

II OFFICE OF THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGULATIONS

Edinburgh, 18 May 2013, Sess. I

1. The Moderator of the General Assembly shall:
 - (1) preside over the General Assembly and perform those duties as stated in the Standing Orders;
 - (2) visit presbyteries according to the Scheme of Visitation approved by the General Assembly and shall normally undertake visitation overseas, in each case having regard to the needs and resources of the Church and its presbyteries;
 - (3) perform such duties as may be directed by the General Assembly, and represent the Church of Scotland on historic and national occasions, as they may arise;
 - (4) where appropriate, act as a spokesperson for the Church. Where a particular matter lies within the remit or area of responsibility of a particular Council or Committee of the General Assembly, that Council or Committee shall determine whether the Moderator is the best person to speak on its behalf on that matter. Only if the Council or Committee decides otherwise, or if the Moderator is unavailable, will it nominate a different spokesperson;
 - (5) on such occasions as the Moderator is asked to express an opinion on any matter of national or public importance or one which lies within the remit or area of responsibility of a particular Council or Committee, he or she shall be mindful of the views of the General Assembly and of its Councils and Committees and so far as possible consult with the Conveners of such Councils and Committees. Notwithstanding such consultation the Moderator shall accept instructions as to the content of any statement only from the General Assembly;
 - (6) support the work of the Councils, Committees and other groups within the Church as requested and having regard to his or her other commitments. All Councils and Committees shall consider whether the support of the Moderator would assist them in their work and in their dealings with outside bodies. The Moderator shall be briefed by all Councils and Committees about their work at the start of and during his or her moderatorial year as appropriate. Where possible, all Councils, Committees and other groups within the Church who wish to involve the Moderator in their work during his or her moderatorial year should make a formal request to the Principal Clerk before 15 November of the preceding year;
 - (7) undertake such other duties as he or she may choose during his or her term of office having regard to the needs and resources of the Church. The Moderator may consult with the Councils and Committees of the Church to identify a particular aspect of the life and witness of the Church in which his or her involvement would be particularly helpful taking account of his or her skills, interests and experience;
 - (8) unless exceptional circumstances arise, adhere to the budget approved by the General Assembly for the expenses and other costs of his or her moderatorial year. Those Councils, Committees or other groups who wish to involve the Moderator in their work will bear his or her expenses unless there are exceptional circumstances;

(9) attend meetings of the Council of Assembly during the year immediately after his or her moderatorial year. Councils and Committees shall consider whether the immediate past-Moderator can assist them in their work and involve him or her where appropriate;

(10) convene the Committee to Nominate the Moderator in the year following his or her moderatorial year;

(11) save in exceptional circumstances, reside in the Moderator's official residence ("the Official Residence") during his or her moderatorial year. The Moderator-Designate shall take up occupation of the Official Residence on the first Saturday in May preceding the commencement of his or her moderatorial year ("the Entry Date"), and as Moderator shall vacate the Official Residence on the date occurring two weeks prior to the Entry Date for the Moderator-Designate in the succeeding year, at which time alternative accommodation for the remainder of the current Moderator's moderatorial year shall be agreed. During periods of the Moderator's absence, maintenance work may be carried out in the Official Residence; and

(12) normally be expected to work from an office provided for the Moderator's use within the Department of the General Assembly.

2. The provisions contained in these Regulations generally apply during the moderatorial year of the Moderator in question, except where expressly stated otherwise.

3. Regulations V(2) 1962 are hereby repealed.