



INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2022

NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY: Theological Forum	
CONVENER/CHAIR:	Rev Dr Liam Fraser
VICE-CONVENER(S):	Rev Prof Susan Hardman Moore
SECRETARY:	Ms Nathalie Mares
REMIT: The remit of the Theological Forum is: a) 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; b) to express the theological vision of the Church in its worship, fellowship, witness and mission in and beyond contemporary Scotland; c) 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; d) to draw to the attention of the General Assembly theological matters which the Theological Forum considers to be of pressing contemporary relevance; e) to stimulate wider theological reflection throughout the Church on key doctrinal, ethical and apologetic matters through the provision of appropriate materials and other activities.	
SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME: The Forum would be particularly keen to have people from the church who are not ordained ministers, and who have an interest in contemporary issues which intersect with theology. Interest/expertise in ecclesiology and the theology of ministry would also be particularly beneficial at this time.	
EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS: Diligence in reading papers and attending meetings; capacity for theological reflection and comment.	



MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:

NB: a completed Nomination Form must be submitted by all proposed nominees including anyone wishing to be put forward for proposed re-appointment

Convener, Vice-Convener and 11 members appointed by the General Assembly, 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.

Two full-term (4 year) vacancies for one member and one minister in 2022.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:

include mention of any particular day(s) of the week when meetings would fall and whether meetings will be attended online and/or in person

Normally, the Theological Forum's meetings are held in the Church Offices, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, meetings have been held remotely via Microsoft Teams since March 2020. We hope to return to in-person meetings later this year, depending on government guidelines.

The meetings are usually between 11 am and 1 pm, and the days of the week vary so that as many members as possible are able to attend.

The Theological Forum met on 9 occasions throughout the year 2020/21.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:

include frequency, timings, venue and any particular day(s) of the week when meetings would fall

Occasionally the Forum will have a Working Group looking at a particular topic. This is always done on a voluntary basis and varies accordingly.

FURTHER DETAILS:

Include any useful web links

The Theological Forum's web page can be found [here](#).

Following an instruction received at the 2018 General Assembly to review the status of the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Theological Forum organised a conference titled *Westminster, Confessions and the Church* which was held at New College on Wednesday 8th May 2019. The conference papers have since been published in the journal *Theology in Scotland* and are available in digital format at the following web address: <https://ojs.st-andrews.ac.uk/index.php/TIS/issue/view/188>

The Theological Forum's 2021 report on the Westminster Confession of Faith can be found [here](#). In the Deliverance, Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions are encouraged to discuss the questions laid out in Section 23 of "Westminster, Confessions and the Church" (Appendix) and to respond to the Theological Forum by 31 December 2021. All of the necessary texts for the consultation process can be found on the Theological Forum's [webpage](#), under the subheading 'Confessions of Faith.'

The Theological Forum has also produced a paper on online communion in response to the coronavirus pandemic, which can be found [here](#), and, at the request of the Assembly Trustees, a paper on the [Five Marks of Mission](#), which the Trustees drew on in their [Report](#) to the October 2020 General Assembly.