

**DELIVERANCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2018**

ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the Order of Business for the first two days.
3. Appoint Mr Roy Pinkerton to index the verbatim record.
4. Invite commissioners to submit to the first meeting of the Business Committee nominees for consideration to serve on the Selection Committee.
5. Remind commissioners of the deadline for submitting nominations for the Committee to Nominate the Moderator.
6. Encourage commissioners intending to move amendments and counter-motions to arrange to have these printed in the Assembly papers.
7. Instruct the Committee to review the efficacy of the role and size of the Business Committee and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
8. Welcome the Committee's desire to see a Volume XII of the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae* published for the years 2000-2020 and encourage the Committee in the development of this project.
9. Welcome the appointment of Mr William Mearns as Assembly Officer.
10. Approve the Schedule of visits by Moderators of the General Assembly to Presbyteries.

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

11. Urge the Scottish Bible Society to pursue its ongoing efforts to address the challenge of global Bible translation and prayerfully uphold their endeavours.
12. Support the Society in its desire to work in partnership with congregations to improve people's experience of the Bible and its impact on their life.
13. Encourage congregations to consider using *Bibleworld Books* as a way to improve literacy levels amongst children in their communities.
14. Endorse the Society in its efforts to encourage confidence in the gospel and in providing Scripture resources for mission purposes.
15. Commend the Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly and thank it for its work.
2. Continue the appointment of the Delegation with the same powers as hitherto - the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly to be Chairman, the Depute Clerk of the General Assembly to be Vice-Chairman and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.

GEORGE J WHYTE

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and Supplementary Report.
2. Amend Standing Orders 95(i), 113.12.f) and 123, all as detailed in Section 1 and Appendix A of the Report.
3. Instruct the Committee, in consultation with others, to prepare a new Church Courts Act in line with the terms of the Report and to bring the new Act to a future Assembly for approval.
4. Pass the Ordination of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Deacons Act as set out in Appendix B of the Report.
5. Pass the Parish Ministry Act as set out in Appendix C of the Report.
6. Approve the Discipline Overture as set out in Appendix D of the Report and transmit the same to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act, directing that returns be sent to the Principal Clerk by 31st December 2018.
7. Pass the Legal Aid in Disciplinary Proceedings Regulations as set out in Appendix E of the Report.
8. Pass an Act amending the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) as set out in Appendix F of the Report.
9. Pass Acts amending the Discipline of Ministry Act (Act III 2001) and the Discipline of Elders, Readers and Office Bearers Act (Act I 2010) as set out in Appendices G and H of the Report.
10. Note that the Committee has undertaken a study of the matters which would require to be addressed in any new legislation permitting Ministers and Deacons to officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies and that this is presented in the report at section 9 with the Opinion of the Procurator annexed at Appendix I of the Report.
11. Instruct the Committee to prepare legislation enabling those Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Deacons who wish to do so to be nominated to solemnise same-sex marriage ceremonies in accordance with Section 9(1A) of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977, while also providing safeguards to address issues identified both in section 9 of the Report and in the Opinion of the Procurator annexed at Appendix I but only if the Committee finds that the said safeguards, in their opinion, sufficiently protect against the risks they identify; and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
12. Pass the Virtual Attendance at Meetings Act as set out in Appendix J of the Report.
13.
 - a) Note that nine Presbyteries have taken part in a pilot Presbytery Review process;
 - b) Agree that a further cycle of Reviews should take place in 2018-2019; and
 - c) Instruct the Committee to report further to the General Assembly of 2019.
14. Amend Standing Order 33.1.(a) as detailed in Section 1 of the Supplementary Report.
15. Pass an Act amending the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) as set out in Appendix A of the Supplementary Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

JOINT REPORT OF THE MINISTRIES COUNCIL AND THE LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree that the Council and the Committee have completed the work instructed by the General Assembly in terms of section 35 of the Deliverance on the Council's 2017 Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report, the Supplementary Report and the Supplementary Report (Pensions).
2. Give thanks for the engagement of congregations and Presbyteries in the *Together we Pray* initiative and instruct the Council to make arrangements for another National Day of Prayer, on 3 November 2018, focussing on the life and missional work of the Church of Scotland.
3. Instruct the Council to return to the General Assembly of 2019 with a radical action plan for 2019-2022 to achieve much needed reform within our Church.
4. Instruct the Council to work collaboratively with other Councils, Committees and Presbyteries to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2019 for structural change, consulting with the Rev Dr Doug Gay about the ideas contained in the recent Chalmers Lectures and with other appropriate persons with expertise in the reform of institutions and structures, to enable a Church structure that is lean and fit for purpose to lead reform.
5. Instruct the Council, in collaboration with other Councils, Committees and Departments as appropriate, to bring forward proposals to the General Assembly of 2019 that will allow more funds for mission work, including the freeing of funds held only for property matters and a reformed Ministries and Mission allocation process.
6. Instruct Presbyteries meantime to challenge themselves in their Presbytery Plans to be robust, imaginative and courageous in reducing the number of charges, creating ministry hubs, and enabling new pioneer and new church planting opportunities, supported by a Ministries Council that enables new reformed pathways into ministry.
7. Instruct Kirk Sessions meantime to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.
8. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Mission and Discipleship Council, to facilitate and promote a national dialogue between elders younger than 40 and actively seek their views and reflect these in the radical action plan.
9. Instruct the Council to devise a method of reporting in which the Annual Report and Accounts can be presented in a way which makes clear to all members of the Church the manner in which the Unincorporated Councils and Committees make savings and reduce spending in order to balance the budget.
10. Note the work undertaken by the Council on the National Offices Buildings Project and instruct it to continue the programme of work outlined in Section 3.5 of the Report, with a view to presenting a further report to the General Assembly in 2019, enabling a decision on the future of the National Offices.
11. Note the continuing work of the Gaelic Group, including the ongoing development of a Gaelic Language Plan for the Church of Scotland, and approve the Remit for the Group as outlined in Appendix 2 of the Report.

12. Instruct Presbyteries to ensure that Congregational Office Bearers access and make use of the range of resources prepared by the Law Department to enable compliance with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation from 25 May 2018.
13. Approve changes to the membership of the Ministries Council for a limited period of two years.
14. Approve changes to the membership of the Social Care Council.
15. Approve the revised process for nomination of suitably qualified persons to legal bodies as outlined in Section 11.2 of the Report.
16. Instruct the Council to consider the issues arising from the use of personal email addresses for the processing of personal data by elders and other non-ministerial congregational and Presbytery office-bearers and to put in place appropriate support mechanisms to ensure that such individuals are able to fulfil their duties fully whilst observing best practice in relation to data protection principles.
17. Approve the total to be contributed by congregations in 2019 of £46,586,000 based on the projection of congregational income for 2019 and its disposition among local congregational expenditure, the Parish Ministries Fund and the Mission and Renewal Fund as set out in Appendix I of the Supplementary Report.
18. Note the indicative budget for 2019 as set out in Appendix II of the Supplementary Report.
19. Receive the 2017 Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees of the General Assembly.
20. Affirm the steps taken by the Council to review and develop the stewardship function of the Church.
21. Appoint Ms Christine Paterson as Depute Clerk of the General Assembly with effect from 19 May 2018.
22. Invite the Pension Trustees to bring a Report to the General Assembly of 2019 with recommendations on:
 - a) the most effective and efficient structures for trustee oversight of the closed funds; and
 - b) the most efficient means of administration of the closed funds.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

**JOINT REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY, MINISTRIES COUNCIL, MISSION
AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL, PANEL ON REVIEW AND REFORM AND LEGAL
QUESTIONS COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Discharge the Working Group and instruct the Council of Assembly, in cooperation with the Mission and Discipleship Council, Ministries Council and Legal Questions Committee, to review the provisions of Act I 2011 on Local Church Review, to ensure they are consistent with the implementation of the Church's Strategic Plan and effectively resourced.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Give thanks for the life and witness of Mission Partners who have died; and acknowledge with gratitude those who have completed their period of service overseas.
3. Note that Mission Partners work not only in good and joyful but also in difficult and challenging situations and commend their work and witness; and urge congregations and Presbyteries to continue in their prayerful support for our Mission Partners.
4. Encourage those interested in serving as Mission Partners to approach the Council to explore opportunities.
5. Encourage congregations and Presbyteries to read and study the Report, use the resources, and learn more about the life of churches in other parts of the world, and the links with the Church of Scotland.
6. Instruct the World Mission Council and the Ministries Council to encourage and work together to make it possible for ministers to have the opportunity to engage with the world church during study leave.
7. Instruct the Council to provide opportunity to people of all ages from Presbyteries and congregations throughout Scotland to visit with partners overseas.
8. Condemn all forms of religious discrimination, including Antisemitism and Islamophobia, and encourage local communities to build bridges, and to become friends, with neighbours from other faith traditions.
9. Commend the Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) for its positive work in bringing Christian and Muslim communities together across Africa.
10. Encourage the Council to consider supporting and facilitating an interfaith group of religious leaders to learn from the experiences of PROCMURA's work.
11. Welcome the intention of the Council to consider a return youth interfaith visit from Rwanda to Scotland.
12. Give thanks for Christian Aid's work to alleviate poverty amongst people of all faiths, and encourage the whole church in its ongoing engagement with and support of Christian Aid.
13. Note the International AIDS Conference in July and encourage all parts of the Church to remain aware of the prevalence of the virus, and supportive of all efforts of our partners in supporting those living with HIV.
14. Instruct the Council to work with the Church and Society Council and the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office to encourage the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments to ensure that educational material produced through overseas aid collaboration with Pakistan promotes peaceful coexistence, and tolerance of people from different faith communities.
15. Instruct the Council to raise with the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments the case of Asia Bibi, sentenced to death in Pakistan for blasphemy, and to seek the urgent assistance of both Governments in securing her early exoneration and release from detention.
16. Encourage congregations and Presbyteries to study *Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes* and to consider adopting the principles contained in the statement in developing opportunities for interfaith dialogue.
17. Encourage congregations and Presbyteries involved in twinning to explore interfaith issues with their twinning partners, and reflect on how this can inform their mission and ministry in Scotland.
18. Commend the on-going work of mediation and trauma training with significant church leaders in South Sudan, which was initiated by the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers and the Council, to the prayerful support of the whole Church asking that God will bless the small seeds being planted now with a fruitful harvest of reconciliation and peace to come.
19. Rejoice with the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren on the occasion of the centenary of the founding of the church in 1918.

**WORLD MISSION COUNCIL: SPECIAL REPORT ON LESSONS FOR SCOTLAND FROM
CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AFRICA**

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Give thanks for the Christian witness of the Church in Africa, in particular its commitment to life-transforming evangelism, and the encouraging growth of the Gospel of Christ.
3. Encourage members, congregations and Presbyteries to engage with the report and consider how each may respond.
4. Instruct the Council of Assembly, in its strategic planning for the whole Church, to fully consider the recommendations of this Report, and the best way of sharing these with congregations and Presbyteries.
5. Instruct the World Mission Council, in conjunction with the Ministries Council, the Mission and Discipleship Council, the Church and Society Council and the Ecumenical Relations Committee, to continue to explore how the church in Scotland might apply relevant learning from the world church context.
6. Instruct the World Mission Council, the Ministries Council, and the Mission and Discipleship Council to continue to explore how they may encourage and equip members in the leadership of worship and in different forms of worship.
7. Encourage congregations to engage with the materials produced by the Mission and Discipleship Council to engage in Bible study, prayer, testimony, discipleship and evangelism.
8. Encourage congregations to twin with a congregation of one of the churches with which the World Mission Council works.
9. Instruct the World Mission Council, in partnership with the Mission and Discipleship Council, to explore contextual Bible studies with partners in the world church.
10. Instruct the World Mission Council and the Ministries Council to explore exchanges between recognised ministries and members in Scotland with their counterparts in Africa.
11. Instruct the Ministries Council to include consideration of this report in developing its programme for Initial Ministerial Education (IME) and Continuing Ministerial Development as part of the Initial Ministerial Education review.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

MINISTRIES COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. In recognition of the 50th anniversary of women's ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, celebrate and give thanks for the ordained ministry of women in the Church of Scotland and reaffirm the commitment of the Church to the equality of women and men in all forms of ministry within the Church.

3. Affirm the work undertaken to this point on creating a clear definition for ministry and instruct the Council to complete this work and bring forward a clearer description of ministry for approval by the General Assembly of 2019.
4. Note the responsibility of Presbyteries to provide superintendence for Readers and instruct the Council to work with Presbyteries to identify how to improve support for Readers and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
5. Affirm the contribution of the team of Interim and Transition Ministers particularly in the Presbytery of Shetland and encourage further development of this team as a national resource.
6. Commend the report *Deacons of Word and Service* to the Church and urge the Council to integrate its principles into considerations for future patterns of ministry.
7. In relation to the Diaconate:
 - a) affirm the Diaconate and its important ministry in building bridges between the Church and community and commend the Ministry of the Diaconate to the wider Church;
 - b) encourage the Council to use Tomorrow's Calling and the Decade of Ministry to further highlight the Diaconal Ministry; and
 - c) instruct the Council to review the employment and deployment of Deacons and to bring forward any recommendations for changes to the General Assembly of 2019.
8. Note the revised schedule for the development of a five-year Recruitment Strategy.
9. Note the progress of the Hub-style Ministries initiative and instruct the Council to bring any draft legislation to a future General Assembly.
10. Instruct the Council in collaboration with the Theological Forum and Legal Questions Committee to consider how oversight can be addressed in keeping with any developing legislation related to emerging patterns for Hub-style Ministries.
11. Instruct the Council to bring draft legislation for a Capability Procedure for Parish Ministers to the General Assembly of 2019.
12. In relation to the conduct of funerals:
 - a) affirm that the Church of Scotland offers to conduct a Christian funeral service for any person in Scotland without distinction;
 - b) affirm that no minister or deacon shall charge any fee or seek any gratuity, explicitly or implicitly, from any bereaved family or funeral director, for this service;
 - c) affirm that, where a family does not request a particular minister, the minister of the parish has responsibility to make provision for this service, and that any other minister should obtain his or her permission before agreeing to conduct any service;
 - d) instruct the Communications Department to make renewed efforts to communicate that the Church of Scotland offers to conduct a Christian funeral service, without the minister charging a fee, for any person in Scotland;
 - e) instruct the Ministries Council to review best practice in communicating with funeral directors concerning the service the Church offers; and
 - f) urge Presbyteries to be proactive in investigating instances of intrusion or any explicit or implicit charging of fees with regard to funeral services.
13. Pass the Continuing Parish Ministry Beyond the Age of 75 Regulations, pass an Act amending the Registration of Ministries Act (Act II 2017) and pass an Act amending the Ministries Appeal Panel Act (Act VI 2007) (as amended), all as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report.
14. In relation to the Continuing Parish Ministry beyond the age of 75 Regulations, agree that any Parish Minister whose seventy-fifth birthday falls on or between 31 May 2018 and 31 December 2018 shall, upon lodging a written request with the Presbytery Clerk by 30 June 2018, be entitled to initiate the process under the Regulations as if this had been done not less than six months before the Parish Minister's seventy-fifth birthday.

15. Pass an Act amending the Long Term Illness of Ministers Act (Act XV 2002) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 2 of the Report and instruct Presbyteries to act in a pastoral manner to both minister and congregation when considering the implications of sections 5-9 of the Act.
16. Instruct the Council to undertake further work on the Long Term Illness of Ministers Act (Act XV 2002) and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
17. Instruct the Council jointly with the Legal Questions Committee, the Council of Assembly and the Theological Forum to review the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act (Act I 2015) with particular reference to the deployment of salaried staff and wider issues and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
18. Note that the Council's Development Programme offers opportunities to bring about significant changes in Ministry.
19. Affirm the development of the Vocations Network and encourage Presbyteries to identify individuals who could serve in this way.
20. Pass an Act amending the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry Act (Act X 2004) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 3 of the Report.
21. Pass an Act amending the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 4 of the Report.
22. Pass an Act amending the Readership Act (Act XVII 1992) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 5 of the Report.
23. Pass an Act amending the Admission and Re-admission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 6 of the Report.
24. Express thanks for the service given by Rev Prof David Fergusson as Principal of New College, Edinburgh, and affirm the proposal that Rev Prof Susan Hardman Moore be appointed as his successor from September 2018.
25. Note the early developments of the Ascend programme and encourage those in ministry to access the opportunities for support and development provided.
26. Instruct the Council, jointly with the Legal Questions Committee, to consider how the Church can best support those facing allegations under the Church's discipline process, to consider how this support may be implemented and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
27. Note the advisory figures for the number of full-time equivalent ministers available for Presbyteries in 2023 and instruct the Council to seek a formal response from all Presbyteries to determine whether, on the basis of local experience, the figures should continue to be received as advisory, and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
28. Instruct the Council to report to the General Assembly of 2019 on the future affordability of Ministries Development Staff (MDS) posts beyond posts currently in Presbytery Plans and on reasons why almost 30% of MDS posts remain unfilled.
29. Instruct all Presbyteries to obtain fresh concurrence with their current plan from the Presbytery Planning Task Group by 31st December 2018 and note that failure to do so may result in the sisting of vacancies.
30. Instruct those Presbyteries which have Priority Area Parishes within their bounds to ensure that the principles of the Priority Areas five-year plan are incorporated into their Presbytery Planning processes.
31. Instruct all Presbyteries to engage with the Presbytery Planning Task Group when negotiating Basis of Adjustment (Section 13(2) of Act VII 2003 on Appraisal and Adjustment and *Section 3.5.2.9* of the Report).
32. Pass an Act amending the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 8 of the Report.
33. Pass the Regulations amending the 'Go For It' Fund Regulations IV 2012 (as amended) as set out in Appendix 9 of the Report.
34. Affirm the Path of Renewal Project and instruct the Council to review the project in 2019 and report to the General Assembly of 2020.

35. Agree that the Council be released from the instruction to report cumulative information on stipend and salary increases and their relationship to measurements of inflation, and instruct the Council to consult with the Council of Assembly in identifying the best way of presenting these figures and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
36. Encourage ministers to familiarise themselves with the provisions of the Housing and Loan Fund.
37. Instruct the Council to continue in consultation with the Council of Assembly regarding the possibility of meeting visa costs for ministers who enter Church of Scotland ministry from another country of origin.
38. Instruct the Council to produce a policy for consulting with local parties when disposing of or changing arrangements relating to Council-held properties and report to the General Assembly of 2019.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Adopt *Local, Universal and Shaped by the Mission of God: An Ecumenical Policy for the Church of Scotland* as the Ecumenical Policy of the Church of Scotland.
3. Note *Local, Universal and Shaped by the Mission of God: An Ecumenical Policy for the Church of Scotland: A Theological Basis*.
4. Instruct the Committee to bring a strategy for the implementation of *Local, Universal and Shaped by the Mission of God: An Ecumenical Policy for the Church of Scotland* to the General Assembly of 2019.
5. Concur with the response of the Committee to the Review of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and agree to transmit the same to the Trustees of ACTS.
6. Note *Action of Churches Together in Scotland: A Review*.
7. Instruct the Committee to bring recommendations with respect to Action of Churches Together in Scotland, in the context of a strategy for the implementation of the Ecumenical Policy of the Church, to the General Assembly of 2019.
8. Instruct the Committee to advise the Council of Assembly of any significant matters which require a decision prior to the General Assembly of 2019, with respect to the Action of Churches Together in Scotland Review Process.
9. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, as detailed in Appendix IV of the Report.
10. Note the appointment of representatives to ecumenical bodies, as detailed in Appendix V of the Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

PANEL ON REVIEW AND REFORM

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Encourage Presbyteries to develop training for those participating in different areas of service within the Church and to make information about training programmes they develop available to others to assist in learning and development.

3. Welcome the increasing co-operation between some Presbyteries and the work of the Principal Clerk in facilitating this and encourage all Presbyteries to consider areas where working with others would be beneficial.
4. Instruct the Ministries Council to complete further work on the possibility of Ordained Local Ministers and Auxiliary Ministers being paid, consulting with Ordained Local Ministers, Auxiliary Ministers and others in doing so, and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
5. Instruct the Ministries Council to complete further work on the practicalities of allowing some candidates for Ordained Local Ministry to complete training placements in their home congregation where this is appropriate and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
6. Instruct the Panel to work with the Mission and Discipleship Council, Ministries Council and young people to consider what might be done to support the involvement and development of leaders under 50 at a congregational level.
7. Instruct the Panel to complete research on the impact for congregations of participating in Path of Renewal and report to the General Assembly of 2019.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Pass the Safeguarding Act as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.
3. Thank the Legal Questions Committee for their support in bringing the Safeguarding Act to the General Assembly of 2018.
4. Thank all of those volunteers and staff who give of their time to promote and embed good Safeguarding practices across the Church.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

IONA COMMUNITY BOARD

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the Board.
2. Commend the ongoing project to make the Abbey more accessible and to improve facilities for the wide range of groups hosted by the Community and encourage church members and congregations to support the Community in this time of change through prayer and through the Iona Abbey Appeal.
3. Note that Iona Abbey and the Welcome Centre are still open and that the work of the Iona Community in Camas, on the mainland and through local groups around the world is still sharing the Community's ecumenical vision and commitment to justice and peace.
4. Commend the Iona Community's work with young people and the Iona Prayer Circle.
5. Commend the enabling, resourcing and encouraging of churches and individuals through the weeWONDERBOX, the other activities of the Wild Goose Resource Group and Wild Goose Publications.

GEORGE J WHYTE

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the proposals for twinning partnerships with Guilds in Malawi.
3. Congratulate the Guild on the success of its Project Partnership Scheme in 2015-18.
4. Welcome the Guild's strategy for 2018-21 "One Journey, Many Roads" and its annual themes.
5. Note the six new Partnership Projects for 2018-21 and offer prayerful support for the work of these charities.
6. Celebrate the addition of over 600 new members to the Guild in the past session.
7. Welcome the addition of 2nd Linlithgow Girls' Brigade Company as an Honorary Guild Group.
8. Encourage Presbyteries and National Councils and Committees to consider how they can develop their support for the Guild.
9. Encourage Kirk Sessions to explore ways in which they can offer practical support to Guild groups.
10. Encourage Presbyteries to explore ways in which they can offer practical support to Guild Presbyterial Councils.
11. Encourage Kirk Sessions to work closely with their Guilds and to challenge their practice where appropriate.
12. Thank the Guild for the contribution it has made to the work of the Church of Scotland in practical and financial terms.

GEORGE J WHYTE
CI Eccl Scot

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
- Flourishing Local Communities**
2. Celebrate the work going on through congregations the length and breadth of Scotland to help our communities to flourish.
- Building an Economy Driven by Equality**
3. Welcome the ongoing partnership with the Islamic Finance Council to develop an ethical finance framework.
- Caring for Creation**
4. Recognise the urgent need to make a just transition to a low carbon economy, commend the work of the Church Investors Group and others in promoting engagement, and welcome the proposal from the Investors Trust to promote stronger Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance in the Church's investments.
 5. Welcome the growing success of Good Money Week and forthcoming consultation by OSCR on charity trustee investment duties and recommend that the Council of Assembly now considers as a priority the preparation of a statement of investment principles for the Church.
 6. Instruct the Council to engage with the oil and gas companies to continue to seek alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement rather than divest from the oil and gas industry.

Doing Politics Differently

7. Welcome the launch of Meet Your MP and encourage congregations to build positive relationships with their local politicians.
8. Welcome the expansion of work around Participatory Budgeting being supported by the Council and encourage local congregations to get involved in Participatory Budgeting locally.

Building Global Friendships

9. Reaffirm the belief that possession, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inherently evil, congratulate the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, welcome the establishment of an international Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urge the UK Government to engage with the treaty process as a way for the UK to disarm its nuclear weapons.
10. Note the United Nations process, which is leading two new Global Compacts on refugees and on migrants, instruct the Council to participate in international ecumenical and UK civil society efforts to call for decisions which place human dignity and welfare at the heart of considerations, and encourage congregations and church members to pray for successful outcomes of the negotiations.
11. Instruct the Council to make representation (a) to the Scottish and UK Governments to ensure social services staff are actively guided on their legal duty to provide support to vulnerable migrants who have no recourse to public funds but have care needs or are children; and (b) to the UK Government to change those policies that force asylum seekers into destitution or homelessness without institutional support.
12. Instruct the Council to consult with the UK Government to seek to safeguard the rights of EU nationals working in Scotland and UK nationals working in the EU, as the UK negotiates its status in relation to the EU.
13. Instruct the Council to facilitate informed public conversation about our future relationship with Europe.
14. Instruct the Council to monitor the impact of leaving the EU on the Devolution Settlement and call on the UK Government to ensure that powers returned from the EU are devolved to Scotland in line with that Settlement.
15. Call on the Scottish and UK Governments to establish and maintain high standards of environmental protection following the UK's planned departure from the EU.
16. Call on the Scottish and UK Governments to establish and maintain high standards of political, social, economic and cultural rights, and in particular that human rights and equalities remain at the heart of Scottish society as outlined by the Scotland Declaration on Human Rights.
17. Instruct the Council to urge the Scottish and UK Governments to raise awareness on the human rights abuses that are currently being perpetrated on the citizens of the two Anglophone regions of Cameroon, the north-west and south-west regions.
18. Urge the Scottish and UK Governments to seek the strongest possible social, cultural and economic ties with other European countries.
19. Welcome the Council's statement on the recent violence and killing at the Gaza fence by the Israeli Defence Force and instruct the Council to express the General Assembly's:
 - a) serious regret that the UK Government failed to support the UN Human Rights Council resolution to launch an investigation into the killing by Israeli soldiers of 110 people, including unarmed protesters and journalists;
 - b) concern for the two million people of Gaza who are imprisoned in the enclave;
 - c) thanks to the Christian community who provide essential medical, psycho-social and humanitarian support for all the people of Gaza in the face of on-going hardships and difficulties caused by the Israeli occupation.
20. Urge the UK Government and European Union to recognise without delay the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, as a contribution to securing lasting peace and

justice for all and urge the UK Government not to change current policy as to the location of the capital city of Israel and the location of the UK embassy there.

Ensuring the Health and Wellbeing of All

21. Commend the efforts of Alcohol Focus Scotland, the Scottish Government and others to reduce the harm caused to individuals and society through the misuse of alcohol, and welcome the introduction of minimum unit pricing for alcohol.
22. Instruct the Council to promote and emphasise the intrinsic worth of each individual as an image of the living God, and to work with the wider Church, and with partner agencies to seek the health and wellbeing of all.
23. Commend those congregations working to make their congregations and communities more dementia friendly, the various initiatives from CrossReach to improve dementia care and the Presbytery of Stirling's employment of a Dementia Development Worker; and encourage all congregations, Presbyteries, Councils and Committees to increase awareness of, and support for, people living with dementia.
24. Note that July 2018 will see the marking of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the National Health Service (NHS), and recognise that while the NHS remains a valued part of our social fabric, its long-term future is under serious pressure, and in light of this instruct the Council to consult on the future of the health service in Scotland and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.
25. Commend the plans for Community Custody Units for women in Scotland and encourage the Council and local congregations to express their interest in supporting persons resident within these units as they engage afresh with life in the community.
26. Urge the Council to promote sustainable and healthy travel as a means of inspiring health and well-being and caring for creation.

Investing in Young People

27. Recognise the significant contribution that the Church of Scotland has made to Scottish Education and thank the members of the Education Committee, both past and present, for all their commitment and endeavours in this area.
28. Instruct the Church and Society Council, the Mission and Discipleship Council and the Ministries Council, to coordinate the Church of Scotland's contribution to the nurture and support of young people by establishing a cross-council Young People and Education Action Group, with the necessary resources and support, as outlined in Section 13.4 of the Report.
29. Note with grave concern the steep rise in hate crimes such as homophobic bullying and assault, and instruct the Council to work with the National Youth Assembly and organisations like *Time for Inclusive Education* (TIE) and *LGBT Youth Scotland* in seeking ways to help our churches address homophobia and deal pastorally with those who have been victims of this.
30. Instruct the Council to present an implementation plan for the Young People and Education Action Group's work, produced by the Young People and Education Action Group and based on the principles outlined in the Report, to the General Assembly of 2019.
31. Instruct the Council to ensure that by the General Assembly of 2019 the Education Committee has passed on work agreed by the Council to the Young People and Education Action Group.
32. Call on the UK Government to reinstate Housing Benefit for under 25s and to realise the harm to young people that the lack of this benefit is causing.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Ci Eccl Scot

REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE
CI Eccl Scot

GENERAL TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and Accounts of the General Trustees.
2. Encourage Congregational and Presbytery Office Bearers to attend the Property Seminars to be held during 2018.
3. Urge those congregations which have not done so to appoint a Health & Safety Administrator and those Presbyteries which have not done so to appoint a Health & Safety Co-Ordinator.
4. Encourage the Trustees in the development of their Property Assets Strategy.
5. Urge the General Trustees to form a working group consisting of representatives from the Church and wider society with experience of planning and funding innovative building arrangements to help congregations be both missional and sustainable and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
6. Encourage the Trustees and Presbyteries to develop a closer working relationship based on the Tayside Cluster Pilot.
7. Encourage the Trustees and the Council of Assembly to have discussions with OSCR so that Central Fabric Fund loans are excluded from Congregational accounts as an Income Resource in line with the treatment adopted by the Charity Commissions for England & Wales and for Northern Ireland.
8. Urge the General Trustees to investigate, via the Church of Scotland Insurance Services Ltd as the insurance broker for the Church of Scotland, the provision of a wider Empty Buildings cover for churches, halls, manses and other buildings for which congregations are responsible.
9. Authorise payment of remuneration of £1,765 to each of Mr Raymond K Young as Chairman and Mr Roger G G Dodd as Vice-Chairman for the past year.
10. Urge the General Trustees to investigate the costs and benefits of assisting congregations to reduce or eliminate their fossil fuel use in our churches and buildings and report back to the General Assembly of 2020.

GEORGE J WHYTE
CI Eccl Scot

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY'S FORCES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Reaffirm the support of the Church of Scotland for all who serve in Her Majesty's Forces as Chaplains, and thank them for their outstanding service to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel and their families.
3. Recognise and affirm the valuable ministry that our Armed Forces Chaplains offer as Church of Scotland ministers, both in military service and in Presbyteries, Councils and Committees of the Church.

4. In this centenary year of the Royal Air Force, given thanks for the service given by members of this Church as chaplains, officers and airmen throughout the last 100 years.
5. Acknowledge with particular gratitude the dedicated service of Chaplains on operations and the immeasurable support shown by their own families.
6. Commend to the prayers of all members of the Church of Scotland not just our Chaplains but all who serve in HM Forces and their families.
7. Urge Presbyteries strongly to appoint an Armed Forces Champion.
8. Commend to eligible ministers of the Church consideration of service as a Chaplain to HM Forces – Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces.
9. Instruct the Committee to confer with relevant parties concerning the provision of Church of Scotland email addresses and digital copies of Life & Work magazine to regular chaplains and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
10. Commend the work of places like Hollybush House and the enormous work they do for those who have Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the progress made on recommendations from the Business Strategy Group in a number of areas, including the work done to widely review the Central Services function both as it relates to the National Church Office, and as it relates to being fit to meet the key challenges recognised to be part of future sustainability for CrossReach specifically.
3. Endorse the work being done by CrossReach, the Council of Assembly and the Pension Trustees to support discussion around the historical pension deficit position and encourage continued exploration of all avenues for mitigation.
4. Acknowledge the efforts being made by the Employee Representative Group and Corporate Management Team to address issues of low pay, living wage and salary pressure points, which remain difficult to fully resolve due to the complexities of the internal and external funding environment.
5. Acknowledge and record appreciation for the significant contribution which volunteers and supporters make to the work of CrossReach through sharing their time, talents and resources and recognise the added value which is provided by means of that support to the people who use CrossReach services.
6. Endorse the initiatives set up through the Social Care Mission Officer and welcome continued support for local church initiatives through the Social Care Forum and Learning Networks.
7. Welcome the initiative taken by the Presbytery of Lewis as a model of Regional support for CrossReach, and encourage all Presbyteries to adopt this approach over the next year.
8. Celebrate the contribution made to society by young people across Scotland and, in the Year of Young People, commit as a Church to doing all we can now and in the future to raise awareness of and counteract the stigma which prevents young people in disadvantaged circumstances reaching their full potential.
9. Recognise that 2019 provides an opportunity for the whole Church to acknowledge and celebrate its rich heritage of social caring over the past 150 years and encourage the Church at national, regional and local level to join with the Social Care Council in

raising awareness of the work that is done, both formally and informally, to care for communities, through the work of the Church, throughout Scotland and beyond.

10. Acknowledge and celebrate the sections on performance, and pay tribute to the dedication and commitment of all staff at every level of the organisation who have made this possible.

GEORGE J WHYTE
CI Eccl Scot

THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Reaffirm the Church's understanding that those who receive Communion be baptised, while recognising that church law allows the offering of Communion to an unbaptised person as part of the mission of the Church.
3. Instruct the Forum to consider the place of Profession of Faith (Admission to the Lord's Supper or Confirmation) and sharing Communion in today's Church.
4. Instruct the Forum:
 - (1) to review the reports and debates on the role of the Westminster Confession of Faith in the Church's life arising from the General Assembly of 1968 and the years following;
 - (2) to give fresh consideration to the issues raised therein in light of developments within Reformed and ecumenical theology since 1646 in which the Church of Scotland has been actively involved;
 - (3) to advise the General Assembly on the continuing role of a 'Subordinate Standard';
 - (4) to look afresh at the wording and terms of reference of the Formula of subscription used in services of ordination;
 - (5) to explore the possibility of producing a Book of Confessions, in print and/or on-line as a teaching resource for office-bearers, members and enquirers;
 - (6) to report to the General Assembly of 2020.

GEORGE J WHYTE
CI Eccl Scot

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE
CI Eccl Scot

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HOUSING AND LOAN FUND FOR RETIRED MINISTERS AND WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF MINISTERS

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the Trustees and Staff.

2. Re-appoint Rev M A Rennie as a Trustee of the Fund.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Mr David Stewart as a Trustee of the Church Hymnary Trust.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Appoint Mr Thomas C Watson as Chairman from 1 June 2018.
3. Appoint Mr W F Stuart Lynch as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2018.
4. Re-appoint Mr Angus Bethune and the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers as members of the Trust from 1 June 2018.
5. Appoint the Rev Dr George J Whyte as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2018.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the re-appointments of Mr R Nisbet, Mr G Young and Mr A Aitchison as members of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2018.
3. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2017.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note that the Rev Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London has agreed to deliver the Chalmers Lectures in 2019.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Encourage the Council of Assembly to develop an Information Technology and Communication strategy, in connection with its work on the National Offices, which will enable wider use of technological options to overcome barriers for participation of Council and Committee members in the work of the Church.
3. Appoint the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers as Convener of the World Mission Council.
4. Appoint the Rev Jennifer Adams as Convener of the Panel on Review and Reform.
5. Make alterations to Standing Committees and Councils as set forth in the Report, subject to the following alterations:

Delete:

Social Care Council

Member Appointed Paula Roots (Edinburgh: Kirkliston)

Add:

Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly

Convener Retiring Alan Hamilton (Bearsden: Killermont)

Judicial Proceedings Panel

Ministers Retiring Alan Hamilton (Bearsden: Killermont)

Elders Appointed Katherine Taylor (Edinburgh: Duddingston) Patricia Kingston (Edinburgh: Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse), Grant Gordon (Edinburgh: Currie)

Ministries Council

Vice-Convener Resigned David McLachlan

Vice-Convener Appointed Robert Mallinson (Dundee: Menzieshill)

Minister Appointed Brian Casey (Glasgow: Springburn) (2 years)

Safeguarding Committee

Member Resigned Janet Allan

Member Appointed Robert McCabe (Edinburgh: Palmerston Place) (2 years).

6. Instruct Presbyteries to actively encourage people of vision and leadership quality to be nominated to the Councils and Committees of the Church to bring direction in the light of the mission challenges the Church faces today.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Council, in collaboration with the Council of Assembly, the Ministries Council, the World Mission Council, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the Guild and the Panel on Review and Reform, to explore the development of a programme of education and training on discipleship aimed at lay members of congregations and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
3. Instruct Kirk Sessions to explore how the fresh vision for eldership outlined in section 2.3 of the Report applies to their particular local context.

4. Instruct Kirk Sessions to consider how the aspirations outlined in the Report shape their ongoing ministry and engagement with children and young people in the parish.
5. Urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage fully in the Year of Young People initiative.
6. In the Year of Young People, encourage the Council, in consultation with the Church and Society Council, to further consider how to support and encourage chaplains as they try to create relationships with schools, organisations and cadet forces.
7. Instruct the Council to investigate and recognise the realities of everyday life of the 'Millennial Generation' (25-40 year olds) and 'Generation X' (30-50 year olds) and explore ways to make our Church an accessible and welcoming place for them.
8. Urge Kirk Sessions to use the Conversations in Worship resource within a Kirk Session meeting in 2018.
9. Encourage Kirk Sessions to draw on Pray Now (including the sections on How to Pray/How They Prayed) for fostering the congregation's prayer life.
10. Instruct the Council, in collaboration with the Theological Forum, to develop creative, instructive and grace-filled pathways for the spiritual development of children and young people in order to support congregations in welcoming them to the Lord's Table.
11. Commend the work done on the 'Children, Young People and Communion Survey Findings 2018' and instruct the Council in consultation with the Theological Forum to produce a resource on the theology and practice of Communion in the 21st Century Church of Scotland.
12. Commend the Weekend of Invitation to Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions and encourage congregations to think of ways of developing a culture of invitation.
13. Encourage the Council to further research migrant and multi-cultural Christian communities in Scotland and to recognise and resource them in whatever way is considered to be appropriate.
14. Urge Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to consider ways in which congregations can more effectively support Christians from minority migrant communities living and worshipping in their neighbourhoods, whilst entering into a spirit of mutual learning.
15. Instruct the Council, working with the Church and Society Council and others where appropriate, to promote congregational learning and awareness of the issues experienced by divorcing couples, their children and wider families, in order to better facilitate pastoral care to all affected.
16. Urge every congregation to actively promote Life and Work, the magazine of our Church, as a tool to encourage, inspire and resource.
17. Instruct the Council to review which categories of those in the service of the Church should receive a promotional copy of Life & Work magazine, and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
18. Instruct Kirk Sessions to explore what opportunities exist for a fresh expression of church in their parish.
19. Instruct the Mission and Discipleship Council and Ministries Council to bring a joint report from the Joint Emerging Church Group to the General Assembly of 2019, bringing recommendations on the future strategy of the JECG.
20. Instruct the Mission and Discipleship Council and Ministries Council to seek an extension of their partnership with Fresh Expressions until 30 September 2020.
21. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Ministries Council, to carry out an audit of the range of training which Presbyteries and congregations are using to train local worship leaders, and how local worship leaders are recruited and deployed, and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
22. Urge Kirk Sessions to use the resources listed in Appendix VI of the Report and to promote their usage in the wider congregation.

GEORGE J WHYTE
Cl Eccl Scot