Committees. The Nomination Committee shall not nominate for Committees any of its own number except in special circumstances which must be stated to the Assembly.
120. **Secretaries and Deputes.** It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of each Council and Committee to attend the meetings thereof, to provide information and advice as requested, and to provide a depute for any meeting that he or she cannot attend. Members of staff shall not have the right to vote at any meeting.
121. **Expenses.** Expenses incurred by Members of Committee, consisting of travel charges and a sum for maintenance when required shall be defrayed.

**(c) CONVENERS AND VICE-CONVENERS**

122. **Appointment.**
- (i) Conveners and Vice-Conveners of Councils and Committees shall be appointed by the Assembly.
  - (ii) Conveners of Standing Committees other than the legal bodies shall hold office for not more than four consecutive years (in the case of the Nomination Committee, three consecutive years) and Vice-Conveners of Standing Committees other than the legal bodies shall hold office for not more than three consecutive years, unless the Assembly are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which make the reappointment of Conveners and Vice-Conveners desirable. The period of reappointment shall be for one year only. If at the time of their appointment they are already members of the Council or Committee another Member shall be appointed in their stead for the remainder of the period of their original appointment.



(iii) Conveners of the legal bodies (meaning the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly, the Discipline Tribunal, the Judicial Commission, the Judicial Panel, the Ministries Appeal Panel, the Mission Plan Review Group, the Personnel Appeal Group and the Safeguarding Appeal Group) shall initially be appointed for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for further terms of four years. Vice-Conveners of the legal bodies shall initially be appointed for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for further terms of three years.

**123. Replacement.** In the event of the death, resignation, consistent non-attendance or supervening incapacity of the Convener or Vice-Convener of any Council or Committee, the body concerned, after consultation with the Convener of the Nomination Committee, may appoint an Interim Convener or Interim Vice-Convener, as the case may be. Such appointment shall be reported by the Committee to the General Assembly and the Assembly shall make such order as the situation may require.

**(d) NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

**124. List of Nominations.** The Nomination Committee shall include in its Report its list of nominations to be submitted to the Assembly. The Report, so prepared, shall be included in the Volume of Reports issued to Members of Assembly.

**125. Nomination of Conveners.** When the Convener or Vice-Convener of a Committee or Council is completing his or her term of office the Council or Committee shall be invited by the Convener of the Nomination Committee to suggest the name of one who may be appointed in succession. The Nomination Committee shall satisfy itself that an open and transparent process has been followed in identifying the Convener or Vice-Convener so suggested.

**126. Conveners to Attend Meeting.** Conveners of Standing Committees shall be entitled to be present at meetings of the Nomination Committee when the composition of their respective Committees is under consideration, but not to vote.

**127. Amendment to Report.** No amendment to the Report of the Nomination Committee shall be in order of which due notice has not been given.

All notices of proposed amendments on the Report, including such as propose the omission or insertion of any name or names, or the addition of a name or names where the full number eligible has not been nominated by the Committee, must be given in to the Clerks before midday on the third day prior to the closing of the Assembly, signed by the Member or Members giving them.

All such notices of proposed amendment shall, with the names of those signing them, be circulated in the "Assembly Papers" issued on the second day prior to the closing of the General Assembly, and on the morning of the day the Report is to be called for.

**VIII. ALTERATION AND SUSPENSION**

**128. Alteration.** Any proposal for alteration of Standing Orders shall be either (a) on the Report of the Legal Questions Committee and included in the volume of Reports or (b) by Overture and the subject of at least one day's notice in the "Assembly Papers". This Standing Order shall not apply to SO 113 which may be amended by the Principal Clerk in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly.

**129. Suspension.** It shall always be competent for the Assembly, on the Motion of any Commissioner and on cause shown, summarily to dispense with the observance of the Standing Orders, or any part of them, in any particular case: provided that such Motion shall receive the support of not less than two-thirds of those voting on the question when put from the Chair, and that such suspension shall not contravene any Act of Assembly.

**NOTE AS TO AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS FOR A HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW SOs 8 AND 8A AND ADDITIONAL WORDING AT SOs 45, 46, 89, 105 AND 106-110):**

*The Standing Orders in their current form shall apply save for these amendments which shall, where there is any conflict with an existing Standing Order, apply in preference.*

## OTHER INFORMATION

### For In Person Commissioners

#### IMPORTANT: FIRE PROCEDURE

Fire plans are displayed around the building – please take a moment to look at these on arrival to familiarise yourself with the various exit routes to Mound Place and the Lawnmarket.

The following arrangements must be strictly adhered to:

##### A. ON DISCOVERING A FIRE –

1. Sound the alarm by operating the nearest break-glass call point, then leave the building by the nearest safe exit.
2. Report the reason for sounding the alarm to the nearest fire marshal with a radio, in order that the information can be passed on to the emergency services.

##### B. ON HEARING THE ALARM –

- Leave the building in an orderly fashion by the nearest safe exit, following the stewards' directions and the directional signage arrows.
- Do not use the lift in event of an emergency.
- Do not stop or divert to collect personal belongings, i.e. coats, briefcases, handbags etc.
- Once outside, keep moving and follow the direction of the stewards to the Assembly Points.
- Exit doors must remain clear at all times.
- Please wait at the designated Assembly Points and do not re-enter the building until you have been told it is safe to do so by the Evacuation Controller or Emergency Services personnel.

(Note: the above-mentioned arrangements relate to the Assembly Hall building. If present within New College when the fire alarm sounds, leave the College by the nearest available exit. New College areas include the Assembly Office, Stewards' Office, Media Rooms, Martin Hall and Rainy Hall.)

**SMOKING/VAPING** is not permitted anywhere on the premises or in the quadrangle.

**THE FASTI** – Some hard copies of the recently published Vol XII of the *Fasti* (the latest volume of the record of ministries in the Church of Scotland since the Reformation) will be available for purchase at the Assembly. These will be held in the Assembly Office and any person who wishes to purchase one should visit the Office to arrange this.

**FIRST AID ROOM** – This room is off the “black and white” corridor of the Assembly Hall.

**REPORTS** – The Volume of Reports can be downloaded [here](#). Individual Reports can be downloaded [here](#).

**TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES** – A bell will notify Speakers that they are approaching the time limit and are expected to finish their speeches within one minute.

**HEARING AIDS** – These should be switched to “T” for best results from the induction loop. BSL interpreters will cover each session of the General Assembly. Please advise the Office of the General Assembly if you would find this facility helpful so that a seat can be reserved for you in the appropriate area.

**SEATING FOR COMMISSIONERS** – Commissioners should sit in the ground floor and in the south and west galleries.

**FILMING/PHOTOGRAPHY** – We draw to your attention that cameras are used to film and photograph the General Assembly throughout its meeting and that the footage will be streamed live on the Church of Scotland website and used in other media including social media. In addition, the footage and live stills obtained may, at some future point, be broadcast on national or international television and/or be used in other publications. If you do not wish to be filmed/photographed in this way, you should sit out of range of the cameras in the corners against the back wall on the ground floor of the Assembly Hall, and not behind any of the microphones which are located around the Hall. If you are unsure where this is, please ask a steward.

**LOST PROPERTY** – Please report or hand this in to the Assembly Office.

**LUGGAGE AND COATS** – Luggage may be left in a cloakroom opposite the Assembly Office on the Saturday and Thursday mornings; bags and coats may be left in this space Monday to Wednesday. All items are left at your own risk.