

## GA 2021

### FINAL COLLATED DELIVERANCE

#### ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

##### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the order of business for the first two days.
3. Appoint Rev Colin Renwick to be Precentor until May 2022.
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](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk) by Monday 24 May at 12pm, nomination(s) of Commissioner(s) to serve on the Selection Committee.
6. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian to form the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian, as set out in the Overture received from the Presbyteries.
7. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Annandale and Eskdale, Ardrossan, Ayr, Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, Irvine and Kilmarnock, and Wigtown and Stranraer, to form the Presbytery of the South West as set out in the Overture received from the Presbyteries.
8. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Hamilton and Lanark to form the Presbytery of Lanarkshire as set out in the Overture received from the Presbyteries.
9. Approve the Overture amending the Church Courts Act (Act III 2000) as set out in Appendix C and transmit the same to Presbyteries for their consideration under the Barrier Act, directing that returns be sent to the Principal Clerk not later than 31 December 2021.
10. Pass as an Interim Act the text of the Overture amending the Church Courts Act (Act III 2000) as set out in sections 1 and 2 only (but not section 3) of Appendix C.
11. Instruct the Committee to develop the fast tracking of deliverance approval necessitated by online Assemblies and continue in future Assemblies.
12. Instruct the Committee to continue its work on General Assembly reform, including engagement with the Legal Questions Committee's work on the Church Courts Act, reflection on the report of the Special Commission on the Effectiveness of the Presbyterian Form of Church Governance, and to share proposals with Presbyteries for early consultation, prior to reporting to the General Assembly of 2022.
13. Invite the Legal Questions Committee to prepare legislation enabling all or part of future General Assembly business to be conducted online, and report to a subsequent General Assembly.

#### SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

14. Urge the Scottish Bible Society to pursue its ongoing efforts to address the challenge of global Bible translation and distribution.

15. 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.
16. Endorse the Society in its efforts to encourage confidence in the Gospel and in providing Scripture resources for mission purposes.
17. Commend the Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members.

## **DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly and thank it for its work.
2. Continue the appointment of the Delegation with the same powers as hitherto - the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly to be Chair, the Depute Clerk of the General Assembly to be Vice-Chair and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.

## **ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and Supplementary Report.
2. Acknowledge with gratitude the work and ministry of the Church at all levels during the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Receive the 2020 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities.
4. Note the challenging financial situation facing the Church as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and, while acknowledging the necessity of setting a Covid-19 recovery budget for 2021, reaffirm the need for budgetary prudence and the priority of resourcing Presbytery reform and supporting the growth of the local Church.
5. Thank the Very Rev Dr Russell Barr and the Ministries and Mission Review Group for their work and approve Giving to Grow as the new Ministries and Mission Allocation scheme to replace the current Ministries and Mission scheme.
6. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to report to the General Assembly of 2022 with further details in relation to:
  - (i) the funding models which will apply to the new Presbyteries;
  - (ii) the intended size, scope, terms and conditions of the proposed Transition Fund;
  - (iii) a comprehensive communication strategy for the implementation of Giving to Grow; and
  - (iv) the criteria and process for an annual review process for Giving to Grow.
7. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to present Regulations for Giving to Grow to the General Assembly of 2022 with a view to implementing Giving to Grow from 1 January 2023.

8. Lift the moratorium on increasing Ministries and Mission contributions imposed by the General Assembly of 2019.
9. Note the work done in projecting both the future availability and affordability of ministries across the Church of Scotland and set as a realistic aim that Presbyteries should seek to implement by 2025 Presbytery Plans based around 600 fulltime equivalent ministries and a target of no more than 60 further charges vacant at any one time.
10. Acknowledge that much has been learned through the consultations carried out on behalf of the Trustees by the Special Group (D10) which was exploring the most effective and efficient way of delivering the work of the Faith Action Plan and note that the Trustees, building on the lessons learned, will continue this work in a spirit of collaboration, bringing a final report to the General Assembly of 2022.
11. Note the recommendations contained in Appendix 2 and, for the time being, approve the placing of the Ecumenical Relations Committee and of the Theological Forum within the Office of the General Assembly.
12. Approve the placing of the Gaelic Group within the Faith Nurture Forum.
13. Approve the reduction in the number of members of the Nomination Committee from 24 to 18 in addition to the Convener and Vice-Convener.
14. Agree to increase the size of the Personnel Appeal Panel to twelve persons, each appointed to serve a four year term with the option of appointment for a further four year term and grant powers to the Convener and Vice Convener of the Nomination Committee to approve the co-option of new members of the group.
15. Thank those involved in the External Communications Review and welcome the setting up of the Communications Strategy Board.
16. Approve the decision of the Assembly Trustees to suspend the work on the future of the George Street buildings for two years whilst ensuring a basic maintenance programme commences.
17. Given the urgency of the need to institute new forms of Church and to engage in pioneer mission:
  - (i) Instruct the Assembly Trustees to establish, as part of the Faith Action Plan, a Pioneer Mission Fund aimed at supporting local church growth, with a particular emphasis on church planting and the establishment of 100 new worshipping communities;
  - (ii) Encourage wide-ranging support for contributions to be made to this Fund, including contributions from individuals, businesses and outside bodies, and as soon as circumstances permit allocate central financial resources to this important work; and
  - (iii) Instruct the Assembly Trustees to make appropriate provision for the efficient management and evaluation of the Fund and the projects it supports.
18. Encourage Kirk Sessions to participate in a National Gift Day during Harvest time in 2021, promoting the offering of thanksgiving gifts to God for sustaining the Church through these challenging times.
19. Urge congregations to engage with the National Stewardship Programme, using the Narrative of Generosity resource to embrace a whole life of stewardship.

20. Note the appointment from 15 October 2020 of Gillian Elizabeth Coghlan as Depute Treasurer and confer upon the said Gillian Elizabeth Coghlan, Depute Treasurer, full power to discharge all legacies, bequests or donations which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the Church of Scotland, or any of the Schemes, Councils, Forums, Committees or agencies thereof, or which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the United Free Church of Scotland or to any of the Schemes, Boards or Committees or agencies thereof and which in terms of the Agreement with the continuing United Free Church of Scotland fall to the Church of Scotland or its Schemes, Councils, Forums, Committees or agencies, and to sign all Discharges, Agreements, Indemnities, Undertakings, and other Deeds which may be necessary in connection therewith.
21. Approve the amended remit of the Legal Questions Committee set out in Appendix 3.
22. Urge the Assembly Trustees, in consultation with all relevant bodies, to expedite the exploration into allowing the proceeds from the sale of redundant buildings to be used more widely than at present, especially for purposes of Ministry and Mission.
23. Approve the total to be contributed by congregations in 2022 of £42,000,000 based on the projection of congregational income for 2022 and its disposition among local congregational expenditure, the Parish Ministries Fund and the Mission and Renewal Fund.
24. Note the indicative budget for 2022.
25. Urge Presbyteries to prioritise the use of the 2022 Discretionary Allowance towards reducing the amounts of Ministries and Mission contributions payable by congregations which are struggling financially.
26. Approve the reappointment of Ann Nelson as an Assembly Trustee for a second term; and approve the appointment of David Cameron, Barry Hughes and Peter McEnhill as Assembly Trustees and approve the appointment of Philip Ziegler as an Assembly Trustee until the General Assembly of 2022.

## **SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FORM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Invite Kirk Sessions to study the Report, especially Section 2, and consider the questions raised as they apply to their own mission strategies, or as part of their process of developing mission strategies.
3. Instruct Presbyteries to study the Report, especially Section 3, and consider the questions raised alongside their plans for reshaping the newly formed Presbyteries and developing mission strategies.
4. Instruct the Assembly Trustees, the Assembly Trustees' Webinar Group and related stakeholders to host a national day webinar on the opportunities presented by the Report, inviting participation from all levels of church life, this event to take place before 30 November 2021.

5. Instruct the agencies of the General Assembly to study the Report, and consider the questions raised, particularly around how these will impact the shaping and functioning of the General Assembly and the agencies of the General Assembly and their developing mission strategies, and also the relationship these bodies will have with each other, Presbyteries and the local Church, and in particular instruct (1) the Legal Questions Committee to consider these matters when framing the new Church Courts Act, (2) the Assembly Business Committee to consider these matters when looking at questions of General Assembly reform, and (3) the Assembly Trustees to consider including appropriate reporting on these matters in their report to the General Assembly of 2022.
6. Thank all those who have engaged with the Special Commission.
7. Thank and discharge the Special Commission.

## **LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Amend Standing Orders as detailed in section 4 and Appendix B of the Report of the Assembly Business Committee.
3. Note the intention of the Committee to bring a Church Courts Overture to the General Assembly of 2022 and encourage Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and others to engage with the Committee in the preceding consultation process.
4. Note the work done by the Committee in relation to the solemnisation of same sex marriages including the draft Overture set out in Appendix A and the Procurator's Supplementary Opinion at Appendix B.
5. Approve the Solemnisation of Same-Sex Marriage Overture as set out in Appendix A and transmit the same to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act, directing that returns be sent to the Principal Clerk by 31 December 2021.
6. Instruct the Committee, in consultation with others, to continue to develop a process of Presbytery Review and report to the General Assembly of 2024.
7. In relation to appeals:
  - (a) instruct the Faith Nurture Forum, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee and the Presbytery Clerks' Forum, to prepare a manual of good practice for Presbyteries to follow in terms of Mission Plan procedures; and
  - (b) instruct the Committee to consider bringing proposed amendments to the Appeals Act to allow early consideration of the competency and relevancy of any Grounds of Appeal and to bring any proposals to the General Assembly of 2022.
8. Note that (1) the Vacancy Protocol and the arrangements for Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to meet and vote by video-conferencing or audioconferencing or a combination of the two, agreed by the Commission of Assembly on 7 July 2020, (2) 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) and (3) the arrangements for Financial Boards to meet and vote by videoconferencing or audio-conferencing or a combination of the two, have all proved useful and continue these arrangements until the General Assembly of 2022.

9. Instruct that while the Covid-19 pandemic regulations prevent an in person congregational meeting taking place:
  - (a) Kirk Session shall have power to appoint to the Congregational Board members of the congregation who are not members of the Kirk Session to fill vacancies which have arisen, which appointments shall last only until such time as the Stated Annual Meeting is next held in person; and
  - (b) if in the Committee's view, at any time before the next General Assembly, alternative arrangements become necessary to enable elections to take place to Congregational Boards, the Committee shall have power to produce a Protocol to enable elections to Congregational Boards.
10. Pass an Act amending the Discipline Act (Act I 2019) as set out in Appendix C.

## **ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Committee to engage with the reformed Presbyteries of the Church and report to a future General Assembly.
3. Instruct the Committee to facilitate a conference to explore the establishing of cooperative partnerships to enable Christian mission and service to the people of Scotland, taking heed amongst other possibilities of regional Covenant partnerships and local Mission Communities.
4. Note the establishing of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and welcome the development of an effective ecumenical forum during the Covid-19 pandemic.
5.
  - a) Approve the Saint Andrew Declaration, consisting of mutual Acknowledgements and Commitments between the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church.
  - b) Instruct the Committee, in partnership with the Inter-church Relations Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church, to oversee the implementation of the Commitments in the Saint Andrew Declaration and to set up the Working Group proposed by it.
6. Agree to the participation of the Church of Scotland in the Scottish Christian Forum and recognise it as the national ecumenical body in Scotland and note the proposal to dissolve Action of Churches Together in Scotland once the Scottish Christian Forum has been formed.
7. Welcome the appointment of the Very Rev Dr Russell Barr as Co-Chair of the Columba Declaration Contact Group on behalf of the Church of Scotland and the Rt Rev James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle as Co-Chair on behalf of the Church of England.

## **FAITH NURTURE FORUM**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and the Supplementary Report.
2. Note the work done on discipleship and urge Kirk Sessions to utilise the resources provided in order to respond to the clear call to refocus and reshape around the two-part call of discipleship, to follow Christ and to enable others to follow Christ.
3. Instruct the Forum to develop the first modules of a lay training programme, with a view to launching an entry level course in January 2022 and encourage the Assembly Trustees to explore with the Forum funding models for this training which would allow the training to be delivered at no cost to the participant or their congregation and report to the General Assembly of 2022.
4. Instruct the Forum to review the training expectations for Ordained Local Ministers.
5. Note the current mix of unrestricted and reviewable charges and instruct the Forum to keep questions around call and tenure under review.
6. Note the work which has taken place to date on developing a Capability Procedure for Ministers and instruct the Forum in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee to bring detailed proposals for such a procedure to the General Assembly of 2022.
7. Instruct the Forum to bring a revised Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct for the Ministries of the Church of Scotland to the General Assembly of 2022.
8. (a) 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.  
  
(b) Instruct the Forum to continue to develop and deliver this key priority – 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.
9. Note the research project on Pioneer Ministry, and instruct Presbyteries to consider the findings as they engage in planning new ways of being church.
10. Note the insights gained from Path of Renewal and encourage the continuation of this project.
11. Note the work being done on developing intergenerational church life and instruct all Presbyteries to consider this in their planning.
12. Instruct the Forum to consider how the voices and opinions of young people can be gathered on a range of topics and shared widely, following on from the success of the Listening Project carried out by the Assembly Trustees, and the lessons learned from the 2019 Youth Attitudes Survey, and report to the General Assembly of 2022.
13. Instruct the Forum to reassert the Church's commitment to young people by revisiting and acting upon the sections of deliverance from 2019 and 2020 concerning young people and young adults (of Mission and Discipleship Council in 2019 deliverances 7-13 and 18-20 and Faith

Nurture Forum in 2020 deliverance 15) with a view to being able to report actions taken to future General Assemblies.

14. Urge congregations to adopt the ACORN Programme as a means to help members practise mission at grass roots level, and through support in small groups, to gain confidence in effective discipleship.
15. a) Note that Heart and Soul will no longer be part of future General Assemblies and give thanks for all who have contributed to it over the years and for all whose experience of the Church and its life have been enriched by their involvement.  
  
b) Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to report to a future General Assembly on how stories can be shared and lessons learned, having consulted with the Faith Impact Forum and the Assembly Trustees.
16. Instruct the Forum to work with the Diaconate Council, the Legal Questions Committee, and other stakeholders, to review the Deacons Act (Act VIII 2010) and to bring to the General Assembly of 2022 a revised or, if appropriate, a new Act on Diaconal Ministry within the Church of Scotland.
17. Pass an Act amending the Deacons Act (Act VIII 2010), in terms of Appendix 2.
18. Thank Catherine Wallace, D.C.S, for her service as Honorary Secretary to Diaconate Council since her appointment in 2017.
19. Pass a Regulation amending the Manse Adjudication Committee Regulations (Regulations III 2013) and Schedule, as set out in Appendix 3.
20. Instruct the Forum in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee to undertake a review of section 18 (Retirement of Ministers of Word and Sacrament) of the Parish Ministry Act (Act II 2018) and report to the General Assembly of 2022.
21. Instruct the Forum to explore the possibilities of developing a 3 year Gaelic Language Plan [2022 – 2025] that includes a particular emphasis on Gaelic Ministry and Mission to children and young people and to bring a report to the General Assembly of 2022.
22. Acknowledge and give thanks for those who have served in the name of the Church of Scotland, in paid and unpaid Chaplaincy in this past year of the Covid-19 Pandemic, sharing the Love of God in a variety of challenging settings.
23. Pass the Presbytery Mission Plan Act as set out in Appendix 1 subject to the following amendment to section (i) of Appendix 1: after “Five Marks of Mission shall mean:” and before “1. To proclaim....” add “The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ”.
24. Instruct the Forum when developing principles for Presbytery Mission Planning, to include a principle of ecumenical working, bearing in mind the Lund Principle and the encouragement to form Local Mission Communities and regional Covenant Partnerships presented in the report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee.
25. Instruct the Forum to explore whether there may be some downward variance in the 0.25 FTE being allocated to every Guardianship in the provisions of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act, whilst maintaining principles of mission and financial sustainability, and report to the General Assembly of 2022.



26. Instruct Presbyteries to complete the process of developing and gaining final approval of their Presbytery Mission Plan by 31 December 2022 noting that Presbyteries which are in the process of union with other Presbyteries may seek to form a shared Presbytery Mission Plan with them as the fulfilment of this instruction.
27. Instruct the Forum to ensure that Presbyteries receive adequate Guidance on the implementation and operation of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act to enable them to commence planning from 30 June 2021, and to consult the Presbytery Clerks' Forum before issuing further Guidance.
28. Agree the number of ministry posts allocated to each Presbytery set out in Appendix 4 and instruct that this be the figure used in the forming of any Presbytery Mission Plan.
29. Instruct that all Presbytery Plans agreed and approved in terms of the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003) be suspended from 1 June 2021.
30. Instruct the Forum, in consultation with the Assembly Trustees, to provide appropriate financial and pastoral support to Graduate Candidates and those involved in the Familiarisation Programme who are adversely affected by the suspension of current Presbytery Plans, such provision to be reviewed at six-monthly intervals from this General Assembly, until all Presbytery Mission Plans have been approved.
31. Instruct that from 1 June 2021:
  - a) only vacancies and readjustments processed in terms of section 9(2) of Act VII 2003 (which require, for the avoidance of doubt, the approval of the Presbytery of the bounds and the concurrence of the Faith Nurture Forum) may proceed, and
  - b) any vacancies and readjustments given permission to proceed through this exception shall be Reviewable Charges.
32. Pass an Act temporarily amending Act VIII 2003 as follows:
 

[ ] ACT TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE VACANCY PROCEDURE ACT (ACT VIII 2003) (AS AMENDED)

*Edinburgh, [ ] May 2021, Session [ ]*

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

  1. Add the following words at the end of section 28: "Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, where permission to call in terms of section 8 of this Act has been given prior to 1 June 2021 the vacancy process in a charge may continue after 1 June 2021 but if that process has not led to the preaching of a nominee in terms of section 22 of this Act by 31 December 2021, such a vacancy process shall be discontinued at that date unless agreement is reached between the Presbytery of the bounds and the Faith Nurture Forum that the process may be continued thereafter in terms of this Act. For the avoidance of doubt the unamended provisions of this section shall once again apply when the Presbytery has gained final approval in terms of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act ZZ 2021) for a Mission Plan covering the vacant charge."
  2. Delete the words "the Presbytery Plan in accordance with the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003)" where they appear in section 28 and substitute "the Mission Plan in accordance with the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act ZZ 2021)".

33. Instruct that as from 1 June 2021 no Presbytery shall grant permission to Call in terms of section 8 of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) unless agreement has been reached with the Forum.
34. Instruct the Forum in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee to carry out a review of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) in the light of the passing of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act and report to the General Assembly of 2022.
35. Instruct that from 1 June 2021 all outstanding appeals under section 6 of Act VII 2003 related to Presbytery Plans shall be suspended, but that this shall be without prejudice to any right to initiate a review in terms of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act in due course.
36. Pass the Local Mission Church Regulations as set out in Appendix 5.

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

##### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and thank the Trustees and Staff.
2. Appoint Mrs Sharon Anne Ho as a Trustee of the Fund.

#### **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD**

##### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Welcome the Guild's Strategy for 2021-24, "Look Forward in Faith" and its annual themes, "Lights and Bushels", "Wee Seeds, Big trees" and "New Wine, New Wine Skins".
3. Commend the Guild on its efforts to maintain contact with and involvement of its membership during the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. Commend the Guild on its fund-raising and twinning.
5. Celebrate the success of the Guild's Partnership Projects from 2018-21 and the raising of over £551,434.
6. Note and welcome the Guild's new Partnership Projects for 2021-24.

#### **REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

##### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.

## **THEOLOGICAL FORUM**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report
2. Commend Section 3 “Being Confirmed, Professing the Faith, Sharing Communion” as an exploration of Profession of Faith/Confirmation and church membership.
3. Receive the report “Westminster, Confessions and the Church” (Appendix) as an interim response to the instruction given by the General Assembly of 2018.
4. Invite the Theological Forum to facilitate knowledge of the Westminster Confession by producing video resources on the Confession to allow Church leaders and members to study the Confession if they so wished; such material to assist the Church in gaining an understanding of its subordinate standard and thus allow engagement with the consultation which the Forum seeks.
5. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to discuss the questions laid out in Section 23 of “Westminster, Confessions and the Church” (Appendix), along with any further or additional comments, and respond to the Theological Forum by 31 December 2021.
6. Instruct the Theological Forum to bring firm proposals regarding the confessional standards of the Church to the General Assembly of 2022.

## **FAITH IMPACT FORUM**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. 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.
3. Recognise and give thanks for the critical role of the voices, concerns, and passion of young people involved in the life of the Church of Scotland who have campaigned for disinvestment from fossil fuels; and urge congregations to provide an opportunity to listen to young people in the congregation, or in the local community, to hear about their concerns.
4. Urge congregations to prepare for the COP26 UN Climate Summit due to take place in Glasgow in November 2021 by using the Climate Sunday prayer and worship resources ([www.climatesunday.org](http://www.climatesunday.org)); and consider how they can respond in prayer and action and to support congregations to sign the ‘Scottish Churches COP26 Pledge’.
5. (i) Instruct the Forum to work with the Trustees, the General Trustees, the Social Care Council, the Faith Nurture Forum, and others as appropriate, to use the “Net Zero by 2030” framework to develop plans and activities for the Church to work towards meeting this ambition, and to report annually to the General Assembly (ii) Urge all congregations and Presbyteries to consider

the implications of Net Zero for their own buildings, activities, procurement and finances, and to start long-term planning for the changes that will be required, and (iii) Urge congregations and Presbyteries to join Eco-Congregation Scotland, and other ecumenical environment networks, so they may experience the benefits of expert advice and support, as well as the opportunity to join local and regional ecumenical networks to share information and ideas about how to reach Net Zero goals.

6. Instruct the Forum to work with the General Trustees to negotiate a much improved Electricity Supply offer, given that many churches will need to move to electrical heating to meet the "Net Zero by 2030" requirement.
7. Welcome the agreement with the Church of Scotland Investors Trust that, as a matter of principle, the portfolios of investments managed should align with the UN Paris Agreement in pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.
8. Welcome the fact that no oil and gas company shares are currently held; and note that any future investment in oil and gas would only follow agreement between the Church of Scotland Investors Trust and the Faith Impact Forum that there was good evidence that its strategy and implementation was aligned with the stringent targets set by the Paris Agreement.
9.
  - (i) Appoint a Special Committee of five persons to consult with the Faith Impact Forum, the Church of Scotland Investors Trust and the Assembly Trustees to consider the best framework for future recommendations about the ethics of investment practice being brought before the General Assembly, and report to the General Assembly in 2023.
  - (ii) Instruct the Selection Committee to consider carefully the range of skills and diversity of backgrounds required for this task and present the names for this Special Committee on ethical investment practice to a later session of this General Assembly.
10. Urge the UK Government to do all that it can to ensure Covid-19 vaccines are available throughout the world, particularly in resource-poor countries, on the basis of clinical need to preserve human life.
11. Invite Kirk Sessions to arrange a public meeting to consider themes and ideas for a just and green future following the Covid-19 pandemic, and identify the implications for their parish, the wider community, for Scotland and the world, and instruct the Forum to support Kirk Sessions in this.
12. Instruct the Forum to call for the development of safe and legal routes for people desperately seeking sanctuary so that they can travel, live, work and contribute to our society with respect and dignity.
13. Urge the UK Government to reverse its policies regarding migrants crossing the English Channel, the accommodation of asylum seekers in former army camps or other institutions rather than in the community, and the plans to increase the deportation of asylum seekers to other countries.
14. Deplore the decision of the UK Government to cut overseas aid programmes and call on the UK Government and Parliament to continue to provide a minimum of 0.7% of Gross National Income as Overseas Development Assistance in line with the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015 and all main parties' 2019 manifesto commitments.

15. Welcome the cross-Church work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and of engaging with the experience of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people within the Church of Scotland; and instruct the Forum, the Faith Nurture Forum and the Assembly Trustees to consider how best to ensure the necessary resources are available to act on the outcomes.
16. Urge Kirk Sessions to take part in the basic training provided by Integrity – the Church of Scotland’s Violence Against Women Task Group.
17. Instruct the Forum, in consultation with the Ecumenical Relations Committee, to renew and strengthen ecumenical dialogue, partnership and collaboration on public affairs with: (1) the Church of England; (2) through the new Scottish Christian Forum; and (3) within the Joint Public Issues Team.
18. Urge congregations to support the Reset the Debt campaign; instruct the Forum to promote the campaign, and to call on the UK Government to establish a Jubilee Fund to provide grants to pay off and cancel unavoidable debt accrued by households because of the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions.
19. Instruct the Forum to promote the Meet Your MSP resources and encourage congregations to approach their MSPs, especially those newly elected to the Scottish Parliament, in order to establish and strengthen relations with elected representatives.
20. Commend the report on Artificial Intelligence; urge the Church to engage with the issues raised, especially in relation to pastoral care, worship and mission; and instruct the Forum to provide resources to support this engagement.
21. Urge all parts of the Church of Scotland to continue to support Christian Aid as an expression of the Church of Scotland’s solidarity and commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide.
22. Urge congregations and Presbyteries to seek ways to listen and learn from partner churches around the world in relation to issues such as poverty, climate change, migration, HIV, recovery from Covid-19 and interfaith activities, and to develop partner and twinning relationships.

## **IONA COMMUNITY BOARD**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report
2. Welcome the appointments of Ruth Harvey as Leader and Sarah Metcalfe as Executive Director and wish them well at this important stage in the life of the Iona Community.
3. Note with gratitude the completion of the renovation of the living quarters of Iona Abbey as a place of welcome, worship and the renewal of the common life for the whole Church.
4. Rejoice with the Iona Community in the coming into force of the United Nations Nuclear Ban Treaty and affirm the call for the UK Government to join in signing it.
5. Affirm the work of the Community in supporting action towards Climate Justice.

6. Commend the Unlocked programme to Presbyteries, Congregations and wider ecumenical partners.

## **SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the dedication, commitment and exceptional effort of all CrossReach staff who have worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and have continued to deliver high quality services, in Christ's name, to the people who rely on them for support; expressing particular appreciation and thanks to all of those who have worked on the front line.
3. Express alarm at the high rate of drugs deaths in Scotland and instruct CrossReach to work in collaboration with the Faith Impact Forum to hold the Scottish Government to account on its promise to reduce drug deaths and to ensure that the appropriate resources are put in place.
4. Celebrate the completion of the Care and Education restructure and commend those involved for working through the significant challenges it has posed.
5. Endorse the efforts being made by CrossReach to keep 'The Promise' which has been made to children who have experience of the care system; infants, children, young people, adults and their families - 'that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential'; encourage Presbyteries, congregations and individuals in joining with CrossReach to commend this initiative and to do all they can to combat the discrimination and stigma which exists the current children's care system.
6. Note the significant financial challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the additional strain this has caused to CrossReach; celebrate the generous response to the Emergency Coronavirus Appeal from local and international partners without which the organisation would have struggled to offer all that it has to the people it cares for; and encourage Presbyteries, congregations and individual members to continue to offer support through proactive and tangible means.
7. Recognise The Guild for their outstanding support of their Project Partners and commend them for working alongside CrossReach to tackle loneliness and isolation over the past three years.
8. Note the satisfactory position of the closed Church of Scotland pension scheme in regard to CrossReach and commend the Pension Trustees for their efforts.
9. Welcome the findings of the Scottish Parliament commissioned Independent Review into Adult Social Care and those of the Parliament's Health and Sport Committee; note the recommendations made which are needed to improve the current situation for supported people, the social care workforce and unpaid carers; urge Presbyteries, congregations and individuals to get involved in raising awareness of the inequalities in the current system by all possible means and to call for the necessary resources which will begin to address these.
10. (a) Note the human and financial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on CrossReach and the steps being taken to recover;

- (b) note too, the likely future impact of the recommendations of the recent reviews into the structure and funding of the adult social care sector in Scotland; and
- (c) Instruct the Council to report to the General Assembly of 2022 outlining a way forward which takes account of both of these factors and which puts CrossReach on a sustainable footing.

## **SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the Safeguarding Service Annual Statistical Report.
3. Encourage congregations to mark “Safeguarding Sunday” with those of other denominations on Sunday 10th October 2021 or on any other suitable day in October.
4. Note the work being undertaken by the Safeguarding Committee to better understand the needs and experiences of survivors of abuse.
5. Direct that advice given by the Safeguarding Service, when framed as an instruction, must be followed by all Agencies of the General Assembly and by all Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, Safeguarding Coordinators, office-holders, staff and volunteers involved in work with Vulnerable Groups (as defined in the Safeguarding Act), and pass an Act amending the Safeguarding Act (Act XVI 2018) accordingly as set out in Appendix A.
6. Note the good, ongoing working relationships with CrossReach, the Boys’ Brigade, Girls’ Brigade and the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland.
7. Note the ongoing work in relation to International Development issues and the development of overseas protocols.
8. Note that work is ongoing to implement an online solution for the Congregational Register (SG7), Audit Checklist (SG11), and Presbytery Register.
9. Instruct the Safeguarding Service in collaboration with the Faith Nurture Forum to undertake work to scope out a mandatory advanced safeguarding training programme for ministers, and report to the General Assembly of 2022. In the interim, instruct ministers to attend local Introductory Safeguarding Training and record attendance on the Presbytery Register if they have not attended such a course in the last three years.
10. Instruct Presbyteries to co-operate with the Safeguarding Service in a compliance audit of Safeguarding data in readiness for the implementation of the Disclosure Act.
11. Thank all the volunteers who give of their time to promote and embed good safeguarding practices across the Church and express gratitude for the excellent work they undertake.

## **COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY’S FORCES**

### **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 in the past year and give thanks for the support of their families.
4. Commend to the prayers of the Church all Chaplains, and all those whom they serve.
5. Encourage eligible ministers of the Church to consider service as a Chaplain to HM Forces, Regular or Reservist.
6. Encourage those eligible to consider service as Chaplains in any of the cadet organisations, and thank all serving Cadet Chaplains.

### **GENERAL TRUSTEES**

#### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and the 2019 and 2020 Accounts of the General Trustees.
2. Welcome progress on the Land & Buildings Plan in respect of: -
  - (a) the Presbytery Planning Toolkit for Land & Buildings
  - (b) the appointment of a Presbytery Buildings Officer
  - (c) the creation of a Historic Property Portfolio and associated Fund.
3. Welcome the intention to consult on proposed changes to Parliamentary Acts and General Assembly Acts and Regulations.
4. Welcome organisational changes including the adoption of a quorum of five for meetings of the Trustees' Board.
5.
  - (a) Appoint Mr Ian T Townsend as Chair and Rev Fiona M Mathieson as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year
  - (b) Authorise payment of £1,900 to each of Mr Raymond K Young as Chair and Mr Ian T Townsend as Vice-Chair for their services over the past year.
6.
  - a) Express the gratitude of the Church for the 24 years of service that Mr David Robertson has given through his work with the General Trustees, and
  - b) Thank Mr Raymond Young for his vigorous and energetic Chairing of the General Trustees during a time of significant change.



7. Express the thanks of the Church to Mr Brian Auld, Head of Building Safety, Risk and Compliance, for the crucial role he has played in responding to the consequences of Covid-19 on the life and work of our congregations.
8. Note the revised investment policy in respect of the Consolidated Stipend Fund.

## **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.

## **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank those who responded to the call for nominations and encourage members, Elders, Deacons and Ministers to consider nomination for the 2021-22 process.
3. Invite each of the Standing Committees to reconsider its constitution and confirm the appropriate number of General Assembly appointed members which is required.
4. Urge the Nomination Committee to consider adding additional information to the form to ensure a diverse range of voices is facilitated and included on Committees; such as Age brackets, Previous experience, Length of service on National Committees, Preferred method of attendance (in person or online) including hybrid option enabled for all to improve inclusion.
5. Note that Candidates in Training, Probationers and Ministers in their first year after ordination will not normally be nominated to serve on Standing Committees.
6. Make alterations to the Unincorporated Entities of the Church as set forth in the Report subject to the following addition:  
*Add:*  
**Legal Questions Committee**  
*Minister Appointed* Euan Glen (Cluny linked with Monymusk).
7. Appoint James Drummond Young as a Convener of the Judicial Commission.
8. Appoint Shona Haldane as a Convener of the Discipline Tribunal.
9. Appoint Hazel Hastie as Convener of the Registration of Ministries Committee.
10. Appoint Liam Fraser as Convener of the Theological Forum.

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Appoint the following five persons to serve on the Special Committee on Ethical Investment:

Val Brown (Chair)  
Sir Ewan Brown  
Hannah Dunlop  
Rev Dr Thomas Kisitu  
Alasdair Ronald

#### **CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES**

##### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.

#### **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST**

##### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
3. Re-appoint Mrs Morag Angus and Mr Leon Marshall as members of the Trust from 1 June 2021.

#### **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST**

##### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the reappointment of Mr R H Nisbet as a member of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2021.
3. Approve the appointment of Mr J G L Millar and Mrs J McKeown from 1 June 2021.
4. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2019 and 2020.