

# The Church of Scotland **General Assembly** **2017**



## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

**SATURDAY 20 – FRIDAY 26 MAY**

I. Roll of Commissioners .....	4
II. Order of Business .....	22
III. Proposed Committees and Tellers .....	25
IV. Supplementary Reports.....	26
V. Standing Orders .....	80
VI. Notices and Intimations .....	105

**Free WiFi is available throughout the Assembly Hall**

**Network: General Assembly**

**Password: assembly2017**

Tel: 0131 260 5220 Fax: 0131 260 5252  
E-mail: [assemblyoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:assemblyoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

## NOTES

1. The General Assembly stand
  - (a) When The Lord High Commissioner or the Moderator enters the Hall before the constitution of any Session;
  - (b) When Her Majesty's Commission to The Lord High Commissioner and Her Majesty's Letter to the General Assembly are read;
  - (c) When The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly, or the Moderator addresses The Lord High Commissioner; and
  - (d) When a distinguished visitor is brought into the Hall to address the General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly do not stand when The Lord High Commissioner retires from the Hall.

## COMMISSIONERS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

These are as listed on the Expenses Claim Form

Expense Claim Forms will be received in the New College Foyer on:

Friday 26 May – 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

or returned to the Principal Clerk's Office as soon as possible after the General Assembly

**Voting Handsets and swipe cards may be returned to the Assembly Office or handed in with Expense Claim Forms as above**

## COMMITTEES

Name of Committee	Place of Meeting	Time of Meeting
Business Committee	Clerks' Desk	20 May at close of morning session

## ROLL AND STANDING ORDERS

<b>ASSEMBLY OFFICE-BEARERS</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>No</b>
Moderator	Rt Rev Dr G Russell Barr *	836
Moderator-Designate	Rev Dr Derek Browning *	837
Chaplains	Rev John K S McMahan *	838
	Miss Ann Mulligan, DCS *	839
Principal Clerk	Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers †	840
Associate Principal Clerk	Rev Dr George J Whyte †	841
Acting Depute Clerk	Ms Christine Paterson †	842
Procurator	Ms Laura Dunlop QC †	843
Law Agent	Miss Mary Macleod †	844
Precentor	Rev Dr Martin C Scott	770
Chief Steward	Mr Alexander F Gemmill	
Assembly Officer	Mr David McColl †	
Assistant Assembly Officer	Mr Craig Marshall †	
<b>BUSINESS COMMITTEE</b>		
Convener Nominate	Ms Judith J H Pearson †	845
Vice-Convener Nominate	Rev Fiona E Smith †	846

\* Communications should be delivered to the Moderator's Room, not to boxes.

† Communications should be delivered to the Clerk's Desk, not to boxes.

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**INDEX OF PRESBYTERIES**

31	Aberdeen	11	Irvine and Kilmarnock
36	Abernethy	6	Jedburgh
30	Angus	49	Jerusalem
7	Annandale and Eskdale	32	Kincardine and Deeside
12	Ardrossan	25	Kirkcaldy
19	Argyll	13	Lanark
10	Ayr	44	Lewis
34	Buchan	38	Lochaber
41	Caithness	42	Lochcarron-Skye
18	Dumbarton	3	Lothian
29	Dundee	4	Melrose and Peebles
24	Dunfermline	35	Moray
8	Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	45	Orkney
27	Dunkeld and Meikle	28	Perth
5	Duns	39	Ross
1	Edinburgh	26	St Andrews
47	England	46	Shetland
48	Europe	23	Stirling
22	Falkirk	40	Sutherland
16	Glasgow	43	Uist
33	Gordon	2	West Lothian
14	Greenock and Paisley	9	Wigtown and Stranraer
17	Hamilton		
37	Inverness		

## ROLL OF COMMISSIONERS

### 1. Presbytery of Edinburgh

#### Minister

1. Rev James D Aitken, Edinburgh: St Michael's
2. Rev Rolf H Billes, Edinburgh: Colinton
3. Rev Dr Karen K Campbell, Edinburgh: Marchmont St Giles'
4. Rev John Cowie, Edinburgh: Stockbridge
5. Rev James S Dewar, Edinburgh: Juniper Green
6. Rev Gordon A Farquharson, (Stonehaven: Dunnotar)
7. Rev Mark M Foster, Edinburgh: Pilrig St Paul's
8. Rev Michael W Frew, Edinburgh: Slateford Longstone
9. Rev Ian Y Gilmour, Edinburgh: St Andrew's & St George's West
10. Rev Tom Gordon, (Chaplain, Marie Curie Hospice)
11. Rev Keith E Graham, Edinburgh: Murrayfield
12. Very Rev James Harkness KCVO CB OBE DD, (Chaplain General)
13. Rev Ute Jaeger-Fleming, Edinburgh: Leith Wardie
14. Rev Gordon Kennedy, Edinburgh: Craiglockhart
15. Rev Margaret R Lane, Edinburgh: Kirkliston
16. Very Rev Finlay A J Macdonald DD, (Principal Clerk)
17. Rev Fiona M Mathieson, Edinburgh: Carrick Knowe
18. Rev Alexander T McAspurren, Edinburgh: Leith North
19. Rev Stewart M McPherson, Edinburgh: Corstorphine Craigsbank
20. Rev Peter Nelson, Edinburgh: St John's Colinton Mains
21. Rev Daniel Robertson, Edinburgh: Davidson's Mains
22. Rev Colin A M Sinclair, Edinburgh: Palmerston Place

23. Rev Dr V Easter Smart, Edinburgh: Currie
24. Rev Norman A Smith, Edinburgh: Granton
25. Rev Lezley J Stewart, Associate Minister, Edinburgh: Greyfriars Kirk
26. Rev Dr Stewart G Weaver, Edinburgh: Portobello & Joppa

#### Elder

27. Mr Colin G Aitken, Edinburgh: Craigmillar Park
28. Mrs Jane G Anderson, Edinburgh: The Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun)
29. Miss Joyce Armstrong, Edinburgh: Leith South
30. Mrs Joanne Baird, Edinburgh: Leith St Andrew's
31. Mr Tim R Bell, Edinburgh: Leith North
32. Mrs Margaret B P Bisset, Edinburgh: Ratho
33. Dr Gavin Brydone, Edinburgh: Canongate
34. Mr Scott Burton, Edinburgh: Holy Trinity
35. Mrs Rachel Cadell, Edinburgh: Greenbank
36. Mr Brian Cooper, Edinburgh: Leith Wardie
37. Dr Alison Elliot OBE LLD DD FRSE, Edinburgh: Greyfriars
38. Mr Brian Falla, Edinburgh: Colinton
39. Mrs Linda Farrer, Edinburgh: Reid Memorial
40. Mrs Helen Hannan, Edinburgh: Inverleith St Serf's
41. Mrs Doreen Henderson, Edinburgh: Corstorphine Craigsbank
42. Mrs Lynda Johnston, Edinburgh: St Margaret's
43. Mrs Annabella C R Lynch, Edinburgh: Portobello & Joppa
44. Mr James W Mair, Edinburgh: Marchmont St Giles'
45. Dr J Mitchell Manson, Edinburgh: Stockbridge
46. Ms Karen W F McKay, Kirkliston
47. Mr Chris McNeil, Edinburgh: Morningside
48. Mrs Norma Rolls, Edinburgh: Palmerston Place
49. Ms Ishbel Smith, Edinburgh: Balerno
50. Mr Robin M Stimpson, Edinburgh: Morningside

51. Mrs Helen Sutherland, Edinburgh: Liberton  
 52. Mr Eddie Thorn, Edinburgh: Blackhall  
 St Columba's

**Deacon**

53. Mrs Elizabeth Crocker DCS, Edinburgh: The  
 Tron Kirk (Gilmerton & Moredun)  
 54. Mr Mark Evans DCS, Head of Spiritual Care,  
 NHS Fife  
 55.

**2. Presbytery of West Lothian**

**Minister**

56. Rev Dr D Stewart Gillan, Linlithgow:  
 St Michael's  
 57. Rev Alan Greig, Avonbridge I/w Torphichen  
 58. Rev Dr Angus Kerr, Whitburn: South  
 59. Rev A Scott Marshall, Abercorn I/w  
 Pardovan, Kingscavil & Winchburgh  
 60. Rev Dr Ian D Maxwell, Uphall: South  
 61. Rev Dr Brenda Robson, Auxiliary Minister,  
 Kirknewton & East Calder  
 62. Rev Duncan Shaw, Presbytery Clerk

**Elder**

63. Mrs Aileen T Borrowman, Torphichen  
 64. Mr James A R Brown, Whitburn: South  
 65. Dr Tom M Brown, Linlithgow: St Michael's  
 66. Mr T Gordon Forbes, Abercorn  
 67. Mr J Peter Kershaw, Pardovan, Kingscavil &  
 Winchburgh  
 68. Mrs Carol A McLeod, Uphall: South  
 69. Mr Alexander W Waddell, Avonbridge

**Deacon**

70. Mrs Kay McIntosh DCS, Kirk of Calder

**3. Presbytery of Lothian**

**Minister**

71. Very Rev John B Cairns KCVO DD LLD,  
 (Aberlady I/w Gullane)  
 72. Rev Neil J Dougall, North Berwick:  
 St Andrew Blackadder  
 73. Rev Graham L Duffin, Loanhead  
 74. Rev Suzanne G Fletcher, Dunglass  
 75. Rev Dr David J Graham, Dirlerton I/w North  
 Berwick: Abbey  
 76. Rev Ruth D Halley, Penicuik: North  
 77. Rev Brian C Hilsley, Aberlady I/w Gullane

78. Rev Keith L Mack, Dalkeith: St John's &  
 King's Park

79. Rev Alison P McDonald, Musselburgh:  
 Northesk

80. Rev John Mitchell, Bonnyrigg

81. Rev Gordon Stevenson, Dunbar

82. Rev John Vischer, Garvald & Morham I/w  
 Haddington: West

**Elder**

83. Mr A William Bell, Garvald & Morham

84. Mr Kenneth G Bentley, Dalkeith: St John's &  
 King's Park

85. Mr Robert D Burgon, North Berwick: Abbey

86. Mr Kenneth G Inglis, Penicuik: North

87. Mr David G B Lacey, Tyne Valley Parish

88. Mr Alan G MacDonald, Bonnyrigg

89. Mr John D McCulloch DL, Presbytery Clerk

90. Mrs Emma Stewart, Musselburgh:  
 St Andrew's High

91. Mr Keith D Stewart, Dirlerton

92. Mr Thomas Tervit, Cockenzie & Port Seton:  
 Chalmers Memorial

93. Mr Michael A Weaver, Dunbar

94. Mr Kenneth M Wright, Gullane

**4. Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles**

**Minister**

95. Very Rev A David K Arnott, (St Andrews:  
 Hope Park I/w Strathkinness)

96. Rev Rosemary Frew, Bowden & Melrose

97. Rev Elspeth Harley, Caddonfoot I/w  
 Galashiels: Trinity

98. Rev Malcolm M Macdougall, Eddleston I/w  
 Peebles: Old

99. Rev Sheila W Moir, Maxton & Mertoun I/w  
 Newtown I/w St Boswells

100. Rev Margaret D J Steele, Ashkirk I/w Selkirk

**Elder**

101. Mr Tom Burnham, Earlston

102. Miss Pauline Davidson, Selkirk

103. Mr John Henderson, Bowden & Melrose

104. Mrs Mary McElroy, Carlops

105. Mrs Lorraine Mulholland, Eddleston

106. Mr Alistair Wilson, Galashiels: Trinity

**5. Presbytery of Duns****Minister**

- 107. Rev Andrew N Haddow, Coldingham & St Abbs I/w Eyemouth
- 108. Rev Bruce F Neill, Maxton & Mertoun I/w Newton I/w St Boswells
- 109. Rev Thomas S Nicholson, Gordon: St Michael's I/w Greenlaw I/w Legerwood I/w Westruther

**Elder**

- 110. Mrs Margaret Carey, Eyemouth
- 111. Mrs Janice Cossigny, Gordon
- 112. Mrs Mary F Keuleers, Greenlaw

**6. Presbytery of Jedburgh****Minister**

- 113. Rev Alistair W Cook, Hawick: Teviot & Robertson
- 114. Rev Charles J Finnie, Hawick: Burnfoot
- 115. Rev Anna S Rodwell, Kelso North & Ednam

**Elder**

- 116. Mr R Scott Elliot, Hawick: Burnfoot
- 117. Mr Robert Scott, Hawick: Trinity
- 118.

**7. Presbytery of Annandale and Eskdale****Minister**

- 119. Rev Adam J Dillon, Kirkpatrick Juxta I/w Moffat: St Andrew's I/w Wamphray
- 120. Rev C Bryan Haston, Presbytery Clerk
- 121. Rev B Ian Murray, Canonbie United I/w Liddlesdale
- 122. Rev Paul R Read, Applegarth, Sibbaldbie & Johnstone I/w Lochmaben

**Elder**

- 123. Mr S Jeffrey Brown, Moffat: St Andrew's
- 124. Mr Allan Johnson, Lochmaben
- 125. Mr Anthony Lane, Canonbie United
- 126. Mr Robert McLure, Langholm, Eskdalemuir, Ewes & Westerkirk

**Deacon**

- 127. Mrs Angela C Brydson DCS, Presbytery

**8. Presbytery of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright****Minister**

- 128. Rev Donald Campbell, Depute Presbytery Clerk
- 129. Rev William T Hogg, Kirkconnel I/w Sanquhar: St Bride's
- 130. Rev J Stuart Mill, Durisdeer I/w Thornhill I/w Penpont Keir & Tynron
- 131. Rev Valerie J Ott, Gatehouse & Borgue I/w Tarff & Twynholm
- 132. Rev Sally M F Russell, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham I/w Crossmichael, Parton & Balmaghie
- 133. Rev Fiona A Wilson, Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon I/w Urr

**Elder**

- 134. Mr John Fawcett, Penpont, Keir & Tynron
- 135. Mrs Catherine E Lye, Lochend & New Abbey
- 136. Mr Alan Sidaway, Balmaclellan & Kells
- 137. Mr Robert D Solley, Tarff & Twynholm
- 138. Mrs Helen A Teenan, Dumfries: Troqueer
- 139. Mr William J Waugh, Sanquhar: St Bride's

**9. Presbytery of Wigtown and Stranraer****Minister**

- 140. Rev Pamela A Bellis, Ordained Local Minister
- 141. Rev Alexander I Currie, Glasserton & Isle of Whithorn I/w Whithorn St Ninian's Priory
- 142. Rev Christopher Wallace, Kirkmaiden I/w Stoneykirk

**Elder**

- 143. Mrs Muriel Adams, Kirkmaiden I/w Stoneykirk
- 144. Dr Nigel T Miscampbell, Luce Valley
- 145. Mr Samuel Scobie, Presbytery Clerk

**10. Presbytery of Ayr****Minister**

- 146. Rev Fraser R Aitken, Ayr: St Columba
- 147. Rev Kenneth C Elliott, Presbytery Clerk
- 148. Rev David R Gemmell, Ayr: Old Kirk of Ayr
- 149. Rev Brian Hendrie, Ayr: St Leonard's
- 150. Rev Ian K McLachlan, Barr I/w Dailly I/w Girvan: South

151. Rev Neil A McNaught, Ayr: Alloway  
 152. Rev John W Paterson, Lugar l/w Old Cumnock  
 153.  
 154.  
 155.

#### **Elder**

156. Mr Alan Bruce, Ayr: St Leonard's  
 157. Mrs Isabel Campbell, Lugar  
 158. Ms Yvonne Davies, Barr  
 159. Mrs Moureen Jones, Old Cumnock: Old  
 160. Mr James A S Kirk, Straiton  
 161. Miss Margaret W McIntosh, Prestwick:  
 St Nicholas'  
 162. Mrs Maureen G McNae, Tarbolton  
 163. Mr Gary Noonan, Troon: Portland  
 164. Miss Moira D Wilson, Tarbolton  
 165. Miss Marion Wyllie, Lugar

### **11. Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock**

#### **Minister**

166. Rev Allison E Becker, Kilmarnock: St John's Onthank  
 167. Rev Ian W Benzie, Irvine: St Andrew's  
 168. Rev H Taylor Brown, Depute Clerk  
 169. Rev David S Cameron, Kilmarnock: New Laigh Kirk  
 170. Very Rev David W Lacy DLitt, Kilmarnock: Kay Park  
 171. Rev George K Lind, Stewarton: St Columba's  
 172. Rev Alison McBrier, Caldwell l/w Dunlop  
 173. Rev John A Urquhart, Kilmaurs: St Maur's Glencairn  
 174. Rev Neil Urquhart, Irvine: Fullarton

#### **Elder**

175. Mr Alan Beattie, Kilmarnock: St Andrew's & St Marnock's  
 176. Mr G Douglas Bell MBE, Dunlop  
 177. Mrs Catherine M Close, Caldwell  
 178. Mr I Steuart Dey, Presbytery Clerk  
 179. Mrs Marjorie Dunsmore, Kilmaurs:  
 St Maur's Glencairn  
 180. Mrs Maureen Hume, Kilmarnock: St John's Onthank  
 181. Mrs Jane Johnston, Kilmarnock: St John's Onthank

182. Miss Claire McDougall, Irvine: St Andrew's  
 183. Mr Matthew G Speirs, Kilmarnock:  
 St Andrew's & St Marnock's

#### **Deacon**

184. Mrs Barbara Urquhart DCS, Kilmarnock:  
 New Laigh Kirk

### **12. Presbytery of Ardrossan**

#### **Minister**

185.  
 186. Rev Mandy R Hickman, West Kilbride  
 187. Rev Roderick I T Macdonald, Beith  
 188. Rev James J McNay, West Kilbride  
 189. Rev Martin Thomson, Dalry: Trinity  
 190. Rev T David Watson, Largs: Clark Memorial

#### **Elder**

191. Ms Margaret A Brown, Kilwinning:  
 Mansefield Trinity  
 192. Mr Archie Currie, Kilbirnie: Auld Kirk  
 193. Mrs Alice Fisher, Cumbrae  
 194. Mrs Jean C Q Hunter, Presbytery Clerk  
 195. Mrs Helen M Kerr, Shiskine  
 196. Mrs Lorna A MacDonald, Brodick

#### **Deacon**

197. Mrs Isobel Beck DCS, Kilwinning Old Church

### **13. Presbytery of Lanark**

#### **Minister**

198. Rev Bryan Kerr, Lanark: Greyfriars  
 199. Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald, Upper Clyde  
 200. Rev Maureen I MacDougall, Carnwath l/w Carstairs  
 201. Rev Louise E Mackay, Lanark: St Nicholas'  
 202. Rev Steven Reid, Crossford l/w Kirkfieldbank

#### **Elder**

203. Mr Ian Conn, Forth: St Paul's  
 204. Mr Ross Hyslop, Lanark: Greyfriars  
 205. Mr Kenmuir Mackie, Carluke: St John's  
 206. Mr Scott Paget, Lanark: Greyfriars  
 207. Mr Alexander Russell, Kirkfieldbank



**14. Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley****Minister**

208. Rev Robin N Allison, Elderslie Kirk  
 209. Rev Alan D Birss, Paisley: Abbey  
 210. Rev Mhairi M Breingan, Ordained Local Minister  
 211. Rev Dr Charles M Cameron, Johnstone: St Andrew's Trinity  
 212. Rev James S A Cowan, Barrhead: St Andrew's  
 213. Rev Owen Derrick, Greenock: Lyle Kirk  
 214. Rev Pamela Gordon, Barrhead: Bourock  
 215. Very Rev E Lorna Hood DD, (Renfrew: North)  
 216. Rev Ann Knox, Inchinnan  
 217. Rev Maureen Leitch, (Barrhead: Bourock)  
 218. Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Presbytery Clerk  
 219. Rev Yvonne Smith, Bishopston  
 220. Rev Alan K Sorensen, Greenock: Wellpark Mid Kirk  
 221. Rev Stuart C Steell, Renfrew: Trinity

**Elder**

222. Ms Mary Barr, Lochwinnoch  
 223. Miss Jennifer Boag, Greenock: Westburn  
 224. Miss Harriet Carmichael, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay  
 225. Mrs Jessie M Cross, Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity  
 226. Mrs Elma Farr, Barrhead: St Andrew's  
 227. Mr John O Hawthorn, Old Gourrock & Ashton  
 228. Miss Sheena McFarlane OBE, Port Glasgow: St Andrew's  
 229. Ms Anne S McGregor, Kilmacolm: Old  
 230. Mrs Elizabeth R McNeil, Inchinnan  
 231. Mrs Susan Nicol, Greenock: East End  
 232. Mr Stewart Renton, Erskine  
 233. Dr Graeme Simpson, Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw  
 234. Miss Kay Slater, Greenock: Wellpark Mid Kirk  
 235. Mrs Mary Taylor, Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly

**16. Presbytery of Glasgow****Minister**

236. Rev Catherine J Beattie, Giffnock: South

237. Rev Willem J Bezuidenhout, Glasgow: Barlanark Greyfriars  
 238. Rev Dr Graham K Blount, Joint Presbytery Clerk  
 239. Rev Sarah A Brown, Glasgow: Castlemilk  
 240. Rev Graham R G Cartlidge, (Glasgow: Eastwood)  
 241. Rev Jonathan De Groot, Glasgow: Sandyford Henderson Memorial  
 242. Rev Jane M Denniston, Campsie  
 243. Rev Alastair S Duncan, Glasgow: St George's Tron  
 244. Rev Sandy Forsyth, (Associate, Kirkintilloch: St David's Memorial Park)  
 245. Rev Ian F Galloway, Glasgow: Gorbals  
 246. Rev Fiona M E Gardner, Glasgow: Temple Annesland  
 247. Rev Peter M Gardner, Pioneer Minister  
 248. Rev Mike R Gargrave, Thornliebank  
 249. Rev Neil M Glover, Cambuslang: Flemington Hallside  
 250. Rev Rhona E Graham, Glasgow: Tron St Mary's  
 251. Rev Leslie E T Grieve, Ordained Local Minister  
 252. Very Rev William C Hewitt, Joint Presbytery Clerk  
 253. Rev David P Hood, Glasgow: Merrylea  
 254. Rev Jane M Howitt, Glasgow: St Rollox  
 255. Rev Howard R Hudson, Glasgow: Bridgeton St Fancis in the East  
 256. Rev Jonathan A Keefe, Glasgow: Robroyston  
 257. Rev Dr Scott R M Kirkland, Maxwell Mearns Castle  
 258. Rev Mark Lowey, Glasgow: Ruchill Kelvinside  
 259. Rev Rev David W Lunan DD, Presbytery Clerk  
 260. Rev Gordon R Mackenzie, (Chapelhall)  
 261. Rev Campbell Mackinnon, Glasgow: Balshagray Victoria Park  
 262. Rev Alisdair T MacLeod-Mair, (Glasgow: Baillieston St Andrew's)  
 263. Rev Stuart D MacQuarrie, Chaplain, Glasgow University

264. Rev Louise J E McClements, Lenzie: Old  
 265. Rev Douglas M Nicol, Glasgow:  
 St Christopher's Priesthill & Nitshill  
 266. Rev Wilma E Pearson, Glasgow: Cathcart  
 Trinity  
 267. Rev Andrew J Robertson, Eaglesham  
 268. Rev Christopher J Rowe, Glasgow: Colston  
 Milton  
 269. Rev Bruce H Sinclair, Glasgow: Jordanhill  
 270. Rev Linda A W Walker, Auxiliary Minister  
 271. Rev William T S Wilson, Burnside Blairbeith  
 272. Rev G Melvyn Wood, Glasgow: Blawarthill

### Elder

273. Mr Maqsood U Bakhsh, Glasgow: Possilpark  
 274. Mr Robert Barclay, Glasgow: St Andrew &  
 St Nicholas  
 275. Mr Graeme D I Barrie, Glasgow:  
 Easterhouse  
 276. Ms Flora R Black, Glasgow: St Christopher's  
 Priesthill & Nitshill  
 277. Mr Ralph P Boettcher, Glasgow: Merrylea  
 278. Mrs Jean Brannigan, Glasgow: Partick  
 South  
 279. Mr David Y Bremner, Mearns Kirk  
 280. Miss Margaret Brough, Glasgow: St David's  
 Knightswood  
 281. Mr Michael H Buchan, Netherlee  
 282. Miss Laura Buist, Glasgow: Jordanhill  
 283. Mr Ernest Duckett, Glasgow: South  
 Shawlands  
 284. Ms Leslie M M Gibson, Rutherglen:  
 Stonelaw  
 285.  
 286. Mrs Una L Heaney, Glasgow: Sherbrooke  
 St Gilbert's  
 287. Mr Leslie H Hooper, Glasgow: Shettleston  
 New  
 288. Mr Robin C Hutchison, Glasgow: St John's  
 Renfield  
 289. Miss K Irene Kay, Rutherglen: Old  
 290. Mr Callum Macfarlane-Grieve, Glasgow:  
 St George's Tron  
 291. Mr Brian MacKenzie, Torrance  
 292. Mr Alistair M Mathison, Glasgow:  
 Pollokshaws

293. Mrs Elspeth McCallum, Glasgow: Partick  
 Trinity  
 294. Mrs Isabel McDerment, Glasgow:  
 Scotstoun  
 295. Mr Duncan C McGhie, Glasgow: Newlands  
 South  
 296. Mrs Brenda McGinnigle, Glasgow: Queens  
 Park Govanhill  
 297. Miss Maureen McNabb, Glasgow:  
 Cardonald  
 298. Mr Duncan P Mitchell, Glasgow:  
 St Columba Gaelic  
 299. Mrs Elisabeth M Morrison, Glasgow:  
 Pollokshields  
 300. Mr John M Morrison, Glasgow: Shawlands  
 301. Mrs Irene Munro, Newton Mearns  
 302. Mr Alan Murray, Glasgow: Springburn  
 303. Dr Garrick K Osbourne, Glasgow: Sandyford  
 Henderson  
 304. Mr Steven J C Owens, Stamperland  
 305. Miss Isobel A Robertson, Glasgow: Ruchill  
 Kelvinside  
 306. Mr Eddie Romeo, Glasgow: Renfield  
 St Stephen's  
 307. Mr John Sharp, Glasgow: Sandyhills  
 308. Mr David W H Smith, Rutherglen: West &  
 Wardlawhill  
 309. Miss Jeanette M Thomson, Glasgow:  
 St Andrew's East

### Deacon

310. Mr Jim E Hamilton DCS, Maryhill  
 311. Mrs Karen M Hamilton DCS, Cambuslang  
 312. Miss Helen M Hughes DCS, Tron: St Mary's  
 & Springburn  
 313. Mrs Margaret D McLellan DCS, Pastoral  
 Assistant, Merrylea

### 17. Presbytery of Hamilton

#### Minister

314. Rev Graham Austin, Cleland  
 315. Rev Gavin W Black, Motherwell: Crosshill  
 316. Rev I Ross Blackman, Hamilton: Old  
 317. Rev John Brewster, East Kilbride: Greenhills  
 318. Rev Kevin De Beer, Bellshill: Central  
 319. Rev F Derek Gunn, Airdrie: Clarkston  
 320. Rev Robert A Hamilton, Airdrie: New  
 Wellwynd

321. Rev Donald R Lawrie, Hamilton: South I/w Quarter  
 322. Rev Mhorag Macdonald, Wishaw: Cambusnethan North  
 323. Rev Ian C MacKenzie, (Interim Minister)  
 324. Rev Dr Gordon A McCracken, Presbytery Clerk  
 325. Rev Alastair McKillop, Larkhall: St Machan's  
 326. Rev Elaine W McKinnon, Newarthill & Carfin  
 327. Rev Dr John L McPake, East Kilbride: Mossneuk  
 328. Rev Christopher A Rankine, Hamilton: Hillhouse  
 329. Rev S Lindsay A Turnbull, Hamilton: Trinity  
 330. Very Rev Hugh R Wyllie, (Hamilton: Old)

#### **Elder**

331. Mr James Blair, Bargeddie  
 332. Dr Iain C Campbell, East Kilbride: South  
 333. Mr Hugh A Cowan, Calderbank  
 334. Mr Thomas W Donaldson, Wishaw: Old  
 335. Ms Jean Giggie, Overtown  
 336. Miss Wilma Gilmour, Larkhall: Trinity  
 337. Mrs Marilyn Henderson, Hamilton: Old  
 338. Mr Angus MacKay, Wishaw: Cambusnethan North  
 339. Mrs Georgina MacMillan, Quarter  
 340. Ms Fiona C McDonald, Motherwell: Crosshill  
 341. Mr Andrew R Morrison, East Kilbride: Claremont  
 342. Mr Alan Nicolson, Hamilton: Cadzow  
 343. Mr James Reid, Larkhall: St Machan's  
 344. Mrs Janette F Rennie, Motherwell: St Mary's  
 345. Mr Ian Rice, Larkhall: Trinity  
 346. Mr George Robertson, Hamilton: Old  
 347. Mr Ronald Wilson, Coatbridge: Middle

#### **Deacon**

348.

### **18. Presbytery of Dumbarton**

#### **Minister**

349. Very Rev John C Christie, (Interim Minister)  
 350. Rev David W Clark, Presbytery Clerk  
 351. Rev Dr Alan J Hamilton, Bearsden: Killermont  
 352. Rev Margaret McArthur, Cardross

353. Rev Margaret A E Nutter, Ordained Local Minister, Clydebank: St Cuthbert's I/w Duntocher Trinity  
 354. Rev Ramsay B Shields, Milngavie: St Luke's  
 355. Rev David T Young, Helensburgh I/w Rhu & Shandon  
 356.  
 357.

#### **Elder**

358. Ms Jayne Beaton, Renton: Trinity  
 359. Mrs Janice Dinning, Dalmuir: Barclay  
 360. Mr Michael Docherty, Bonhill  
 361. Mr Robert Kinloch, Jamestown  
 362. Dr David Pollard, Arrochar  
 363. Dr Grace Rogerson, Milngavie: St Paul's  
 364. Mr David E Sinclair, Helensburgh  
 365. Mrs Elizabeth Stewart, Dalmuir: Barclay  
 366. Mrs Maureen Walker, Cardross

### **19. Presbytery of Argyll**

#### **Minister**

367. Rev Paul H Beautyman, Youth Adviser  
 368. Rev Dr Robert K Mackenzie, Upper Cowal  
 369. Rev John H Paton, North Mull  
 370. Rev Dr Kenneth R Ross, Netherlorn  
 371. Rev Hilda C Smith, Lochgilphead  
 372. Rev Valerie Watson, Kilchoman I/w Kilmeny I/w Portnahaven  
 373.  
 374.  
 375.

#### **Elder**

376. Mrs Dorothy M Brayshaw, Strone & Ardentenny  
 377. Dr Grace Gibson, Kildalton & Oa  
 378. Mr Andrew MacGregor, Colonsay & Oronsay  
 379. Mr Clifford Moisey, Salen & Ulva  
 380. Ms Catherine Montgomery, Strachur & Strathlachlan  
 381. Miss Catherine T Robb, Ardchattan  
 382. Mrs Jeneffer Zielinsky, Dunoon: High Kirk  
 383.  
 384.

**Deacon**

385. Ms Glenda McLaren DCS, Central Cowal

**22. Presbytery of Falkirk****Minister**

386. Rev Graham D Astles, Bo'ness: St Andrew's  
 387. Very Rev Albert O Bogle, Pioneer Ministry with Sanctuary First  
 388. Rev Kathryn I Brown, Ordained Local Minister, Falkirk: Trinity  
 389. Rev Murdo M Campbell, Brightons  
 390. Rev Dr J Mary Henderson, Falkirk: Laurieston I/w Redding & Westquarter  
 391. Rev Alastair M Horne, Falkirk: St Andrew's West  
 392. Rev Amanda J MacQuarrie, Bo'ness: Old  
 393. Rev Sandra Mathers, Ordained Local Minister, Denny: Old I/w Haggs  
 394. Rev Donald H Scott, Chaplain, HMYOI Polmont  
 395. Rev Stuart W Sharp, Falkirk: Camelon  
 396. Rev William Thomson, Stenhouse & Carron

**Elder**

397. Mr Matthew Baxter, Falkirk: St Andrew's West  
 398. Mrs Margaret Cassidy, Cumbernauld: St Mungo's  
 399. Mr John Haston, Grangemouth: Abbotsgrange  
 400. Mrs Shena E M Mailer, Carriden  
 401. Mrs Marianne McCafferty, Larbert: West  
 402. Mrs Morag M Patterson, Stenhouse & Carron  
 403. Mrs Jean Proffit, Haggs  
 404. Mrs Janet Rhodes, Denny: Old  
 405. Mrs Lillias Snedden, Bo'ness: St Andrew's  
 406. Mr Ivar Struthers, Cumbernauld: Old  
 407. Mr George Young, Falkirk: Laurieston

**Deacon**

408. Mr David Nicholson DCS, Cumbernauld: Kildrum

**23. Presbytery of Stirling****Minister**

409. Rev Drew Barrie, Tullibody: St Serf's  
 410. Rev Richard Begg, Army Chaplain

411. Rev Alistair Cowper, Stirling: Allan Park South  
 412. Rev Alison M Jack, Assistant Principal, New College  
 413. Rev Lynne Mack, Kincardine-in-Menteith  
 414. Rev Scott McInnes, Stirling: North  
 415. Rev Alan F Miller, Presbytery Clerk  
 416. Rev Graham Nash, Cambusbarrow: The Bruce Memorial  
 417. Rev Carol Anne Parker, Alloa: Ludgate  
 418. Rev Colin C Renwick, Dunblane: Cathedral  
 419. Rev Maggie R Roderick, Menstrie

**Elder**

420. Mrs Fiona J Boyd, Fintry  
 421. Mr Donald M Buchan, Tullibody: St Serf's  
 422. Mrs Sally Forshaw, Stirling: Allan Park South  
 423. Miss Dorothy C Kinloch, Callander  
 424. Mr James G G Lees, Dunblane Cathedral  
 425. Mr Allan McCallum, Stirling: North  
 426. Mr John Millar, Stirling: Viewfield Erskine  
 427. Mr Edward Morton, Stirling: Allan Park South  
 428. Mrs Val Rose, Alloa: Ludgate  
 429. Mrs Rae Wilson, Balfon  
 430.

**Deacon**

431. Mrs Jean T Porter DCS, Stirling: St Mark's

**24. Presbytery of Dunfermline****Minister**

432. Rev Dr Iain M Greenshields, Dunfermline: St Margaret's  
 433. Rev Dr Jean Kirkwood, Dunfermline: Townhill & Kingseat  
 434. Rev Violet C C McKay, Rosyth  
 435. Very Rev Andrew R C McLellan CBE DD, (HM Inspector of Prisons)  
 436. Rev Andrew Morrice, Dunfermline: East (St Paul's)  
 437. Rev Alec Shuttleworth, Tulliallan & Kincardine  
 438. Rev Muriel F Willoughby, Dunfermline: St Andrew's Erskine

**Elder**

439. Mr James Adamson, Dunfermline: St Margaret's

440. Mrs Ella Coates, Cowdenbeath Trinity  
 441. Mrs Margaret Dow, Kely  
 442. Mrs Lorraine E Fraser, Dunfermline: Abbey  
 443. Mrs Elizabeth Grant, Rosyth  
 444. Mrs Margaret Mateos, Lochgelly & Benarty:  
 St Serf's  
 445. Mr Ian J Young, Carnock & Oakley

**Deacon**

446. Mrs Pamela Scott DCS, Lochgelly &  
 Benarty: St Serf's

**25. Presbytery of Kirkcaldy**

**Minister**

447. Rev Elisabeth F Cranfield, Methilhill &  
 Denbeath  
 448. Rev Andrew C Donald, Kirkcaldy: Pathhead  
 449. Rev Ian J Elston, Kirkcaldy: Torbain  
 450. Rev Alan Kimmitt, Glenrothes:  
 St Columba's  
 451. Rev Alan Sharp, Burntisland  
 452. Rev David Smith, Glenrothes: St Ninian's

**Elder**

453. Ms Grace Cord, Kirkcaldy: Linktown  
 454. Mr Bryan Gould, Markinch & Thornton  
 455. Mrs Margaret Grieve, Dysart: St Clair  
 456. Mrs Helen Mitchell, Kirkcaldy: St Bryce  
 457. Mr Ewan Oliver, Glenrothes: St Columba's  
 458. Mrs Jo Wylie, Glenrothes: St Columba's

**Deacon**

459. Mrs Jacqueline Thomson DCS, Buckhaven

**26. Presbytery of St Andrews**

**Minister**

460. Rev Jane L Barron, (Aberdeen: St Machar's  
 Cathedral)  
 461. Rev James W Campbell, Ceres, Kemback &  
 Springfield  
 462. Rev Arthur A Christie, St Ayle Parish,  
 Anstruther & Cellardyke I/w Kilrenny  
 463. Rev Jeffrey A Martin, Cupar: Old &  
 St Michael of Tarvit I/w Monimail  
 464. Rev Dr Peter W Mills, Largoward I/w  
 St Monans  
 465. Rev Brian H Oxburgh, Tayport  
 466. Rev Nigel J Robb, Presbytery Clerk

**Elder**

467. Ms Marion J Baldie, Falkland  
 468. Miss Eleanor Blair, St Ayle Parish, Anstruther  
 & Cellardyke  
 469. Miss Elaine Dowie, St Andrews: Hope Park  
 & Martyrs  
 470. Mrs Barbara Elder, Ceres, Kemback &  
 Springfield  
 471. Mr David W Smith, Falkland  
 472. Dr Michael J Stewart, St Andrews: Holy  
 Trinity  
 473. Mr Kenneth Weir, Elie, Kilconquhar &  
 Colinsburgh

**27. Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle**

**Minister**

474. Rev Andrew F Graham, Bendochy I/w  
 Coupar Angus: Abbey  
 475. Rev Alison Notman, Ardler, Kettins & Meigle  
 476. Rev Annegret Roberts, Kinclaven I/w  
 Caputh & Clunie  
 477. Rev Grace M F Steele, Ordained Local  
 Minister

**Elder**

478. Miss Evelyn Alexander, Ardler, Kettins &  
 Meigle  
 479. Mr Alisdair Drummond, Blairgowrie  
 480. Dr David Frame, Blairgowrie  
 481. Mrs Ellen McGibbon, Coupar Angus: Abbey

**28. Presbytery of Perth**

**Minister**

482. Rev James W Aitchison, Aberdalgie &  
 Forteviot I/w Aberuthven & Dunning  
 483. Rev Dr Robert D Barlow, Auchterarder  
 484. Rev Graham W Crawford, Perth: Kinnoull  
 485. Rev David W Denniston, Fowlis Wester,  
 Madderty & Monzie I/w Gask  
 486. Rev Adrian J Lough, Redgorton & Stanley  
 I/w Auchtergaven & Moneydie  
 487. Rev John Macgregor, Errol  
 488. Rev Graham McWilliams, Comrie  
 489. Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Orwell and  
 Portmoak  
 490. Very Rev James A Simpson DD, (Dornoch:  
 Cathedral)

491. Rev Elisabeth M Stenhouse, Fossoway:  
St Serf's & Devonside I/w Cleish
492. Rev Anne E Stewart, Prison Chaplain, Castle  
Huntly

#### **Elder**

493. Mrs Carol E Duff, Almondbank Tibbermore
494. Mrs Rosemary H Johnston, Abernethy &  
Dron & Arngask
495. Mr Neil W Maclure, Cleish
496. Mr William J S Macpherson, Abernethy &  
Dron & Arngask
497. Miss Judith H McDowall, Comrie
498. Ms Elizabeth Paterson, Ardoch
499. Mrs Jeannie F B Paterson, Orwell &  
Portmoak
500. Dr Dorothy A Weaks OBE, Perth: North
- 501.
- 502.
- 503.

#### **Deacon**

504. Miss Patricia M Munro DCS, (Perth):  
St John's Kirk of Perth)

### **29. Presbytery of Dundee**

#### **Minister**

505. Rev Colin M Brough, Dundee: Fintry
506. Rev Gordon A Campbell, Chaplain,  
University of Dundee
507. Rev Donna M Hays, Fowlis & Liff I/w Lundie  
& Muirhead
508. Rev Nathan S McConnell, Dundee:  
Downfield Mains
509. Rev Edith F McMillan, Dundee: Douglas &  
Mid Craigie I/w Dundee: Craigiebank
510. Rev Stewart McMillan, Dundee:  
Strathmartine
511. Rev Marion J Paton, (Dundee: St David's  
High Kirk)
512. Rev James L Wilson, Dundee: Whitfield

#### **Elder**

513. Mr Rodney Bowman, Monifieth
514. Mrs Brenda Dein, Dundee: Downfield  
Mains
515. Mrs May R Green, Dundee: Douglas & Mid  
Craigie
516. Ms Morag Jones, Lundie & Muirhead

517. Mr David MacDougall, Dundee: Fintry
518. Mr Gordon McBean, Dundee: Lochee
519. Mr Alexander G Scott, Invergowrie
520. Mrs Jacqueline Stirton, Dundee:  
Craigiebank

#### **Deacon**

521. Mr Lewis W Rose DCS, (National Co-  
ordinator - Work Place Chaplaincy  
Scotland)

### **30. Presbytery of Angus**

#### **Minister**

522. Rev Matthew S Bicket, Carnoustie: Panbride
523. Rev Fiona C Bullock, Dun & Hillside
524. Rev Michael S Goss, Presbytery Clerk
525. Rev Ian Gray, (Edzell Lethnot Glenesk I/w  
Fern, Careston Menmuir)
526. Rev Maggie J Hunt, Forfar: St Margaret's
527. Rev Dale London, Dunnichen, Letham &  
Kirkden
528. Rev Peter A Phillips, Colliston I/w  
Friockheim & Kinnell I/w Inverkeilor &  
Lunan

#### **Elder**

529. Mr Douglas Gow, Edzell Lethnot Glenesk
530. Mrs Joan E Hainsworth, Arbroath:  
St Andrew's
531. Mrs Irene Hoar, Carnoustie
532. Mrs Isabel C Morrison, Dunnichen, Letham  
& Kirkden
533. Mrs Carolyn Richmond, The Isla Parishes
534. Mr Derrick A Shearer, The Glens &  
Kirriemuir: Old
535. Mrs Lexi Smart, Forfar: East & Old

### **31. Presbytery of Aberdeen**

#### **Minister**

536. Rev George S Cowie, Aberdeen: South  
Holburn
537. Rev Marian Cowie, (Aberdeen: Midstocket)
538. Rev George D Goldie, (Aberdeen:  
Greyfriars)
539. Rev J Peter N Johnston, Aberdeen: Ferryhill
540. Rev Louis Kinsey, Aberdeen: St Columba's  
Bridge of Don
541. Rev Manson C Merchant, Dyce
542. Rev Michael Phillippo, (Auxilliary Minister)

543. Rev Scott M Rennie, Aberdeen: Queen's Cross  
 544. Rev Michael R R Shewan, Aberdeen: Summerhill  
 545. Rev Dr Robert L Smith Jnr, Aberdeen: Rubislaw  
 546. Very Rev Prof Iain R Torrance TD DD, (President, Princeton Theological Seminary)

#### Elder

547. Mrs Lesley Bills, Aberdeen: South Holburn  
 548. Mrs Jane E Dargie, Aberdeen: Craigiebuckler  
 549. Dr Mark Hamilton, Aberdeen: Queen's Cross  
 550. Mrs Hazel Hewitt, Aberdeen: St Nicholas South of Kincorth  
 551. Mr Iain H Hunter, Aberdeen: Mannofield  
 552. Mr Michael C Leys, Aberdeen: Queen's Cross  
 553. Miss Patricia A Moir MBE, Aberdeen: South Holburn  
 554. Mrs Mary S Notman, Aberdeen: Ferryhill  
 555. Mrs Betty A Steel, Aberdeen: St Mark's  
 556. Mr Malcolm A Steel, Aberdeen: St Mark's  
 557. Mr David J Wyness, Aberdeen: St Nicholas South Of Kincorth

### 32. Presbytery of Kincardine and Deeside

#### Minister

558. Rev David Barr, Glenmuick  
 559. Rev Dr Melvyn J Griffiths, Maryculter Trinity  
 560. Rev Dr Alan J S Murray, Banchory-Ternan: East  
 561. Rev Brian D Smith, West Mearns  
 562. Rev Alec C Wark, Mid Deeside

#### Elder

563. Mr Gordon Cowie, Braemar & Crathie  
 564. Mr John Gillespie, Arbuthnott, Bervie & Kinneff  
 565. Mrs Jennifer Leighton, Newtonhill  
 566. Mrs Sheila Robertson, Cromar  
 567. Mr Adrian Sims, Aboyne & Dinnet

### 33. Presbytery of Gordon

#### Minister

568. Rev Dr John A Cook, Howe Trinity

569. Rev Dr Mary Cranfield, Culsalmond & Rayne l/w Daviot  
 570. Rev Dr Kay Gauld, Inch-Leslie-Premnay-Oyne  
 571. Rev George E Glen, Presbytery Clerk  
 572. Rev Alison Jaffrey, Meldrum & Bourtie  
 573. Rev Douglas G McNab, New Machar  
 574. Rev Dr William A Stalder, Methlick

#### Elder

575. Mr William Dalzell, Meldrum & Bourtie  
 576. Mrs Susan Donald, Inch-Leslie-Premnay-Oyne  
 577. Mr Marc Falconer, Inverurie: West  
 578. Mrs Alice Kemp, Howe Trinity  
 579. Mrs Jean Mitchell, Meldrum & Bourtie  
 580. Mr William Paterson, Meldrum & Bourtie  
 581. Mr Ian Urquhart, New Machar

#### Deacon

582. Miss Marion G Stewart DCS, Skene

### 34. Presbytery of Buchan

#### Minister

583. Rev James M Cook, Turriff: St Andrew's l/w Monquhitter & New Byth  
 584. Rev Dr Alan Macgregor, Marnoch  
 585. Rev Hugh O'Brien, Macduff  
 586. Rev Dr David S Ross, (Prison Chaplain)  
 587. Rev Dr Jeffrey Tippner, St Fergus  
 588. Rev Willem M Verster, Ordiquhill & Cornhill l/w Whitehills  
 589.

#### Elder

590. Dr David G D Campbell, Longside  
 591. Miss U Ruth Mackenzie, Peterhead: New  
 592. Ms Alice MacLeod, Deer  
 593. Mr James E G Martin, Turriff: St Ninian's  
 594. Mr Kenneth Sim, Sandhaven  
 595. Mr Eric A Wilson, King Edward  
 596.

### 35. Presbytery of Moray

#### Minister

597. Rev Jenny Adams, Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman  
 598. Rev Brian Bain, (Gask with Methven & Logiealmond)

599. Rev Dr Louis Bezuidenhout, Alves & Burghead I/w Kinloss & Findhorn  
 600. Rev Alexander Buchan, (North Ronaldsay with Sanday)  
 601. Rev Isabel C Buchan, Buckie: North I/w Rathven  
 602. Rev Alastair H Gray, Keith: North, Newmill, Boharm & Rothiemay

#### **Elder**

603. Mrs Ann M C Bowie, Bellie & Speymouth  
 604. Mr David Bridgeford, Lossiemouth: St Gerardine's High  
 605. Mrs Sheila A Brumby, Rothes  
 606. Mr Thomas Foster, Dykie  
 607. Mr Neil Sutherland, Elgin: High  
 608. Mrs Janet S Whyte, Bellie & Speymouth

### **36. Presbytery of Abernethy**

#### **Minister**

609. Rev Mary Duncanson, Ordained Local Minister  
 610. Rev Mary E Thomson, Ordained Local Minister

#### **Elder**

611. Mr Bill Steele, Alvie & Insh  
 612. Mrs Margo Stuart, Tomintoul, Glenlivet & Inveraven

### **37. Presbytery of Inverness**

#### **Minister**

613. Rev Thomas M Bryson, Auldearn & Dalmore I/w Nairn: St Ninian's  
 614. Rev Trevor G Hunt, Presbytery Clerk  
 615. Rev Seoras L Mackenzie, Army Chaplain  
 616. Rev Ian A Manson, Kilmorack & Erchless  
 617. Rev Alison C Mehigan, Nairn: Old  
 618. Rev Hector Morrison, Principal, Highland Theological College  
 619. Rev Michael Robertson, Culloden: The Barn

#### **Elder**

620. Mrs Jane Bryson, Auldearn & Dalmore  
 621. Mr James M Dow, Croy & Dalcross  
 622. Mrs Issy Freudenthal, Culloden: The Barn  
 623. Ms Christine Mackenzie, Inverness: Old High St Stephen's  
 624. Mrs Sheila Proudfoot, Inverness: Ness Bank  
 625. Mr Andrew Stevenson, Inverness: Old High St Stephen's

626. Mr David F Taylor, Inverness: Trinity

#### **Deacon**

627. Mrs Joyce Mitchell DCS, (Edinburgh: Holy Trinity)

### **38. Presbytery of Lochaber**

#### **Minister**

628. Rev David M Anderson, Ordained Local Minister  
 629. Rev Richard Baxter, Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh I/w Kilmonivaig  
 630. Rev Fiona Ogg, Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan

#### **Elder**

631. Mrs Margaret D Antonios, Kilmallie  
 632. Mrs Ella Gill, Acharacle  
 633. Mr William Skene, Kilmonivaig

### **39. Presbytery of Ross**

#### **Minister**

634. Rev Bruce Dempsey, Dingwall: St Clement's  
 635. Rev Robert Jones, Rosskeen  
 636. Rev Kenneth D Macleod, Invergordon  
 637. Very Rev Dr Alan D McDonald, (Cameron I/w St Andrew's: St Leonard's)  
 638. Rev Scott Polworth, Urray & Kilchrist  
 639.

#### **Elder**

640. Mr Angus W Bethune, Killearnan  
 641. Mr Ronald W Gunstone, Presbytery Clerk  
 642. Mr Kenneth Mackay, Kilmuir & Logie Easter  
 643. Mrs Sheila Macleod, Dingwall: Castle Street  
 644. Mr Peter J McLoughlin, Avoch  
 645. Mrs Caroline Penman, Kilmuir & Logie Easter

### **40. Presbytery of Sutherland**

#### **Minister**

646. Rev Dr Beverly W Cushman, Altnaharra & Farr  
 647. Rev Stewart Goudie, Melness & Tongue  
 648. Rev Dr John B Sterrett, Golspie



**Elder**

649. Mrs Evelyn Calder, Dornoch Cathedral  
 650. Mr John E W Calder, Dornoch Cathedral  
 651. Mrs Gladys McCulloch, Rosehall

**41. Presbytery of Caithness****Minister**

652. Rev Esme F Duncan, Ordained Local Minister  
 653. Rev Lyall Rennie, Ordained Local Minister  
 654. Rev Heather Stewart, Ordained Local Minister

**Elder**

655. Mrs Myrtle A Gillies MBE, Thurso: West  
 656. Mrs Catherine Mappin, Wick: St Fergus  
 657. Mr David M Warren OBE, Thurso: West

**42. Presbytery of Lochcarron – Skye****Minister**

658. Rev David J Kellas, (Kilfinan with Kyles)  
 659. Rev John W Murray, Kilmuir & Stenscholl  
 660.

**Elder**

661. Mrs Lesley-Ann Cundiff, Applecross, Lochcarron & Torridon  
 662. Mrs Anne MacAskill, Bracadale & Duirinish  
 663.

**43. Presbytery of Uist****Minister**

664. Rev Drew P Kusma, Benbecula I/w Carinish

**Elder**

665.

**44. Presbytery of Lewis****Minister**

666. Rev Iain M Campbell, Kinloch  
 667. Rev William J Heenan, Stornoway: St Columba  
 668. Rev Hugh M Stewart, Lochs-In-Benera I/w Uig

**Elder**

669. Mr Murdo Afrin, Stornoway: St Columba  
 670. Mr Iain A Macleod, Stornoway: Martin's Memorial  
 671.

**45. Presbytery of Orkney****Minister**

672. Rev June Freeth, Ordained Local Minister  
 673. Rev Iain D MacDonald, Papa Westray I/w Westray  
 674. Rev G Fraser H Macnaughton, Kirkwall: St Magnus Cathedral  
 675. Rev Julia M Meason, Kirkwall: East

**Elder**

676. Mr Alasdair H McVicar, Westray  
 677. Miss Margaret A B Sutherland, Kirkwall: St Magnus Cathedral  
 678. Mr James C Watson, Kirkwall: East  
 679.

**46. Presbytery of Shetland****Minister**

680. Rev Deborah J Dobby, Burra Isle I/w Tingwall  
 681. Rev Dr Caroline R Lockerbie, Lerwick & Bressay

**Elder**

682. Mrs Ishbel Karam, Unst & Fetlar  
 683. Mrs Linda Massie, Lerwick & Bressay

**47. Presbytery of England****Minister**

684. Rev Dr David G Coulter, Chaplain General, HM Land Forces  
 685. Rev Alistair Cumming, Presbytery Clerk  
 686. Rev Dr James Francis MBE, Army Chaplain  
 687. Rev Kleber Machado, Corby, St. Ninians  
 688. Rev Philip J Majcher, London: Crown Court  
 689. Very Rev John H McIndoe DD, (London, St Columba's)  
 690. Rev Andrea E Price, London: St Columba's  
 691. Rev David J Thom, Army Chaplain, Aldershot St Andrew's

**Elder**

692. Mrs Charlotte Bradford, London: St Columba's  
 693. Ms Elspeth Gordon, London: Crown Court  
 694. Mrs Gill McLean, Corby: St Ninian's  
 695. Mrs Elaine Milligan, Corby: St Andrew's  
 696. Dr Peter Mills, London: St Columba's  
 697. Mrs Margaret Mitchell, Corby: St Ninian's  
 698. Mrs Charmaine Taylor, Guernsey: St Andrew's in the Grange

699. Mr George Taylor, Guernsey: St Andrew's in the Grange

#### **48. Presbytery of International Charges**

##### **Minister**

700. Rev James M Brown, Bochum

701. Rev Dr Andrew Gardner, Brussels St Andrew's

702. Rev Derek G Lawson, Rotterdam: Scots International Church

703. Rev James Sharp, Clerk to the International Presbytery

704. Rev Aaron Stevens, Budapest St Columba's

705. Rev Laurence Twaddle, Geneva

##### **Elder**

706. Mrs Janet Askew, Geneva

707. Mrs Eva Boros, Budapest

708. Mr David Lloyd, Brussels St Andrew's

709. Mrs Margaret Ng-See-Quan, Trinidad: Greyfriars St Ann's

710. Mrs Alice Tulloch, Geneva

711. Mr Ruud Witte, Rotterdam: Scots International Church

#### **49. Presbytery of Jerusalem**

##### **Minister**

712. Rev Paraic Reamonn, Jerusalem: St Andrew's

##### **Elder**

713. Mr Andrew Donohoe, Tiberias: St Andrew's

## **DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

#### **The Presbyterian Church of Wales**

714. Rev Dr Elwyn Richards, former Moderator (19 - 24 May)

#### **The United Reformed Church**

715. Rev Kevin Watson, Moderator

716. Rev Mark Robinson, Chaplain

#### **The United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland**

717. Rev Dr David Pickering, Moderator

#### **The Baptist Union of Scotland**

718. Rev Alan Donaldson, General Director (20 - 23 May)

#### **The Church of England**

719. Canon Dr Jamie Harrison, Chair of the General Synod's House of Laity

#### **The Methodist Church in Scotland**

720. Mr Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary

#### **Religious Society of Friends – General**

##### **Meeting for Scotland**

721. Pamala McDougall, Representative Friend

#### **The Roman Catholic Church Bishops'**

##### **Conference of Scotland**

722. The Most Rev Leo William Cushley, Archbishop and Metropolitan of St Andrews & Edinburgh (May 20 am, 24 - 25 & 26 pm)

723. Rt Rev Mgr Philip Kerr, Vice-President of the Office of Ecumenism (May 20 pm, 22 - 24 & 26 am)

#### **The Salvation Army**

724. Lieut-Col Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland (21 - 22 May)

725. Major Steven Turner, Assistant to the Secretary for Scotland (20, 23 - 26 May)

#### **The Scottish Episcopal Church**

726. The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

#### **The United Free Church of Scotland**

727. Rev Alexander Ritchie, Moderator

#### **The Congregational Federation in Scotland**

728. Rev Janice Andrews

## **DELEGATES FROM ECUMENICAL BODIES**

#### **Action of Churches Together in Scotland**

729. Rev Matthew Z Ross, General Secretary

#### **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**

730. Rev Sarah Moore, Trustee

#### **Churches Together in England**

731. Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations

## DELEGATES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

### AFRICA

#### Presbyterian Church of Ghana

732. Rt Rev Prof Cephas Narh Omenyo

#### Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Kenya

733. Rev Alfred Mugendi Kanga

#### Synod of Blantyre, CCAP, Malawi

734. Rev Alex Benson Maulana

#### Igreja Evangelica de Cristo em Mocambique

735. Mr Favorito Eduardo

#### Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa

736. Rev Johanna Boitumelo Gaborone

#### Presbyterian Church in South Sudan

737. Rev James Makuei Choul

#### United Church of Zambia

738.

### AMERICAS

#### The Presbyterian Church of Canada

739. Rev Stephen Kendall

#### AIRPAL, Uruguay

740. Rev Dr Dario Barolin

#### Mesa Valdense, Uruguay

741. Rev Carola Tron Urban

#### Presbyterian Church (USA)

742. Mr Kerry Rice

### ASIA

#### Church of Bangladesh

743. Mr John Bickrom Biswas

#### Amity Foundation

744. Ms Ying Xie

#### Gereja Kristen Sumba

745. Rev Alfred Djama Samani

#### The Presbyterian Church of Korea

746. Rev Dr Yie Shik Kim

#### Presbyterian Church of Singapore

747. Rev Fion Fei Fong Sin

#### The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

748. Mrs Ming-Min Lin Cheng

### EUROPE

#### Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

749. Rev Petr Peňáz

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

750. Rev Tiina Reinikainen

#### Evangelical Church in Germany

751. Pastor Verena Jantzen

#### Evangelical Church of Greece

752. Rev Dimitrios Boukis

#### Hungarian Reformed Church

753. Ms Diána Erdélyi

#### Tavola Valdese

754. Pastor Giuseppina Bagnato

#### Igreja Evangelica Presbiteriana de Portugal

755. Mrs Silvina Queiroz

#### Spanish Evangelical Church

756. Rev Dr Israel Flores Olmos

#### Reformed Church in Carpatho-Ukraine

757. Rev Géza Kacsó

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Diocese of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

758. Rev Fares Elias Naoum

#### Middle East Council of Churches, Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees

759. Mrs Sylvia Haddad

#### National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon

760. Ms Rola Sleiman

### PACIFIC

#### Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

761. Rev Dr Cleveland Buchanan Yates

## VISITORS

### AFRICA

#### Presbyterian Church of East Africa

762. Rev Edwin Kibathi

#### Igreja Evangelica de Cristo em Mocambique

763. Mr Ganizane Daniel

### ASIA

#### Gereja Kristen Sumba

764. Rev Charles Umbu Detha

#### Presbyterian Church of Singapore

765. Elder Angelia Bih Shya Wong

#### The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

766. Rev Dr Prof Yang-En Cheng

## GREETINGS FROM PARTNER CHURCHES NOT ATTENDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

### AFRICA

#### Nkhoma Synod, CCAP, Malawi

We wish the delegates to the General Assembly fruitful deliberations. We pray that God will continue to guide the Church of Scotland to be a God fearing church. Just as Jesus came on earth to do the will of his Father, we further pray that the Church of Scotland will continue to do the will of God. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 3:38 KJV).

### AMERICAS

#### Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

I pray that your General Assembly will be an occasion of celebration and a time of discernment of God's calling for the Church of Scotland today.

### ASIA

#### The United Mission to Nepal

The United Mission to Nepal sends greetings and the deepest gratitude to the Church of Scotland's General Assembly.

#### Hong Kong Christian Council

May our Creator, who fashioned humankind in God's image as both male and female, continue to bless the work of justice, reconciliation and peace in 2017.

### EUROPE

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

We send you cordial greetings with prayers for a blessed Assembly and blessings on the Church of Scotland in these days of troubled waters for churches all over Europe.

#### Reformed Church of Lithuania

We wish you a pleasant and productive meeting this year.

#### Reformed Church in Poland

We wish you that Almighty God will bless the activity, the life and work of your Church.

#### Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia

We are praying in the name of Jesus Christ for your General Assembly, for your Church of Scotland and for all members and leaders of your church.

#### Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

We wish you and your Church an inspirational Assembly.

## APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES

### AFRICA

Nkhoma Synod, CCAP, Malawi

United Church of Zambia

### AMERICAS

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### ASIA

China Christian Council

Hong Kong Christian Council

The United Mission to Nepal

Trinity Theological College, Singapore

**CARRIBEAN**

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

**EUROPE**

Eglise Protestante unie de Belgique EPB (United Protestant Church in Belgium)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Reformed Alliance in Germany

Reformed Church of Lithuania

Alliance des Eglises Protestantes Luxembourg

Reformed Church in Poland

The Uniting Church in Sweden

Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

**MIDDLE EAST**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Middle East Council of Churches

Near East School of Theology

YWCA, Palestine

**PACIFIC**

Presbyterian Church of Australia

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

767. Dr Sally E Bonnar

768. Miss Catherine Coull – Governance Group

769. Miss Elizabeth Fox – Staffing Group

770. Rev Dr Martin C Scott – Secretary

771. Mr David Watt – Finance Group

**Church and Society Council**

772. Rev H Martin J Johnstone

773. Rev Richard E Frazer

**Ministries Council**

774. Dr John Dent

775. Rev Jayne E Scott

**Mission and Discipleship Council**

776. Mr Ronald H Clarke – 23 May

Mr Graham Fender-Allison – 26 May

Mrs Lesley Hamilton-Messer – 22, 24 & 25 May

777. Rev Jamie Milliken

**Social Care Council**

778. Mr Peter Bailey

779. Mrs Viv Dickenson

780.

**World Mission Council**

781. Rev Ian W Alexander

782. Rev Iain D Cunningham

**Committee on Church Art and Architecture**

783. Mr James Alexander

**General Trustees**

784. Mr Iain C Douglas

**Church of Scotland Guild**

785. Mr Iain W Whyte

**Housing and Loan Fund**

786. Miss Lin J Macmillan

787. Rev Ian Taylor

**Panel on Review & Reform**

788. Miss Lyndsay E Kennedy

**Pension Trustees**

789. Mr Steven D Kaney – 22 – 24 May

790. Mr W John McCafferty – 20, 25 & 26 May

**Life & Work**

791. Mrs Lynne McNeil

**General Treasurer**

792. Mrs Anne F Macintosh

**Head of HR and IT**

793. Mrs Elaine McCloghry – 24, 25 & 26 May

794. Mrs Kirsteen Scott – 20, 22 & 23 May

**Parliamentary Officer**

795. Ms Chloe M Clemmons

**OVERSEAS STAFF ON LEAVE**

796. Ms Kate McDonald

797. Mrs Ida Waddell

798. Mr Keith Waddell

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES**

**Youth Representatives appointed at the National Youth Assembly 2016**

799. Miss Kearstin Bailey

800. Miss Naomi Dornan

- 801. Miss Gemma C King
- 802. Mr Connor MacFadyen
- 803. Mr Andrew MacPherson
- 804. Miss Alison Marshall
- 805. Miss Fiona Marshall
- 806. Miss Esther Nisbet
- 807. Mr Fraser Stockton
- 808. Miss Lindsay Thomson

## **PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATION**

### **Edinburgh**

- 809. Miss Kirsty McGillivray

### **West Lothian**

- 810. Miss Rebecca Pennykid

### **Lothian**

- 811. Mr Gregor Penman

### **Duns**

- 812. Mr Nathan Hood

### **Dumfries & Kirkcudbright**

- 813. Miss Heather O'Connor

### **Irvine & Kilmarnock**

- 814. Mr John Urquhart

### **Lanark**

- 815. Mr Euan Robb

### **Greenock & Paisley**

- 816. Miss Emma Vaughan

### **Glasgow**

- 817. Miss Kim Halliday

### **Hamilton**

- 818. Mr Jack Haugh

### **Argyll**

- 819. Mr Alan Carmichael

### **Falkirk**

- 820. Miss Hazel J Smith

### **Stirling**

- 821. Mr Mathew McKenzie

### **Dunfermline**

- 822. Miss Hannah Dunlop

### **Kirkcaldy**

- 823. Miss Shannon Reid

### **St Andrews**

- 824. Miss Iona Kimmitt

### **Angus**

- 825. Miss Hannah Barnet

### **Aberdeen**

- 826. Mr Matthew Philip

### **Kincardine & Deeside**

- 827. Miss Rebekah Tennant

### **Gordon**

- 828. Miss Olivia Paterson

### **Moray**

- 829. Mr Grant Petrie

### **Buchan**

- 830. Mr James Hyman

### **Inverness**

- 831. Mr Liam Mehigan

### **Sutherland**

- 832. Mr Samuel Jones

### **Lochcarron-Skye**

- 833. Mr Robin Downie

### **England**

- 834. Miss Iris C Maxfield

### **International**

- 835. Miss Katelyn Guichelaar

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE FIRST DAY**

**SESSION I – Saturday 20 May – 9.30 am**

**Opening of the General Assembly**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Roll of Commissioners laid on the table.
3. Election of Moderator and Prayer of Consecration (*Members of Assembly stand when Moderator enters*).
4. Commission to Her Royal Highness Princess Anne The Lord High Commissioner to be read, and order given for recording it (*Members of Assembly stand*).
5. Her Majesty's Letter to be read, and order given for recording it (*Members of Assembly stand*).
6. Address by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne The Lord High Commissioner, and Reply by the Moderator (*Members of Assembly stand*).
7. Appointment of Committee to prepare Answer to The Queen's Letter.
8. Report of Standing Committee on Commissions.
9. Submission of Standing Orders.
10. Appointment of Committee for arranging Order of Business. (*This Committee will meet at the close of the morning session*).
11. Appointment of Panel of Tellers.
12. Appointment of Committee to prepare Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
13. Intimation of arrangements for celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 23 May, at 9.15 am.
14. Address by Retiring Moderator.

*Suspension of business for twenty minutes*

15. Appointment of Associate Principal Clerk.
16. Presentation of Delegates and Visitors.

17. Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee (Reports 1/1).
18. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/1).
19. Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 2/1).
20. Minutes of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly – August 2016 (Reports 31/1).
21. Minutes of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly – December 2016 (Reports 32/1).
22. Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases (Reports 3/1).
23. Report of the Ministries Appeal Panel – December 2016 (Reports 33/1).
24. Report of the Ministries Appeal Panel – April 2017 (Order of Proceedings p27).
25. Report of the Committee on Classifying Returns to Overtures (Reports 4/1).
26. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (Reports 5/1).
27. Report and Supplementary Report of the Council of Assembly (Reports 6/1 and Order of Proceedings p28).
28. Joint Report of the Council of Assembly, Ministries Council, Mission & Discipleship Council, Panel on Review & Reform and Legal Questions Committee on Resourcing the Implementation of Local Church Review (Reports 7/1).

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE SECOND DAY**

**Sunday 21 May**

- 10.00 am – Assembly Service (St Giles').  
12.30 pm – Gaelic Service (Greyfriars Kirk).  
1.00 pm – 6.00 pm – '*Heart and Soul 2017*',  
Princes Street Gardens.

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE THIRD DAY**

**SESSION II – Monday 22 May – 9.15 am**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report of the Business Committee.
3. Report of the World Mission Council (Reports 8/1).
4. Joint Report of the World Mission Council and Church & Society Council (Reports 9/1).
5. Report and Supplementary Report of the Social Care Council (Reports 10/1 and Order of Proceedings p55).
6. Report and Supplementary Report of the Panel on Review and Reform (Reports 11/1 and Order of Proceedings p65).
7. Report of the Council of Assembly (Property Matters).

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE FOURTH DAY**

**SESSION III – Tuesday 23 May – 9.15 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes.
3. Report and Supplementary Report of the Church and Society Council (Reports 12/1 and Order of Proceedings p67).
4. Report of the Church of Scotland Guild (Reports 13/1).
5. Joint Report of the Church of Scotland Guild and the National Youth Assembly (Reports 14/1).
6. Report of the Iona Community Board (Reports 15/1).

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE FIFTH DAY**

**SESSION IV – Wednesday 24 May – 9.15am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee (Reports 16/1).
4. Report of the Safeguarding Committee (Reports 17/1).
5. Report and Supplementary Report of the Ministries Council (Reports 18/1 and Order of Proceedings p71).

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE SIXTH DAY**

**SESSION V – Thursday 25 May – 9.15 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces (Reports 19/1).
4. Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council (Reports 20/1).
5. Report of the National Youth Assembly 2016 (Reports 21/1).
6. Report of the Theological Forum (Reports 22/1).

*Order of Proceedings*  
**FOR THE SEVENTH DAY**

**SESSION VI – Friday 26 May – 9.15 am**

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Minutes.
3. Report of the General Trustees (Reports 23/1).
4. Report of the Housing and Loan Fund (Reports 24/1).
5. Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees (Reports 25/1).
6. Report of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust (Reports 26/1).



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Report of the Church of Scotland Trust (Reports 27/1).</li> <li>8. Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (Reports 28/1).</li> <li>9. Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees (Reports 29/1).</li> <li>10. Report of the Nomination Committee (Reports 30/1).</li> <li>11. Report of the Selection Committee.</li> <li>12. Protestations called for.</li> <li>13. Report on the Printing of Acts.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Appointment of Committee to revise Minutes.</li> <li>5. Act Appointing Commission of Assembly.</li> <li>6. Act Appointing diet of next General Assembly.</li> <li>7. Presentations to the Moderator.</li> <li>8. Retirement of the Principal Clerk.</li> <li>9. Moderator addresses the General Assembly.</li> <li>10. Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, The Lord High Commissioner, addresses the General Assembly.</li> </ul> |
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### **SESSION VII – Friday 26 May – 3.00 pm**

- 1. Constitution of Assembly.
- 2. Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
- 3. Draft Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted to be read if required.

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

- 11. Dissolution of the General Assembly.

### **THE BENEDICTION**

## PROPOSED COMMITTEES

### Committee to Prepare an Answer to Her Majesty's Gracious Letter

(Meets on Saturday 20 May in the Moderator's Room at 11.30 am)

Rev Philip J Majcher	688	Miss Patricia A Moir	553
Mrs Norma Rolls	48		
		Very Rev Dr G Russell Barr, <i>Convener</i>	

## BUSINESS COMMITTEE/PANEL OF TELLERS

Rev Richard Baxter	629	Mr David MacDougall	517
Mr Alan Beattie	175	Ms Christine Mackenzie	623
Miss Jennifer Boag	223	Mr Kenmuir Mackie	205
Rev Sarah A Brown	239	Ms Alice MacLeod	592
Rev Donald Campbell	128	Mr Iain A Macleod	670
Rev David W Clark	350	Rev Louise J E McClements	264
Rev Alistair Cumming	685	Ms Anne S McGregor	229
Rev Jane M Denniston	242	Rev Julia M Meason	675
Mrs Lorraine E Fraser	442	Miss Patricia M Munro DCS	504
Dr Grace Gibson	377	Mr David Nicholson DCS	408
Mrs Ella Gill	632	Rev Carol Anne Parker	417
Ms Elspeth Gordon	693	Ms Elizabeth Paterson	498
Mr Douglas Gow	529	Rev Andrea E Price	690
Rev Donna M Hays	507	Mr Samuel Scobie	145
Rev Trevor G Hunt	614	Rev Duncan Shaw	62
Rev Bryan Kerr	198	Rev Dr John B Sterrett	648
Rev Alan Kimmitt	450	Rev Martin Thomson	189
Rev Robert Kinloch	361	Rev Mary E Thomson	610
Mr David Lloyd	708	Mr Ruud Witte	711

Mrs Judith J H Pearson, *Convener*

Rev Fiona J Smith, *Vice-Convener*

### Committee to Prepare Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons

Very Rev Dr G Russell Barr

*Principal Clerk*

*Associate Principal Clerk*

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Minutes of Ministries Appeals Panel – April 2017 .....	27
Supplementary Report of the Council of Assembly .....	28
Supplementary Report of the Social Care Council .....	55
Supplementary Report of the Panel of Review and Reform .....	65
Supplementary Report of the Church and Society Council on the Role of the Church in the Context of Constitutional Change and Uncertainty.....	67
Supplementary Report of the Ministries Council .....	71

## MINUTE OF MINISTRIES APPEAL PANEL

APRIL 2017

*At Edinburgh, and within the Church Offices, 121 George Street, the sixth day of April 2017 the Ministries Appeal Panel met and was duly constituted with prayer.*

**Sederunt:** Very Rev David Arnott (Convener), Mrs Carole Hope (Vice-Convener),  
Rev Robert Allan and Mr Robin Stimpson.

**Apology:** Rev Sheila Kirk

**In attendance:** The Principal Clerk.

The Ministries Appeal Panel took up consideration of the Appeal of Miss Christian in terms of Act X, 2004 section 21(5), 21(6) and 22 against the decision of the Training Task Group of the Ministries Council not to sustain her Candidacy for the Full-Time Ministry of the Church of Scotland.

Miss Christian appeared for herself.

There appeared for the Ministries Council the Rev Dr Majory MacLean and the Rev Jayne Scott.

Parties were heard.

Questions were asked.

Parties were removed.

Following deliberation the Ministries Appeal Panel resolved unanimously to dismiss the Appeal and uphold the decision of the Training Task Group of the Ministries Council not to sustain her Candidacy for the Full-Time Ministry of the Church of Scotland.

Parties were recalled and judgement intimated.

A DAVID K ARNOTT, *Convener*  
JOHN P CHALMERS, *Secretary*

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT  
OF THE  
**COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY**  
MAY 2017  
**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Supplementary Report.
2. Approve the total to be contributed by congregations in 2018 of £46,055,000 based on the projection of congregational income for 2018 and its disposition among local congregational expenditure, the Parish Ministries Fund and the Mission and Renewal Fund. (*Section 1 and Appendix I*)
3. Note the indicative budget for 2018. (*Section 1.3 and Appendix II*)
4. Receive the 2016 Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees of the General Assembly. (*Section 1.5.2*)
5. Note the report on the Future of the National Church Offices and with it the intention of the Council to bring to the General Assembly of 2018 fully costed proposals and business plans for the future development and use of the Church's Offices in Edinburgh, based on the careful examination of the Options presented in Section 3 of this report. (*Section 3*)

## REPORT

### 1. Congregational Finance

#### 1.1 2016 Congregational Income

1.1.1 The commitment and generosity of those who make up the congregations of the Church of Scotland across the country is evidenced in their regular giving, for which the Church remains thankful. The starting point in the preparation of the indicative budget for the following year is the estimation of total congregational income for the previous year, drawn from the returns submitted by treasurers immediately after the year end. Provisional details for 2016 Congregational Income are contained in Appendix I. These show that there was a decrease of 1% in total Ordinary Income, with offerings down by 1.5%, while Gift Aid tax recovered increased by 1.2%. The reduction in income over 2015 and 2016 is a clear indication

that the Church's declining membership is beginning to have an effect on congregational income and presents a challenge to the whole Church.

1.1.2 Early indications are that there was a decrease in Other Congregational Income in 2016, although, as this heading includes a number of different categories of income, the total can only be confirmed when the detailed analysis of congregational accounts is completed in August 2017. Income from outside organisations shows an increase: greater use of church premises benefits both the finances and the mission and outreach of local congregations, where it encourages the development of links with local communities and other Church of Scotland work.

## **1.2. 2018 Income Disposition**

**1.2.1** The remit of the Council of Assembly requires it “to bring recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the total amount of the Church’s Co-ordinated Budget for the following financial year and the disposition thereof amongst Local Congregational Expenditure, the Parish Ministries Fund, and the Mission and Renewal Fund”. The Council’s recommendations for total congregational contributions for 2018, and the allocation of these, are to be found in Appendix II. It should be noted that this deals only with the ordinary income of congregations and does not include extraordinary income, such as legacies, restricted income not available to meet regular expenditure and receipts for major fabric projects etc, which are assumed to be used exclusively to meet local congregational expenditure.

**1.2.2** The Council of Assembly proposes that the amount of the Budget to be met by congregations in 2018 should remain at £46,055,000. The Council will give its final report on the proposed revised Strategic Framework to the General Assembly in 2018 and no significant changes to budgets are proposed in the interim. As a result, it will be seen in Appendix I that local congregational expenditure is projected to decrease from 52.5% of total Ordinary Income in 2017 to 52.1% in 2018, with a fall in the Parish Ministries Fund from 39.5% to 38.9% (after deducting vacancy allowances), and an increase in the Mission and Renewal Fund from 8.0% to 9.0%. Previously the Ministries Council’s funding from congregations came exclusively from the Parish Ministries Fund whereas some of its work is now funded from the Mission and Renewal Fund.

**1.2.3 Parish Ministries Fund** (*including Stipends and related expenses for Parish Ministers*): 2017 is the first year of operation of the new arrangements for the Parish Ministries Fund, an idea generated by the Joint Working

Group on Strategic Funding and Resource Allocation in the light of declining minister numbers. This means that the Parish Ministries Fund element of the Ministries Council budget is now separated and protected and other aspects of the Council’s budget are assessed on the same basis as other Councils and Committees. The Council of Assembly is grateful for the cooperation of the Ministries Council in rolling out this new plan. From Appendix II it will be noted that the total budget for the Parish Ministries Fund for 2018 to be met by congregations is £37,942,000 (2017 - £38,325,000). The Ministries Council has been able to cease deficit repair contributions to the Pension Scheme for Ministers and Overseas Missionaries but continues to make much smaller payments from its reserves to the Ministries Development Staff Scheme. This has been the main factor in allowing the Council to reduce the budgeted amount funded from its reserves from £1,500,000 in 2017 to £600,000 in 2018.

**1.2.4 Mission and Renewal Fund:** The Mission and Renewal Fund’s share of the Income Disposition will rise from 8.0% in 2017 to 9.0% in 2018, after releasing £1,300,000 from the Fund’s annual income and reserves, which are held to support the budget and assist with containing the total amount required from congregations. This reserve fund provides substantial support for the budget and the Council of Assembly will continue to use the resource to benefit the work of the Church but at a much reduced level. The Trustees have set a reserves policy, outlined in the Annual Report and Accounts, which aims to maintain a balance of £2,000,000, representing three months’ Mission and Renewal expenditure, rising to up to six months’ expenditure in the longer term. Their view is that reserves should not be used to subsidise regular ongoing work. However, pressures on the budget continue to mount. There are increasing demands, rightly identified by Councils, of mission work in pursuance of the Church’s gospel imperative;

of wage pressures and of the unavoidable costs of compliance and governance arrangements to control adequately the risks relating to protecting individuals, our data and business continuity. The Council of Assembly's revised Strategic Framework will address these issues and a financial strategy is being developed in parallel with this. Meanwhile there is a recognition that investment will be required in order to bring about the changes needed to ensure a sustainable future for the Church. Part of the Ministries Council's payments from reserves in 2018 will be to fund a programme of change with the aim of sustainable provision of ministry. Likewise the Council of Assembly is engaged in a number of infrastructure projects to ensure a national Church which is fit for purpose.

### **1.3 The 2018 Co-ordinated Budget**

**1.3.1** In Appendix II, the Council presents an indicative budget for 2018. This budget provides fully for the total projected number of Presbytery Plan posts which are likely to be filled during 2018 as part of the Parish Ministries Fund. However, the Council now considers that it would not be affordable to fill all posts within the Plans even if ministers and Ministries Development Staff could be recruited to these posts, and this will need to be addressed by the Presbytery planning process.

**1.3.2** Presbytery planning ensures the most effective and appropriate use of resources at a local level. Of course, changes in congregational configuration can lead to a drop in income as well as a drop in expenditure. Continued careful financial management of the national Councils and Committees, and the increase in the proportion of congregational income which is retained for local work, are essential to present a more sustainable picture. What remains evident, however, is that the Church is only able to maintain the level of ministry and mission, both local and national, which its members are prepared to support through

their offerings. Diligent stewardship of the Church's resources of people, property and money remains paramount.

**1.3.3** The Council of Assembly proposes once again to use the funds previously released by the reduction in the amount required of local congregations to maintain the total available for the Presbytery Discretionary Allowance for 2018 at 5% of the total Ministries and Mission contributions due from the congregations in each Presbytery. This means that around £2,500,000 is available to Presbyteries for local use. However, in view of the decrease in congregational contributions indicated by the 2016 Financial Schedules, maintaining this allowance and funding posts and other work is ambitious. Presbyteries are encouraged to target the benefit towards those congregations which have a particular need for extra short-term financial support or for additional local missional projects, or to use it for posts to be funded directly by Presbyteries and which could be used across the Presbytery. With the emergence of new pressures on some congregations in recent years, the Council believes that maintaining Presbyteries' capacity to provide direct assistance to some of the Church's congregations and, through local initiatives, to support additional Presbytery-wide work, is a better use of the funds available than making marginal alterations to the Ministries and Mission scales for some or all congregations by the equivalent of 1%. It is hoped that this will not require a change in the scales used to calculate individual congregational contributions. The anticipated use of the same scales for 2018, however, does not mean that any individual congregation's Ministries and Mission contributions will remain the same, as the three year average income figures will still be used. Thus congregations which are not yet contributing their scale figure, or whose average income over the relevant three year period has increased, will see higher Ministries and Mission contributions, while those with falling income will see reductions.

**1.3.4** Maintaining the total amount required from congregations at the same level while at the same time restricting the amount drawn from the Mission and Renewal Reserve Fund and absorbing further compliance and governance costs means that Councils and Committees will again face challenging budget decisions in 2018. Until the Strategic Framework Review exercise is concluded, Councils and support departments have been asked to continue working within existing budgets, which with upward wage pressure, will require careful management and, in some cases, difficult decisions. The Council of Assembly has had to turn down some bids for additional funding for new projects and posts and has engaged in careful consideration of other proposed projects, in all cases balancing the cost of the work with the risk of not carrying it out.

**1.3.5** Appendix II shows indicative figures for Projected Gross Expenditure for each Council and how this is to be funded, using contributions from congregations, income from external sources and annual income from investments, with any projected deficit being met from the reserves of the individual Councils. This shows Projected Gross Expenditure of £99,808,000 (2017 – £101,398,000), income from congregations £46,055,000 as in 2017; income from external sources including investment income, £51,431,000 (2017 – £50,657,000) and deficits from reserves £2,322,000 (2017 – £4,686,000). Most of the Councils are showing minor deficits to be met from their reserves, some using restricted funds to continue their work. However, in view of the static situation in congregational income and the necessary curtailment in the use of the Mission and Renewal Reserve, no increase has been made to overall budgets for inflation and Councils and Departments will be required to fund any increased payroll costs from within their budgets, which could in turn affect planned work programmes. Given that inflation is rising this will present further

budget pressures to Councils and departments. The Council of Assembly encourages Councils to use restricted funds, where possible, before general reserves and this will continue to be a feature of the Co-ordinated Budget, with Ministries, Mission and Discipleship and World Mission all using these funds again in 2018. The Ministries Council budget is, however, moving closer to a break-even position.

**1.3.6** The Social Care Council's budget shows a break-even position other than for its pension deficit repair contributions. The Council of Assembly has agreed to assist with these contributions, funding half from the Mission and Renewal Fund in 2017 and 2018, the other half being funded from Social Care reserves. The Council is committed to achieving this budget but the area of work in which it operates is constantly changing and its budget results are subject to being able to implement its strategic plan against this background.

**1.3.7** The Ministries Council will receive 84% of congregational contributions (including £3,340,000 of endowment income and glebe rents) most of which is directed through the Parish Ministries Fund, which includes use for:

- the National Stipend Fund which pays the stipend and other costs of parish ministers;
- ordained parish ministry support and development;
- the salaries and other costs of Ministries Development Staff, as defined below;
- new, alternative and emerging forms of ministry costs;
- readership costs;
- recruitment and education for ministries, including Ordained Local Ministers and the training of Probationers;
- parish appraisal costs;
- properties costs;
- a share of Ministries Council support and administration costs.

The Ministries Development Staff referred to above are posts agreed in Presbytery Plans,



employed or appointed by the Ministries Council and including (though not exclusively) Deacons in the employ of the Church, Associate Ministers, and Team Leaders. Any parish staff engaged locally by congregations (and not designated on Presbytery Plans) will not be funded by the Parish Ministries Fund.

**1.3.8 The Mission and Renewal Fund** will receive 16% of congregational contributions and is used to support the work of the General Assembly's other Councils and Committees as well as, from 2017, some of the more general work of the Ministries Council including the Go For It Fund, Priority Areas and Workplace Chaplaincy.

## **1.4 2017 Detailed Budgets and 2016 Operating Results**

**1.4.1** The 2017 detailed budgets approved by the Council of Assembly are contained in the Council's main report to the General Assembly along with a summary and details of the operating results of Councils, Committees and Departments against the 2016 budget.

## **1.5 Systems of Internal Control**

### **1.5.1 Role of Audit Committee**

**1.5.1.1** The Audit Committee's remit includes responsibility for reviewing the systems of internal control and for oversight of the Internal Audit function. This function is delivered by Deloitte as the appointed Internal Auditors alongside the work of the Church's own Audit and Compliance Officer. The Internal Auditors produce an annual programme of work based on an assessment of audit risk which seeks to ensure that all of the main areas of activity are periodically reviewed. Audit reports are submitted at the end of each assignment and an annual audit report is made to the Committee expressing an opinion on the systems of internal control in place in the Unincorporated Councils and Committees.

**1.5.1.2** Deloitte conducted a number of reviews in 2016 covering the following areas:

- Review of the Church of Scotland Guild;
- Review of Business Unit Controls – CrossReach;
- Extended Testing on Overseas Payments;
- Review of IT Risk Management;
- HR and Payroll System Implementation Project Review.

**1.5.1.3** Deloitte reported to the Committee that, on the basis of the work undertaken for the year ended 31 December 2016, it considers that the Unincorporated Councils and Committees of the Church of Scotland generally had an adequate framework of control over the systems examined except in relation to the priority one matters highlighted in their reviews of overseas payments, IT Risk and Resilience Management and CrossReach business unit financial controls. This conclusion is conditional upon satisfactory implementation of recommendations from previous audit reports.

### **1.5.2 Audit of Annual Accounts for 2016**

**1.5.2.1** The Council of Assembly is responsible, on behalf of the General Assembly, for preparing and approving the Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees and approval was given at the Council meeting in April 2017. The Church's external auditors, PwC, gave an unqualified, or 'clean', audit opinion on the Accounts. The Assembly is invited to receive the 2016 Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees.

## **2. Churches' Mutual Credit Union**

**2.1** Membership of Churches' Mutual Credit Union (CMCU) within the Church of Scotland has grown steadily over the past year. There are now 103 such members, 50 of whom have lump sum deposit accounts and 53 of whom are regular savers (22 through payroll). CMCU has also opened corporate accounts for one Presbytery and two Parish Churches. Loans to Church of Scotland members have amounted to £114,500 since August 2015. CMCU is pleased to report there is no bad debt.

**2.2** CMCU continues to promote the work to eligible members of the Church of Scotland as widely as possible, including taking a stall at Heart & Soul and at the General Assembly in May 2016. The Board of CMCU is particularly grateful for the work of Karen Hunter from the staff of the Church and Society Council and of Charles Sim, an Elder in Irvine and Kilmarnock Presbytery. Throughout the year they are engaged in promoting the credit union in the workplace at the National Offices in George Street, and amongst ministers and elders by visiting as many of the Presbyteries as possible. The Board also appreciates the commitment of the Church of Scotland to the good governance of the credit union through the presence of Sheila Nicoll OBE on the board of directors and Charles Sim on the supervisory committee.

**2.3** CMCU has a number of projects in the pipeline to extend the reach of the credit union particularly to Church of Scotland employees who would benefit from having 'rainy day' savings and access to affordable credit. The Board looks forward to continued growth in all areas of the credit union's services over the next twelve months.

## **3. The Future of the National Church Offices**

### **3.1 Introduction**

**3.1.1** The Council's main report noted that it had considered some 16 different options which were developed following the property review delivered in the first half of 2016. These varied in merit and covered a wide range of possibilities including options to:

- sell all or some of the properties under consideration;
- buy or lease other premises into which might move either or both of the staff groups currently functioning out of the offices in George Street and at Charis House; and
- renovate one or more of the existing buildings with a view to them becoming

revenue-generating rather than revenue-draining properties.

**3.1.2** The Finance Group of the Council was asked to review the work undertaken by the working group and to bring to the Council those options which it considered worthy of closer inspection and further development. This resulted in around 6 possibilities being presented and the Council considered these at its meeting in February 2017. As a consequence, the Council now presents to the General Assembly some 3 options, with a further one which is a variant on the second, which it regards as worthy of more serious consideration. While the Council does not consider each of these to be of equal merit, it does propose that they should be interrogated more fully in order to bring to the General Assembly in 2018 a single firm and fully costed proposal.

**3.1.3** It is clear already at this point that there is *no option* which will be without cost – indeed there is no way of avoiding the fact that under any scenario there will be considerable cost in providing national office accommodation which is fit for purpose for the next phase of the life of the Church. For too long the National Church has fallen short of the standards it has encouraged of the local church, namely, to maintain its buildings on a regular basis and to understand that there is no economy in failing to do so. As the most basic option (Option 1) demonstrates, a seven-figure sum is already required just to stand still, without any thought of development or gain in terms of flexibility offered by some of the other options presented here.

**3.1.4** The options laid out below are not in any order of *preference* as far as the Council is concerned at this point. Although no detailed business plan has yet been developed for any of them, in terms of immediate financial outlay they would likely fall into the order in which they are presented here, from least to most. What that does not take into account,

however, is the extent to which, particularly in options 2 and 2a, the end result might offer a more permanent solution to the ongoing costs of maintenance and development; in other words, they could be seen as investment to produce a longer term saving. Such business planning will form part of the task which the Council seeks to take forward with the support of the General Assembly over the next year.

### **3.2 Option 1: Undertake basic maintenance to ensure the buildings continue to function, without engaging in further development.**

**3.2.1** Option 1 involves the least level of disruption, but nevertheless significant investment by the Church. The ongoing business of the National Offices could continue more or less as it does and it could also be argued that this would be the option involving the least effort and cost. It is important to recognise that there has been serious under-investment in the George Street premises for decades, with the result that there is a considerable backlog of critical work which now needs to be done. Estimates for this vary according to the range of things which are seen as 'priority', but it is unlikely to cost less than £1.5 million – and potentially significantly more. As with all such buildings, some costs will only become visible once initial work gets under way.

**3.2.2** The same principle needs to be applied to the other buildings under consideration at Charis House and the Assembly Hall. In those cases also, considerable investment will be required just to keep them up to a basic standard. This would need to be added to the cost of repairing and then maintaining the George Street properties, resulting in a much higher basic repair bill. While it might be seen as a convenient and relatively simple solution to the *immediate* issue of the buildings, it takes no account at all of the key questions raised in section 11.2 of the main report (the size of

offices needed for the future; the working style and values of the staff; the issue of ongoing sustainability). Basic maintenance would not, for example, lead to a reconfiguration of space which might allow for shared accommodation with CrossReach staff and would make the issue of shared services across the national functions of the Church more difficult to resolve, losing the potential for cost savings in that area.

**3.2.3** Whatever might be said for this option as a short-term expedient, it would mean that an opportunity would be missed to change the internal layout and usage of the buildings at a time when money will need to be invested in any case due to the current outstanding maintenance issues. The George Street properties as they stand are not self-sufficient and will remain a drain on Church resources if Option 1 is chosen on its own. It is clear from formal and informal property reviews that we are significantly under-utilising the space in George Street: there is opportunity to raise income from our current estate which Option 1 does not anticipate.

**3.2.4** While the Council does not believe that Option 1 is the optimal choice, it recognises also that there will be some who will not consider the job done properly without fully costing this way forward. It is therefore proposed that Option 1 be further explored, costed and the advantages and disadvantages laid out for consideration. This would include such issues as the carbon footprint of the building and the effect of simply doing maintenance work rather than reconfiguration and reshaping to improve the overall efficiency of the buildings.

### **3.3 Option 2: Separate 123 George Street from 117-121 George Street and lease 123 building on a long term basis (or sell it), retaining a reconfigured and refurbished 117-121 as the National Offices, with some additional alternative use of space within 117-121.**

**3.3.1** This option would allow the Council to ensure that existing properties are both properly brought up to standard for future use and reconfigured in such a way as to provide flexibility for both the short- and long-term future. It would involve separating off 123 George Street from 117–121, a relatively straightforward task as 123 is a self-contained townhouse comprising 4 floors plus a basement. This would allow 123 to become a revenue-generating space either through selling it off or, more probably, through long-term leasing. Early indications are that a space of this type at the heart of the New Town would be seen as highly desirable to potential clients.

**3.3.2** In addition to rethinking the use of 123, Option 2 looks to free up space within 117–121 George Street as well. This would be done through a complete renovation and reconfiguration of the space within 117–121. The property surveys undertaken so far indicate that the entire existing staff of both George Street and Charis House could be accommodated on fewer floors than are currently in use – probably on three of the five floors. The current configuration of 117–121 has staff spread over four floors (floors 1–4) with the Ground Floor largely used as meeting space (with a small number of facilities staff). The basement, effectively a 6th floor beneath, is currently used for a variety of forms of storage and a small catering facility (the ‘Hub’).

**3.3.3** No decision has yet been taken about the future of Charis House or the potential of staff from CrossReach sharing a common office in George Street, but if such a decision were to be taken in future, Option 2 allows sufficient space and flexibility to allow this to take place.

**3.3.4** Initial indications from the property review process are that, if some variant of Option 2 were to be pursued, good quality office space could be fitted out on any floor which was freed up, resulting in rentable space being created. In Central Edinburgh, such office facilities are in high demand, raising the potential for further

revenue generation, assisting a move at least towards the National Offices becoming self-sustaining into the future. This would allow the Church to retain its presence in the centre of Edinburgh with the current ease of transport links. It would also limit the level of disruption for existing functions, and for the staff and committee members.

**3.3.5** A further key benefit that the Council believes arises with Option 2 is the opportunity to effect change in the working environment and culture in the building in a very positive way. As this Report goes to print, arrangements are being put in place for a firm of Workplace Advisors to offer input to a process of identifying what kind of space would be best to encourage ways of working which better connect the National Office staff with the folks they serve at local congregational and parish level. If a reconfiguration and refurbishment of the National Offices is being considered, this is surely an opportunity also to address some of the issues which have historically arisen through a perceived disjuncture at times between “121” and “the real Church”, as each has unhelpfully been styled.

**3.3.6** Option 2 remains to be fully costed, but early estimates for renovating and reconfiguring the building are in the region of £2.5million – though this would clearly vary according to the actual scope of any work to be proposed. It would be important in considering such a sum to remain aware of the existing cost of simply standing still without any significant development (as outlined in Option 1, above) and without any plan for ongoing self-sustainability. With the support of the General Assembly, the Council intends to bring a fully costed version of Option 2 to the 2018 Assembly.

**3.4 Option 2a: Redesign the use of the Assembly Hall in order that the National Church can use regular meeting space within those premises (including the ancillary rooms) alongside commercial rental opportunities.**

**3.4.1** Option 2a is so-numbered to indicate the closeness of its connection to Option 2. It is an additional element which the Council believes is worthy of consideration in the context of plans to renovate the National Offices. In many ways it addresses two different buildings-related issues in one plan. If the ancillary rooms within the Assembly Hall were developed as Committee and Council meeting space, this would [a] free up more or less the whole of the Ground Floor of the George Street offices for redesign and alternative use; and [b] allow for better use of a suite of refurbished rooms around the Assembly Hall – rooms which currently stand empty for around 46 weeks of the year. The quality and size of rooms which might be created would generally exceed that currently available in George Street and it would be possible to achieve this without any change to their availability and usage during the week of the General Assembly.

**3.4.2** The Council has engaged with the Assembly Arrangements Committee around the basic concept of utilising the Assembly Hall rooms in a more effective way throughout the year. Option 2a could create some commercial space to be leased as a further contribution to revenue generation. The building, which has easy access to the main train and bus stations, offers large scale capacity right in the centre of Edinburgh for meetings and could be much more widely used by both the Church of Scotland and the general public. Work is currently ongoing at the adjoining New College buildings by the University of Edinburgh which is undertaking major refurbishment. The Council believes there may be potential for collaboration with this project.

**3.4.3** It is possible that Option 2a could be treated as a separate project, developing the space within the Assembly Hall irrespective of whether it became the regular meeting space for the Councils and Committees of the Church. The Council believes, however, that by considering this as a complementary project alongside Option 2, there is significant scope

for developing an integrated project which brings benefits for both buildings and their future usage.

**3.4.4** While some initial scoping is currently being undertaken of the potential for development of the Assembly Hall, at this stage no broad costing has been attempted. If the General Assembly were to support investigating Option 2a further, such work would be done. It will need to look not only at the refurbishment costs, but also at issues of access and those arising out of the listed building status. The Council is encouraged to think that these challenges are not insurmountable.

### **3.5 Option 3: Treat 117-123 George Street as one building and sell in order to rent or buy space elsewhere.**

**3.5.1** Option 3 proposes the disposal of the George Street buildings in their entirety in order to move to an alternative facility somewhere else with accommodation for all the staff from the National Offices, including those based at Charis House. Such a facility could either be purpose-built (likely to be prohibitively expensive) or purchased as seen. This might appear at first to require no immediate investment in the George Street and Charis House buildings, but this would depend very much on the length of time taken to plan and carry out a move to another suitable property. Estimates for this range from 3–5 years, added to at least one more year until a decision is made on the best option, and could mean that more than half of the next decade would have to be spent still in the current premises. Option 3 should not, therefore, be considered without some budget for keeping the existing buildings serviceable. On the positive side, the opportunity to buy or lease a new space suited to the Church's requirements and fully equipped for the technology of today would mean that all staff could move together to an alternative National Office. There are many benefits which can derive from adapting a different space, such as more scope for collaborative working and a shift in culture.

**3.5.2** Work undertaken in the independent property review to identify potential options in terms of bespoke offices noted: “unless land is purchased at below market value, net receipts could equate to construction costs of a new design and build”. The Church’s Council and Committee membership patterns highlight that a move, for example, to premises outwith the central belt of Scotland would bring significant challenges, not least in finding adequate transport links. The location of the National Offices on George Street creates opportunities in terms of wider engagement; this could be a major loss for the Church if the decision was made to move elsewhere. There is no doubt that following Option 3 with a new solution in Edinburgh would be extremely expensive to achieve, even if the George Street buildings were sold at a premium.

**3.5.3** A move of the type envisaged in Option 3 brings with it the vulnerability of submitting to the vagaries of the property market. At this point, the Council has chosen to present Option 3 to the General Assembly rather than rule it out, but it does so recognising that this option carries greater financial risk and could require a substantial financial bridging facility.

### **3.6 Conclusion**

**3.6.1** The Council has already reduced the potential options from 16 to 3 (plus one variable). As will be clear from the presentation of this report, the Council does not necessarily see all of these as of equal value, but it did not wish to rule any out at this stage, though it recognises that the General Assembly may choose to do so. The Council proposes that the Assembly notes the work done to this point and encourages it to continue work towards a full costing of these options. In the course of doing so, the Council is aware that one or other may prove to be unrealistic or unachievable, at which point it would rule out further work on that option and report accordingly. The Council, therefore, intends to bring to the General Assembly 2018 a preferred option, with clearly articulated reasons and a coherent business plan.

## **4. Congregational Statistics**

**4.1** The annual statistics gathered from congregations and Presbyteries are listed in Appendix III. These comprise the following elements which have been collected and recorded over many years:

- Persons and Agencies in Scotland for 2016;
- Congregational Statistical Returns – Young People;
- Congregational Statistical Returns from Presbyteries (2 tables);
- Comparative Statistics from 2005 to 2016;
- Ministry Statistics.

**4.2** At the end of 2016, a number of new statistics were requested by Presbyteries from congregations. These indicate the number and age band of worshippers, and the types of activities engaged in by congregations. Around 70% of congregations responded to this request; unfortunately not all Presbyteries completed this task in 2016 and the table reflects this. Comparison with other data such as the Statistics for Mission profiles allows congregations, Presbyteries, Councils and Committees of the Church to reflect on their position in their communities.

**4.3** Appendix IV details the response to the request. The first table shows the age spread and numbers of those attending worship by Presbytery. The second table in Appendix IV shows the percentage of congregations in each Presbytery engaging in various activities including school chaplaincy, addressing food poverty, environmental issues, etc.

**4.4** It has been very interesting and encouraging to see the different activities in which congregations are involved across the country. It is hoped that these statistics will provide useful information over the coming years, helping the Church to identify trends in these areas.

*In the name of the Council*

SALLY BONNAR, *Convener*  
 CATHERINE COULL, *Vice-Convener*  
 MARTIN SCOTT, *Secretary*

## APPENDIX I

### CO-ORDINATED BUDGET STATISTICS 2015 TO 2018

	2015 Actual £'000	2015 Increase %	2016 Provisional £'000	2016 Increase %	2017 Projected £'000	2017 Increase %	2018 Projected £'000	2018 Increase %
<b>CONGREGATIONAL INCOME</b>								
Offerings	59,866	(1.5)	58,944	(1.5)	58,355	(1.0)	57,771	(1.0)
Tax Recovery on Offerings	11,720	1.2	11,857	1.2	11,871	0.1	11,885	0.1
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>71,586</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>70,801</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>	<b>70,226</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>	<b>69,656</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>
Other Ordinary Income	20,161	(3.1)	20,000	(0.8)	20,000	0.0	20,000	0.0
<b>Total Ordinary Income</b>	<b>91,747</b>	<b>(0.9)</b>	<b>90,801</b>	<b>(1.0)</b>	<b>90,226</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>	<b>89,656</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>								
<b>Available to Congregations</b>	47,820	(0.2)	47,262	(1.2)	47,295	0.1	46,688	(1.3)
<b>Parish Ministries Fund</b>	39,617	(1.1)	38,796	(2.1)	38,325	(1.2)	37,942	(1.0)
Less: Vacancy Allowances	(2,553)		(2,516)		(2,653)		(3,087)	
	37,064	(1.9)	36,280	(2.1)	35,672	(1.7)	34,855	(2.3)
<b>Mission and Renewal Fund</b>	6,863	(0.6)	7,259	5.8	7,259	0.0	8,113	11.8
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>91,747</b>	<b>(0.9)</b>	<b>90,801</b>	<b>(1.0)</b>	<b>90,226</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>	<b>89,656</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>
<b>INCOME DISPOSITION</b>								
	%		%		%		%	
Available to Congregations	52.1		52.0		52.5		52.1	
Parish Ministries Fund	40.4		40.0		39.5		38.9	
Mission and Renewal Fund	7.5		8.0		8.0		9.0	
	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0	

**APPENDIX II**  
**2018 CO-ORDINATED BUDGET**  
**Requirements for Parish Ministries Fund and Mission & Renewal Fund**

	Projected Total Expenditure £'000	less	Income from External Sources £'000	less from Councils' Investments £'000	Annual Income from Councils' Investments £'000	less	Met by Congregations £'000	=	2018 Met from Reserves £'000	Final Budgeted 2017 Deficit £'000
<b>Ringfenced Parish Ministries Fund</b>	41,574		3,340	264			37,942		28	1,375
Pension Deficit Repair Contributions	52		-	-			-		52	52
	<b>41,626</b>		<b>3,340</b>	<b>264</b>			<b>37,942</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>1,427</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Renewal Fund</b>										
Ministries Council	2,475		574	1,005			344		552	71
Mission & Discipleship Council	1,265		183	295			704		83	86
World Mission Council	2,916		563	1,237			970		146	166
Social Care Council:										
Operational Activities	42,525		41,049	361			1,115		-	1,450
Pension Deficit Repair Contributions	1,025		-	-			-		1,025	1,025
Church & Society Council	557		24	28			405		100	100
Refugee Project	56		-	-			-		56	56
Support & Services Departments:										
Operational Activities	6,454		2,463	45			3,946		-	25
Pension Deficit Repair Contributions	280		-	-			-		280	280



Special Contributions:

General Trustees – Central Fabric Fund	290	-	-	290	-
Christian Aid	85	-	-	85	-
Ecumenical Contributions	254	-	-	254	-
	<u>58,182</u>	<u>44,856</u>	<u>2,971</u>	<u>8,113</u>	<u>3,259</u>
	<u>99,808</u>	<u>48,196</u>	<u>3,235</u>	<u>46,055</u>	<u>4,686</u>

Total to be met by congregations before deducting vacancy allowance

Income from external sources comes from the provision of services (eg CrossReach fees), legacies, donations, endowment income etc.

### APPENDIX III

#### PERSONS AND AGENCIES IN SCOTLAND FOR 2016

The membership statistics shown in the following tables may be stated thus:

	Removals by Death	9,330	
Less	Admissions by profession	<u>994</u>	8,336
	Removals by Certificate	2,479	
Less	Admissions by Certificate	<u>1,711</u>	768
	Other Removals	7,057	
Less	Restoration	<u>1,700</u>	<u>5,357</u>
	Total decrease		14,461

#### CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICAL RETURNS – YOUNG PEOPLE

Returns from Presbyteries showed:

- (1) that the number of children and young people aged 17 years and under who are involved in the life of congregations is 50,512.
- (2) that the number of people aged 18 years and over, whose names are not on the Communion Roll, but who are involved in the life of congregations is 14,323.
- (3) that the number of children who receive Holy Communion in terms of Act V, 2000, Section 15 is 3,013.

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## ALL PRESBYTERIES – CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICAL RETURN

### On Roll as at 31st December 2016

PRESBYTERIES	On Roll as at 31st December 2015	COMMUNICANTS								On Roll as at 31st December 2016	+Inc or -Dec
		REMOVALS				ADMISSIONS					
		By Death	By Cert	Otherwise	To Union	By Profession	By Cert	By Restoration	New Union		
Aberdeen	13,070	391	105	54	-	23	69	48	-	12,660	-410
Abernethy	1,037	21	3	37	-	-	15	23	-	1,014	-23
Angus	12,560	393	70	160	428	24	37	37	428	12,035	-525
Annandale and Eskdale	4,582	117	19	10	180	3	10	9	180	4,458	-124
Ardrossan	8,235	261	52	107	-	16	44	28	-	7,903	-332
Argyll	6,977	171	28	62	-	26	22	36	-	6,800	-177
Ayr	17,470	234	76	165	-	27	54	37	-	17,113	-357
Buchan	10,685	46	12	42	-	5	4	2	-	10,596	-89
Caithness	1,132	24	4	28	-	-	2	1	-	1,079	-53
Dumbarton	11,814	314	99	519	-	29	61	20	-	10,992	-822
Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	8,202	244	47	114	-	5	53	17	-	7,872	-330
Dundee	11,306	287	52	146	-	18	21	27	-	10,887	-419
Dunfermline	6,031	185	57	126	-	15	24	54	-	5,756	-275
Dunkeld and Meikle	4,579	120	31	63	-	4	29	27	-	4,425	-154
Duns	2,594	68	18	107	1,667	3	24	46	1,667	2,474	-120
Edinburgh	23,413	704	418	368	448	109	140	115	448	22,287	-1,126
England	1,959	39	11	29	-	9	1	138	-	2,028	69
Falkirk	11,016	340	89	168	-	30	37	42	-	10,528	-488
Glasgow	31,491	734	179	572	-	119	157	91	-	30,373	-1,118
Gordon	12,100	300	78	251	-	12	57	25	-	11,565	-535
Greenock and Paisley	18,493	506	110	272	-	57	146	51	-	17,859	-634
Hamilton	23,845	710	165	581	661	72	102	238	661	22,801	-1,044
Inverness	4,505	110	24	200	-	31	38	116	-	4,356	-149
Irvine and Kilmarnock	9,028	268	68	113	-	46	58	26	-	8,709	-319
Jedburgh	5,662	133	34	439	-	8	23	7	-	5,094	-568
Kincardine and Deeside	7,626	191	55	461	-	6	41	19	-	6,985	-641
Kirkcaldy	7,523	241	43	50	-	22	24	34	-	7,269	-254
Lanark	6,021	158	19	343	-	34	31	11	-	5,577	-444
Lewis	824	14	11	23	-	27	5	2	-	810	-14
Lochaber	1,041	24	3	19	-	6	1	10	-	1,012	-29

	Union +Inc/-Dec	Number of Notices of Removal Sent	Number on Supplementary Roll	OFFICE BEARERS				BAPTISMS			Weddings	Funerals
				Elders M	Elders F	Not Elders M	Not Elders F	No. During Year	Of Which Adults	Thanksgiving and Blessing Services		
-	5	1,009	506	577	71	89	91	6	6	104	899	
-	3	50	52	64	11	22	8	-	1	27	106	
-	41	1,078	324	431	36	86	79	1	10	74	594	
-	11	1,194	164	215	12	49	44	2	-	73	257	
-	25	501	336	426	49	101	84	11	2	72	562	
-	10	639	321	387	91	149	81	4	2	115	450	
-	16	702	356	421	62	129	111	5	-	101	558	
-	4	160	57	63	12	45	8	-	-	8	62	
-	1	352	67	54	22	37	23	1	-	25	165	
-	23	1,009	466	572	82	131	162	2	15	97	536	
-	35	1,149	279	264	88	138	99	3	-	95	368	
-	13	680	430	500	35	87	96	2	5	58	456	
-	33	1,527	255	340	42	72	52	4	8	66	466	
-	7	328	160	163	20	34	41	-	2	88	222	
-	7	363	95	104	22	33	33	1	8	27	149	
-	57	2,038	1,051	1,247	149	200	255	15	19	193	1,253	
-	8	595	69	94	8	7	49	7	5	28	115	
-	23	1,634	425	502	153	306	98	9	9	53	744	
-	41	3,161	1,291	1,494	250	491	337	25	45	186	1,560	
-	62	965	298	353	29	85	111	3	14	86	494	
-	30	3,736	790	943	121	195	198	13	20	108	1,052	
-	58	4,254	1,161	1,313	186	376	251	29	8	134	1,442	
-	32	206	229	142	68	66	42	6	8	37	302	
-	31	1,260	367	432	92	155	77	5	3	66	556	
-	5	104	129	190	20	28	48	2	2	49	295	
-	14	1,092	176	213	9	20	63	3	6	50	308	
-	12	636	246	369	99	191	56	8	15	63	530	
-	10	1,211	201	232	36	57	49	5	2	24	370	
-	2	-	54	-	34	15	21	4	8	14	83	
-	4	131	49	78	13	31	10	1	3	21	101	

## ALL PRESBYTERIES – CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICAL RETURN On Roll as at 31st December 2016 (Continued)

PRESBYTERIES	On Roll as at 31st December 2015	COMMUNICANTS								On Roll as at 31st December 2016	+Inc or -Dec
		REMOVALS				ADMISSIONS					
		By Death	By Cert	Otherwise	To Union	By Profession	By Cert	By Restoration	New Union		
Lochcarron - Skye	591	7	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	561	-30
Lothian	12,639	348	79	134	-	36	62	61	-	12,237	-402
Melrose and Peebles	6,295	187	33	336	-	18	31	27	-	5,815	-480
Moray	9,152	46	5	4	-	-	5	13	-	9,115	-37
Orkney	2,546	61	7	55	-	9	5	15	-	2,452	-94
Perth	12,031	277	102	111	-	16	103	27	-	11,687	-344
Ross	1,743	46	19	42	-	14	13	35	-	1,698	-45
Shetland	1,187	46	-	124	-	3	-	2	-	1,022	-165
St Andrews	8,707	271	71	314	447	11	39	26	447	8,127	-580
Stirling	12,717	361	99	163	-	29	60	55	-	12,238	-479
Sutherland	705	17	11	31	-	4	8	10	-	668	-37
Uist	304	5	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	305	1
West Lothian	8,365	208	41	81	-	54	38	44	-	8,171	-194
Wigtown and Stranraer	4,592	102	29	13	229	10	16	47	229	4,521	-71
<b>Totals</b>	<b>366,395</b>	<b>9,330</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>7,057</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>351,934</b>	<b>-14,461</b>

	Union +Inc/Dec	Number of Notices of Removal Sent	Number on Supplementary Roll	OFFICE BEARERS				BAPTISMS			Weddings	Funerals
				Elders M	Elders F	Not Elders M	Not Elders F	No. During Year	Of Which Adults	Thanksgiving and Blessing Services		
-	-	39	21	6	7	13	-	-	-	2	39	
-	190	1,869	429	528	40	97	135	14	21	136	697	
-	3	702	236	227	25	56	45	-	4	45	332	
-	3	126	56	78	25	28	12	-	-	9	67	
-	4	197	94	130	23	56	14	4	3	38	128	
-	44	1,032	358	397	33	45	66	3	12	82	421	
-	10	225	127	112	32	74	29	9	1	31	231	
-	-	207	34	57	7	25	10	-	-	14	111	
-	38	613	302	390	51	113	54	2	-	81	424	
-	47	1,703	490	572	75	179	105	8	2	127	624	
-	17	200	39	65	16	24	17	-	2	32	117	
-	-	-	17	-	6	6	7	-	-	4	19	
-	8	1,343	339	366	64	146	131	22	-	133	594	
-	25	525	142	147	21	56	31	1	2	19	216	
0	1,012	40,545	13,088	15,258	2,347	4,343	3,333	240	273	2,895	19,075	

**ALL PRESBYTERIES – CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICAL RETURN  
On Roll as at 31st December 2016**

PRESBYTERIES	Number of Congregations	Children 17 and under	People 18+ Not on Roll	Children receiving Communion
Aberdeen	36	1,371	304	83
Abernethy	11	194	259	44
Angus	35	971	146	90
Annandale and Eskdale	21	389	100	24
Ardrossan	27	835	118	4
Argyll	60	692	233	20
Ayr	49	1,356	165	23
Buchan	36	200	8	12
Caithness	13	96	304	4
Dumbarton	34	1,396	172	29
Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	31	524	171	33
Dundee	35	1,437	189	52
Dunfermline	24	786	343	76
Dunkeld and Meigle	21	470	133	6
Duns	25	236	68	2
Edinburgh	77	3,721	1,132	515
England	9	79	27	8
Falkirk	34	1,947	217	110
Glasgow	130	7,996	1,792	398
Gordon	29	1,041	281	59
Greenock & Paisley	51	4,131	410	155





## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FROM 2005 TO 2016

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Congregations	1,523	1,513	1,487	1,464	1,454	1,441
Communicants						
Removals by Death	13,084	12,557	12,478	11,826	11,218	11,454
Removals by Certificate	4,185	4,398	4,203	3,553	3,685	3,394
Removals otherwise	6,903	7,827	5,703	5,995	5,763	6,096
Total Removals	24,172	24,782	22,384	21,374	20,666	20,944
Admission by Profession	2,394	2,424	2,115	1,989	2,017	1,928
Admission by Certificate	3,507	3,572	3,354	2,941	2,707	2,467
Admission by Resolution	2,421	2,209	2,371	1,849	1,836	1,868
Total Admissions	8,322	8,205	7,840	6,779	6,560	6,263
Total on rolls	520,940	504,363	489,118	471,894	464,355	445,646
Elders	41,218	40,651	38,534	36,360	36,215	36,519
Baptisms	7,375	7,337	6,950	6,154	6,198	5,787
Total Population	5,094,800	5,116,900	5,144,200	5,168,500	5,194,000	5,222,100
Adult	4,035,773	4,130,913	4,161,258	4,189,133	4,151,853	4,184,261
Children of School Age	727,678	717,530	707,742	696,395	678,163	680,325
Children born	54,476	55,168	57,003	59,531	59,673	58,791
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Congregations	1,427	1,414	1,389	1,379	1,364	1,373
Communicants						
Removals by Death	10,488	11,156	10,648	10,011	10,433	9,330
Removals by Certificate	3,332	3,073	3,026	3,013	2,628	2,479
Removals Otherwise	5,821	7,047	5,592	7,673	6,113	7,057
Total Removals	19,641	21,276	19,266	20,697	19,174	18,866
Admissions by Profession	1,828	1,617	1,485	1,273	1,188	994
Admissions by Certificate	,365	2,413	2,256	2,049	1,752	1,711
Admissions by Resolution	1,591	1,750	1,777	1,321	1,312	1,700
Total Admissions	5,784	5,780	5,518	4,643	4,252	4,405
Total on Rolls	432,343	413,488	398,389	380,163	363,597	351,934
Elders	34,572	34,138	32,834	31,146	30,301	28,346
Baptisms	5,452	5,147	4,664	4,045	3,591	3,333
* Total Population	5,254,800	5,313,600	5,327,700	5,347,600	5,373,000	Figures not yet available
Adult	4,218,391	4,398,929	4,416,021	4,436,318	4,460,738	
Children of School Age	676,013	680,291	679,221	678,872	679,848	
Children born	59,826	58,691	57,058	56,297	56,001	

\* Calculation date changed during 2004

## MINISTRY STATISTICS

<b>A. AT HOME</b>	<b>As at 31.12.11</b>	<b>As at 31.12.12</b>	<b>As at 31.12.13</b>	<b>As at 31.12.14</b>	<b>As at 31.12.15</b>	<b>As at 31.12.16</b>
Number of Charges at December	1,109	1,101	1,068	1,051	1,040	1,017
Number of Ministers serving charges	M 687 F 218	M 652 F 205	M 627 F 202	M 607 F 204	M 593 F 193	M 574 F 198
	<b>905</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>772</b>
Number of Guardianships	4	9	20	25	24	23
Number of Vacant Charges	200	223	223	215	230	222
Ministries Development Staff	-	-	-	M 33 F 61	M 44 F 73	M 37 F 65
Total	-	-	-	<b>94</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>118</b>
Total MDS Posts in Plans	-	-	-	<b>138.5</b>	<b>138.5</b>	<b>144.6</b>
<b>B. ABROAD</b>						
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>International Presbytery</b>						
Number of Ordained Ministers	3	19	17	19	18	16
Number of Vacancies for Ministers	0	0	3	3	6 *	7
<b>Jerusalem and Mission Partners</b>						
Number of Ordained Ministers	-	-	-	-	4	3
<b>C. STUDENTS COMPLETING COURSES</b>						
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
New College, Edinburgh	M 2 F 0	M 4 F 4	M 4 F 4	M 10 F 5	M 10 F 2	M 4 F 4
Trinity College, Glasgow	M 2 F 0	M 3 F 2	M 4 F 1	M 4 F 9	M 6 F 4	M 5 F 3
St Mary's College, St Andrews	M 0 F 1	M 2 F 2	M 0 F 0	M 0 F 2	M 0 F 3	M 1 F 2
Christ's College, Aberdeen	M 1 F 0	M 0 F 2	M 0 F 0	M 1 F 0	M 3 F 2	M 6 F 6
Highland Theological College, Dingwall	M 1 F 0	M 0 F 1	M 1 F 1	M 7 F 1	M 4 F 2	M 12 F 4
<b>Total number completing</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>47</b>

\* 2 under Guardianship

**APPENDIX IV  
ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP STATISTICS**

Presbytery Number	Presbytery	Under 16 %	16-24 %	25-44 %	45-64 %	65 - 84 %	85+ %	Number of Worshipers
1	Edinburgh	12%	3%	13%	23%	43%	7%	6731
2	West Lothian	14%	3%	10%	24%	45%	4%	2471
3	Lothian	10%	2%	9%	22%	49%	9%	3501
4	Melrose and Peebles	9%	2%	8%	23%	48%	10%	1211
5	Duns	5%	1%	8%	23%	58%	4%	420
6	Jedburgh	5%	1%	6%	25%	57%	6%	837
7	Annapdale and Eskdale	8%	3%	7%	24%	50%	9%	1009
8	Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	5%	2%	7%	24%	55%	8%	1525
9	Wigtown and Stranraer	9%	1%	5%	22%	56%	7%	656
10	Ayr	8%	2%	8%	20%	55%	7%	2333
11	Irvine and Kilmarnock	8%	3%	9%	21%	52%	7%	2349
12	Ardrossan	9%	1%	7%	22%	52%	9%	2045
13	Lanark	10%	3%	9%	24%	50%	4%	1567
14	Greenock & Paisley	11%	4%	10%	23%	45%	7%	5033
16	Glasgow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Hamilton	11%	3%	10%	24%	46%	7%	8376
18	Dumbarton	8%	2%	8%	20%	54%	7%	2341
19	Argyll	9%	2%	5%	23%	54%	7%	1714
22	Falkirk	9%	3%	9%	21%	49%	9%	2903
23	Stirling	10%	3%	9%	24%	46%	8%	3537
24	Dunfermline	12%	2%	8%	22%	47%	8%	2165
25	Kirkcaldy	8%	3%	7%	22%	49%	11%	1467

26	<b>St Andrews</b>	6%	2%	7%	20%	58%	8%	1934
27	<b>Dunkeld and Meigle</b>	5%	2%	5%	26%	53%	9%	1110
28	<b>Perth</b>	10%	4%	9%	25%	44%	8%	2108
29	<b>Dundee</b>	9%	2%	10%	22%	47%	11%	2368
30	<b>Angus</b>	11%	2%	7%	22%	49%	8%	2125
31	<b>Aberdeen</b>	7%	2%	9%	25%	48%	10%	2990
32	<b>Kincardine and Deeside</b>	11%	2%	9%	25%	48%	5%	1271
33	<b>Gordon</b>	11%	3%	9%	26%	44%	7%	1860
34	<b>Buchan</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	<b>Moray</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	<b>Abernethy</b>	15%	3%	6%	25%	46%	6%	495
37	<b>Inverness</b>	11%	2%	10%	25%	47%	5%	2195
38	<b>Lochaber</b>	6%	1%	6%	21%	59%	7%	421
39	<b>Ross</b>	7%	2%	7%	22%	58%	3%	1154
40	<b>Sutherland</b>	8%	1%	6%	21%	56%	7%	518
41	<b>Caitness</b>	4%	3%	5%	29%	56%	2%	557
42	<b>Lochcarron - Skye</b>	8%	5%	10%	32%	37%	8%	427
43	<b>Uist</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	<b>Lewis</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	<b>Orkney</b>	16%	1%	6%	34%	39%	4%	340
46	<b>Shetland</b>	7%	2%	5%	19%	58%	9%	193
47	<b>England</b>	7%	5%	16%	23%	43%	7%	513

## CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES STATISTICS

Presb No	Presbytery	Number of Responses	School Chaplaincy	Youth Work	Community Development	International Links	Environmental Issues	Political Issues	Health Issues	Economic Inequality	Food Poverty
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>82%</b>
1	Edinburgh	67	81%	69%	75%	73%	39%	40%	42%	42%	91%
2	West Lothian	26	100%	81%	50%	69%	27%	15%	35%	15%	88%
3	Lothian	45	71%	73%	76%	60%	38%	27%	33%	31%	87%
4	Melrose and Peebles	25	88%	48%	76%	88%	56%	20%	24%	20%	92%
5	Duns	12	75%	58%	33%	33%	8%	17%	17%	17%	75%
6	Jedburgh	16	69%	69%	38%	44%	19%	0%	13%	6%	69%
7	Annapdale and Eskdale	19	84%	58%	84%	84%	37%	11%	26%	26%	79%
8	Dumfries and Kirkcudbright	30	93%	53%	43%	53%	27%	17%	23%	20%	80%
9	Wigtown and Stranraer	16	94%	63%	50%	25%	6%	0%	13%	13%	100%
10	Ayr	27	93%	56%	81%	67%	30%	26%	33%	26%	59%
11	Irvine and Kilmarнок	24	96%	71%	63%	54%	29%	17%	33%	29%	92%
12	Ardrossan	27	81%	81%	56%	52%	37%	15%	22%	26%	93%
13	Lanark	22	64%	64%	50%	59%	14%	5%	18%	18%	77%
14	Greenock & Paisley	58	69%	79%	55%	43%	22%	12%	33%	21%	74%
16	Glasgow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Hamilton	77	87%	79%	73%	61%	34%	16%	40%	32%	84%
18	Dumbarton	31	87%	71%	58%	65%	52%	19%	35%	29%	87%
19	Argyll	49	76%	51%	51%	45%	22%	6%	16%	18%	53%
22	Falkirk	32	88%	63%	50%	50%	31%	16%	25%	22%	94%

23	Stirling	45	80%	67%	60%	71%	33%	22%	33%	27%	80%
24	Dunfermline	23	91%	74%	57%	70%	39%	17%	48%	26%	100%
25	Kirkcaldy	19	100%	89%	89%	84%	58%	26%	53%	42%	95%
26	St Andrews	32	72%	41%	59%	59%	22%	0%	6%	9%	81%
27	Dunkeld and Meikle	20	65%	40%	35%	40%	10%	0%	5%	10%	45%
28	Perth	29	83%	72%	69%	59%	34%	10%	21%	31%	69%
29	Dundee	34	82%	76%	53%	62%	35%	3%	35%	35%	100%
30	Angus	32	94%	78%	78%	81%	53%	38%	38%	56%	91%
31	Aberdeen	35	83%	66%	57%	66%	31%	29%	26%	40%	86%
32	Kincardine and Deeside	19	89%	79%	74%	58%	26%	0%	37%	16%	74%
33	Gordon	26	88%	77%	62%	65%	31%	8%	31%	27%	81%
34	Buchan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Moray	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Abernethy	11	73%	55%	55%	73%	55%	18%	36%	9%	91%
37	Inverness	22	86%	82%	68%	73%	27%	27%	41%	45%	86%
38	Lochaber	14	93%	57%	50%	64%	7%	14%	14%	0%	93%
39	Ross	21	76%	52%	43%	62%	19%	10%	19%	14%	86%
40	Sutherland	13	85%	69%	46%	62%	0%	8%	8%	8%	77%
41	Caitness	13	77%	46%	38%	46%	8%	8%	15%	8%	85%
42	Lochcarron - Skye	6	67%	100%	67%	100%	67%	17%	67%	67%	100%
43	Uist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Lewis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	Orkney	9	67%	56%	44%	56%	44%	22%	22%	22%	67%
46	Shetland	9	44%	33%	33%	67%	22%	11%	11%	11%	56%
47	England	7	57%	43%	86%	71%	29%	14%	29%	29%	100%

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT  
OF THE  
**SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**  
MAY 2017  
**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report
2. Welcome the commitment of the Social Care Council to fund Social Care Mission support in order to resource local churches for a further two years
3. Note the progress made with key partners highlighted in the report
4. Note the work being done to support the four churches involved in the pilot project and commend the commitment of the Council to continue working with them
5. Note the Council's intention to develop universal resources for access by a wider group of churches
6. Note the number of churches unable to receive support due to the limited resources available to the Council

## REPORT

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Galatians 5 v 13-14

### **1. Social Care Mission**

**1.1** When last year's supplementary report was brought before The General Assembly, it highlighted the growing passion and commitment of local churches to respond to and engage with their communities in many different ways, including a growing interest in the provision of local social care initiatives. The report also made reference to the Council's ongoing commitment to the post of Social Care Mission Officer, as a conduit to explore the wider church's response to the social care needs of communities and identify the ways in which the Council might Inform, Connect and Inspire churches in this area (see Appendix A

for more information on the remit of the Social Care Mission Officer).

**1.2** The Council have spent the last year engaging with individuals from local churches and walking alongside those journeying with their communities. It has been both motivating and inspiring to witness the ways in which local churches are reaching out, stepping out and opening both their doors and their hearts to those around them.

### **2. Resourcing Local Church**

**2.1** Last year's General Assembly Fringe event focussed on engaging with individual churches. Discussion took place around the types of social care activity provided by churches, the opportunities available, the challenges faced in providing such services and the resources required to ensure these activities are robust and sustainable.



**2.2** Key themes emerging from these discussions were around networking, advice, information and resources.

**2.3** A wide variety of church-led initiatives were highlighted, including activity drop-in groups for older people, targeted groups for those with dementia, support groups for families and befriending services. Churches offering these types of support registered their activities and initiatives on the Social Care Forum website.

### 3. Social Care Forum

**3.1** The Social Care Forum was highlighted in the 2016 supplementary report as a national database and resource for local churches with three key areas of focus: Inform, Connect and Inspire. At this stage, almost 60 churches, 70 individuals and 30 church-led social care activities across the country have registered on the forum. The next stage of development will

be to create opportunities for these churches to access resources, chat online and share experiences in a safe and secure online space.

**3.2** As churches registered on the forum, the anecdotal trends and patterns of which the Council had become aware of in recent years became evident. It was clear that many churches were offering similar activities and expressing a keen interest in key social care themes.

**3.3** Developing a national overview of this church-led provision has provided an opportunity for the Council to introduce likeminded churches and facilitate mutual support, sharing of knowledge, experiences, advice and inspiration. Several churches have been involved in a visiting programme aimed at connecting churches together around common themes and interests:

Host Church	Established Service
Carlisle: St Andrew's Parish Church	Drop-in group for people affected by memory difficulties
Queensferry Community Care	Ecumenical elderly day care service
Motherwell: Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church	Befriend Motherwell – community based befriending service for older people
Bo'ness: St Andrew's Parish Church	Activity club for older people, services for children and families, youth work and counselling.
Glasgow: Springburn Parish Church	Musical Memories – a singing group for those with dementia and their carers based on the "Singing for the Brain" concept.
<p>Feedback:</p> <p>"I've found the site visits particularly helpful. The visits are great for getting ideas and are confidence boosting that it's possible and achievable."</p> <p>"These visits have given us perspective on the work we had begun to do and to see where we might take things in the future. It has also taken us out of our context and shown us that there are many different ways to implement work."</p>	

**3.4** The Council are grateful to those who hosted visits from interested churches. The feedback received from these visits has been very positive. Further visits are arranged for later in the year.

## **4. Social Care Networks**

**4.1** This overview of national provision provided a platform from which to develop Social Care Networks highlighted in the 2016-17 development plan. The common theme of supporting those with dementia was of particular interest and a number of churches have now met together to explore their experiences in this area.

**4.2** To date, two Networks have met, one in Broughty Ferry and one in Glasgow, with a third planned in early June for Lanarkshire. The meetings have provided an opportunity for churches to share their experiences, knowledge, challenges and opportunities, as well as access some of the expertise of the CrossReach team. We thank those who have provided input around dementia awareness and the theory of "Singing for the Brain" as well as those churches who have inspired others by sharing the story of how their activities and relationships have developed.

## **5. Social Care Conference**

**5.1** The Council committed to host a national Social Care Mission Conference in 2016 and

contacted a number of churches who had expressed an interest in providing support around key social care themes. Initial plans were made to host the conference, however a number of factors contributed to the decision to postpone the event and focus on local networking and resourcing opportunities.

**5.2** Subsequent feedback has evidenced that whilst a national conference would be of interest to churches, the local network model works well and should be a focus of this work going forward.

## **6. New Initiatives**

**6.1** Last year also saw the launch of the application process for the Council's pilot project. Applications were invited from churches interested in developing a new social care initiative or support with an existing project.

**6.2** Reading the number of applications and hearing the vision of those invited to present their ideas in person inspired and encouraged the Council and as such, four churches were offered an element of support, rather than the three initially agreed in the development plan. The following table identifies the projects selected, the input from the Social Care Council and the shared outcomes:-

Maryhill Parish Church - Dementia Café "Maryhill Memories"	
Input from Social Care Council	Shared Outcomes
Dementia Awareness Training	Funding secured (Go For It)
Support to create a detailed 1yr development plan	"Maryhill Memories" now offering support to a number of individuals
1:1 mentoring to support and encourage project lead	Links made with similar services to share best practice
Environment audit by dementia specialist highlighting changes required for accessibility	Structure in place to ensure the impact of the activities is measured and provides evidence to support future funding applications
Support to develop activity plan for group to ensure suitability for those with dementia	
Resources to monitor and evaluate the project	Model of engagement with churches emerging based on the evidence and feedback gathered
Support with funding application	Key themes emerging around church project development: community consultation, community scoping, marketing, project planning, monitoring and evaluation.
Information on training and events	
Membership of Social Care Network & quarterly gatherings	
Visits to other church-led provision (various)	
<i>"It's been very supportive and I've really valued having a sounding board and mentor who can give practical advice and point me in the direction of resources, training, etc. - things which I wouldn't have found myself. Our project would have been much simpler if we hadn't been a part of the project - I mean that in the sense that we wouldn't have put so much thought into all aspects of the planning and would have just thrown ourselves in and somewhat hoped for the best. It probably would have all turned out alright in the end but we'll reap the benefits of putting a lot more time and effort in just now to make sure we're offering the best that we can"</i>	
Falkirk Trinity Church – Family Life Centre	
Resources and support to gather feedback from local community	The church are now focussed on developing a quality play therapy service in partnership with an external organisation.
Advice and support to streamline their vision, explore opportunities, manage expectations and be realistic about what can be achieved.	
Advice on how to link with Third Sector Interface for support, training and input.	The play therapy service will launch after the school summer holiday period 2017
Advice on how best to link with local Health and Social Care Partnership and raise awareness of the church's offer.	The church are gathering evidence of community needs and assets to inform their development plan

Information about training events and funding opportunities	Ongoing support from the Council will be provided to help the church to respond to the emerging needs they are identifying.
Support to engage with an external organisation and manage expectations	
Visit to existing family support service – CrossReach’s Daisy Chain Early Years Project to discuss project structure and development	
Visit to existing church-led provision – Bounce Higher, St Andrew’s Parish Church, Bo’ness	
<i>“I come out of these meetings so enthusiastic. It has given us direction and challenge and focus. We can’t just talk, we need to do. This has helped us to look at what we are doing and why we are doing it – why are we doing a pew leaflet – do people need it? Do we need a flower list and rotas etc? We need to free people up to do this sort of (community) work”</i>	
Dysart St Clair Parish Church – Community HUB	
Resources and support for community consultation	The church have begun a journey of stepping out into the community and engaging with key stakeholders
Support to streamline vision and identify opportunities and challenges	The development group is gathering feedback about what the community needs and assets are to inform their plan
Support to consider working with a large external organisation, the opportunity this provides and the implications for the church	The church are working across denominations to look at how they can share resources for one common purpose
Development of an action plan to identify community needs, assets and how the church could best engage	The Council are gathering evidence to identify when best to engage with churches in their journey
Engagement with other local churches and faith groups to look at the bigger picture, collective resources and collective vision	The Council are identifying tools of universal relevance to support all churches with community engagement – ensuring all developments are grounded in the feedback of stakeholders
Information on funding opportunities, training and events	
Regular mentoring meetings to support the development group through a period of transition	
<i>“The support and encouragement received has been great. When you begin to lack clarity, have doubts about the way forward with your vision, that’s when the Social Care Council’s inspirational input has been invaluable. Their experiences with other projects, and the wider church, help you realise with faith and prayer, you CAN deliver all you hope for. Even when you try different avenues, and when they don’t go quite to plan, you are never made to feel it has been a failure, but rather to look at what has come out of that particular venture. We have learned just because it hasn’t gone the way you would have hoped, there are still positives in there, it’s all part of your particular journey. A learning curve”</i>	

Crieff Parish Church – Community HUB	
Monthly mentoring meetings with Family Engagement Leader	The relationship with this church has provided the Council with an opportunity to explore the potential benefits of a mentoring model
Tools and resources for community engagement / gathering feedback	
Support and advice to engage with key stakeholders	
Information on training and funding opportunities	The church have applied to Go For It for funding to run a community cafe
Support to explore funding for a feasibility study and take their current provision to a new level	The church are engaging with key stakeholders in the community
Visit to existing CrossReach Service – Daisy Chain Early Years Project to discuss structure and development	The church are exploring funding for a feasibility study to allow them to confidently move forward with their vision for a community hub.
Visit to existing church-led provision – Bounce Higher – St Andrew’s Parish Church, Bo’ness	
<p>Feedback:</p> <p><i>“The work with us has really helped us to look at the bigger picture and to see where we can build quality into our work. We have become even more proactive in engaging with our community. It has been inspiring to visit other projects in a structured and facilitated way. These visits have given us perspective on the work we had begun to do and to see where we might take things in the future. It has also taken us out of our context and shown us that there are many different ways to implement work.”</i></p>	

## 7. Existing relationships

7.1 In previous reports, the Council have identified a number of churches providing well-established community services. An ongoing connection between these churches and the Council was agreed to be an important aspect of this work moving forward. Maintaining these links provided an opportunity for the

Council to learn from and disseminate the knowledge and experience gained by these churches as they have journeyed along with their community project. It also provided an opportunity to identify ways in which the Council can add value and help to sustain larger and more robust church led services. (Activity outlined in Appendix B)

## 8. Resourcing National Church

**8.1** Developing relationships across the church has been a focus for the Council over the last year and a number of meetings

and conversations have taken place with representatives from other councils and departments.

Mission and Discipleship	Social Care Mission Officer attended Church Without Walls team meeting to discuss the role and development plan.
	Meetings took place with Mission Development Workers to discuss roles, remits and partnership working.
	Social Care Council were represented at Youth Equip day in Linlithgow
	CrossReach will provide specialist input around dementia for Equip day in Dumfries
	Support and input from CrossReach is being coordinated through the Social Care Mission Officer
Stewardship and Finance	Initial meeting with regional Stewardship Consultant to discuss the remit of the Council to resource local churches
Church and Society	Conversations took place to explore the ways in which the Council can support some of the findings of the Speak Out consultation.
Go For It	Initial meetings took place to discuss the potential of a more streamlined approach to supporting churches.
	Discussion also took place around the ways in which Go For It could fund churches to work in partnership with CrossReach to add capacity to their projects, e.g business planning input, training and development, service delivery (Counselling hours / play therapy etc)

## 9. Ongoing Development

**9.1** The Council continue to support the churches on the Social Care Mission Pilot, each requiring different support with different timescales.

**9.2** For Maryhill Parish Church, the journey now will be focussed on sustaining and developing the service they have established. It is important that any activity provided by the church is of the highest quality, has the appropriate structures and supports in place for those delivering the service and has a plan of sustainability. The Council will work with the church over the coming year in these key areas.

**9.3** Similar support will be provided to Falkirk Trinity Church to look at ways in which the Play Therapy Service can become a sustainable service provision and identify similar complementary services in line with their vision of creating a Family Life Centre in the heart of Falkirk.

**9.4** Dysart St Clair are continuing on their journey of discovery and the Council will continue to support them to develop a realistic vision and direction of travel to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

**9.5** As Crieff Parish Church look at ways in which they can partner with other

organisations and expand on the services they currently provide, an ongoing mentoring relationship will provide an opportunity for both the church and the Council to identify the opportunities for a rural church with existing services to grow and develop

## 10. Dementia Friendly Congregations

**10.1** Following the request to the General Assembly of 2016 and the subsequent deliverance to consider the concept of “Dementia Friendly Churches” the Council held two consultation sessions with key interested parties.

**10.2** Hearing from a wide variety of representatives provided an opportunity to look at the current resources available for churches, including those in development, the needs identified at a local level and the ways in which the Council could add capacity and complement these.

**10.3** Some of the key messages received were:

- Churches value the opportunity to join together and discuss key issues such as dementia
- Churches are interested in developing their accessibility and inclusion of all who may find a barrier to fully participating in church life. This extends to those who are experiencing mental health challenges, living with a learning disability, autism, physical disabilities, poverty and a range of other impacting factors.
- A variety of resources are currently available or are in development to support churches in this area

**10.4** At present, many churches turn to external organisations for “Dementia Friendly Church” training. With a substantial funding commitment to other national organisations, training and advice is readily available,

albeit not always from a church or Christian perspective. While CrossReach can provide this input and staff have delivered “Dementia Awareness” training to a number of churches across the country, the funding is not in place to allow this to be offered as standard to all churches.

**10.5** CrossReach dementia specialists have worked closely with other Councils over the years to develop resources and information to help churches to support those with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers and continue to input to national events such as Mission & Discipleship’s Equip days.

**10.6** The Council are aware that alternative resources focussed on the concept of Dementia Friendly Churches are in development as a result of significant funding commitments and will await the release of these resources, making them available to churches at the earliest opportunities.

## 11. Emerging Need

**11.1** The Council’s journey with churches over the last year has identified significant themes and priorities as well as areas of unmet need. It is clear from the feedback received that churches value the opportunities provided to gather, share their experiences and learn from each other. The benefit of journeying with a mentor available for support and advice has also been made clear. With 18 churches applying to be part of the pilot project, 30 church-led activities registered on the website and ongoing enquiries directed to the Council, it is clear that churches are looking for specialist input, advice and support in this area.

**11.2** The Council recognise the value of a central point of contact to coordinate this work and as such are committed to the role of the Social Care Mission Officer and to continuing the journey with the key partners highlighted throughout this report.

**11.3** In addition to this, the growing emergence of church-led children and family services, the clear benefits of linking churches together and the impact of visiting existing services, indicate an opportunity for the Council to explore the development of the Social Care Network model with churches interested in supporting children and families.

**11.4** Key themes are also emerging around the types of universal resources of most use to churches. These have predominantly been around community engagement tools, formal documentation, monitoring tools and evaluation tools. As the Social Care Forum develops over the coming year, these will be made available to all churches registered on the site.

## **12. Moving forward**

**12.1** As a Council, we are in no doubt that the activities and services provided by local churches are crucial to the ongoing mission of the Church. As such, we should strive to ensure that these activities and services are robust, evidence based, sustainable and well resourced. The Council has agreed that it will

continue to resource the Social Care Mission work for a further two years. In so doing it is continuing its commitment to resourcing the national church in this way, developing resources, creating networks and inspiring churches to step out and engage with their communities, using their gifts, passion and resources to continue the work of the church in the area of social care.

**12.2** The Council will await the strategic plan being brought to the General Assembly in 2017 by the Council of Assembly to determine how the work of social care mission forms part of this overall strategy. Thereafter a full report on the future strategic direction of the Council's work in this area of the church's mission will be presented to the Assembly in 2018.

*In the name of the Social Care Council*

BILL STEELE, *Convener*  
 IRENE MCGUGAN, *Vice-Convener*  
 HUGH M STEWART, *Vice-Convener*  
 PETER BAILEY, *Council Secretary*  
 and *Chief Executive of CrossReach*

## **APPENDIX A**

### **SOCIAL CARE MISSIONS OFFICER**

#### **DEVELOPING REMIT:**

- Research current church-led social care activities
- Mentor lead partners within churches to support the initiation and development of social care activities
- Establish areas of unmet need across the church in the area of social care
- Develop and build on a strategy to promote and encourage church-led social care initiatives
- Identify resource implications of supporting church-led social care initiatives
- Co-ordinate and deliver universal resources
- Develop and promote the Social Care Forum website
- Co-ordinate relevant training and networking opportunities for local churches
- Liaise with staff from other Councils and departments to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting churches
- Be aware of and disseminate funding opportunities to churches



## **APPENDIX B**

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXISTING PARTNERS**

#### **St Andrew's Parish Church, Bo'ness**

The church have a well-established, multi-faceted social outreach programme supporting those in the community living with dementia, reaching out to children and families, offering counselling support and providing valuable youth work services.

The Council has supported the church by highlighting opportunities for funding, training and development, providing monitoring and evaluation tools and practical advice and support with the recent recruitment of their Children and Families Worker. The ongoing connection has also provided an opportunity for the church to link more closely with CrossReach's Daisy Chain Early Years Project in Glasgow. Both services have a similar focus on supporting families at the earliest opportunities and helping families to have the best possible start in life. It has been useful to share experiences, resources and information and it is hoped that a continued synergy can be sustained.

#### **St Andrew's Parish Church, Arbroath**

In last year's report, the work of the Havilah Project, provided by St Andrew's Parish Church was highlighted with a commitment to continue with the development of a mutually supportive relationship.

This is a well-established and highly regarded service and as such, the input of the Council has been focussed around identifying next steps, further progression and the sustainability of the project. An initial meeting took place with CrossReach's Personalisation Officer to look at the ways in which Self Directed Support

may provide an opportunity for the church to develop their services to older people in the community. A link was also made with Befriend Motherwell, a befriending service for older people in the community of Motherwell, initially operated by Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church before moving to independent registered charity status.

Subsequent conversations focussed on supporting the church to look at the long term sustainability of the current service provision. It was suggested that a relationship be built with the Grassmarket Community Project in Edinburgh – another well-established project with independent charitable status and a social enterprise model which helps create a sustainable source of income.

#### **Greyfriars Kirk/Grassmarket Community Project, Edinburgh**

Initial meetings took place with Greyfriars Kirk and Grassmarket Community Project to identify the most appropriate way to develop a synergy between the project, the church and the Council. There was a clear desire for a more joined up and streamlined approach to working with CrossReach's Edinburgh based homelessness services and so communication took place to facilitate a closer working connection. The Grassmarket Community Project has a long history and a great deal of expertise in walking alongside the community of Grassmarket and providing ways to recognise and value the skills and talents of those around them. The Social Care Mission Officer has utilised social media to share these stories and promote the work of the project. Further development of this relationship will provide an opportunity to identify ways in which support and advice may add capacity to a well-established independent service and cascade the learning acquired by the project to other churches in the early stages of their social care journey.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT  
OF THE  
**PANEL ON REVIEW AND REFORM**  
MAY 2017  
**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the report.
2. Instruct the Panel on Review & Reform to consider fully all the options set out in the report and to consult widely on this before bringing a final report to a future General Assembly.

**REPORT****Enabling Sacramental Ministries**

As discussions continue around enabling sacramental ministries - in the context of Fresh Expressions, future pioneer ministries and congregations without an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament – this supplementary report outlines possible options and some of the main issues anticipated with these.

From the feedback gathered from the “On the road” events in 2016, it is clear that the question of who should be permitted to administer the sacraments is a live one across the Kirk. It is also clear that there are a wide range of opinions on this within the Church of Scotland, and it is therefore unlikely that any option will be universally acceptable.

This report has been written with the intention of providing an opportunity for the General Assembly to participate in this ongoing discussion, and to give shape to the parameters for those discussions.

**Option 1: Every Christian is enabled by God to administer the sacraments**

Advantages – This removes any pretence regarding existing practice in gatherings, e.g. ignoring some shared meals, or labelling them as “love feasts”. This would be a visible expression of the priesthood of all believers.

Issues – As part of the one holy Catholic and apostolic Church, there will be questions about oversight of sacraments rightly administered, about the level of sacramental understanding and associated preached Word, and consequent questions about the place of such sacraments and the church authorising them within the worldwide Church.

**Option 2: Every elder, as already ordained, can be authorised to administer the sacraments**

Advantages – This recognises committed individuals already ordained with responsibility for oversight and ordering of the Church’s ministry.

Issues – Elders’ ordination is to oversight and order, not to Word and Sacrament. Questions about sacramental understanding, the associated Word, and ecumenical recognition apply. The office of ordained elder arguably already sits outside the standard ecumenical model of three-fold ministry of episkopos, presbyteros and diakonos.

**Option 3: Some elders selected, trained and authorised/appointed/ordained to a contextually-constrained ministry including Word and Sacrament**

Advantages – This recognises and uses committed individuals already recognised

and ordained within the order of the Church. Appropriate training and support can enable preaching of the Word and administration of the sacraments. Constraints on context and duration maintain oversight.

Issues – Authorising, rather than ordaining, raises questions about the place of these sacraments and the church authorising them within the worldwide Church. Theological training would not be to the same level as all those currently ordained to Word and Sacrament.

**Option 4: Some elders selected, trained and commissioned to a contextually-constrained ministry of Commissioned Local Minister**

Advantages – This recognises and uses committed individuals already recognised and ordained within the order of the Church. Appropriate training and support can enable preaching of the Word and administration of the sacraments. Constraints on context and duration maintain oversight.

Issues – Commissioning is not as well theologically grounded within the Church of Scotland, and may raise questions about the place of such sacraments and the church authorising them within the worldwide Church. Theological training would not be to the same level as all those currently ordained to Word and Sacrament.

**Option 5: Expand Ordained Local Ministry as an office, to include people selected, trained and placed for different contexts**

Such training might acknowledge practical experience forming church communities, and be tailored for very localised contexts.

Advantages – This uses a recognised ministry in the Church of Scotland, which is also recognised in the wider Church. Appropriate training and support can enable preaching of the Word and administration of the sacraments, while being tailored for different experience and contexts.

Issues – Extending OLM, reducing training requirements for some, or varying expectations for different individuals, may diminish the perception or roles of existing OLMs.

Any of these options could be pursued in Fresh Expressions or Pioneer Ministries through the recognition of people with appropriate gifts. These may also be useful to consider in relation to Hub ministry.

The separating of the ministry of the Word from the sacraments in the Readership may need re-examined in the light of these ongoing discussions and consideration given to extending the ordination of Deacons to allow the administration of the sacraments.

*In the name of the Panel*

GRAHAM DUFFIN, *Convener*  
DAVID C CAMERON, *Vice-Convener*

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT  
OF THE  
**CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL**  
**ON THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE CONTEXT OF  
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY**

MAY 2017

**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Supplementary Report.
2. Call on political decision-makers and influence shapers to refrain from personal attacks but instead seek to discuss, debate and engage in conversation with respect, grace and always seeking the common good.
3. Instruct the Church and Society Council to continue to monitor the ongoing debate about Scotland's Constitutional Future and to report the General Assembly of 2018.

**REPORT**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1** Two matters have dominated national debate in Scotland over the last year: the implications of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union; and the question about whether there should be a further referendum on Scottish Independence. Although, especially at the moment, it is unwise to try to foretell the future, it is likely that these matters will remain significant for the foreseeable future.

**1.2** This debate is happening at a time of considerable global uncertainty with the ongoing rise of political and religious extremism and the increasingly sophisticated use of misinformation within the public discourse, much of it spread through social media. This makes the way in which the Scottish people interpret and respond to these issues of huge constitutional significance all the more challenging.

**1.3** As the Church's work around Speak Out over the last two years has amply demonstrated, people are passionately interested in issues such as housing, education and work; about cohesive local communities; about the ongoing refugee catastrophe; about the welfare of our young people and the quality of life for our elderly; and about economic and environmental justice. If the ongoing debate on our relationships with the rest of Europe and the United Kingdom is to make any real sense, it needs to be conducted through the lens of these vitally important concerns. Indeed, some of the key themes of Speak Out identified the need for political debate to be exercised in a much more positive and inclusive atmosphere.

**2. The current context**

**2.1** On 30 March the Prime Minister, in line with Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, wrote to the President of the European Union Council to notify him of the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the European Union.

This followed the 2016 referendum on EU membership of the European Union in which 51.9% of the population of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union and 48.1% voted to remain. In Scotland 62.0% voted to remain and 38.0% voted to leave. On 18 April, on the day that this report went to print, the Prime Minister called a General Election to be held on 8 June.

**2.2** On 31 March, following a vote of the Scottish Parliament on 27 March, the First Minister, on behalf of the Scottish Government, wrote to the Prime Minister asking for a Section 30 order to allow Holyrood to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence. This comes three years after the first referendum on Scottish independence in which 55.3% voted against independence and 44.7% voted in favour of independence. At the time of writing, no formal response to this request has been made by the UK Government.

**2.3** These are the two constitutional issues that continue to polarise opinion across the country. They are also issues with which the Church of Scotland has a long history of engagement. On the question of the UK's membership of the European Union the Church of Scotland's position is that it supports Scotland and the UK remaining members of the European Union. This position was most recently reaffirmed by the General Assembly in 2016 and has been the view of the General Assembly for over 20 years, rooted in the principles and understanding of the 1996 Church and Nation Committee report, *Europe – a crisis or an opportunity*: "The Church's support for ever closer union amongst the peoples of Europe is based on a belief that only by recognising the increasing inter-dependence of nation states and by transcending national barriers can we maintain and promote peace and democracy and have the power to bridge the gap between rich and poor both within Europe and between the developed world and the Third World."

### **3. Questions raised**

**3.1** The result of the European Union referendum has presented a number of questions. For the Church of Scotland there are questions about how it might respect and acknowledge with integrity its own position held over many years given the result of the referendum, while also taking into account the views and wishes of partner Churches in the UK and in the rest of Europe. There is also the question of how the democratic decision made in Scotland in 2014 to remain part of the UK and in 2016 the decision by the UK to leave the EU, might be understood when at the same time the majority of Scottish voters have chosen to remain in the EU. These are questions to which there are no easy answers and which require further exploration.

**3.2** On the question of Scottish Independence the Church of Scotland remains impartial, a position which was most recently reaffirmed by the General Assembly in 2014. This is a different position from that taken on the question of devolution, which has been a process that the Church has long supported and helped to shape, from the days of the Scottish Constitutional Convention, the 1997 devolution referendum, and more recently through submissions of evidence to the Calman and Smith Commissions on further powers for Holyrood.

**3.3** Moreover, the Church of Scotland does not have an agreed position on whether there should or should not be another referendum on Scottish Independence and recognises that there are strongly held and legitimate opinions on both sides of this debate. It is understood and acknowledged that the legal authority to permit a fair, binding and decisive referendum lies with the UK Parliament. Nonetheless, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has repeatedly endorsed the view that it is the sovereign right of the Scottish people to determine the form of Government best

suiting to their needs. At the time of writing the majority of Scottish MPs and the majority of Scottish MSPs are in favour of a referendum on Scottish Independence.

3.4 On all these issues it is not, nor ever has been, the purpose of the Church to tell people how to vote. That remains an individual matter of conscience taken within the privacy of the polling booth. The primary duty of the Church in these matters has been to assist people in making difficult decisions and discerning how their faith might inform their approach to the world around them. At times this has led the General Assembly, through which the Church of Scotland determines policy, to agree positions where it has discerned that there are strong moral arguments.

#### **4. The Church of Scotland's engagement**

4.1 In the years leading up to the referendum on Scottish Independence in 2014 the General Assembly adopted a deliberate position of impartiality. The reason for this impartiality is that the General Assembly has never expressed a clear mind or wish to have a position, recognising that there are honestly held opinions on both sides of the debate that are held with integrity and with concern for the common good.

4.2 Rather than take a position in 2014 the Church undertook a pioneering nationwide discussion that enabled church members and wider society to explore the kind of Scotland they would like to see irrespective of the outcome of the referendum. This nationwide discussion was called "Imagining Scotland's Future". This, in turn, has led to the development of "Speak Out" an initiative currently being developed by the Church and Society Council as a way of celebrating, harnessing and sharing the energy, creativity and passion of members of the Church to work for a future in which all people enjoy freedom, opportunity and justice. During its consultation phase, Speak Out identified: the need for

more direct or local democracy; that there are questions around constitutional reform that require discussion and resolution; that there is widespread disillusionment with much of the political process; and therefore there is a desire to move beyond party politics and tribalism. During this time of both active and proposed constitutional change, there is a greater need than ever to "do politics differently."

4.2 Whether around the outcomes of withdrawing from the European Union or on the question of Scottish Independence, we acknowledge that there is concern about the impact on individuals and families, especially around rights to live and work in Scotland and other parts of the EU and the impact of whatever decisions might be made in the future. We also acknowledge that opening up the debate on Scottish Independence runs the serious risk of re-opening wounds that have scarcely healed, within families and across wider society. We deplore and reject all attitudes of prejudice and division that have emerged in the course of debates about the future of Europe, the United Kingdom and Scotland. We express our concern for those in our midst who feel their situation to have been rendered unclear and more vulnerable as a result of current political uncertainties and we re-assert the commitment of the Church to the principles of solidarity, respect and to working for the common good. We remain wholly committed to the notion of respectful dialogue, a model which the Church helped to pioneer and model in 2014, ensuring that the quality of dialogue we have about our future does not descend into an acrimonious debate. The rise of so-called 'fake news' and an increasingly partisan approach in sections of the media has made this task even more important.

4.3 At the time of writing the Church and Society Council is engaged with wider civil society groups and other churches in exploring and framing an ongoing "commitment to

respectful dialogue". In the current climate of uncertainty such a commitment is not only necessary but reflects the Church's active ministry of bringing people together. In this instance, this is not a one-off event following conflict but a constant process of seeking to be reconciled with God, with ourselves, with one another and with the world around us. Such a way of being requires humility, grace and an understanding of our interdependence with those around us, particularly those in need. As constitutional events continue to unfold, our engagement should reflect both this necessity and our desire to see the marginalised and the least powerful in our communities protected, included and heard.

**4.4** The Church is in a strong position to bring people together across political and social divides to explore Scotland's future in a mature, measured way, a way that inspires but does not mislead, and a way that reflects God's desires for each of us and the world around us.

*In the name of the Ministries Council*

RICHARD FRAZER, *Convener*  
PAULINE EDMISTON, *Vice-Convener*  
WENDY YOUNG, *Vice-Convener*  
MARTIN JOHNSTONE, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MINISTRIES COUNCIL**  
**MAY 2017**  
**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the Council's initial discussions with the Mission and Discipleship Council with respect to Youth Ministry and instruct the Council to continue these discussions with a view to considering the possibility of recognising Youth Ministry as a strand of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and in due course to consider whether the Ministries Council should take responsibility for the assessment, training and ongoing support of Youth Ministers, bringing a final report to the General Assembly of 2018.
3. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to develop a Capability Procedure for Parish Ministers and report further to the General Assembly of 2018.
4. Note the completion of the recent round of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups processes for Parish Ministers, Ministries Development Staff, Candidates and Probationers.
5. Instruct the Council to consider the pay structures for salaried ministries and report to the General Assembly of 2018.
6. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to explore the introduction of a process to permit the extension of parish ministry beyond the age of 75 on a case by case basis, taking into account all relevant factors, including the nature and context of the work of parish ministry, and to bring proposed legislation to the General Assembly of 2018.
7. Pass an Act amending the Ministry Act (Act II 2000) as set out in Appendix 1.
8. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to bring proposals for a major revision of, or replacement for, the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003), to the General Assembly of 2018.
9. Pass an act amending the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003) as set out in Appendix 2.
10. Pass an act amending the Appeals Act (Act 1 2014) as set out in Appendix 3.

**REPORT**

**1. Youth Ministry**

**1.1** In 2015 and 2016 the Council was given sections of deliverance by the General Assembly asking it to consider Youth Ministry and how it relates to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. These have led to some fruitful early conversations with the Mission and Discipleship Council, a broad outline of which is given here. The Council looks forward to reporting to the 2018 Assembly in the terms of the 2016 section of Deliverance (which itself builds on the terms of the 2015 section of Deliverance).



**1.2** The recent Council of Assembly roadshows highlighted the need for the Church of Scotland to engage more effectively with young people. The Church's failure to engage with many people in the lower age ranges (young children, children, young people aged 12-25, young and middle aged adults) was highlighted in the recent Scottish Churches Census.

**1.3** In 5 years' time, the analysis of the Scottish Churches Census predicts that the whole Church in Scotland will have a median age of 65 (i.e. half of those attending will be older than 65, half will be younger). It is likely that the Church of Scotland will reach that point sooner, if it hasn't reached it already.

**1.4** Research<sup>1</sup> and experience tells us that the employment of Youth Workers, Youth Directors or Youth Ministers is a contributory factor to:

- The Church forming meaningful relationships with young people
- The Church fostering their development as individuals, including spiritual development
- The Church benefitting from the energy and new perspectives that young people bring.

**1.5** Some of the key questions are:

- Why has the Church of Scotland struggled to engage effectively with younger generations?
- Where is youth work in the Church of Scotland most effective, including within uniformed organisations?
- Is an investment in youth workers and youth ministers, at the point at which these relate to the work of the Council, the best way of developing an institutional response to these issues?
- Are there alternative or complementary approaches which could be considered?

**1.6** Some of the criteria employed by Mission and Discipleship Council in assessing youth work that it delivers at national level includes:

- an evaluation of cost,
- the reach to a wider range of young people and depth of engagement
- appropriateness of models of youth work to current context,
- effectiveness of faith formation as part of holistic development.
- appropriate balance between work which engages only with young people and work which brings all ages together, and
- effectiveness in giving young people a proper say in the leadership and future direction of the whole Church.

**1.7** There is much to be learned from the Church's existing youth work. There are 26 Ministries Development Staff employed as youth workers (as well as 8 others employed as children's workers) and 45 youth workers employed through the Go For It Fund. In addition, there are a number of youth workers who are locally employed. Any additional commitment to youth ministry needs to be based on better understanding of current practice in the Church and how this might be improved, supported and increased.

**1.8** In 2016 the deliverance referred to assessment, training and support for youth ministers which prompts the following questions:

- How should youth ministers be assessed? – currently none of the youth workers above has been assessed in a discernment process akin to that employed for Parish Ministers and Deacons. Should there be a pathway to encourage currently employed youth workers to go through such a discernment process?
- What would be the best shape for training and who should provide it? This ties in with the work of the Council through the Rethinking Initial Training Group.

<sup>1</sup> Church Growth Research Programme, Section 3, pp.25-6 <http://www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/report>.  
 'Rooted in the Church', p.3 <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3775547/rooted-in-the-church-summary-report-nov-2016.pdf>  
 'Sticky Faith' <http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/stickyfaith>;  
 'Growing Young' <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung>

- How should youth ministry be supported? What are the appropriate governance arrangements and how should congregations' expectations be managed in relation to the appointment of a youth Minister?

**1.9** Finally, there are big questions to be addressed in relation to ordination. Youth workers themselves have highlighted the importance of proper recognition being given to youth ministry along with the benefits that could exist in having a sacramental dimension to this work. However, these remain big questions with wider implications of which the Council will have to be conscious in exploring this question.

**1.10** The Council, in partnership with the Mission and Discipleship Council and the Council of Assembly, is committed to more research in this area with a view to bringing concrete proposals to the General Assembly of 2018.

## **2. Capability Process**

In 2014 the Joint Special Commission on Tenure included in its report the introduction of a Capability Procedure for inducted Parish Ministers and at that point the Council decided to focus in the first instance on the development of Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) and Ministerial Development Conversation (MDC). In 2015 it was noted how helpful it had been to consult with other churches on how best to introduce and support a capability procedure. With the processes for CMD and MDC now beginning to roll out, the Council is in a position to work on the development of a Capability Procedure. In the coming year the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, will progress this work and report to the General Assembly of 2018.

## **3. Protecting Vulnerable Groups processes**

The recent round of Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checking processes for Parish

Ministers, Ministries Development Staff, Candidates, and Probationers has now been completed. In the interests of strengthening this process for future working, a Safeguarding Group within Ministries Council has been set up with continuing representation on the Church's Safeguarding Committee.

## **4. Salaried Ministerial Posts**

**4.1** As the range of ministries being exercised by the Church has expanded, the Council wishes to consider the pay structures for salaried ministerial posts and review these if it considers this to be necessary. This will be addressed as an employment matter and be reported to the General Assembly of 2018.

## **5. Reporting on Ministerial Stipend and Salary Scales**

**5.1** In Section 11.1 of the Council's main report, the Council reported on Stipend and Salary Scales for 2017. To complete the information given in the report, the Council also reports that for 2017 the salary for Interim Ministers, Transition Ministers and Pioneer Ministers is £41,091.

## **6. Default Retirement Age for Parish Ministers**

**6.1** The Council last reported on the matter of the retirement age of Parish Ministers at the General Assembly of 2012, at which point the retirement age was raised to 75 and it was anticipated that the Council would report further in future. At that time, it was thought that few ministers would wish to remain in parish ministry beyond 75 and this has proven to be the case, with the average age of retirement over the past 5 years closer to 66. However, in a small number of cases ministers have indicated a wish to remain in post beyond 75.

**6.2** The Council wishes to act fairly to those who do wish to continue in ministry beyond 75, while still bearing in mind those factors and in particular those sound theological

reasons for facilitating retirement which were identified in 2012. The Council is also alive to the requirement for its policy in this area to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

**6.3** After careful consultation and consideration, the Council has taken the view that there are good policy reasons to retain a default retirement age of 75, but now wishes to explore, over the coming year, the possibility of allowing some limited extension in individual situations. The idea under consideration would be whether to enable a parish minister who wishes to remain in post to apply for an extension of their current post for an agreed period of time.

**6.4** The application for extension would be considered in light of various principles. Further work will be done on these, but at this stage it is anticipated that they may include:

- a) the impact on the Presbytery Plan if tenure is extended.
- b) assessment of the current state of the congregation(s).
- c) the wishes of the congregation(s), as ascertained through consultation with the relevant Kirk Session(s).

**6.5** The Council will consider all of these and other issues, and will consult with the Legal Questions Committee, in order to bring legislation on this matter to the General Assembly of 2018.

**6.6** It is necessary to amend Act II 2000 to cater for these changes, and to ensure that no Minister is disadvantaged over the next year. The Council therefore proposes that the Act be amended to prepare the ground for the proposed Regulations, by insertion of a proviso in section 33(1). New subsections (4) and (5) in section 33 will also be required. The new subsection (4) will allow submission of an application to Presbytery by any Minister who falls within these provisions, and will prevent

the automatic termination of the parish ministry concerned. The new subsection (5) will provide that, in the period before the Regulations are in force, service of notice of intention to make such an application must occur before 31 December 2017. Any Minister currently in post and reaching the age of 75 before 31 May 2018 should be reminded by Presbytery of the terms of section 33, as amended. Finally, it is proposed that subsection (2) should also be amended, by deletion of the words "For the avoidance of doubt, the Minister shall be eligible to apply for another charge up to the age of 75.," on the basis that these words are confusing and no longer appropriate in the context of the amended section 33. These changes are proposed below in Appendix 1.

**6.7** Furthermore, it has been pointed out that the existing section 33(2) may be unfair to those who under changing civil legislation may not be eligible at 65 to receive UK state pension. To ensure that such a person is not obliged to retire from a charge at age 65, a new section 33(2) is proposed below in Appendix 1.

## **7 Review of Presbytery Planning Decisions and Appeal/Arbitration**

**7.1** The General Assembly of 2015 instructed the Ministries Council to examine why Presbytery Planning decisions come to appeal and consider whether some form of provision for a final determination, by independent body or through some other means, is necessary to facilitate effective Presbytery Planning, and report to the General Assembly in 2017.

**7.1.1** At this time, the Council is not in a position to bring forward definitive proposals with regard to new provisions for making final determination in Act VII, 2003 appeals. Conversations to date however, have affirmed that the final decision on planning appeals should, as with all appeals, lie within the parameters of the Appeals process of the General Assembly as outlined in the Appeals Act, Act I, 2014.

**7.1.2** The possibility of an advisory group, with planning expertise, engaging in situations where planning appeals are imminent or have been lodged, and reporting into the Appeals Process of the Commission of Assembly, has also been discussed and further work will take place on this. Planning issues in respect of deferred unions and linkages, where no change is expected within ten years, have also been highlighted. Challenges relating to Hub ministry are also likely to require significant amendments to legislation. The Council will bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2018 about a more extensive revision or replacement of, Act VII, 2003 on Appraisal and Adjustment.

**7.2** The General Assembly of 2016 remitted the question of the continued use of Arbitration to the Legal Questions Committee and that Committee, having consulted with the Ministries Council and the General Trustees is bringing proposals to this year's General Assembly which, if approved, will end the use of arbitration. To accommodate this, however, an amendment to Act VII, 2003 will be required.

**7.2.1** Act VII, 2003, on Appraisal and Adjustment, makes provision for buildings to be placed in one of four categories, as follows:

- a) That the building is expected to remain in use beyond the lifetime of the Plan;
- b) That the building is expected to be closed during the lifetime of the current Plan, under an adjustment contained therein or otherwise;

- c) That the building is expected to be disposed of as soon as possible under an adjustment contained in the Plan or otherwise;
- d) That the Presbytery is unable to make a determination in relation to a building.

**7.2.2** In the early stage, when a plan is being agreed, category (d) is a helpful option. However, it is for Presbytery to determine, before proceeding to implement adjustment, the choice of buildings which best suit the Presbytery Plan. With this in mind, the Council proposes, that when Presbyteries are moving to implement adjustment, and negotiate bases of adjustment, it should only do so where buildings are categorised as (a), (b), or (c). This would resolve the ambiguity inherent in categorisation of buildings as category (d) above. An amendment to Section 10 of Act VII, 2003 on Appraisal and Adjustment in these terms is proposed as Appendix 2, and reflects the end to the process of arbitration.

**7.3** Conversations with the Legal Questions Committee also have led to the suggestion that the Ministries Council's Presbytery Planning Task Group should be involved in the Appeal Management Hearing, and the changes to the Appeals Act as outlined at Appendix 3 go some way to offer greater insights at that level. This is in line with the previously stated commitment to enabling and supporting, and offers clarity on the role of the Presbytery Planning Task Group in appeals, with the opportunity to offer its insights.

*In the name of the Ministries Council*

NEIL GLOVER, *Convener*  
 COLIN BROUGH, *Vice-Convener*  
 JOHN DENT, *Vice-Convener*  
 MARJORY MacLEAN, *Vice-Convener*  
 DEREK POPE, *Vice-Convener*  
 JAYNE SCOTT, *Secretary*

## APPENDIX 1

### ACT AMENDING THE MINISTRY

#### ACT (ACT II 2000)

#### Edinburgh, [ ] May 2017, Session [ ]

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Ministry Act (Act II 2000), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. Insert the following wording at the beginning of section 33(1): "Subject to subsections (4) and (5)".
2. Delete the existing subsection 33(2) and substitute the following:
 

"(2) Notwithstanding section 33(1), a Parish Minister inducted to a charge on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure, whose charge is one where the Presbytery Plan anticipates adjustment at the next vacancy, shall be subject to review by Presbytery as follows:

  - (a) Where the Parish Minister was inducted to the charge on the basis of an anticipated retirement age of 65, the Parish Minister shall be subject to the Presbytery's review at a point no later than six months before he or she reaches the age of eligibility for UK state pension. When the Parish Minister concerned does reach the age of eligibility for UK state pension, the Presbytery shall have the right to terminate tenure on the grounds of necessary adjustment, and
  - (b) Where the Parish Minister was inducted to the charge on the basis of an anticipated retirement age of 70 (in the case of a Parish Minister inducted prior to 31 May 1995), the Parish Minister shall be subject to the Presbytery's review at a point no later than six months before he or she reaches the age of 70. When the Parish Minister concerned does reach the age of 70, the Presbytery shall have the right to terminate tenure on the grounds of necessary adjustment."
3. Insert a new subsection (4) in section 33 as follows:
 

"(4) On application by a Parish Minister, his or her tenure may be extended for an agreed period of time according to a process set out in Regulations made by the General Assembly, dealing with Continuing Ministry beyond the age of 75. Service of an application under the Regulations shall prevent the termination of the tenure of the Parish Minister under subsection (1) until the application is determined."
4. Insert a new subsection (5) in section 33 as follows:
 

"(5) Any Parish Minister reaching the age of 75 before 31 May 2018 may serve notice on Presbytery of his or her intention to make an application under the proposed Regulations dealing with Continuing Ministry beyond the age of 75. Such a notice must be served by 31 December 2017 and, if made, shall prevent the termination of the ministry concerned under section 33(1) until the point when the application is determined or, if no application is made by 31 August 2018, until that date."

## APPENDIX 2

### ACT AMENDING THE APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT ACT (Oct VII 2003)

**Edinburgh, [ ] May 2017, Session [ ]**

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1 Delete the existing section 10 and substitute a new section as follows:

#### 10. **Implementation of the Plan through Adjustment**

(1) The Presbytery shall only move to implementation of the Plan through the forms of Adjustment specified in section 10(2) below once all ecclesiastical buildings listed in the Plan, or part thereof, have been categorised in terms of section (a), (b) or (c) of section 5(2).

(2) The Presbytery plan may specify any of the following forms of adjustment of charges:-

(i) Union

Two or more congregations may be united to form one congregation, and such union shall involve the union of charges, parishes, Kirk Sessions, Financial Courts, property and funds and, except in special circumstances where provision is made to the contrary in the Basis of Union, all congregational agencies and organisations.

(ii) Linking

Two or more charges may be linked to form one charge, so that the congregations are served by one ministry, the constitutions of the said congregations being in no other way affected.

(iii) Deferred Union or Deferred Linking

(a) When for any reason it is not possible to unite a vacant congregation with another congregation under the minister of the other congregation, the Presbytery may decide to unite them on the understanding that the implementation of such decision shall be deferred until that minister's interest has terminated.

(b) The Basis of Deferred Union shall provide (i) that the congregations to be united shall elect a minister who shall be inducted in the first instance as minister of the vacant congregation, and (ii) that on the termination of the other minister's interest the Union shall immediately be effective under the minister so elected and inducted.

(c) If another vacancy occurs in the originally-vacant congregation before the termination of the other minister's interest, the Basis of Deferred Union shall remain in force and the congregations shall elect another minister as in (b) above; subject to the proviso that the Presbytery may decide to recall the Basis of Deferred Union with a view to making another adjustment decision.

(d) A linking may be deferred in the same manner as a union in terms of subsections (a) to (c) above.

- 
- (iv) Guardianship
- (a) A charge may continue indefinitely without the right to call a minister under the Guardianship of the Presbytery. In such a case, the Presbytery will appoint an Interim Moderator who will ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place to enable the ongoing ministry and mission of the congregation(s).
  - (b) At the request of the Kirk Session, or on the initiative of the Presbytery, the Presbytery may recommence vacancy procedure in terms of Act VIII 2003, subject to the right of appeal or dissent-and-complaint.
- (v) New Charge Development
- A new charge may be established in terms of Act XIII 2000.
- (vi) Transportation
- (a) The Presbytery may move a congregation from one place of worship to another, and, where that involves a change of parish, it shall be designated "transportation".
  - (b) Where transportation is effected, the Presbytery shall take such steps of adjustment as may be necessary to ensure that the parishes involved are allocated to defined charges.
- (vii) Parish Groupings
- The Presbytery may declare that two or more charges shall have responsibility for a single area. The Basis of such an adjustment shall determine the extent to which the charges shall operate as a Parish Grouping, for instance in the sharing of worship, personnel, education resources, mission initiatives, congregational organisations etc.
- (viii) Dissolution
- (a) A charge may be dissolved by the Presbytery of the bounds.
  - (b) The Basis of Dissolution shall provide inter alia for the issuing of certificates of transference to all the members of the congregation, the allocation of the parish to another charge or charges, the destination of the property and funds, and the transfer to the General Trustees prior to dissolution of any heritable property held by or for behoof of the congregation, title to which is not already vested in the General Trustees.
- (ix) Alteration in number of ministers
- The Presbytery may determine, in respect of any charge, the amount of ministerial time required by any charge, and the number and nature of appointments necessary, provided that (except in the case of job-sharing) the Presbytery shall identify one ministry as that of minister of the charge and moderator of the Kirk Session.

- (x) Other Form of Ministry  
After consultation with the Assembly's Committee, the Presbytery may devise a new form of adjustment or ministry,

provided that such form is not inconsistent with this Act or any other Act or deliverance of the General Assembly.

### APPENDIX 3

#### ACT AMENDING THE APPEALS ACT (ACT I 2014)

#### Edinburgh, [ ] May 2017, Session [ ]

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Ministry Act (Act I 2014), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. Add a new paragraph 5.9 to Schedule 2, as follows:  
"Where an appeal is against a Presbytery's decision in terms of section 6(1) or section 14(1) of the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003), the Principal Clerk shall intimate the date of the Appeal Management Hearing to the Assembly's Committee. The Group shall attend the Appeal Management Hearing as an interested party, and may speak, if so desired."

2. Add a new paragraph 11.4 to Schedule 2, as follows:

"Where an appeal is against a Presbytery's decision in terms of section 6(1) or section 14(1) of the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003), the Principal Clerk shall intimate the date of the Appeal Hearing to the Assembly's Committee. The Group shall attend the Appeal Hearing as an interested party and may speak, if so desired."



# STANDING ORDERS

I. COMMISSIONS.....	81
II. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.....	82
III. MEMBERS NOT COMMISSIONERS.....	84
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OVERTURES .....	86
V. CONDUCT OF CASES.....	88
VI. ORDER OF DEBATE.....	91
VII. COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP .....	95
VIII. ALTERATION AND SUSPENSION .....	100

# THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

### STANDING ORDERS

#### I. COMMISSIONS

**1. Roll of Presbytery.** Each Presbytery Clerk shall, by 15 January of each year, transmit to the Clerks of Assembly the number of charges, appointments and deacons specified in sections 2 and 4 of Act III 2000 (as amended) – all as at 31 December immediately preceding.

**2. Presbyterial Representation.** The Assembly Arrangements Committee shall meet in January of each year for the purpose of considering the said Rolls and of ascertaining the effect, as regards representation, of any changes in Presbyteries which have occurred in the course of the previous year. The Clerks of Assembly shall immediately thereafter intimate to Presbyteries what will be their representation in the ensuing Assembly.

The decision of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, so intimated to Presbyteries, shall be subject to review by the Assembly on Petition by the Presbytery concerned.

**3. Question Arising.** Should there arise between the month of February and the opening of the Assembly any question regarding representation not provided for in these Orders, the Assembly Arrangements Committee shall have power to dispose thereof.

**4. Furnishing of Commission.** The Clerks of Assembly shall furnish Presbytery Clerks with a copy of the approved form of Certificate of Commission.

**5. Transmission of Certificates.** The names, in alphabetical order, and full postal addresses of Commissioners from Presbyteries, shall be transmitted by Presbytery Clerks to the Clerks of Assembly not later than 31 March in each year so far as they have been elected by that time.

Certificates, endorsed by the Clerk of each Presbytery to the effect that to the best of his knowledge the Elders named therein are bona fide acting Elders and are commissioned by the Presbytery, shall be transmitted by Presbytery Clerks so as to be in the hands of the Clerks of Assembly not less than one week before the opening of the Assembly.

**6. Committee on Commissions.** The Committee on Commissions shall consist of the Clerks; the Principal Clerk shall be Convener. The Committee shall prepare a report on all Commissions and Certificates transmitted to them for submission to the Assembly at the opening Session. The said Committee shall prepare and print a list of Commissioners.

Along with the said list a copy of the Standing Orders of the General Assembly shall be made available to each member.

The Clerks shall arrange to forward to each Commissioner, at least one week before the opening day of the Assembly, a copy of the volume of Reports and Proposed Deliverances and a copy of all Assembly Papers then available.

**7. Objections.** The Committee on Commissions shall, if called upon, or if it shall appear to it necessary or expedient so to do, hear any person whose Commission is objected to in support of his Commission, and also any person or persons who may object to such Commission.

**8. Late Commissions.** It shall be competent at any time during the sitting of the Assembly to lodge with the Clerks of Assembly Commissions which have not previously been transmitted to them; and such Commissions shall be submitted by the Clerks to the Assembly on the day next after that on which the Commissions have been lodged, and shall be disposed of by the Assembly as may seem proper.

## II. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

### (a) OPENING SESSION

**9. Convening.** The Commissioners elected to serve in the Assembly shall convene on the day and at the hour fixed for the meeting of the Assembly, and, after prayer by the Moderator of the preceding Assembly, the List of Commissioners shall be laid on the table.

**10. Election of Moderator.** The election of a Moderator shall then be made.

**11. Her Majesty's Commission.** Her Majesty's Commission to the Lord High Commissioner shall then be read and ordered to be recorded.

**12. Her Majesty's Letter.** Her Majesty's Letter to the Assembly shall then be read and a Committee shall be appointed to prepare an answer thereto.

**13. Standing Orders.** The Standing Orders shall be laid on the table.

**14. Committee on Commissions.** The Report of the Committee on Commissions (SO 6) shall be called for and disposed of.

**15. Order of Business.** The Assembly shall appoint a Business Committee, the Convener and Vice-Convener thereof normally to be the Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Assembly Arrangements Committee. The Assembly Arrangements Committee shall prepare and submit at the opening session an Order of Business for the first two days.

### (b) BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**16.** The Business Committee shall consist of forty Commissioners including the Convener and Vice-Convener; and the Moderator, Clerks, Procurator and Law Agent shall be additional members, *ex officio*.

**17. First Meeting.** The Business Committee shall meet on the opening day of the Assembly as intimated and thereafter as business may require. At its first meeting it shall consider the Draft Order of Business which shall have been prepared by the Assembly Arrangements Committee for the business of the Assembly subsequent to the first two days, and shall be wholly responsible therefor.

**18. Selection Committee.** Commissioners to the General Assembly shall be free to nominate other commissioners to serve on the Selection Committee. The names of those proposed shall be brought before the first meeting of the Business Committee which, in turn and without being limited to those names proposed by commissioners who are not among its members, shall nominate a Selection Committee of twenty commissioners, including a Convener and Vice-Convener, whose function it shall be to select and submit to the Assembly for their approval names of persons to serve on all Special Commissions and Committees appointed during the sittings of the Assembly. Such persons need not be commissioners.

**19. Communications.** All letters addressed to the Moderator for the purpose of being communicated to the Assembly shall, in the first instance, be laid before the Business Committee, which shall advise the Moderator as to their disposal.

**20. Paper through Boxes.** Requests for permission to distribute material through Members' boxes should be submitted to the Assembly Arrangements Committee before the commencement of the Assembly, and requests received thereafter shall be submitted to the Business Committee. Any other Committee concerned should be informed and supplied with copies, if available, of the material to be distributed.

### (c) DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES

**21. The Lord's Supper.** The Assembly shall celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at a time appointed by the General Assembly at its opening session.

**22. Acts of Worship.** The Moderator shall be responsible to the Assembly for the conduct of all acts of worship, and shall consult the Assembly Arrangements Committee or the Business Committee anent any proposed innovation in such conduct.

**(d) MISCELLANEOUS**

**23. Minutes.** The minutes of each day's proceedings, if available, together with the Agenda for the following day or days, intimations of meetings of Committees, and Notices of Motion, shall be printed as the "Assembly Papers", and shall be made available for all members. The Minutes, being taken as read and full opportunity having been given for correction, shall be approved as available. It shall always be in order at the close of any particular item of business to move that the Minute thereanent be adjusted and approved. Before the dissolution of the Assembly a small Committee, appointed for the purpose, shall be authorised to approve the Minutes not already approved by the Assembly.

**24. Quorum.** The quorum of the Assembly shall be thirty-one, of whom not less than sixteen shall be Ministers. Any Member may at any time call the attention of the Moderator to the fact that there is not a quorum present, and if, on a count being made, it is found that such is the case, it shall be the duty of the Moderator to suspend or adjourn the session.

**25. Tellers.** The Assembly Arrangements Committee shall submit for the approval of the Assembly at their first session a proposed Panel of Tellers. (See SO 105.)

**26. Printing of Acts.** The Committee on Commissions (SO 6) shall arrange for the printing of the Acts of Assembly and shall print in the Assembly Papers of the penultimate day an Interim Report thereon, which shall be considered on the last day of the Assembly.

**27. Examination of Records.** Minutes of the Standing Committees of the Assembly shall be examined by the Legal Questions Committee. The Committee shall report thereanent to the General Assembly.

**28. Returns to Overtures.**

(a) A Committee on Overtures and Cases, consisting of the Clerks, Procurator and Law Agent of the Church (with the Principal Clerk as Convener) shall advise any Committee or individual on the procedure to be followed in

respect of measures requiring process under the Barrier Act.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt, measures other than Acts of Assembly may be referred for the consideration of Presbyteries, in which case they shall be presented to the General Assembly in the form of an Overture set out as an Act.

(c) For the avoidance of doubt, it is open to the General Assembly to decline to consider any motion of which it believes inadequate notice has been given, considering the nature of its content.

(d) Measures remitted to Presbyteries by an Overture under the Barrier Act shall be accompanied by a note of the voting figures in the General Assembly, the text of the relevant Report and a note by the Clerks explaining any technical or legal matters contained in the Overture.

(e) All Presbyteries shall make a return in respect of every Overture sent down under the Barrier Act. The return shall be made upon the schedule sent electronically to the Presbytery Clerk for the purpose, transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly, and then submitted to the Committee on Overtures and Cases. The Committee shall classify the returns and make a report to the next Assembly. It shall be the duty of the Committee to report not only the number of Presbyteries for and against an Overture, but also the numbers voting in the Presbyteries as reported in the schedule.

(f) The Report of the Committee shall include the text of such Overtures as have been approved by a majority of Presbyteries.

(g) The Assembly Arrangements Committee shall ensure that the Committee's Report classifying returns is taken by the General Assembly no later than session 2 thereof, and in any case before any debate that in the opinion of the Committee on Overtures and Cases would more usefully follow consideration of the Committee's Report.

(h) The Report of the Committee shall be given in to the Assembly by the Principal Clerk,

with the reply to the debate on the merits of the measure given by the relevant Convener. Both should be available to answer questions, as appropriate.

**29. Special Commissions and Committees.** Special Commissions or Committees will only be appointed where the General Assembly has no existing Standing Committee to which the matter under consideration can, in all the circumstances, properly be remitted. In normal circumstances, business proposed by Councils or Committees of the General Assembly or proposed by Commissioners in the course of debate shall be remitted to one or more of the appropriate Standing Committees listed in SO 113. When, from time to time, a Standing Committee requires to co-opt relevant expertise in order to fulfil the work remitted to it by the General Assembly, it should acknowledge the same in its Report to the General Assembly.

**30. Closing of Assembly.**

When the business set down for the last day of the Assembly has been disposed of, the Assembly shall be closed by addresses by the Moderator to the Assembly and to the Lord High Commissioner, and by an address by the Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly, during an act of worship, and dissolved according to the practice of the Church.

### III. MEMBERS NOT COMMISSIONERS

**(a) MEMBERS *ex officio***

**31.** These are the Moderator of the Assembly, on election, and the immediately preceding Moderator, the Clerks, Procurator, and Law Agent, and also the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Business Committee upon their election.

They have all the rights and privileges of Commissioners.

**(b) CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, DELEGATES AND VISITORS – DEFINITION**

**32. Corresponding Members.** Representatives of Departments and Standing Committees as stated in SO 33.

Delegates from other Churches. Representatives of other Churches who come in response to an invitation from the Principal Clerk sent at the request of the World Mission Council or from the Committee on Ecumenical Relations to their Church to send a delegate or delegates to the General Assembly and who are duly accredited by the Courts or equivalent authority of their Churches.

Visitors. Visitors from other Churches who come with a Letter of Introduction from Assembly or Presbytery Clerks or equivalent officer of their Church.

**33. Corresponding Members**

1. (a) The following shall have the right to appoint Corresponding Members in terms of (b) below:

Council of Assembly, Church and Society Council, Ministries Council, Mission and Discipleship Council, Social Care Council, World Mission Council, Committee on Church Art and Architecture, Central Services Committee, Ecumenical Relations Committee, General Trustees, Church of Scotland Guild, Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund, the Nomination Committee, Panel on Review and Reform, Safeguarding Committee, Stewardship and Finance Committee and the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees.

(b) Each of the above shall appoint for each day a member or staff-member to act as Corresponding Member, and will advise the Assembly Arrangements Committee not less than one week before the commencement of the General Assembly of the names of the Corresponding Members appointed for each day. The names of Corresponding Members appointed under this Standing Order shall be printed in the Assembly Papers.

2. The Secretaries of the Council of Assembly, the Church and Society, Ministries, Mission and Discipleship, Social Care and World Mission Councils, the Ecumenical Officer, the Editor of

Life and Work, the General Treasurer, the Head of Stewardship, the Head of Human Resources, the Convener of the Nomination Committee and the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Officer shall be Corresponding Members when not Commissioners.

3. The Charity Trustees of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees of the General Assembly who are also Conveners of the Finance, Governance, Staffing and Communication Committees of the Council of Assembly shall also be Corresponding Members when not Commissioners.

**34. Status.** Corresponding Members of Assembly shall be entitled to attend all sessions of the same and to speak on any matter before the Assembly affecting the interests of their Council or Committee, where applicable, but shall not have the right to vote or make a motion.

#### (c) YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

##### **35. Status**

(i) One person between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five on the opening day of the General Assembly shall, if possible, be appointed by each Presbytery to serve as a Youth Representative; each Representative shall be involved in the life of a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery and be regularly involved in the life and worship of the Church of Scotland. The minister of the congregation shall provide confirmation of this involvement if asked by the Mission and Discipleship Council.

(ii) The National Youth Assembly each year shall appoint ten of its own number, being between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five on the opening day of the following General Assembly, to serve as Youth representatives to that General Assembly.

(iii) Youth Representatives shall be entitled to speak and move motions but not to vote:

- during debates on Committee reports
- during debates on Overtures

(iv) Youth Representatives shall not be entitled to speak, move motions or vote:

- during debates on Petitions or cases
- during debates on matters affecting General Assembly procedure or Standing Orders

(v) Youth Representatives shall not be members of the Commission of Assembly Oversight

(vi) The Mission and Discipleship Council shall take responsibility for Youth Representatives and shall extend to them appropriate hospitality.

#### (d) DELEGATES AND VISITORS

**36. Reception.** Delegates from other Churches shall be received and welcomed by the Moderator. The Assembly Arrangements Committee is authorised, after consultation with the World Mission Council and the Ecumenical Relations Committee, to recommend to the Moderator to invite two specified delegates to convey greetings briefly after all the delegates have been received and welcomed by the Moderator.

##### **37. Status**

(i) Delegates to the Assembly shall have the right to attend all sessions and to speak on all matters before the Assembly, except when the Assembly are exercising judicial functions, but shall not have the right to vote.

(ii) Visitors shall have the privilege of seats in the Assembly but without the right to speak or vote. As in the case of Delegates, the officials of the World Mission Council, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, or other relevant Council or Committee shall extend appropriate hospitality to Visitors.

**38. Oversight.** The officials of the World Mission Council, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and other Councils or Committees which may be interested in Delegates, shall see that Invitations to Assembly functions are procured for the Delegates, and that the Members of Assembly shall do everything in their power to make the visits of all the Delegates pleasant and profitable.

**(e) NON-MEMBERS**

**39. Guest Speakers.** Where any Committee wishes that one of its members or staff members, not being a Member of Assembly, should have an opportunity of addressing the Assembly in connection with the discussion of its Report, the Convener shall, before the commencement of the debate, (i) obtain the permission of the Convener of the Business Committee, and (ii) inform the Moderator. Where any Committee wishes that a person, not being a Member of Assembly or member or staff member of that Committee, should address the Assembly, the Convener shall submit the name of such person for approval to the Assembly Arrangements Committee before the Assembly opens, or to the Business Committee during the sittings of the Assembly, and the decision of the Assembly Arrangements Committee or Business Committee shall be final, unless the Assembly themselves shall resolve in terms of SO 129 hereof to dispense with the observance of Standing Orders in respect of that particular matter.

**40. Conference Sessions.** The Assembly Arrangements Committee, or the Business Committee, in consultation with other Councils and Committees as appropriate may invite the General Assembly to meet in conference sessions and arrange for guest speakers to address such sessions. Councils and Committees shall also be free to invite guests, whom they consider to have a particular interest in the matter under discussion, to participate in the debate. When the General Assembly is meeting in conference no resolutions shall be framed or decisions taken. Expert speakers invited to address the conference shall be allowed a maximum time of fifteen minutes. All other speeches shall be limited to five minutes.

## IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OVERTURES

**(a) REPORTS**

**41. Transmission.** Reports of all Committees reporting to the Assembly shall be transmitted

to the Clerks of Assembly not later than the first Monday after the third Tuesday in February each year provided that, by arrangement with the Clerk of Assembly, a Statement and Proposed Deliverance on the Budget of the Church, report on Congregational Statistics as reported by Kirk Sessions through Presbyteries and report on Statistics of Ministry may be submitted at a later date, but in time to be printed and forwarded with the Reports. All Reports shall be accompanied by the Deliverance to be proposed to the Assembly, and when the Proposed Deliverance exceeds two sections each section shall be numbered consecutively.

**42. Printing.** It shall be the duty of the Clerks to arrange for all such Reports and Proposed Deliverances to be printed in the authorised form, to be stitched together, paged, and for a copy to be forwarded to each Member of Assembly at least one week before the day of meeting. All Reports so distributed shall be held as read. Each Committee shall immediately after the rising of the Assembly furnish the publisher of the Reports with the number required for circulation.

**43. Oral Reports and Reports of Sub-Committees.** Oral Reports shall not be received, and no Sub-Committee shall give any Report to the Assembly.

**44. In Retentis.** Reports shall not be engrossed in the Minutes, but two copies of each printed Report certified by one of the Clerks as being that given to the Assembly, shall be kept in retentis; and the Reports thus collected shall be bound up in volume to be preserved among the other Records of the Assembly.

**45. Questions on Reports.** After the Deliverance on the Report of any Committee has been moved and seconded the Assembly, before dealing with any other motions or amendments thereon, shall have opportunity for asking questions on the Report, this being without prejudice to the right of Members to put questions, with the leave of the Assembly, at any subsequent stage.

**46. Questions requiring Notice.** It shall be in order to ask questions of the Convener regarding any matter in the care of the Committee to which no reference is made in the Report but in such cases timeous notice shall be given to the Convener.

**47. Deliverance.** The final Deliverance of the Assembly upon the Report of any Committee shall follow immediately after the consideration of that Report, except in the event of a special reason for the contrary having been approved by the Assembly and recorded in the Minutes.

**48. Late Reports.** Reports of Committees appointed during the sittings of Assembly, if they propose any motion not already printed, shall be put into the hands of the Clerks of Assembly at least one day prior to their being considered, and printed in the "Assembly Papers".

#### (b) OVERTURES

**49. Transmissions.** All Overtures from Presbyteries passed on or before 24 April shall be sent to the Clerks of Assembly not later than that date in each year. Overtures from Commissioners shall be lodged with the Clerks not later than noon on the third last day of the meeting of the Assembly, unless the Assembly for special reason decide otherwise.

**50. Printing.** The Clerks shall arrange for the printing of Overtures, at the expense of those promoting them and for their circulation to Commissioners, either with the papers for Cases or in the "Assembly Papers".

**51. Form.** Overtures should contain a brief statement of the matter to be brought before the Assembly together with a Proposed Deliverance, of which the first section shall be "The General Assembly receive the Overture".

**52. When Taken.** Overtures relating to matters under the care of the Committees of the Church whose reports are on the Agenda for one of the first two days of the Assembly shall be assigned by the Assembly Arrangements Committee (unless the Committee on Overtures and Cases decides

not to transmit) to the place in the discussion at which they shall be introduced to the Assembly. In other cases this shall be done by the Business Committee. When the Proposed Deliverance of an Overture is capable of being treated as a counter-motion or amendment to the Proposed Deliverance of a Committee, or as a new section of such Proposed Deliverance, it shall be so treated.

**53. Grouping.** Overtures on the same or cognate subjects shall be grouped by the Assembly Arrangements Committee or Business Committee of the Assembly and only one speaker shall be heard introducing each group.

**54. Introduction.** An Overture from a Presbytery may be introduced by any member of that Presbytery, specially appointed for the purpose, at the bar; or by any one of its Commissioners to the Assembly in his or her place as a Commissioner.

#### (c) GENERAL

**55. Matters Relating to Stipend.** It shall not be competent for the Assembly, without due notice of motion in the hands of Commissioners in print and in proper form (for example as a Proposed Deliverance, Notice of Motion or Crave of a Petition), to debate any proposal which might impact directly on or which might bring about binding changes to the terms and conditions of ministers which relate to stipend or stipend scales.

**56. New or Additional Expenditure.** Any proposal which involves new or additional expenditure must, together with an estimate of such expenditure, be in the hands of Commissioners in print and in proper form (for example, as a Proposed Deliverance, Notice of Motion, or Crave of a Petition), provided that:

(a) if it relates to the income disposition proposed within Co-ordinated Budget for the next calendar year and if the proposal is not submitted in the form of an amendment to the total of the said Budget, it shall provide for and specify the reduction or reductions to be made in other expenditure contained within the said Budget; and



(b) if it involves continuing or recurring expenditure which, if approved, would require to be incorporated in future Co-ordinated and Rolling Budgets, it shall provide for the matter to be remitted in the first instance to the Council of Assembly for consideration and report to the next General Assembly.

**57. Declaratory or Interim Act.** The draft of any proposed Declaratory or Interim Act, as also the draft of any Overture which it is proposed to transmit to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act (other than any Overture printed and circulated in the volume of Reports), shall be printed and laid on the table of the Assembly and circulated among the Members at least one day before a Motion for the passing of such Declaratory or Interim Act, or for the transmission of such Overture to Presbyteries, is made in the Assembly.

## V. CONDUCT OF CASES

**58. Commission of Assembly.** The rules of procedure for the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly shall be as set out in Schedule 2 to the Appeals Act (Act II 2013). Standing Orders 59 – 61 apply where a matter is being brought before the Commission of Assembly in terms of those powers of the Commission of Assembly not being exercised by the Appeals Committee, or before the General Assembly, being a petition, a reference or an appeal on a matter of doctrine. In Standing Orders 59 - 61 references to the General Assembly shall be taken to refer where appropriate to the Commission of Assembly and all references shall be so construed *mutatis mutandis*.

### (a) LODGING OF PAPERS

**59. Appeal; Dissent and Complaint; Petition.** The papers in all cases intended to be brought before the Assembly, whether Appeals or Dissents and Complaints against the judgement of inferior courts, or Petitions, should be lodged with the Clerks of Assembly not later than 24 April, and must be lodged not less than

fourteen days before the opening session of Assembly; except in the case of judgements pronounced within sixteen days of the meeting of Assembly, in which case they shall be lodged within forty-eight hours of the judgement being pronounced.

**60. (a). Reference.** In the case of Reference of a matter from an inferior court for the judgement of the Assembly the same limits as to time for lodging of papers in the case shall apply as in SO 59.

**(b). Reference of Matter Previously Considered.** Where the matter of a Reference has previously been under consideration of the Assembly, the Reference shall state the date when the matter was previously before the Assembly and shall narrate the Assembly's Deliverance thereon.

**61. Answers.** It shall be competent for all parties claiming an interest in the subject matter of an Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition to lodge Answers thereto complying with the requirements of this SO 61. Answers may be lodged any time after the Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition is received by the Clerks, but not later than seven days before the opening meeting of Assembly. Answers shall be in the form of articulate numbered Answers to the narrative contained in the Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition, indicating in particular matters of fact that are admitted and denied, and shall set forth a concise statement of the Respondent's case, together with a crave specifying the action the Assembly are invited to take thereanent.

### (b) PRINTING OF PAPERS

**62. Printing.** It shall be the duty of the Clerks on receiving papers that are to come before the Assembly in connection with cases to arrange to have these printed in authorised form, stitched together and paged.

**63. In Private.** Papers relating to business dealt with by Presbyteries in private, or which the Committee on Overtures and Cases (SOs 70 - 71) consider should be taken in private, shall be printed separately and may be dealt with by the Assembly in private.

**64. Cost of Printing.** In cases of discipline brought before the Assembly by the Judicial Commission, by Reference from a Presbytery, or by complaint by a minority of the Court, the expense of printing shall be borne by the Assembly Arrangements Committee; in other circumstances by the Complainer or Appellant. In all other cases the expenses of printing in sufficient numbers for the use of Commissioners shall be borne by the party having interest in the same or desiring a Deliverance from the Assembly.

**65. In Retentis.** Two copies of every printed paper shall be kept by the Clerks of Assembly to be bound up and retained among the Records of Assembly.

**(c) CIRCULATION OF PAPERS**

**66. Date of Dispatch.** A copy of all papers transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly not later than 24 April shall be forwarded by them to each Member of Assembly at least one week before the opening day of the Assembly.

**67. In Private.** The Clerks of Assembly shall not issue in advance to Members the papers in cases which they think require to be conducted in private, until specially instructed by the Assembly so to do; but shall report such cases to the Convener of the Business Committee, for the information of that Committee, immediately after its appointment.

**(d) INTIMATION TO PARTIES**

**68. Appeal; Dissent and Complaint.** In all cases coming before the Assembly by Appeal or Dissent and Complaint it shall be the duty of the Clerks of Assembly to inform the parties on both sides as soon as possible of the time at which such case is likely to be taken by the Assembly. Such intimation shall, unless in a specific case the Assembly determine otherwise, be regarded as sufficient notice.

The Clerks shall further be bound, on application made to them for the purpose, to supply six copies of all prints made in pursuance of the foregoing Orders to the opposite party or parties in any case, or to his or their duly accredited Agents.

**69. Petition.** In every Petition it shall be the duty of the Petitioner to make such intimation of the Petition as may be necessary having regard to the nature of the Petition. Such intimation shall be made not more than seven days later than the time when the Petition is lodged with the Clerks of Assembly as provided in SO 59 above; and along with the Petition there shall be lodged a certificate signed by the Petitioner or his or her Agent setting forth the names of the parties to whom such intimation has been made or is to be made. The Assembly may refuse to dispose of any Petition if in their opinion sufficient intimation thereof has not been made.

**(e) TRANSMISSION TO ASSEMBLY**

**70. Committee on Overtures and Cases.** All papers lodged with the Clerks in cases of every sort in terms of the foregoing Orders shall be laid by them before the Committee on Overtures and Cases, which shall consider the same and report to the Assembly.

**71. Decision not to Transmit.** If the Committee on Overtures and Cases shall decide not to transmit to the Assembly any papers in cases duly lodged with the Clerks of Assembly it shall report the same to the Assembly at their first Session, or at the Session next after such decision, with its reasons for not transmitting the papers, and parties shall be entitled to be heard thereon at the bar of the Assembly. Intimation of a decision not to transmit papers shall be made to the parties concerned as soon as possible, and in time to allow of their being represented at the bar when the decision not to transmit is reported to the Assembly.

**72. In Private.** The Business Committee shall, in its first Report, specify any case which in its judgement requires to be conducted in private, and any case which does not appear to it to be of that character although the Clerks of Assembly may have reported it as such. The Assembly shall thereupon determine by a special Deliverance, at what stage in the proceedings the papers in such a case shall be issued to the Commissioners. In every case which the Assembly appoint to be conducted

in private the instruction to issue the papers shall be accompanied by a special exhortation to the Commissioners to keep them private.

**73. Proposed Legislation.** All Overtures from Presbyteries or from Commissioners which propose the introduction of new or the amendment of existing Acts (or Regulations) shall contain the precise terms of the legislation which they propose; and the Committee on Overtures and Cases shall not transmit to the Assembly any Overture which is deficient in this respect, provided always that the Clerks and Procurator shall be available to assist with the framing of such proposals

**(f) HEARING OF CASES**

**74. Announcement.** Before parties are heard in any contentious case the Clerk shall read the following announcement, viz – “The Commissioners are reminded that justice requires that all the pleadings at the bar should be heard by all those who vote in this case, and that their judgement should be made solely on the basis of the pleadings.” Immediately before a vote is taken in such a case, the Clerk shall read the following further announcement, viz – “The Commissioners are reminded that only those who have heard all the pleadings at the bar are entitled to vote in this case.”

**75. Appeal; Complaint; One Appellant.** In cases brought before the Assembly by Appeal, where there is only one appellant (or one set of appellants concurring in the same reasons of Appeal) and only one respondent (or one set of respondents concurring in the same answers to the reasons of Appeal) the case for the appellant (or set of appellants) shall be stated by him or herself or by his or her counsel, who at the same time shall submit such argument upon the case as he or she shall think fit. The party or counsel so stating the Appeal shall be followed by the respondent or his or her counsel who likewise shall submit such arguments upon the case as he or she shall think fit. At the close of the statement for the respondent the appellant shall be entitled to be again heard, and the respondent shall

also be entitled to be heard in answer to the second speech for the appellant and if, in his or her final answer, the respondent shall state any fact or submit any argument not adverted to in his or her answer to the opening statement for the appellant, the appellant shall be entitled to a reply upon the new matter introduced in the final answer for the respondent. With the exception of this right of reply, so limited, more than two speeches shall not be allowed to any party at the bar.

**76. Appeal; Complaint; More than one Appellant.** In such cases as those referred to in SO 75 if there is more than one appellant (or set of appellants) insisting on the Appeal, or more than one respondent (or set of respondents) supporting the judgement appealed against, (a) on different grounds, or (b) in separate reasons or answers, each appellant shall be entitled to open and state his separate case, and each respondent shall be entitled to make his or her separate answer, and the debate shall be closed with a reply for the several appellants; provided always that it shall be competent to the parties, with consent of the Assembly to make any arrangement for conducting the debate other than herein prescribed, if it shall have the effect of limiting, further than is herein done, the number of speeches to be made from the bar.

**77. Appeal; Complaint; Who may appear.** Any Member of an inferior court whose judgement is brought under review of the Assembly may appear at the bar in support of the judgement; but, when Commissioners have been specially appointed by the inferior court to support its judgement, the Assembly shall not hear any Member of such court other than the Commissioners so appointed, unless any Member not so appointed but wishing to be heard can show a separate and peculiar interest to support the judgement; and in all such cases it shall be competent to the Assembly to limit the number of Members of an inferior court who shall be heard in support of the judgement under review.

**78. Dissents and Complaints.** In SOs 75 to 77, "Appeal" includes "Dissents and Complaints" and "Appellant" includes "Complainer".

**79. Petition.** In cases brought before the Assembly as the court of first instance by Petition, the party promoting the application shall be entitled to be heard in support of the same; and the Assembly shall also hear an answer from any party at the bar claiming to be heard whom it shall consider to be a proper respondent, and the debate at the bar shall be closed with a reply from the person promoting the application.

**80. Reference.** In cases brought before the Assembly by reference from a Presbytery the reference shall be stated to the Assembly by a Member of the referring court, specially appointed for the purpose, at the bar if not a Commissioner, or in his or her place as a Commissioner if a Commissioner from the Presbytery. The Assembly shall thereafter hear the parties in the case referred in such order as the nature of the case may seem to require, keeping in view the regulations in SOs 74 to 79.

**81. Readjustment Cases.** In cases arising from Act VII, 2003, when a request for determination follows a decision of the Partnership Development Committee not to concur in the judgement of a Presbytery, the Convener, or other member of the said Committee, shall be heard at the bar if not a Commissioner, or in his or her place as a Commissioner if a Commissioner, immediately after the request for determination has been stated. After the initial statement and the response by the said Committee when applicable, the General Assembly shall hear at the bar such parties in the case as are not represented by Commissioners, in such order as the nature of the case may seem to require.

## VI. ORDER OF DEBATE

### (a) ORDER OF THE DAY

**82.** When the Assembly have resolved that a case or other piece of business shall be taken up at a certain hour mentioned in the

Order of Business, such case or other piece of business shall be taken not later than the hour fixed and the business before the Assembly, if not finished at the hour named, shall be adjourned, provided that, in the case of an Order of the Day following the Report of the Church and Society Council, such unfinished business shall not be taken up. If, in the opinion of the Moderator, it would be in accordance with the general convenience of the Assembly, the Moderator may allow the transaction of the business then actually under discussion to continue for a period of not more than fifteen minutes beyond the specified time, but no fresh business shall be commenced.

### (b) MOTIONS

#### **83. TIME-BOUND**

On the motion of the Business Committee or moved as part of the deliverance of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, the General Assembly may resolve that the Report and draft Deliverance relating to a particular Council or Committee's Report be taken in a time-bound process of debate and decision. Such a motion shall be moved at least 24 hours in advance of the presentation of the Report concerned.

Having so resolved the General Assembly shall operate the following timetable:-

a) Start times shall be allotted to specified Sections of the Report and to the related sections of the draft Deliverance. Discussion of any Section of the Report shall not commence later than its allotted start time, but may begin earlier if debate of the previous Section has been completed.

b) If discussion and debate of a particular Section of the Report has not been concluded within its allotted time, then further consideration of associated sections of the draft Deliverance shall be sisted and the General Assembly shall take up the next Section of the Report.

c) If, at the close of the debate on the last Section of the Report, there is still time

before the Order of the Day requires to be implemented or business is due to conclude, then the General Assembly shall return for further debate of any outstanding sections of the draft Deliverance remaining relative to each Section of the Report

d) If the Order of the Day or anticipated close of business is imminent, then any outstanding sections of the draft Deliverance shall be voted upon without debate, except that other motions printed in the Daily Papers shall also be taken, without debate, the Convener simply having the right to indicate whether or not the Council or Committee is willing to accept the motion.

e) Where motions printed in the Daily Papers do not relate directly to the Report and draft Deliverance proposed by the Council or Committee, they will be taken either at the end of the appropriate Section, if there is time available according to the allotted timetable, or at the end of the appropriate Section when the procedure leading to the Order of the Day (or close of business) is being implemented.

**84. Right to Move.** Any Commissioner to the Assembly may make a motion upon any matter coming regularly before the Assembly; and on rising to do so he or she shall read the terms of the motion having wherever possible handed the same in writing on the form provided to the Assembly Office or other point of collection intimated to the General Assembly. It shall be in order to move a motion regarding any matter in the care of a Committee to which no reference is made in the Report of that Committee, provided that reasonable notice has been given in writing to the Convener before presentation of the Report. The mover of any counter-motion or amendment may reply to the discussion of his or her motion, immediately before the Convener closes the debate.

**85. Withdrawal.** When a motion has been duly seconded it shall not be competent to withdraw it, or to make any alteration upon it, without the permission of the Assembly.

**86. Priority.** The Deliverance on the Report of a Committee shall take precedence of any other motion on that subject.

**87. Committee Convener.** The Convener of a Committee when a Commissioner, on giving in the Report of that Committee, shall move the Deliverance proposed in terms of SO 41. A Convener, when not a Commissioner, shall be allowed to submit the Report of the Committee, and to give explanations in the subsequent discussion. In such a case the Principal Clerk, whom failing, the Depute Clerk, shall formally move the Deliverance. In all cases the Convener shall have the right of replying to the debate.

**88. Introducer of Overture.** The Introducer of an Overture, if a Commissioner, shall move the Deliverance; and if he or she is not a Commissioner the Principal Clerk, whom failing the Depute Clerk, shall formally move the Deliverance. The Introducer, whether a Commissioner or not, may answer questions or give explanations in the course of the debate and, if a Commissioner, may reply to, the discussion immediately before the relevant Convener closes the debate.

**89. Notice of Motion.** Any Commissioner may, during the sittings of the Assembly, give notice of Motion on any subject due to come regularly before the Assembly, other than a contentious case. Notices of Motion so given in shall be printed in the "Assembly Papers" not later than the day before that on which the business is to be taken. Such printed Notice of Motion shall confer no right of priority of moving same, the Moderator being the sole judge of the order in which Members are entitled to address the Assembly.

#### (c) THE DEBATE

**90. The Chair.** Every speaker shall address the Assembly through the Moderator, and the correct address is "Moderator".

**91. In Support.** When a motion or motions have been made and seconded, any Member (including a formal seconder in terms of SO 95) may take part in subsequent debate.

**92. Speeches.** (1) Except as provided in SOs 84 and 87, no Member may speak twice on the same question except in explanation, and then only by special permission of the Assembly. (2) Members shall make relevant declarations of interest where the topic of debate makes it appropriate to do so.

**93. Point of Order.** Any Member may rise to speak to a Point of Order. A speaker is not to be interrupted unless upon a call to order. When so interrupted he or she shall cease speaking, and shall resume his or her seat until the Point of Order is decided. The Member calling to order shall state the grounds for so doing; and the speaker who has been interrupted may briefly reply in explanation, to show that he or she is not out of order, but no other Member may speak to the Point of Order unless with the permission or at the request of the Moderator, with whom the decision of the point rests, though the Moderator may put the point to a vote of the Assembly.

**94.** There shall be no right of reply to a debate except as provided for by SOs 84 and 87.

**95. Limits.** All speeches shall be limited to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions:

- (i) COMMITTEES Convener giving in the Report of his or her Committee and moving thereon (seconding to be formal)
  - 20 minutes
  - Convener responding to a question
    - 4 minutes
  - Movers of Amendments or Counter-Motions (seconding to be formal)
    - 10 minutes
- (ii) OVERTURES Introducing an Overture and when the Introducer is a Commissioner, moving thereon
  - 10 minutes
  - Mover of other Motions in relation to Overture (seconding to be formal)
    - 10 minutes
- (iii) PETITIONS Speeches of Petitioners
  - 10 minutes

**96. No Time Limit.** The time limits shall apply, except in the following cases:

- (a) when the Assembly are debating specific proposals for change under Barrier Act procedure;
- (b) when the Assembly are exercising judicial functions;
- (c) in Petitions when, for special reasons, the Committee on Overtures and Cases reports that the circumstances demand an extension, and when the General Assembly adopt that opinion;
- (d) in any other matter when the Assembly Arrangements Committee (in respect of the Order of Business for the first two days) or the Business Committee (in respect of the Order of Business for the subsequent days) declares that, in its opinion, such matter is of exceptional importance, and when the Assembly adopt that opinion.

**(d) DEALING WITH MOTIONS**

**97. Character of Motions.** Motions shall be considered as belonging to one of the following categories, and shall be dealt with as prescribed, viz:

1. The original Motion.
2. Counter-Motions – being Motions contradictory or negative of the original Motion or of a substantial part of the original Motion.
3. Amendments being Motions not substantially contradictory of the original Motion or Counter-Motion, but for making deletions, alterations, or additions thereto without defeating its main object.
4. Amendments of amendments already moved and seconded.

**98. Moderator to Judge.** The Moderator shall be judge of the category to which any Motions shall be considered to belong, and the ruling of the Moderator shall be final.

**99. Grouping of Amendments.** When to any Proposed Deliverance there has been given notice of amendments which differ from each other only slightly in their general tenor, the Moderator shall decide whether or not to

permit more than one of such amendments to be moved.

**100. Voting on Amendments.** When an amendment (Category 3) has been proposed it shall be disposed of by the Assembly before any other counter-motion or amendment is proposed. However, it shall be in order for an amendment of an amendment (Category 4) to be proposed, seconded and debated, after which the Moderator shall take a vote "For" or "Against". When all such Category 4 motions have been so disposed of, the Assembly shall complete its consideration of the original amendment (Category 3) and the Moderator shall take a vote "For" or "Against" the original amendment amended or unamended as the case may be. For the avoidance of doubt, it is affirmed that the order of debate for Category 3 and Category 4 motions shall be the same except as herein provided and that the provisions of SO 87 shall apply to both.

**101. Voting on Motions.** After all amendments, if any, have been disposed of, the Moderator shall take a vote between all Motions in Categories (1) and (2), and in doing so shall adopt the following procedure. A vote shall be taken in one of the methods provided below, between all the Motions in the order in which they were made, beginning at the first. Each Commissioner may vote for one Motion only. If, on the numbers being announced, one Motion has obtained a clear majority of votes, all the other Motions shall fall; but if no Motion has obtained a clear majority, the Motion having the smallest number of votes shall be struck off and a vote taken between the remaining Motions; and the Assembly may determine.

**102. Voting for Appointments.** In the case of voting for appointments to vacant offices in the Church, where there are more than two nominations the Assembly shall vote separately on all the names proposed, and, unless there be a majority in favour of one over all the others combined, the one having the lowest number shall be dropped, and the Assembly shall again vote on those that remain.

**103. Deliberative Vote.** The Moderator or Acting Moderator in the Chair shall have no Deliberative Vote.

**104. Casting Vote.** If in any division there shall be an equality of votes for two proposals before the Assembly, the Moderator shall have power to give a deciding vote; and if in the course of the voting as provided in SOs 100 and 101 above, there should be an equality of votes for the two Motions having fewest votes, the Moderator shall have power to give a deciding vote and the Motion for which the Moderator shall vote shall be retained for the purpose of the next vote of the Assembly.

**(e) TAKING THE VOTE**

**105.** The Moderator may, in any circumstances and at his or her sole discretion, ascertain the mind of the Assembly by asking the Commissioners to stand in their places, and shall intimate to the Assembly on which side there is in his or her opinion a majority. Unless the opinion of the Moderator so intimated is at once challenged, it shall become the decision of the Assembly. If any Commissioner challenges the opinion of the Moderator, the Assembly shall proceed to take an electronic vote using a system approved by the Assembly Arrangements Committee. Alternatively, it shall be open to the Moderator, again at his or her sole discretion and in any circumstances, to ascertain the mind of the Assembly by recourse to the use of electronic voting. After all votes have been counted the Moderator shall intimate the result of the voting which will become the decision of the Assembly. In no circumstances shall a second vote be taken on a matter which has already been the subject of a vote by electronic voting. The Business Committee shall ensure that Commissioners are familiar with the method of electronic voting and will appoint tellers to assist Commissioners, where necessary, with the process of casting votes and to assist the Assembly with the process of voting by paper ballot which shall be a competent alternative to the taking of a vote by electronic means in the event of a failure in the electronic voting system.

(f) **DISSENTS**

**106. Entering.** Any Commissioner dissatisfied with a judgement of the Assembly, which has not been unanimous, has the right to enter his or her dissent against it; but no dissent can be given in until the matter to which it refers has, for that session, been disposed of, the Minute adjusted, and the Assembly is ready to proceed to other business.

**107. Adhering.** When a dissent has been entered, it is in order for any other Commissioner present when that judgement was pronounced to adhere to such dissent. No other's adherence may be entered.

**108. Reasons.** A person dissenting may do so with or without giving in reasons of dissent. If he or she dissent for reasons given in at the time, or to be afterwards given in, such reasons shall, if received by the Assembly as proper and relevant, and provided they are given in before the close of the next session (or, when made on the last day of the Assembly, before the close of the same session), be recorded in the Minutes.

**109. Answers.** If the Assembly appoint a Committee to prepare answers to reasons of dissent, the Report of the Committee shall, except on the last day of the Assembly, be printed in the "Assembly Papers"; and, as approved by the Assembly, shall be printed in the Minutes, if the reasons of dissent have been so printed.

**110. Record of Dissents.** Reasons of dissent and answers thereto when not entered in the Minutes, shall be kept in a separate Record of Dissents.

**VII. COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP**

(a) **COMMITTEES**

**111. Committees.** The Committees of the General Assembly shall be those listed in SO 113 together with such ad hoc Committees as the General Assembly may appoint from time to time. Clerical services for the ad hoc Committees shall normally be provided by the staff of the Principal Clerk's Department.

**112. Quorum.** Save for the Judicial Proceedings Panel and those bodies where provision is already made for a quorum, the quorum of Standing Committees of the General Assembly listed in SO 113 shall be three. When a meeting ceases to be quorate, business must be suspended. The quorum shall apply also to sub-committees and other bodies constituted from the relevant Standing Committees where such sub-committees and other bodies have decision-making powers, but not otherwise.

**113. Membership.** The Standing Committees of the General Assembly shall have membership as follows, General Assembly appointments being made on the nomination of the Nomination Committee except where otherwise stated.

**1. Council of Assembly.....27**  
Convener, Vice-Convener, and 10 members appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom shall have appropriate knowledge and experience of Christian stewardship, the Secretary of the Council of Assembly, the Principal Clerk, the General Treasurer and the Solicitor of the Church as members ex officio (non-voting); the Conveners and Council Secretaries (Secretaries to be non-voting) of the Church and Society, Ministries, Mission and Discipleship, Social Care and World Mission Councils and the Convener of the Panel on Review and Reform.

**2. Church and Society Council.....32**  
Convener, 2 Vice-Conveners, 27 members appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom will also be appointed to the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and one member appointed from and by the Social Care Council and the Guild. The Nomination Committee will ensure that the Council membership contains at least 5 individuals with specific expertise in each of the areas of Education, Societal/ Political, Science and Technology and Social/ Ethical. This number may include the Convener and Vice-Conveners of the Council.

**3. Ministries Council.....47**  
Convener, 4 Vice-Conveners, 38 members



appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom will also be appointed to the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and 1 member appointed from and by the General Trustees, the Housing and Loan Fund, the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces and the Diaconate Council. For the avoidance of doubt where a representative of these other bodies is a member of staff, they will have no right to vote.

**4. Ministries Appeal Panel.....5**  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 3 members appointed by the General Assembly. At least 1 member shall be legally qualified, at least 1 shall be a minister and at least 1 shall be an elder.

**5. Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund...Up to 11**  
 Up to 3 ministers and 1 member appointed by the Ministries Council, who having served a term of 4 years shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second 4 year term;  
 Up to 4 appointed by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trustees, who having served a term of 4 years shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second 4 year term;  
 Up to 3 appointed by the Baird Trust, for a term of office determined by that Trust.  
 Any Trustee (other than one appointed by the Baird Trust) may serve for up to a further two four-year terms if elected also as Chairperson or Depute Chairperson.

**6. Committee on Chaplains to H M Forces .....18**  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 16 members appointed by the General Assembly. There are also 2 non-voting members: one representative from and appointed by each of the Ministries and the Church and Society Councils.

**7. Mission and Discipleship Council.....33**  
 Convener, 3 Vice-Conveners and 25 members appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom will also be appointed to the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the Head of Stewardship, 1 member appointed from and by the Guild and the Go For It Committee, and the Convener

or Vice-Convener of the Committee on Church Art and Architecture as that Committee shall determine. The Nomination Committee will ensure that the Council membership includes at least 3 individuals with specific expertise in each of the areas of Congregational Learning, Church Without Walls and Resourcing Worship.

**8. Committee on Church Art and Architecture.....18**  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 16 members appointed by the General Assembly. Notwithstanding SOs 114 & 118, members shall be appointed for a term not exceeding **eight years**. The Committee shall have the power to invite a representative of each of the following bodies to attend its meetings: the General Trustees, the Scottish Episcopal Church, the National Association of Decorative Fine Arts Societies and Historic Environment Scotland.

**9. Social Care Council.....31**  
 Convener, 2 Vice-Conveners and 28 members appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom will also be appointed to the Ecumenical Relations Committee.

**10. Assembly Arrangements Committee .....16**  
 Convener, Vice-Convener and 10 members appointed by the General Assembly, the Moderator, the Moderator Designate and the Clerks of Assembly, the Convener and Vice-Convener also to serve as Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the General Assembly's Business Committee.

**11. Central Services Committee.....13**  
 a) Convener, Vice-Convener (Human Resources), Vice-Convener (Property) and 6 members appointed by the General Assembly, together with, ex officii and non voting, the Secretary of the Council of Assembly, the Solicitor of the Church, the General Treasurer and the Head of Human Resources.

b) Appeal Group.....8  
 8 members appointed by the General Assembly with the Solicitor of the Church as Secretary. Members shall not include any former or current members of staff of any of the

Church's Employing Agencies (including the Social Care Council), nor any current Council or Committee member.

**12. Ecumenical Relation.....**12 plus optees  
a) 6 members appointed by the General Assembly, each to serve as a member of one of the 5 Councils of the Church and the Theological Forum.

b) Convener who is not a member of any of the other Councils and who will act as a personal support for the Ecumenical Officer (EO) and Vice-Convener, appointed by the General Assembly.

c) A representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland appointed by the Bishops' Conference and 1 representative from each of 3 churches drawn from among the member churches of ACTS and the Baptist Union of Scotland, each to serve for a period of 4 years.

d) The Committee shall co-opt Church of Scotland members elected to the central bodies of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE, formerly the Leuenberg Fellowship of Churches).

e) The General Secretary of ACTS shall be invited to attend as a corresponding member.

f) For the avoidance of doubt, while, for reasons of corporate governance, only Church of Scotland members of the Committee shall be entitled to vote, before any vote is taken the views of members representing other churches shall be ascertained.

**13. Legal Questions.....**16  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 10 members appointed by the General Assembly, the Clerks of Assembly, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church.

**14. Safeguarding.....**13  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 6 members appointed by the General Assembly, 1

representative (voting member) from and appointed by each of the Ministries, Church and Society, World Mission, Mission and Discipleship and Social Care Councils, the Solicitor of the Church, the National Adviser (Head of Safeguarding) as Secretary to the Committee, the Secretary of the Council of Assembly and up to 4 members co-opted by the Committee for their expertise. For the avoidance of doubt it is declared that only the following persons will be entitled to vote: Convener, Vice-Convener, the six Assembly appointed members and the five representatives from each of the Ministries, Church and Society, World Mission, Mission and Discipleship and Social Care Councils.

**15. World Mission Council.....**32  
Convener, 2 Vice-Conveners, 28 members appointed by the General Assembly, one of which will also be appointed to the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and 1 member appointed by the Presbytery of International Charges.

**16. Panel on Review and Reform.....**11  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 8 members appointed by the General Assembly, together with the Ecumenical Officer (non-voting).

**17. Nomination of Moderator.....**Up to 16  
Convener, up to 8 ministers and deacons and up to 7 elders elected by the immediately preceding General Assembly from among its commissioners.

**18. Judicial Commission**  
2 Conveners, 2 Vice-Conveners and a pool of 40 ministers, elders and deacons appointed by the General Assembly.

(The Clerks of Assembly are Clerks of the Judicial Commission though not members thereof.)

**19. General Trustees**  
Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.

**20. Nomination Committee.....**26  
Convener, Vice-Convener and 24 members appointed by the General Assembly. Notwithstanding SO 118, no member of the Committee, having served a term of 4 years, shall

be eligible for re-election until after a period of 4 years, except for special cause shown. The Convenership of the Committee shall be for 3 years.

**21. Church of Scotland Trust**

Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.

**22. Church of Scotland Investors Trust**

Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.

**23. Delegation of the General Assembly.....4**

The Clerks of Assembly, The Principal Clerk as Chairman, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church, *ex officio*s.

**24. Iona Community Board.....20**

Convener and 5 members appointed by the General Assembly;

6 members appointed by and from the Iona Community, 2 changing each year;

The Leader of the Iona Community;

1 member appointed by and from the Presbytery of Argyll.

In addition the Board will invite 6 member churches of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) to appoint a representative member to the Board, such members being eligible to serve for a maximum period of 4 years.

**25. Judicial Proceedings Panel**

A Panel of ministers, elders and deacons appointed by the General Assembly who are suitably experienced in the law and practice of the Church and whose number shall, in accordance with the Discipline of Ministry Act (Act III, 2001), section 1(1)(e), be determined, from time to time, by the Legal Questions Committee. Notwithstanding SOs 114 & 118, appointments shall be for three years with the option of further consecutive terms. In calculating how many Panel members may be appointed, no account shall be taken of any members whose current term has expired but who are deemed to remain as members of the

Panel by operation of the Discipline of Ministry Act (Act III, 2001), section 1(1)(f).

**26. Theological Forum.....13**

Convener, Vice-Convener, 10 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; together with one additional member appointed by the Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

**(b) MEMBERS**

**114. Period of Service.** All Members of each of the Standing Committees shall retire after serving for four years.

**115. Representatives.** Bodies entitled to appoint representatives shall be permitted to make changes in their representation for special reasons in any year.

**116. Non-attendance.** The name of a Member shall be removed from any Standing or Special Committee which has met three times or oftener between 1 June and 1 March unless he or she has attended one-third of the meetings held within that period. Attendance at meetings of Sub-Committees shall for this purpose be reckoned as equivalent to attendance at the meeting of the Committee itself.

**117. Replacement.** When a Minister, Elder, or Member of any Standing or Special Committee is unable to accept the appointment, or where from any cause vacancies occur in Committees during the year, that Committee, after consultation with the Convener of the Nomination Committee, may appoint a Member to take the place of the Member whose retirement has caused the vacancy. All such appointments, if for a longer period than one year, shall be reported for confirmation through the Nomination Committee to the General Assembly.

**118. Re-election.** A Member retiring from a Council or Committee by rotation, or having his or her name removed for non-attendance, shall not be eligible for re-election to that Council or Committee until the expiry of one year thereafter, unless the Assembly are satisfied, on the Report of the Nomination Committee, on information submitted to it by the Council or Committee concerned, that there are circumstances which make re-election desirable; but where more than one member is due to retire then not more than one-half of the retiring members be so re-elected. No Member shall normally serve for more than two consecutive terms of office. (If possible 20 per cent of the Assembly appointed members of Councils or Committees should be under the age of 35 at the time of their appointment). A Member appointed in the room of one deceased, resigned or removed, or of one appointed as Convener or Vice-Convener, shall serve for the remainder of the period for which the person was appointed whose place he or she takes, and on retirement shall be eligible for re-election if he or she has not served for more than two years.

A retiring Convener shall be eligible for re-election as an additional member of the Council or Committee concerned to serve for one year only immediately following tenure of office as Convener.

**119. Eligibility.** No person shall be a Member of more than three Councils or Committees at the same time. Appointments ex officio shall not be reckoned in this number. This rule shall not apply to those for whom the Nomination Committee is prepared to give special reason to the Assembly for their appointments to more than three Committees.

The Nomination Committee shall not nominate for Committees any of its own number except in special circumstances which must be stated to the Assembly.

**120. Secretaries and Deputies.** It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of each Council and Committee to attend the meetings thereof,

to provide information and advice as requested, and to provide a deputy for any meeting that he or she cannot attend. Members of staff shall not have the right to vote at any meeting.

**121. Expenses.** Expenses incurred by Members of Committee, consisting of travel charges and a sum for maintenance when required shall be defrayed.

#### (c) CONVENERS AND VICE-CONVENERS

**122. Appointment.** Conveners and Vice-Conveners of Councils and Committees shall be appointed by the Assembly. Conveners shall hold office for not more than four consecutive years (in the case of the Nomination Committee, three consecutive years) and Vice-Conveners shall hold office for not more than three consecutive years, unless the Assembly are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which make the reappointment of Conveners and Vice-Conveners desirable. The period of reappointment shall be for one year only. If at the time of their appointment they are already members of the Council or Committee another Member shall be appointed in their room for the remainder of the period of their original appointment.

**123. Replacement.** In the event of the death, resignation, or supervening incapacity of the Convener of any Council or Committee, the body concerned, after consultation with the Convener of the Nomination Committee, may appoint an Interim Convener. Such appointment shall be reported by the Committee to the General Assembly and the Assembly shall make such order as the situation may require.

#### (d) NOMINATION COMMITTEE

**124. List of Nominations.** The Nomination Committee shall include in its Report its list of nominations to be submitted to the Assembly. The Report, so prepared, shall be included in the Volume of Reports issued to Members of Assembly.

**125. Nomination of Conveners.** When the Convener or Vice-Convener of a Committee or

Council is completing his or her term of office the Council or Committee shall be invited by the Convener of the Nomination Committee to suggest the name of one who may be appointed in succession. The Nomination Committee shall satisfy itself that an open and transparent process has been followed in identifying the Convener or Vice-Convener so suggested.

**126. Conveners to Attend Meeting.** Conveners of Standing Committees shall be entitled to be present at meetings of the Nomination Committee when the composition of their respective Committees is under consideration, but not to vote.

**127. Amendment to Report.** No amendment to the Report of the Nomination Committee shall be in order of which due notice has not been given.

All notices of proposed amendments on the Report, including such as propose the omission or insertion of any name or names, or the addition of a name or names where the full number eligible has not been nominated by the Committee, must be given in to the Clerks before midday on the third day prior to the closing of the Assembly, signed by the Member or Members giving them.

All such notices of proposed amendment shall, with the names of those signing them, be printed in the "Assembly Papers" issued on the second day prior to the closing of the General Assembly, and on the morning of the day the Report is to be called for.

## VIII. ALTERATION AND SUSPENSION

**128. Alteration.** Any proposal for alteration of Standing Orders shall be either (a) on the Report of the Legal Questions Committee and printed in the volume of Reports or (b) by Overture and the subject of at least one day's notice in the "Assembly Papers". This Standing Order shall not apply to SO 113 which may be amended by the Principal Clerk in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly.

**129. Suspension.** It shall always be competent for the Assembly, on the Motion of any Commissioner and on cause shown, summarily to dispense with the observance of the Standing Orders, or any part of them, in any particular case: provided that such Motion shall receive the support of not less than two-thirds of those voting on the question when put from the Chair, and that such suspension shall not contravene any Act of Assembly.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## FIRE PROCEDURE

### FIRE PROCEDURE

The following arrangements **MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO:**

**A. ON DISCOVERING A FIRE –**

Sound the Alarm by operating the nearest break-glass Call point. This will automatically call the Fire Brigade.

**B. ON HEARING THE ALARM –**

1. Evacuate the building by nearest available Exit route following the stewards' directions

Debating Chamber Level: Main doors down to QUADRANGLE

Gallery Level: 4 Exits on to LAWNMARKET

2. Do not use the Lift in the event of an emergency, due to the risk of power failure

3. Do not stop to collect belongings, *ie.* Coats, brief-cases, handbags, *etc.*

4. Exit doors must remain clear at all times. When exiting leave in an orderly fashion

5. ASSEMBLE –

a. OPPOSITE THE MAIN ENTRANCE, MOUND PLACE or

b. LAWNMARKET/JOHNSTON TERRACE, WHICHEVER IS NEARER

(Note: The above-mentioned arrangements relate to the Assembly Hall building. If present within New College when the College fire alarm sounds, leave the College by the nearest available exit. New College areas include the Cloakroom, Assembly Office, Stewards' Office, Martin Hall, Media Rooms and Commissioners' Box area (Rainy Hall).

**FIRST AID ROOM** – This room is off the “black and white” corridor of the Assembly Hall.

**REPORTS** – Commissioners are reminded that the Volume of Reports is available for downloading through the General Assembly App or from the Church of Scotland website. Printed copies of the Reports are only issued in advance to those Commissioners whose request was submitted along with their Presbytery Commission. A limited stock of the Volume of Reports will be held, for purchase, at the Cornerstone Bookshop.

**NOTICE TO SPEAKERS** – Speakers are asked to speak from one of the microphones situated round the Hall and in commissioners' galleries.

**TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES** – A bell will notify Speakers that they are approaching the time limit and are expected to finish their speeches within one minute.

**HEARING AIDS** – These should be switched to “T” for best results from the induction loop. BSL interpreters will cover each session of the General Assembly. Please advise the Principal Clerk's office if you would find this facility helpful so that a seat can be reserved for you in the appropriate area.

**COMMISSIONERS** – Are informed that the Ground Floor and the South and West Galleries of the Hall are solely appropriated for them. Only when these parts of the Hall are fully occupied may Commissioners sit elsewhere, as guided by the Stewards.

**LEAVE TO MEET DURING ASSEMBLY** – Applications from Church Courts or Assembly Committees for leave to meet during the Sittings of the General Assembly should be handed in to the Clerks' Office. There is a standing permission for Kirk Sessions to meet if no members are Commissioners.

**FILMING/PHOTOGRAPHY** – We draw to your attention that cameras are used to film and photograph the General Assembly throughout its meeting and that the footage may be streamed live on the Church of Scotland website and used in other media including Social Media. In addition the footage and live stills obtained may, at some future point, be broadcast on national or international television and/or be used in other publications. If you do not wish to be filmed/photographed in this way, you should sit out of range of the cameras in the corners against the back wall on the ground floor of the Assembly Hall, and not behind any of the microphones which are located around the Hall. If you are unsure where this is, please ask a steward.

**LOST PROPERTY SHOULD BE REPORTED OR HANDED IN TO THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE**