

## THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST MAY 2018

### Proposed Deliverance

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.

### Report

The Church of Scotland Trust, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1932, submits its Eighty sixth Report to the General Assembly.

#### 1. THE WORK OF THE TRUST

##### (a) General –

The function of the Church of Scotland Trust is to hold properties outwith Scotland and to act as a trustee in a number of third party trusts. During the year it has dealt with various matters which have arisen regarding these properties and trusts. Matters of particular significance are noted hereafter.

##### (b) Third Party Trusts –

The Trust is currently trustee of 48 third party trusts which benefit different areas of the Church's work. In 2007 the Trust instigated a Rolling Review Programme for these trusts. The Trust's Secretary and Clerk undertakes a review of the trusts annually, producing reports on half the third party trust portfolio to each of the February and September Trust meetings. In the last year the Trust has undertaken a number of Restricted Funds Reorganisations to enable the funds held to be better utilised for the work of the Church. In relation to some of the 'stipend' trusts held by the Trust these were reorganised to enable the capital to be invested in the Consolidated Stipend Fund for the benefit of the beneficiary congregations and the trusts themselves wound up.

##### (c) Pakistan –

The Trust must report once again there has been little progress with the transfer of the Church of Scotland's property interests in Pakistan to a suitable body, in terms of the Church of Scotland Trust Order Confirmation Act 1958. Unfortunately, this includes Murray Christian College in Sialkot. The Government in Pakistan have still to process the denationalisation which is prerequisite for the transfer of the College.

Representatives of the Trust and the World Mission Council continue to meet with their attorney for Pakistan, Dr Peter David regularly to monitor developments and agree future strategy. The Trust will continue to endeavour to achieve its

objectives, with the help of Dr David and his many contacts in Pakistan.

As reported for a number of years, the Trust continues to be a party to a number of court cases involving its property interests in Pakistan. Some cases have been found in favour of the Trust but are now subject to appeal. The Trust is legally represented in all these cases but, due to the nature of the Pakistan legal system, it is anticipated that the cases will be ongoing for some time.

#### **(d) Act II 2016 – the International Presbytery Act –**

Since the General Assembly of 2016 all congregations in the International Presbytery require the approval of both Presbytery and the Church of Scotland Trust for (a) any extensive alterations to their building/s; (b) any property purchase and (c) the lease of any property in excess of one year. The Trust continues to work with the International Presbytery to fulfil these responsibilities. The Trust has given approval for a number of property related matters in the last year.

Every congregation in the International Presbytery is required to produce a Property Report to Presbytery each year with details of the management, maintenance and insurance of congregational buildings. The Trust has found the International Presbytery's Fabric Committee has been very proactive in chasing up outstanding Property Reports from congregations and at the end of 2017 only one report remained outstanding for the year.

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## **2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2017**

The Trust's Accounts for the year to 31 December 2017 have been independently examined and copies thereof are available on request from the Secretary and Clerk.

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## **3. CHAIRMAN**

The term of office of the Chairman of the Trust, Mr John M Hodge, will be completed on 31 May 2018. It is recommended that the General Assembly appoint the current Vice-Chairman, Mr Thomas C Watson, as Chairman from 1 June 2018.

## **4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It is recommended that the General Assembly appoint Mr W F Stuart Lynch, as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2018.

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## **5. MEMBERSHIP**

In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, the following two members retire by rotation on 31 May 2018 but are eligible for re-appointment: Mr Angus Bethune and the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers. It is suggested to the General Assembly Mr Angus Bethune and the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers be re-appointed as members of the Trust from 1 June 2018.

It is suggested that the Rev Dr George J Whyte be appointed a member of the Trust from 1 June 2018.

*In the name and by authority of The Church of Scotland Trust*

JOHN M HODGE, *Chairman*  
THOMAS C WATSON, *Vice-Chairman*  
JENNIFER M HAMILTON, *Secretary & Clerk*

## **Addendum**

### **Mr John M Hodge, WS, Chairman**

John M Hodge was appointed Chairman of the Church of Scotland Trust by the General Assembly of 2014. He also served as Chair of the Trust from 2000-2004 and was Vice-Chair from 1999-2000. As a dedicated Churchman, and busy Session Clerk, John has led the Trust securely and the Trust has benefited from his legal knowledge and expertise. On behalf of the Church, we would like to record our appreciation to John for giving so generously of his time and abilities. The time commitment is not insignificant and John has even travelled to Pakistan to endeavour to find solutions to the many issues the Trust faces in that country. We are pleased that he has agreed to continue to serve the Trust as a member.

THOMAS C WATSON, *Vice-Chairman*  
JENNIFER M HAMILTON, *Secretary & Clerk*