

## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE FAITH NURTURE FORUM - MAY 2022

### Proposed Deliverance

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Supplementary Report.
2. Agree the amended corrected ministries allocations for the Presbyteries of Annandale & Eskdale and Aberdeen & Shetland (*Appendix 1*)
3. Note the weightings applied to each Presbytery for the purpose of allocating ministries set out in Appendix 1. (*Appendix 1*)

### Report

#### 1. ALLOCATIONS AND WEIGHTINGS

##### 1. Decisions of the General Assembly of 2021

- 1.1. The General Assembly of 2021 agreed that “*Presbyteries should seek to implement by 2025 Presbytery Plans based around 600 fulltime equivalent ministries and a target of no more than 60 further charges vacant at any one time*” (Assembly Trustees, section 7 of their deliverance). The 2021 Assembly further agreed that 661 ministries should be allocated among the Presbyteries as set out in Appendix 4 to the Forum’s Supplementary Report. These allocations took account of population density and the weightings agreed by the 2011 Assembly, which the 2021 Assembly agreed to retain pending future review (Section 7). The Forum asked the Assembly to recognise that further work on weightings and allocations would take place in the coming year (Section 7.1.10).
- 1.2 Further Work
- 1.2.1 The Forum has carried out further work on weightings and allocations. Questions about the allocation for the Presbyteries of England, Annandale and Eskdale, and Duns, were raised on the floor of the General Assembly last year, and these have been adjusted. Consequently, two corrections to the allocations as agreed in Appendix 4 of the Forum’s Supplementary Report of 2021, are required.
- 1.2.2 An increased allocation of 0.5 ministries (from 8 to 8.5) for the Presbytery of Annandale & Eskdale; this was due to a rounding error.
- 1.2.3 An increased allocation of 4 ministries (from 24 to 28) for the Presbytery of Aberdeen & Shetland, as in the main Report; this arose because Aberdeen and Shetland Presbyteries had united before the preparation of the Report to the General Assembly of 2021, and the weighting for Shetland had not been fully recognised.
- 1.2.4 The Forum believes that it would be inequitable to reduce already-agreed allocations to other Presbyteries in order to accommodate these corrections. Therefore, the Assembly is asked to agree the corrected allocations for the Presbyteries of Annandale & Eskdale and Aberdeen & Shetland, with a consequent increase in the cap on fulltime equivalent ministries from 661 to 665.5 as set out in Appendix 1. The Assembly Trustees have been advised of these corrections and funding is available.
- 1.2.5 The Forum apologises to the General Assembly and to the two Presbyteries. The Forum presented Appendix 4 to the 2021 Assembly in good faith, having taken expert technical advice and having carefully considered the issues. Nevertheless, the Forum regrets that these corrections are necessary.
- 1.2.6 The Forum believes that weightings and allocations set out in Appendix 1 are now accurate.

##### 2 Legacy Work on Weightings

- 2.1 In 2017, when work was being done by the Ministries Council on Advisory Figures, information relating to digitised parish boundaries was used to identify accurate values for presbytery areas. This work indicated that three Presbyteries were clearly mis-classified. Gordon and Jedburgh had much higher population densities than the other Presbyteries which had a weighting of 2, and Lothian was also anomalous. The weightings for Gordon and Jedburgh were changed to 1.5 and Lothian to 1.25. The Forum was unaware in 2021 that these changes in weightings had not been noted by the Ministries Council in its Report to the General Assembly of 2018, and the Forum did not advise either the 2021 Assembly or the Presbyteries that their correct weightings differed from the 2011 weightings.

- 2.2 Although the allocations are correct, the Forum apologises to the Assembly and to the three Presbyteries. The Assembly is asked to note the weightings used to allocate ministries in the table attached as Appendix 1.
- 3 The weightings for the new Presbyteries are a population-weighted average of the constituent Presbyteries. As mentioned in our report, the Forum will undertake additional work on the allocation of ministries reflecting the new shape of Presbyteries and the findings of the 2022 Scottish Census (8.1.12). It is anticipated that statistics from the Census relating to religious affiliation will become available in the second half of 2023, allowing for more accurate analysis which will be a significant part of reporting into the General Assembly of 2024.

*In the name of the Faith Nurture Forum*

ROSEMARY FREW, *Convener*  
KAREN CAMPBELL, *Vice Convener*  
SCOTT SHACKLETON, *Secretary*

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APPENDIX 1

Presbytery Number	Name	Allocation	Weighting
1.	Edinburgh & West Lothian	65.5	1
3.	Lothian	25	1.25
4.	Melrose and Peebles	9	1.5
5.	Duns	4.5	2
6.	Jedburgh	5.5	1.5
7.	Annandale and Eskdale	8.5	2
8.	Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	12.5	1.5
9.	Wigtown and Stranraer	6	2
10.	Ayr	24	1.5
11.	Irvine and Kilmarnock	13.5	1
12.	Ardrossan	13.5	1.5
	<i>South West Total</i>	<i>78</i>	
13.	Forth Valley and Clydesdale	44	<i>see note</i>
14.	Clyde	40	1
16.	Glasgow (inc. Cumbernauld)	84	1
19.	Argyll	18	3
22.	Falkirk (excl. Cumbernauld)	15.5	1
23.	Stirling	21.5	1.5
24.	Fife	44.5	1.17
27.	Dunkeld and Meigle	6.5	2
28.	Perth	16.5	1.5
29.	Dundee	18	1
30.	Angus	15.5	1.5
31.	Aberdeen and Shetland	28	1.18
32.	Kincardine and Deeside	10.5	1.5
33.	Gordon	16	1.5
34.	Buchan	14	1.5
35.	Moray	11.5	1.5
36.	Abernethy	4.5	3
37.	Inverness	16.5	1.5
38.	Lochaber	5.5	3
39.	Ross	10	2
40.	Sutherland	4	3
41.	Caithness	5.5	2
42.	Lochcarron-Skye	5	3
43.	Uist	2	3
44.	Lewis	5	3
45.	Orkney	7	3
47.	England	4	n/a
48.	International	5	n/a
		665.5	

*Note: Hamilton and Lanark had previous weightings of 1 and 1.5 respectively, retained in these allocations.*