



The Church of Scotland

General Assembly 2023

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

SATURDAY 20 – THURSDAY 25 MAY

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Free WiFi is available throughout the Assembly Hall
Network: General Assembly
Password: assembly2019

NOTES

1. The General Assembly stand:-
 - (a) when The Lord High Commissioner or the Moderator enters the Hall before the constitution of any Session;
 - (b) when His Majesty's Commission to The Lord High Commissioner and His Majesty's Letter to the General Assembly are read;
 - (c) when The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly, or the Moderator addresses The Lord High Commissioner; and
 - (d) when a distinguished visitor is brought into the Hall to address the General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly do not stand when The Lord High Commissioner retires from the Hall.

IN PERSON COMMISSIONERS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES

In person commissioners may claim up to £75 per night for accommodation and up to £15 per day for out-of-pocket expenses. When commissioners are staying with family or friends, a one-off allowance of up to £80 may be claimed towards a token gift for hosts.

Expense Claim Forms will be received in the New College Foyer on:
Thursday 25 May – 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

or returned to the Principal Clerk's Office within 21 days of the close of the General Assembly

**Voting Handsets must be returned to the Assembly Office or handed
in with Expense Claim Forms as above in order for claims to be processed.**

**Expenses may only be claimed by Commissioners who have recorded their
attendance at a minimum of 13 out of 17 sessions of the Assembly.**

Expenses will not be paid to those attending online.

TRAINING FOR ONLINE ATTENDANCE

If you are attending the Assembly online please ensure you sign up for the one of the training events, on which information will be emailed to you separately.

CONTACT US

In the first instance please email: pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk with any queries.

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Hosted by Church Departments and other organisations, a variety of informative and inspirational General Assembly Fringe Events have been arranged to complement the main business of the Assembly. Details can be found on the [Church of Scotland website](#).

In addition, the Martin Hall will be open each day of the Assembly, offering an exhibition of resources, as well as Cornerstone Bookshop.

Commissioners' Boxes are no longer being used in a move to more digital communications.

I. Assembly Office-Bearers and Procedure Committee

ASSEMBLY OFFICE-BEARERS		
Title	Name	No.
Moderator	Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields	571
Moderator-Designate	Rev Sally Foster-Fulton	570
Chaplains	Rev Dr Martin Johnstone	572
	Rev Louise McClements	576
Principal Clerk	Rev Fiona Smith	575
Depute Clerk	Ms Christine Paterson	574
Procurator	Ms Laura Dunlop KC	569
Law Agent	Miss Mary Macleod	573
Precentor	Rev Colin Renwick	335
Chief Steward	Mr Alexander F Gemmill	
Depute Steward	Mr Neil Proven	
Assembly Officer	Mr William Mearns	
Depute Assembly Officer	Mrs Karen McKay	

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE		
Title	Name	No.
Convener	Rev Donald McCorkindale	568
Vice-Convener	Rev Michael Mair	567

II. Index of Presbyteries

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19	Argyll	38	Lochaber
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III. Roll of Commissioners

1. Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

Minister

1. Rev Nelu Balaj, Livingston: Old*
2. Rev Rolf H Billes, Edinburgh: Colinton
3. Rev Sandra Boyd, Blackburn and Seafield
4. Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, Edinburgh: Morningside
5. Rev Dr Karen K Campbell, Edinburgh: Marchmont St Giles'
6. Rev Alistair Cowper, Kirknewton and East Calder
7. Rev Dr Alexander C Forsyth, Edinburgh: Mayfield Salisbury
8. Rev Dr Liam J Fraser, Linlithgow: St Michael's
9. Rev Neil N Gardner, Edinburgh: Canongate
10. Rev Keith E Graham, Edinburgh: Murrayfield
11. Rev Derek R Henderson, Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh
12. Rev Jack Holt, Edinburgh: Polwarth
13. Rev Hanneke Janse van Vuren, Strathbrock*
14. Rev Marc B Kenton, Livingston United
15. Rev Sigrid Marten, Edinburgh: High (St Giles')
16. Rev Fiona M Mathieson, Edinburgh: Carrick Knowe
17. Rev Moira McDonald, Edinburgh: Corstorphine Old
18. Rev Janet R McKenzie, Edinburgh: Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun)*
19. Rev Andrea E Price, Edinburgh: St Michael's
20. Rev Dolly Purnell, Edinburgh: Leith Wardie
21. Rev Donald Scott, Edinburgh: Priestfield
22. Rev Dr Easter Smart, Edinburgh: Currie
23. Rev Peter Sutton, Edinburgh: St Cuthbert's
24. Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie, Edinburgh: Barclay Viewforth
25. Rev Dr Rita M Welsh, Edinburgh: Holy Trinity

Elder

26. Mr Bruce Anderson, Edinburgh: Marchmont St Giles'*
27. Mr Tim Bell, Edinburgh: Leith North
28. Mrs Margaret B P Bisset, Kirkliston
29. Mrs Aileen Borrowman, Blackridge
30. Mr Bill Bremner, Edinburgh: St Michael's
31. Mr Ian Brodie, Harthill: St Andrew's
32. Mr Finlay Buchanan, Edinburgh: Carrick Knowe
33. Mrs Eilidh Common, Ratho
34. Dr John Crispin, Edinburgh: Murrayfield
35. Mr Michael Cunliffe, Edinburgh: St Andrew's and St George's West
36. Mrs Linda Farrer, Edinburgh: Reid Memorial
37. Mrs Helen Hannan, Edinburgh: Inverleith St Serf's
38. Dr Hazel Hastie, Presbytery Clerk
39. Mrs Margaret Henderson, Linlithgow: St Michael's
40. Mr John Jamieson, Kirk of Calder
41. Mr Peter Kershaw, Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh

42. Mrs Sandra Low, Edinburgh: St Martin's
43. Mr Hugh McDiarmid, Edinburgh: Newhaven
44. Mrs Mary McKenzie, Breich Valley*
45. Mr Ian Musgrave, Linlithgow: St Michael's
46. Mr David Nicol, Livingston: Old
47. Mr Kingsley Nwafor, Edinburgh: Barclay Viewforth
48. Mr Douglas Robertson, Edinburgh: Gracemount
49. Mrs Pauline Weibye, Edinburgh: Craigmillar Park

Deacon

50. Mr Mark Evans DCS, Head Of Spiritual Care Fife Health Board
51. Ms Kirsty Forsyth DCS, Edinburgh: Richmond Craigmillar
52. Miss Anne Mulligan DCS, (Edinburgh: Royal Infirmary)

3. Presbytery of Lothian & Borders

Minister

53. Very Rev Dr Susan M Brown, Greenlaw
54. Rev Alistair W Cook, Cavers and Kirkton l/w Hawick: Trinity
55. Rev Kenneth W Donald, Prestonpans: Prestongrange
56. Rev Rosemary Frew, Bowden and Melrose
57. Rev Aftab Gohar, Eddleston l/w Peebles: Old l/w Stobo and Drumelzier
58. Rev Andrew N Haddow, Coldingham and St Abbs l/w Eyemouth
59. Rev Douglas Hamilton, Traprain
60. Rev Dr Adam J J Hood, Berwick-upon-Tweed: St Andrew's, Wallace Green and Lowick*
61. Rev Alexander G Horsburgh, Dalkeith: St Nicholas Buccleuch*
62. Rev Chris N Kellock, Army Chaplain
63. Rev Dr Alexander L Milton, Musselburgh: St Andrew's High
64. Rev Sheila W Moir, Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown l/w St Boswells
65. Rev Anna S Rodwell, Jedburgh: Old and Trinity
66. Very Rev Colin Sinclair, (Edinburgh: Palmerston Place)
67. Rev Norman A Smith, Presbytery Clerk
68. Rev Katherine A Taylor, Tranent
69. Rev John C C Urquhart, Penicuik: Trinity
70. Rev Michael D Watson, OLM
71. Rev Rachel Wilson, Hobkirk and Southdean l/w Ruberslaw

Elder

72. Dr Fiona Burnett, Upper Tweeddale*
73. Prof Murray Campbell, Carlops*
74. Mr R Scott Elliot, Hawick: Burnfoot
75. Mrs Rae Good, Haddington: St Mary's
76. Mr John Greig, Tranent

77. Mr Ivor Highley, Musselburgh: St Clement's and St Ninian's
78. Mrs Rita Inglis, Berwick-upon-Tweed: St Andrew's, Wallace Green and Lowick
79. Mrs Margaret Jeffrey, Traprain
80. Mr Stuart Kelly, Cheviot
- 81.
82. Mr Gordon Macdonald, Penicuik: Trinity
83. Ms Joyce MacLean, Penicuik: Trinity
84. Mr Charles M McGillivray-Davidson, Gladsmuir
85. Mrs Morag McKeand, Oxnam
86. Mr John Pollitt, Bowden and Melrose
87. Mrs Karen Ritchie, Peebles: Old
88. Mrs Emma T Stewart, Musselburgh: St Andrew's High
- 89.

7. Presbytery of The South West

Minister

90. Rev Lynsey J Brennan, Dundonald
91. Rev David S Cameron, Kilmarnock: New Laigh Kirk
92. Rev Nigel Chikanya, Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate*
93. Rev Morag Crossan, Canonbie United l/w Liddesdale
94. Rev Brian R Hendrie, Ayr: St Leonard's l/w Dalrymple
95. Rev Tom MacIntyre, (Brodict l/w Corrie l/w Lochranza)
96. Rev Elsie Macrae, Kirkpatrick Juxta l/w Moffat: St Andrew's l/w Wamphray
97. Rev Fiona E Maxwell, Kilmarnock: Kay Park*
98. Rev James McNaughtan, Kilmarnock: St Marnock's
99. Rev Graham McWilliams, Fairlie
100. Rev Jamie W Milliken, Dreghorn and Springside
101. Rev Andy Muir, Stranraer
102. Rev Everisto Musedza, Stevenston: Ardeer l/w Stevenston: Livingstone
103. Rev Stephen Ogston, Luce Valley
104. Rev Gary J Peacock, Irongray, Lochrutton and Terregles*
105. Rev Gillean Richmond, Troon: Old and Troon: Portland
106. Rev Paul R Russell, Ayr: Castlehill
107. Rev Jeanette Whitecross, (Kilwinning: Old)
108. Rev Johannes Wildner, Dumfries: Maxwelltown West
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Elder

- 115.
116. Mr Stephen Gemmell, Kilmarnock: St Marnock's
117. Mrs Olive M Gow, Kilmarnock: Kay Park
118. Mrs Isobel F Irving, Stranraer
119. Mr Allan Jack, Ayr: Castlehill
120. Mrs Jean Jackson, Dumfries: Maxwelltown West
121. Mr David Johnson, Dumfries: Maxwelltown West
122. Mr Anthony Lane, Canonbie United*
123. Mr Gordon MacDonald, Prestwick: Kingcase*
124. Mrs Isabel S McKenzie, Dundonald
125. Mr John D McMillan, Luce Valley
126. Mr Fulton Murdoch, Largs: St Columba's
127. Mrs Christine Murray, Presbytery Clerk
128. Mr John R Porter, Kilwinning: Mansefield Trinity
129. Mrs Joyce Pringle, Prestwick: Kingcase
130. Mr Ian Steven, Prestwick: Kingcase
131. Mrs Katrona Templeton, Ayrshire Mission to the Deaf
132. Mrs Christine Thomas, Fairlie
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14. Presbytery of Clyde

Minister

140. Rev Dr Sonia Blakesley, Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall*
141. Rev Jonathan Fleming, Greenock: Lyle Kirk
142. Rev Roderick G Hamilton, Bearsden: New Kilpatrick
143. Rev David Hood, Paisley: South
144. Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Presbytery Clerk
145. Rev Gary Noonan, Houston and Killellan
146. Rev Barbara A O'Donnell, (Bonhill l/w Renton: Trinity)
147. Rev Teri Peterson, Gourrock: St John's
148. Rev Ramsay B Shields, Milngavie: St Luke's
149. Rev Stephen Smith, Kilbarchan
150. Rev Yvonne Smith, Bishopton
151. Rev Philip Wallace, Renfrew: North
152. Rev Graeme R Wilson, Bearsden: Cross

Elder

153. Mr Gordon Aitken, Bearsden: Cross
154. Miss Jennifer Boag, Greenock: Westburn*
155. Mrs Jessie Cross, Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity
156. Mrs Phyllis Finnie, Greenock: Lyle Kirk
- 157.
158. Mr John Kitson, Paisley: Abbey
159. Mrs Sandra Maxwell, Paisley: South*

160. Mr Stephen McDowall Laing, Old Kilpatrick Bowling
161. Mr Stuart Renton, Erskine
162. Ms Mairi Semple, Inchinnan
163. Mrs Elizabeth Stewart, Duntocher: Trinity
164. Mrs Elizabeth Usher, Johnstone: St Paul's
165. Mr Stuart Wilson, Kilmacolm: Old

16. Presbytery of Glasgow

Minister

166. Rev Dr S Grant Barclay, Presbytery Clerk*
167. Rev Richard Baxter, Glasgow: Wellington
168. Rev Ian A Cathcart, Cambuslang: Flemington Hallside
169. Rev David Denniston, Glasgow: MDS
170. Rev Adam J Dillon, Glasgow: Sherbrooke Mossbank
171. Rev Alastair S Duncan, Glasgow: St George's Tron
172. Rev Richard C Durno, Glasgow: John Ross Memorial Church for Deaf People
173. Rev Neil W Galbraith, (Glasgow: Cathcart Old)
174. Rev Fiona M E Gardner, Glasgow: Knightswood Anniesland Trinity
175. Rev Peter M Gardner, Pioneer Minister to The Arts Community In Glasgow
176. Rev Mike R Gargrave, Thornliebank
177. Rev Dr Douglas C Gay, Principal, Trinity College, University of Glasgow
178. Rev Tara Granados, Glasgow: Ibrox
179. Rev Stuart Irvin, Torrance
180. Rev Audrey Jamieson, Glasgow: Drumchapel St Mark's
181. Rev Mark E Johnstone, Glasgow: Cathedral (High or St Mungo's)
182. Rev Jonathan A Keefe, Glasgow: Robroyston
183. Rev Gordon Kirkwood, Glasgow: Kelvinbridge
184. Rev Donald Michael M MacInnes, Glasgow: Gairbraid
185. Rev Murdo MacLean, Glasgow: Carmyle l/w Glasgow: Kenmuir Mount Vernon
186. Rev Rhona E McDonald, Glasgow: Tron St Mary's
187. Rev Julie H C Moody, Milton of Campsie
188. Rev Gillian Rooney, Giffnock: Orchardhill
189. Rev Mark Malcolm, Chryston
190. Rev Dr John McPake, Ecumenical Relations Officer
191. Rev Ian Taylor, Bishopbriggs: Springfield Cambridge

Elder

192. Ms Alison Allan, Greenbank
193. Mr Graeme D I Barrie, Glasgow: Easterhouse
194. Ms Eileen Bishop, Glasgow: Kelvinside Hillhead
195. Mrs Christina L Brownlie, Glasgow: Cardonald
196. Mr Christopher Dunn, Cumbernauld: Kildrum
197. Mr Alastair Forrester, Giffnock: South
198. Mrs Helen Hepburn, Glasgow: Hillington Park
199. Mrs Isabel McDerment, Glasgow: Scotstoun

200. Mr Robert McFarlane, Glasgow: Knightswood Anniesland Trinity
201. Mr David Moir, Glasgow: Jordanhill
202. Miss Lynne Semple, Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead
203. Mr Allan R M Steele, Giffnock: The Park
204. Ms Judith Thomason, Glasgow: Gorbals
205. Dr Linda Watt, Glasgow: Robroyston
206. Mr Andrew Wilkin, Glasgow: Kelvinside Hillhead
207. Mr Hugh Wright, Lenzie: Union
208. Mr Iain Young, Glasgow: Gorbals
209. Mr Robert Binnie, Glasgow: Newlands South
210. Mrs Morag Fleming, Glasgow: Ibrox
211. Mrs Hilda Dunn, Cumbernauld: Kidrum
212. Dr Garry K Osborne, Glasgow: Sandyford Henderson Memorial
213. Mrs Lynne Robertson, Glasgow: Bishopbriggs Springfield Cambridge
214. Mr Gordon MacFarlane, Glasgow: Clincarthill
215. Mr David Smith, Glasgow: Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill
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Deacon

218. Ms Joanna Love DCS, Iona Community
219. Mr David Nicholson DCS, (Cumbernauld: Kildrum)

17. Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale

Minister

220. Rev Kwame Ahaligah, Law
221. Rev Robert Allan, Falkirk: Trinity
222. Rev Sandra Black, Newmains: Coltness Memorial l/w Newmains: Bonkle
223. Rev Ross Blackman, Hamilton: Old
224. Rev Eckhardt Bosch, Forth: St Paul's
225. Rev Dr Jean Gallacher, Dunipace
226. Rev Alan W Gibson, Motherwell: South
227. Rev Derek Gunn, Airdrie Clarkston
228. Rev Robert A Hamilton, Airdrie: New Wellwynd
229. Rev Joanne C Hood, Hamilton: St John's
230. Rev Alistair M Horne, Falkirk: St Andrew's West
231. Rev Bryan Kerr, Lanark: Greyfriars*
232. Rev Kevin MacKenzie, East Kilbride: Westwood
233. Rev Duncan J Macpherson, Army Chaplain
234. Rev Iain M T Majcher, Bothwell
235. Rev Alison Meikle, Grangemouth: Zetland
235. Rev Fiona Nicolson, Coatbridge: New St Andrew's
237. Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson, Strathaven: Trinity
238. Rev Anne Paton, East Kilbride: Old
239. Rev Julie Rennick, Presbytery Clerk*
240. Rev George Sneddon, East Kilbride: Mossneuk*
241. Rev David Wandrum, Carriden
- 242.

Elder

243. Mr David S Alexander, Uddingston: Viewpark
244. Miss Lesley Auld, Hamilton: St. John's*
245. Mrs Irene Chalmers, East Kilbride: West
246. Mr Ian Conn, Forth: St Paul's
247. Mrs Laura-Jean Fleming, East Kilbride: West*
248. Mrs Karen Gillon, Carluke: St John's
249. Mrs Janice Guthrie, Falkirk: Camelon
250. Mrs Lynette Jardine, Uddingston: Old
251. Mr David Kennedy, Airdrie: High
252. Mr Andrew Kurilla, Strathaven: Avendale Old and Drumclog
253. Mrs Helen M Lax, Dunipace
254. Mrs Jane McDonald, Coatbridge: New St Andrew's
255. Mr Hugh R McGregor, Larkhall: Trinity
256. Mrs Edith McIntyre, Airdrie: New Monkland
257. Mr Ian Monteith-Mathieson, Wishaw: Cambusnethan Old and Morningside
258. Mrs Catherine C Moore, Blackbraes and Shieldhill
259. Mr Scott M Paget, Lanark: Greyfriars
260. Mr Douglas Pearson, Uddingston: Burnhead
261. Ms Ann Pickering, Newarthill and Carfin
262. Dr Sandra Robb, East Kilbride: Mossneuk
263. Mr John Russell, Grangemouth: Abbotsgrange
264. Mr Eric C Smith, Brightons
265. Mr Alistair Walker, East Kilbride: Old

Deacon

266. Ms Angela Wilson DCS, Douglas Valley

19. Presbytery of Argyll

Minister

267. Rev Willem Bezuidenhout, Ardchattan l/w Coll l/w Connel
268. Rev Dugald Cameron, Appin l/w Lismore
269. Rev David Carruthers, Ardrishaig l/w South Knapdale*
270. Rev Elizabeth A Gibson, North Mull
271. Rev Sandy MacPherson, Cowal Kirk
272. Rev Lyn Peden, Tarbert, Loch Fyne and Kilberry l/w Mid Kintyre and Gigha

Elder

273. Mrs Alison Hay, West Lochfyneside
274. Dr William Leigh Knight, Colonsay and Oronsay
275. Mrs Fiona Shaw, United Church of Bute
276. Mr W Stewart Shaw, Presbytery Clerk
277. Lord Bruce Weir, South Knapdale*
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24. Presbytery of Fife

Minister

279. Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, (Edinburgh: Cramond)
280. Rev Jane Barron, Ceres, Kemback and Springfield
281. Rev Dr Amos B Chewachong, Newport-on-Tay

282. Rev Arthur Christie, (Anstruther and Cellardyke: St Ayle l/w Kilrenny)
283. Rev Dr David Coulter, Presbytery Clerk
284. Rev Debbie Dobby, Beath and Cowdenbeath: North
285. Rev Conor Fegan, Markinch and Thornton
286. Rev Norman M Grant, Cairneyhill l/w Limekilns
287. Rev William F Hunter, Howe of Fife
288. Rev Jeffrey Martin, Cupar Old and St Michael Of Tarvit
289. Rev Andrea Fraser, Associate Minister, Forth Cluster
290. Rev Josh Milton, Kirkcaldy: Templehall and Torbain United
291. Rev James Reid, Kinghorn*
292. Rev MaryAnn R Rennie, Dunfermline: Abbey
293. Rev Nigel Robb, (Presbytery Clerk: St Andrews)
294. Rev Alexander J Shuttleworth, Saline and Blairingone l/w Tulliallan and Kincardine
295. Rev David J Smith, Glenrothes: St Ninian's

Elder

296. Mrs Fiona W Cunningham, Kirkcaldy: Templehall and Torbain United
297. Mrs Linda J Ednie, Anstruther and Cellardyke: St Ayle
298. Mrs Veronica Forrest, Kelty
299. Mrs Elizabeth Grant, Rosyth
300. Mrs Margaret Grieve, Dysart: St Clair
301. Mrs Sue Hamilton, Limekilns
302. Mrs Lesley Henderson, Dunfermline: Townhill and Kingseat
303. Mr William Henderson, Aberdour: St Fillans
304. Mr Craig Higgins, Glenrothes: St Ninian's
305. Mrs Ena Hudson, Kinghorn*
306. Mrs Maureen Johnston, Burntisland
307. Mr John Jones, Beath and Cowdenbeath: North
308. Mrs Anne Lumsden, Ceres, Kemback and Springfield
309. Ms Margaret Paisley, Monimail
310. Prof Geoffrey Robinson, Crail
311. Mrs Elizabeth Simmers, Howe of Fife
312. Mrs Jean Wallace, Tulliallan and Kincardine

Deacon

313. Mrs Pamela Scott DCS, Lochgelly and Benarty: St Serf's*

28. Presbytery of Perth

Minister

314. Rev Richard Begg, Chaplain Armed Forces
315. Rev Marc F Bircham, St Madoes and Kinfauns
316. Rev Cathy J Brodie, Dundee: Fintry
317. Rev Craig Dobney, Comrie
318. Rev Brenda Elwell-Sutton, Dundee: Barnhill St Margaret's*
319. Very Rev Dr W Martin Fair, Pathways to Ministry Manager
320. Rev Dr Karen M Fenwick, Forfar: Lowson Memorial

- 321. Rev Dr John Ferguson, Presbytery Clerk*
- 322. Rev Dr Andrew Gardner, Alloa: Ludgate
- 323. Rev Annette M Gordon, Carnoustie: Panbridge
- 324. Rev Michael S Goss, Barry l/w Carnoustie*
- 325. Rev Dawn A Laing, Dundee: Downfield Mains
- 326. Rev Malcolm H MacRae, (Kirkmichael, Stralloch, Glenshee l/w Rattray)
- 327. Rev Lynn McClery, Auchterarder
- 328. Rev Nathan S McConnell, Dundee: Downfield Mains
- 329. Rev Alan F Miller, Stirling: Church of the Holy Rude l/w Stirling: Viewfield Erskine
- 330. Rev Robert D Nicol, Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers
- 331. Rev R F Penny, Dunkeld*
- 332. Rev Peter Phillips, Colliston l/w Friockheim and Kinnell l/w Inverkeilor
- 333. Rev Geoffrey Redmayne, Montrose; South and Ferryden
- 334. Rev Anne Redpath, Perth: Presbytery Chaplain
- 335. Rev Colin C Renwick, Dunblane: Cathedral*
- 336. Rev Elizabeth M Robertson, Bannockburn: Ladywell
- 337. Rev Nardia Sandison, Dundee: Balgay
- 338. Rev Dr Lesley Stanley, OLM
- 339. Rev Jan Steyn, Logie
- 340. Rev Willie Strachan, Dundee: Strathmartine*
- 341. Rev Caroline Taylor, (Leuchars St Athernase and Tayport)
- 342. Rev Neil Glover, Aberfeldy l/w Dull and Weem l/w Grantully, Logierait and Strathtay
- 343.

Elder

- 344. Mr Neil Bremner, Abernyte
- 345. Mrs Donna-Kerri Dobney, Comrie
- 346. Mr Graeme Foubister, Abernyte
- 347. Dr David Frame, Pitlochry*
- 348. Mrs Alison Gillies, Dunkeld
- 349. Mr Crawford Gillies, Dunbarney and Forgandenny
- 350. Mr Daniel Gunn, Dunblane: St Blane's*
- 351. Mrs Irene Hoar, Carnoustie*
- 352. Miss Alison Hunter, Dunbarney and Forgandenny
- 353. Mrs Elizabeth Kidd, Brechin and Farnell*
- 354. Mrs Janet MacCallum, Aberfoyle
- 355. Mr Alexander (Sandy) MacFarlane, Strathblane
- 356. Mrs Irene M McGugan, Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden*
- 357. Mr Ian McVean, Balfron
- 358. Mrs Jennifer Park, Dundee: Stobswell
- 359. Mrs Lynn Podger, Monikie and Newbigging and Murroes and Tealing
- 360. Mrs Sarah V Proctor, Dundee: Balgay
- 361. Miss Anne Renton, Bannockburn: Ladywell
- 362. Mrs Olivia Robertson, Alyth
- 363. Mr Iain A Ross, Dundee: Barnhill St Margaret's

- 364. Mrs Hazel Turnbull, Logie
- 365. Mrs Jo Young, Perth: St John's*
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Deacon

- 374. Mrs Meg Cowan DCS, Dunkeld*
- 375. Mrs Jean T Porter DCS, (Stirling: St Mark's)

31. Presbytery of North East and Northern Isles

Minister

- 376. Rev Ian M Aitken, Aberdeen: Stockethill
- 377. Rev Louis C Bezuidenhout, (Findochty l/w Portknockie)*
- 378. Rev Hugh Conkey, Newtonhill
- 379. Rev John A Cook, Noth
- 380. Rev Robert A Fowlie, Longside
- 381. Rev Dr Edmond Gatima, Aberdeen: Torry St Fittick's
- 382. Rev G Euan D Glen, Cluny l/w Monymusk*
- 383. Rev Kevin R Gruer, Turriff: St Ninian's and Forglen
- 384. Rev Frances M Henderson, Shetland Parish Church of Scotland
- 385. Rev Carl Irvine, Inverurie: St Andrews
- 386. Rev J Peter N Johnston, Aberdeen: Ferryhill
- 387. Rev Sheila M Kirk, Deer Parish Church (Presbytery Clerk Pro Tem)
- 388. Rev Norman D Lennox-Trewren, St Cyrus Church Of Scotland
- 389.
- 390. Rev Alisa L McDonald, Meldrum and Bourtie
- 391. Rev Aileen M McFie, Maud and Savoch l/w New Deer St Kanes*
- 392. Rev Sheila M Mitchell, Echt and Midmar
- 393. Rev Dr Alan J S Murray, Banchory: Ternan East
- 394. Rev Deon F Oelofse, Elgin: St Giles' and St Columba's South*
- 395. Rev Martin W M Prentice, Orphir and Stenness
- 396. Rev Dr Brian S Sheret, (Glasgow: Drumchapel Drumry St Mary's)
- 397. Rev Dr Robert L Smith, Aberdeen: Rubislaw*
- 398. Rev Antony A Stephen, Banchory: Ternan West
- 399. Rev Christopher Wallace, East Mainland*
- 400. Rev Patricia M Whittaker, Aberdeen: St John's For The Deaf
- 401. Rev Moira Taylor-Wintersgill, Birsay, Harray and Sandwick
- 402. Rev Dr Mary Cranfield, Culsamond and Rayne l/w Daviot

403. Rev Darren Jalland, Aberdeen: Bridge Of Don Oldmachar

404.

Elder

405. Mr Jim Arbuckle, Echt and Midmar

406. Mrs Ann M C Bowie, St Andrew's –Lhanbryde and Urquhart*

407. Mrs Sheila Brumby, Rothies

408. Mrs Sheila Cameron, Aberdeen: St Machars Cathedral

409. Mr Charles Clark, Inverurie: St Andrew's

410. Mrs Linda Cordiner, Aberlour

411. Mr Jim Donald, Shetland Parish Church

412. Mr Robert M Esson, Cruden*

413. Mrs Marion J M Ewenson, Rothienorman

414. Ms Irene Finlayson, Banff

415. Mr Colin Gunn, Kirkwall: East*

416. Miss Ursula (Ruth) Mackenzie, Peterhead: New*

417. Mr Jack McIntosh, East Mainland

418. Mr Matthew Philip, Aberdeen: Craigiebuckler

419. Mrs Elizabeth M Robertson, Aberdeen: Torry St Fitticks

420. Ms Anne Marie Simpson, Keith: North, Newmill, Boharm and Rothiemay*

421. Lord James Wallace, Kirkwall: St Magnus Cathedral*

422. Mr John McCafferty, Maryculter Trinity

423. Mrs Alison R Milne, Strathbogie Drumblade

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433.

Deacon

434. Miss Margaret King DCS, Moray Presbytery

36. Presbytery of Abernethy

Minister

435. Rev Christine Ritchie, (Braes of Rannoch l/w Foss and Rannoch)*

436. Rev Donald Walker, (Abernethy l/w Boat of Garten, Carrbridge and Kincardine)

Elder

437.

438. Mrs Mary Stewart, Rothiemurchus and Aviemore*

37. Presbytery of Inverness

Minister

439. Rev Dewald Louw, Alves and Burghead l/w Kinloss and Findhorn

440. Rev Ian A Manson, Kilmorack and Erchless*

441. Rev Scott McRoberts, Inverness: St Columba

442. Rev Thomas Douglas McRoberts, (Malta)

443. Rev Donald K Prentice, Dallas l/w Forres: St Leonard's l/w Rafford

444. Rev Dr Hugh F Watt, Urquhart and Glenmoriston

Elder

445. Mrs Margaret Atherton, Alves and Burghead l/w Kinloss and Findhorn

446. Mr Iain Alasdair Macdonald, Inverness: East

447. Mr Andrew Mackay, Urquhart and Glenmoriston

448. Mrs Marion Manson-Morley, Inverness: St Columba

449. Mr Kenneth D Morley, Inverness: St Columba

450. Mr David Thompson, Inverness: Kinmylies

Deacon

451. Mrs Dorothy Getcliffe DCS, (Inverness Presbytery)

38. Presbytery of Lochaber

Minister

452. Rev Dr Malcolm A Kinnear, Kinlochleven l/w Nether Lochaber*

453. Rev Marion Kinnear, Auxiliary Minister

Elder

454. Mrs Margaret D Antonios, Fort William: Kilmallie*

455. Mrs Sonia Robbins, Glengarry

39. Presbytery of Ross

Minister

456. Rev Susan Cord, Killearnan l/w Knockbain*

457. Rev Alistair Drummond, Kilmuir and Logie Easter

458. Rev Andrew Fothergill, Tain

459. Rev Heidi Hercus, Lochbroom and Ullapool

Elder

460. Mr Angus W Bethune, Killearnan

461. Mrs Catherine Chambers, Presbytery Clerk

462. Mrs Shirley Drummond, Kilmuir and Logie Easter

463. Mr Jack Reid, Tain*

40. Presbytery of Sutherland

Minister

464. Rev Andrea Boyes, Durness and Kinlochbervie

465. Rev Mary Stobo, Community Health Care Chaplain*

466. Rev Lorna Tunstall, Clyne l/w Kildonan and Loth Helmsdale

Elder

467. Mr Sydney Barnett, Clyne l/w Kildonan and Loth Helmsdale*

468. Mr Donald McLeod, Durness and Kinlochbervie

469. Mrs Fiona Risk, Clyne l/w Kildonan and Loth Helmsdale

41. Presbytery of Caithness

Minister

470. Rev David Macartney, North Coast*

471. Rev Janet Easton-Berry, Pentland Parish

Elder

472. Mrs Elizabeth Geddes, Pentland Parish*

473. Mrs Lorraine Sinclair, Latheron

42. Presbytery of Lochcarron –Skye

Minister

474. Rev Sandor Fazakas , Portree
475. Rev Dr Roderick A R MacLeod, Presbytery Clerk*
476. Rev Stuart Smith, Gairloch and Dundonell*

Elder

477.
478.
479.

43. Presbytery of Uist

Minister

480. Rev Ian M Macdonald, Tarbert*

Elder

481. Mr Christopher Morrison, Manish-Scarista*

44. Presbytery of Lewis

Minister

482. Rev Duncan Macaskill, Carloway
483. Rev Gordon Macleod, Stornoway: High*
484. Rev Hugh Stewart, Lochs-in-Bernera l/w Uig

Elder

485. Mr Hamish Duncan, Stornoway: High
486. Mr Domhnall Macleod, Lochs-Crossbost*
487. Mr Donald J Macleod, Carloway

47. Presbytery of England

Minister

488. Rev Alistair Cumming, Presbytery Clerk*
489. Rev Angus Macleod, London: St Columba's
490. Rev John McMahon, NHS Chaplain Broadmoor Hospital
491. Rev Scott Rennie, London: Crown Court
492. Rev Justin Taylor, Guernsey: St Andrew's in the Grange
493. Rev Fiona Ogg, Presbytery Pastoral Advisor

Elder

494. Prof Rona Black, London: St Columba's
495. Mrs Katie Bennie, Jersey: St Columba's
496. Mrs Susan Pym, London: St Columba's*
497. Ms Ethel Robb, Guernsey: St Andrew's In the Grange
498. Mr Ian Russell, London: St Columba's
499. Mrs Anne Wilson, London: St Columba's

48. Presbytery of International Charges

Minister

500. Rev Eric W Foggitt, Brussels: St Andrew's
501. Rev Aaron C Stevens, Budapest: St Columba's
502. Rev Laurence H Twaddle, Geneva*

Elder

503. Mr John Barber, (Budapest: St Columba's)
504. Mrs Christine Buhler, (Geneva)*
505. Mr Marlon Gilbert-Roberts, Brussels: St Andrew's

49. Jerusalem

Minister

506. Rev Dr Stewart Gillan, Jerusalem: St Andrew's*

Elder

507. Mrs Joanna Oakley-Levstein, Tiberias: St Andrew's*
* denotes membership of the Commission of Assembly 2023-2024

UK ECUMENICAL DELEGATES

The Presbyterian Church of Wales

517. Rev T Evan Morgan, Moderator

The United Reformed Church

509. Rev Fiona Bennett, Moderator

The United Reformed Church (National Synod of Scotland)

519. Rev Paul Whittle, Moderator

Church of England

511. Rev Tim Norwood, National Officer for Local Ecumenism

The Methodist Church in Scotland

518. Rev James Patron-Bell, Ecumenical Officer

Religious Society of Friends – General Meeting for Scotland

514. Michael Hutchinson, Clerk (Saturday and Thursday)
520. Mary Woodward, Ecumenical Officer (Monday and Wednesday)
516. Susan Mitchell, Assistant Clerk (Tuesday)

Scottish Episcopal Church

508. Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh

The United Free Church of Scotland

513. Rev Archie Ford, Moderator

Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland

512. Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

The Salvation Army

510. Major David Cavanagh, Assistant Secretary for Scotland

The Congregational Federation in Scotland

515. Rev Ruairidh MacRae

DELEGATES FROM ECUMENICAL BODIES

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

522. Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary

World Council of Churches

523. Ms Miriam Weibye, Member of the Central Committee

OVERSEAS DELEGATES

AFRICA

Presbyterian Church of Nigeria

533. Rt Rev Ini Ukpoho, National Director of Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Relations
524. Rev Miracle Ajah, Principal Clerk

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (Presbytery of Zimbabwe)

529. Rev Lydia Neshangwe, Moderator Designate

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia

532. Rev William Boshoff Tembo, General Secretary

AMERICAS

Presbyterian Church of the United States of America

534. Dr Yvonne Dianna Wright, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Office of the General Assembly

ASIA

Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

526. Rev Kim Chang Ju

Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS)

530. Mr Nasir Saeed, Director, CLAAS UK

CARIBBEAN

Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago

531. Rev Adrian Sieunarine, Principal, St Andrew's Theological College

EUROPE

United Protestant Church of France

525. Rev Rudolphe Blanchard-Kowal, Representative of Eglise Protestante Unie de France

Chiesa Valdese (Waldensian Church in Italy)

527. Mr Ulf Hermann Koller, Delegate Member for the III District

MIDDLE EAST

Tent of Nations

528. Mr Daoud Nasser, Director

Christ Church, Nazareth

600. Father Nael Abu Rahmoun

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Assembly Trustees

545. Rev Barry Hughes

538. Mrs Jean Couper

541. Mr Ian Forrester

543. Mr David Harrison

548. Ms Jennifer MacDonald

559. Mr Geoff Miller

560. Ms Ann Nelson

565. Mr Philip Ziegler

Chief Officer

546. Mr Dave Kendall

Head of the Faith Action Programme

562. Rev Dr Scott Shackleton

Church of Scotland Pension Trustees

551. Miss Lin Macmillan

Stewardship and Finance

564. Ms Pauline Wilson

Ecumenical Relations Committee

558. Rev Eileen Miller

Faith Nurture Forum

553. Rev Angus Mathieson

Faith Impact Forum

544. Rev Karen Hendry

General Treasurer

555. Mrs Anne Macintosh

General Trustees

547. Mr Alan Kennedy

563. Mr Brian Waller

Head of Communications

550. Ms Ruth MacLeod

Head of Human Resources

554. Mrs Elaine McCloghry

Legal Questions Committee

542. Mr Andrew Gibb

Life and Work Editor

556. Mrs Lynne McNeil

Nomination Committee

535. Rev Hilary Beresford

Safeguarding Committee

552. Ms Julie Main

Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Officer

537. Mr David Bradwell

Social Care Council

561. Rev Thom Riddell

539. Mrs Viv Dickenson

The Guild

540. Mrs Helen Eckford

Theological Forum

549. Dr Alasdair Macleod

Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund

536. Mrs Hazel Bett

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPRESENTATION

Edinburgh and West Lothian

582. Miss Amy Foster

581. Miss Sophie Chapman

Lothian and Borders

579. Mr Alexander (Alex) Bleck

Glasgow

591. Miss Beth Wallace

592. Dr Hannah Watters

593. Mr John White

Clyde

578. Miss Martyna Bakon

Argyll

584. Miss Morven Gove

583. Miss Iona Gove

Fife

585. Mr Fraser Jarvis

594. Miss Lisa Whyte

Perth

580. Miss Emma Carmichael

588. Miss Cara McGoldrick

595. Miss Kirstie Wilson

North East and Northern Isles

577. Mr Shawn Alexander

589. Miss Christine Meyer

586. Miss Sophia Johnston

International Charges

590. Ms Maria Nazarova

IV. Order of Business

Saturday 20 May 2023 – Opening Day

Session 1: 10.00 am

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Submission of Roll of Commissioners.
3. Election of Moderator and Prayer of Consecration.
4. Commission to the Lord High Commissioner to be read and order given for recording it.
5. His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter to be read and order given for recording it.
6. Address by the Lord High Commissioner and reply by the Moderator.
7. Address by Retiring Moderator.
8. Appointment of the Committee to Prepare Answer to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter.
9. Report of the Standing Committee on Commissions.
10. Submission of the Standing Orders.
11. Appointment of the Procedure Committee.
12. Appointment of Panel of Tellers.
13. Appointment of Committee to prepare a minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
14. Intimation of arrangements for a celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 22 May, at 9.15 am in the Assembly Hall.

Circulation Break

Session 2

1. Presentation of Delegates and Visitors.
2. Section 2 of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee regarding proposed changes to Standing Orders.
3. Report of the Assembly Business Committee (including Overture of Highlands & Hebrides Presbyteries wishing to unite) (Reports 1/1 and Order of Proceedings p19).
4. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/9).

Lunch

Session 3: 2.00 pm

1. Report of the Special Committee on the Ethics of Investment Practice (Reports 2/1).
2. Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (Reports 3/1).

Circulation Break

Session 4

1. Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee (Reports 4/1).

Monday 22 May 2023

9.15 am

The Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Circulation Break

Session 5: 10.30 am

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report of the Procedure Committee.
3. Report and Supplementary Report of the Assembly Trustees (Including Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow as to the Presbytery Mission Plan Process) (Reports 5/1 and Order of Proceedings pp 20-21 and 27).

Lunch

Session 6: 2.00 pm

1. Report of the Theological Forum (Reports 6/1).

Circulation Break

Session 7

1. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (including Petition from the Kirk Session of St Andrew's Bo'ness anent Congregational Meetings) (Reports 7/1 and Order of Proceedings p23).
2. Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly (Order of Proceedings p50).
3. Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 8/1).

Tuesday 23 May 2023

Session 8: 9.15 am

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report of the Procedure Committee.
3. Report of the Faith Nurture Forum (Reports 9/1).

Circulation Break

Session 9

1. Report of the Faith Nurture Forum contd.
2. Report of the Special Committee on Gordon Presbytery (Reports 10/1).

Lunch

Session 10: 2.00 pm

1. Report of the Social Care Council (Reports 11/1).
2. Report of the Church of Scotland Guild (Reports 12/1).

Circulation Break

Session 11

1. Report of the Safeguarding Committee (Reports 13/1).
2. Report of the Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund (Reports 14/1).
3. Report of the Registration of Ministries Committee (Reports 15/1).
4. Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees (Reports 16/1).

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Session 12: 9.15 am

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report of the Procedure Committee.
3. Report of the Committee to draft a reply to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter.
4. Report of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces (Reports 17/1).

Circulation Break

Session 13

1. Supplementary Report of the Faith Impact Forum (Order of Proceedings p25).
2. Report of the Faith Impact Forum (Reports 18/1).

Lunch

Session 14: 2.00 pm

1. Report of the Faith Impact Forum contd.
2. Report of the General Trustees (Reports 19/1).

Circulation Break

Session 15

1. Report of the Iona Community Board (Reports 20/1).
2. Report of the Pension Trustees (Reports 21/1).
3. Report of the Church of Scotland Trust (Reports 22/1).
4. Report of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust (Reports 23/1).

Thursday 25 May 2023

Session 16: 9.15 am

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report of the Procedure Committee
3. Report of the Nomination Committee (Reports 24/1).
4. Report of the Selection Committee if required.
5. Remaindered business if required.

Lunch

Session 17: 2.00 pm

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
3. Draft Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted to be read if required.
4. Report on the Printing of Acts.
5. Protestations called for.
6. Appointment of Committee to Prepare Minutes.
7. Act appointing the Commission of Assembly.
8. Act appointing the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh and online on Saturday 18 May 2024.
9. Presentations to the Moderator.
10. Moderator addresses the General Assembly.
11. The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly.
12. National Anthem.
13. Dissolution.

THE BENEDICTION

Note

It is hoped that this timetable will be adhered to but items could arise earlier or later than the times specified.

V. Information on Asking Questions, Making Comments, Moving Motions and Voting at GA 2023

The Standing Orders govern how business is conducted at the General Assembly. They are included further on in this Order of Proceedings; please familiarise yourself with them before the Assembly opens.

Below is a summary of how you can do some key things at the Assembly; for the full picture you need to read the Standing Orders and also the proposed amendments to Standing Orders for this “hybrid” Assembly, 2023.

ASKING QUESTIONS

You will see from the Standing Orders that questions are always in order (SO 45). However, the usual time for questions is once a Convener has presented the Report and moved the deliverance. At this point the Moderator will ask for questions.

It is best to ask general questions about a Standing Committee’s Report or work under section 1 of the deliverance (“*Receive the Report*”). For a more specific matter, you should ask your question when the Assembly is considering the relevant section of deliverance.

If you are in-person: You can register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub as set out in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively, there will be stations placed in the Hall where you can use your commissioner number to enter a “request to speak” against the relevant section(s) of deliverance. Be ready to speak at a microphone in the Hall.

If you are online: To ask a question you should register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub against the appropriate section of deliverance.

MAKING COMMENTS

General comments should be made when section 1 (“*Receive the Report*”) is being considered; more specific comments should be made when the Assembly is considering the relevant section of deliverance.

If you are in-person: Again, you can use your commissioner number to register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub as set out in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively, there will be stations placed in the Hall where you can enter a “request to speak” against the relevant section(s) of deliverance. Be ready to speak at a microphone in the Hall.

If you are online: Again, you should register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub against the appropriate section of deliverance.

MOVING MOTIONS

At each Assembly various “motions” are considered. These mainly consist of the proposed sections of deliverance appearing in Reports from Standing Committees. However, any Commissioner can move a motion to amend a proposed section of deliverance, offer an alternative section to the one proposed or to add a new section of deliverance. (*To remove a section of deliverance, see below*).

If you want to do any of these things, you need to submit a Notice of Motion to the Clerks. It helps everyone if you can give as much advance notice as possible of your motion. The Clerks may contact you about the text of your proposed motion.

Types of motion

When you prepare a Notice of Motion, you need to decide what sort of motion you want to propose. Options are:-

- **amendments** – adding words to or removing words from a proposed section of deliverance but leaving the basic meaning intact. You can also propose an amendment to another commissioner’s amendment.
- **counter-motions** – proposing an alternative to an existing proposed section of deliverance which, if approved, would be distinctly different from the section proposed by the Standing Committee (i.e. if your counter-motion is accepted by the Assembly it would mean that the originally proposed section falls).
- **new section of deliverance altogether** – adding to the Standing Committee’s work or affirming a priority. Such a motion needs to fall within the relevant Standing Committee’s remit and for this type of motion you must give the relevant Convener reasonable notice in writing.
- **If you simply don’t think that the Assembly should accept a proposed section of deliverance**, there is no need to move a motion stating the direct negative. Instead, when the Assembly is considering that section of deliverance, you should speak to explain why you encourage a vote against it.

The Moderator is the final judge of the category into which a motion falls.

How to submit a Notice of Motion:

If you are in person: If you are in the Hall with a device enabling you to do so, you can use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively you can email a duly completed notice of motion form to the Clerks of Assembly using pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk, or you can complete and return to the Clerks at the top table or to the Assembly Office a paper notice of motion form.

If you are online: You should use the Assembly Hub to register a notice of motion in advance in respect of the relevant section(s) of deliverance. Details of how to submit a motion through the Hub will be shared at the training events and in a video to be available to you.

Procedure for taking Notices of Motion:

If you are in person: You should be ready to speak at a station in the Hall.

If you are online: You should register a “request to speak” on the Assembly Hub in respect of the relevant section of deliverance.

When the Assembly reaches the appropriate place in the debate for your motion to be moved, the Moderator will know that you have already put forward a Notice of Motion, either because it will be visible in the Assembly Hub or it will be with the Clerks. The advantage of using the Assembly Hub will be that other Commissioners will be able to see your motion in advance; they will also be able to second your motion using the Assembly Hub. Alternatively, a motion can be seconded by an in person commissioner in the Hall. All motions must be seconded. If no one is willing to second it, your motion falls.

Once your motion has been seconded, the Moderator will ask you to read what you propose (or the Clerks will do this) and the text will be shown on the screens in the Hall and the live feed. The Moderator will then invite you to tell the Assembly why you believe your proposal is the right one. You have up to five minutes to speak.

Seconding can be formal so a seconder does not need to speak in support of a proposal but if they wish to do so, they should also be ready, depending on whether they are in person or online, to speak at a station in the Hall or to register a "request to speak" on the Assembly Hub.

Once you have moved your motion, there will be debate at the end of which you will be asked if you wish to say anything else to convince the Assembly. After that, the Convener presenting the Report will be asked to give their response and then the Assembly will decide on the matter by voting.

VOTING

If you are in person: You will vote using a bluetooth handset supplied to you at the Hall.

If you are online: You will vote using the Assembly Hub.

Also, at this Assembly, we may use a process for **quick approval of certain sections of deliverance** rather than taking a formal vote on every occasion. This will involve the Moderator ascertaining the view of the Assembly by asking in person commissioners to stamp their feet or stand and at the same time asking online commissioners to "raise a hand" on Zoom.

VI. Proposed Committees and Tellers

Committee to Prepare an Answer to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter

Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields	
Rev Neil Gardner	9
Mrs Susan Pym	496
Mr Mark Evans DCS	50

Panel of Tellers

Mr Finlay Buchanan	32
Mr Michael Cunliffe	35
Rev Alistair Cook	54
Rev Tom MacIntyre	95
Mr John Kitson	158
Miss Ann Pickering	261
Mrs Alison Hay	273
Rev Conor Fegen	285
Mrs Pamela Scott DCS	313
Rev Sheila Kirk	387
Mr Matthew Philip	418
Rev Scott McRoberts	441
Rev Mary Stobo	465
Mrs Susan Pym	496
Rev Dr Stewart Gillan	506

Committee to Prepare Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons

Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields
Principal Clerk
Depute Clerk

VII. Overtures

Clèir Eilean Ì: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides
Overture anent the union of the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist 19

Presbytery of Glasgow
Overture as to The Presbytery Mission Plan Process.....20

Overture

Clèir Eilean Ì: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides

Overture anent the union of the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist

Whereas the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist have conferred together, and have each come to the view that it is necessary in the currently prevailing circumstances for the effective good government of the Church that they have each other's mutual support and encouragement in a united Presbytery and have agreed the Basis of Union set out in the Appendix to this Overture: It is humbly overtured by the Reverend the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist to the Venerable the General Assembly to enact and ordain in terms of the Act appended to this Overture, or do otherwise as to your Venerable Court may seem good.

Proposed Deliverance

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist to form Clèir Eilean Ì: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides, as set out in the Appendix.

Appendix

ACT ANENT THE UNION OF THE PRESBYTERIES OF ARGYLL, ABERNETHY, INVERNESS, LOCHABER, ROSS, SUTHERLAND, CAITHNESS, LOCHCARRON-SKYE, AND UIST

Edinburgh, XX May 2023, Sess. XX

Notwithstanding the terms of Act II 1975, by which the present overall Presbytery structure of the Church was established, and following the decision of the General Assembly of 2019 to reform the number of Presbyteries, the General Assembly in exercise of power to readjust the said structure as may be required from time to time enact and ordain that:-

1. With effect from 1st January 2024 the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist shall be united in terms of the Basis of Union agreed by them.
2. The name of the united Presbytery shall be Clèir Eilean Ì: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides, known as Clèir Eilean Ì or Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides.
3. The Scottish Charity Number SC001424 shall be retained as the Scottish Charity Number of Clèir Eilean Ì: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides.
4. All ministers and deacons having seats in the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist in terms of Act III 2000 (as amended) shall be members of Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides.
5. All Presbytery elders having seats in the afore named Presbyteries, whether commissioned by a Kirk Session or appointed by Presbytery, shall, so long as their commission or appointment runs, be members of Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides.
6. All property and funds belonging to the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist shall belong to Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides. From the date of union, any trust or other special funds held by any of the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, or Uist shall be dealt with in such a way as is competent and as may be agreed to by the united Presbytery, subject to obtaining legal advice on any question of difficulty that may arise.

Basis of Union of the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist

1. Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides shall initially comprise the constituent charges of the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye, and Uist as existing at 31st December 2023.
2. The united Presbytery shall hold its first meeting in an on-line format in January 2024 on a day and at a time to be determined by the Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides Transition Team. At this meeting:
 - a. The Moderator will be appointed on the nomination of the Transition Team, and the term of office of this first Moderator will be determined. Thereafter Moderators will hold office in terms of Standing Orders.
 - b. The Clerk will be appointed.
 - c. The normal pattern for ordinary meetings will be agreed.
 - d. The Standing Orders of the united Presbytery will be approved.
3. The Transition Team will continue to meet between May 2023 and the first meeting in January 2024 to attend to all desirable initial arrangements for the united Presbytery, including but not restricted to the nomination of Conveners and members of Committees.
4. The Presbytery will appoint a full-time Clerk, who will be appointed prior to the commencement of the united Presbytery to facilitate it commencing work in January 2024. Other full-time officers (or FTE) for finance, buildings and mission, as named in Standing Orders, will be appointed as financial resources become available.

Overture

Overture as to The Presbytery Mission Plan Process

From the Presbytery of Glasgow

Whereas:

1. Background

1.1 The Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII) 2021 required Presbyteries to have an Approved Mission Plan in place in terms of the Act by 31 December 2022, which Plan shall (1) make appropriate use of such ministry posts as may be permitted by the General Assembly so that the number of post holders in each Presbytery conforms to the numbers and timescales set by the General Assembly and (2) categorise each ecclesiastical building as either:- (a) to be retained beyond the five years from the date at which the Mission Plan is approved or annually reviewed, or (b) to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of by a specified date which is within five years from the date at which the ecclesiastical building is first categorised as (b).

1.2 The General Assembly of 2021, on the proposal of the Assembly Trustees, “noted the work done in projecting both the future availability of and affordability of ministries across the church of Scotland and set a realistic aim that Presbyteries should seek to implement by 2025 Presbytery Plans based around 600 full time equivalent ministries and a target of no more than 60 further charges vacant at any one time.”

1.3 Additionally, that General Assembly on the proposal of the Faith Nurture Forum, “Agreed the number of ministry posts allocated to each Presbytery as set out in Appendix 4 and instructed that this be the figure used in the forming of any Presbytery Mission Plan.”

2 Progress

2.1 Presbyteries have found varying degrees of success in endeavouring to fulfil the provisions of Act VIII 2021 and the associated instructions of the General Assembly. Some Mission Plans have been approved, whilst others are at varying stages of completion. Some shall not be completed and approved within the required timescale.

2.2 This process has, across the Church, led to considerable angst and pain. Some congregations have devised locally agreed solutions, but many have been left disillusioned and confused through the process. Ministers’ and Congregations’ experience of the Mission Planning process has been an expectation to do more with less. The morale of ministers is low, and some have opted to retire earlier than planned.

3. The Past

3.1 The Church attempted a similar process in 2011. It is clear that this did not lead to growth and it may have contributed to the decline of the denomination. The Church of Scotland has seen a significant reduction in communicant membership. The then convener of the Assembly Trustees noted at the 2022 Assembly how, in his lifetime, membership of the Church of Scotland had dropped from 1.3 million to fewer than 300,000. The Assembly Trustees reported in 2022 that between 2011 and 2021 church membership dropped by 34% with no sign of the trend changing.

3.2 Income, too, has declined sharply. The Assembly Trustees have projected a deficit in 2023 of £7.6m, and a 22% reduction in the number of Ministers of Word and Sacrament by 2028. In November 2022, the Assembly Trustees noted that they had made provision for a further reduction in congregational contributions of 32%.

4. The Future

4.1 In November 2022 the Assembly Trustees recorded their recognition of the concerns around the Presbytery Mission Planning Process and acknowledged that, as yet, there is no evidence of growth. The Assembly Trustees agreed that the Church of Scotland must fully support a mission imperative. The present crisis, whether regarded in terms of strategy, statistics or ministry, is in essence a Gospel issue.

4.2 An ageing denomination greatly reduces the pool from which candidates for ministry of Word and Sacrament may be drawn. Increasing fragility of congregations leaves local governance challenging and necessitates more centrally appointed posts to offer help. Sustainability and affordability of present structures look increasingly unfeasible.

5. Mission

5.1 The present endeavours to create a Mission Plan have, in the name of mission, allocated posts to Presbyteries in an effort to sustain the denomination as it is. A Mission Plan which reduces resources may be difficult to equate with one aimed at enabling mission.

6. The changing Face of Ministry

6.1 One outcome of the present planning process is that it appears to be revising the role and function of Ministry of Word and Sacrament by necessity, rather than design or theological reflection, and without reference to the nature of “call” or to any agreed understanding of the nature and purpose of Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

7. What Jesus Said

7.1 When Peter was reconciled to Jesus, he was told to both tend and care for Christ’s sheep. This principle has been at the heart of the ministry of the Church of Scotland since its beginning. The very nature of the present Mission Plan process undermines this calling and threatens to break pastoral relationships as Ministers of Word and Sacrament are spread too thinly.

8. What Nehemiah Did

8.1 Nehemiah, in arranging the rebuilding of Jerusalem, demonstrated both administrative skill and a deep understanding of the connection between the areas in which people worked and those endeavours in which they

were willing to invest. He inspired discouraged, dispirited people by making connections that were both personal and dynamic. The Church of Scotland's finances come from its members in local congregations and the liberality around local work is celebrated. However a Mission Plan which further divorces the relationship as has already been seen over the years, leads to a further drop in income. It is not clear that the Giving To Grow Scheme will be able to address this with congregations still feeling a lack of local control of finances with a model that seems punitive to growth.

9. The Questions

9.1 Questions of accountability, sustainability and mission are not often asked of congregations. For the past 20 years there has been some disconnect between what is given and what is received, what is asked for and what is returned. A highly centralised model has removed the motivation of congregations to reach financial sustainability or accountability.

10. Blank Piece Of Paper

10.1 In looking to the future, and agreeing with the Assembly Trustees in November 2022, there is an urgent need to reshape and to refocus on a mission imperative. Our top priority needs to be introducing people to Christ, making disciples, growing the church and caring for the church locally. In the words of the Assembly Trustees, we need to simplify, and to 'stop, devolve, evolve'. We believe the solutions are found locally.

Therefore:

It is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Glasgow to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that the General Assembly should reflect on the missional and pastoral impacts of this planning process and assess other possible approaches through a Special Commission to report by 2024; and, via the Theological Forum, to seek theological reflection on the decline of the Church of Scotland regarding membership and ministry candidates and offer guidance on steps which can be taken to address this.

Or to do otherwise as to your Venerable Court may seem good.

Proposed Deliverance

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Instruct that a Special Commission of 7 persons appointed by the Selection Committee be formed to consider the missional and pastoral impact of the planning process instituted by the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021), assess other possible approaches, consult with the Assembly Trustees and the Faith Nurture Forum, and report with recommendations to the General Assembly in 2024.
3. Instruct the Theological Forum jointly with the Faith Nurture Forum to reflect on the decline of the Church of Scotland in regard to membership and ministry candidates and to offer guidance on what steps should be taken to address it, reporting by 2024 failing which by 2025.

VIII. Petition

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Petition

**Petition Anent
Congregational Meetings**

From the Kirk Session of St Andrew's Church of Scotland, Bo'ness

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Petition of the Kirk Session of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, Bo'ness, humbly sheweth that:

Whereas:

1. Congregational meetings are not meetings of courts of the Church, and are subject to different legislation, guidelines and protocols.
2. For congregational meetings held for the purpose of considering and voting on a Basis of Adjustment, the Presbytery of the bounds is responsible for undertaking and overseeing the voting process.
3. In October 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Protocol was approved by the General Assembly which enabled voting on a Basis of Adjustment by members of a congregation to proceed and a decision to be taken without an in-person congregational meeting having taken place, provided a range of steps could be taken to ensure adequate provision of information and a secure postal/email ballot system.
4. A further Protocol agreed at the General Assembly of October 2020 enabled voting and decision-making at congregational meetings on sales and disposals of buildings to proceed in similar fashion.
5. As a result of pandemic restrictions being removed, no proposal to continue the Protocols is made and accordingly decision-making on Bases of Adjustment and on sales and disposals of buildings will revert to being done only at in-person congregational meetings.
6. Whilst from May 2023 various Covid-19 legislative "accommodations" will no longer be available, many congregations would testify that attending in person numbers have not returned to pre-Covid levels, and that they know of individuals still cautious about being 'out and about'.
7. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many congregations would testify to having increased their "online reach" with both members and visitors alike having improved capability and confidence in the online realm.
8. The draft Church Courts Acts being put to the Assembly by the Legal Questions Committee makes provision for the General Assembly, Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions, as courts of the Church, to meet in a hybrid fashion and to allow for joint in person and online voting, which this Kirk Session believes allows for effective and inclusive decision-making.
9. It is the wish of the Kirk Session of St Andrew's Parish Church, Bo'ness that its full church membership roll (including adherents) is able to vote and take a decision in its forthcoming congregational meeting, to be held for the purpose of approving a Basis of Adjustment, whether they are present in person or online at the time of the vote.

May it therefore please your Venerable Court to:

1. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to consider bringing forward proposals to a Commission of Assembly, to be held in any format permitted under s4(2) of the Commission of Assembly Act (Act VI 1997) before 30 November 2023, to enable congregational meetings convened for any purpose to be held, in addition to wholly in person, online or by a combination of in-person and online (ie in hybrid format) with voting and thus decision-making similarly taking place simultaneously in person and/or online, such proposals to be contained in a new Protocol to be passed for that purpose.

Or to do otherwise as to your Venerable Court may seem good.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the Interim Moderator, Session Clerk and 11 Elders of the Kirk Session of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, Bo'ness

IX. Supplementary Reports

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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE FAITH IMPACT FORUM

Proposed Deliverance

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Supplementary Report.
2. Welcome the work of the Jewish-Christian Glossary project, noting that the Glossary aims to improve mutual understanding; encourage Ministers in particular to study and engage with it in a way that will inform local, national and international relationship with Jewish communities.
3. Pass an Act amending the International Presbytery Act (Act II 2016) as set out in Appendix 1.

Report

1. JEWISH-CHRISTIAN GLOSSARY PROJECT

1.1 Church of Scotland and Jewish community representatives were in a formal dialogue process from 2017-2019, with the objective of repairing relationships between the Jewish community and Church of Scotland after the *Inheritance of Abraham?* report to the General Assembly in 2013. The dialogue set about to establish a frank theological exchange on this report and the politics and theological ideas it contained. The broader aim for this dialogue was always to share insights and mutual learning that reflected the dialogical process for those who could not be involved directly. This objective was the subject of a meeting with the Chief Rabbi and the Convener of the Assembly Trustees, along with participants of the dialogue and staff support, in February 2020. The decision reached at this meeting was for a small group of Ministers and Rabbis to begin a process of focused dialogue that concentrated on terms and words that either directly or implicitly convey beliefs and attitudes to the politics and theology of land.

1.2 The Jewish Christian Glossary (available at <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/general-assembly-2023/reports-documents>) has been a long time in the making. It has gone through various stages of development. From determining its brief as an aid to understanding and as a resource that provides a tool for starting introspective conversations amongst Christians and Jews as well as Jewish-Christian dialogue to creating a process by which dialogue could be used as the basis of each entry and as a means to determine the terms we would be covering, to editing and refining each entry. The editing stage has led to the decision to add an additional layer of reflections for each section which helps offer an insight into the impact that the Christian entry on one side of the document has on respondents from the Jewish community and vice versa. These sections are designed to prompt additional reflections about what material from the other faith tradition may surprise readers, or make them uncomfortable and what may resonate with them. Users are invited to continue these reflections in their own setting.

1.3 Given that this document is comprised of views and material from another faith tradition, it is not something the General Assembly can endorse or even approve as a whole. The Church of Scotland entries will also reflect a broad perspective on each term but there will be disagreement within the Church. The glossary also contains references to specific ecumenical influences and motivating factors to Church members' attitudes and beliefs on various subjects related to the land of Israel which such as Palestinian Liberation Theology, encounters with partners in the land, and strands theological tradition which inform Christian Zionism.

1.4 The staff and volunteers involved have been keen to ensure that stakeholders within the Church of Scotland as well as select partners both in Scotland and in Israel Palestine have been sent a copy of this glossary in advance of its wider release with their feedback and insights welcomed. As the glossary finds its way into the hands and discussion of congregations, the hope is that it becomes an aid to greater empathy, insight and compassion. The resounding impact of the process of creating the resource has been, for those involved, that they better understood the multiple foundations that prop up views they had previously encountered. Though they may continue to disagree with the alternative perspective, it was harder to deny the complexity of any given issue and easier to recognise the assumptions and beliefs they had projected onto those views. The headings that define each section around how a term may be understood, heard, influenced Christian and Jewish identities and had different meanings depending on time and location, offer a visual reminder of this insight and force us to acknowledge that even shared and familiar terms can contain so much disparity of impact and meaning. Such disparity creates space for assumptions and misunderstanding which can be helped by simply addressing the simple fact that what we mean when we say something may have unintended impacts. Used as a tool to remind a person to simply ask what someone may have heard or understood after saying something, or to explain your thinking in more accessible terms, can be hugely helpful for building bridges with the Jewish community as well as improving spiritual self-understanding. Faith Impact is planning a formal launch of the document in the second half of 2023 for both community members to attend.

2. PRESBYTERY OF INTERNATIONAL CHARGES

2.1 As changes brought in by the General Assembly impact upon the life of the Presbytery of International Charges, the Act relating to the Presbytery (Act II, 2016) needs to be amended to bring it up to date. The congregation of Gibraltar has been closed and the Presbytery is working with the Forum in seeking different ways of working cooperatively in some international locations, which may involve making Mission Partner appointments rather than calling ministers through the Vacancy process. The changes to the Act are laid out in Appendix 1.

In the name of the Faith Impact Forum

REV KAREN HENDRY, *Convener pro tem*
REV PETER JOHNSTON, *Vice-Convener*
REV DR SCOTT SHACKLETON, *Secretary*

Appendix 1 – Act Amending The International Presbytery Act (Act II 2016)

[] ACT AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESBYTERY ACT (ACT II 2016) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburgh, [] May 2023, Session []

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that The International Presbytery Act (Act II 2016), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. *In Schedule 1 to the Act, delete the Charge of Gibraltar.*
2. *In Schedule 2 to the Act, add a new paragraph 2.4:*
 “The ministers of any of the Charges in the Presbytery may be Mission Partner appointments, made by the appropriate agency of the Church, of (i) Church of Scotland ministers or (ii) ministers holding a Restricted Certificate of Eligibility under s.12(c) of the Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act (Act XIII 2022).”
3. *In Schedule 5 add the following wording at the start:*
 “Save in relation to the charge of St Andrew’s Scots Church, Malta, where the provisions of the Local Ecumenical Partnership apply, and in any Charges where Mission Partner appointments are being made,”

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

Proposed Deliverance

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Supplementary Report.
2. Receive the 2022 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities.
3. Note the budget for 2024 and the indicative budgets for 2025 to 2028 (*Section 2 and Appendices 1 and 2*).

Report

1. FINANCE

1.1 AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

1.2 It is the responsibility of the Assembly Trustees to prepare and approve the audited Annual Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Entities of the Church of Scotland and to present these to the General Assembly each year. The external auditors gave an unqualified or “clean” audit opinion on the Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Entities Scottish Charity Number 011353 (the “Charity”).

1.3 The General Assembly is invited to receive the 2022 Report and Accounts of the Unincorporated Entities. The Report and Financial Statements describe in detail the Church’s objectives, activities and governance arrangements. These are submitted annually to OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator, and then published on the OSCR website, allowing anyone who is interested to see the extent of the Church’s work and witness. The General Assembly is invited to receive and read the Report and Accounts which can be found within the General Assembly section of the Church of Scotland website.

2. OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL FORECAST

2.1 As outlined below and within the main report, the decisions made within the General Assembly of 2023 have possibly never been more important to the future financial sustainability of the Church of Scotland.

2.2 The financial picture presented from across the Church is rapidly changing. As the main report highlights, the Church has c.284,000 members (2021 figures) and around 1,200 charges. Notably, up to the last few years, giving in the Church has largely been maintained, despite the fall in membership of over a million people from the mid 1960’s. This pattern of stability has now ended. In 2019, congregational income was £87 million; for 2022, it is estimated as £73.4 million and by 2024 projected to be £68.7 million. The impact of this on the congregations themselves is apparent with only 30% having enough income to cover their basic local costs. The national budget is directly impacted by the reduced congregational contributions and at the current rate of decline, is predicted within the next five years, to result in a situation where congregational contributions do not cover the cost of our ministries. As noted elsewhere, this does not take account of additional monies required in relation to CrossReach or operations undertaken within the National Office.

2.3 Over this same period, the forecast is that the Church’s deficits, including the national operations and programmes, will be in the region of £10 million per annum, prior to the inclusion of the CrossReach budget. The charity is moving into a financial position where its costs are fixed but regular income is set to rapidly decline. This cannot be the desired outcome for the Church and we must, without further hesitation, focus on a means of stabilising the reducing income, removing costs and above all not taking any decisions which will put our Church in further financial jeopardy. There is now a need for further action which goes beyond that of the 2019 Special Commission on Structural Reform.

2.4 It is fundamental to our beliefs that as a Presbyterian Church, congregations blessed with financial resources have an obligation to support congregations who are not. The Giving to Grow scheme recognises that charges should first pay for their minister (“Ministry Here”). They should also, as part of a Presbyterian Church, contribute to the cost of ministry in other places (“Ministry Elsewhere”) and to the activities which provide support for the Church’s mission as well as ensuring it complies with statutory regulations, safeguarding functions and best practices (“Shared Activities”). The Scheme thereby encourages congregations to envisage how their efforts can work towards a healthy financial future for their own church, for congregations in other places and for shared work within their Presbytery and beyond.

2.5 Whilst we can deploy Stewardship resources and signpost grant funding opportunities from the national office, what is also needed is for Presbyteries to work with congregations to grow their income. This income is required to pay for ministries and as noted below, the vast majority of congregations are not able to meet this. Congregations, who are able to retain more money under the Giving to Grow scheme are requested to make further contributions as only the 10% of shared activities component of Giving to Grow is not capped. This is needed to pay for everything else in the national budget including funding of the new Presbyteries, costs of support and services and the national initiatives which are a vital part of the Church.

2.6 If congregational contributions could be maintained and the steps proposed to further reduce national budgets achieved, it is conceivable that deficits could be contained to a more manageable level over the next five years. Otherwise we will reach a position where actions will need to be taken which will have a damaging effect on our Church and all of its stakeholders.

3. CONGREGATIONAL INCOME

3.1 Section 2 of the Trustees' main Report describes the continuing challenge facing the whole Church with declining numbers in our membership and our ministers. In terms of congregational income, by the mid 2010's income was c£92 million per annum. In the following years, a decrease of between of 1-2% per annum begins. This does not take into account inflation which further exacerbates the impact.

3.2 It had always been anticipated that a point would be reached when congregational contributions decreased, due to the demographics of our members and supporters. This was however difficult to quantify in terms of how severe the fall would be and when it would occur and further, no consideration was given to the fact we would be in the midst of a worldwide pandemic when it happened. The income drop or "cliff edge" is now a stark reality facing the Church. Taking 2019 as the base year (pre- Pandemic), congregational income was £87 million. Appendix 1 shows projected income of £71.1 million in 2023 and £68.7 million in 2024. Our previous analysis indicated with a high level of certainty, that the aggregate income of congregations would not recover to pre-Pandemic levels during 2022 or 2023 and the 2021 congregational accounts and 2022 financial statistics have substantiated this assumption.

3.3 The implications of this are being felt locally and nationally. Around 1,200 congregations are now trying to manage their budgets and their buildings within this reduced income which is not sustainable. Analysis of the demographics of our membership indicates that many congregations will reach a natural end within the next decade without intervention, highlighting the importance of Presbytery Mission Planning. Exploring all options, it is evident that we need to reduce the numbers of congregations to reach a level of sustainability. As the main report shows, it is not only financial resources that are diminishing, but the people who are able and willing to volunteer their time and talents to the Church.

3.4 Assumptions made about congregational income

3.4.1 We have carried out detailed financial modelling starting with the accounts of our 1,200 plus congregations as of December 2021. The Schedules of Financial Statistics for 2022 income received from 71% of congregations have also been analysed:

The key statistics from the returns and used for our forward budgets were:

- 4% reduction in offerings, donations and Gift Aid comparing 2022 to 2021
- 1.3% increase in other ordinary income such as hall lets and rents
- 3.1% overall decrease in total ordinary income
- Estimated income of £73.444 million income in 2022 compared to £75.792 million in 2021.

3.4.2 The statistics indicate that café and fundraising income are continuing the recovery trend after being closed during the Pandemic. Hall letting and rental taken together also show a strong recovery. For congregations who did not return a form, a 4% reduction has been applied to offerings, donations and Gift Aid Tax and all other income has been assumed to be as in their accounts for 2021.

Other key statistics from the returns were as follows:

- Analysis comparing estimated general income for 2022, which will be included in the Giving to Grow assessment for 2024, to the actual amount received in 2021 suggests that around 8% of congregations have increased income and 62% reduced income.
- Of those 1,200 congregations, around 52% have assessable income under £49,932. This is the estimated cost of a Minister of Word and Sacrament in 2024.
- Using the same illustration approximately 85% of congregations have assessable income under £99,864 which is the amount required to produce the full assessment for Ministry Here. This detail refers to congregations not charges. In other words by far the majority of congregations will be having their contributions capped other than the 10% Shared Activities component.
- In turn this suggests that only 15 % of congregations will have an assessable income that results in any payment towards the Ministry Elsewhere component of Giving to Grow in 2024 which will clearly impact on the ongoing ability to support Churches with lower incomes.
- Analysis of congregational reserves for 2021 demonstrates an overall increase of 6% in unrestricted reserves of congregations and a 1% decrease in restricted reserves. Overall the total reserves sit at £122.58 million unrestricted and £55.9 million restricted. This is strongly caveated due to potentially misclassified funds on congregational accounts.

4. REBUILDING INCOME

4.1 The Assembly Trustees have a charitable and moral duty to present to the General Assembly and wider Church, the current and future financial projections and this presents an extremely challenging picture. We are however a community of faith whose work touches the life of many across society.

4.2 There are 284,000 members of the Church of Scotland and many more who attend worship and play an active role in congregational life that are not counted within this number. Almost a third of congregations report new worshipping communities and the Seeds for Growth Fund is being introduced to support the further development, on a sustainable footing, of these new expressions of Church life and to bring people to faith. Some congregations have shown more financial resilience than others, often by taking fairly simple steps such as ensuring that giving is by standing order or by introducing digital giving. Members and supporters contribute to their own congregations, to projects of the wider Church and to special appeals for help, showing a level of commitment and compassion that embodies what it means to be church.

4.3 Where a congregation is in a position to do more, the Giving to Grow Scheme allows for Giving Agreements between Presbyteries and congregations towards local or national initiatives and we commend the imaginative use of these.

4.4 The Trustees continue to be encouraged by these tangible expressions of faith and as outlined in the main report, are actively seeking opportunities for the development and implementation of strategic initiatives on income generation at local, national and Presbytery levels. Congregations are actively encouraged to engage with the Stewardship Team whose work is outlined in the main report. We have also increasingly seen how congregations have benefited from successful grant applications to external funds and would highlight that grants received are not included in the income base for calculating assessable income of congregations. The Church's Grants Manager, David Williams, is working to support the grants process from identification of opportunities through to supporting the submission process. Further support in relation to grants available from external bodies can be accessed through contacting grants@churchofscotland.org.uk.

5. IMPACT OF REDUCED CONTRIBUTIONS ON NATIONAL BUDGET

5.1 The National Budget, inclusive of our ministries, the National Office, staff and services, is not a separate entity or body detached from congregations and presbyteries. Under Giving to Grow, when congregational income is assessed and congregational contributions are paid to the "National Budget", most of this goes towards paying for ministries – Ministry Here and Ministry Elsewhere. As previously noted, our forecasts show that by 2026 the contributions will not even cover the direct cost of ministries. The congregational contributions are not rising in line with annual costs of ministries and staff – instead the gap is widening meaning continued annual deficits and a substantial draw from reserves. As the main report outlines, the Church's General Fund is forecast to be extinguished by 2026 to 2027 based on current assumptions, even after making further significant reductions in costs. Some further explanation of the Church's reserves is noted below.

5.2 The financial analysis and modelling described above produces the following annual contributions in the budget.

5.3 The annual contributions shown in the budget are:

Including Stipend Endowment & Glebe Rents		Stipend Endowment and Glebe Rent included in the total	
2024	£37.67 million	2024	£3.6 million
2025	£35.19 million	2025	£3.6 million
2026	£33.1 million	2026	£2 million
2027	£31.0 million	2027	£2 million
2028	£29.1 million	2028	£2 million

5.4 It must be stressed that these are based on assumptions, which will be reviewed annually in the light of new information. It could transpire that congregations as they unite manage to maintain or increase their income. However, the 3% assumption used for the annual decline in assessable income could also change. The Assembly Trustees consider that these are reasonable assumptions at this point in time. The above table shows the importance of the Stipend Endowment and Glebe Income being used by most congregations to offset the cost of their Giving to Grow contributions and this is based on current figures provided by the General Trustees.

6. NATIONAL BUDGET

6.1 The Assembly Trustees present in Appendix 2 estimates of congregational contributions receivable under *Giving to Grow* together with the budgeted expenditure and other income of the Unincorporated Entities for the year 2024, and forward indicative budgets for 2025-2028.

6.2 Key points for 2024:

- The budgeted operating deficit is £8.4 million
- A further £1.5 million will be invested from reserves into Seeds for Growth
- CrossReach's indicative deficit is £3.4 million
- This represents an overall draw from reserves in 2024 of £13.4 million
- Savings of £2 million have already been planned into the budget
- Congregational contributions including stipend endowment income are £37.7 million
- Direct costs of Parish Ministry are budgeted at £34.7 million including vacancy allowance
- Presbytery Funding of £1.4 million is included
- Transition Funding of £0.8million is included.

6.3 Key points in the indicative budgets 2025 to 2028

- The budgeted operating deficits are presented as approximately £8 million per annum
- A further £2.5 million per annum will be invested into Seeds for Growth
- CrossReach's annual deficit is based on previous estimates of c £2 million per annum deficits, noting the aim to break even operationally from financial year 2027
- Congregational contributions are as shown in the above table above reducing to £29.1 million by 2028

- Direct costs of parish ministry are budgeted at £31.02 million by 2028
- Budgets of the Forum/s and all other departments are shown as being static but will need to realise a further saving of £2 million per annum in each of 2025 and 2026 continuing thereafter. This amounts to a saving of £14 million over the period
- Presbytery funding begins to reduce from 2028 as the initial five year periods end.

6.4 The overall draw on reserves (not including CrossReach) over the five years 2024 to 2028 could be as much as £39.5 million with a further £11.5 million to be invested in Seeds for Growth. This level of deficits is completely unsustainable for the Church as a charity. In order to turn this financial situation around the whole Church needs to understand that it simply cannot continue as it has always been. Unless the Church is to find itself in a financial emergency the steps outlined in the main report need to be undertaken and brought into effect within this five-year window.

6.5 We need to generate more income at all levels of the Church; transform the costs of our national operations to a level much more proportionate to the size of our Church; and reduce the activities being carried out. This could impact on the level of service provided by the national office at a time when congregations are already hard-pressed. A large part of the solution to this potential crisis has to sit with the new Presbyteries developing support systems in conjunction with the national office and good work is already being undertaken to that effect. What we cannot maintain is a duplication of resources.

7. MITIGATING THE NATIONAL BUDGET DEFICITS AND ACTION BEING TAKEN BY THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES AND CHIEF OFFICER

7.1 Reductions in National Office operating costs were successfully achieved over 2020 and 2021 and further work is now required as the Assembly Trustees establish their priorities as outlined in the main report. These priorities will be used in order to focus finance onto the core areas. Central costs will be reduced further through a programme that will be focused on "Stopping, Devolving and Evolving" work.

7.2 An assessment is therefore being made on all Service Department work involving critical analysis of the source of work carried out, review of existing work lists and an assessment of incoming work for the departments that respond in a reactive manner to the needs of the church. This work will consider both the operational and governance requirements of a £100 million charity and essential services that have to be provided.

7.3 The prioritisation will fall into 4 areas:

1. Definition of the baseline work required from the Service Departments – including associated resources and finance.
2. Work that clearly aligns with the General Assembly and Assembly Trustee priorities – CONTINUES (though scope and extent still require review). In addition, new work may need to START as a result of this clear sense of direction and the gaps that will be identified.
3. Work that clearly does not align with the priorities of the General Assembly and Assembly Trustee and is deemed unnecessary for other operational purposes at this time – STOPS NOW if it is entirely within our gift to do so.
4. Work in the "grey area" between the clear decisions to CONTINUE or STOP which needs further assessment leading to one of the following outcomes:
 - 4.1 The work is assessed and can be STOPPED
 - 4.2 The work is something that we should START if not already in place
 - 4.3 The work is needed but should be DEVOLVED
 - 4.4 The work EVOLVES, it continues but may need to be carried out in a different or more cost-effective way.

7.4 The outcome will then be assessed against the agreed budgetary constraints set down in this report which may require further rationalisation of the work list.

7.5 The Faith Action Programme area has made significant progress in reducing costs and this work will continue with the introduction of the revised arrangements Faith Action Programme Leadership Team who will be charged with defining a single, prioritised plan to meet the General Assembly and Assembly Trustee objectives within the agreed financial targets.

8. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET

8.1 The budget does not account for any gains on sale of property or gains or losses on investments.

8.2 The indicative budget shown in Appendix 2 does not include the work of the Church of Scotland entities in Israel which are not constituent parts of the Charity. However, the results of all of these entities are included each year in the Church's consolidated ("Group") Annual Accounts.

8.3 The Support and Services departments' costs are shown before income from other entities. These departments provide services not only to the Unincorporated Entities, but to the General Trustees, Investors Trust, Church of Scotland Trust, Presbyteries and congregations. Again, these are being held constant until organisational plans have been developed. The Facilities Management budget includes, as in 2022, costs of essential fabric and rolling maintenance in the National Office.

8.4 CrossReach –The Trustees' main report describes the work being undertaken with CrossReach more fully. During 2022 the Trustees agreed to continue funding of £1.115 million for 2023. From 2024 funding of CrossReach will change to a full deficit funding model with the result that no Church of Scotland grant funding will be allocated to them. The expectation that has been set is that they will achieve break-even by 2027.

8.5 There are other entities and trusts which are included in the Charity, most significantly the Housing and Loan Fund but also including New College. These are included in our statutory accounts as part of the Charity and in our monthly reporting. As already mentioned, the Housing and Loan Fund Trustees are undertaking a property improvement programme.

8.6 The Other Funds broadly speaking show a break-even situation in each financial year.

9. RESERVES

9.1 The value of funds on the Unincorporated Entities balance sheet as at 31 December was £203 million. Of this £72.1 million is unrestricted or designated, £113.5 million is restricted and £17.5 million is endowments. Within unrestricted funds is the General Fund of £64.4 million. This is the Fund referred to in the report which, based on our financial modelling, would be extinguished by 2026/27 if mitigating actions are not taken on the budgets.

9.2 The larger restricted and designated funds are shown on the Annual Report and Accounts. Notably, of the £113.5 million restricted funds, the Housing and Loan Fund stood at £50.8 million, CrossReach restricted Funds at £17.6 million and the Salvesen Trust at £15.8 million. These restricted funds must be used in line with donor restrictions and most importantly cannot be used for normal operating activities which crucially means the payment of stipends and salaries, including presbytery support.

9.3 The General Fund would also be needed for any unforeseen contingencies or opportunities which are potentially more likely in the current economic and global context. For example, the Church's reserves were used to support congregations during the pandemic.

9.4 A detailed review and reclassification or reorganisation of funds was carried out from 2018 onwards with a few still remaining. It is therefore all the more urgent that we allocate staff resource to completing this review and take all possible steps to augment the General Fund.

10. SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

10.1 Role of the Audit Committee and Internal Audit

10.2 The Trustees are responsible for maintaining adequate systems of internal control. The Audit Committee's remit includes responsibility for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal financial controls. This function is delivered by Azets as the appointed Internal Auditors alongside the work of the Church's own Audit and Compliance Officer. Azets produce an annual programme of work in consultation with the Committee, Chief Officer, General Treasurer and Director of Finance and Resources for CrossReach. This is based on an assessment of audit risk which seeks to ensure that all the main areas of activity are periodically reviewed. Audit reports are submitted at the end of each assignment and an annual audit report is made to the Audit Committee expressing an opinion on the systems of internal control in place in the Unincorporated Entities.

10.3 Azets conducted a number of reviews as part of their 2022 programme of work covering the following areas:

- Grant Funding Distribution
- CrossReach Devolved Services
- Communications
- Delegated Authority

10.4 Azets reported to the Audit Committee that, on the basis of the work undertaken for the year ended 31 December 2022, the Charity has a framework of controls in place that provides adequate assurance regarding the organisation's governance framework, risk management and achievement of objectives, subject to the implementation of a range of continuous improvement actions, addressing the higher-graded matters arising from internal audit reviews. This also applies to historic/backlog action implementation.

11. CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

11.1 2022 has seen considerable changes in presbytery structures, with two new presbyteries forming, and a further fifteen merging to form three new presbyteries on 1 January 2023. We are particularly grateful to the Clerks of the outgoing and new presbyteries, as well as the IT Department in the National Offices, who have enabled this collection to happen at a time of significant change. We also note our appreciation of all Presbytery Clerks and congregations for their diligence and strenuous efforts in their work on this year's statistics. The information which follows greatly assists in supporting the understanding of the Church of Scotland at all levels.

Summary

- As at December 2022, there were 270,300 members of the Church of Scotland, a fall of 4.7% from 2021.
- In the last ten years, since 2012, the number of members has fallen by 35%.
- Information collected indicates that in 2022, 70% of congregations offered worship services that were online; and 40% offered alternative offline worship services. 28,875 people are estimated to have worshipped online, and 5,075 made use of alternative offline provisions.
- Over a fifth (21%) of congregations reported a New Worshipping Community.
- Baptisms and professions of faith both increased since 2021, but are still below pre-COVID levels.

Technical Summary

- Numbers at both presbytery level and national level have been rounded, in line with best practice, to avoid giving a false sense of precision. Numbers that would round down to 0 are indicated with e.g. "<5" to distinguish them from actual 0s.
- There was a response rate of 89% to the standard questions about membership, leadership etc.
- Additional Questions continue to be included to reflect changes in worship provision, with many churches offering a hybrid form of worship, both online and offline. This is the second year in which information on New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) is provided. These Additional Questions had a 65% response rate.
- Collection was made in mixed mode – some reported through Presbytery Information Management System (PIMS), others through Excel with additional questions through MS Forms or Excel.

11.2 Introduction

11.2.1 On 31st December 2022 fifteen presbyteries closed in order to form three new presbyteries that commenced on 1st January 2023. Information from the congregational statistics is collected as at 31 December each year and is reported under the presbytery name as at that date. The Presbytery of the South West, and the enlarged presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale (with the inclusion of Falkirk) are reported for the first time in 2022. 2023 will see figures reported for the new presbyteries of Lothian and Borders, Perth, and the North East and Northern Isles.

11.2.2 During 2022, congregations continued to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic with many still offering hybrid worship. The 2022 congregational statistics should be interpreted in light of this and care should be taken in making comparisons over the last few years.

11.3 Church-level membership and participation, 2022

11.3.1 Congregations within the Church of Scotland come in varying forms and sizes, from large city congregations to small rural or island communities. Table 1 shows the reported participation at the smallest 5% and 25% of churches, the median (i.e. middle) church, the largest 25% and 5% of churches (i.e. 75th and 95th percentile), and the mean (average) church. A "typical" church may be better described by the median value as a few large congregations can result in a larger mean value which may not be reflective of the overall data.

	5 th percentile	25 th percentile	Median (middle) church	75 th percentile	95 th percentile	Mean (average) church
Members	22	88	169	292	531	212
Adherents	0	0	0	9	40	9
Weekly Attendance						
In person	12	26	45	70	135	55
Average Age	46	57	63	69	74	62
Online	0	0	5	35	123	28
Offline	0	0	0	4	34	6
Professions of Faith	0	0	0	0	3	0
Children	0	0	5	23	110	23
Children receiving Communion	0	0	0	0	10	1
Elders	4	10	17	27	50	20
Baptisms	0	0	1	2	6	1
Weddings	0	0	0	1	5	1
Funerals	0	2	8	16	34	11

Table 1: Church participation summary, 2022

11.4 What a 'typical' congregation looks like:

The "typical", i.e. median, congregation has 169 members and 0 adherents. In the median congregation there are also:

- 5 children associated with the congregation, none of who receive communion
- 45 people worshipping in the church, 5 people worshipping online and none offline
- 0 professions of faith
- 8 funerals, 1 baptism, and no weddings
- a leadership of 17 elders.

Only 17% of congregations welcomed new Christians through Professions of Faith. 32% of congregations welcomed new members through certificates from other Church of Scotland congregations, and 24% through resolution of the Kirk Session. Children received Communion in 20% of congregations.

11.5 Admissions and Removals within the Church of Scotland 2022

The membership statistics may be stated thus:

	Removals by Death	8,775	
Less	Admissions by Profession	585	8,190
	Removals by Certificate	1,540	
Less	Admissions by Certificate	1,150	390
	Other Removals	5,830	
Less	Restoration	1,090	4,740
	Total decrease		13,300

And shown graphically in Figure 1, below.

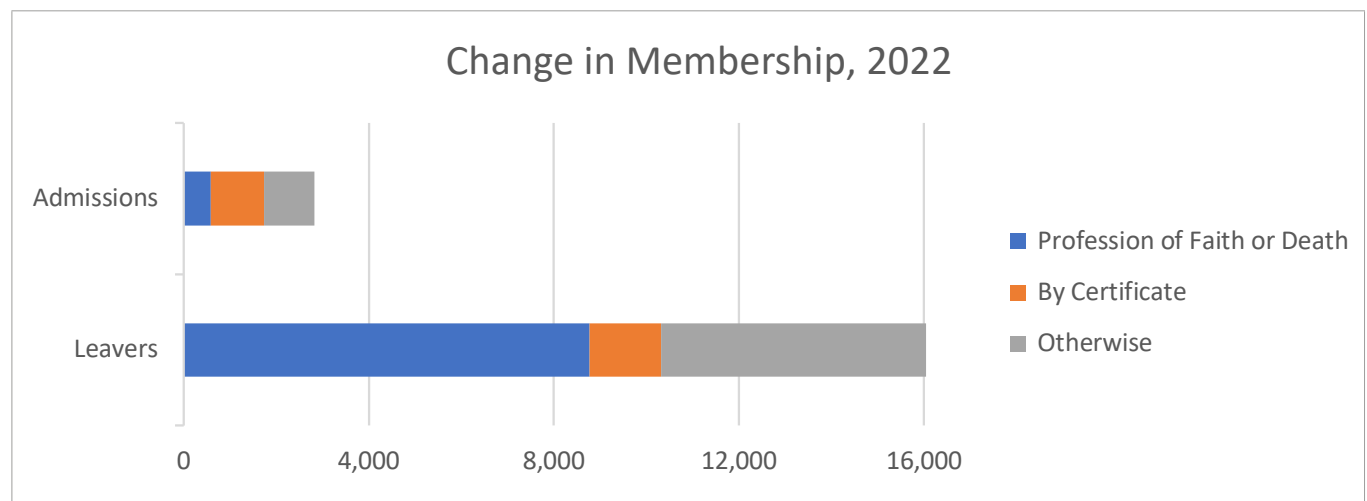
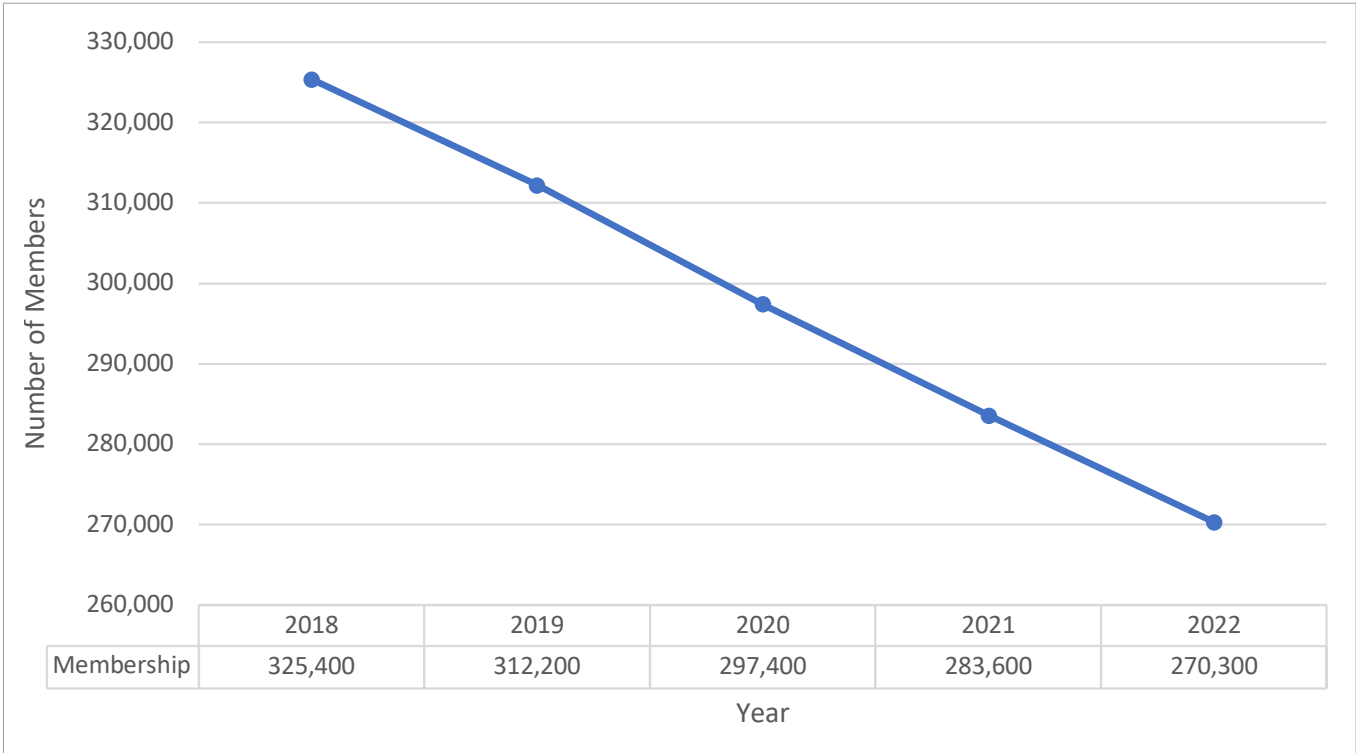


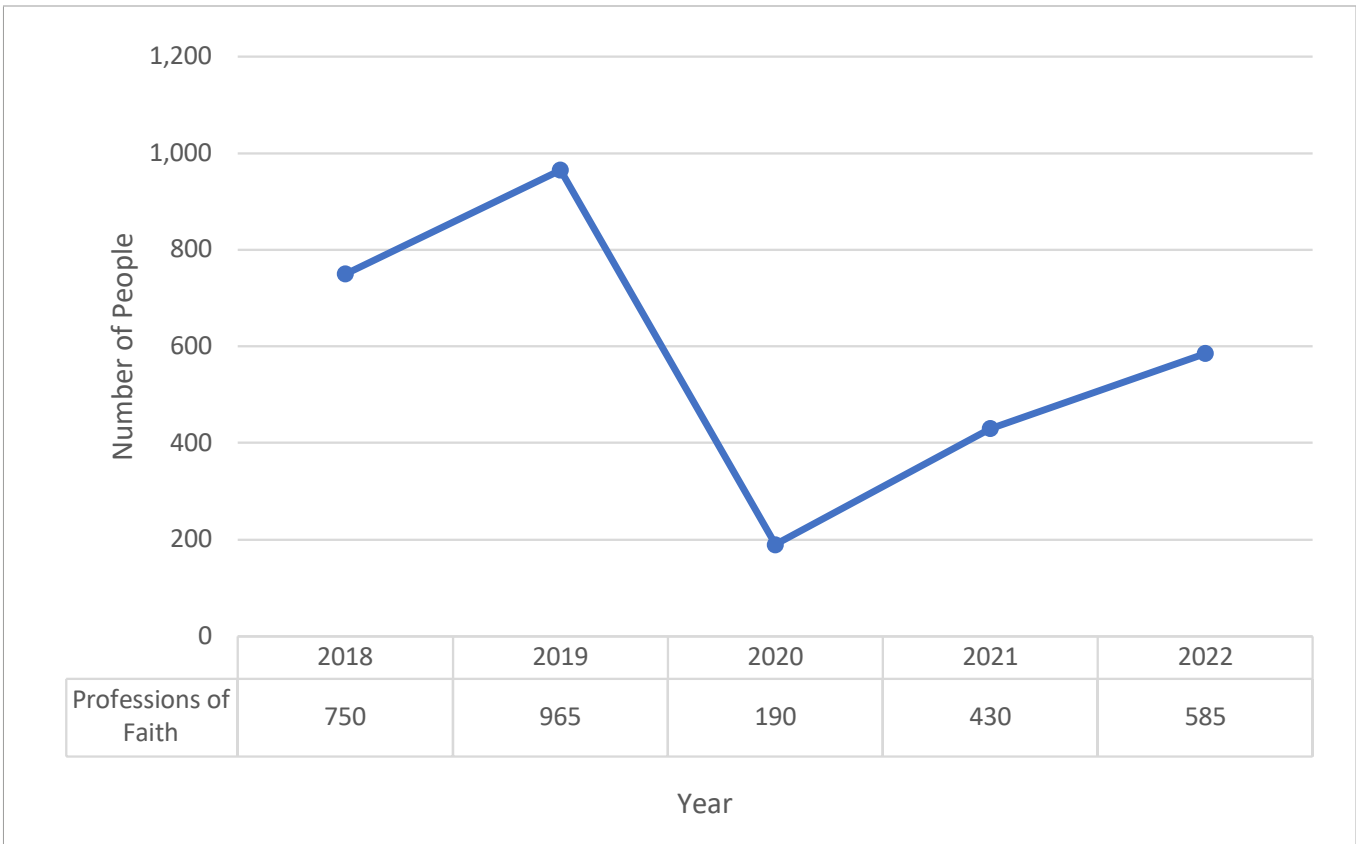
Figure 1 Leavers and Joiners in 2022

11.6 Comparative Graphs

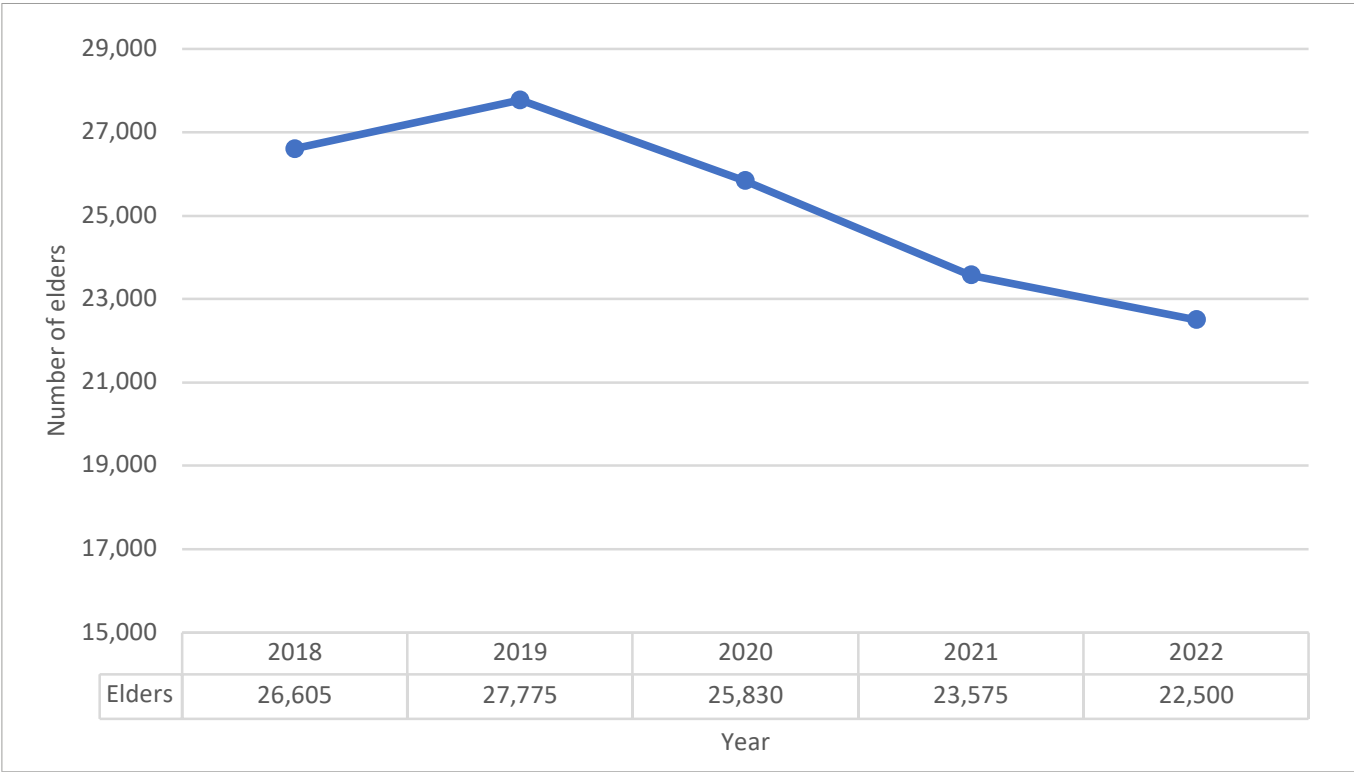
Membership



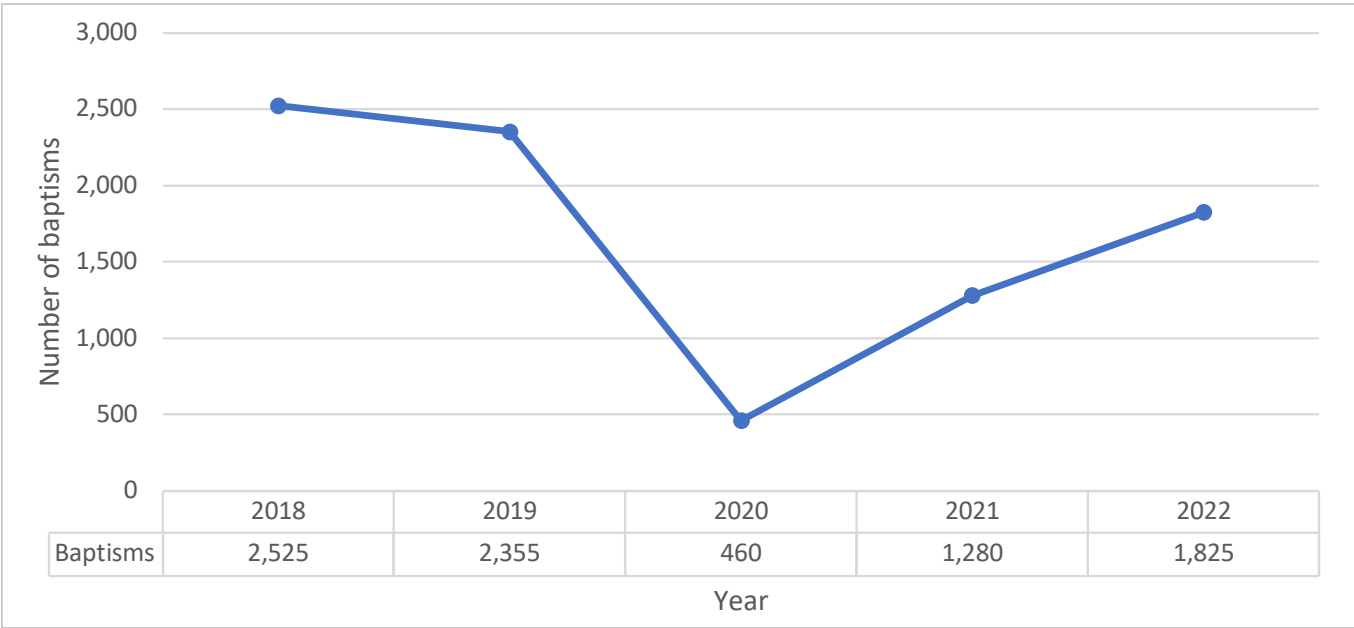
Professions of Faith



Elders



Baptisms



11.7 Presbytery Data Reporting

Presbytery	Membership as at 31st Dec 2021	Admissions	Removals	Membership as at 31st Dec 2022	Notices of Removal	Supplementary Roll	Response Rate
Edinburgh and West Lothian	25,400	335	1,215	24,500	70	1,915	97%
Lothian	9,800	120	420	9,500	5	1,015	89%
Melrose and Peebles	4,700	50	210	4,600	10	590	100%
Duns	2,000	30	60	2,000	5	150	46%
Jedburgh	4,400	25	205	4,200	<5	35	81%
The South West	40,600	275	2,500	38,400	90	4,830	93%
Clyde	21,700	205	1,100	20,800	50	2,520	99%
Glasgow	25,600	365	1,905	24,100	35	2,475	97%
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	30,500	270	1,750	29,000	90	5,315	100%
Argyll	5,400	60	330	5,100	10	425	98%
Stirling	10,400	115	740	9,800	20	1,035	98%
Fife	16,500	165	1,075	15,600	45	1,820	85%
Dunkeld and Meikle	3,700	25	150	3,600	15	230	89%
Perth	9,900	145	510	9,600	95	800	83%
Dundee	8,000	120	730	7,400	80	670	92%
Angus	9,600	105	750	8,900	10	975	90%
Aberdeen and Shetland	10,100	60	605	9,600	5	440	81%
Kincardine and Deeside	5,700	25	180	5,500	30	630	79%
Gordon	10,000	45	345	9,700	5	780	89%
Buchan	8,100	15	220	7,900	5	580	69%
Moray	4,900	35	235	4,700	10	355	81%
Abernethy	900	10	40	900	5	30	100%
Inverness	4,400	55	290	4,100	30	165	67%
Lochaber	800	10	50	800	<5	25	100%
Ross	1,400	30	105	1,300	5	20	57%
Sutherland	500	20	20	500	<5	155	100%
Caithness	800	5	30	800	0	65	100%
Lochcarron-Skye	500	5	20	400	<5	55	38%
Uist	300	-	-	300	-	-	0%
Lewis	800	-	-	800	-	-	0%
Orkney	2,100	15	55	2,000	10	135	63%
England	1,700	10	150	1,500	0	655	100%
International Charges	2,200	65	140	2,200	0	60	65%
Church of Scotland	283,600	2,825	16,145	270,300	755	28,945	89%

Table 2: Presbytery reporting

11.8 Membership

Presbyteries	Number of Congregations as at 31st Dec 2022	Membership as at 31st Dec 2022	Admissions			Removals		
			Profession of Faith	By Certificate	Restoration or Resolution	By Death	By Certificate	Otherwise
Edinburgh and West Lothian	95	24,500	90	125	115	775	170	270
Lothian	40	9,500	15	60	40	290	35	95
Melrose and Peebles	22	4,600	5	25	20	125	30	55
Duns	13	2,000	15	0	15	40	5	10
Jedburgh	16	4,200	<5	5	15	125	10	70
The South West	167	38,400	75	130	70	1,380	210	915
Clyde	73	20,800	55	95	55	775	125	200
Glasgow	123	24,100	75	105	190	835	195	875
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	120	29,000	75	115	80	1,080	170	500
Argyll	47	5,100	5	25	30	195	40	95
Stirling	45	9,800	20	40	55	350	85	305
Fife	76	15,600	20	55	90	550	85	445
Dunkeld and Meikle	19	3,600	<5	15	<5	95	25	30
Perth	34	9,600	25	50	70	290	30	190
Dundee	34	7,400	15	50	55	265	90	375
Angus	30	8,900	10	85	10	280	30	445
Aberdeen and Shetland	28	9,600	10	35	20	270	60	275
Kincardine and Deeside	19	5,500	0	15	10	120	25	35
Gordon	28	9,700	<5	30	15	220	35	90
Buchan	33	7,900	5	10	<5	195	20	5
Moray	21	4,700	<5	15	20	145	10	75
Abernethy	10	900	0	5	<5	35	0	5
Inverness	30	4,100	10	30	20	125	25	140
Lochaber	14	800	5	<5	<5	40	<5	5
Ross	21	1,300	10	5	15	30	<5	70
Sutherland	14	500	5	<5	10	10	10	<5
Caithness	9	800	5	0	<5	20	0	10
Lochcarron-Skye	8	400	0	0	5	5	<5	15
Uist	6	300	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis	11	800	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	19	2,000	0	10	5	40	5	10
England	7	1,500	<5	<5	<5	50	10	90
International Charges	15	2,200	20	5	40	15	<5	120
Church of Scotland	1,247	270,300	585	1,150	1,090	8,775	1,540	5,830

Table 3: Presbytery membership figures

11.9 Young People and Adults Not on the Communion Roll

Reports from the Presbyteries showed that as at 31 December 2022:

1. The number of children and young people aged 17 years and under who are involved in the life of the congregation was 29,390;
2. The number of adults whose names are not on the Communion Roll, but who are involved in the life of the congregations was 10,940 and
3. The number of children who receive Holy Communion in terms of Act V, 2000, Section 15 was 1,815, 6% of the total.

Presbyteries	Membership as at 31st Dec 2022	Children 17 and under	Children receiving Communion	Adults not on Communion roll
Edinburgh and West Lothian	24,500	3,635	290	1,300
Lothian	9,500	920	60	440
Melrose and Peebles	4,600	265	<5	95
Duns	2,000	110	<5	35
Jedburgh	4,200	180	10	<5
The South West	38,400	2,540	185	610
Clyde	20,800	3,755	130	615
Glasgow	24,100	5,280	270	1,355
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	29,000	5,300	330	985
Argyll	5,100	100	<5	320
Stirling	9,800	830	65	305
Fife	15,600	780	75	290
Dunkeld and Meigle	3,600	210	<5	125
Perth	9,600	775	<5	525
Dundee	7,400	480	25	355
Angus	8,900	800	70	295
Aberdeen and Shetland	9,600	730	45	210
Kincardine and Deeside	5,500	365	65	170
Gordon	9,700	420	65	190
Buchan	7,900	465	5	75
Moray	4,700	260	20	195
Abernethy	900	70	10	160
Inverness	4,100	440	40	525
Lochaber	800	40	<5	190
Ross	1,300	70	<5	630
Sutherland	500	100	<5	175
Caithness	800	160	0	315
Lochcarron-Skye	400	10	0	120
Uist	300	-	-	-
Lewis	800	-	-	-
Orkney	2,000	90	<5	90
England	1,500	95	10	75
International Charges	2,200	125	10	180
Church of Scotland	270,300	29,390	1,815	10,940

Table 4: Young People and Adherents

11.10 Occasional Offices

Church of Scotland congregations:

- baptised or gave thanks for 1,995 people, of whom 175 were adults, 4.2% of Scottish births in 2022, and
- celebrated 1,490 marriages (5.0% of all weddings) and conducted 14,215 funerals (22.6% of those who died in Scotland).

Presbyteries	Baptisms			Weddings	Funerals
	All Baptisms	Adult Baptisms	Birth Thanksgiving Services		
Edinburgh and West Lothian	205	20	10	150	1,235
Lothian	50	5	5	70	415
Melrose and Peebles	30	0	5	15	190
Duns	10	0	0	10	75
Jedburgh	5	<5	<5	25	165
The South West	275	40	15	250	2,160
Clyde	165	10	10	85	1,280
Glasgow	260	35	40	145	1,810
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	215	30	15	130	1,950
Argyll	50	<5	0	60	360
Stirling	60	<5	5	60	500
Fife	80	10	15	90	745
Dunkeld and Meigle	20	0	0	25	135
Perth	40	<5	10	50	335
Dundee	70	<5	5	20	195
Angus	50	<5	<5	35	345
Aberdeen and Shetland	45	<5	<5	40	445
Kincardine and Deeside	25	0	5	30	155
Gordon	30	0	<5	25	320
Buchan	10	0	0	20	195
Moray	15	0	<5	20	245
Abernethy	<5	0	0	15	90
Inverness	20	<5	0	20	215
Lochaber	10	0	<5	10	85
Ross	10	<5	<5	10	135
Sutherland	10	<5	<5	20	80
Caithness	<5	<5	0	20	155
Lochcarron-Skye	0	0	0	<5	25
Uist	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	<5	<5	0	25	85
England	35	<5	<5	10	60
International Charges	15	5	<5	10	35
Church of Scotland	1,825	175	170	1,490	14,215

Table 5: Presbytery baptisms, weddings, funerals figures

11.11 Leadership

There were 22,500 elders reported in the Church of Scotland of whom 41.5% are male and 58.5% female. Elders account for 8.3% of the membership.

Presbyteries	Elders			Other leaders		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Edinburgh and West Lothian	980	1,325	2,305	130	215	345
Lothian	265	380	645	15	40	55
Melrose and Peebles	135	185	320	10	20	30
Duns	45	50	90	5	15	20
Jedburgh	85	150	230	15	20	40
The South West	1,265	1,845	3,110	195	385	575
Clyde	935	1,310	2,245	95	135	230
Glasgow	1,120	1,520	2,640	140	305	445
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	1,240	1,695	2,935	120	225	345
Argyll	240	345	580	35	60	95
Stirling	335	485	820	40	85	130
Fife	490	820	1,310	30	70	105
Dunkeld and Meikle	95	130	225	15	20	35
Perth	240	330	570	<5	5	10
Dundee	315	345	660	50	75	125
Angus	230	355	585	20	35	55
Aberdeen and Shetland	310	425	740	5	25	30
Kincardine and Deeside	100	125	225	0	5	5
Gordon	155	250	405	15	30	45
Buchan	145	210	350	40	110	155
Moray	125	220	345	5	20	30
Abernethy	35	60	90	<5	5	10
Inverness	145	175	320	55	40	95
Lochaber	30	70	105	10	30	40
Ross	45	55	100	15	30	45
Sutherland	20	45	65	10	20	30
Caithness	45	50	95	10	25	35
Lochcarron-Skye	15	5	20	<5	5	10
Uist	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	45	75	120	10	15	20
England	55	80	140	0	0	0
International Charges	60	55	115	5	5	15
Church of Scotland	9,335	13,170	22,500	1,110	2,085	3,195

Table 6: Presbytery leadership figures

* includes only those congregations who responded in 2022

11.12 Public Worship in 2022

Following the emergence of Covid-19, 2022 was the first year that many congregations worshipped in church throughout the whole year since 2019. For many congregations, practice that began during lockdown in the form of alternative worship outwith the Church building continued, including services online, 'phone-in' services, distribution of service recordings or printed worship sheets. Congregational statistics continue to be gathered on alternative forms of worship to reflect this change of practice. It should be noted that it is very difficult to obtain accurate estimates for online worshippers and to establish what level of engagement should be of equivalence to in-person attendance. The levels of engagement are however indicative of the wide reach of worship and the efforts of congregations across the country to enable all who wish to continue to worship within their own congregations to do so.

At least 64,850 people attended worship in person (24% of members), 28,865 online, and 5,075 in other offline ways, during a 'regular' week in 2022, that is not a major festival such as Easter or Christmas.

70% of congregations responding offered online worship, with 40% making alternative offline provisions such as phone-in services or worship sheets.

The figures for in-person and accessible worship attendance for Church of Scotland presbyteries are given in Tables 7 and 8. For accessible worship attendance, there is only a 65% response rate, with no responses from the presbyteries of Duns, Buchan, Sutherland, Lochcarron-Skye, Uist, Lewis, England and the Presbytery of International Charges.

11.13 Physical attendance figures

Presbytery	Membership as at 31st Dec 2022	Age range of worshippers						Number of Worshippers attending in person	% Membership attending worship
		Under 16	16-24	25-44	45-64	65-84	85 and over		
Edinburgh and West Lothian	24,500	8%	3%	10%	23%	46%	9%	6,470	26%
Lothian	9,500	8%	3%	9%	24%	47%	10%	2,660	28%
Melrose and Peebles	4,600	6%	1%	7%	21%	55%	10%	795	17%
Duns	2,000	6%	2%	6%	22%	57%	8%	485	24%
Jedburgh	4,200	4%	2%	4%	20%	61%	9%	505	12%
The South West	38,400	8%	3%	8%	21%	52%	9%	8,200	21%
Clyde	20,800	8%	3%	9%	21%	48%	11%	5,355	26%
Glasgow	24,100	11%	5%	12%	23%	39%	9%	7,830	33%
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	29,000	9%	3%	10%	23%	46%	8%	8,125	28%
Argyll	5,100	4%	2%	5%	20%	61%	8%	1,395	27%
Stirling	9,800	8%	2%	8%	23%	49%	10%	2,450	25%
Fife	15,600	7%	2%	7%	17%	57%	9%	3,755	24%
Dunkeld and Meigle	3,600	2%	1%	7%	17%	63%	10%	575	16%
Perth	9,600	7%	3%	9%	22%	46%	13%	1,775	19%
Dundee	7,400	8%	2%	10%	15%	53%	12%	2,130	29%
Angus	8,900	7%	2%	8%	21%	51%	11%	1,320	15%
Aberdeen and Shetland	9,600	6%	2%	9%	19%	49%	8%	1,830	19%
Kincardine and Deeside	5,500	8%	3%	9%	22%	50%	8%	890	16%
Gordon	9,700	10%	3%	11%	25%	40%	8%	1,215	12%
Buchan	7,900	6%	2%	7%	23%	50%	8%	1,100	14%
Moray	4,700	9%	1%	6%	18%	54%	12%	965	20%
Abernethy	900	7%	2%	6%	24%	51%	9%	390	46%
Inverness	4,100	11%	2%	9%	21%	45%	13%	1,360	33%
Lochaber	800	6%	3%	4%	20%	53%	14%	310	40%
Ross	1,300	11%	1%	7%	21%	53%	8%	825	62%
Sutherland	500	8%	2%	7%	22%	55%	7%	325	67%
Caithness	800	9%	4%	9%	21%	48%	10%	305	39%
Lochcarron-Skye	400	3%	2%	7%	16%	58%	13%	150	34%
Uist	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	2,000	9%	2%	9%	23%	53%	5%	505	25%
England	1,500	5%	3%	12%	19%	51%	11%	315	21%
International Charges	2,200	9%	5%	19%	25%	36%	6%	530	24%
Church of Scotland	270,300	8%	3%	9%	22%	48%	9%	64,850	24%

Table 7: Presbytery in-person attendance figures

11.14 Alternative Worship Figures

Presbytery	Membership as at 31st Dec 2022	Able to offer online worship	Estimate of online worshippers	Able to offer alternative offline worship	Estimate of worshippers engaging with alternative offline worship	Response rate
Edinburgh and West Lothian	24,500	86%	3,450	39%	475	81%
Lothian	9,500	83%	550	43%	80	58%
Melrose and Peebles	4,600	67%	345	33%	30	82%
Duns	2,000	-	-	-	-	0%
Jedburgh	4,200	44%	45	33%	15	56%
The South West	38,400	57%	4,515	41%	840	66%
Clyde	20,800	75%	3,735	50%	410	88%
Glasgow	24,100	81%	4,115	35%	535	80%
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	29,000	73%	3,760	43%	580	84%
Argyll	5,100	33%	760	31%	90	83%
Stirling	9,800	70%	1,120	46%	295	82%
Fife	15,600	76%	950	0%	90	38%
Dunkeld and Meigle	3,600	50%	355	67%	65	53%
Perth	9,600	64%	720	64%	435	82%
Dundee	7,400	70%	630	39%	175	85%
Angus	8,900	83%	625	44%	90	63%
Aberdeen and Shetland	9,600	81%	805	44%	345	71%
Kincardine and Deeside	5,500	73%	320	27%	15	58%
Gordon	9,700	86%	355	14%	10	25%
Buchan	7,900	-	-	-	-	0%
Moray	4,700	62%	475	31%	60	62%
Abernethy	900	43%	75	29%	10	70%
Inverness	4,100	83%	555	44%	75	70%
Lochaber	800	64%	135	50%	155	100%
Ross	1,300	46%	170	46%	185	62%
Sutherland	500	-	-	-	-	0%
Caithness	800	75%	90	75%	15	44%
Lochcarron-Skye	400	-	-	-	-	0%
Uist	300	-	-	-	-	0%
Lewis	800	-	-	-	-	0%
Orkney	2,000	25%	200	13%	5	42%
England	1,500	-	-	-	-	0%
International Charges	2,200	-	-	-	-	0%
Church of Scotland	270,300	70%	28,865	40%	5,075	65%

Table 8: Presbytery alternative worship figures

11.15 New Worshipping Communities

Information on New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) were requested as part of the Forsyth Report to the General Assembly of 2019, for reporting from 2021.

New Worshipping Communities can take a multitude of forms, and are considered as such if they show all the following characteristics:

- **Missional:** the focus is on people beyond existing congregations;
- **Contextual:** their format, culture and activities are shaped by the particular setting;
- **Consistency:** a community is developing, with some of the same people participating regularly;
- **Ecclesial:** it sees itself as part of, and is developing connections with, the wider Church;
- **Formational:** participants are encouraged to grow in Christian faith and character.

Additional questions were included in the Congregational Statistics to obtain information on those congregations and presbyteries with a New Worshipping Community during 2022. We present in Table 9 some overall figures. Information gathered from the 2021 collection has formed the basis of more in-depth research within Pioneering Ministries. The results of this research are planned to be published later this year.

The overall response rate was 65% with no responses obtained from the presbyteries of Duns, Buchan, Sutherland, Lochcarron-Skye, Uist, Lewis, England or the Presbytery of International Charges.

21% of congregations offered at least one New Worshipping Community, with a number of congregations offering more than one type during the year.

In total 460 New Worshipping Communities were reported to be operating in congregations across the Church of Scotland and none reported at presbytery-wide level for 2022. The majority of New Worshipping Communities were described as Messy Church (28%) and Café Church (20%). Other types of New Worshipping Communities reported included Youth Church, Older People's Church, Forest Church and Special Interest Groups.

Presbyteries	Number of Congregations as at 31st Dec 2022	% Congregations with New Worshipping Communities	Number of New Worshipping Communities within Congregations	Response Rate
Edinburgh and West Lothian	95	35%	65	81%
Lothian	40	35%	20	58%
Melrose and Peebles	22	23%	10	82%
Duns	13	0%	0	0%
Jedburgh	16	13%	<5	56%
The South West	167	19%	60	66%
Clyde	73	30%	40	88%
Glasgow	123	20%	40	80%
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	120	27%	65	84%
Argyll	47	21%	15	83%
Stirling	45	27%	20	82%
Fife	76	18%	25	38%
Dunkeld and Meikle	19	16%	5	53%
Perth	34	32%	20	82%
Dundee	34	18%	15	85%
Angus	30	23%	15	63%
Aberdeen and Shetland	28	18%	10	71%
Kincardine and Deeside	19	26%	5	58%
Gordon	28	7%	<5	25%
Buchan	33	0%	0	0%
Moray	21	24%	5	62%
Abernethy	10	0%	0	70%
Inverness	30	27%	10	70%
Lochaber	14	43%	10	100%
Ross	21	14%	<5	62%
Sutherland	14	0%	0	0%
Caithness	9	0%	0	44%
Lochcarron-Skye	8	0%	0	0%
Uist	6	0%	0	0%
Lewis	11	0%	0	0%
Orkney	19	5%	<5	42%
England	7	0%	0	0%
International Charges	15	0%	0	0%
Church of Scotland	1,247	21%	460	65%

Table 9: New Worshipping Communities

11.16 Congregational Activities

Congregations are asked whether they engage in activities relating to:

- School chaplaincy
- Youth work
- Community development
- International links
- Environmental issues
- Political issues
- Health issues
- Economic inequality
- Food Poverty

Data was received from all but three presbyteries, resulting in the following summary graph:

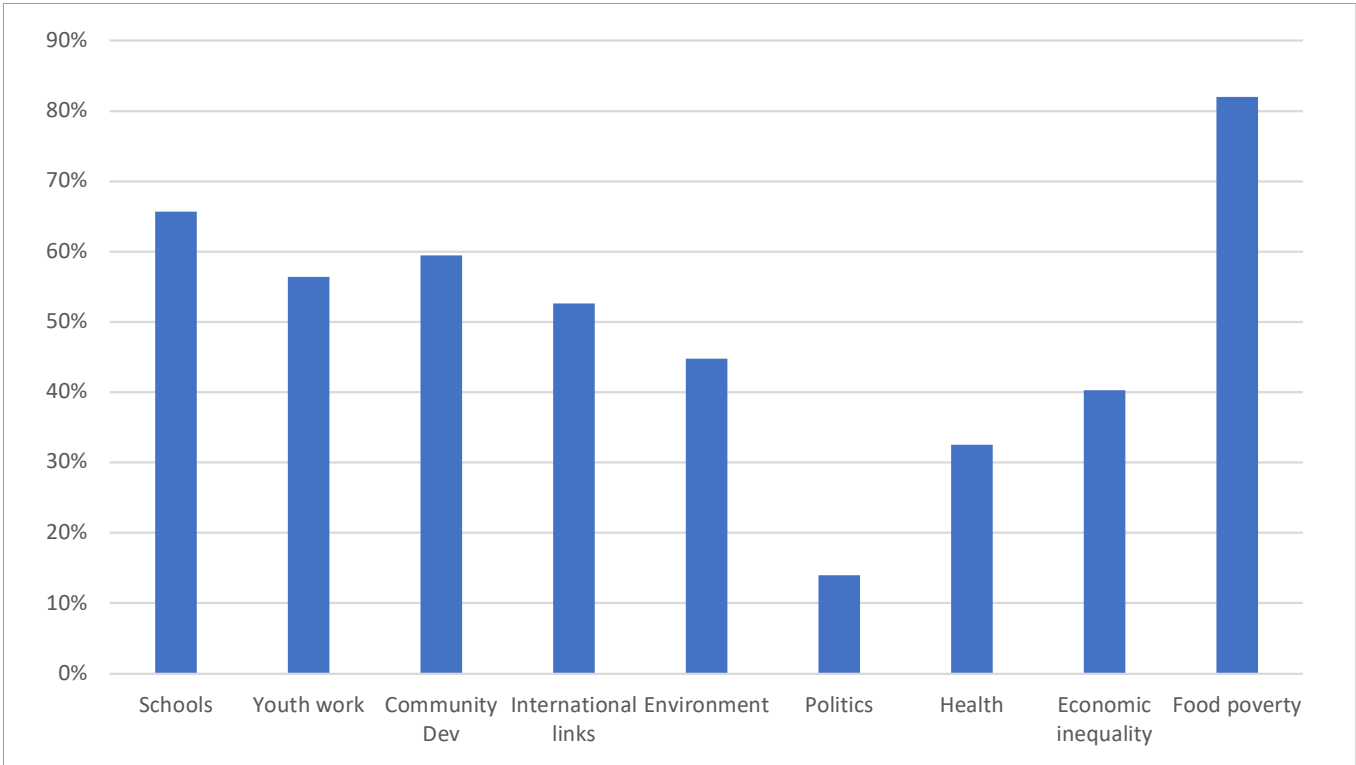


Figure 2: Congregational activities

Alleviating food poverty (82%) and school chaplaincy (66%) were the most common activities in congregations of the Church of Scotland. Engagement with political issues was the least common with only 14% of congregations.

The level of engagement in congregational activities has risen as congregations continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic with an increase in all activities in 2022. While many of these activities are still below pre-COVID levels, environment and economic inequality are now higher than 2019 figures at 45% (2019, 41%) and 40% (2019, 34%) respectively.

Presbyteries	Schools	Youth work	Community development	International links	Environment	Politics	Health	Economic inequality	Food p'rty
Edinburgh and West Lothian	74%	75%	72%	66%	62%	20%	45%	52%	93%
Lothian	70%	77%	61%	64%	64%	20%	45%	48%	93%
Melrose and Peebles	68%	50%	68%	45%	55%	18%	36%	45%	91%
Duns	69%	46%	38%	54%	54%	23%	38%	31%	85%
Jedburgh	56%	50%	31%	31%	25%	6%	19%	19%	81%
The South West	62%	43%	49%	50%	33%	10%	26%	35%	75%
Clyde	79%	66%	71%	58%	44%	19%	45%	53%	93%
Glasgow	71%	69%	72%	67%	60%	23%	41%	56%	77%
Forth Valley and Clydesdale	70%	63%	66%	49%	43%	11%	37%	48%	91%
Argyll	47%	34%	45%	34%	38%	6%	30%	28%	57%
Stirling	73%	62%	84%	60%	42%	20%	29%	31%	91%
Fife	60%	45%	60%	49%	47%	11%	27%	33%	88%
Dunkeld and Meikle	24%	41%	41%	41%	35%	0%	6%	29%	59%
Perth	69%	71%	63%	34%	43%	3%	29%	29%	74%
Dundee	51%	51%	60%	49%	43%	11%	54%	49%	77%
Angus	85%	56%	78%	56%	48%	26%	30%	44%	89%
Aberdeen and Shetland	79%	71%	57%	43%	39%	14%	36%	43%	93%
Kincardine and Deeside	84%	63%	58%	47%	53%	5%	21%	26%	84%
Gordon	82%	64%	36%	50%	46%	11%	7%	43%	82%
Buchan	54%	60%	40%	43%	20%	3%	20%	26%	71%
Moray	62%	33%	43%	57%	38%	10%	10%	24%	71%
Abernethy	70%	50%	70%	30%	40%	10%	50%	40%	100%
Inverness	65%	67%	47%	56%	67%	23%	36%	50%	90%
Lochaber	57%	29%	36%	57%	21%	14%	29%	0%	86%
Ross	57%	43%	71%	52%	29%	10%	24%	19%	81%
Sutherland	71%	29%	57%	43%	43%	21%	29%	21%	64%
Caithness	67%	67%	44%	33%	11%	22%	22%	33%	78%
Lochcarron-Skye	67%	67%	67%	50%	0%	0%	50%	0%	67%
Uist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	47%	37%	42%	63%	37%	16%	21%	47%	58%
England	29%	29%	71%	57%	57%	14%	29%	57%	86%
International Charges	6%	31%	38%	63%	50%	19%	25%	19%	44%
Church of Scotland	66%	56%	60%	53%	45%	14%	33%	40%	82%

Table 10: Congregational activities

In the name of the Committee

DAVID CAMERON, *Convener*
DAVID HARRISON, *Vice-Convener*
ANN NELSON, *Administrative Trustee*

Appendix 1

CONGREGATIONAL INCOME 2020 TO 2024

	2020 Actual £'000	2021 Actual £'000	2021 Increase/ (Decrease) %	2022 Provisional £'000	2022 Increase/ (Decrease) %	2023 Projected £'000	2022 Increase/ (Decrease) %	2024 Projected £'000	2024 Increase/ (Decrease) %
CONGREGATIONAL INCOME									
Offerings	52,852	53,084	0.4%	50,960	(4.0%)	49,000	(3.8%)	47,000	(4.1%)
Tax Recovery on Offerings	10,246	9,780	(4.6%)	9,388	(4.0%)	9,000	(4.1%)	8,650	(3.9%)
Total Offerings	63,098	62,864	(0.4%)	60,348	(4.0%)	58,000	(3.9%)	55,650	(4.1%)
Other Ordinary Income	8,492	12,928	52.2%	13,096	1.3%	13,100	0.0%	13,100	0.0%
Total Ordinary Income	71,590	75,792	5.9%	73,444	(3.1%)	71,100	(3.2%)	68,750	(3.3%)

Note:

Includes income included under the definition of the Giving to Grow Regulations excluding income from the Stipend Endowment, Glebe and Consolidated Fabric funds.
Use of Premises income is included as received/receivable by congregations.

Appendix 2**Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities****Budget 2024-2028****121**

Congregational Contributions	34,063
Stipend Endowment Income (and Glebe Rent)	3,609
Investment Income	2,438
Other Income	4,564
Total Income	44,674

Expenditure excluding CrossReach:

Parish Ministries direct costs	31,247
Vacancy allowance	3,410
Total Parish Ministries costs	34,657

Faith Action	6,160
Office of the General Assembly	1,375
Central Fund	389

Support and Services Departments

Office of Assembly Trustees	736
Stewardship and Finance	1,808
Law	1,216
Human Resources	516
Facilities Management	1,113
Information and Communications Technology	1,695
Media and Communications	612
Safeguarding	432

Total costs outwith Parish Ministries

Required Savings

Net costs outwith Parish Ministries

Presbytery start up and contingency

Transition Funding

Total Expenditure

121 net costs (excluding Other Funds)

Other Funds net income/(costs)

121 net costs**CrossReach**

CrossReach net operational costs	(2,347)
CrossReach – contingency for additional utilities costs	(500)
CrossReach – additional property costs	(600)

CrossReach – total net costs**Investment in Seeds for Growth****Overall net costs to be met from reserves**

Budget	Indicative Budgets			
	2025	2026	2027	2028
2024	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	31,584	31,095	28,995	27,161
	3,609	2,009	2,009	2,009
	2,402	2,366	2,330	2,295
	4,586	4,703	4,750	4,810
	42,181	40,173	38,084	36,275
	30,694	30,412	30,195	30,121
	3,410	3,410	1,800	900
	34,104	33,822	31,995	31,021
	6,076	5,757	5,797	5,881
	1,555	1,523	1,572	1,618
	389	389	389	389
	760	782	701	718
	1,856	1,917	1,976	2,026
	1,265	1,312	1,355	1,391
	533	549	563	574
	1,092	1,115	1,151	1,186
	1,558	1,465	1,587	1,616
	644	666	683	700
	447	460	470	480
	16,175	15,935	16,244	16,579
	(2,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
	14,175	11,935	12,244	12,579
	1,415	1,415	1,415	1,080
	608	-	-	-
	50,302	47,172	45,654	44,680
	(8,121)	(6,999)	(7,570)	(8,405)
	39	16	(14)	(42)
	(8,082)	(6,983)	(7,584)	(8,447)
	(1,610)	(1,479)	(1,399)	(1,399)
	-	-	-	-
	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)
	(2,110)	(1,979)	(1,899)	(1,899)
	(2,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)
	(12,692)	(11,462)	(11,983)	(12,486)

X. Minute of Appeal Hearing

MINUTE OF THE APPEAL HEARING

BEFORE THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

UNDER THE APPEALS ACT (ACT I 2014) (AS AMENDED)

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL FROM THE KIRK SESSION OF HUNTLY CAIRNIE GLASS AGAINST A DECISION OF THE FORMER PRESBYTERY OF GORDON ON 3 MAY 2022 TO AGREE A BASIS OF DEFERRED UNION BETWEEN HUNTLY CAIRNIE GLASS CHURCH AND STRATHBOGIE DRUMBLADE CHURCH

HELD AT 121 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

ON FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2023 AT 11.30AM

Sederunt: The Very Rev Bill Hewitt, Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly
Mr Grahame Lees, Vice-Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly
And 17 members of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly as per the Sederunt sheet
The Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk
Ms Christine Paterson, Depute Clerk

Parties:

For the Appellants:

Rev Thomas Calder, minister of Huntly Cairnie Glass

Mr Patrick Scott, Session Clerk & Presbytery elder, Huntly Cairnie Glass

For the former Presbytery of Gordon, now the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles (the Respondent):

Rev Euan Glen, former Presbytery Clerk

Rev Stella Campbell, former Convener, Presbytery Planning Review Group

Rev Alison Swindells, former Vice-Convener, Presbytery Planning Review Group

Rev Neil Meyer, former Moderator, Presbytery of Gordon

Introductions were made.

The Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly ("the Committee") was constituted with prayer.

Parties were called.

The Convener gave a preliminary explanation of expected procedure.

Mr Lees advised the Hearing that he is a retired General Trustee but is present at this Hearing purely in his capacity as a Vice-Convener of the Committee and in particular took no part as a General Trustee in the processes referred to in the pleadings before this Committee.

In terms of Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure set out in Schedule 2 to the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) ("the Act"):

- each Party made comment supplementary to their Written Argument, with the opportunity to make response to the Written Argument lodged by the other Party;
- the Appellant was given a short right of reply;
- each Party answered questions put to them by members of the Committee;
- each Party was permitted to make their final presentations to the Committee, with the Appellant having the last word.

Parties were removed.

After discussion among the members of the Committee, a decision was reached.

Parties were recalled and the decision of the Committee, including a brief oral summary of the main reasons for the decision, was read over by the Convener, as follows:

The Committee's decision was that the appeal is dismissed. A brief summary of the reasons for this decision is:

Ground 1: material irregularity in process as regards the vote on the Appellants' counter-motion: dismissed.

Process was followed according to SO 18 of the Presbytery's Standing Orders.

Ground 2: breach of the principles of natural justice as regards the voting process on the Basis of Deferred Union: dismissed. Process was followed according to SO 21 of the Presbytery's Standing Orders.

Ground 3: breach of the principles of natural justice as regards cutting short of the Appellants' presentation at the Presbytery meeting: dismissed. There had been a process of consultation leading up to the Presbytery meeting and sufficient time was available to the Kirk Session at the Presbytery meeting to make their presentation.

Ground 4: decision influenced by incorrect material facts in the Presbytery's Committee's Report: dismissed.

There were plenty of previous opportunities to challenge the facts and the Presbytery's Committee did amend its report prior to the May 2022 Presbytery meeting.

Ground 5: breach of the principles of natural justice as regards the lack of a site visit before a recommendation was made on the choice of building: dismissed. The process for choosing a building had been approved and there were site visits made by experienced people on behalf of the Presbytery.

The Convener confirmed that the decision was taken unanimously.

The Convener confirmed that written reasons for the Committee's decision will follow within twenty one days.

The Convener thanked the Parties for their participation and on behalf of the Committee, expressed its prayerful concern for the congregation. The Committee asked Presbytery to encourage the local parties to work together to achieve reconciliation and move forward together.

The Hearing was closed at 1.10pm with prayer.

XI. Standing Orders

Please also see the amendments for the hybrid General Assembly which are proposed to these Standing Orders by the Assembly Business Committee, which are to be moved on the first day of the Assembly, a print of which follows at the end at pages 66-67.

I. COMMISSIONS

- 1. Roll of Presbytery.** Each Presbytery Clerk shall, by 15 December of each year, transmit to the Clerks of Assembly the number of charges, appointments and deacons specified in sections 2 and 4 of Act III 2000 (as amended) – all as at 30 November immediately preceding.
- 2. Presbyterian Representation.** The Clerks of Assembly will thereafter intimate to Presbyteries what will be their representation in the ensuing Assembly. Any queries shall be settled by the Assembly Business Committee at the request of the Clerks. The decision of the Assembly Business Committee shall be subject to review by the Assembly on Petition by the Presbytery concerned.
- 3. Question Arising.** Should there arise between the month of December and the opening of the Assembly any question regarding representation not provided for in these Orders, the Assembly Business Committee shall have power to dispose thereof.
- 4. Transmission of names and details of Commissioners.** The names, in alphabetical order, full postal addresses, email addresses, charges and types of commission (ie minister, deacon or elder) of Commissioners from Presbyteries, shall be transmitted by Presbytery Clerks to the Clerks of Assembly not later than 31 January in each year so far as they have been elected by that time. In transmitting the names of Commissioners to the Clerks of Assembly, the Clerk of each Presbytery is certifying that to the best of his or her knowledge the Elders named therein are bona fide ruling Elders and are commissioned by the Presbytery.
- 5. Committee on Commissions.** The Committee on Commissions shall consist of the Clerks and the Convener of the Assembly Business Committee; the Principal Clerk shall be Convener. The Committee shall prepare and circulate a list of Commissioners for submission to the Assembly. Along with the said list a copy of the Standing Orders of the General Assembly shall be made available to each member. The Clerks shall arrange to forward to each Commissioner, at least one week before the opening day of the Assembly, an electronic copy of the volume of Reports and Proposed Deliverances and a copy of all Assembly Papers then available.
- 6. Objections.** During the sittings of the Assembly, the Committee on Commissions shall, if called upon, or if it shall appear to it necessary or expedient so to do, hear any person whose Commission is objected to in support of his or her Commission, and also any person or persons who may object to such Commission, and the Committee on Commissions shall have power to settle any such matters.
- 7. Late Commissions.** It shall be competent at any time prior to the opening of the Assembly to lodge with the Clerks of Assembly Commissions which have not previously been transmitted to them; and the Committee on Commissions shall settle any queries as to whether or not such Commissions are valid. Once the Assembly has opened and the Roll of Commissioners has been laid on the table, no further Commissions may be received.
- 8. Number not currently used.**

II. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

(a) OPENING SESSION

- 9. Convening.** The Commissioners elected to serve in the Assembly shall convene on the day and at the hour fixed for the meeting of the Assembly, and, after prayer by the Moderator of the preceding Assembly, the List of Commissioners shall be laid on the table.
- 10. Election of Moderator.** The election of a Moderator shall then be made.
- 11. His Majesty's Commission.** His Majesty's Commission to the Lord High Commissioner shall then be read and ordered to be recorded.
- 12. His Majesty's Letter.** His Majesty's Letter to the Assembly shall then be read and a Committee shall be appointed to prepare an answer thereto.
- 13. Standing Orders.** The Standing Orders shall be laid on the table.
- 14. Committee on Commissions.** The Report of the Committee on Commissions (SO 5) shall be called for and disposed of.
- 15. Order of Business.** The Assembly shall appoint a Procedure Committee, the Convener and Vice-Convener thereof normally to be the Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Assembly Business Committee. The Assembly Business Committee shall prepare and circulate electronically before the commencement of the Assembly, a proposed Order of Business for the Assembly.

(b) PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

- 16. The Procedure Committee** shall consist of the Convener and Vice-Convener, plus the Moderator, the Clerks, the Procurator and the Law Agent.
- 17. First Meeting.** The Procedure Committee shall meet on the opening day of the Assembly as intimated and thereafter as business may require. At its first meeting it shall consider the Draft Order of Business which shall have been prepared by the Assembly Business Committee for the business of the Assembly subsequent to the first two days, and shall be wholly responsible therefor.

18. Selection Committee. Commissioners to the General Assembly shall be free to nominate other commissioners to serve on the Selection Committee. The names of those proposed shall be brought before the first meeting of the Procedure Committee which, in turn and without being limited to those names proposed by commissioners who are not among its members, shall nominate a Selection Committee of twenty commissioners, including a Convener and Vice-Convener, whose function it shall be to select and submit to the Assembly for their approval names of persons to serve on all Special Commissions and Committees appointed during the sittings of the Assembly. Such persons need not be commissioners.

19. Communications. All letters addressed to the Moderator for the purpose of being communicated to the Assembly shall, in the first instance, be laid before the Procedure Committee, which shall advise the Moderator as to their disposal.

20. Materials for Assembly Members: Requests for permission to distribute material electronically to Assembly Members shall be submitted to the Assembly Business Committee before the commencement of the Assembly, and requests received thereafter shall be submitted to the Procedure Committee. Any other Committee concerned should be informed and supplied with electronic copies, if available, of the material to be distributed.

(c) DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES

21. The Lord's Supper. The Assembly shall celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at a time appointed by the General Assembly at its opening session.

22. Acts of Worship. The Moderator shall be responsible to the Assembly for the conduct of all acts of worship, and shall consult the Assembly Business Committee or the Procedure Committee anent any proposed innovation in such conduct.

(d) MISCELLANEOUS

23. Minutes. The minutes of each day's proceedings, if available, together with the Agenda for the following day or days, intimations of meetings of Committees, and Notices of Motion, shall be circulated as the "Assembly Papers", and shall be made available for all members. The Minutes, being taken as read and full opportunity having been given for correction, shall be approved as available. It shall always be in order at the close of any particular item of business to move that the Minute thereanent be adjusted and approved. Before the dissolution of the Assembly a small Committee, appointed for the purpose, shall be authorised to approve the Minutes not already approved by the Assembly.

24. Quorum. The quorum of the Assembly shall be thirty-one, of whom not less than sixteen shall be Ministers. Any Member may at any time call the attention of the Moderator to the fact that there is not a quorum present, and if, on a count being made, it is found that such is the case, it shall be the duty of the Moderator to suspend or adjourn the session.

25. Tellers. The Assembly Business Committee shall submit for the approval of the Assembly at their first session a proposed Panel of Tellers. (See SO 105.)

26. Acts of Assembly. The Committee on Commissions (SO 5) shall arrange for the text of the Acts of Assembly to be finalised and shall include in the Assembly Papers of the penultimate day an Interim Report thereon, which shall be considered on the last day of the Assembly.

27. Examination of Records. Minutes of the Standing Committees of the Assembly shall be examined by the Legal Questions Committee. The Committee shall report thereanent to the General Assembly.

28. Returns to Overtures.

- (a) A Committee on Overtures and Cases, consisting of the Clerks, Procurator and Law Agent of the Church (with the Principal Clerk as Convener) shall advise any Committee or individual on the procedure to be followed in respect of measures requiring process under the Barrier Act.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, measures other than Acts of Assembly may be referred for the consideration of Presbyteries, in which case they shall be presented to the General Assembly in the form of an Overture set out as an Act.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, it is open to the General Assembly to decline to consider any motion of which it believes inadequate notice has been given, considering the nature of its content.
- (d) Measures remitted to Presbyteries by an Overture under the Barrier Act shall be accompanied by a note of the voting figures in the General Assembly, the text of the relevant Report and a note by the Clerks explaining any technical or legal matters contained in the Overture.
- (e) All Presbyteries shall make a return in respect of every Overture sent down under the Barrier Act. The return shall be made upon the schedule sent electronically to the Presbytery Clerk for the purpose, transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly, and then submitted to the Committee on Overtures and Cases. The Committee shall classify the returns and make a report to the next Assembly. It shall be the duty of the Committee to report not only the number of Presbyteries for and against an Overture, but also the numbers voting in the Presbyteries as reported in the schedule.
- (f) The Report of the Committee shall include the text of such Overtures as have been approved by a majority of Presbyteries.
- (g) The Assembly Business Committee shall ensure that the Committee's Report classifying returns is taken by the General Assembly no later than session 2 thereof, and in any case before any debate that in the opinion of the Committee on Overtures and Cases would more usefully follow consideration of the Committee's Report.

- (h) The Report of the Committee shall be given in to the Assembly by the Principal Clerk, with the reply to the debate on the merits of the measure given by the relevant Convener. Both should be available to answer questions, as appropriate.

29. Special Commissions and Committees.

Special Commissions or Committees will only be appointed where the General Assembly has no existing Standing Committee to which the matter under consideration can, in all the circumstances, properly be remitted. In normal circumstances, business proposed by Councils or Committees of the General Assembly or proposed by Commissioners in the course of debate shall be remitted to one or more of the appropriate Standing Committees listed in SO 113. When, from time to time, a Standing Committee requires to co-opt relevant expertise in order to fulfil the work remitted to it by the General Assembly, it should acknowledge the same in its Report to the General Assembly.

30. Closing of Assembly.

When the business set down for the last day of the Assembly has been disposed of, the Assembly shall be closed by addresses by the Moderator to the Assembly and to the Lord High Commissioner, and by an address by the Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly, during an act of worship, and dissolved according to the practice of the Church.

III. MEMBERS NOT COMMISSIONERS

(a) MEMBERS *ex officio*

31. These are the Moderator of the Assembly, on election, and the immediately preceding Moderator, the Clerks, Procurator, and Law Agent, and also the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Procedure Committee upon their election. They have all the rights and privileges of Commissioners.

(b) CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, DELEGATES AND VISITORS – DEFINITION

32. Corresponding Members. Representatives of Departments and Standing Committees as stated in SO 33.

Delegates from other Churches. Representatives of other Churches who come in response to an invitation from the Principal Clerk sent at the request of the Faith Impact Forum or from the Committee on Ecumenical Relations to their Church to send a delegate or delegates to the General Assembly and who are duly accredited by the Courts or equivalent authority of their Churches.

Visitors. Visitors from other Churches who come with a Letter of Introduction from Assembly or Presbytery Clerks or equivalent officer of their Church.

33. Corresponding Members

1. (a) Each of the following bodies shall have the right to appoint for each day of the General Assembly, one member or staff-member to act as a Corresponding Member: Faith Nurture Forum, Faith Impact Forum, Social Care Council, Ecumenical Relations Committee, General Trustees, Church of Scotland Guild, Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund, the Legal Questions Committee, the Nomination Committee, Safeguarding Committee, Stewardship and Finance Department, the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees and the Theological Forum.
(b) Each such body will advise the Assembly Business Committee not less than one week before the commencement of the General Assembly of the name of the Corresponding Member appointed for each day. The names of Corresponding Members appointed under this Standing Order shall be included in the Assembly Papers.
2. The Chief Officer, the Head of Faith Action, the Secretary of the Social Care Council, the Ecumenical Officer, the Editor of Life and Work, the General Treasurer, the Head of Human Resources, the Convener of the Nomination Committee, the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Officer and the Head of Communications shall be Corresponding Members when not Commissioners.
3. The Assembly Trustees, (including the Chair of the General Trustees as an Assembly Trustee *ex officio*), being the Charity Trustees of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees of the General Assembly, shall also be Corresponding Members when not Commissioners.

34. Status. Corresponding Members of Assembly shall be entitled to attend all sessions of the same and to speak on any matter before the Assembly affecting the interests of their Council or Committee, where applicable, but shall not have the right to vote or make a motion.

(c) YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

35. Status

- (i) One person between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five on the opening day of the General Assembly shall, if possible, be appointed by each Presbytery to serve as a Youth Representative; each Representative shall be involved in the life of a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery and be regularly involved in the life and worship of the Church of Scotland. The minister of the congregation shall provide confirmation of this involvement if asked by the Faith Nurture Forum.
- (ii) A further ten persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five on the opening day of the General Assembly shall be appointed as Youth Representatives to each Assembly, such Representatives to be selected by the Faith Nurture Forum in terms of a process prescribed by that Forum and the names passed to the Clerks of Assembly by 31 March each year.
- (iii) Youth Representatives shall be entitled to speak and move motions but not to vote:
during debates on Committee reports
during debates on Overtures

- (iv) Youth Representatives shall not be entitled to speak, move motions or vote:
 - during debates on Petitions or cases
 - during debates on matters affecting General Assembly procedure or Standing Orders
- (v) Youth Representatives shall not be members of the Commission of Assembly.

Oversight

- (vi) The Faith Nurture Forum shall take responsibility for Youth Representatives and shall extend to them appropriate hospitality.

(d) DELEGATES AND VISITORS

36. Reception. Delegates from other Churches shall be received and welcomed by the Moderator. The Assembly Business Committee is authorised, after consultation with the Faith Impact Forum and the Ecumenical Relations Committee, to recommend to the Moderator to invite two specified delegates to convey greetings briefly after all the delegates have been received and welcomed by the Moderator.

37. Status.

- (i) Delegates to the Assembly shall have the right to attend all sessions and to speak on all matters before the Assembly, except when the Assembly are exercising judicial functions, but shall not have the right to vote.
- (ii) Visitors shall have the privilege of seats in the Assembly but without the right to speak or vote. As in the case of Delegates, the officials of the Faith Impact Forum, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, or other relevant Council or Committee shall extend appropriate hospitality to Visitors.

38. Oversight. The officials of the Faith Impact Forum, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and other Councils or Committees which may be interested in Delegates, shall see that Invitations to Assembly functions are procured for the Delegates, and that the Members of Assembly shall do everything in their power to make the visits of all the Delegates pleasant and profitable.

(e) NON-MEMBERS

39. Guest Speakers. Where any Committee wishes that one of its members or staff members, not being a Member of Assembly, should have an opportunity of addressing the Assembly in connection with the discussion of its Report, the Convener shall seek the permission of the Moderator; for the avoidance of doubt, such permission may be sought during a debate. Where any Committee wishes that a person, not being a Member of Assembly or member or staff member of that Committee, should address the Assembly, the Convener shall submit the name of such person for approval to the Assembly Business Committee before the Assembly opens, or to the Procedure Committee during the sittings of the Assembly, and the decision of the Assembly Business Committee or Procedure Committee shall be final, unless the Assembly themselves shall resolve in terms of SO 129 hereof to dispense with the observance of Standing Orders in respect of that particular matter.

40. Conference Sessions. The Assembly Business Committee, or the Procedure Committee, in consultation with other Councils and Committees as appropriate may invite the General Assembly to meet in conference sessions and arrange for guest speakers to address such sessions. Councils and Committees shall also be free to invite guests, whom they consider to have a particular interest in the matter under discussion, to participate in the debate. When the General Assembly is meeting in conference no resolutions shall be framed or decisions taken. Expert speakers invited to address the conference shall be allowed a maximum time of fifteen minutes. All other speeches shall be limited to five minutes.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OVERTURES

(a) REPORTS

41. Transmission. Reports of all Committees reporting to the Assembly shall be transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly not later than the first Monday after the third Tuesday in February each year provided that, by arrangement with the Clerk of Assembly, a Statement and Proposed Deliverance on the Budget of the Church, report on Congregational Statistics as reported by Kirk Sessions through Presbyteries and report on Statistics of Ministry may be submitted at a later date, but in time to be included and circulated with the Reports. All Reports shall be accompanied by the Deliverance to be proposed to the Assembly, and when the Proposed Deliverance exceeds two sections each section shall be numbered consecutively.

42. Circulation of Reports and Proposed Deliverances. It shall be the duty of the Clerks to arrange for all such Reports and Proposed Deliverances to be circulated in the authorised form to each Member of Assembly at least one week before the day of meeting. All Reports so distributed shall be held as read. Each Committee shall immediately after the rising of the Assembly furnish the publisher of the Reports with the number required for circulation.

43. Oral Reports and Reports of Sub-Committees. Oral Reports shall not be received, and no Sub-Committee shall give any Report to the Assembly.

44. In Retentis. Reports shall not be engrossed in the Minutes, but a copy of each Report certified by one of the Clerks as being that given to the Assembly, shall be kept in retentis; and the Reports thus collected shall be preserved among the other Records of the Assembly.

45. Questions on Reports. After the Deliverance on the Report of any Committee has been moved and seconded the Assembly, before dealing with any other motions or amendments thereon, shall have opportunity for asking questions on the Report, this being without prejudice to the right of Members to put questions, with the leave of the Assembly, at any subsequent stage.

46. Questions requiring Notice. It shall be in order to ask questions of the Convener regarding any matter in the care of the Committee to which no reference is made in the Report but in such cases timeous notice shall be given to the Convener.

47. Deliverance. The final Deliverance of the Assembly upon the Report of any Committee shall follow immediately after the consideration of that Report, except in the event of a special reason for the contrary having been approved by the Assembly and recorded in the Minutes.

48. Late Reports. Reports of Committees appointed during the sittings of Assembly, if they propose any motion not already circulated to Members, shall be submitted to the Clerks of Assembly at least one day prior to their being considered, and included in the "Assembly Papers".

(b) OVERTURES

49. Transmissions. All Overtures from Presbyteries passed on or before 24 April shall be sent to the Clerks of Assembly not later than that date in each year. Overtures from Commissioners shall be lodged with the Clerks not later than noon on the third last day of the meeting of the Assembly, unless the Assembly for special reason decide otherwise.

50. Circulation of Overtures. The Clerks shall arrange for the circulation of Overtures to Commissioners, at the expense (if any) of those promoting them, either with the papers for Cases or in the "Assembly Papers".

51. Form. Overtures should contain a brief statement of the matter to be brought before the Assembly together with a Proposed Deliverance, of which the first section shall be "The General Assembly receive the Overture".

52. When Taken. Overtures relating to matters under the care of the Committees of the Church whose reports are on the Agenda for one of the first two days of the Assembly shall be assigned by the Assembly Business Committee (unless the Committee on Overtures and Cases decides not to transmit) to the place in the discussion at which they shall be introduced to the Assembly. In other cases this shall be done by the Procedure Committee. When the Proposed Deliverance of an Overture is capable of being treated as a counter-motion or amendment to the Proposed Deliverance of a Committee, or as a new section of such Proposed Deliverance, it shall be so treated.

53. Grouping. Overtures on the same or cognate subjects shall be grouped by the Assembly Business Committee or Procedure Committee of the Assembly and only one speaker shall be heard introducing each group.

54. Introduction. An Overture from a Presbytery may be introduced by any member of that Presbytery, specially appointed for the purpose, at the bar; or by any one of its Commissioners to the Assembly in his or her place as a Commissioner.

(c) GENERAL

55. Matters Relating to Stipend. It shall not be competent for the Assembly, without due notice of motion in the hands of Commissioners in proper form (for example as a Proposed Deliverance, Notice of Motion or Crave of a Petition), to debate any proposal which might impact directly on or which might bring about binding changes to the terms and conditions of ministers which relate to stipend or stipend scales.

56. Proposals with Budgetary Implications. Prior to making any proposal, Commissioners should give due consideration as to whether this will incur the use of additional resources or affect the incoming resources for the Church's work, ie whether the proposal has budgetary implications. Advice on any proposal can be sought from the General Treasurer. A proposal with budgetary implications must be in the hands of Commissioners in proper form (for example, as a Proposed Deliverance, Notice of Motion, or Crave of a Petition). Specifically, to ensure sensible budget controls:

- (a) Any proposal which involves new or additional expenditure whether of a one-off or recurring nature, must be accompanied by a statement specifying where funding will be found, whether by a reduction of existing costs; funding external to the Church or by an increase in the total amount to be met by congregations.
- (b) Any proposal which results in a potential reduction in income, including a reduction in the total to be met by congregations, must be accompanied by a statement of where replacement funding will be found or expenditure reduced to compensate for the reduction in the income.

The Assembly Trustees shall have the right to comment upon any proposal in category (a) or (b) before any decision is taken.

57. Declaratory or Interim Act. The draft of any proposed Declaratory or Interim Act, as also the draft of any Overture which it is proposed to transmit to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act (other than any Overture circulated in the volume of Reports), shall be circulated to Members and laid on the table of the Assembly at least one day before a Motion for the passing of such Declaratory or Interim Act, or for the transmission of such Overture to Presbyteries, is made in the Assembly.

V. CONDUCT OF CASES

58. Commission of Assembly. The rules of procedure for the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly shall be as set out in Schedule 2 to the Appeals Act (Act I 2014). Standing Orders 59 – 61 apply where a matter is being brought before the Commission of Assembly in terms of those powers of the Commission of Assembly not being exercised by the Appeals Committee, or before the General Assembly, being a petition, a reference or an appeal on a matter of doctrine. In Standing Orders 59 - 61 references to the General Assembly shall be taken to refer where appropriate to the Commission of Assembly and all references shall be so construed *mutatis mutandis*.

(a) LODGING OF PAPERS

59. Appeal; Dissent and Complaint; Petition. The papers in all cases intended to be brought before the Assembly, whether Appeals or Dissents and Complaints against the judgement of inferior courts, or Petitions, should be lodged with the Clerks of Assembly not later than 24 April, and must be lodged not less than fourteen days before the opening session of Assembly; except in the case of judgements pronounced within sixteen days of the meeting of Assembly, in which case they shall be lodged within forty-eight hours of the judgement being pronounced.

60. (a) Reference. In the case of Reference of a matter from an inferior court for the judgement of the Assembly the same limits as to time for lodging of papers in the case shall apply as in SO 59.

(b) Reference of Matter Previously Considered. Where the matter of a Reference has previously been under consideration of the Assembly, the Reference shall state the date when the matter was previously before the Assembly and shall narrate the Assembly's Deliverance thereon.

61. Answers. It shall be competent for all parties claiming an interest in the subject matter of an Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition to lodge Answers thereto complying with the requirements of this SO 61. Answers may be lodged any time after the Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition is received by the Clerks, but not later than seven days before the opening meeting of Assembly. Answers shall be in the form of articulate numbered Answers to the narrative contained in the Appeal, Dissent and Complaint or Petition, indicating in particular matters of fact that are admitted and denied, and shall set forth a concise statement of the Respondent's case, together with a crave specifying the action the Assembly are invited to take thereanent.

(b) PROVISION OF PAPERS

62. Circulation. It shall be the duty of the Clerks on receiving papers that are to come before the Assembly in connection with cases to arrange to have these circulated to Members in authorised form.

63. In Private. Papers relating to business dealt with by Presbyteries in private, or which the Committee on Overtures and Cases (SOs 70 - 71) consider should be taken in private, shall be circulated separately and may be dealt with by the Assembly in private.

64. Cost of Circulation of Papers. In cases of discipline brought before the Assembly by the Judicial Commission, by Reference from a Presbytery, or by complaint by a minority of the Court, the expense of circulation (if any) shall be borne by the Assembly Business Committee; in other circumstances by the Complainer or Appellant. In all other cases the expenses of circulating papers (if any) for the use of Commissioners shall be borne by the party having interest in the same or desiring a Deliverance from the Assembly.

65. In Retentis. A copy of every circulated paper shall be kept by the Clerks of Assembly to be retained among the Records of Assembly.

(c) CIRCULATION OF PAPERS

66. Date of Dispatch. A copy of all papers transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly not later than 24 April shall be forwarded by them to each Member of Assembly at least one week before the opening day of the Assembly.

67. In Private. The Clerks of Assembly shall not issue in advance to Members the papers in cases which they think require to be conducted in private, until specially instructed by the Assembly so to do; but shall report such cases to the Convener of the Procedure Committee, for the information of that Committee, immediately after its appointment.

(d) INTIMATION TO PARTIES

68. Appeal; Dissent and Complaint. In all cases coming before the Assembly by Appeal or Dissent and Complaint it shall be the duty of the Clerks of Assembly to inform the parties on both sides as soon as possible of the time at which such case is likely to be taken by the Assembly. Such intimation shall, unless in a specific case the Assembly determine otherwise, be regarded as sufficient notice.

The Clerks shall further be bound, on application made to them for the purpose, to supply a copy of all papers circulated in pursuance of the foregoing Orders to the opposite party or parties in any case, or to his or her or their duly accredited Agents.

69. Petition. In every Petition it shall be the duty of the Petitioner to make such intimation of the Petition as may be necessary having regard to the nature of the Petition. Such intimation shall be made not more than seven days later than the time when the Petition is lodged with the Clerks of Assembly as provided in SO 59 above; and along with the Petition there shall be lodged a certificate signed by the Petitioner or his or her Agent setting forth the names of the parties to whom such intimation has been made or is to be made. The Assembly may refuse to dispose of any Petition if in their opinion sufficient intimation thereof has not been made.

(e) TRANSMISSION TO ASSEMBLY

70. Committee on Overtures and Cases. All papers lodged with the Clerks in cases of every sort in terms of the foregoing Orders shall be laid by them before the Committee on Overtures and Cases, which shall consider the same and report to the Assembly.

71. Decision not to Transmit. If the Committee on Overtures and Cases shall decide not to transmit to the Assembly any papers in cases duly lodged with the Clerks of Assembly it shall report the same to the Assembly at their first Session, or at the Session next after such decision, with its reasons for not transmitting the papers, and parties shall be entitled to be heard thereon at the bar of the Assembly. Intimation of a decision not to transmit papers shall be made to the parties concerned as soon as possible, and in time to allow of their being represented at the bar when the decision not to transmit is reported to the Assembly.

72. In Private. The Procedure Committee shall, in its first Report, specify any case which in its judgement requires to be conducted in private, and any case which does not appear to it to be of that character although the Clerks of Assembly may have reported it as such. The Assembly shall thereupon determine by a special Deliverance, at what stage in the proceedings the papers in such a case shall be issued to the Commissioners. In every case which the Assembly appoint to be conducted in private the instruction to issue the papers shall be accompanied by a special exhortation to the Commissioners to keep them private.

73. Proposed Legislation. All Overtures from Presbyteries or from Commissioners which propose the introduction of new or the amendment of existing Acts (or Regulations) shall contain the precise terms of the legislation which they propose; and the Committee on Overtures and Cases shall not transmit to the Assembly any Overture which is deficient in this respect, provided always that the Clerks and Procurator shall be available to assist with the framing of such proposals

(f) HEARING OF CASES

74. Announcement. Before parties are heard in any contentious case the Clerk shall read the following announcement, viz – “The Commissioners are reminded that justice requires that all the pleadings at the bar should be heard by all those who vote in this case, and that their judgement should be made solely on the basis of the pleadings.” Immediately before a vote is taken in such a case, the Clerk shall read the following further announcement, viz – “The Commissioners are reminded that only those who have heard all the pleadings at the bar are entitled to vote in this case.”

75. Appeal; Complaint; One Appellant. In cases brought before the Assembly by Appeal, where there is only one appellant (or one set of appellants concurring in the same reasons of Appeal) and only one respondent (or one set of respondents concurring in the same answers to the reasons of Appeal) the case for the appellant (or set of appellants) shall be stated by him or herself or by his or her counsel, who at the same time shall submit such argument upon the case as he or she shall think fit. The party or counsel so stating the Appeal shall be followed by the respondent or his or her counsel who likewise shall submit such arguments upon the case as he or she shall think fit. At the close of the statement for the respondent the appellant shall be entitled to be again heard, and the respondent shall also be entitled to be heard in answer to the second speech for the appellant and if, in his or her final answer, the respondent shall state any fact or submit any argument not adverted to in his or her answer to the opening statement for the appellant, the appellant shall be entitled to a reply upon the new matter introduced in the final answer for the respondent. With the exception of this right of reply, so limited, more than two speeches shall not be allowed to any party at the bar.

76. Appeal; Complaint; More than one Appellant. In such cases as those referred to in SO 75 if there is more than one appellant (or set of appellants) insisting on the Appeal, or more than one respondent (or set of respondents) supporting the judgement appealed against, (a) on different grounds, or (b) in separate reasons or answers, each appellant shall be entitled to open and state his or her separate case, and each respondent shall be entitled to make his or her separate answer, and the debate shall be closed with a reply for the several appellants; provided always that it shall be competent to the parties, with consent of the Assembly to make any arrangement for conducting the debate other than herein prescribed, if it shall have the effect of limiting, further than is herein done, the number of speeches to be made from the bar.

77. Appeal; Complaint; Who may appear. Any Member of an inferior court whose judgement is brought under review of the Assembly may appear at the bar in support of the judgement; but, when Commissioners have been specially appointed by the inferior court to support its judgement, the Assembly shall not hear any Member of such court other than the Commissioners so appointed, unless any Member not so appointed but wishing to be heard can show a separate and peculiar interest to support the judgement; and in all such cases it shall be competent to the Assembly to limit the number of Members of an inferior court who shall be heard in support of the judgement under review.

78. Dissents and Complaints. In SOs 75 to 77, “Appeal” includes “Dissents and Complaints” and “Appellant” includes “Complainer”.

79. Petition. In cases brought before the Assembly as the court of first instance by Petition, the party promoting the application shall be entitled to be heard in support of the same; and the Assembly shall also hear an answer from any party at the bar claiming to be heard whom it shall consider to be a proper respondent, and the debate at the bar shall be closed with a reply from the person promoting the application.

80. Reference. In cases brought before the Assembly by reference from a Presbytery the reference shall be stated to the Assembly by a Member of the referring court, specially appointed for the purpose, at the bar if not a Commissioner, or in his or her place as a Commissioner if a Commissioner from the Presbytery. The Assembly shall thereafter hear the parties in the case referred in such order as the nature of the case may seem to require, keeping in view the regulations in SOs 74 to 79.

81. Readjustment Cases. In cases arising from Act VII, 2003, when a request for determination follows a decision of the Partnership Development Committee not to concur in the judgement of a Presbytery, the Convener, or other member of the said Committee, shall be heard at the bar if not a Commissioner, or in his or her place as a Commissioner if a Commissioner, immediately after the request for determination has been stated. After the initial statement and the response by the said Committee when applicable, the General Assembly shall hear at the bar such parties in the case as are not represented by Commissioners, in such order as the nature of the case may seem to require.

VI. ORDER OF DEBATE

(a) ORDER OF THE DAY

82. When the Assembly have resolved that a case or other piece of business shall be taken up at a certain hour mentioned in the Order of Business, such case or other piece of business shall be taken not later than the hour fixed and the business before the Assembly, if not finished at the hour named, shall be adjourned, provided that, in the case of an Order of the Day following the Report of the Faith Impact Forum, such unfinished business shall not be taken up. If, in the opinion of the Moderator, it would be in accordance with the general convenience of the Assembly, the Moderator may allow the transaction of the business then actually under discussion to continue for a period of not more than fifteen minutes beyond the specified time, but no fresh business shall be commenced.

(b) MOTIONS

83. Time-bound

On the motion of the Procedure Committee or moved as part of the deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee, the General Assembly may resolve that the Report and draft Deliverance relating to a particular Council or Committee's Report be taken in a time-bound process of debate and decision. Such a motion shall be moved at least 24 hours in advance of the presentation of the Report concerned.

Having so resolved the General Assembly shall operate the following timetable:-

- a) Start times shall be allotted to specified Sections of the Report and to the related sections of the draft Deliverance. Discussion of any Section of the Report shall not commence later than its allotted start time, but may begin earlier if debate of the previous Section has been completed.
- b) If discussion and debate of a particular Section of the Report has not been concluded within its allotted time, then further consideration of associated sections of the draft Deliverance shall be sisted and the General Assembly shall take up the next Section of the Report.
- c) If, at the close of the debate on the last Section of the Report, there is still time before the Order of the Day requires to be implemented or business is due to conclude, then the General Assembly shall return for further debate of any outstanding sections of the draft Deliverance remaining relative to each Section of the Report.
- d) If the Order of the Day or anticipated close of business is imminent, then any outstanding sections of the draft Deliverance shall be voted upon without debate, except that other motions circulated in the Daily Papers shall also be taken, without debate, the Convener simply having the right to indicate whether or not the Council or Committee is willing to accept the motion.
- e) Where motions appearing in the Daily Papers do not relate directly to the Report and draft Deliverance proposed by the Council or Committee, they will be taken either at the end of the appropriate Section, if there is time available according to the allotted timetable, or at the end of the appropriate Section when the procedure leading to the Order of the Day (or close of business) is being implemented.

84. Right to Move. Any Commissioner to the Assembly may make a motion upon any matter coming regularly before the Assembly; and on rising to do so he or she shall read the terms of the motion having previously handed the same in writing on the form provided to the Assembly Office or other point of collection intimated to the General Assembly. It shall be in order to move a motion regarding any matter in the care of a Committee to which no reference is made in the Report of that Committee, provided that reasonable notice has been given in writing to the Convener before presentation of the Report. The mover of any counter-motion or amendment may reply to the discussion of his or her motion, immediately before the Convener closes the debate.

85. Withdrawal. When a motion has been duly seconded it shall not be competent to withdraw it, or to make any alteration upon it, without the permission of the Assembly.

86. Priority of Deliverance over other motion. The Deliverance on the Report of a Committee shall take precedence of any other motion on that subject.

87. Committee Convener. The Convener of a Committee when a Commissioner, on giving in the Report of that Committee, shall move the Deliverance proposed in terms of SO 41. A Convener, when not a Commissioner, shall be allowed to submit the Report of the Committee, and to give explanations in the subsequent discussion. In such a case the Principal Clerk, whom failing, the Depute Clerk, shall formally move the Deliverance. In all cases the Convener shall have the right of replying to the debate.

88. Introducer of Overture. The Introducer of an Overture, if a Commissioner, shall move the Deliverance; and if he or she is not a Commissioner the Principal Clerk, whom failing the Depute Clerk, shall formally move the Deliverance. The Introducer, whether a Commissioner or not, may answer questions or give explanations in the course of the debate and, if a Commissioner, may reply to, the discussion immediately before the relevant Convener closes the debate.

89. Notice of Motion. Commissioners are encouraged to give advance Notice of motions. Any Commissioner may, during the sittings of the Assembly, give advance notice of Motion on any subject due to come regularly before the Assembly, other than a contentious case. Notices of Motion so given in shall, if received in time to do so, be included in the "Assembly Papers" not later than the day on which the business is to be taken. Such circulated Notice of Motion shall confer no right of priority of moving same, the Moderator being the sole judge of the order in which Members are entitled to address the Assembly.

(c) THE DEBATE

90. The Chair. Every speaker shall address the Assembly through the Moderator, and the correct address is "Moderator".

91. In Support. When a motion or motions have been made and seconded, any Member (including a formal seconder in terms of SO 95) may take part in subsequent debate.

92. Speeches. (1) Except as provided in SOs 84 and 87, no Member may speak twice on the same question except in explanation, and then only by special permission of the Assembly. (2) Members shall make relevant declarations of interest where the topic of debate makes it appropriate to do so.

93. Point of Order. Any Member may rise to speak to a Point of Order. A speaker is not to be interrupted unless upon a call to order. When so interrupted he or she shall cease speaking, and shall resume his or her seat until the Point of Order is decided. The Member calling to order shall state the grounds for so doing; and the speaker who has been interrupted may briefly reply in explanation, to show that he or she is not out of order, but no other Member may speak to the Point of Order unless with the permission or at the request of the Moderator, with whom the decision of the point rests, though the Moderator may put the point to a vote of the Assembly.

94. There shall be no right of reply to a debate except as provided for by SOs 84 and 87.

95. Limits. All speeches shall be limited to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions:

(i) COMMITTEES	
Convener giving in the Report of his or her Committee and moving thereon (seconding to be formal)	15 minutes
Convener responding to a question	4 minutes
(ii) OVERTURES	
Introducing an Overture and when the Introducer is a Commissioner, moving thereon	10 minutes
Mover of other Motions in relation to Overture (seconding to be formal)	10 minutes
(iii) PETITIONS	
Speeches of Petitioners	10 minutes

96. No Time Limit. The time limits shall apply, except in the following cases:

- when the Assembly are debating specific proposals for change under Barrier Act procedure;
- when the Assembly are exercising judicial functions;
- in Petitions when, for special reasons, the Committee on Overtures and Cases reports that the circumstances demand an extension, and when the General Assembly adopt that opinion;
- in any other matter when the Assembly Business Committee (in respect of the Order of Business for the first two days) or the Procedure Committee (in respect of the Order of Business for the subsequent days) declares that, in its opinion, such matter is of exceptional importance, and when the Assembly adopt that opinion.

(d) DEALING WITH MOTIONS

97. Character of Motions. Motions shall be considered as belonging to one of the following categories, and shall be dealt with as prescribed, viz:

- The original Motion.
- Counter-Motions – being Motions contradictory or negative of the original Motion or of a substantial part of the original Motion.
- Amendments being Motions not substantially contradictory of the original Motion or Counter-Motion, but for making deletions, alterations, or additions thereto without defeating its main object.
- Amendments of amendments already moved and seconded.

98. Moderator to Judge. The Moderator shall be judge of the category to which any Motions shall be considered to belong, and the ruling of the Moderator shall be final.

99. Grouping of Amendments. When to any Proposed Deliverance there has been given notice of amendments which differ from each other only slightly in their general tenor, the Moderator shall decide whether or not to permit more than one of such amendments to be moved.

100. Voting on Amendments. When an amendment (Category 3) has been proposed it shall be disposed of by the Assembly before any other counter-motion or amendment is proposed. However, it shall be in order for an amendment of an amendment (Category 4) to be proposed, seconded and debated, after which the Moderator shall take a vote “For” or “Against”. When all such Category 4 motions have been so disposed of, the Assembly shall complete its consideration of the original amendment (Category 3) and the Moderator shall take a vote “For” or “Against” the original amendment amended or unamended as the case may be. For the avoidance of doubt, it is affirmed that the order of debate for Category 3 and Category 4 motions shall be the same except as herein provided and that the provisions of SO 87 shall apply to both.

101. Voting on Motions. After all amendments, if any, have been disposed of, the Moderator shall take a vote between all Motions in Categories (1) and (2), and in doing so shall adopt the following procedure. A vote shall be taken in one of the methods provided below, between all the Motions in the order in which they were made, beginning at the first. Each Commissioner may vote for one Motion only. If, on the numbers being announced, one Motion has obtained a clear majority of votes, all the other Motions shall fall; but if no Motion has obtained a clear majority, the Motion having the smallest number of votes shall be struck off and a vote taken between the remaining Motions; and the Assembly may determine.

102. Voting for Appointments. In the case of voting for appointments to vacant offices in the Church, where there are more than two nominations the Assembly shall vote separately on all the names proposed, and, unless there be a majority in favour of one over all the others combined, the one having the lowest number shall be dropped, and the Assembly shall again vote on those that remain.

103. Deliberative Vote. The Moderator or Acting Moderator in the Chair shall have no Deliberative Vote.

104. Casting Vote. If in any division there shall be an equality of votes for two proposals before the Assembly, the Moderator shall have power to give a deciding vote; and if in the course of the voting as provided in SOs 100 and 101 above, there should be an equality of votes for the two Motions having fewest votes, the Moderator shall have power to give a deciding vote and the Motion for which the Moderator shall vote shall be retained for the purpose of the next vote of the Assembly.

(e) TAKING THE VOTE

105. The Moderator may, in any circumstances and at his or her sole discretion, ascertain the mind of the Assembly by asking the Commissioners to stand in their places, and shall intimate to the Assembly on which side there is in his or her opinion a majority. Unless the opinion of the Moderator so intimated is at once challenged, it shall become the decision of the Assembly. If any Commissioner challenges the opinion of the Moderator, the Assembly shall proceed to take an electronic vote using a system approved by the Assembly Business Committee. Alternatively, it shall be open to the Moderator, again at his or her sole discretion and in any circumstances, to ascertain the mind of the Assembly by recourse to the use of electronic voting. After all votes have been counted the Moderator shall intimate the result of the voting which will become the decision of the Assembly. In no circumstances shall a second vote be taken on a matter which has already been the subject of a vote by electronic voting. The Procedure Committee shall ensure that Commissioners are familiar with the method of electronic voting and will appoint Tellers to assist Commissioners, where necessary, with the process of casting votes and to assist the Assembly with the process of voting by paper ballot which shall be a competent alternative to the taking of a vote by electronic means in the event of a failure in the electronic voting system.

(f) DISSENTS

106. Entering. Any Commissioner dissatisfied with a judgement of the Assembly, which has not been unanimous, has the right to enter his or her dissent against it; but no dissent can be given in until the matter to which it refers has, for that session, been disposed of, the Minute adjusted, and the Assembly is ready to proceed to other business.

107. Adhering. When a dissent has been entered, it is in order for any other Commissioner present when that judgement was pronounced to adhere to such dissent. No other's adherence may be entered.

108. Reasons. A person dissenting may do so with or without giving in reasons of dissent. If he or she dissent for reasons given in at the time, or to be afterwards given in, such reasons shall, if received by the Assembly as proper and relevant, and provided they are given in before the close of the next session (or, when made on the last day of the Assembly, before the close of the same session), be recorded in the Minutes.

109. Answers. If the Assembly appoint a Committee to prepare answers to reasons of dissent, the Report of the Committee shall, except on the last day of the Assembly, be in the "Assembly Papers"; and, as approved by the Assembly, shall be included in the Minutes, if the reasons of dissent have been so circulated.

110. Record of Dissents. Reasons of dissent and answers thereto when not entered in the Minutes, shall be kept in a separate Record of Dissents.

VII. COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP

(a) COMMITTEES

111. Committees. The Committees of the General Assembly shall be those listed in SO 113 together with such *ad hoc* Committees as the General Assembly may appoint from time to time. Clerical services for the *ad hoc* Committees shall normally be provided by the staff of the Principal Clerk's Department.

112. Quorum. Save for those bodies where provision is already made for a quorum, the quorum of Standing Committees of the General Assembly listed in SO 113 shall be three. When a meeting ceases to be quorate, business must be suspended. The quorum shall apply also to sub-committees and other bodies constituted from the relevant Standing Committees where such sub-committees and other bodies have decision-making powers, but not otherwise.

113. Membership. The Standing Committees of the General Assembly shall have membership as follows, General Assembly appointments being made on the nomination of the Nomination Committee except where otherwise stated.

1. **Assembly Business Committee** 16/17
Convener, Vice-Convener, 2 members of the Legal Questions Committee (Convener and another member involved more in judicial matters to be nominated by the Legal Questions Committee), a further 6 members made up of ministers and elders with experience of the General Assembly, with the following members *ex officio*: the Moderator and the Moderator Designate, the Principal Clerk, the Depute Clerk, the Solicitor, the Procurator and the General Treasurer. The Convener and Vice-Convener are also to serve as Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Procedure Committee.
2. **Assembly Trustees** 14
12 trustees appointed in accordance with the Constitution and Remit approved at the General Assembly of 2019 (from which shall be drawn the Convener, Vice-Convener, and Administrative Trustee), plus 2 *ex officio* members: the Convener of the Assembly Business Committee and the Chair of the General Trustees.

3. **Audit Committee**.....6
Convener, who shall not be an Assembly Trustee, three voting members appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination Committee, all of whom shall be independent of the Unincorporated Entities and at least one of whom shall have recent and relevant financial experience, and two additional voting members be appointed by the Assembly Trustees. The quorum shall be three voting members, at least one of whom is a Trustee member. The Chief Officer and the General Treasurer shall attend without a right to vote or make a motion. In addition, other officials, as required by the Committee, may be in attendance from time to time without a right to vote or make a motion. Representatives of the External and Internal Auditors, shall be entitled to attend all meetings but without a right to vote or make a motion.
4. **Church of Scotland Investors Trust**
Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.
5. **Church of Scotland Trust**
Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.
6. **Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces** 10
Convener, Vice-Convener and eight* members appointed by the General Assembly. There are also 2 non-voting members: one representative from and appointed by each of the Faith Nurture and Faith Impact Forums. **To reduce to six in 2023 - 2024 and four from 2024 onwards.*
7. **Delegation of the General Assembly**4
The Clerks of Assembly, the Principal Clerk as Chair, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church, *ex officio*.
8. **Ecumenical Relations Committee** 10 plus representatives, co-optees and corresponding members
 - a) 8 members appointed by the General Assembly one to be attached, for the purposes of ecumenical accompaniment, to each of the Faith Nurture Forum, the Faith Impact Forum, the Social Care Council, and the Theological Forum.
 - b) Convener who will act as a personal support for the Ecumenical Officer (EO) and Vice-Convener, appointed by the General Assembly.
 - c) A representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland appointed by the Bishops' Conference and 1 representative from each of 3 churches drawn from among the member churches of ACTS and the Baptist Union of Scotland, each to serve for a period of 4 years.
 - d) The Committee shall co-opt Church of Scotland members elected to the central bodies of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE, formerly the Leuenberg Fellowship of Churches).
 - e) The General Secretary of ACTS shall be invited to attend as a corresponding member.
 - f) For the avoidance of doubt, while only those persons appointed under paragraphs a) and b) above shall be entitled to vote, before any vote is taken the views of members representing other churches shall be ascertained. The Convener shall be entitled to call a meeting of the voting members.
9. **Faith Impact Forum**..... 15
Convener, Vice-Convener and 13 members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly.
10. **Faith Nurture Forum** 15
Convener, Vice-Convener and 13 members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly.
11. **General Trustees**
Trustees are appointed as required, by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trust.
12. **Iona Community Board**.....20
Convener and 5 members appointed by the General Assembly;
6 members appointed by and from the Iona Community, 2 changing each year;
The Leader of the Iona Community;
1 member appointed by and from the Presbytery of Argyll.
In addition the Board will invite 6 member churches of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) to appoint a representative member to the Board, such members being eligible to serve for a maximum period of 4 years.
13. **Judicial Panel**.....20
20 people being ministers, elders, deacons and members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly. All members of the Judicial Panel shall be qualified to practise as lawyers or shall be experienced in the law and practice of the Church. Notwithstanding SOs 114 and 118, the members of the Judicial Panel shall initially be appointed for a term of four years, and shall be eligible for reappointment for further terms of four years.
14. **Legal Questions Committee**..... 16
Convener, Vice-Convener and 10 members appointed by the General Assembly, the Clerks of Assembly, the Procurator and the Solicitor of the Church.

15. **Life and Work Editorial Advisory Committee**.....9
Convener and 7 members together with the Principal Clerk as an *ex officio* member. The members should represent a wide range of theological opinion and perspectives, with an interest and particular gifts to offer the Committee, for example journalism, magazine production, former contributors. The Committee may co-opt members with particular gifts or information.
16. **Ministries Appeal Panel**.....5
Convener, Vice-Convener and 3 members appointed by the General Assembly. At least 1 member shall be legally qualified, at least 1 shall be a minister and at least 1 shall be an elder.
17. **Mission Plan Review Group**..... 15
A group of fifteen persons appointed by the General Assembly on the Report of the Nomination Committee and in line with the process for appointing persons to other judicial bodies. The members of the Group shall be suitably experienced members of the Church.
18. **Nomination Committee**20
Convener, Vice-Convener and 18 members appointed by the General Assembly. Notwithstanding SO 118, no member of the Committee, having served a term of 4 years, shall be eligible for re-election until after a period of 4 years, except for special cause shown. The Convenership of the Committee shall be for 3 years.
18. **Nomination of the Moderator Committee**..... Up to 15
Up to 8 ministers and deacons and up to 7 elders appointed by the General Assembly, to create a Committee which is representative of the diversity of the whole Church. The Committee is to be convened by the immediate past-Moderator of the General Assembly, failing which by another former Moderator of the General Assembly.
19. **Personnel Appeal Group**.....12
12 members appointed by the General Assembly with the Solicitor of the Church as Secretary, each appointed to serve a four-year term with the option of appointment for a further four-year term. Members shall not include any former or current members of staff of any of the Church's Employing Agencies (including the Social Care Council), nor any current Council or Committee member.
20. **Registration of Ministries Committee**5
Convener, Vice-Convener and 3 members. 1 member is appointed by the Legal Questions Committee, 1 member by the Faith Nurture Forum and 3 members by the General Assembly. The Convener and Vice-Convener are appointed by the General Assembly from the General Assembly appointees. One or other of the Clerks to the General Assembly and the Secretary to the Faith Nurture Forum attend the Committee *ex officio* in an advisory capacity but are not members. The Committee is clerked by a person from the Faith Nurture Forum who is not a member of the Committee.
21. **Safeguarding Appeal Panel**6
A Panel of 6 persons appointed by the General Assembly, being persons with Safeguarding and other relevant experience, and including at least two persons who shall be qualified to practise as lawyers or who are experienced in the law and practice of the Church, and at least two ministers. None of the Panel shall be a current or former employee of any of the Employing Agencies or a current member of the Safeguarding Committee.
22. **Safeguarding Committee** 11
Convener, Vice-Convener and 6 members appointed by the General Assembly, 1 representative (voting member) from and appointed by each of the Faith Nurture Forum, the Faith Impact Forum, the Social Care Council, the Solicitor of the Church, the National Adviser (Head of Safeguarding) as Secretary to the Committee, the Chief Officer and up to 4 members co-opted by the Committee for their expertise. For the avoidance of doubt it is declared that only the following persons will be entitled to vote: Convener, Vice-Convener, the six Assembly appointed members and the three representatives from each of the Faith Nurture Forum, the Faith Impact Forum and the Social Care Council.
23. **Social Care Council**.....12
Convener, Vice-Convener and 9 members appointed by the General Assembly, with the Chief Executive Officer of CrossReach as a non-voting *ex officio* member. At least one member shall be a Church of Scotland minister.
24. **Theological Forum** 13
Convener, Vice-Convener and 11 members appointed by the General Assembly, the membership being selected to provide an appropriate balance of (a) ministers of Word and Sacrament, (b) members of academic staff from the Divinity Schools (or equivalent) of Institutions of Higher Education in Scotland, (c) elders and (d) members drawn from the wider membership of the Church chosen for their particular expertise, experience or provenance.
25. **Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund** Up to 11
Up to 3 ministers and 1 member appointed by the Faith Nurture Forum, who having served a term of 4 years shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second 4 year term;
Up to 4 appointed by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Trustees, who having served a term of 4 years shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second 4 year term;
Up to 3 appointed by the Baird Trust, for a term of office determined by that Trust.
Any Trustee (other than one appointed by the Baird Trust) may serve for up to a further two four-year terms if elected also as Chairperson or Depute Chairperson.

(b) MEMBERS

114. Period of Service. All Members of each of the Standing Committees shall retire after serving for four years, save for the Faith Nurture Forum and the Faith Impact Forum where the period is three years.

115. Representatives. Bodies entitled to appoint representatives shall be permitted to make changes in their representation for special reasons in any year.

116. Non-attendance. The name of a Member shall be removed from any Standing or Special Committee which has met three times or oftener between 1 June and 1 March unless he or she has attended one-third of the meetings held within that period. Attendance at meetings of Sub-Committees shall for this purpose be reckoned as equivalent to attendance at the meeting of the Committee itself.

117. Replacement. When a Minister, Elder, or Member of any Standing or Special Committee is unable to accept the appointment, or where from any cause vacancies occur in Committees during the year, that Committee, after consultation with the Convener of the Nomination Committee, may appoint a Member to take the place of the Member whose retirement has caused the vacancy. All such appointments, if for a longer period than one year, shall be reported for confirmation through the Nomination Committee to the General Assembly.

118. Re-election. A Member retiring from a Council or Committee by rotation, or having his or her name removed for non-attendance, shall not be eligible for re-election to that Council or Committee until the expiry of one year thereafter, unless the Assembly are satisfied, on the Report of the Nomination Committee, on information submitted to it by the Council or Committee concerned, that there are circumstances which make re-election desirable; but where more than one member is due to retire then not more than one-half of the retiring members be so re-elected. No Member shall normally serve for more than two consecutive terms of office. (If possible 20 per cent of the Assembly appointed members of Councils or Committees should be under the age of 35 at the time of their appointment). A Member appointed in the room of one deceased, resigned or removed, or of one appointed as Convener or Vice-Convener, shall serve for the remainder of the period for which the person was appointed whose place he or she takes, and on retiral shall be eligible for re-election if he or she has not served for more than two years.

A retiring Convener shall be eligible for re-election as an additional member of the Council or Committee concerned to serve for one year only immediately following tenure of office as Convener.

119. Eligibility. No person shall be a Member of more than three Councils or Committees at the same time. Appointments ex officio shall not be reckoned in this number. This rule shall not apply to those for whom the Nomination Committee is prepared to give special reason to the Assembly for their appointments to more than three Committees.

The Nomination Committee shall not nominate for Committees any of its own number except in special circumstances which must be stated to the Assembly.

120. Secretaries and Deputes. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of each Council and Committee to attend the meetings thereof, to provide information and advice as requested, and to provide a depute for any meeting that he or she cannot attend. Members of staff shall not have the right to vote at any meeting.

121. Expenses. Expenses incurred by Members of Committee, consisting of travel charges and a sum for maintenance when required shall be defrayed.

(c) CONVENERS AND VICE-CONVENERS

122. Appointment.

- (i) Conveners and Vice-Conveners of Councils and Committees shall be appointed by the Assembly.
- (ii) Conveners of Standing Committees other than the legal bodies shall hold office for not more than four consecutive years (in the case of the Nomination Committee, Faith Nurture Forum and Faith Impact Forum, three consecutive years) and Vice-Conveners of Standing Committees other than the legal bodies shall hold office for not more than three consecutive years, unless the Assembly are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which make the reappointment of Conveners and Vice-Conveners desirable. The period of reappointment shall be for one year only. If at the time of their appointment they are already members of the Council or Committee another Member shall be appointed in their stead for the remainder of the period of their original appointment.
- (iii) Conveners of the legal bodies (meaning the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly, the Discipline Tribunal, the Judicial Commission, the Judicial Panel, the Ministries Appeal Panel, the Mission Plan Review Group, the Personnel Appeal Group and the Safeguarding Appeal Group) shall initially be appointed for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for further terms of four years. Vice-Conveners of the legal bodies shall initially be appointed for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for further terms of three years.

123. Replacement. In the event of the death, resignation, consistent non-attendance or supervening incapacity of the Convener or Vice-Convener of any Council or Committee, the body concerned, after consultation with the Convener of the Nomination Committee, may appoint an Interim Convener or Interim Vice-Convener, as the case may be. Such appointment shall be reported by the Committee to the General Assembly and the Assembly shall make such order as the situation may require.

(d) NOMINATION COMMITTEE

124. List of Nominations. The Nomination Committee shall include in its Report its list of nominations to be submitted to the Assembly. The Report, so prepared, shall be included in the Volume of Reports issued to Members of Assembly.

125. Nomination of Conveners. When the Convener or Vice-Convener of a Committee or Council is completing his or her term of office the Council or Committee shall be invited by the Convener of the Nomination Committee to suggest the name of one who may be appointed in succession. The Nomination Committee shall satisfy itself that an open and transparent process has been followed in identifying the Convener or Vice-Convener so suggested.

126. Conveners to Attend Meeting. Conveners of Standing Committees shall be entitled to be present at meetings of the Nomination Committee when the composition of their respective Committees is under consideration, but not to vote.

127. Amendment to Report. No amendment to the Report of the Nomination Committee shall be in order of which due notice has not been given.

All notices of proposed amendments on the Report, including such as propose the omission or insertion of any name or names, or the addition of a name or names where the full number eligible has not been nominated by the Committee, must be given in to the Clerks before midday on the third day prior to the closing of the Assembly, signed by the Member or Members giving them.

All such notices of proposed amendment shall, with the names of those signing them, be circulated in the "Assembly Papers" issued on the second day prior to the closing of the General Assembly, and on the morning of the day the Report is to be called for.

VIII. ALTERATION AND SUSPENSION

128. Alteration. Any proposal for alteration of Standing Orders shall be either (a) on the Report of the Legal Questions Committee and included in the volume of Reports or (b) by Overture and the subject of at least one day's notice in the "Assembly Papers". This Standing Order shall not apply to SO 113 which may be amended by the Principal Clerk in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly.

129. Suspension. It shall always be competent for the Assembly, on the Motion of any Commissioner and on cause shown, summarily to dispense with the observance of the Standing Orders, or any part of them, in any particular case: provided that such Motion shall receive the support of not less than two-thirds of those voting on the question when put from the Chair, and that such suspension shall not contravene any Act of Assembly.

XII. Proposed Amendments to standing orders for the hybrid General Assembly 2023

The Standing Orders in their current form shall apply save for amendments as follows which shall, where there is any conflict with an existing Standing Order, apply in preference:

Generally: references to “laid on the table” shall include “circulated electronically in advance”.

New Standing Order 8 – Assembly Hub for online attendees: All Commissioners, Members *ex officio*, Corresponding Members, Delegates, Visitors (if any) and Youth Representatives attending the General Assembly online shall require to use the Assembly Hub software application (the “Assembly Hub”) to participate in the General Assembly as set out below. All such persons shall be supplied in advance with login details to the Assembly Hub and training on its use shall be made available. In particular, the Assembly Hub shall be used by online attendees throughout the General Assembly to do the following:

- to follow the business of the General Assembly, read sections of deliverance and vote on them;
- to submit notices of motion (to amend an existing section of deliverance, to propose a counter-motion to an existing section of deliverance, or to propose a new motion);
- to second a notice of motion; and
- to indicate a request to speak (ask a question, make a comment or raise a point of order).

New Standing Order 8A – In Person/Online Participation: Commissioners, Delegates, Corresponding Members and Youth Representatives may participate in person or online at the General Assembly. A person shall be designated in advance by the commissioning Presbytery as either an in person or an online attendee for the entire duration of the Assembly. No change to a person’s status as an in person or online attendee shall be possible after 28 March, save only in the following circumstances: if an in person attendee becomes ill and unable to attend the Assembly in person, they shall advise the Office of the General Assembly as soon as possible by emailing pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk. When doing so they may request to change to being an online attendee and the Office of the General Assembly shall enable this if possible.

Amendments to specific Standing Orders**Additional wording: Standing Orders 45 – Questions on Reports & 46 – Questions requiring Notice**

[If attending in person]: If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively an in person attendee may use one of the stations placed in the Hall to enter a “request to speak” against the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

[If attending online]: Commissioners, Delegates, Youth Representatives and Corresponding Members who wish to ask a question or to make a comment on a Report should use the Assembly Hub to enter a “request to speak” against the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

Additional wording: Standing Order 89 – Notice of Motion

[If attending in person]: If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may use the Assembly Hub as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively an in person attendee may email a duly completed notice of motion form to the Clerks of Assembly using pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk, or may complete and return to the Clerks at the top table or to the Assembly Office, a paper notice of motion form.

[If attending online]: Commissioners, Members and Youth Representatives should use the Assembly Hub to register a notice of motion in advance in respect of the relevant section(s) of deliverance.

[For all attendees]: All persons entitled to do so are asked to register a notice of motion before the start of the relevant Standing Committee’s business slot, i.e. before debate on the relevant Report starts.

Additional wording: Standing Order 105 Taking the Vote:

[For all attendees] Quick approval of business: The Moderator shall have discretion to gauge approval, without need formally to vote, of any section of deliverance by combining the following indications and forming a view: having taken into account any “requests to speak” which have been registered, they may ask in person commissioners to stamp their feet or stand and at the same time may ask online commissioners to “raise a hand” on Zoom to indicate approval of a section of deliverance. If following use of this procedure any commissioner requests a formal vote, then the Moderator shall call for an electronic vote to take place.

Where an electronic vote is used, it shall proceed as follows:

[If attending in person]: An in person attendee shall vote using a Bluetooth handset supplied to them at the start of the Assembly. Voting for such persons via the Assembly Hub will be disabled.

[If attending online] An online attendee shall use the Assembly Hub to vote. In the event of a failure in the technology operating the Assembly Hub, online attendees shall vote using Zoom Polls or shall use such other voting mechanism as may be prescribed at the time by the Procedure Committee.

[For all attendees]: The votes from both from in-person attendance and the Assembly Hub shall be added together and the result shall be announced by the Moderator. The voting figures shall be minuted where the Moderator, in his or her discretion, specifically requests this, or where the Clerks of Assembly decide that it would be appropriate to do so. In no circumstances shall a second vote be taken on a matter which has already been the subject of a vote by electronic voting.

Additional wording: Standing Orders 106 – 110 – Dissents

[If attending in person]: If such a person has a device enabling them to do so, they may email their dissent as in the subsequent paragraph. Alternatively, an in person attendee may sign the list provided by the Assembly Office.

[If attending online]: A dissent shall be entered or adhered to by sending an email to: pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk with the subject line stating "Dissent against....*[insert name of Standing Committee and number of relevant section of deliverance]*". To be recorded in the minute, any such email must be received by the Clerks by the close of the last session of the Assembly.

OTHER INFORMATION

For In Person Commissioners

IMPORTANT: FIRE PROCEDURE

The following arrangements MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO:

A. ON DISCOVERING A FIRE –

Sound the Alarm by operating the nearest break-glass Call point. This will automatically call the Fire Brigade.

B. ON HEARING THE ALARM –

1. Evacuate building by the nearest safe available exit route following the stewards' directions
Debating Chamber Level: Main doors down to QUADRANGLE
Gallery Level: 4 Exits on to LAWNMARKET
2. Do not use the Lift in the event of an emergency, due to the risk of power failure
3. Do not stop to collect belongings, ie. Coats, brief-cases, handbags, etc.
4. Exit doors must remain clear at all times. When exiting leave in an orderly fashion
5. ASSEMBLE – WHEN CLEAR OF THE ASSEMBLY HALL, KEEP MOVING AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF THE STEWARDS TO A PLACE OF ASSEMBLY
6. Do not re-enter the building until you have been told it is safe to do so.

(Note: The above-mentioned arrangements relate to the Assembly Hall building. If present within New College when the College fire alarm sounds, leave the College by the nearest available exit. New College areas include the Assembly Office, Stewards' Office, Media Rooms and Rainy Hall.)

THE FASTI – Some hard copies of the recently published Vol XII of the *Fasti* (the latest volume of the record of ministries in the Church of Scotland since the Reformation) will be available for purchase at the Assembly. These will be held in the Assembly Office and any person who wishes to purchase one should visit the Office to arrange this.

FIRST AID ROOM – This room is off the “black and white” corridor of the Assembly Hall.

REPORTS – The Volume of Reports can be downloaded [here](#).

TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES – A bell will notify Speakers that they are approaching the time limit and are expected to finish their speeches within one minute.

HEARING AIDS – These should be switched to “T” for best results from the induction loop. BSL interpreters will cover each session of the General Assembly. Please advise the Office of the General Assembly if you would find this facility helpful so that a seat can be reserved for you in the appropriate area.

SEATING FOR COMMISSIONERS – Commissioners should sit in the ground floor and in the south and west galleries.

FILMING/PHOTOGRAPHY – We draw to your attention that cameras are used to film and photograph the General Assembly throughout its meeting and that the footage will be streamed live on the Church of Scotland website and used in other media including Social Media. In addition the footage and live stills obtained may, at some future point, be broadcast on national or international television and/or be used in other publications. If you do not wish to be filmed/photographed in this way, you should sit out of range of the cameras in the corners against the back wall on the ground floor of the Assembly Hall, and not behind any of the microphones which are located around the Hall. If you are unsure where this is, please ask a steward.

LOST PROPERTY – Please report or hand this in to the Assembly Office.

LUGGAGE AND COATS – Luggage may be left in a cloakroom opposite the Assembly Office on the Saturday and Thursday mornings; bags and coats may be left in this space Monday to Wednesday. All items are left at commissioners' own risk.