



INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2025

NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY: Registration of Ministries Committee	
CONVENER/CHAIR:	Rev Robert Hamilton
VICE-CONVENER(S):	Rev Hilary McDougall
SECRETARY:	Rev Angus Mathieson
REMIT: <p>The Committee's remit is to consider applications for change of category under the Registration of Ministries Act; this will primarily cover those seeking Category O status, as well as considering applications from ministers currently in Category S (suspended) seeking to return to ministry. The Committee will also deal with applications for change of Category of registration from persons who left a post for reasons of ill health, and who are seeking Category O registration to begin the process of applying for a charge.</p> <p>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.</p>	
SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME: <p>Members will be skilled in active listening and in interview techniques, as well as possessing an understanding of the ethos of the Church of Scotland. Members will have an ability to assess applicants' integrity and awareness of issues of transition and/or returning to the practice of ministry.</p> <p>They will have a passion for maintaining high standards in the Ministry of the Church, and be able to empathise with the wide range of theological positions within the Church of Scotland. They will have a current knowledge and understanding of what ministry in the Church of Scotland is, and how it is exercised.</p> <p>They will be aware of the challenges arising from transitions in ministry, for ministers seeking to move to parish ministry from other roles, e.g. chaplaincy posts, or education, as well as considering applications from ministers seeking to return into ministry from a period of suspension.</p>	
EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS: <p>That they will have a good understanding of confidentiality and be familiar with what the Church expects of its ministers.</p>	



MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:

Include confirmation of the number of vacancies to be filled

NB: a completed Nomination Form must be submitted by all proposed nominees including anyone wishing to be put forward for proposed re-appointment

Convener, Vice-Convener and five members. One member is appointed by the Legal Questions Committee, one member by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and five members are appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee. The Convener and Vice-Convener are appointed by the General Assembly from the General Assembly appointees. The five members appointed by the General Assembly shall include one member who is legally qualified, at least one Minister of Word and Sacrament and at least one elder. One or other of the Clerks to the General Assembly and the Head of Ministries and Mission attend the Committee ex officio in an advisory capacity but are not members. The Committee is clerked by a staff member of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team; this person is not a member of the Committee.

It is anticipated that in 2025 there will be vacancies for Convener and Vice-Convener.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:

include mention of any particular day(s) of the week when meetings would fall and whether meetings will be attended online and/or in person

The Committee normally meets on a Wednesday morning, and there are five meetings in the season, running from 1 June to 31 May; these are normally in June, September, November, January, and March. Additional meetings may be required depending on the volume of applications to the Committee seeking to be registered in a different category.

The majority of meetings will be online, with one or two meetings taking place on an in person basis.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:

include frequency, timings, venue and any particular day(s) of the week when meetings would fall

None

FURTHER DETAILS:

Include any useful web links

The text of the relevant Act of the General Assembly: [Registration of Ministries Act \(Act II 2017\)](#)

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/councils-committees-and-departments/committees/registration-of-ministries-committee>



Report to the General Assembly of 2024:

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/120745/Chapter-12_Registration-of-Ministries-Committee.pdf