

DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 2017

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly and thank it for its work.
2. Continue the appointment of the Delegation with the same powers as hitherto - the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly to be Chairman, the Depute Clerk of the General Assembly to be Vice-Chairman and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.
3. Pass an Act amending the Congregational Constitutions Act (Act XIX 1964) as set out in Appendix A.

REPORT

The Delegation has to report that during 2016 it granted, in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the General Assembly, 7 additional Model Deeds of Constitution.

The present amended Model Deed of Constitution was approved and adopted by the General Assembly on 21 May 1994 for issue to each congregation whose temporal affairs were then administered by a Congregational Board under the Model Deed and for granting to each congregation thereafter adopting it. Some amendments to it have over the years been approved to take account of changes such as those required by charity legislation.

The General Assembly of 2003 also permitted congregations to adopt, as an alternative to the Model Deed of Constitution, the Unitary Constitution either by Resolution of the congregation or by Basis of Adjustment. 56 congregations adopted the Unitary Constitution during 2016 compared to 58 in 2015.

The General Assembly of 2016 instructed that from 1 January 2017 the only form of constitution which

congregations may adopt and which may be granted by the Delegation should be the Unitary Constitution, and urged those congregations constituted in terms of the Model Deed and other forms of constitution to adopt the Unitary Constitution. The Delegation once again expresses the hope that those congregations who have not yet reviewed their constitution will do so in the course of this year.

As a result of the decision to discontinue the issue of the Model Deed, Sections 1 – 5 of the Congregational Constitutions Act, Act XIX 1964, no longer apply and accordingly the Delegation of Assembly proposes the repeal of these Sections.

An amending Act is annexed at Appendix A.

In the name and on behalf of the Delegation

JOHN P CHALMERS, *Chairman*
MARY E MACLEOD, *Secretary*

APPENDIX A**[] ACT AMENDING THE CONGREGATIONAL
CONSTITUTIONS ACT (ACT XIX 1964)***Edinburgh, [] May 2017, Session []*

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Congregational Constitutions Act (Act XIX 1964), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. *Delete sections 1 to 5.*