

CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST

May 2017

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint the Jennifer Macrae, Janet Mathieson, Scott McKenna, and John McPake (Ministers) and Angus Hogg, Isobel Hunter, Kay Keith, and Roy Pinkerton (Elders) as Trustees of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust.
3. Instruct the Trustees to bring before the General Assembly of 2018 detailed proposals for the Lectureship Cycle 2018 – 2021.

REPORT

1. Chalmers Lectures 2012 – 2016

The Rev Dr Doug Gay delivered his lectures entitled *Reforming the Kirk - the future of the Church of Scotland* in St Giles Cathedral in February 2017. For the first time the lectures were *live-streamed* with the further facility of being able to download and listen to the lectures through a *catch-up* feature on the Church of Scotland website. The Trustees are delighted to report that by this means the lectures reached an audience which far surpassed anything possible in previous generations. At the time of writing the total number of views of the lectures had exceeded 5000 while many others had accessed and downloaded the scripts.

These Lectures have stimulated and challenged a wide range of people across the Church of Scotland and have reached many other audiences. The conversations which have begun as a result of Dr Gay's input will resonate in the Church for many years to come. We now look forward to the publication of the expanded text of this series and we commend to Kirk Sessions and others the use of these lectures in their planning and vision building.

2. Looking Forward

Unavoidably, the lectures in this current cycle were a little late in being delivered, so the Trustees have not yet turned their minds to a detailed proposal for the next cycle of the Lectureship. The Trust, however, does have within it a reasonably healthy balance and following on the way in which the present series has stimulated important discussions on the future shape of the Church of Scotland, and given the influence that the *live-streaming* of these events can have, it is the intention of the Trustees to appoint someone who will follow the pattern which has now been set. It should also be possible to add a number of occasional lectures which could be used more widely to tackle some of the constitutional and theological issues with which the Church must wrestle if it is meet the challenges of the present day.

3. New Trustees

In preparation for a constructive discussion in advance of a report to next year's General Assembly the Trust must bring its compliment of members up to full strength. So, in addition to the Trustees *ex officio*s who are the Moderator and Clerks of the General Assembly and the Principals or

Heads of the Colleges of Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Aberdeen, we propose the appointment of Jennifer Macrae, Janet Mathieson, Scott McKenna, and John McPake (Ministers) and Angus Hogg, Isobel Hunter, Kay Keith, and Roy Pinkerton (Elders) as Trustees of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust.

In the name of the Trust

JOHN P CHALMERS, *Chairman*