

BASIC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

NAME OF COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE:

Registration of Ministries Committee

BRIEF SUMMARY OF AREA OF WORK:

The Committee deals with the registration of ministers and deacons under the Registration of Ministries Act (Act II 2017). Such applications might be made by Ministers, Ordained Local Ministers, Auxiliary Ministers or Deacons, and will relate to changes in categories of registration. The applications might be for the right to be a parish or associate minister, or might come from individuals (i) who have been judicially suspended, (ii) who have entered into a legally binding agreement with their Presbytery, or (iii) who left a post for reasons of ill-health.

The Committee's decisions may be appealed to the Ministries Appeal Panel.

NAMES OF CONVENER AND VICE-CONVENER:

Convener: Rev Neil Dougall

Vice-Convener: Dr Hazel Hastie

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

Five persons, consisting of a Convener, Vice-Convener and three other members. One member is appointed by the Legal Questions Committee, one by the Ministries Council and the other three members are appointed by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Nomination Committee (including the Convener and Vice-Convener). At least one member must be legally qualified, at least one must be a Minister of Word and Sacrament and at least one must be an elder.

The Clerk to the Committee is appointed by the Ministries Council. The Committee receives advice from the Principal Clerk or Depute Clerk, and from the Secretary to the Ministries Council, who attend its meetings.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:

When required, the Committee sits to hear applications related to the Register of Ministry. Initially the Committee has been sitting monthly, and once the Register of Ministry is in operation, the Committee will consider various applications at each sitting. Meetings are held in the Church Offices in George Street, Edinburgh on a week-day.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES, TASK GROUPS ETC:

None.

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.

GENERAL SKILLS/EXPERIENCE SOUGHT:

Members will need to learn the detail of the Registration of Ministries Act. Some members, at least, should be familiar with judicial processes. A wide understanding and experience of the Church and its ministry, including the demands of particular types of ministry, is essential.