



Church of Scotland

MINUTE OF THE COMMISSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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7 July 2020

## COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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### CONCERNING (1) A PROTOCOL FOR VACANCY PROCEDURE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND (2) VIDEO-CONFERENCED MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES AND KIRK SESSIONS, BOTH UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Microsoft Teams, on the 7th day of July 2020 at 4.09pm.*

The Commission of the General Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev Dr Martin Fair.

The List of Commissioners was laid on the Table.

The Commission called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

The Commission took up consideration of a Report of the Legal Questions Committee which was given in by the Rev Dr Grant Barclay, Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

#### **The Commission of the General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree that until the opening day of the next General Assembly it shall be permissible for a Presbytery to sustain a Call by following a vacancy process which follows the terms of the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act (Act I 2015) and the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) save only to the extent that those are altered by the Protocol set out in the Report.
3. Agree that the Protocol set out in the Report may subsequently be amended as directed by the Legal Questions Committee but only to the extent necessary to reflect changes in civil legislation.
4. Agree that until the opening day of the next General Assembly both Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions may meet and vote by video-conferencing or audio-conferencing or a combination of the two, provided that the principles stated in the Protocol set out in the Report shall be adhered to by all involved.

*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 and decisions of the Commission of Assembly to the next General Assembly in terms of sections 15 and 16 of the Commission of Assembly Act (Act VI 1997).

The Commission of Assembly concluded at 4.47pm with the Benediction pronounced by the Moderator.

ASSEMBLY HALL, EDINBURGH  
and online via video-conference  
7 July 2020, 4.47pm