

## THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST MAY 2023

### Proposed Deliverance

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Re-appoint the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood and the Rev Dr George Whyte as members of the Trust from 1 June 2023.

### Report

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

## 1. THE WORK OF THE TRUST

### 1.1 General

**1.1.1** 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.

### 1.2 Third Party Trusts

**1.2.1** The Trust is currently trustee of 49 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/March and September/October Trust meetings.

### 1.3 Pakistan

**1.3.1** The Trust is disappointed to report that there has been little progress in the registration of the new Succession Trust which it is intended will take title to the Church's property interests in Pakistan in terms of the Church of Scotland Trust Order Confirmation Act 1958. The deed was signed on behalf of the Trust, Faith Impact Forum and local trustees in Pakistan in 2019. At the time of writing urgent action is being taken to progress this and it is hoped that by May the Chairman will be able to report further on this matter.

**1.3.2** The Trust continue to seek an alternative institution to take over Murray Christian College in Sialkot in order to ensure its future use as a Christian College. The Government in Pakistan have still to process the denationalisation of the College before any transfer could take place.

**1.3.3** The Trust and Faith Impact Forum meet regularly with their attorney for Pakistan, Dr Peter David, to monitor developments and agree future strategy.

**1.3.4** 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 which have been found in favour of the Trust are now the subject of an 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.

### 1.4 Israel

**1.4.1** The Trust continues to be consulted by Faith Impact Forum regarding ongoing and future developments relating to property in Israel.

**1.4.2** In December 2022 the Trust entered into a loan agreement with St. Andrew's Scottish Centre Ltd to enable the Guesthouse to carry out refurbishment works.

### 1.5 Act II – the International Presbytery Act

**1.5.1** 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.

**1.5.2** 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 which is copied to the Trust.

## 2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

**2.1** The Trust's Accounts for the year 2022 have been audited and copies thereof are available on request from the Secretary and Clerk.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

**3.1** In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, the following two members retire by rotation on 31 May 2023 but are eligible for re-appointment: The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood and the Rev Dr George Whyte. It is suggested to the General Assembly that the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood and the Rev Dr George Whyte be re-appointed as members of the Trust from 1 June 2023.

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

LEON MARSHALL, *Chairman*  
MORAG ANGUS, *Vice-Chairman*  
MADELAINÉ SPROULE, *Secretary & Clerk*