

Legal Questions Committee Speech, Session 1, Item 10 – General Assembly 2020

Moderator,

Much of the work of the Committee over the past year is not reported here due to time constraints and pressure of work. I hope to report fully on the Committee's broader progress at next year's Assembly. However, I bring several limited amendments to legislation on matters which the Committee feels would improve the ways the church carries out some of its necessary work.

The amendment to the Registration of Ministries Rules is for noting. There are also some technical amendments to the Act itself, which require a short amending Act.

The requirement that a Minister called to a charge is a member of the PVG Scheme is clarified in the amendments to the Vacancy Procedure Act.

A practical change to increase the number of Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the Appeals Committee comes from the experience of the Committee's work.

A report is provided on the Commissions of Assembly which were called in November 2019 and in May and July 2020. The Commissions called in this more extended period have highlighted an issue of representation which is addressed, we consider in a proportionate way, in the amendment proposed in Appendix D.

I accordingly present the Report and ask the Principal Clerk to move sections 1 and 5 to 8 of the Deliverance.