



**INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2024**

<b>NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY:</b> Legal Questions Committee	
<b>CONVENER/CHAIR:</b>	Rev Dr Marjory MacLean
<b>VICE-CONVENER(S):</b>	Rev Alan Reid
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	The Principal Clerk
<b>REMIT:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise on legal questions, whether of Church or civil law, referred to it by the General Assembly, by the Principal Clerk or by any agency of the General Assembly;</li> <li>• To assist in formulating responses to consultations opened by the Scottish and UK Governments and other bodies;</li> <li>• To provide the legislative drafting service for agencies of the General Assembly;</li> <li>• To advise on reform to Church law in terms of practice and procedure;</li> <li>• To report to the General Assembly on proposed amendments to Standing Orders;</li> <li>• To inspect annually records of Agencies of the General Assembly; and</li> <li>• To inspect annually records of Presbyteries.</li> </ul>	
<b>SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME:</b>	
<p>Most members of the Committee are very experienced in the governance of the Church (e.g. as experienced ministers, former senior members of other Assembly agencies, Presbytery Clerks or the like). Many are qualified, practising or retired civilian lawyers. A few belong to both categories.</p>	
<b>EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:</b>	
<p>Normally members will be required to read about 30-40 pages of materials, including discussion-papers, provided one to two weeks before each meeting. They will be expected to contribute to the discussion from their own expertise in either civil law or Church law (and normally it is not expected that anyone will have expertise in both).</p>	



**MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:**

**Include confirmation of the number of vacancies to be filled**

**NB: a completed Nomination Form must be submitted by all proposed nominees including anyone wishing to be put forward for proposed re-appointment**

Convener, Vice-Convener and 10 members appointed by the General Assembly for terms of four years; and the Clerks of Assembly, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church as members *ex officio*.

It is anticipated that there may be three membership vacancies to be filled with a start date of June 2024.

**FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:**

**include mention of any particular day(s) of the week when meetings would fall and whether meetings will be attended online and/or in person**

5 or 6 half-day meetings per year, held on a week-day, via Microsoft Teams, or in person at 121 George Street, Edinburgh.

**DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:**

**include frequency, timings, venue and any particular day(s) of the week when meetings would fall**

Small groups drawn from the Committee's membership may tackle particular technical issues for a few months within any annual cycle and sometimes these groups will embark upon an extended period of work lasting for more than one calendar year. Currently the Committee has several sub-groups dealing with remits from previous General Assemblies, for example, one working on Team Ministry and another looking at a review of the Complaints Process, each convened by a member of the Committee.

**FURTHER DETAILS:**

**Include any useful web links**