

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026
FINAL COLLATED DELIVERANCE

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the proposed Order of Business set out in the Order of Proceedings.
3. Appoint Mr David Stewart to prepare and index a summary log of the Assembly.
4. Appoint the Rev Alan Reid as Precentor for the General Assembly of 2026 (*Section 4.8*).
5. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to consider the reporting agenda of the Assembly, in terms of whether (a) all standing committees of the General Assembly (other than the Legal Bodies) as listed in Standing Order E4 require to report to the Assembly each year, and (b) different reporting formats might be adopted, and to bring a report to the General Assembly of 2027 with proposals for amended Standing Orders.

Scottish Bible Society

6. Commend the Scottish Bible Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members and support the Society in its desire to work in partnership with congregations to encourage confidence in the Gospel and in sharing the Bible (*Appendix A*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and the Supplementary Report.
2. Approve amendments to Standing Orders as set out at section 4.9 of the Report of the Assembly Business Committee (*Section 2*).
3. Pass an Act amending the Safeguarding Act (Act XVI 2025), as set out in Appendix A to this Report (*Section 6*).
4. Pass an Act amending the Discipline Act (Act I 2019), as set out in Appendix B to this Report (*Section 9*).
5. Pass an Act amending the Discipline Act (Act I 2019), as set out in Appendix A to the Supplementary Report (*Section 1 and Appendix A*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Adopt a Growth Strategy with the Strategic Principles outlined in Sections 1 - 3 as the Strategic Principles of the Assembly Trustees from 2026 to 2031 and commend them to the whole Church (*Sections 1–3*).

3. Adopt the statement and associated actions of 'A Short Theological Note on Church and Ministry in the Church of Scotland Today' as a theological underpinning of work on Financing Ministry and commend it to the Church for further study (*Section 4*).
4. Receive the 2025 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities (*Section 5.2*).
5. Agree to replace Section 26 of the Congregational Contributions (Giving to Grow) Regulations (Regs I 2022) (as amended) with the following: "An allowance within limits determined by the General Assembly shall be given towards extra costs incurred for locum provision (or pulpit supply) during a ministerial vacancy for all Charges, regardless of whether or not Permission to Call has been granted, unless the Presbytery determines that failure to progress readjustment in terms of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) (as amended) is the responsibility of the congregation."
6. Receive the 2026 budget (*Section 5.3*).
7. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to develop a sustainable model of ministry funding based on the principles underpinning Financing Ministry with detailed proposals being brought to the General Assembly of 2027 for further consideration (*Section 5.5*).
8. Approve Regulations amending the Congregational Finance Regulations (Regs II 2016), as amended, as set out in section 5.8.1 and Appendix 1 (*Section 5.8.1 and Appendix 1*).
9. Encourage Kirk Sessions to engage with the national stewardship team and its suite of resources and events, particularly the Bearing Fruit online financial health-check, to equip congregations for sustainable growth (*Sections 6.10 - 6.12*).
10. Thank and discharge the Life and Work Advisory Committee (*Section 7*).
11. Agree the total number of nationally planned ministry posts for 2027 remains at 600 plus 60 vacancies whilst allowing the Presbytery & Partnership Support Programme Group to authorise Presbyteries to exceed their allocation in respect of a charge meeting full-cost recovery ministry costs (*Section 8*).
12. Encourage the Assembly Business Committee, Assembly Trustees, General Trustees, CrossReach, Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and Presbyteries to maintain continual and active engagement amongst their key leadership bodies to ensure mutual recognition, better communication, and improved understanding (*Section 9*).
13. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to identify and implement an effective contemporary replacement for what has previously been provided by Life and Work, giving serious consideration to how ordinary members of the Church might access different platforms to express their views (*Section 9*).
14. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee to propose a reporting mechanism to evidence implementation and outcomes of the decisions and policies of the General Assembly (*Section 9*).
15. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to explore alternative arrangements for charity trusteeship for both congregations and Presbyteries, reporting back to the General Assembly of 2027 (*Section 9*).
16. Instruct the Assembly Trustees, with the assistance of the Legal Questions Committee and Presbytery Clerks, to make available appropriate induction and training for all existing and new charity trustees (*Section 9*).
17. Invite Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to alert the Assembly Trustees of any cases of administrative duplication required of them by the Standing Committees and national office departments of the Church, so that simplification of processes can be found by those Committees and departments, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee in any situation where a change of process may have implications in church or civil law (*Section 9*).
18. Instruct the Assembly Trustees and CrossReach to implement a structured line management and appraisal process involving 360-degree appraisal addressing areas of role clarity, accountability, and support for staff holding senior positions (*Section 9*).

19. Instruct the Assembly Trustees, jointly with the Legal Questions Committee and the Clerks Forum, to review processes around the appointment and support of Presbytery Clerks and Presbytery Business Conveners (or equivalents) to cover induction, resourcing, role description, core competencies, ongoing training, employment arrangements, support, appraisal, and accountability and to report to the General Assembly of 2027 (*Section 9*).
20. Thank and discharge the Assembly Trustees Working Group (*Section 9*).
21. Agree amended remits for the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, Mission Support Programme Group, Resource and Presence Programme Group and Presbytery & Partnership Support Programme Group, subject to amending the remit of the Resource & Presence Group in section 10.6.3 of the Report by adding 2 further bullet points as follows: "To contribute to the work of the Israel Palestine Committee, particularly bringing support to Tabeetha School" and "To contribute to the Church of Scotland's communications strategy, providing membership to the Communications Forum and developing the replacement for a membership magazine", and also subject to amending the remit of the Presbytery & Partnership Support Group, by removing the text in Bullet 13 (in the original remit) "FAPLT may call in any decision or matter for its own consideration" (*Section 10*).
22. Instruct the Assembly Trustees through its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group: (*Section 11*):
 1. to work with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to further develop work on neurodivergence in the life of the Church, with particular regard to welcome, discipleship, and participation.
 2. to facilitate collaboration with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, and relevant Church bodies to ensure access to high-quality, theologically informed and faith-sensitive training on matters relating to equality, diversity, and inclusion.
 3. to work with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to develop further theological reflection and practical guidance on welcome as a core, Christ-centred commitment, and to equip congregations to recognise and respond pastorally to those who have experienced exclusion or harm.
 4. to work directly with the General Trustees in relation to reasonable access requirements in churches, halls and manses.
23. Note the appointment from 15th December 2025 of Leanne Thompson as Head of Finance and General Treasurer and confer upon the said Leanne Elizabeth Thompson, Head of Finance and General Treasurer of the Church full power to discharge all legacies, bequests or donations which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the Church of Scotland, or any of the Schemes, Councils, Committees or agencies thereof, or which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the United Free Church of Scotland or to any of the Schemes, Boards or Committees or agencies thereof and which in terms of the Agreement with the continuing United Free Church of Scotland fall to the Church of Scotland or its Schemes, Councils, Committees or agencies, and to sign all Discharges, Agreements, Indemnities, Undertakings, and other Deeds which may be necessary in connection therewith (*Section 12*).
24. Ratify the appointment of Rev Dr John L McPake as Acting Principal Clerk from 20th October 2025 to 18th May 2026 and appoint Rev Dr Alistair May as Principal Clerk to the General Assembly with effect from the close of the General Assembly of 2026 (*Section 13*).
25. Approve the following appointments to the Assembly Trustees: Nairn Angus-McDonald, Elizabeth Ashcroft, Martin Fair, Martin Fairbairn, Alan Hamilton, Suzanne Stringer and David Watt (*Section 14*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

JOINT REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES AND THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST ON THE SCOTS HOTEL, TIBERIAS

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and the Supplementary Joint Report.
2. Instruct the Assembly Trustees and The Church of Scotland Trust to lease the Scots Hotel to the preferred operator, or to another hotel operator which meets the selection criteria set out in the Joint Report, for a maximum period of 24 years and 11 months and on the commercial terms set out below and to be further agreed by the Assembly Trustees and the Church of Scotland Trust in line with professional advice received by them in the UK and in Israel, provided always that, as a matter of urgency and prior to the conclusion of any lease or contractual agreement with a preferred operator or alternative operator, the Assembly Trustees and the Church of Scotland Trust shall ensure that the proposed operator has been assessed by the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum against the ethical, human rights and reputational values of the Church of Scotland.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Mr Christopher N Mackay as Chairman of the Trust and Mrs Valerie Macniven as Vice-Chairman of the Trust from 1 June 2026.
3. Re-appoint the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2026.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

REPORT OF THE FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM AND THE THEOLOGICAL FORUM ON CHURCH DECLINE: REFLECTING ON THE CAUSES AND BUILDING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the Report and encourage congregations, Presbyteries, the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Assembly Trustees to study it and act upon its recommendations.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Receive the Summary Reports for the Presbytery Reviews of the Presbytery of Clyde and the Presbytery of the South West (*Section 2 and Appendices A and B*).
3. Receive the report on the Inspection of Presbytery Records (*Section 3*).

4. Note that the Presbyteries to be reviewed in 2026/27 are the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders and the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles, and agree that the Presbyteries to be reviewed in 2027/28 are the Presbytery of Fife and the Presbytery of Glasgow, and that the Presbyteries to be reviewed in 2028/29 are the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale and Clèir Eilean Ì.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Safeguarding Committee to work in partnership with Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, all relevant departments and external agencies to develop a framework of practical support to enable the spouses of ministers and their children to leave an abusive relationship when they are ready to do so and to report back to the General Assembly of 2027 (*Section 1.4*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

Faith Action Programme Leadership Team

2. Note the progress of plans for a Resource Church in the Presbytery of Glasgow and commend continued support for developing such plans (*Section 1*).
3. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to develop the Good News Collective, a suite of resources and opportunities to strengthen confidence in the good news of the Gospel for our lives, communities, church and world (*Section 1.9*).
4. Thank David Stewart for his service as Yearbook Editor, wishing him well on his retirement from the role, and appoint Rev Angus Mathieson as the new Yearbook Editor (*Section 1.10*).

Mission Support Programme Group

5. Reaffirm the Church's commitment to maintaining a worshipping, pastoral and missional presence in Scotland's poorest and most marginalised communities, recognising this as a Gospel imperative and integral to the Church's calling (*Section 3*).
6. Note the publication of updated Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data, together with the availability of new census data, and, recognising the importance of ensuring that the Priority Areas list continues to be informed by the most accurate and current statistics, instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team:
 - i. to report to the General Assembly of 2027 with a proposed methodology for redrawing the Priority Areas list, focusing on levels of population deprivation and the balance of Priority Area designation across the life and work of the whole Church:
 - ii. to report to the General Assembly of 2028 on the implications of the agreed methodology and bring a new Priority Areas list, which will then continue to be reviewed on a seven-year review cycle; and
 - iii. throughout the scoping, review, and reporting phases, to ensure that comparative analysis between Priority Areas and the wider Church is undertaken and informs each

stage of the work, and to include such analysis within the Reports brought to the General Assembly (*Section 3.1.1*).

7. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, working with the Theological Forum, to establish a Task Group to explore liturgical renewal and develop new liturgical resources for the Church and to report back to a future General Assembly (*Section 12*).

Public Life & Social Justice Programme Group

8. Urge those involved in public life in Scotland to uphold the values of integrity, compassion, justice and wisdom in their discourse and decisions, and encourage the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team in its work around promoting a positive vision for Christian responsibility in an age of political extremes (*Section 14*).
9. Affirm that people have the right to seek sanctuary from danger and persecution and commit to continued advocacy with and for refugees; for an asylum system that is fair, humane, and respectful of human dignity; and for policies and practices that support integration from day one of arrival (*Section 15.2*).
10. Urge congregations to be places of welcome, accompaniment, and practical support for refugees, and to play an active role in facilitating community cohesion by bringing people together, challenging fear and hostility, and nurturing relationships of mutual respect and belonging within our communities (*Section 15.3*).
11. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consider the causes and impacts of modern day slavery; to explore opportunities for collaboration with relevant partners; to seek to provide information to congregations to help church members recognise the signs of modern slavery and offering ways to respond appropriately with prayer and advocacy; and to report on this issue to the General Assembly of 2028.
12. Urge the UK Government to restrict gambling advertisements (*Section 18*).

People & Training Programme Group

13. Pass the Selection and Training for National Ministry of Word and Sacrament Act, as set out in Appendix I, following the principles agreed by the General Assembly of 2025, which will be applicable to Candidates entering training from 1st September 2027 (*Section 26 and Appendix I*), subject to amending the Act as follows:
 1. In section 2(7):
 - (a) In line five, by deleting the letter 'k' in the phrase 'section 1(k) and substituting the letter 'l'; and
 - (b) At the end of section 2(7), by inserting the following:
'An exit certificate granted by the Formation Panel will be conditional on the successful completion by the candidate of the final ministry placement then being undertaken, in the assessment of FAPLT; failing which the exit certificate may be withdrawn by FAPLT and a further period of formation then required with specified purposes and duration, before re-consideration of the exit certificate by the Formation Panel.'
 2. In section 6, by changing the reference to section 6(4) in sections 6(3), 6(6), 6(7) and 6(8) to be to section 6(5) and the references to sections 6(5) and 6(6) in section 6(3) to be to sections 6(6) and 6(7) respectively.
 3. In section 15(2) and 15(3), by deleting the phrase '..., each of one-year duration and running from September to August.'
 4. In section 17(1):
 - (a) In line 2, by deleting the phrase 'of one year duration from September to August'; and
 - (b) In line 3, after the sentence ending 'and the Formation Panel', by inserting the following:
'Such placements will normally be of twelve months' duration from the beginning of September to the end of August in the following year; except for the final placement which will normally be of sixteen months' duration, from the beginning of September to the end of

December in the following year. Placements will be part-time during the academic year of the Lead Academic Partner up to the completion of the final academic assessments for each year, and full-time thereafter to their conclusion.”

14. Following the instruction of the General Assembly of 2024 to bring a recommendation to the General Assembly of the Lead Academic Partner to provide the delivery of a new 3-year BD degree and 2-year Diploma for national ministry of Word and Sacrament and Diaconate candidates, approve the recommendation of the Selection Panel that Trinity College, University of Glasgow, be the Lead Academic Partner (*Section 28.7.6*).
15. Approve the outline of the contents of the Minute of Agreement between the Church of Scotland and the University of Glasgow, and of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Church of Scotland and Trinity College, to enable the delivery of a new 3-year BD degree and 2- year Diploma for national ministry of Word and Sacrament and Diaconate candidates (*Section 30.2.5, Section 30.2.6*).
16. Note that Candidates presently in training will continue in their current training pathway, as designated at the beginning of their training (*Section 30.9.12 and Appendix I, Section 26*).
17. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to bring a revised Deacons Act (Act VIII 2010) to the General Assembly of 2027 which includes designated training at Trinity College, University of Glasgow, as the Lead Academic Partner (*Section 26.1.2*).
18. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Diaconate Council, to work with the National Assessors to review their assessment processes for the transfer from the Diaconate to OLM and National Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and to report back to the General Assembly in 2027.
19. Note the lifting of the pause on recruitment to the Diaconate and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consider new ways to deploy those called to Ministry of Word and Service (*Section 26.1.2*).
20. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to review the requirements on candidates for all ministries to the Church in relation to marital status.
21. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team through the People & Training Programme Group to undertake a full review of the apprenticeship pilot scheme, bringing both the learnings and recommendations to the General Assembly of 2027 (*Section 33.7.1*).
22. Encourage Presbyteries to develop systems to ensure, as best as is possible, that the learning done by ministers taking study leave is appropriately disseminated to fulfill the aim of section 34.3ii of the Report i.e. that the benefits be available to the wider Church.
23. Approve the appointment of Mrs Alison Fenton as the Senior Director of the National Assessment Team (*Section 37.1*).

Presbytery and Partnership Support Programme Group

24. Give thanks for the Christian witness of The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), and The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) in serving the needs of those affected by war and violence and urge the whole Church to stand in solidarity to alleviate human suffering and strengthen hope for a more stable and dignified future for humanity (*Section 40*).
25. Give thanks for the sustained and resilient witness of Christians across the Middle East in the face of disadvantage and persecution and urge the whole Church to stand in solidarity with them.
26. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to establish a focus group to understand and learn from the lessons of those who have entered ministry in the Church of Scotland from a country outside of the UK and to bring a report to General Assembly of 2027, including any recommendations on further practical steps that may be taken to offer support to our colleagues in ministry.

27. Instruct the Faith Action Leadership Programme Team and the Assembly Trustees to provide a rationale for a sufficient level of National Stipend Levels as the base line to be adjusted using the appropriate measure of inflation each year and report to the General Assembly of 2027.
28. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, working with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group, the Legal Questions Committee and Presbytery Clerks, to undertake further work on the process undertaken by Nominating Committees of vacant charges, with a particular focus on training, guidance, and review, including:
 - i. how applications and supporting materials are assessed and compared;
 - ii. how Interim Moderators and Presbytery Advisory Panels are equipped to assist Nominating Committees;
 - iii. how information is gathered, recorded, and weighed during interviews and decision-making;
 - iv. how feedback is offered to applicants in ways that are appropriate, meaningful, and professional;
 - v. how awareness of unexamined assumptions of bias can be strengthened;
 - vi. how theological reflection on call, discernment, and congregational formation can better inform practice, and
 - vii. which stages of the process may benefit from further clarification or review; and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to bring a further Report to a future General Assembly (*Section 42*).
29. Welcome the development of the Capability Procedure to date and invite FAPLT to bring a revised Act to the Assembly of 2027, having ensured that consultation and engagement with Presbyteries is first undertaken (*Section 43*).
30. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to continue to develop the Capability Procedure for Parish Ministers, whether through changes to a 2026 Act or as an Act to be brought to the Assembly of 2027 for approval, including a mechanism for self-referral, and report to the General Assembly of 2027 (*Section 43*).
31. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to reflect on and review the roles of ministry which might be required within the Church going forward, giving consideration to flexible and emerging forms of ministry, and to bring an interim report to the General Assembly of 2027, including identifying where consultation with other standing committees might be required (*Section 45*).
32. Pass an Act amending Act XI 2025, on the Call, Election, and Appointment of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, as set out in Appendix VII (*Section 46 and Appendix VII*).
33. Urge Presbyteries, from 1 June 2026, to implement a Sabbatical scheme as outlined in Appendix VIII (*Section 47 and Appendix VIII*).
34. Appoint Elizabeth Fox, Elder, as a Trustee of the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund (*Section 48*).
35. Pass Regulations amending the Regulations for Remuneration and Reimbursement of Parish Ministers (Regulations I 2015), as amended, as set out in Appendix IX (*Section 49 and Appendix IX*).
36. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consider bringing the Guardianship Allowance in line with the standard Vacancy Allowance and report to the General Assembly of 2027.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

JOINT REPORT OF THE FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM, THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES AND THE THEOLOGICAL FORUM ON THE LEGACIES OF SLAVERY

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Adopt the Apology for the Church of Scotland’s historical involvement in transatlantic chattel slavery (*Section 2*).
3. Affirm that the Apology forms part of a wider journey of repentance, justice and reconciliation, and that its integrity will be demonstrated through sustained action: work that is intentional, focused, reparative and measurable in its impact (*Sections 7.0.1-7.1.2*).
4. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Assembly Trustees, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group and the Theological Forum, to establish a working group to identify the appropriate actions arising from this Apology in partnership with those who continue to be affected, including consideration of existing assets and funds, and how they are utilised and accessed going forward, and bring recommendations to the General Assembly of 2027 (*Sections 7.1.3-7.1.5*).
5. Encourage congregations and Presbyteries to continue engaging with this work through education, reflection, and local exploration of historical and contemporary legacies, ensuring that particular attention is given to listening to and supporting those within our Church and communities for whom the legacies of slavery and racism are not historical abstractions but lived realities (*Section 7.1.5*).
6. Commend the listening, consultation, and ecumenical engagement undertaken since the General Assembly of 2023, including the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Jamaica in 2024 (*Section 3*).
7. Record its thanks to the members of the Legacies of Slavery Group for their diligence and faithful service and discharge the Group.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD: “LET US BUILD A HOUSE”

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Congratulate Wishaw New Kirk on the establishment of their new Guild and encourage other congregations—particularly those entering unions—to consider this as a positive model for forming a new Guild together (*Section 2.5*).
3. Encourage congregations, Presbyteries and the wider Church to engage actively with the Guild as it prepares its five year Strategic Plan (*Section 3.7*).
4. Encourage Presbyteries to identify and support young people to participate in the LIFT training weekend (*Section 5.4*).
5. Encourage congregations to explore how they might contribute to the Living Stones in Livingstonia appeal to equip a maternity unit in Bandawe (*Section 7.6*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL (KNOWN AS CROSSREACH BOARD)

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

2. Note the opportunity to take part in CrossReach Sunday on 1st November 2026 and strongly encourage all congregations to commit to remember CrossReach during the course of the next year and consider how best to support and collaborate with this area of the Church's mission (*Section 4*).
3. Instruct CrossReach to work alongside the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to produce briefings and resources for Presbyteries and congregations, which will allow them to make representation on the key issues affecting social care (*Section 6*).
4. Approve further exploration of growth and development opportunities for CrossReach services, recognising that these are an important part of the Church's mission to the people of Scotland, and instruct the Social Care Council to work with the Assembly Trustees, and others, as appropriate, on financial planning for such growth (*Section 7*).
5. Note the findings of the governance review of the Social Care Council and instruct the Council along with the Nomination Committee and Assembly Trustees to review the current situation and bring forward recommendations to General Assembly of 2027 (*Section 8*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Committee to send copies of the Ecumenical Audit to all Presbyteries, and the Presbytery and Partnership Support Programme Group (*Appendix 1*).
3. Note the intention of the Committee to bring an amended Local Ecumenical Partnerships Act (Act XI 2012), as per the instruction of General Assembly 2025, to the General Assembly of 2027.
4. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, and the appointment of representatives to Ecumenical Bodies (*Appendix 2*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Pass an Act amending the Registration of Ministries Act (Act II 2017, as amended), as set out in Appendix I (*Sections 3 and 4, and Appendix I*).
3. Given the delay in providing Registration of Ministries data to Presbyteries, determine that during 2026 each date specified in the Registration of Ministries Act (Act II 2017, as amended) shall be deemed to refer to a date three months later.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

IONA COMMUNITY BOARD

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

2. Urge congregations and Presbyteries to support all who protest peacefully for justice and peace (*Section 2.1*).
3. Encourage congregations to offer ‘quiet processes and small places’ where groups gather for honest, courageous, truth-telling and enlivening conversations about faith, belief, prayer and actions for justice and peace (*Sections 2.2 & 3.1*).
4. Note the Iona Community’s updated position paper on Israel-Palestine (*Section 4.2.3*).
5. Call on members of the Church to join with ecumenical partners and Christian Aid in prayer for peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month (*Section 4.2.6*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HM FORCES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank those who serve in His Majesty’s Forces as Chaplains for their service to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel, their families, and the wider military community, and commend them, and their own families, to the prayers of the Church (*Section 1*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

GENERAL TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Invite the General Trustees to consider enhancing the existing grant and funds release forms to require applicants to demonstrate that they have given due consideration to Net Zero implications, including a clear indication of whether the proposed use of funds will increase, maintain, or reduce the congregation’s carbon footprint.
3. Instruct all congregations to put in place the Manse Memorandum of Understanding with inducted Ministers in post no later than 30 September 2026, or within one month of an induction of all new ministries or new manse provision; and instruct Presbyteries to ensure congregational compliance in the matter and make a report to the General Trustees by 30 April 2027 or the date of annual attestation of property records by the Presbytery, whichever is sooner (*Section 6.1.5*).
4. Pass an Act amending the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act V 2024, as amended by Act XV 2025), as set out in Appendix 3 to the Report (*Section 8.1.1 and Appendix 3*), subject to amending the Act as follows:
 - (1) By amending section 4(ii) to add the words “or Presbytery” after “General Trustees”;
 - (2) By amending section 4(iii) to add the words “and in consultation with the Presbytery” after “professional advice”; and
 - (3) By deleting the existing section 5 and substituting a new section 5 as follows:

“Where, following Adjustment, funds are held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund for a united congregation, title to any property of the united congregation not already so vested or subject to Assembly Control shall require to be transferred to the General Trustees or a suitable Assembly Control clause inserted prior to any monies being released for works to that property.”
5. Pass the Manse Regulations set out in Appendix 4 to this Report (*Section 8.1.2 and Appendix 4*), subject to amending the Regulations by adding the following sentence at the end of

section 4 of Appendix 2: “Any new information or representation put forward on behalf of any party or witness which has not previously been intimated to the Minister shall be put to the Minister in the course of the hearing and he or she shall be given a suitable opportunity to respond to it.”

6. Appoint Mr D Chris Dunn, Mr Fraser Ellis, Rev Bryan Kerr, Rev Lisa-Jane Rankin, Mr Hugh Campbell-Adamson and Mr David Inglis as members of the General Trustees (*Section 9.1.5*).
7. Authorise the payment of £2,200 to Rev Dr Scott Rennie as Chair and pro rata for Mr Alan F K Kennedy as former Chair (four months) and Mr Michael Pearson (eight months) as Vice-Chair for their services over the past year (*Section 9.1.6*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to ensure that any new Standing Committee created by the General Assembly should have staggered terms of membership from the outset (*Section 2.5*).
3. Instruct the Nomination Committee to investigate the processes undertaken by the Standing Committees of the General Assembly for the appointment of Conveners and Vice-Conveners, and to provide a report on such information to the Legal Questions Committee, to enable the Legal Questions Committee thereafter, and following consultation with the Nomination Committee, to report to a future General Assembly with a recommendation on whether or not any amendment to the process for such appointments should be made in the Standing Orders of the General Assembly (*Section 2.6*).
4. Instruct the Nomination Committee and the Assembly Trustees to continue their discussions on the process of making nominations to the Assembly Trustee Sub-Committees (*Section 3.2*).
5. In relation to recruitment to Standing Committees, instruct the Nomination Committee, working with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group, to: (i) consider whether current recruitment activities are reaching the intended audience, and whether there are any barriers that limit awareness, understanding, or encouragement to apply; (ii) consider whether recruitment efforts might include a positive bias towards reaching under-represented groups and show a clear commitment to inclusion; and to report back to the General Assembly of 2027.
6. Make alterations to the Standing Committees of the General Assembly as set forth in the Report (*Section 6*), subject to the following alterations:
Assembly Business Committee
Minister Appointed Nikki Macdonald (Upper Clyde)
Assessors under the Discipline Act (Act I 2019)
Elder Appointed Eunice McConnach (Aberdeen Fountainhall)
Solicitors Appointed Jennifer Campbell, Ross Matthew, Hannah Peebles, Madelaine Sproule
Solicitors Resigned Emma Anstead, Gordon Barclay, David Di Paola, John Wilson
Audit Committee
Member Appointed Gordon Coupar (Dundee: Broughty Ferry) (1yr)
Nomination Committee
Member Appointed Gavin Berry (Dundee: Westgait) (2yrs).
7. Appoint Douglas Horn as Convener of the Audit Committee for one year (*Section 6.1*).

8. Reappoint Andrew Tait as Convener of the Chaplains to His Majesty's Forces Committee for one year (*Section 6.1*).
9. Reappoint Ross Blackman as Convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee for one year (*Section 6.1*).
10. Reappoint Val Brown as Convener of the Ethical Oversight Committee for one year (*Section 6.1*).
11. Appoint Bryan Kerr as Convener of the Nomination Committee (*Section 6.1*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the appointment of Gary Yeaman as Employer Nominated Trustee (ENT) of the Staff Scheme and Anne-Marie Gillon as ENT of the MDS and Ministers' Schemes (*Section 1.4.1*).
3. Approve the re-appointment of Lin Macmillan as ENT of all three Schemes (*Section 1.4.1*).
4. Note the transfer of the Schemes' administration to XPS Group and the move towards winding up the Schemes (*Section 3*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Trustees to bring before the General Assembly of 2027 detailed proposals for the Lectureship Cycle 2027-2031.
3. Appoint or reappoint, as specified, the following ministers and elders as Trustees of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust for the terms stated in each case, from June 2026: Rev Dr John McPake (reappointment, 2 years), Rev Dr Scott McKenna (reappointment, 4 years), Rev Jan Mathieson (reappointment, 2 years), Rev Dr Ruth Morrison (reappointment, 4 years), Mrs Kay Keith (reappointment, 2 years) and Mr Jamie Sutherland (reappointment, 4 years) and note the resignation of the following trustees: Mrs Isobel Hunter and Mr Roy Pinkerton.

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Rev Dr Karen Campbell and Mrs Deborah Zuckert as Trustees of the Church Hymnary Trust (*Section 4.2*).

JOHN L McPAKE
CI Eccl Scot

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HOUSING AND LOAN FUND

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Re-appoint Mrs Barbara Finlayson as a Trustee of the Fund (*Section 10.1*).

JOHN L McPAKE
Cl Eccl Scot

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS' TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the re-appointment of Mr R Black and Mr G Young as member of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2026.
3. Approve the appointment of Mr G Anderson as a member of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2026.
4. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2025.

JOHN L McPAKE
Cl Eccl Scot

DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly and thank it for its work.
2. Continue the appointment of the Delegation with the same powers as hitherto – the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly to be Chair, the Depute Clerk of the General Assembly to be Vice-Chair and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.

JOHN L McPAKE
Cl Eccl Scot

ETHICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the documents: Proxy Voting Policy (Appendix 1), AI Ethical Investment Guidelines (Appendix 2) and Asset Manager Assessment for Compliance with Church of Scotland Ethical Investment Guidelines – Phased Implementation Proposal (Appendix 3), to be used by all those investing within the Church of Scotland, nationally, regionally and locally (*Section 2*).

JOHN L McPAKE
Cl Eccl Scot

THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

JOHN L McPAKE
Cl Eccl Scot