

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 21 MAY 2022

At Edinburgh, within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 21st day of May 2022 at 9.30 am.

SESSION 1

After worship conducted by James Robert Wallace, Baron Wallace of Tankerness, PC, QC, FRSE, Moderator of the General Assembly, the Commissioners elected as members of the General Assembly appointed to be held this day convened within the Assembly Hall and via video-conference, and the General Assembly was duly constituted with prayer.

The Roll of Commissioners was laid on the table.

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of a Moderator, when it was unanimously agreed that Rev Dr Iain Macleod Greenshields be appointed Moderator.

The appointment was intimated to Dr Greenshields who was welcomed by the Moderator, and, after the Prayer of Consecration, took the Chair.

Her Majesty's Commission to the Rt Hon Lord Hodge, appointing him to represent Her Royal Person in this Assembly, was then read with all due honour and respect and ordered to be recorded.

Her Majesty's Gracious Letter to the General Assembly was also read with all due honour and respect and ordered to be recorded.

His Grace, The Lord High Commissioner, addressed the General Assembly in a speech via video-conference, and the Moderator made suitable reply.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Moderator, James Robert Wallace, Baron Wallace of Tankerness, PC, QC, FRSE, for his distinguished and valued service during his year of office. The Retiring Moderator then addressed the General Assembly.

A Committee was appointed to prepare an answer to Her Majesty's Gracious Letter, viz:

Rev Nicola J Frail 64

Mr Gordon J MacFarlane 230

Mrs Aileen Scott 414

The Lord Wallace of Tankerness, *Convener*

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Standing Committee on Commissions, which was given in by the Principal Clerk who reported that all Commissions had been received and were in order.

The Principal Clerk reported that the Standing Orders of the General Assembly were laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

The General Assembly appointed a Procedure Committee to arrange the Order of Business, viz:

Rev Donald McCorkindale, *Convener*

Mrs Susan Pym, *Vice-Convener*

Moderator

Principal Clerk

Associate Principal Clerk

Depute Clerk

Procurator

Law Agent

The General Assembly agreed that the following should serve as the Panel of Tellers.

Rev Maggie Hunt 407

Ms Patricia Munro DCS 388

Rev Gregor McIntyre 167

Rev Alison Mehigan 477

Rev Sarah Ross 262

Ms Sheila Nicol 538

Mrs Lorraine Fraser 354

Mr Iain Scoular 309

Mr George Robertson 280

Mr Sam Scobie 120

The General Assembly appointed a Committee to prepare a Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons, viz:

The Lord Wallace of Tankerness

Principal Clerk

Depute Clerk

Intimation was given of the arrangements for the Celebration of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall and online via video-conference on Monday 23 May 2022 at 9.15 am.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.38am until 11.15am.

SESSION 2

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT PRINCIPAL CLERK

Section 19 of the Proposed Deliverance of the Report of the Assembly Trustees was moved, seconded and agreed:

19. Note the revised Job Description for the post of Principal Clerk as set out in recruitment pack <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/redirects/principal-clerk-recruitment-pack>, ratify the appointment of Rev Fiona Smith as Associate Principal Clerk from the 19th April and appoint her as Principal Clerk to the General Assembly with effect from 1st July 2022.

The General Assembly received the following Delegates who were introduced by Rev Alexander Horsburgh and Very Rev Dr Susan Brown:

The Presbyterian Church of Wales

Rev T Evan Morgan, Moderator

The United Reformed Church

Rev Clare Downing, Moderator

The United Reformed Church (National Synod of Scotland)

Rev Paul Whittle, Moderator

The Church of England

Rev Canon Dr Jeremy Morris, Ecumenical Adviser

The Baptist Union of Scotland

Rev Martin Hodson, General Director

The Methodist Church in Scotland

Rev Mark Slaney, Chair of the Methodist Church in Scotland; Rev James Patron Bell, Ecumenical Officer

Religious Society of Friends – General Meeting for Scotland

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk (*Saturday, Monday and Tuesday*); Mary Woodward (*Wednesday and Thursday*)

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Rt Rev Dr Keith Riglin, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

The United Free Church of Scotland

Rev Dr David Miller, Moderator

Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

The Salvation Army

Lt Col Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland (*Monday*); Major David Cavanagh, Assistant Secretary for Scotland (*Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday*)

The Congregational Federation in Scotland

Ms Margaret McGuinness, Secretary

Action of Churches Together in Scotland

Miss Carole Hope, Convener

Conference of European Churches

Dr Jørgen Skov Sørensen, General Secretary

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary

AFRICA

Presbyterian Church of East Africa

Rt Rev Patrick Thegu Mutahi, Moderator; Rev Edwin Kabathi, PCEA UK Outreach

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, General Synod

Rt Rev Biswick Chambulu K. Nkhoma, Moderator

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (Presbytery of Zimbabwe)

Rev Lydia Neshangwe, Moderator Elect

AMERICAS

Presbyterian Church in Canada

Rev Dr Daniel Scott, Moderator

Presbyterian Church of the United States of America

Dr Y Dianna Wright, Assistant Stated Clerk

ASIA

Pakistan: Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement

Mr Nasir Saeed, Director

National Council of Churches in Korea

Rev Dr Hong-Jung Lee, General Secretary, Rev Seung Min Shin, International Team Director; Mr Kiran Sharma, Principal

EUROPE

Tavloa Valdese, Italy

Rev Anne Zell

Evangelical Church of Westphalia

Dr Albrecht Phillips, Head of the Ecumenical Department

Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren

Rev Alexandra Jacobea

Hungarian Reformed Church

Rev Balázs Ódor, General Secretary

PACIFIC

Uniting Church in Australia

Rev Sharon Hollis, President

The reception of the Delegates being completed, the Moderator welcomed them on behalf of the General Assembly.

Rev Mark Slaney addressed the General Assembly in the name of the Ecumenical Delegates and was thanked by the Moderator.

Rev Dr Daniel Scott, Moderator, Presbyterian Church, Canada, addressed the General Assembly in the name of the Overseas Delegates and was thanked by the Moderator.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report and Supplementary Report of the Assembly Business Committee (including Overtures from Presbyteries wishing to unite and section 2 of the proposed deliverance of the Legal Questions Committee) which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and Supplementary Report.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

2. Amend Standing Orders as detailed in (i) section 2 and Appendix A of this Report, (ii) section 4 and Appendix B of the Report of the Assembly Business Committee and (iii) the Supplementary Report of the Assembly Business Committee.

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

2. Approve the order of business for the first two days.
3. Appoint Rev Colin Renwick to be Precentor until May 2023.
4. Appoint Mr Roy Pinkerton to index the verbatim record.
5. Invite Commissioners to submit to the Procedure Committee via email: pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk by Monday 23 May at 12pm, nominations for consideration to serve on the Selection Committee.
6. Note the expenses levels for those attending at least 12 of the 15 General Assembly sessions in person.

OVERTURE - PRESBYTERIES OF DUNS, JEDBURGH, LOTHIAN, AND MELROSE & PEEBLES ANENT UNION

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbyteries of Duns, Jedburgh, Lothian, and Melrose & Peebles anent union.

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as a proposed new section 7 of the Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee and renumber.

Rev Alistair Cook appeared and Rev Norman Whyte, Rev Victoria Linford and Rev Aniko Schuetz-Bradwell appeared in support. Rev Alistair Cook moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.

2. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Duns, Jedburgh, Lothian, and Melrose & Peebles to form the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Lothian and Borders as set out in the Overture received from the Presbyteries.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2 of the Overture, there voted For 280 and Against 2.

The Moderator ruling that the Vote For or Against Section 2 of the Overture be re-taken, *there voted For 320 and Against 6.*

OVERTURE - PRESBYTERIES OF ANGUS, DUNDEE, DUNKELD & MEIGLE, PERTH, AND STIRLING ANENT UNION

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld & Meigle, Perth, and Stirling anent union.

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as a proposed new section 8 of the Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee and renumber.

Rev Fraser Penny appeared and Rev Alan Miller, Rev Catriona Morrison, Rev Craig Dobney and Rev Mike Goss appeared in support. Rev Fraser Penny moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld & Meigle, Perth and Stirling to form the Presbytery of Perth as set out in the Overture received from the Presbyteries.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2 of the Overture, there voted For 352 and Against 7.

OVERTURE - PRESBYTERIES OF FORTH VALLEY & CLYDESDALE AND FALKIRK

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbyteries of Forth Valley & Clydesdale and Falkirk anent union.

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat sections 2 and 3 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as proposed new sections 9 and 10 of the Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee and renumber.

Rev Bryan Kerr appeared and Rev Julie Rennick appeared in support. Rev Bryan Kerr moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Note that subsequent to the General Assembly passing of Act 1, 2021 the Presbyteries of Hamilton and Lanark voted to amend the name of the united Presbytery in both the Act and Basis and Plan of Union from the 'Presbytery of Lanarkshire' to the 'Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale'.
3. Pass an Act anent the union of the Presbyteries of Forth Valley & Clydesdale and Falkirk, as set out in the Overture.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture and to section 2 of the proposed Overture.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 3 of the Overture, there voted For 378 and Against 4.

OVERTURE - PRESBYTERIES OF ABERDEEN & SHETLAND, GORDON, BUCHAN, KINCARDINE & DEESIDE, ORKNEY AND MORAY

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbyteries of Aberdeen & Shetland, Gordon, Buchan, Kincardine & Deeside, Orkney and Moray anent union.

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as a proposed new section 11 of the Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee and renumber.

Rev Sheila Kirk appeared and Rev David Galbraith, Rev Peter Johnston, Mrs Linda Clark, Mr Allan Ritchie, Rev Geoff McKee and Rev Dr Marjory MacLean appeared in support. The Rev Sheila Kirk moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Aberdeen & Shetland, Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside, Moray and Orkney to form The Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles as set out in the Appendix.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2 of the Overture, there voted For 351 and Against 8.

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee starting at section 7 in the print.

It was moved (Rev Bryan Kerr) and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 7 and renumber:

7. Accepting that Presbyteries currently have the right to determine their own staffing structure, instruct the Assembly Business Committee and the Assembly Trustees, in consultation with the Assembly and Presbytery Clerks Forum and involving the Law Dept and HR Department in the National Offices, to investigate and develop a template job description and corresponding

renumeration package for full-time Presbytery Clerks to help strive for consistency across the Church.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 1.14pm until 2.16pm.

SESSION 3

Rev Bryan Kerr moved and it was seconded that his amendment to add a new section 7 be amended to read as follows:

7. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee and the Assembly Trustees, in consultation with the Assembly and Presbytery Clerks Forum and involving the Law Dept and HR Department in the National Offices, to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2023 which would ensure consistency of terms and conditions across Presbyteries and which would align the pay and grading of Presbytery Staff with the pay and grading of staff employed by the Central Services Committee and this consultation process shall include consideration of whether the Central Services Committee might be the preferred employing agent for Presbytery staff.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amended motion, there voted For 218 and Against 164.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add new sections 7 and 8 and renumber:

7. Invite the Assembly Business Committee and Assembly Trustees in consultation with the Law Dept and HR Dept in the National Offices to work with the Assembly and Clerks Forum to advise the General Assembly of 2023 what steps have been taken to ensure that there is appropriate support and training in place for Presbytery Clerks and provide advice, guidelines and training for those undertaking the line-management of Presbytery Clerks.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of the Deliverance, there voted For 357 and Against 11.

8. Invite the Assembly Business Committee together with the Assembly and Clerks Forum to lead the development of a code of practice and capability process for Presbytery Clerks and report progress to the General Assembly of 2023.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of the Deliverance, there voted For 347 and Against 12.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

7. Note the proposed timetable of Moderator's visits to Presbyteries.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print to add a new section 8 and renumber:

8. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee through the Principal Clerk to have discussions with the Lord Lyon, expressing the desire of the General Assembly for overly ceremonial elements to be absent from future meetings of the Assembly.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of the Deliverance, there voted For 171 And Against 209.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

8. Acknowledge the consultation work undertaken by the Committee in the area of General Assembly Reform as reported in section 8 of the Report and instruct the Committee to bring in-depth proposals to the General Assembly of 2023.

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

9. Give thanks for the ongoing work of the Scottish Bible Society and -
 - a) urge the Scottish Bible Society to pursue its ongoing efforts to address the challenge of global Bible translation and distribution;
 - b) support the Society in its desire to work in partnership with congregations to improve people's experience of the Bible and its impact on their life;
 - c) endorse the Society in its efforts to encourage confidence in the gospel and in providing Scripture resources for mission purposes; and
 - d) commend the Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members.

The Moderator welcomed Ms Elaine Duncan, Executive Director, Scottish Bible Society, who addressed the General Assembly. On behalf of the Directors of the Society, Ms Duncan presented a Bible and book, "Joseph and the Triumph of Grace" to the Moderator, who gave thanks for the gifts and the work of the Society, wishing it well for the future.

The Moderator thanked the Convener and members of the Assembly Business Committee for all the work which they had done during the previous year.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report and the Supplementary Report of the Assembly Trustees (except sections 11, 12, 13, 14 of the Deliverance which will be taken during session 10, section 15 which will be taken during session 8, section 19 which was taken during session 2; and including an Overture from the Presbytery of Sutherland) which was given in by the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly

1. Receive the Report.
2. Acknowledge with gratitude the continuing work and ministry of the Church at all levels during the enduring Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Receive the 2021 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities.
4. Affirm the overriding priority in budget planning to support the maintenance and growth of the local Church and note the continuance of the challenging financial situation facing the Church as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 5 and renumber:

5. In recognition of the challenges facing many Parish Ministers who live in manse where they have no control in respect of energy efficiency or upgrades and recognising that the remuneration of a Parish Ministers is a stipend plus manse, instruct the Assembly Trustees in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees urgently to develop a scheme to support Parish Ministers who find themselves facing hardship with the rise in costs of heating and electricity, using existing funds where possible, to enable them to continue to provide ministry to the Parish to which God has called them; and renew the commitment of the Church to continue to fight poverty in all its many guises wherever it is found and felt.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of the Deliverance, there voted For 227 and Against 122.

It was moved (Rev Alistair Cumming) and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 5 and renumber:

5. Note and acknowledge the differing needs and valued contribution to the Church of Scotland of the Presbyteries furth of Scotland and urge the Assembly Trustees to consider providing a budgeted amount of £12,000 allowance in the National budget annually for 5 years for the Presbyteries of England and International Charges and report to the General Assembly of 2023.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the amendment in the name of Rev Alistair Cumming be amended to read as follows:

5. Note and acknowledge the differing needs and valued contribution to the Church of Scotland of the Presbyteries furth of Scotland and urge the Assembly Trustees to consider providing an appropriate allowance in the National budget annually for 5 years for the Presbyteries of England and International Charges and report to the General Assembly of 2023.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

5. Agree to implement the Giving to Grow scheme from 1st January 2023 and approve the proposed Regulations (Appendix A).
6. Repeal the Parish Ministries Fund Regulations (Regs IV 2016).

It was moved and seconded:

7. Approve the amendments to the Regulations for Contributions from Congregations in the Presbytery of International Charges (Regs V 2016) and the Regulations for Allocations in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (2007) (Appendix C) for use from the 1st January 2023.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that section 7 be amended by adding at the end:

“, and in the case of the Regulations for Contributions from Congregations in the Presbytery of International Charges (Regs V 2016), also by adding the following additional amendments:

1. In paragraph 1 replace “Ministries & Mission Contribution” with “a Contribution under the Congregational Contributions ‘Giving to Grow’ Regulations (Regs ZZ 2022)”.

2. Amend paragraph 2 by replacing “Stewardship and Finance Department” with “Presbytery” and by adding at the end “and Presbytery shall pay the total Contribution to the Stewardship and Finance Department in ten or twelve equal monthly instalments during the financial year by bank standing order.”
3. Delete paragraph 8(e) and substitute “Half of all gross income in excess of £10,000 received from outside agencies for the use of premises.”
4. Insert new paragraph 8(f) in the following terms: “Net income raised through giving online or through other digital means” and renumber paragraph 8(f) as 8(g).
5. Amend the paragraph at the end of paragraph 8 by adding before the words “grants from the Salvesen Trust”, the words “all grant income, including”.
6. In paragraph 10 delete the words “Ministries and Mission”.
7. In paragraph 11 delete the words “Council of Assembly” and substitute “Assembly Trustees”.
8. Delete paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 and substitute the following, renumbering thereafter:

“Appeals

The Governance Group of the Assembly Trustees shall appoint a Panel to adjudicate on any appeals from Congregations relating to the application of paragraph 8 above. Appeals on any other grounds shall not be permitted. (Full details of the appeals process are available from the Church of Scotland website.)”

9. Delete the first sentence of paragraph 17.
10. Delete paragraph 18.
11. Add the following two paragraphs at the end:

“Transition Funding

1. The sum total of increases in Contributions for Congregations within a Presbytery between the last year of the previous Contribution system (2022) and that current year’s requirement, will be made available as Transition Funding to Presbytery. This will be communicated when the list of proposed Contributions is issued to Presbytery. This funding will be available annually, for the first three years (i.e. in the years 2023 – 2025) of this Giving to Grow contribution system.
2. This transition funding may be used by the Presbytery to reduce the proposed Contributions for individual Congregations before these are finalised for the following year. This will be charged to the Church of Scotland General Fund.”

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

8. Repeal the Pilot Presbytery Staffing Fund Regulations (Regs V 2011).

It was moved and seconded:

9. Encourage Kirk Sessions to engage with the Christian Aid and ecumenical partners’ promotion of legacy giving in September 2022.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that section 9 be amended by adding “CrossReach” after “Christian Aid”.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

10. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to use the National Stewardship Team as a resource to help congregations steward their resources in line with their vision and mission plans.

OVERTURE - PRESBYTERY OF SUTHERLAND

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbytery of Sutherland as to the allocation of ministry posts.

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as a proposed new section 11 of the Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees and renumber.

The Rev Andrea Boyes moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Agree that: a) the allocation of fulltime equivalent ministries posts for the Presbytery of Sutherland should be increased from four to six, and b) the overall number of fulltime equivalent ministries posts by 2025 on which Presbyteries should base their Mission Planning should be increased from 661 to 663.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

Standing Order 88 was suspended to allow the Rev Andrea Boyes to reply to the discussion immediately before the Convener of the Assembly Trustees closed the debate.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2 of the Overture, there voted For 126 and Against 203.

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 11 and renumber:

11. Given that Gordon Presbytery and Jedburgh Presbytery may have been prejudiced by an error in the allocation of ministry posts, and other Presbyteries may have benefitted as a result of this, the total number of ministry posts will be increased by 6.5 to ensure that these Presbyteries can receive their correct allocation under weightings agreed by previous General Assemblies and this without further adjustment to the Presbyteries which have benefitted from this error.

It was then agreed that consideration of the proposed new section 11 be deferred until Tuesday 24 May 2022, session 8.

The General Assembly agreed that remaining sections of the proposed Deliverance in the Report of the Assembly Trustees be taken in later sessions, the agreed summary being as follows:

11. *Consideration of section 11 was deferred until session 10.*
12. *Consideration of section 12 was deferred until session 10.*
13. *Consideration of section 13 was deferred until session 10.*
14. *Consideration of section 14 was deferred until session 10.*

15. *Consideration of section 15 was deferred until session 8.*
16. *Consideration of section 16 was deferred until session 6.*
17. *Consideration of section 17 was deferred until session 6.*
18. *Consideration of section 18 was deferred until session 6.*
19. *Section 19 was taken in session 2.*
20. *Consideration of section 20 was deferred until session 6.*
21. *(1) Consideration of section 21 (1) was deferred until session 6.*
22. *(2) Consideration of section 22 (2) was deferred until session 6.*
23. *(3) Consideration of section 23 (3) was deferred until session 6.*
24. *(4) Consideration of section 24 (4) was deferred until session 6.*
25. *(5) Consideration of section 25 (5) was deferred until session 6.*
26. *(6) Consideration of section 26 (6) was deferred until session 6.*

The General Assembly adjourned at 6.00pm to meet again in this Hall, and online via video-conference, on Monday 23 May at 9.15 am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL
and online via video-conference
EDINBURGH, 21 May 2022, 6.00 pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 23 MAY 2022

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings on the 23rd day of May 2022 at 9.15 am.

Holy Communion was celebrated in the Assembly Hall. The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 9.50am until 10.29am.

SESSION 4

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

Prof Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director of the Scottish Government, addressed the General Assembly and was thanked by the Moderator.

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Agree the Order of Business for the third to the fifth day.

COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND CASES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases which was given in by the Principal Clerk.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Convert into a Standing Law of the Church the Overture Amending the Church Courts Act (Act III 2000) as printed in Appendix C.
3. Convert into a Standing Law of the Church the Solemnisation of Same-Sex Marriage Overture as printed at Appendix D.

On a vote being taken For or Against Section 3 of the Deliverance there voted For 274 and Against 136.

The Deliverance as a whole was then agreed.

The following Commissioners entered their dissent with regard to the General Assembly's decision to approve section 3:

Rev Gordon Kennedy	(12)	Mrs Fiona Matheson	(233)
Rev John Vischer	(69)	Mrs Isabel McDerment	(236)
Rev Malcolm Jefferson	(83)	Rev Scott Burton	(297)
Mrs Pamela Kennedy	(87)	Rev James Todd	(302)
Rev Alistair Cook	(95)	Rev Gary Caldwell	(312)
Rev Ann McCool	(165)	Rev David Smith	(345)
Rev Francis Murphy	(170)	Rev Michael Weaver	(347)
Rev Stuart Steell	(173)	Rev Grace Steele	(370)
Rev Dr Richard G Buckley	(193)	Rev Alan Reid	(379)
Rev Mark Malcolm	(202)	Rev Mike Goss	(405)
Rev Gavin McFadyen	(205)	Mr John Blanksby	(447)
Rev David Slater	(213)	Rev Andrew Kuzma	(476)
Rev Ben Thorp	(214)	Rev Philip Gunn	(495)
Mr Graeme Barrie	(217)	Rev Iain MacLeod	(501)
Miss Fiona Hay	(225)	Rev Dr John Sterrett	(502)
Mr Donald Matheson	(232)		

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Legal Questions Committee which was given in by the Rev Dr S Grant Barclay, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. *Consideration of section 2 was dealt with in Session 1.*
3. Agree to send the draft Church Courts Act as set out in Appendix B to Presbyteries for consultation and direct that comments be sent to the Principal Clerk by 31 December 2022.
4. Instruct the Committee, in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum and the Theological Forum, to undertake a review of the Ministers and Deacons in Same Sex Marriages and Civil Partnerships Act (Act I 2015) and to report to a future General Assembly.
5. Instruct the Committee to continue with the development of Presbytery Review and to bring a Presbytery Review Act to the General Assembly of 2024
6. Pass an Act amending the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) as set out in Appendix D.
7. Pass an Act amending the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) as set out in Appendix E.
8. Pass an Act amending the Intimation of Appeals Act (Act VI 2004) as set out in Appendix F.
9. Pass an Act amending the Commission of Assembly Act (Act VI 1997) as set out in Appendix G.
10. Note that the following arrangements have proved useful:
 - (a) the Vacancy Protocol and the arrangements for Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to meet and vote by video- conferencing or audio-conferencing, agreed by the Commission of Assembly on 7 July 2020,

- (b) the three Protocols agreed by the General Assembly of October 2020 (the Congregational Meetings on Bases of Adjustment Protocol, the Congregational Meetings for Adopting the Unitary Constitution Protocol and the Congregational Meetings on Sale or Disposal of Church Buildings Protocol),
 - (c) the arrangements for Financial Boards to meet and vote by video-conferencing or audio-conferencing agreed by the General Assembly of October 2020, and
 - (d) the arrangements agreed by the General Assembly of 2021 in relation to appointments and elections to Congregational Boards;
and, therefore, continue all of these arrangements as required until the General Assembly of 2023, provided that in the case of the Congregational Meetings on Bases of Adjustment Protocol, this shall be read as relating to section 10.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021).
11. Pass an Act amending the Discipline Act (Act I 2019) as set out in Appendix H.
 12. Repeal the Licensing of Probationers Act (Act XI 1932), the Trials for Licence Act (Act VIII 1936) and the Ministerial Staffing in the Presbytery of Shetland Regulations (Regs VI 2007).
 13. Instruct Kirk Sessions to take steps to adopt a conflict of interest policy in the form prepared by the Law department (with any future changes which may be made to the style policy to reflect changing guidance or best practice) as soon as may be practicable and in any event by 31 December 2022.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 4 and renumber:

4. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee, in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum and the Theological Forum, to explore whether Readers be permitted to apply for permission to officiate at marriage ceremonies and report to the General Assembly of 2023 with proposals as required.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 5 in the print: Add after "Presbytery Review" the words "bringing the principles of Presbytery Review to the General Assembly of 2023 for Approval before bringing" and delete the words "and to bring".

On a vote being taken For or Against the amended Section 5, there voted For 297 and Against 63.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 14 and renumber:

14. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum to review Standing Order 35 on youth representatives in light of General Assembly Reform and also Presbytery Reform and to bring proposals as to an amended Standing Order 35 to the General Assembly of 2023.

It was then agreed that remaining notices of motion to amend the proposed Deliverance of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee be deferred until Wednesday 25 May, session 13.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.29pm until 2.00 pm.

SESSION 5

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee which was given in by the Rev Alexander Horsburgh, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend Koinonia: God's Gift and Calling, the report of the International Reformed-Anglican Dialogue, to the wider Church and, in particular, to the Columba Declaration Contact Group and the Saint Andrew Declaration Working Group.
3. Approve the Declaration of Friendship between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland.
4. Welcome the participation of an increasing number of churches in the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and other ecumenical bodies in Scotland, and encourage the further development of an effective and coherent ecumenical network.
5. Thank Mr Bob Fyffe, former General Secretary of CTBI, and Rev Dr Paul Goodliff, former General Secretary of CTE for their service, and welcome Dr Nicola Brady and Bishop Mike Royal as their respective successors.
6. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, and the appointment of representatives to Ecumenical Bodies, as detailed in Appendix 2.

The Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, addressed the General Assembly and was thanked by the Moderator.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 3, there voted For 421 and Against 4.

Section 3 was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 4 and renumber:

4. Subject to the approval of the Scottish Catholic Bishops' Conference, name the Declaration of Friendship 'The Saint Margaret Declaration'.

The Deliverance as amended and the Declaration of Friendship were then agreed.

THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Theological Forum which was given in by the Rev Dr Liam Fraser, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the Report "The Earth is the Lord's: A Theological Account of Creation Care" to congregations for study and instruct the Faith Impact Forum to provide opportunities and resources to aid reflection, conversation and response.
3. Receive the Report "The Confessional Position of the Church of Scotland: Proposals for Reform" as a response to the instruction given by the General Assembly of 2021.
4. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum and the Theological Forum to introduce teaching on the confessional position of the Church and the vows of office holders for those entering into recognised ministries and eldership.
5. Approve in principle the proposals for creating a Book of Confessions and corresponding changes to the vows and subscription of office holders, and instruct the Theological Forum and the Legal Questions Committee to bring an Overture effecting these changes to the General Assembly of 2023.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 3.33pm until 3.48pm.

SESSION 6

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Theological Forum.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 5:

Amend section 5 by inserting a full stop after "Book of Confessions" and deleting the rest of the proposed deliverance.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment, there voted For 44 and Against 299 and it carried against.

Section 5 in the print was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 6 and renumber:

6. Instruct the Theological Forum, in consultation with other relevant parties, to prepare a Report with recommendations for a future General Assembly on a theological and missiological understanding and practice of church membership.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust which was given in by Mr Brian Duffin, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Mr R D Burgon as Chairman of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2022.

3. Reappoint Ms E Crichton as a member and as Vice-Chairman of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2022.
4. Approve the reappointment of Mr M G S Yuille and Mr J G Wilson as members of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2022.
5. Approve the appointment of Mr I Blair and Mr A Richmond as members from 1 June 2022.
6. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2021.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees which was given in by Mr Graeme Caughey, Chair.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the appointment of Gillian Graham and Gordon Taylor as Employer Nominated Trustees of all three Schemes.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Trust which was given in by Mr Thomas Watson, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Mr Leon Marshall as Chairman from 1 June 2022.
3. Appoint Mrs Morag Angus as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2022.
4. Re-appoint Mr Angus Bethune and the Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers as members of the Trust from 1 June 2022.
5. Thank Mr W F Stuart Lynch for his 26 years' service to the Trust and Rev Iain Cunningham for his 6 years' service to the Trust.
6. Appoint Mrs Valerie Macniven as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2022.

CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees which was given in by Rev Neil Gardner in the absence of the Chair.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly which was given in by the Principal Clerk, Chair.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the Delegation 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 Chair, the Depute Clerk of the General Assembly to be Vice-Chair and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE APPEAL HEARINGS BEFORE THE MINISTRIES APPEAL PANEL

The General Assembly called for the Minutes of the first, second and third Appeal Hearings before the Ministries Appeal Panel, two in September 2021 and one in December 2021, which were laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

MINUTE OF THE APPEAL HEARING BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The General Assembly called for the Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Judicial Commission in June 2021 which was laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

MINUTE OF THE APPEAL HEARING BEFORE THE SAFEGUARDING APPEAL GROUP

The General Assembly called for the Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Safeguarding Appeal Group in June 2021 which was laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

MINUTE OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly called for the Minute of the Commission of Assembly in March 2022 which was laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

The General Assembly agreed to note all of the minutes.

ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

16. Instruct the General Trustees, jointly with the Assembly Trustees, the Legal Questions Committee and the Faith Nurture Forum, to review current law and practice with a view to proposing legislation that would allow greater flexibility in relation to the allocation of the sale proceeds of properties found to be surplus to requirements following the dissolution of a congregation or the union of one or more congregations and provide a transparent process with adequate criteria by which decisions on the use of such funds are made and report to the General Assembly of 2023.

17. Approve the amended remit of the Audit Committee.
18. Approve the amended Constitution and Remit of the Assembly Trustees.
19. *Consideration of section 19 was dealt with in Session 2.*
20. Approve the change in membership numbers for the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces.
21. (1) Receive the Supplementary Report.
22. (2) Receive the 2021 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities.
23. (3) Note the budget for 2023 and the indicative budgets for 2024 to 2027 (Appendices 1 and 2).
24. (4) Approve the arrangements proposed in respect of the Pioneer Mission Fund.
25. (5) Repeal the Growth Fund Regulations (Regulations I 2019) and pass the Seeds for Growth Fund Regulations set out in Appendix 3.
26. (6) Discharge with thanks the members of the Seeds for Change Committee.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

That section 16 in the print be amended by deleting "proposing legislation" and substituting "bringing legislation to General Assembly 2023", adding after "one or more congregations" the words "and exploring with the encouragement and support of Presbytery whether some monies might be released for mission," and delete at the end "and report to the General Assembly of 2023".

Section 16 as amended was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 21 and renumber:

21. Approve the appointment of Ian Forrester QC, Gillian Paterson, minister of Wellesley Parish Church and Norman Smith, minister of Granton Parish Church, as Assembly Trustees for full terms; also approve the appointment of Jennifer MacDonald as an Assembly Trustee for an initial term of one year to complete the term of Linda Irvine, renewable thereafter for a full term.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 5 of the Supplementary Report:

Add at the end:

"subject to the following amendments:

1. In Appendix 3, 'Seeds for Growth' Fund Regulations:

- 1.1 replace the existing section 3 with:

"The purposes of the Fund are to support the numerical and spiritual growth of existing Church of Scotland congregations and of new Church of Scotland worshipping communities through the development of local mission initiatives which give expression to one or more of the Five Marks of Mission, as defined in the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021)."

- 1.2 replace the existing section 6 with:

“An application to the Fund may be made by a Kirk Session, a group of Kirk Sessions, a Presbytery or a group of Presbyteries. Applications from a Kirk Session or a group of Kirk Sessions must be supported by the relevant Presbytery.”

2. In Appendix 3, Schedule - The Seeds for Growth Fund Implementation Group Terms of Reference:

2.1 replace the existing ‘Purpose’ sub-sections (a) and (b) with:

“The purposes of the Fund are to support the numerical and spiritual growth of existing Church of Scotland congregations and of new Church of Scotland worshipping communities through the development of local mission initiatives which give expression to one or more of the Five Marks of Mission, as defined in the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021).“

2.2. replace the first sentence of ‘Criteria’ sub-section 1 with:

“Applications must come from Kirk Sessions, groups of Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries or groups of Presbyteries. Applications from Kirk Sessions or groups of Kirk Sessions must be supported by the relevant Presbytery.”

2.3. replace the existing ‘Criteria’ sub-section 2 with:

“Applications must demonstrate a visionary approach to one or more of the Five Marks of Mission and must set out the anticipated effect of the project at a congregational or Presbytery level and include a clear plan and measurable targets.”

2.4. replace the existing ‘Criteria’ sub-section 6 with:

“Applications will be assessed against one or more of the Five Marks of Mission.” “

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment, there voted For 72 and Against 237 and it carried against.

Consideration of sections 11 to 15 of the Deliverance was deferred until session 8.

The General Assembly adjourned at 5.50pm to meet again in this Hall and online via video-conference tomorrow at 9.15am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL
and online via video-conference
EDINBURGH, 23 May 2022, 5.50pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 24 MAY 2022

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 24th day of May 2022 at 9.15 am.

SESSION 7

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

The General Assembly agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Assembly Trustees to introduce the Faith Action Plan and Programme.

The General Assembly agreed to appoint the following Commissioners to the Selection Committee:

Rev Eleanor McMahon (Convener)	102
Rev Fraser Penny (Vice Convener)	368
Mrs Jeanette McIvor	47
Mr Connor McFadyen	74
Rev Victoria Linford	84
Rev Lisa-Jane Rankin	97
Miss Jennifer Boag	175
Mr Graeme Barrie	217
Mrs Patricia McKenzie	231
Mr Paul Cathcart DCS	245
Rev Ross Blackman	247
Ms Pat Munro DCS	388
Mr Stuart Lynch	470
Rev Alison Mehigan	477
Mrs Ella Gill	491
Rev Lorna Tunstall	503
Rev Gavin Elliot	515
Miss Margaret Sutherland	528
Mr Ian Russell	539
Rev Derek Lawson	541

The Minutes of Sessions 1-3, being available in the Assembly Paper, were submitted and approved.

ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES - INTRODUCTION TO THE FAITH ACTION PLAN AND PROGRAMME

The General Assembly heard from the Assembly Trustees with an Introduction to the Faith Action Plan and Programme.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.10am until 10.19am and again from 10.51am until 11.16am.

SESSION 8

The suspension of Standing Orders was ended.

FAITH IMPACT FORUM

The General Assembly called for the Report and Supplementary Report of the Faith Impact Forum, including Report on the Jewish-Church of Scotland Dialogue, which was given in by the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, Convener.

Rabbi David Mason addressed the General Assembly and the Moderator gave a suitable reply.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

Safeguarding the Integrity of Creation

2. Instruct the Forum, in partnership with the Assembly Trustees, General Trustees, Social Care Council and Eco- Congregation Scotland, to continue to develop plans and activities towards meeting a 'Net Zero by 2030 Strategy' and to report to the General Assembly in 2023.

Global Justice and International Partnerships

3. Give thanks for the life and witness of Mission Partners who have died, acknowledge with gratitude those who have completed their period of service overseas, and uphold in prayer all who continue to serve.
4. Urge the UK Government to do more to ensure Covid-19 vaccines are available throughout the world, particularly in resource poor countries, and instruct the Forum to make representations and to promote this campaign with church members.
5. Instruct the Forum to share with congregations and Presbyteries the work of Mediterranean Hope and other international partners providing humanitarian and integration support to displaced people, and promote opportunities for local churches to respond with prayer, action and giving.
6. Instruct the Forum to continue to support work with asylum seekers and refugees, alongside Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, and encourage congregations to participate in the 'Faithful Welcome' project and to explore Community Sponsorship so that they may be directly involved in refugee resettlement.
7. Commend the Korea Peace Appeal and instruct the Forum to promote the appeal to church members and congregations for them to sign as part of the effort to bring an end to the Korean War.

8. Note the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Pakistani Minorities: Abductions, Forced Conversions, and Forced Marriages of Religious Minority Women and Girls in Pakistan; instruct the Forum to continue to engage with ecumenical and international partners on the issue and to provide resources to encourage church members to write to MPs urging the UK Government to implement the Report's recommendations.
9. Commend to congregations this year's Stamp Appeal which will support the Church in Lebanon in its ministry.

Interfaith Relations

10. Commend the Jewish-Christian glossary produced this year for study and action particularly by ministers, OLMs, readers and worship leaders, to shed light on divergent uses and understandings of theological and political terms that relate to the Holy Land.
11. Note with concern that Islamophobia remains widespread in the UK, and in line with other faith-based, social, political and governmental organisations, adopt for internal use the All-Party Parliamentary Group's (APPG) definition of Islamophobia, and its guidelines, to aid the Church of Scotland in challenging Islamophobia.

Societal and Political Issues

12. Acknowledge that the practice of Conversion Therapy is harmful and endorse the definition of Conversion Therapy as outlined in the 'Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK', noting that the Methodist Conference have supported and adopted this definition and the Church of England General Synod have endorsed a similar statement; urge the Scottish Government to ban Conversion Therapy and instruct the Forum to make representations to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament.
13. Instruct the Forum, in consultation with CrossReach and others, to report to the General Assembly of 2023 on issues relating to drugs and substance use.
14. Instruct the Forum to convene a cross-Church group to explore the benefits and opportunities afforded to the Church of Scotland by digital technologies and to support congregations in their utilisation of these.
15. (1) Receive the Supplementary Report.
16. (2) a) Condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
 - b) Call for an immediate ceasefire and urge all parties, supported by the international community, to negotiate a just and peaceful solution which respects human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
 - c) Urge prayer across the Church of Scotland:
 - for the people of Ukraine suffering under war.
 - for wisdom among the leaders of the nations and all who work for justice and truth, and who keep open the horizon of reconciliation and peace.
 - for the generosity of the Church in supporting the spiritual and humanitarian efforts of the local partner churches for those afflicted by war.
 - to strengthen all those working in response to human need in Ukraine and other places around the world afflicted by war and violence, and for those working to welcome refugees.
 - d) Condemn any Russophobia and discrimination against Russian citizens living and working in Scotland.
 - e) Encourage members of the Church who wish to host refugees to register with the Homes for Ukraine scheme run by the UK Government, under the aegis of the Scottish Government as a 'super sponsor'.
 - f) Instruct the Faith Impact Forum to continue to respond to developments in the war in Ukraine, and to raise issues with the Scottish and UK Governments, with ecumenical partners, and with Reformed church partners around the world.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add new sections 3, 4 and 5 and renumber:

3. Call upon the UK Government to levy urgently a windfall tax on oil and gas companies in order to address the crisis of fuel poverty across the UK.
4. In view of the call from the UN and International Energy Agency to recognise that there can be no new oil and gas developments if we are to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius, call upon the UK Government to grant no further licenses for new fossil fuel exploration or extraction.
5. Instruct the Faith Impact Forum to work with Priority Areas and with partner organisations on advocacy and practical action to address the growing crises of fuel poverty and energy insecurity.

On a vote being taken For or Against the new section 3 of the Deliverance, there voted For 288 and Against 83.

On a vote being taken For or Against the new section 4 of the Deliverance it carried For.

It was moved and seconded that the new section 5 be amended to read as follows:

5. Instruct the Faith Impact Forum to work with congregations (particularly in Priority Areas) and with partner organisations on advocacy and practical action to address the growing crises of fuel poverty and energy insecurity.

On a vote being taken For or Against the new section 5 of the Deliverance, as amended, there voted For 289 and Against 88.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.30pm until 2.00pm.

SESSION 9

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Faith Impact Forum.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 10 and renumber:

10. Commend to the prayers of the church the members, ministers and leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar who continue to worship and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a context of conflict and danger and instruct the Faith Impact Forum to write to Her Majesty's Government urging the use of diplomacy and sanctions in order that the elected government of Myanmar be reinstated.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 10 of the Deliverance in the print:

Delete the words "the Jewish-Christian glossary produced this year for study and action particularly by ministers, OLMs, readers and worship leaders," and substitute: "the ongoing dialogue and collaborative effort with the Office of the Chief Rabbi to produce a Jewish-Christian glossary"

Section 10 as amended was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 12 in the print:

Delete the words:

“Acknowledge that the practice of Conversion Therapy is harmful and”.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 12 in the print:

Delete the words “definition of Conversion Therapy as outlined in the ‘Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK’ and the words “the Methodist Conference have supported and adopted this definition and” and after “endorse the” add the words “statement on conversion therapy by COSCA (Counselling & Psychotherapy in Scotland)” and after the words “to ban Conversion Therapy”, add “while reserving issues around gender identity for further legislation”.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amended section 12 there voted For 132 and Against 230 and it carried against.

Section 12 as amended was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 15 and renumber:

15. Following the publication of the paper 'Apologising for Historic Wrongs' produced by the Theological Forum, acknowledge and regret the terrible harm caused to all those who suffered from accusations and prosecutions under Scotland's historic witchcraft laws, the majority of whom were women, and apologise for the role of the Church of Scotland and the General Assembly in such historical persecution.

Mr Douglas Wiseman (387) entered his dissent with regard to the General Assembly's decision to approve the new section 15.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

FAITH NURTURE FORUM

The General Assembly called for the Report and Supplementary Report of the Faith Nurture Forum (including section 15 of the proposed Deliverance on the Report of the Assembly Trustees and the Overture from the Presbytery of International Charges) which was given in by the Rev Rosie Frew, Convener.

The General Assembly agreed that Standing Order 95 be amended to limit speeches to three minutes.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to continue work on the Capability framework (Appendix 1).

3. Adopt the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct for the Ministries of the Church of Scotland as a standard to which all those involved in the recognised ministries of the Church should be expected to adhere (Appendix 2).
 4. Instruct the Forum to update the relevant Handbooks with the revised Code of Conduct at the earliest opportunity, make an electronic copy available on the Ascend website, and alert all those engaged in the recognised ministries of the Church to the revised Code by email.
 5. Invite comment on the working of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII, 2003) with submissions being emailed to VacancyAct@churchofscotland.org.uk
 6. Pass an Act amending the terms of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) (Appendix 3).
 7. *This section was not moved.*
 8. Pass the Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act Act (Appendix 4).
 9. Pass an Act amending the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry Act [Act X 2004] (Appendix 5).
 10. Pass an Act amending the Readership Act (Act XVII 1992) (Appendix 6).
 11. Pass an Act amending the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011) (Appendix 7).
 12. Express thanks for the service given by Rev Prof Susan Hardman Moore as Principal of New College, Edinburgh, and affirm the proposal that Rev Dr Alison Jack be appointed as her successor from 1 September 2022 (Section 5.14).
 13. Nominate as trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund;
 - i. Dr Eilidh Renwick to serve for a second term;
 - ii. The Reverend Scott McCarthy.
 14. Affirm the commitment of the Church to place priority for the poorest at the heart of all that it does, recognising the mission of Priority Area congregations in this.
 15. Instruct the Forum to continue to develop and deliver the key priority of implementing the whole Church strategy of prioritising support for those living in poverty and at the margins within the Faith Action Plan, through the Priority Areas Implementation Group and Priority Areas Team.
1. (16) Receive the Supplementary Report.
 2. (17) Agree the amended corrected ministries allocations for the Presbyteries of Annandale & Eskdale and Aberdeen & Shetland (Appendix 1)
 3. (18) Note the weightings applied to each Presbytery for the purpose of allocating ministries set out in Appendix 1. (Appendix 1)

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 3.36pm until 3.48pm.

SESSION 10

OVERTURE - PRESBYTERY OF INTERNATIONAL CHARGES

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbytery of International Charges to amend the International Presbytery Act 2016 (Act II 2016) (as amended).

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as a proposed new section 6 of the Deliverance of the Faith Nurture Forum and renumber.

The Rev Derek Lawson moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Pass the Act amending The International Presbytery Act (Act II 2016), as amended, as set out in the Appendix.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 2 of the Proposed Deliverance:

Add at the end:

“subject to amending the proposed paragraph 1(2) in Schedule 2 of the Act to insert after “denomination of origin”, the words “or where the minister is judicially suspended for a period of six months or more,”.

The Deliverance of the Overture as amended was then agreed.

ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly took up consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees, section 15.

It was moved and seconded:

15. Note the Vision Statement which frames the discussion around the Review of Initial Training for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament (Appendix D), agree the principles for ministerial education and training outlined in Section 14 of the Report and authorise the Faith Nurture Forum to engage with academic providers and others as necessary in order to ensure the best possible infrastructure and curriculum for ministry formation.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 15 in the print:

Delete “to engage with academic providers” and substitute “to take further the initial engagement with current academic providers”.

Section 15 as amended was then agreed.

FAITH NURTURE FORUM

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Faith Nurture Forum.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 6 and renumber:

6. Call the Church to pray, recognising:
 - Our complete dependence on God;
 - The many problems, questions and issues raised throughout the Church by the Presbytery Mission Planning Process; and
 - The deep fears and anxieties that are being felt by people across the Church;And instruct the Forum to produce prayer resources to encourage and equip people to pray for the future well-being, peace and revival of the Church.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 6 and renumber:

6. To instruct Presbyteries to engage with the young adults within their boundaries as part of their mission planning process.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 6 in the print:

Add at the end "but subject to deletion of the proposed amendment to section 7.0(1) in section 3 of the amending Act."

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 7 and renumber:

7. Urge Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries when planning the union of congregations to consider the numerical size and composition of the united Kirk Session and also whether use might be made of fixed term appointments, bearing in mind the efficient operation of that court.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 8 and renumber:

8. Recognise that the implementation of certain parts of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act is having unintended consequences where there is not consensus among the involved parties and strongly urge congregations, "hubs", groups of churches, "clusters", to meet together monthly over the coming years for corporate prayer and seek the power of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of God.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the new section 8:

Add at the end "and invite Presbyteries to consider using the resources of the interim and transition ministry team in these changing circumstances."

Section 8, as amended, was then agreed.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 8 and renumber:

8. In order to reduce the uncertainty and anxiety for existing probationers, ministry students, potential ministry candidates and those in familiarisation and reviewable tenure, the Faith Nurture Forum will publish by September 2022 full ministries numbers and projections of expected vacancies during the latter half of 2022 and 2023; full ministries numbers would entail a. ministers of FTWS currently in charges, b. number of MDS staff counted towards the 600 fulltime ministries target figure by end of 2025, c. number of ministers in reviewable tenures, d. number of ministers in familiarisation, e. number of probationers (already normally included in the Faith Nurture Forum Report), and f. number of ministers expected to retire that year; with similar ministries numbers and vacancy projections to be included in subsequent Faith Nurture Forum (or its successor) Reports to the General Assembly.

On a vote being taken For or Against the new section 8 of Deliverance, there voted For 201 and Against 159.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 8 and renumber:

8. Instruct Presbyteries to ensure that, in the period up to the General Assembly of 2025, where a weighting of resources is allocated to part or parts of the area of a Presbytery, the allocation of ministry in the Presbytery Mission Plan is demonstrably distributed so as to fulfil the spirit and purpose of the weighting; and instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to take this principle into account in approving Presbytery Mission Plans.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 12 and renumber:

12. Commend the Presbytery of Glasgow's commitment to 'Recharging the Eldership for the 21st Century' and instruct the Forum to listen to and, where appropriate, to share and develop the outcomes of the Presbytery's conference held on 05 March 2022.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add new sections 13 and 14 and renumber:

13. Instruct the Forum to take time to reflect on the lower than anticipated uptake of Ordained Local Ministers, who were to play a pivotal role in previous Presbytery plans and report to the General Assembly of 2023.
14. Instruct the Forum, in conjunction with the Theological Forum, approved Education partners and any other relevant committees to investigate the possibility of creating an accelerated training course, similar or identical to the Church of England's 'Caleb Stream', which would allow Elders within a congregation to be trained and subsequently authorised by Presbytery to administer the Sacraments within their own congregations, and report to the General Assembly of 2023.

The new Section 13 was agreed and on a vote being taken For or Against the new section 14 of the Deliverance, there voted For 167 and Against 160.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 14 and renumber:

14. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to commission a video series resource, telling the stories of churches who are thriving in the area of making new disciples, in an effort to provide 'real-life role models' of how congregations in different parish contexts can grow.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 14 of the Deliverance, there voted For 184 and Against 159.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 16 and renumber:

16. Urge congregations to adopt the simple ACORN initiative (section 15.1.1) to help members join with others, following God on mission.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 16 and renumber:

16. Congratulate the congregations of Guernsey St Andrews in the Grange and Jersey St Columba's as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of being Church of Scotland congregations.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 16 and renumber:

16. In view of the fact that there are no easily available recordings of performances of many of the hymns and songs in CH4 the General Assembly encourage the trust to commission recorded performances of these hymns that can be made available by the major streaming services and licensed by Christian Copyright Licensing.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 16 of Deliverance, there voted For 34 and Against 293.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 16 and renumber:

16. Note the changes made to the cap on 'saving up' Study Leave allowances, and encourage all ministers to use or continue to use the scheme for their Continuing Ministerial Education.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 3 of the Supplementary Report and renumber:

3. Notwithstanding any past errors, instruct the Selection Committee to appoint three persons, to mediate a meeting with Gordon Presbytery, Faith Nurture Forum and the Assembly Trustees to:
 - i. Verify, according to the principles applied across all other Presbyteries, the appropriate weighting and allocation of ministries to Gordon Presbytery;
 - ii. In the light of the outcome of section (i) above assist (if required) the Presbytery of Gordon to complete their Presbytery Mission Plan; and
 - iii. Advise, where appropriate, on opportunities that might exist in:
 - a. Local ecumenical collaboration,
 - b. The shape of ministry allocation within the proposed new Presbytery, and
 - c. Initiatives that might qualify for funding under the newly create Seeds for Growth Fund;And report the outcome of their work to the General Assembly of 2023.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 3 of the Supplementary Report:

Delete "Note" and substitute "Agree".

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

A counter-motion to section 3 of the Supplementary Report:

3. Instruct the Selection Committee to appoint a committee of five people to examine the accuracy and veracity of the weightings used for the purpose of allocating ministries set out in Appendix 1; and to ensure that no Presbytery has been prejudiced by the weightings and allocation of ministries based on them, and report to the General Assembly of 2023.

On a vote being taken there voted For the motion 211 and For the counter-motion 105 and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.

Section 3 as in the print was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 4 and renumber:

4. Approve the figures contained in Appendix 1 to the Supplementary Report as the total number of ministry posts to be allocated among the Presbyteries, and this to be the basis for the next five years, subject to annual reporting and agreement of the General Assembly as required in the Presbytery Mission Plan Act. (Appendix 1).

The Deliverance as amended was agreed.

REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Registration of Ministries Committee which, in the absence of the Convener, was given in by the Rev Dr Alan Hamilton, a member of the Committee.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Receive the Report.

The General Assembly agreed that business be remaindered as follows:

The Report of the Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund to Thursday 26 May, Session 14.

Sections 11 to 14 of the Report of the Assembly Trustees to Wednesday 25 May, Session 11, after the Report of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces.

The General Assembly adjourned at 5.53 pm to meet again in this Hall and online via video-conference tomorrow at 9.15 am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL
and online via video-conference
EDINBURGH, 24 May 2022, 5.53 pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 25 MAY 2022

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 25th day of May 2022 at 9.15 am.

SESSION 11

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

The General Assembly agreed that the amendment of Standing Order 95 should remain in place so that speeches be limited to three minutes.

The General Assembly agreed that the Clerks be authorised to add to the Minute of Monday 23 May 2022, the names of further Commissioners who enter their dissent timeously with regard to the General Assembly's decision to approve section 3 of the Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases.

The Minutes of Sessions 4-6, being available in the Assembly Paper, were submitted and approved.

REPLY TO HER MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS LETTER

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a Reply to the Gracious Letter from Her Majesty the Queen which was given in by the Lord Wallace of Tankerness.

The Reply to Her Majesty's Gracious Letter was submitted and approved for signature and transmission to Her Majesty.

The Reply was in the following terms:

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. In this year when we mark the 70th anniversary of your accession we give thanks for the example of Christian duty and service which your Majesty has given to the nation. The appointment of the Rt Hon Lord Hodge as Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to our General Assembly has been wholeheartedly welcomed. His Grace brings with him a deep knowledge of the Church of Scotland and indeed the General Assembly so he is well equipped to fulfil the duties to which you have called him.

As you have acknowledged, in these last two years the Covid-19 pandemic has done much harm in our communities. We appreciate your Majesty's recognition of how people of faith have responded to the unprecedented challenges of recent times. As we have sought together to be good neighbours to people in need we have found in each other friendship and a sense of common cause. It is as friends and partners that we, as faith communities, have been able to develop new relationships with those in government and council who have had to make so many difficult decisions on our behalf.

We are pleased to receive your Majesty's commendation for the Church's engagement with COP26 and our response to the climate emergency which was highlighted in that gathering. We commit ourselves anew to being good stewards of this planet.

We appreciate your Majesty's understanding of the challenges which the Church of Scotland must face in prioritising the use of our limited sources in our continued commitment to be a national church. There are many difficult choices to be made as we plan our participation in Christ's mission yet we remain hopeful that, with God's guidance, we will find ways to renew the life of our Church. We share your Majesty's concern for the people of Ukraine and we are grateful for your recognition of the Church's work in supporting both refugees and those who remain in that troubled land. We continue to pray with your Majesty for an end to war and a lasting peace.

Finally, we commend Your Majesty to the unfailing grace and protection of Almighty God, and we pray that God will bestow favour upon Your Majesty, as you continue your 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 Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly on this 25th day of May 2022.

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY'S FORCES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces which was given in by the Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank those who serve in Her Majesty's Forces as Chaplains for their service to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel, their families and the wider military community.

3. Recognise the particular service of those Chaplains who have served in support of the contribution of the Armed Services to efforts relating to Covid-19 and on operations in Afghanistan in summer 2021.
4. Recognise the contribution of Forces Chaplains to the Church's engagement with many young adults, some of whom might not otherwise come into contact with the ministry of the Church.
5. Commend to the prayers of the Church all Chaplains and all those whom they serve.
6. Encourage eligible ministers of the Church to consider service as a Chaplain to HM Forces, Regular or Reservist.
7. Encourage those eligible to consider service as Chaplains in any of the Cadet organisations and thank all serving Cadet Chaplains.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 5:

After the words "all Chaplains" add a comma and the words 'their families'.

Section 5 as amended was then agreed.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Convener, the Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, on behalf of the General Assembly, for her work and service as Convener of the Committee.

Lt General Nichols Borton, Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, was invited by the Moderator to address the General Assembly.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.25pm until 10.52 pm.

SESSION 12

ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES - FORUMS/FAITH ACTION PLAN AND PROGRAMME CONTINUED

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

11. Instruct the Assembly Trustees, working in the terms outlined in Section 13 of the Report, to bring to the General Assembly of 2023 detailed descriptions and remits and finalised titles for an Active Faith Leadership Team and the following Programme Groups:
 - i. Mission
 - ii. People & Training
 - iii. Public Life & Global Justice
 - iv. Resource & Presence.
12. Instruct the Trustees to work with the Nomination Committee and Presbyteries to enable the Nomination Committee to bring names of nominees for the leaders and members of the Active Faith Leadership Team and each of the Programme Groups to the General Assembly of 2023.
13. Affirm the faithful and dedicated work of the Faith Nurture Forum and Faith Impact Forum since their inception in January 2020, the leadership of those Forums and the commitment of their members and commend their continuing involvement in the development of the Faith Action Programme.

14. Instruct the Trustees, working in the terms outlined in Appendix E, Section 9 of the Report, to bring to the General Assembly of 2023 detailed proposals for the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum in relation to the structural arrangements for the Faith Action Programme, whilst retaining their direct accountability to the General Assembly.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Moderator thanked the retiring Convener, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, on behalf of the General Assembly, for his work and service as Convener of the Assembly Trustees.

SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Social Care Council which was given in by the Rev Thomas Riddell, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the staff for their continued efforts throughout the past year in dealing with the challenges of an ongoing pandemic and give thanks for their dedicated service in Christ's name.
3. Note the financial impact of Covid-19 as it has affected occupancy, recruitment, service delivery and fundraising.
4. Thank all those who have supported CrossReach over the past year and encourage congregations to adopt CrossReach as a charity of choice for the next year and beyond so that services can be maintained and developed.
5. Commend the close collaboration between CrossReach and the Faith Impact Forum in responding to areas of concern to the Church as they impact on wider society and instruct the Faith Impact Forum to continue to work with CrossReach to make representation on issues of national importance including the proposed legislation on a National Care Service; the investment needed to support a net carbon zero target in the care sector; and the policy and funding framework required to tackle Scotland's high level of drugs related deaths.
6. Encourage the newly formed Presbyteries to recommit to the Presbytery Pledge at the earliest opportunity and consider how they might work more closely with CrossReach in their congregations and communities as they develop plans for the future.
7. Note the concerted efforts already made by CrossReach to deal with the challenges which pose a risk to future operations and endorse the priorities identified by the Board which will help set the conditions for consolidation and growth as part of a missional Church.
8. Welcome the investment being made by Scottish Government to ensure that a Living Wage can be paid to all staff within the regulated Adult Care Workforce; thank the Assembly Trustees for their continued commitment to tackling this area of gender inequality and social injustice and encourage the Assembly Trustees and CrossReach Board to continue to push for the necessary resources to ensure parity across the whole workforce.
9. Give thanks for the thousands of people who have engaged with CrossReach services over the last year and who have enriched the life of CrossReach by sharing their stories and situations; rejoice in the achievements of those who have worked so hard to overcome personal challenges; commit to hold all who are being supported through the services in prayer.

The Principal Clerk spoke from personal experience about the human and emotional cost to CrossReach staff resulting from their work, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also praised the care which CrossReach management exercise for their staff.

The Moderator thanked the Convener, the Rev Thomas Riddell, on behalf of the General Assembly, for his report and for the work and dedication of CrossReach staff, particularly over the past two years.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Guild which was given in by Mrs Margaret Muir, National Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Welcome the Guild's 135th anniversary and acknowledge the significant impact the Guild has had in congregations and in the wider world during that time.
3. Commend the Guild on its efforts to maintain contact with and involvement of its membership as they emerge from pandemic restrictions.
4. Encourage Presbyteries and Guilds Together Groups to explore ways in which they can work together to support the greater involvement of Guilds in the mission of the Church.
5. Commend the further exploration of hybrid methods of meeting to enable wider participation in the national decision-making of the Guild.
6. Celebrate the significant number of new members who have joined this year and welcome the establishment of two new Guild branches.
7. Welcome new branches where Guilds have come together to provide a vibrant, sustainable local group and commend this approach as a model for future development.
8. Congratulate the Guild on the work of its Project Partnership Scheme 2021-24 and recognise the important issues tackled and vital monies raised.

IONA COMMUNITY BOARD

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Iona Community Board which was given in by the Rev Tom Gordon, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the Unlocked programme to congregations, ecumenical partners and other agencies as a model for supporting those in poverty, and call on local and national church leaders to resist those proposed increases in fuel and National Insurance Contributions which most affect those in poverty.
3. Urge congregations and all people of goodwill to remember the people of Israel / Palestine in their prayers and to press HM Government and MPs to persuade the international community and the Israeli Government in particular to bring about change in the pursuit of human rights, justice and peace for all in the Holy Land.

4. Call upon all people of goodwill to raise awareness of the historical legacy of slavery, and to support congregations and faith communities in their endeavours to research the historical legacy of slavery in their own areas, particularly in relation to local religious buildings.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.38pm until 2.00pm.

SESSION 13

GENERAL TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the General Trustees which, in the absence of the Pro-Tem Chair, was given in by Mr Grahame Lees, a Trustee.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and 2021 Accounts of the General Trustees.
2. Welcome progress on the Presbytery Mission Plan Act(Act VIII 2021).
3. Welcome:
 - (a) the decision to provide 50% of the cost of centrally employed Presbytery Buildings Officers for reformed Presbyteries for three years; and
 - (b) the appointments of Presbytery Buildings Officers in Fife and Clyde.
4. Remind Financial Boards of their duty to provide a habitable manse and to keep it in a good state of repair and decoration and remind Presbyteries of their oversight obligations in terms of Regulations VII 2007.
5. Welcome the proposed Consolidating Act for General Assembly 2023.
6. Note that the appointment of the Chair and the Vice-Chair has been delayed due to resignation of the Chair in March 2022.
7. Authorise payment of £1,900 to each of Mr Ian Townsend as the Chair and Rev Fiona Mathieson as the Vice-Chair for their services over the past year.
8. Note and endorse the position of the General Trustees in relation to ongoing discussions with the Scottish Government about the significant adverse impact on the Church of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Register of Persons Holding Controlled Interest in Land) Regulations 2021.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 5 and renumber:

5. Instruct Congregations a) to provide a valid Energy Performance Certificate with the Manse Condition Schedule when this is submitted for inspection to Presbytery from December 31st 2022 and b) to ensure the Energy Performance Certificate Rating for the Manse is within Categories A - C by 31st December 2025 as a target date through carrying out any necessary improvements to the building or through the sale and purchase of an approved Manse by that date.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 5 and renumber:

5. Instruct the General Trustees and Faith Nurture Forum to work with Presbyteries to help them audit and assess the current stock of manse and other residential properties across the Church in such areas as energy efficiency, provision of services, maintenance to a good standard and future sustainability and to remind Presbyteries of their ongoing responsibility to ensure that where there are concerns around the condition of a manse they should consider what action should be taken, which may include working with the congregation to upgrade or replace said manse.

It was moved and seconded (Rev Dr Scott Kirkland):

Add a new section 5 and renumber:

5. Pass an amendment to the Consolidated Fabric Fund Regulations (Regs VII 1995), paragraph C (1), to insert after the words “the income of the Fund” the words “(other than rental income derived from vacant congregational property)”.

The Moderator ruled that the motion (new section 5 (Kirkland)) was not in accordance with Standing Order 56 and the General Assembly agreed to depart from the matter.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Safeguarding Committee which was given in by the Rev Adam Dillon, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the Safeguarding Service Annual Statistical Report and thank all Safeguarding Co-ordinators for their continued commitment to safeguarding in the Church.
3. Note the work being undertaken by the Safeguarding Committee to manage those who pose a risk in Church communities and thank congregational Safeguarding Panels for their work in this area.
4. Instruct Ministers (for this purpose to include parish ministers, Interim Ministers, Transition Ministers, Associate Ministers, auxiliary ministers, probationers, OLM, readers, locums, and Armed Forces chaplains), to undertake safeguarding training as prescribed by the Safeguarding Service.
5. Instruct Presbyteries to maintain a Presbytery Safeguarding Register and to ensure compliance with the recommended safeguarding training in accordance with the process set out in Appendix 1.
6. Note the change of title from Kirk Session Safeguarding Training to Trustee Safeguarding Training and instruct all active charity trustees to attend.
7. Instruct Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to ensure that all those doing regulated work (paid or voluntary) and charity trustees attend refresher Safeguarding Training appropriate to their role no less frequently than every five years.
8. Encourage congregations to mark ‘Safeguarding Sunday’ on Sunday 19th June 2022, or any other suitable Sunday in June.
9. Instruct Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to put in place a Whistleblowing Policy as soon as practicable.

10. Note the collaborative work with the Communications Department to bring an online Safeguarding Handbook to the Church of Scotland website.
11. Note the work of the Survivor Working Group.
12. Note the work to bring an online solution to SG7 and SG11.
13. Note the updated position in relation to the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020.

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Legal Questions Committee.

The Deliverance as amended was agreed.

The General Assembly adjourned at 4.08pm to meet again in this Hall and online via video-conference tomorrow at 9.15am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL
and online via video-conference
EDINBURGH, 25 May 2022, 4.08pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 26 MAY 2022

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings on the 26th day of May 2022, at 9.15 am.

SESSION 14

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

The Right Rev and the Rt Hon Lord Sentamu addressed the General Assembly and was thanked by the Moderator.

The Minutes of Sessions 7-10, being available in the Assembly Paper, were submitted and approved.

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HOUSING AND LOAN FUND FOR RETIRED MINISTERS AND WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF MINISTERS

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Trustees of the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund which was given in by the Rev MaryAnn Rennie, Chair.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Mrs Barbara Finlayson as a Trustee of the Fund.

The Moderator thanked the retiring Chair, Rev MaryAnn Rennie, on behalf of the General Assembly, for her work and service as Chair of the Housing and Loan Fund.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Nomination Committee which was given in by the Rev Julie Rennick, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. The Standing Committees and each of the Presbyteries are encouraged to invite members of Standing Committees to speak to Presbytery about the benefits of serving the wider Church and subsequently encouraged to generate nominations.
3. Make alterations to the Standing Committees of the General Assembly as set forth in the Report.
4. Appoint David Di Paola and John Wilson, both solicitors in the Law Dept, as Assessors in terms of the Discipline Act (Act I 2019).
5. Reappoint Roddy John MacLeod as a Convener of the Discipline Tribunal.
6. Reappoint Ian Miller as a Convener of the Discipline Tribunal.
7. Reappoint Richard McFarlane as a Convener of the Judicial Commission.
8. Reappoint Morag Ross as a Convener of the Judicial Commission.
9. Appoint Kenneth Baldwin as Convener of the Audit Committee.
10. Appoint Scott Brown as Convener of the Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces Committee.
11. Appoint Ross Blackman as Convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee.

The General Assembly agreed that certain Standing Orders should be suspended and/or amended to allow the alterations to Standing Committees of the General Assembly set out in section 3, sections 5-8 and new section 12 of the Deliverance to be made: Theological Forum (Standing Order 118); Appointment to Legal Bodies (Standing Order 122); and special dispensation to allow the appointment proposed in the new section 12.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 3 of the proposed Deliverance:

Add at the end:

subject to the following further alterations:

Add:

Chaplains to HM Forces Committee

Vice-Convener Appointed Andrew Tait (London Crown Court)

Minister resigned Alen McCulloch May 2022

Member resigning Andrew Tait

Faith Impact Forum

Minister resigned Peter Nimmo Apr 2022

Member Appointed Tom Burnham Apr 2022 (Earlston)

Appointment to Legal Bodies

- Mission Plan Review Group

Member Appointed David Watt (Airdrie New Wellwynd)

Member Appointed Grant Gordon (Edinburgh: Currie)

Theological Forum

Member Appointed Pamela Kennedy (Peebles St Andrew's Leckie)

Section 3 as amended was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 12:

12. Approve the appointment of the Rev Dr Karen Campbell as a member of the Faith Nurture Forum until the General Assembly of 2023.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Selection Committee which was given in by the Rev Eleanor McMahon, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint the following three persons to serve in terms of the group appointed under the new section 3 of the Supplementary Report of the Faith Nurture Forum:

Rev Richard Baxter, Transition Minister (Glasgow: Wellington)

Ms Sheena MacFarlane OBE, Elder (Port Glasgow: New)

Mr David Watt, Elder (Airdrie: New Wellwynd)

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.34am until 10.59am.

DECEASED MINISTERS, MISSIONARIES AND DEACONS

The General Assembly called for the Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons, which was given in by The Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Convener, as follows:

DATE OF DEATH

2020

July 14 Rev Prof Douglas William (Bill) David Shaw, formerly Principal of St Mary's College, St Andrews

December 1 Rev Eric John Wright, formerly of Glasgow: St George's-Tron as Associate Minister

2021

May 29 Rev David James Heberton, formerly of Ayton & Burnmouth linked with Grantshouse Houndwood & Reston

June 1 Rev William Stuart Dunn, formerly of Motherwell: Crosshill

12 Rev William Abernethy, formerly of Glenrothes: St Margaret's

17 Rev John Minto Lloyd, formerly of Glasgow: Croftfoot

July 17 Rev John William Stirling Brown, formerly of Cromar

	22	Rev Robert Stewart Hynd, formerly Senior Chaplain, Army
August	6	Rev James Sharp, latterly Ordained Local Ministry in the International Presbytery
	14	Rev Margaret Alison Muir, formerly of Glencaple linked with Lowther
	24	Rev Stephen Palit, formerly of Dundonnell
September	10	Rev Ewen Sinclair Nicoll, formerly of Arrochar linked with Luss
	11	Rev Kenneth Boath Wood Warner, formerly of Halkirk & Westerdale
	30	Rev Catherine McLaughlin, formerly of Ordained Local Ministry at Glasgow: Kelvinbridge
October	3	Rev James Mitchell Annand, formerly of Lockerbie: Dryfesdale
	8	Miss Marion Nelson Conacher, formerly Missionary in Tilda, India
	10	Rev William Welsh Halliday Baird formerly of Patna linked with Waterside & Lethanhill
	15	Rev John William Morrison Cameron, formerly of Edinburgh: Liberton
	26	Rev John Deas Whiteford, formerly of Newlands: South
November	27	Rev Garden William Murray Ritchie, formerly of Ardersier linked with Petty
December	11	Rev William Grainger Allan, formerly of Kirkcudbright: St Cuthbert's
	12	Miss Sheila Alice Moyes DCS, formerly General Secretary, Scottish Council, YWCA
	21	Rev George Strachan Cowie, latterly Presbytery Clerk of Glasgow
	31	Rev Thomas Legerwood Clark, formerly of Orphir linked with Stenness

2022

January	8	Rev William Shackleton, formerly of Greenock: Wellpark West
	2	Dr Peter Ford Green, formerly of Foreign Mission: Kenya
	9	Rev Professor John Frederick Adam Sawyer, formerly Professor, Religious Studies, Lancaster University
	15	Very Rev Dr John Hedley McIndoe, formerly of London: St Columba's linked with Newcastle: St Andrew's
	15	Rev Ronald Stanley Seaman, formerly of Dornock
	15	Rev David James Ferguson, formerly of Bellie linked with Speymouth
	18	Rev Hamish Kirkpatrick Fleming, formerly of Banchory: Ternan East
	18	Rev Dr Henry Norwell Chisholm, formerly of Grand Bahama with Overseas Council
	19	Rev Alexander Whiteford, formerly of Ardersier linked with Petty
	21	Dr Derek Gavin Doyle, formerly Foreign Missions: South Africa
	25	Rev James Henry Dunn Craig Drysdale, formerly of Blackbraes and Shieldhill
	27	Rev Ian Walker, formerly of Rutherglen: Wardlawhill
	31	Miss Helen Thom DCS, formerly of Tynecastle School, Edinburgh
February	1	Rev Jeffrey Maurice Mead, formerly of Kirkinner linked with Mochrum linked with Sorbie
	5	Rev Laurie Young Gordon, formerly of Aberdeen: John Knox
	7	Rev William Douglas Hamilton, formerly of Greenock: Westburn
	14	Rev Robert Farrell Duncan, formerly of Lochgelly: St Andrew's
	15	Rev Alexander Grainger Stoddart formerly of Meldrum and Bourtie
	22	Mr Robert Trimble DCS, formerly of Kirkcaldy: Templehall
	23	Rev Thomas Pryde Heggie, formerly of Nairn: Old
	28	Rev James Alexander Rettie, formerly of Melness & Tongue

March	4	Rev Dr John Urquhart Cameron, formerly of Dundee: Broughty Ferry St Stephen's and West
	5	Rev Malcolm MacLeod, formerly of Rutherglen: Old
	11	Rev Dr Thomas Gracie Macfarlane, formerly of Glasgow: South Shawlands
	22	Rev Peter Kenneth Elston, formerly of Dalgety
	28	Rev Peter Mitchell Gordon, formerly of Airdrie: West
April	5	Rev Isabel Helen Whyte, formerly Chaplain at Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline
	17	Rev Duncan James McGregor, formerly of Channelkirk linked with Lauder Old
	20	Mrs Agnes Tait DCS, formerly of East Kilbride: Greenhills and East Kilbride: Moncrieff
May	5	Rev Eric Gordon Milton, formerly of Blairdaff linked with Chapel of Garioch
	11	Rev Moira Grace MacCormick, formerly of Buchlyvie linked with Gartmore
	11	Rev James Forsyth, formerly of Fearn Abbey and Nigg: Chapelhill

The General Assembly, upstanding, were led in prayer by the Lord Wallace of Tankerness.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance in the print:

Add a new section 9 and renumber:

9. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee and the Legal Questions Committee jointly to determine appropriate arrangements for the meeting of the General Assembly from Saturday 20 May 2023, to be held in Edinburgh in person and with online participation.

It was moved and seconded as a countermotion to the proposed new section 9:

Add a new section 9 and renumber:

9. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee and the Legal Questions Committee jointly to conduct a critical review of the hybrid arrangements for the 2022 General Assembly and report to the General Assembly of 2023, which will meet in person only in Edinburgh on Saturday 20 May 2023.

On a vote being taken there voted For the motion 344 and For the counter-motion 30 and the motion carried.

The new section 9 was then agreed.

It was agreed to treat the motion as an additional section of Deliverance in the Report of the Assembly Business Committee.

Rev Michael Goss requested that thanks be recorded to the Rev Donald McCorkindale, members of the Assembly Business Committee and to the technical teams for their hard work in relation to the running of this year's General Assembly.

The General Assembly passed an Act appointing the next General Assembly to meet on Saturday 20 May 2023.

The General Assembly closed its session with prayer at 12.02pm, subject to intimating that it will meet again in this Hall and online via video-conference this afternoon at 2.00pm.

SESSION 15

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

DECEASED MINISTERS, MISSIONARIES AND DEACONS

The Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons was given in again by The Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Convener, to ensure that all who wished to hear it had that opportunity.

INTRODUCTION OF NEXT PRINCIPAL CLERK

The next Principal Clerk, the Rev Fiona E Smith, was introduced and she took the oath de fideli. The Moderator offered prayers for Mrs Smith and her ministry.

The Moderator then offered thanks for the work of the outgoing Principal Clerk, the Rev Dr George J Whyte, who addressed the Assembly and was warmly applauded.

The Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted were held as read and approved.

REPORT ON PRINTING OF ACTS

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Commissions as to the Printing of the Acts of the General Assembly which was given in by the Principal Clerk, and it was remitted to the Committee on Commissions under Standing Order 26 to revise and print the Acts.

PROTESTATIONS

Protestations were called for but none was taken.

The Clerks were appointed a Committee to revise the Minutes.

The General Assembly passed an Act appointing the Commission of Assembly in terms of Act VI 1997.

The following people were presented to the General Assembly:

GENERAL TRUSTEES

New Staff Members:

David Gillan, Presbytery Buildings Officer, Presbytery of Fife

Jamie McNamara, Presbytery Buildings Officer, Presbytery of Clyde

IT DEPARTMENT

New Staff Member:

Richard MacLennan, Head of IT

LAW DEPARTMENT

New Staff Members:

Helen Lapinskie, Senior Administrator

John Wilson, Solicitor

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

New Staff Members:

Suzanne Nolte, Payroll and Accounting Manager

Katherine Southern, Stewardship Consultant

Retiring Staff Member:

Margot Robertson, Stewardship Consultant

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

Retiring Staff Member:

Iain Whyte, General Secretary

FAITH NURTURE FORUM

Ministers recently inducted and introduced to their first charge or appointment:

Rev Dr Amy Bender, Keith: North Newmill Boharn & Rothiemay

Rev Dr Urzula Glienecke, Associate Chaplain at Edinburgh University

Rev Dewald Louw, Alves & Burghead linked with Kinloss & Findhorn

Rev Timothy Mineard, Barrhead: St Andrews

Rev Sarah Smith, Stonehaven: Carronside

Rev Gillian Rooney Glasgow: Orchardhill

Recently Appointed Ministries Development Staff:

Mrs Shona Barakat, Montrose: Old & St Andrew's

Mrs Sandra Davie, Glenrothes: St Margaret's

Mrs Susan Graham, Glasgow: Sherbrooke Mossspark

Mrs Susan Johnstone, Glasgow: Castlemilk

Mrs Catriona Milligan, Glasgow: Gorbals

Ordained Local Ministers

Rev David Galbraith, Maryculter Trinity

Rev Heather Gourlay, Rural Ministry in Angus Presbytery

Rev Nikki Kirkland, Edinburgh: St Nicholas Sighthill

Recently Retired Ministers:

Rev John Brewster, East Kilbride: Greenhills

Rev Klaus O F Buwert, Muthill l/w Trinity Gask & Kinkell

Rev John A Cowie, Edinburgh: Stockbridge

Rev Howard R Hudson, Glasgow: Bridgeton St Francis in the East

Rev A Scott Marshall, Abercorn l/w Pardovan Kingscavil & Winchburgh

Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Orwell & Portmoak

Rev John M Povey, Kirk of Calder

Rev A Malcolm Ramsay, Edinburgh: Willowbrae as Transition Minister
Rev Eileen M Ross, Linwood
Rev Margaret D J Steele, Ashkirk I/w Selkirk

Recently Retired Ministries Development Staff:

Rev Dorothy Anderson, Associate, Dunblane Cathedral

Recently Retired Deacon

Miss Morag Crawford DCS, Fife: Rosyth
Mrs Jean Porter DCS, Stirling: St Mark's

SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Ruth Cardwell Moore, Head of HR Operations
Keeley Craw, Managing Co-ordinator – East Region
Caroline Ewen, Unit Manager - Belfield
Rhona Gardiner, Head of Service – North Region
Jennifer Gibson, Head of Service – Resourcing and Efficiency
Samantha Stephenson, Finance Manager
Gordon Thomson, Quality Compliance HR Business Partner
Fiona Watson, Finance Business Partner

Retiring Staff Members:

Janis Grubb, Unit Manager - Belfield
Mari Rennie, HR Director
Anne Williams, Support Assistant

The Moderator addressed all those who had been presented to the General Assembly, conveying the good wishes of the Assembly to them.

The Moderator addressed the General Assembly.

His Grace addressed the General Assembly and concluded with these words: “Right Reverend and well-beloved, your labours are now at an end and now, in the Queen’s name, I bid you farewell”.

A verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Moderator and members of the General Assembly having bowed to His Grace, the Moderator, turning to the General Assembly, said “Right Reverend: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, sole King and Head of the Church, I now dissolve this General Assembly, and appoint the next General Assembly to be held at Edinburgh on the 20th day of May 2023.”

The members of the General Assembly, prior to lining the Quadrangle of the College as His Grace passed from the Assembly Hall, concluded their Session at 3.27pm with the Benediction pronounced by the Moderator.

ASSEMBLY HALL, EDINBURGH
and online via video-conference
26 May 2023, 3.27pm