

## Nominations Committee Speech – General Assembly 2020

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, ... we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, ...in short...”* If this year had been the plot of a Dickens novel, we’d have been gripped.

Moderator, I joined the Nominations Committee just this time last year. And now, here I am, the convenor. At my introduction to the committee I heard that we just meet twice a year in August and January, go through all the nominations and populate the various committees... simple!

Of course, as we all now know, 2020 put a bit of a blip into all our lives, and the Nominations Committee was not exempt from this. In fact, our disruptions began back in the autumn, at our very first meeting, when we heard it would be our task to populate the new Forums and nominate the conveners and vice conveners for interim appointments which would be confirmed at the 2020 General Assembly. It immediately became clear that we would have to hold at least one other meeting for this purpose as the appointments were to be held from January 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition, there was the task of nominations to re-establish the Social Care Council’s Cross Reach Board, which did not involve the whole committee, but the Convener and Vice Convener were members of the Selection Panel.

Once we reached March, and it became clear that it would not be possible to hold General Assembly in the usual way during May, we were asked to create the Committee to Nominate the Moderator for 2021. In future this task will fall to our committee, and we will be bringing a suggested committee list to the 2021 General Assembly.

I remain grateful for the support of our Secretary, Dave Kendall and administrator Carron Lunt who have adapted and adjusted with remarkable efficiency and grace; and the ongoing encouragement of my vice Convener Bill Wishart, who has been quick offer support and encouragement.

Because of the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in, my predecessor, Lynsey Kimmitt did not get to present her final report, nor receive the acknowledgement and thanks of the church for her years of service, both as a member and the convener of our committee.

In all, this year has provided challenges and opportunities, and we as a committee have done our best to rise to the occasion.

Moderator I am not a commissioner, so I ask the Clerk to present the report and move the deliverances.