

## Reply to the Queen's Letter – General Assembly 2019

### TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

May it please Your Majesty We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects convened in General Assembly, have received with pleasure Your Majesty's gracious letter to us.

We greatly value Your Majesty's continuing pledge to maintain the historic rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh continue to be in our prayers.

The reappointment of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry as Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to our General Assembly has been much appreciated. His Grace has developed a warm relationship with the Church of Scotland and it is good to have him back in our company as a friend of the Kirk.

These are indeed challenging times for the Christian Church and it is good to know that Your Majesty continues to pray for us as we stretch towards being the Church which God is calling us to be. In these efforts we need to work with other denominations and we value Your Majesty's interest in these developing relationships.

We were pleased to hear that Your Majesty has welcomed our close partnership with the Church of England. Soon after the close of this Assembly we will be sharing with our brothers and sisters in the global prayer initiative "Thy Kingdom Come" and this along with other ties can only strengthen our common concern for the local church both north and south of the border.

It is good to know that Your Majesty is aware of our presence and work in Israel and Palestine. In what is a complex setting we continue to seek to be faithful to our calling to be the Church of the One who preached a gospel of reconciliation in what we now call the Holy Land.

In these days where so many are driven from their homes by war or hardship we renew our commitment to those who seek security and safety in Scotland. We continue to offer a warm welcome and practical support to our newest neighbours.

These are indeed uncertain times. We hope that the Church of Scotland can continue to express the unchanging love of God to all the people of this nation. We may change how we work but the core tasks remain the same.

Finally, we commend to the unfailing grace and protection of Almighty God, Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and as we begin our deliberations we pray that God will continue to bestow favour upon Your Majesty, that you may long reign over us.

Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal servants.

THE MINISTERS, ELDERS AND DEACONS OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CONVENED IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Signed in our name, in our presence and at our appointment by the Right Reverend Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly on this 20th day of May 2019.