

**V DECLARATORY ACT ANENT THE THIRD ARTICLE DECLARATORY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN MATTERS SPIRITUAL.**

*Edinburgh, 21 May 2010 Session 2*

The General Assembly declare as follows:

- (1) The Church of Scotland reaffirms the principles enshrined in the third Article Declaratory and declares anew its commitment to be a national church with a distinctive evangelical and pastoral concern for the people and nation of Scotland;
- (2) The Church of Scotland asserts that, while this commitment is recognised by Act of Parliament, namely the Church of Scotland Act 1921 and Articles Declaratory appended thereto, its true origin and entire basis lie not in civil law but in the Church's own calling by Jesus Christ, its King and Head;
- (3) The Church of Scotland remains committed to the ecumenical vision set out in the seventh Article Declaratory and, in pursuit of that vision, stands eager to share with other churches in Christian mission and service to the people of Scotland;
- (4) The Church of Scotland understands the words "a national church representative of the Christian faith of the Scottish people" as a recognition of both the Church's distinctive place in Scottish history and culture and its continuing responsibility to engage the people of Scotland wherever they might be with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- (5) The Church of Scotland understands the phrase "bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry" to mean a commitment to maintain worshipping, witnessing and serving Christian congregations throughout Scotland.