

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

## NOTICES OF MOTION

**as at 11am, Monday 18th May 2026**

Notes:

This list will first be published on the website on Tuesday 12th May (on the Publications page: <https://churchofscotland.org/about-us/general-assembly/publications> [HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK/ABOUT-US/GENERAL-ASSEMBLY/PUBLICATIONS](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/publications)) and will be regularly updated thereafter.

At this General Assembly, the most up to date list of Notices of Motion will be found in the Assembly Hub, as the Hub will constantly be updated in real time. If you have submitted a Notice of Motion and you are wondering why it does not appear here or in the Hub, then it is probably because it is still in the process of being published by the Clerks.

## MONDAY

### REPORT OF THE GENERAL TRUSTEES

***Motion (amendment to section 2) in the name of Rev Bryan Kerr (118)***

Amend section 2 by deleting “31 December 2026” and substituting “30 April 2027 or the date of annual attestation of property records by the Presbytery, whichever is sooner”.

***Motion (amendment to section 3) in the name of Rev Bryan Kerr (118)***

Amend section 3 by adding at the end,

, subject to amending the Act as follows:

By amending section 4(ii) to add the words “or Presbytery” after “General Trustees”;

By amending section 4(iii) to add the words “and in consultation with the Presbytery” after “professional advice”;

By deleting the existing section 5 and substituting a new section 5 as follows:

“Where, following Adjustment, funds are held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund for a united congregation, title to any property of the united congregation not already so vested or subject to Assembly Control shall require to be transferred to the General Trustees or a suitable Assembly Control clause inserted prior to any monies being released for works to that property.”

***Motion (new section 2) in the name of Neil MacLennan (221)***

2. Invite the General Trustees to consider enhancing the existing grant and funds release forms to require applicants to demonstrate that they have given due consideration to Net Zero implications, including a clear indication of whether the proposed use of funds will increase, maintain, or reduce the congregation’s carbon footprint.

***Motion (amendment to section 4) in the name of Rev Bryan Kerr (118)***

Amend section 4 by adding at the end,

, subject to amending the Regulations by adding the following sentence at the end of section 4 of Appendix 2:

“Any new information or representation put forward on behalf of any party or witness which has not previously been intimated to the Minister shall be put to the Minister in the course of the hearing and he or she shall be given a suitable opportunity to respond to it.”

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

***Motion (new section 5) in the name of Neil MacLennan (221)***

In relation to recruitment to Standing Committees, instruct the Nomination Committee, working with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group, to: (i) consider whether current recruitment activities are reaching the intended audience, and whether there are any barriers that limit awareness, understanding, or encouragement to apply; (ii) consider whether recruitment efforts might include a positive bias towards reaching under-represented groups and show a clear commitment to inclusion; and to report back to the General Assembly of 2027.

***Motion (amendment to section 5) in the name of the Convener (262)***

*Add at the end of section 5:*

subject to the following alterations:

**Assembly Business Committee**

*Minister Appointed* Nikki Macdonald (Upper Clyde)

**Assessors under the Discipline Act (Act I 2019)**

*Elder Appointed* Eunice McConnach (Aberdeen Fountainhall)

*Solicitors Appointed* Jennifer Campbell, Ross Matthew, Hannah Peebles, Madelaine Sproule

*Solicitors Resigned* Emma Anstead, Gordon Barclay, David Di Paola, John Wilson

**Audit Committee**

*Member Appointed* Gordon Coupar (Dundee: Broughty Ferry) (1yr)

**Nomination Committee**

*Member Appointed* Gavin Berry (Dundee: Westgait) (2yrs)

## REPORT OF THE CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST

***Motion (new section 3) in the name of the Chair (152)***

Appoint or reappoint, as specified, the following ministers and elders as Trustees of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust for the terms stated in each case, from June 2026: Rev Dr John McPake (reappointment, 2 years), Rev Dr Scott McKenna (reappointment, 4 years), Rev Jan Mathieson (reappointment, 2 years), Rev Dr Ruth Morrison (reappointment, 4 years), Mrs Kay Keith (reappointment, 2 years) and Mr Jamie Sutherland (reappointment, 4 years) and note the resignation of the following trustees: Mrs Isobel Hunter and Mr Roy Pinkerton.

## REPORT OF THE FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM

### PRESBYTERY & PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

#### ***Motion (new section 22) in the name of Rev Mike Goss (263)***

Insert a new section 21 as follows:

21. Instruct the Faith Action Leadership Programme Team and the Assembly Trustees to provide a rationale for a sufficient level of National Stipend Levels as the base line to be adjusted using the appropriate measure of inflation each year and report to the General Assembly of 2027.

#### ***Motion (amendment to section 22) in the name of the Convener of the Presbytery and Partnership Support Programme Group, Rev Jonathan Fleming (114)***

Amend section 22 by adding at the end:

, subject to amending the Appendix to the Act as follows: (a) in paragraph 7.10, changing "paragraph 8.9" to "paragraph 7.9" and (b) in paragraph 8.6, changing "paragraph 9.5" to "paragraph 8.5".

#### ***Motion (amendment to section 22) in the name of the Convener of the Presbytery and Partnership Support Programme Group, Rev Jonathan Fleming (114)***

Amend section 22 by adding at the end:

, subject to amending the Appendix to the Act as follows: deleting the existing paragraph 9.3 and substituting the following:

9.3 The Appointed Person should give reasonable notice of the date of the hearing. The Minister should also be given:

- information about the alleged incapability including copies of any documents which will be produced at the hearing;
- details of the membership of the Committee;
- details of any witnesses which the Appointed Person intends to call; and
- an invitation to the Minister to call relevant witnesses at the hearing provided that advance notice is given.

#### ***Motion (countermotion to section 22) in the name of Rev Dr Grant Barclay (137)***

22. Welcome the development of the capability procedure to date and invite FAPLT to bring a revised Act to the Assembly of 2027.

#### ***Motion (amendment to the proposed counter motion on section 22 in name of Rev Dr Grant Barclay) in the name of Rev Dr John Ferguson (259)***

Amend the proposed counter motion to section 22 by adding at the end, ", having ensured that consultation and engagement with Presbyteries is first undertaken."

#### ***Motion (new section 23) in the name of Rev Bryan Kerr (118)***

23. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to continue to develop the Capability Procedure for Parish Ministers, whether through changes to a 2026 Act or as an Act to be brought to

the Assembly of 2027 for approval, including a mechanism for self-referral, and report to the General Assembly of 2027.

***Motion (amendment to the proposed new section 23 in name of Rev Bryan Kerr) in the name of Rev George Sneddon (316)***

Amend the proposed new section 23 in name of Rev Bryan Kerr by adding after 'self-referral,' the words ", and considering the possibility of extending the Capability Procedure to those in eldership and other offices of the local church,".

***Motion (amendment to section 23) in the name of Rev Bryce Calder (190)***

Amend section 23 by adding at the end,

, subject to amending section 9 of the Act to provide that a minister's stipend shall be paid at full rate for the duration of their period of ill health absence from work as is currently the case under the Income Protection & Ill-Health Act (Act VI 2019), for a maximum period of twelve or fifteen months, as applicable, the specific amendments to the Act being as follows:

In section 9(1)(a), by deleting the words "full rate for six months, half rate for the next six months and one third rate for a further three months (if applicable)" and substituting "full rate for twelve or fifteen months, as applicable".

In section 9(2) by deleting the words "full rate for six months, half rate for the next six months and one third rate for a further three months" and substituting "full rate for fifteen months".

In section 9(4) by deleting the words "full rate for six months, half rate for six months and one third rate for three months" and substituting "full rate for fifteen months".

***Motion (amendment to section 23) in the name of Rev Jonathan Fleming (114)***

Amend section 23 by adding at the end,

, subject to amending the Act by inserting a new section 8C as follows:

**8C. Unrelated Illnesses and Reset of Absence Periods**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, where a minister returns to work following a period of absence and subsequently becomes absent due to a health condition which is clinically unrelated to the previous condition, the provisions of this section shall apply.

(2) If the subsequent absence begins within the twenty-four month rolling period referred to in section 8B, any calculation of:

- (a) continuous absence;
- (b) cumulative absence within any rolling period; and
- (c) the Trigger Date,

shall be reset so as to run from the first day of absence attributable to the later condition.

(3) Any absence attributable to the earlier condition shall not be taken into account in calculating periods referred to in subsection (2).

(4) For the purposes of this section, whether two conditions are clinically unrelated shall be determined by FAPLT on the basis of medical evidence, which may include a Medical Assessment or OHP Report.

(5) For the avoidance of doubt, only one reset shall be possible and intermittent or recurring symptoms of the same or a related underlying condition shall not constitute a new unrelated condition for the purposes of this section.

(6) Where a minister is absent for a total of more than 600 days in any rolling three-year period, whether or not Trigger Date(s) have been reached and whether or not process has occurred to any extent under sections 7 or 8 of this Act, but the minister is still inducted to the charge, the Presbytery, after consulting with the Ill Health Committee and the minister's congregation, may decide to sever the pastoral tie at any time thereafter. The provisions of section 9 as to overall stipend payments shall apply, and the minister may remain in the manse for a further period of up to three months after the tie is severed under the General Trustees' Standard Conditions for Occupation of a Manse on a Caretaker basis; if this happens, the minister shall be responsible for any payments due to HMRC in respect of his or her occupation of the manse other than any National Insurance contributions due, payment of which shall be made by the Presbytery.

***Motion (amendment to section 23) in the name of Rev Jonathan Fleming (114)***

Amend section 23 by adding at the end,

, subject to amending the Act by deleting the existing section 9(4) and substituting the following wording:

Save as specified in section 9(3), and subject to the discretion of FAPLT, after appropriate consultation, no minister shall be entitled to receive, in any rolling twenty two month period, overall payments equivalent to stipend, during period(s) of absence, of more than full rate for six months, half rate for six months and one third rate for three months.

***Motion (new section 30) in the name of Rev Stella McBurnie (311)***

Insert a new section 30:

30. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consider bringing the Guardianship Allowance in line with the standard Vacancy Allowance and report to the General Assembly of 2027.