

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

May 2017

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Re-appoint the Rev Iain Cunningham as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2017.
3. Appoint Mr Hugo Allan, Mrs Morag Angus and Mr Leon Marshall as members of the Trust from 1 June 2017.

REPORT

The Church of Scotland Trust, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1932, submits its Eighty fifth Report to the General Assembly.

1. The Work of the Trust

(a) General –

The function of the Church of Scotland Trust is to hold properties outwith Scotland and to act as a trustee in a number of third party trusts. During the year it has dealt with various matters which have arisen regarding these properties and trusts. Matters of particular significance are noted hereafter.

(b) Third Party Trusts –

The Trust is currently trustee of 49 third party trusts which benefit different areas of the Church's work. In 2007 the Trust instigated a Rolling Review Programme for these trusts. The Trust's Secretary and Clerk undertakes a review of the trusts annually, producing reports on half the third party trust portfolio to each of the February and September Trust meetings. In the last year the Trust has undertaken a number of Restricted Funds Reorganisations to enable the funds held to be better utilised for the work of the Church.

(c) Pakistan –

The Trust must report once more there has been little progress with the transfer of the Church of Scotland's property interests in Pakistan to a suitable body, in terms of the Church of Scotland Trust Order Confirmation Act 1958. Unfortunately, this includes Murray Christian College in Sialkot. Discussions between the Trust, Forman Christian College in Lahore and the Government continue regarding the denationalisation and transfer of the College. In addition the Trust and the World Mission Council are exploring the possibility of creating a new trust to which all its heritable property interests can be transferred.

Representatives of the Trust and the World Mission Council continue to meet with their attorney for Pakistan, Dr Peter David regularly to monitor developments and agree future strategy. The Trust will continue to endeavour to achieve its objectives, with the help of Dr David and his contacts in Pakistan.

As reported for a number of years, the Trust continues to be a party to a number of court cases involving its property interests in Pakistan. The Trust is legally represented in all these cases but, due to the nature of the

Pakistan legal system, it is anticipated that the cases will be ongoing for some time.

(d) Act II 2016 – the International Presbytery Act –

Since the General Assembly of 2016 all congregations in the International Presbytery require the approval of both Presbytery and the Church of Scotland Trust for (a) any extensive alterations to their building/s; (b) any property purchase and (c) the lease of any property in excess of one year.

It is still early days for the parties as they work with a new process for approvals and the Trust will provide a more detailed report on its work in terms of the Act next year. The Trust sees itself as having a role similar to that undertaken by the Church of Scotland General Trustees for properties in Scotland.

2. Accounts for 2016

The Trust's Accounts for the year to 31 December 2016 have been independently examined and copies thereof are available on request from the Secretary and Clerk.

3. Membership

In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, the following two members retire by rotation on 31 May 2017 but are eligible for re-appointment: Mr Robert Brodie and the Rev Iain Cunningham. It is suggested to the General Assembly the Rev Iain Cunningham be re-appointed a member of the Trust from 1 June 2017. Mr Robert Brodie does not seek re-appointment and members would like to record their sincere gratitude to Bob for his faithful service to the Trust since his appointment in 2001. Bob served as Vice-Chairman of the Trust for 4 years and then as Chairman for 6 years and has always shown great interest and enthusiasm for the Trust's work. His knowledge and attention to detail will be missed.

It is suggested that Mr Hugo Allan, Mrs Morag Angus and Mr Leon Marshall be appointed members of the Trust from 1 June 2017.

*In the name and by authority of The Church of Scotland
Trust*

JOHN M HODGE, *Chairman*
THOMAS C WATSON, *Vice-Chairman*
JENNIFER M HAMILTON, *Secretary & Clerk*