

## THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST MAY 2025

### Proposed Deliverance

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Re-appoint Mr Thomas Watson and Mrs Valerie Macniven as members of the Trust from 1 June 2025.
3. Appoint the Rev Dr John Cowie as a member of the Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

### Report

The Church of Scotland Trust, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1932, submits its Ninety second Report to the General Assembly.

## 1. THE WORK OF THE TRUST

### 1.1 General

**1.1.1** The function of the Church of Scotland Trust is to hold properties outwith Scotland and to act as a trustee in a number of third party trusts. During the year it has dealt with various matters which have arisen regarding these properties and trusts. Matters of particular significance are noted hereafter.

### 1.2 Third Party Trusts

**1.2.1** The Trust is currently trustee of 48 third party trusts which benefit different areas of the Church's work. In 2007 the Trust instigated a Rolling Review Programme for these trusts. The Trust's Secretary and Clerk undertakes a review of the trusts annually, producing reports on half the third party trust portfolio to each of the February/March and September/October Trust meetings. An annual administration charge is applied to each fund in line with standard accounting practice.

### 1.3 Pakistan

**1.3.1** The Trust is disappointed to report that the new Succession Trust is still not operational. Urgent action is being taken to appoint local trustees in order that a revised trust deed can be submitted to the local registrar. It is intended that the new Trust will take title to the Church's property interests in Pakistan in terms of the Church of Scotland Trust Order Confirmation Act 1958. At the same time the Trust are continuing to pursue a transfer of assets to Government authorities in Pakistan in the event that registration of the new Trust cannot be completed timeously. This is not a straightforward process and progress in this regard has been minimal.

**1.3.2** The Trust continue to meet regularly with their attorney for Pakistan, Dr Peter David, to monitor developments and agree future strategy.

**1.3.3** As reported for a number of years, the Trust continues to be a party to a number of court cases involving its property interests in Pakistan. Some cases which have been found in favour of the Trust are now the subject of an appeal. The Trust is legally represented in all these cases but, due to the nature of the Pakistan legal system, it is anticipated that the cases will be ongoing for some time.

### 1.4 Israel

**1.4.1** The Trust continues to be consulted by the Israel Palestine Committee regarding ongoing and future developments relating to property in Israel.

### 1.5 Act II, 2016 – the International Presbytery Act

**1.5.1** Since the General Assembly of 2016 all congregations in the International Presbytery require the approval of both Presbytery and the Church of Scotland Trust for (a) any extensive alterations to their building/s; (b) any property purchase and (c) the lease of any property in excess of one year. The Trust continues to work with the International Presbytery to fulfil these responsibilities.

**1.5.2** Every congregation in the International Presbytery is required to produce a Property Report to Presbytery each year with details of the management, maintenance and insurance of congregational buildings which is copied to the Trust.

## 2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2024

**2.1** The Trust's Accounts for the year 2024 have been audited and copies thereof are available on request from the Secretary and Clerk.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

**3.1** In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, the following two members retire by rotation on 31 May 2025 but are eligible for re-appointment: Mr Thomas Watson and Mrs Valerie Macniven. It is suggested to the General Assembly that Mr Thomas Watson and Mrs Valerie Macniven be re-appointed as members of the Trust from 1 June 2025.

**3.2** It is suggested that the Rev Dr John Cowie be appointed a member of the Trust from 1 June 2025.

*In the name and by the authority of The Church of Scotland Trust*

LEON MARSHALL, Chairman  
MORAG ANGUS, Vice-Chairman  
MADELAINE SPROULE, Secretary & Clerk