INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2027

NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY: Registration of Ministries	
CONVENER/CHAIR:	Robbie Hamilton
VICE-CONVENER(S):	Alison Meikle
SECRETARY:	Darren Philip

REMIT:

The remit of the committee, as given to the General Assembly 2025, is as follows:
To deal with various applications related to the Registration of Ministry under the Registration of Ministries Act 2017, including:
(i) Receiving applications for Category O Registration and interviewing the applicant;
(ii) Dealing with applications from individuals registered in Category S seeking to return to ministry;
(iii) Dealing with applications for change of Category of registration from persons who left a post for reasons of ill health.

Further to this, the Committee also engages with Presbyteries on an annual basis to confirm the status of ministers under the oversight of a Presbytery, by issuing an extract of those names under the aegis of a particular Presbytery. The Committee also is engaged in policy development and reflecting on changes to the Act. Ministers seeking to apply for a charge will require to be in possession of Category O registration. The Committee also engages with graduate candidates whose three years of validation by a Presbytery have passed and who are required in terms of Act 10 (2004), on Selection and Training for Full Time Ministry, to be interviewed by the Committee.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME:

HR Skills, Reflective Practice, Discernment, Pastoral Supervision, and a broad knowledge of the Church, both locally and nationally. Also, a knowledge of Kirk Sessions, and how Congregational life has changed, and will develop, with the advent of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act. An understanding of safeguarding and governance issues is also helpful.

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:

Members are required to read applications in advance. Members assess applications against the criteria set out in sections 27 to 30 and in Schedule 2 of the Act and make decisions. Members may need to interview applicants and may require to specify programmes of training or mentoring or further development for applicants. The Committee also engages with Presbyteries every second year, normally through in person meetings, in three separate venues, and members are expected to travel to participate in these events.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:
Membership consists of a Convener, Vice-Convener and 5 other members. Of the 7 members, 1 member is appointed by the Legal Questions Committee, 1 member is appointed by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and 5 members (including the Convener and Vice-Convener) are appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee.

It is anticipated that there will be a Convener vacancy to be filled with a start date of June 2027. There may also be a further member vacancy, therefore the Committee would welcome all applications.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:
The Committee normally meets on a Thursday morning, and there are five meetings in the season, running from 1 June to 31 May; these are normally in June, September, December, February, and April.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:
None

FURTHER DETAILS:
https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/95988/2017-Act-2-II-revised-to-May-2026-RoM.pdf

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/departments/faith-action-programme-committees-and-departments/committees/registration-of-ministries-committee

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/135026/2025-Act-11-XI-revised-to-May-2026-new-vacancy.pdf

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/95807/2004-Act-10-X-revised-to-May-2023-Selection-and-Training-V2.pdf