

COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 OCTOBER 2018

CONCERNING A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY SEEKING THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMISSION

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the third day of October 2018 at 10.30am, which day the Commission of Assembly appointed by the last General Assembly in terms of Act VI 1997, being met, was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, the Rt Rev Susan Brown.

The List of Commissioners was laid on the Table.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

In terms of section 7 of Act VI 1997, to proceed with the business outlined in the papers sent ahead of this meeting.

The Business Convener gave a report.

The Commission took up consideration of a Report of the Council of Assembly which was given in by Dr Sally Bonnar, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The Commission of the General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint a Special Commission of five persons independent of the present Councils of the Church to consider the matters within the following remit, to consult widely and to report to the General Assembly of 2019:

- a) to review the governance structures of the Church of Scotland Charity number SC011353 and make recommendations for a trustee body which would conform to best practice (including the avoidance of conflicts of interest) in terms of charity law while being true to Presbyterian church polity;
 - b) to recommend key principles for a national structure which is *“lean and fit for purpose to lead reform”* (GA 2018) and which would ensure that the General Assembly can effectively and efficiently direct its Councils and Committees so that they prioritise their work and resources to support the mission of the local Church;
 - c) to recommend what further work should be done to embed these principles and review the current pattern of Councils and Committees in order that these might better focus on the Church’s understanding of its vocation to be a national church engaged in mission.
3. Appoint as members of the Special Commission the following persons:
To insert names.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 3:

Amend Section 3 to read:

Appoint as members of the Special Commission the following five persons: Rev Professor David Fergusson as Convener, James McNeill QC, Sarah Davidson, Morag Ross QC and Rt Rev Dr Peter Forster.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Appoint the Clerks as a Committee to Prepare the Minute.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to report the proceedings to the General Assembly of 2019 in terms of sections 15 and 16 of Act VI 1997.

The Commission of Assembly concluded at 11.25am with the Benediction pronounced by the Moderator.

ASSEMBLY HALL
EDINBURGH, 3 October 2018, 11.25am