The Church of Scotland
Nomination Committee

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2027

NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY: Presbytery and Partnership Support Programme Group	
CONVENER/CHAIR:	Rev Jonathan Fleming

REMIT:

1. To resource and equip those in recognised national ministries through the provision of appropriate support.
2. To support the deployment of all ministries – Full Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament, including Interim and Transition Ministers; Ordained Local Ministers; the Diaconate; Readers; Ministries Development Staff (MDS); and Ministry to the Deaf congregations, in delivering the mission of God.
3. To work with Presbyteries and the Office of the General Assembly in developing and disseminating best practice in the areas for which Presbytery and Partnership Support is responsible.
4. To ensure that all Mission Plans are being visibly implemented, including advising on bases of adjustment and reviewable charge, with regards to their consistency against the Presbytery Mission Plan.
5. To support Presbyteries in evaluating their Mission Plans.
6. To support the development of 100 new worshiping communities to equip those taking part to live out the mission of God by 2028.
7. To provide oversight and governance of Safeguarding arrangements for the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (FAPLT) and those in recognised ministries.
8. To liaise with the General Trustees (who are the lead body) in the classification and use of buildings and on other matters including the Manse Adjudication process.
9. To take such actions as required for it to 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.
10. To provide oversight and governance of the FAPLT partnership with Place for Hope.
11. 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.
12. Except in so far as retained by the 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:

Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) as temporarily amended
Appraisal and Adjustments Act (Act VII 2003)
Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021)
Section 31 of the Faith Nurture Forum's Deliverance to General Assembly 2021 and
the Call, Election & Appointment of Ministers of Word & Sacrament Act.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME:

Experience (NB we are not expecting people to have experience of all of these)

- People who are passionate about mission
- Of mission – in congregations, with individuals, in other organisations
- Of having tried new things within the life of the Church
- Of Presbyteries and how they work
- Awareness of the particular aspects of pastoral support of those in the Church's recognised ministries

Skills

- Change and strategic planning
- Courage to ask the most important questions
- Committees and how to navigate them, particularly Church Committees
- A basic knowledge of Church Law as it relates to Mission Planning

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:

It is hoped that meetings of this group will be characterised by honest, inspiring, passionate and rigorous discussion.

To enable this, there is an emphasis on

- Good preparation (and papers being delivered to members in good time)
- Valuing the presence of each member
- Openness to new ways of thinking
- Commitment to creative approaches

Induction and training are provided.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:

One Programme Group Leader and six members, with additional co-opting powers.

It is anticipated that there will be one member vacancy to be filled with a start date of June 2027.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:

The Presbytery and Partnership Support Programme Group meets every 6-8 weeks, normally on a Thursday, online using MS Teams. One or two meetings each year will be in person meetings, and other deputation visits to Presbyteries will occasionally take place on site with travel to different parts of the country. Meetings normally last between 2 to 2 ½ hours.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:
Other regular meetings with Presbytery Planning Conveners and the Office of the General Assembly.

FURTHER DETAILS:
See details on the Assembly Trustees webpage including:

- Assembly Trustees Report to the General Assembly of 2025
- Faith Action Programme Leadership Team - Additional Information
- Faith Action Leadership Team Report to the General Assembly 2025
- Faith Action Programme Leadership Team Supplementary Report to the General Assembly of 2025
- Act 6, 2019, Income Protection and Ill Health
- Act 8, 2021, as amended, on Presbytery Mission Plans
- Act 11, 2025, Call, Election and Appointment of Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- Resources for Presbytery Mission Planning

Also see the Faith Action webpage