

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 25 MAY 2017

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the 25th day of May 2017 years, at 9.15 am, Session V.

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of Session III being printed and in the hands of members, were submitted and approved.

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY'S FORCES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces which was given in by the Rev Gordon Craig, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Reaffirm the support of the Church of Scotland for all who serve in Her Majesty's Forces as Chaplains, and thank them for their outstanding service to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel and their families.
3. Acknowledge with particular gratitude the dedicated service of Chaplains on

operations and the immeasurable support shown by their own families.

4. Commend to the prayers of all members of the Church of Scotland not just our Chaplains but all who serve in HM Forces and their families.
5. Commend to eligible ministers of the Church consideration of service as a Chaplain to HM Forces – Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces.
6. Approve the Armed Forces Covenant described in Appendix 4 of the Report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 6:

After 'Approve' add 'and implement'.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Moderator addressed those Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces who were present.

Air Marshal Stuart Atha CB DSO MABSC RAF, Deputy Commander Operations was then invited by the Moderator to address the General Assembly.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council which was given in by the Rev Norman Smith, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Encourage Kirk Sessions to explore how they might make use of the Conversations in Worship material.
3. Encourage the whole Church to use 'Pray Now: Word of Life' in daily devotions and public worship and to note the new How We Pray section.
4. Welcome the launch of the new Weekly Worship (formerly Starters for Sunday) pages and commend the efforts made to enhance content and accessibility.
5. Note the take-up of the online daily memes shared through the Church of Scotland social media channels and encourage their widespread use.
6. Welcome CARTA's development of its new 360 degree resource as a way of promoting the use of art and architecture in worship and outreach.
7. Urge Kirk Sessions to engage with the children and young people faith formation resources arising from Learn: Community of Faith conferences and to promote their use within the wider congregation.
8. Urge Kirk Sessions to use the Learn: Children & Young People publication and to promote its use in the wider congregation.
9. Note the continuing development of the Theology of Children and Young People identified in the interim report.
10. Instruct the Council to address the proposals contained within its report on the subject of the National Youth

Assembly Review and to bring an interim report to the General Assembly of 2018.

11. Instruct the Council to continue its work on developing the eldership by addressing the proposals presented in the report from the Eldership Working Group.
12. Urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage fully in the Year of Young People initiative in 2018.
13. Encourage Kirk Sessions to consider using Future Focus as an envisioning and planning resource at appropriate moments in congregational life.
14. Encourage Kirk Sessions in rural settings to engage with and utilise the support that has been developed for them.
15. Encourage Kirk Sessions to use the Pastoral Care resources as appropriate.
16. Instruct Presbyteries, when training Elders as moderators of their own Kirk Session, to use the training resource that has been developed specifically for this situation.
17. Encourage Kirk Sessions to promote the use of the online Office Bearers resource.
18. Urge Kirk Sessions to provide a Learning Disability Contact and engage with the support that has been developed for them in the area of learning disabilities.
19. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to use and share the Life Stories videos and transcripts as a means of building confidence in articulating faith and to promote their use throughout the Church.
20. Urge Kirk Sessions to support members in sharing their faith, and to use the Sharing Faith resource where appropriate.
21. Urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to use the discipleship publications Learn: Exploring Faith and Learn: Understanding our Faith.

22. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to promote the use of Learn Online.
23. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to explore opportunities for pioneering forms of mission and to engage with the Fresh Expressions Development Worker.
24. Encourage Presbyteries, in conjunction with other denominations, to invite the Fresh Expressions team to run Fresh Expressions training events.
25. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to promote digital subscription to Life and Work.
26. Approve the theme of 'Stories E.T.C.' to run from 2018 to 2020 and commend it to the whole Church.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 5:

Delete 'memes' and substitute 'image macros'.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 10 and renumber:

Affirming the importance of including children and young people in the community of faith', and noting the Council's intention to focus on the question 'How and when are children and young people to be fully involved in the Sacrament of Holy Communion:

- i. Instruct the Council to consult with Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions in order to determine the extent to which the Church is finding Act V 2000, the Sacraments Act, to be pastorally helpful in the discipleship of children and young people;
- ii. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Theological Forum, to re-examine the Church's current

understanding that all children must be baptised prior to sharing in the Lord's Supper, within the context of the New Testament and the Church's Confession of Faith;

- iii. Instruct the Council to produce resources to help ministers, Sunday School volunteers and congregations to know how best to include children and young people at the Lord's Table.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of Section 10:

Amend to read:

Instruct the Council to address the proposals contained within its report on the subject of the National Youth Assembly Review and as part of that process to create a working group of 14 people comprising seven members of the Mission and Discipleship Council and seven young people (including former and current members of the National Youth Assembly, youth workers and other young people), young people to form the majority of the group and the group to be co-chaired by a young person and a member of the Council, and to bring an interim report to the General Assembly of 2018 considering the vision, scope, structures and resourcing that engage young people in spiritual formation and decision making processes at all levels of the Church.

On a vote being taken For or Against it carried For.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance:-

Add a new Section 11 and renumber:

Instruct the Council to continue with the National Youth Assembly beyond 2019 unless and until any alternatives have been proved at least as successful.

On a vote being taken For or Against it carried Against.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 13 and renumber:

Acknowledge and congratulate Scripture Union on its 150th anniversary year, giving thanks to God for the work of Scripture Union Scotland with our nation's young people.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.38 pm until 2 pm.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 19:

After 'videos and transcripts' add 'and Talking Jesus materials'.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 26:

Recognise with sincere appreciation the outstanding contribution made by Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod as Editor of 'Na Duilleagan', the excellent, Gaelic *Life & Work* insert during the past 37 years and commend the Council for its innovative provision of a digital version of 'Na Duilleagan' alongside its paper version of this excellent resource.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 27:

Instruct the Council to consider the development of a National 'Season of Invitation' as a call to mission across the Church to be nationally driven and locally delivered and report to the General Assembly of 2018.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly called for a Report from the 2016 National Youth Assembly which was given in by Mr Andrew MacPherson, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly.

Questions were addressed to Youth Representatives who had attended the National Youth Assembly.

The Moderator expressed appreciation to Mr Macpherson for his contribution to the Youth Assembly.

THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Theological Forum which was given in by the Very Rev Professor Iain Torrance, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the Forum's range of activities and support given to the Church.
3. Receive the report "An Approach to the Theology of Same-Sex Marriage" as a resource to the Church and commend it as a basis for study and discussion.
4. Invite the Church to take stock of its history of discrimination at different levels and in different ways against gay people and to apologise individually and corporately and seek to do better.
5. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to undertake a study of the matters which would require to be addressed in any new legislation

permitting Ministers and Deacons to officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies, with a view to presenting a Report to the 2018 General Assembly.

It was moved and seconded as a counter-motion to Section 1:

Receive the Report with the exception of Sections 3–5 of the Deliverance, Section 3 of the Report and the Appendix ‘An Approach to the Theology of Same-Sex Marriage’.

On a vote being taken there voted for the motion 298 and for the counter-motion 149 and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of Sections 3 and 4:

Add a preface consisting of the following wording to Section 3 of the Deliverance and renumber Section 3 as sub-section a) and Section 4 as sub-section b):

‘Recognising and affirming the Church’s existing doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality, as in particular contained in (i) the deliverance in 2011 of the General Assembly on the Report of the Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry in which the Church stated both that “homophobia is sinful” and that the Church does “not include in the concept of homophobia both the bona fide belief that homosexual practice is contrary to God’s will and the responsible statement of that belief in preaching or writing”; (ii) the Report of the Working Group on Human Sexuality: Believing in Marriage received by the General Assembly in 2012; and (iii) the terms of the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act (Act I 2015):’.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of Sections 3, 4 and 5:

Add a preface consisting of the following wording to Section 3 of the Deliverance and renumber Section 3 as sub-section a), Section 4 as sub-section b) and Section 5 as sub-section c):

‘Recognising the Church’s doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality and marriage:’.

On a vote being taken between the proposed amendments, there voted for the first 251 and for the second 274 and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.

On a vote being taken For or Against the preferred amendment (of Sections 3, 4 and 5), there voted For 361 and Against 94 and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.

It was moved and seconded as a counter-motion to Section 3:

Delete ‘and commend it as a basis for study and discussion’.

With the permission of the General Assembly, the above counter-motion was withdrawn.

It was moved and seconded as a counter-motion to Section 3:

Receive the report ‘An Approach to the Theology of Same-Sex Marriage’, with the omission of sections 1.8 to 1.10, as a resource to the Church and commend it as an initial contribution for study and discussion alongside the 2012 Report ‘Believing in Marriage’.

On a vote being taken between the motion and the counter-motion, there voted for the motion 269 and for the counter-motion 191 and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 3:

Add at the end:

and instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee to invite comment and feedback from our ecumenical partners and report to the General Assembly of 2018.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 4:

Instruct the Forum to engage in further reflection on the issues surrounding same-sex marriage and bring to a future General Assembly a further report that deals with the broad spectrum of views on this issue.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment, there voted For 127 and Against 284 and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 6:

Urge the Forum, in consultation with other Councils, to investigate theologically the theme of reconciliation, with particular reference to the divisions within the Church of Scotland, Scottish churches and Scottish society concerning same-sex marriage.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Rev Jonathan de Groot (241) recorded his dissent to which the following commissioners adhered:

| Name | No. | Sections to which dissent related (if stated) |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| Rev Daniel Robertson | (21) | 3-5 |
| Mr Scott Burton | (34) | all |
| Rev Dr Brenda Robson | (61) | all |
| Rev Keith Mack | (78) | 3-5 |
| Rev Gordon Stevenson | (81) | 3-5 |
| Rev John Vischer | (82) | 3 and 5 |
| Mr David Lacey | (87) | |
| Mr Michael Weaver | (93) | 3-5 |
| Rev Alistair Cook | (113) | 2-5 |
| Rev Charles Finnie | (114) | all |
| Rev Anna Rodwell | (115) | |
| Mrs Margaret McIntosh | (161) | 4-5 |
| Rev James McNay | (188) | 3-5 |
| Mrs Jean Hunter | (194) | all |
| Mrs Isobel Beck DCS | (197) | all |
| Rev Steven Reid | (202) | 3-5 |
| Mr Alexander Russell | (207) | |
| Rev Stuart Steell | (221) | 3-5 |
| Rev Jonathan de Groot | (241) | all |
| Rev Jonathan Keefe | (256) | 3-5 |
| Rev Dr Scott Kirkland | (257) | all |
| Rev Mark Lowey | (258) | all |
| Rev Alisdair MacLeod-Mair | (262) | all |
| Rev Wilma Pearson | (266) | |
| Rev Andrew Robertson | (267) | 3-5 |
| Rev William Wilson | (271) | 3 and 5 |
| Miss Margaret Brough | (280) | all |
| Miss Laura Buist | (282) | 3-5 |
| Dr Garrick Osbourne | (303) | 2-5 |
| Rev Graham Austin | (314) | 3-5 |
| Dr Iain Campbell | (332) | |
| Rev Ramsay Shields | (354) | 3-5 |
| Rev Alistair Horne | (391) | 3-5 |
| Rev Amanda MacQuarrie | (392) | 3-5 |
| Rev Stuart Sharp | (395) | 3-5 |
| Mr Matthew Baxter | (397) | |
| Rev Scott McInnes | (414) | 3 and 5 |
| Rev Graham Nash | (416) | |
| Dr Michael Stewart | (472) | 3-5 |
| Rev Gordon Campbell | (506) | 4 and 5 |
| Rev Dale London | (527) | 3-5 |
| Rev Peter Phillips | (528) | 3-5 |
| Mrs Hazel Hewitt | (550) | all |
| Mr David Wyness | (557) | all |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Rev Melvyn Griffiths | (559) | 3-5 |
| Mr Gordon Cowie | (563) | |
| Rev Douglas McNab | (573) | 3 and 4 |
| Rev Hugh O'Brien | (585) | 2-5 |
| Rev Dr David Ross | (586) | |
| Rev Willem Verster | (588) | |
| Rev Alex Buchan | (600) | |
| Rev Isabel Buchan | (601) | 3-5 |
| Rev Trevor Hunt | (614) | 3-5 |
| Mrs Issy Freudenthal | (622) | 3-5 |
| Rev Bruce Dempsey | (634) | |
| Mrs Sheila Macleod | (643) | |
| Mrs Caroline Penman | (645) | all |
| Rev Iain Campbell | (666) | all |
| Rev William Heenan | (667) | all |
| Rev Hugh Stewart | (668) | all |
| Mr Murdo Afrin | (669) | |
| Mr Iain Macleod | (670) | |
| Mrs Margaret Ng-See-Quan | (709) | 3-5 |

The Very Rev Professor Iain Torrance, on his retiral as Convener, was thanked by the Moderator for his noteworthy service to the Forum and the General Assembly.

The General Assembly adjourned at 6.25 pm to meet again in this Hall tomorrow at 9.15 am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL
EDINBURGH, 25 May 2017, 6.25 pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 26 MAY 2017

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the 26th day of May 2017 years, at 9.15 am, Session VI.

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

Loretta Minghella OBE, Chief Executive, Christian Aid was invited to address the General Assembly and was thanked by the Moderator.

The minutes of Session IV being printed and in the hands of members, were submitted and approved.

GENERAL TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the General Trustees which was given in by Mr Iain Douglas, Chairman.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and Accounts of the General Trustees.
2. (a) Appoint Rev Sheila M Kirk BA LLB BD, Mr J Grahame Lees MA LLB NP and Rev Janet S Mathieson MA BD as General Trustees.
- (b) Authorise payment of remuneration of £1,730 to each of Mr Iain C Douglas and Mr Roger G G Dodd as Vice-Chairman for the past year.

3. Note the work of the Way Forward Group and the various Working Groups.

4. Urge Presbyteries and congregations to undertake their respective responsibilities for the planned inspection, maintenance and repair of churches, halls and manses.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 2:

Add a new sub-section (c):

Appoint Mr Raymond K Young as Chairman and reappoint Mr Roger G G Dodd as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 4:

Invite the General Trustees to consider ways in which the funds a congregation has invested with the General Trustees might be used to pay the Ministries and Mission contribution of the congregation where they are finding it difficult to meet their obligation.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

Mr Douglas, on his retiral as Chairman, was thanked by the Moderator for his noteworthy service to the General Trustees and the General Assembly.

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

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Trustees of the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund which was given in by Rev Ian Taylor, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the Trustees and Staff.
2. Appoint Mr G Burt as a Trustee of the Fund.

CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees which was given in by Rev Ann Inglis, Trustee.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 2:

Urge the Trustees to publish CH4 in a format more easily accessible to the visually impaired.

On a vote being taken For or Against it carried For.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust which was given in by the Principal Clerk, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint the Rev Jennifer Macrae, Rev Janet Mathieson, Rev Scott McKenna and Rev Dr John McPake (Ministers) and Angus Hogg, Isobel Hunter, Kay Keith and Roy Pinkerton (Elders) as Trustees of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust.
3. Instruct the Trustees to bring before the General Assembly of 2018 detailed proposals for the Lectureship Cycle 2018-2021.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Trust which was given in by Mr John Hodge, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Re-appoint the Rev Iain Cunningham as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2017.
3. Appoint Mr Hugo Allan, Mrs Morag Angus and Mr Leon Marshall as members of the Trust from 1 June 2017.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust which was given in by Miss Catherine Y Alexander, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the re-appointments of Mrs J Henderson and Mr T M Walker as members of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2017.
3. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2016.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees which was given in by Mr John McCafferty, Chairman.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the reappointment, as a Trustee, of Mr Graeme Caughey.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 3:

Approve the appointment, as a Trustee, of Mr Adrian Bark.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

Mr McCafferty, on his retiral as Chairman, was thanked by the Moderator for his noteworthy service to the Pension Trustees and the General Assembly.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Nomination Committee which was given in by the Rev Kenneth Stott, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Council of Assembly to facilitate conversations among the Nomination Committee, the Legal Questions Committee and senior officers of the Church to recommend whether a better alternative method may be put in place for the nomination of persons to serve on bodies dealing with specific legal matters and report to the General Assembly in 2018.
3. Make alterations to Standing Committees and Councils as set forth in the Report, subject to the following alterations:

Delete:

Ministries Council

Member Appointed Hilary Peppiette (Edinburgh: Fairmilehead)

Amend:

Ecumenical Relations Committee

Minister Appointed Anikó Schütz Bradwell* (Humbie l/w Yester, **Bolton** and Saltoun)

Add:

Church Art and Architecture Committee

Member Appointed Marion Fyfe (Kirn and Sandbank)

Council of Assembly*Member Resigned* John McPake*Member Appointed* David Brackenridge
(Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie)**Judicial Proceedings Panel***Ministers Appointed* John Ferguson
(Peterculter), William Hewitt
(Kilmarnock: St Andrew's and St
Marnock's)*Elders Appointed* Barbara Finlayson
(Edinburgh: St Andrew's and St
George's West), Myrtle Gillies (Thurso:
West), Margaret McIntosh (Prestwick:
St Nicholas'), Ishbel Smith (Edinburgh:
Balerno)**Ministries Council***Minister Resigned* Gary McIntyre*Minister Appointed* Stewart Weaver
(Edinburgh: Portobello and Joppa) (3
yrs)*Member Appointed* Anne Noble*
(Bathgate: St John's) (2 yrs)**Nomination Committee***Minister Resigned* Sean Swindells*Minister Appointed* Ian Murray
(Canonbie United l/w Liddesdale)*Member Appointed* Kay McIntosh DCS
(Kirk of Calder)**Social Care Council***Member Appointed* Anne Oxbrow
(Edinburgh: Greenbank)

Before dealing with Section 3 of the Deliverance, it was moved, seconded and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to permit the extension of Philip Brodie as Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly for a further term of three years.

Mr Stott, on his retiral as Convener, was thanked by the Moderator for his noteworthy service to the Committee and the General Assembly.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Selection Committee which was given in by the Rev Rosemary Frew, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

Appoint the following Committee to
Nominate the Moderator:

Ministers and Deacons:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Rev Elisabeth F Cranfield | (447) |
| Rev James S Dewar | (5) |
| Rev Iain D MacDonald | (673) |
| Rev Louise E Mackay | (201) |
| Rev Fiona M Mathieson | (17) |
| Miss Pat M Munro DCS | (504) |
| Rev Scott M Rennie | (543) |
| Rev Alec Shuttleworth | (437) |

Elders:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Mr Graeme D I Barrie | (275) |
| Mrs Ann M C Bowie | (603) |
| Miss Margaret Brough | (280) |
| Mr J Grahame Lees | (424) |
| Mr Scott Paget | (206) |
| Mrs Liliias Snedden | (405) |
| Mrs Jeneffer C Zielinsky | (382) |

PROTESTATIONS

Protestations were called for.

Protestation was taken by the Rev Alistair Cumming for the Presbytery of England that the appeal by Mr Andrew Ventin against the decision of the Presbytery of England on 9 February 2016 to dissolve the charge of Liverpool: St Andrews, concurred in by the Presbytery Planning Task Group on 23 February 2016, and affirmed by the Presbytery of England on 14 June 2016, has been fallen from, and that said judgement has become final.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING OF ACTS

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Standing Committee on the Printing of the Acts of the General Assembly which was given in by the Principal Clerk, and it was remitted to the Standing Committee under Section 26 of the Standing Orders to revise and print the Acts.

The General Assembly adjourned at 12.59 pm to meet again in this Hall this afternoon at 3.00 pm, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL
EDINBURGH, 26 May 2017, 12.59 pm

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 26 MAY 2017

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the 26th day of May 2017 years, at 3.00 pm, Session ult.

The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with prayer.

DECEASED MINISTERS, MISSIONARIES AND DEACONS

The General Assembly called for the Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons, which was given in by the Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, and was agreed as follows:

DATE OF DEATH

2016

| | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| June | 29 | Mrs Ann Hepburn, formerly Missionary in Blantyre, Malawi |
| July | 4 | Rev John Ferguson Anderson, formerly of Aberdeen: Mannofield |
| | 11 | Rev May McGill Allison, formerly of Glasgow: Househillwood St Christopher's |
| | 15 | Miss Moyra McCallum DCS, formerly of Presbytery of Aberdeen at Aberdeen: Woodside |
| | 17 | Rev John Andrew Jackson, formerly of Cleland |
| | 19 | Rev Joseph Baldwin Perry, formerly of Farnell |
| August | 5 | Rev Roderick Stewart Dick, lately Coatbridge: Calder as Auxiliary Minister |
| | 5 | Rev James McLaren Ritchie, formerly of Coalsnaughton |
| | 5 | Rev Dr Mary (Moyna) Elizabeth McGlynn, lately of Glasgow: Govan and Linthouse |
| | 5 | Rev John Harkness Ostler, formerly of Contin-Strathconnon |
| | 5 | Rev Dr Stuart Donald Blair Picken, formerly of Ardoch linked with Blackford |
| | 16 | Rev Alistair Anderson Roy, formerly of Wick: Bridge Street |
| | 18 | Miss Margaret Cameron DCS, formerly of Paisley: Wallneuk North |
| | 21 | Rev James Eric Stewart Low, formerly of Tarbat |
| | 25 | Miss May Scott, formerly of Blantyre, Malawi |
| | 26 | Rev Elspeth Gillian Dougall, formerly of Edinburgh: Marchmont St Giles' |
| | 28 | Rev James Sidney Allison Smith, formerly of Drongan: The Schaw Kirk |
| | 31 | Ms Dorothy Clephane, formerly of Tabeetha School, Jaffa, Israel |
| September | 8 | Rev David West Gatt, formerly of Thornton |
| | 12 | Rev Gilbert Mollison Mowat, formerly of Dundee: Albany-Butterburn |
| | 19 | Miss Rosemary Blair, formerly Missionary in West Pakistan |
| | 24 | Rev Christine McLeod Creegan, formerly of Grantully, Logierait and Strathtay |
| | 24 | Rev Arthur Francis Stoddart Kent, formerly of Monkton and Prestwick: North |
| October | 2 | Rev William McDowall MacMillan, formerly of Kilmory linked with Lamlash |
| | 5 | Rev Gordon Henig, formerly of Bellie linked with Speymouth |
| | 5 | Rev William Currie McCrorie, formerly of Kirkmabreck |
| | 6 | Rev Archibald Robertson, formerly of Glasgow: Eastwood |
| | 15 | Rev Robert MacGregor, formerly of Delting linked with Northmavine as Auxiliary Minister |

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| | 21 | Rev William John Ainslie, formerly of Glasgow: Easterhouse as Community Minister |
| | 23 | Rev Elizabeth Baxter Forbes Kinniburgh, formerly of Birse linked with Finzean and Strachan |
| November | 9 | Rev Leslie William Thorne, formerly of Coatbridge: Clifton |
| | 17 | Rev Alexander Reid Aitken, formerly of Edinburgh: Newhaven |
| | 26 | Rev Geoffrey Horne Underwood, formerly of Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial |
| | 28 | Rev James Marshall Buttery Scoular, formerly of Kippen |
| | 29 | Rev Neil Gow, formerly of Foveran |
| | 29 | Rev Professor Duncan Baillie Forrester formerly of New College |
| | 30 | Rev Allan Ian Macarthur, formerly of Applecross, Lochcarron and Torridon |
| | 30 | Rev Alan John Roy, formerly of Aberuthven linked with Dunning |
| December | 17 | Rev Dr Willis Arthur Jones, formerly of Cromarty linked with Resolis and Urquhart |
| | 24 | Rev Norman Swinburne, formerly of Sauchie |
| | 26 | Rev Margaret Thomson, formerly of Saltcoats: Erskine |
| | 31 | Rev Ian Cameron, formerly of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan |
| | 31 | Rev Alexander Fernie Bonar, formerly of Fowles Wester, Madderty and Monzie |

2017

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| January | 16 | Miss Anne Stuart DCS, formerly of Airdrie: Clarkston |
| | 19 | Rev John Paton Renton, formerly of Kenmay |
| February | 7 | Rev Frederick David Fitzgerald Shewan, formerly of Edinburgh: Muirhouse St Andrew's |
| | 11 | Rev Stanley William Palmer, formerly of Kilbarchan: East |
| March | 2 | Rev James Duncan, formerly of Blair Atholl and Struan |
| | 7 | Rev Dr William Gorman Morrice, formerly of St John's College, Durham |
| | 22 | Rev William Logan Kirk, formerly of Dalton linked with Hightae linked with St Mungo |
| | 23 | Rev James Leslie Guthrie, formerly of Muirkirk |
| | 24 | Rev Michael Scott Murray Crawford, formerly of Aberdeen: St Mary's |
| | 28 | Rev Thomas Alexander Davidson Kelly, formerly of Glasgow: Govan Old |
| April | 4 | Rev John Oswald, formerly of Muthill linked with Trinity Gask and Kinkell |
| | 30 | Rev John Young, formerly of Airdrie Broomknoll linked with Calderbank |
| May | 7 | Rev John Edward Hawdon, formerly of Dundee: Clepington |
| | 18 | Rev Patricia Ramsay, lately of Dundee: Balgay |
| | 20 | Very Rev Dr James Leslie Weatherhead, formerly Principal Clerk of the General Assembly |
| | 23 | Rev Kenneth MacVicar formerly Kenmore linked with Lawers linked with Fortingall and Glenlyon |

The General Assembly, upstanding, were led in prayer by the Very Rev Dr Russell Barr.

The Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted were held as read and approved.

The Clerks were appointed a Committee to revise the Minutes.

The General Assembly passed an Act appointing a Commission of Assembly in terms of the Act VI 1997.

The General Assembly passed an Act appointing the next General Assembly to be held at Edinburgh on 19th May 2018.

The following people were presented to the General Assembly:

COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

New Staff Members:

Mr Gordon Barclay, Solicitor, Law Department

Mrs Valerie Jenkins, Administrative Assistant, Department of the General Assembly

Eleanor MacKenzie, Internal Communications, Learning and Engagement Officer, HR Department

Leanne Thompson, Finance Manager, Stewardship and Finance Department

Jackie Wilson-Tagoe, Interim Stewardship Team Leader, Stewardship and Finance Department

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

New Staff Member:

Dr Hongsuk Um, Congregational Learning Development Worker

THE GUILD

New Staff Members:

Karen Gillon, Associate Secretary

Nicola Robinson, Administrative Support Assistant

ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Departing:

Mr David McColl, Assembly Officer, 18 years
Mrs Alison Murray, Senior Administration Officer and PA to the Moderator, 16 years

New Staff Members:

Miss Catherine McIntosh, Senior Administration Officer and PA to the Moderator

SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Mrs Viv Dickenson, Chief Executive Officer, CrossReach

Ms Rhona Gardiner, Peripatetic and Development Manager, Services to Older People

Mrs Eleanor Trivett, Unit Manager, Gaberston House Residential Home

Ms Etta MacMillan, Unit Manager, Well Hall Residential Home

Staff Members Retiring:

Mrs Sandra Moran, Care Worker, Queen's Bay Lodge Residential Home, 13 years

Mr Iain Sutherland, Support Practitioner, Mount Pleasant, 12 years

Mrs Margaret McMichael, Senior Crèche Worker, Post Natal Depression Services, 13 years

Mrs Elizabeth Cairns, Care Worker, Gaberston House Residential Home, 13 years

Mrs Lorna Dalton, Care Worker, Oversteps, 33 years

Mrs Ann Nicoll, Administrator, Eskmills, 20 years

Mr Peter Bailey, Chief Executive Officer, CrossReach and Secretary of the Social Care Council, 25 years

MINISTRIES COUNCIL

New Staff Members:

Ms Isobel Armstrong-Frost, Senior Administrator

Ms Naomi Dornan, Administrator

Mrs Clare Milrine, Project Officer
 Rev Jayne Scott, Council Secretary
 Mr David John Williams, Go For It Fund Manager

Ministers recently inducted and introduced to their first charge or appointment:

Rev Allison Elizabeth Becker, Kilmarnock: St John's Onthank
 Rev John Andrew Butterfield, Stromness
 Rev Rhona Patrice Cathcart, Inverurie: West
 Rev Dr Beverly White Cushman, Altnaharra and Farr
 Rev Dr Liam Jerrold Fraser, Pioneer Minister, Campus Minister, The University of Edinburgh
 Rev Graeme Macfarlane Glover, Jersey: St Columba's
 Rev Robert Johnston, Kilsyth: Burns and Old
 Rev Ann Knox, Inchinnan
 Rev Andrew Paul Kuzma, Benbecula I/w Carinish
 Rev Scott McInnes, Stirling: North
 Rev Louise Elizabeth Mackay, Lanark: St Nicholas'
 Rev Petr Penaz, Annan: Old I/w Dornock
 Rev William Louis Taylor Reddick, Glasgow: Shettleston New
 Rev Aquila Ruth Singh, Fernhill and Cathkin
 Rev Yvonne Smith, Bishopton

Ordained Local Minister recently introduced to their first appointment:

Rev Dr Roland Hunt, Carmyle and Kenmuir Mount Vernon

Recently Appointed Ministries Development Staff:

Miss Rosemary Eilidh Eggo, North Ayr Parish Grouping
 Miss Gigha Karen Lennox, Edinburgh: St David's Broomhouse
 Mr Duncan Andrew Logie, Edinburgh: St Margaret's
 Ms Bonnie Jeanne McDowell, Alloa Ludgate and Alloa: St Mungo's
 Miss Natasha Charlotte Murphy, Greenock Parish Grouping
 Mrs Pamela Scott, DCS, Lochgelly and Benarty: St Serf's

Ms Moira Taylor-Smith, Edinburgh: St David's Broomhouse

Departing Staff Member:

Mrs Shirley Anne Billes, Worship Development Worker

Retiring Staff Member:

Mrs Dorothy Muriel Davidson, Senior Administrator

Recently Retired Ministers:

Rev Donald Campbell, Houston and Killellan
 Rev Alan Charles David Cartwright, Fogo and Swinton I/w Ladykirk and Whitsome I/w Leitholm
 Rev David Arthur Collins, Auchterhouse I/w Monikie and Newbigging and Murroes and Tealing
 Rev James Morton Cowie, Paris: The Scots Kirk
 Rev Graham Douglas Sutherland Deans, Aberdeen: Queen Street
 Rev Elizabeth Anne Fisk, Dunfermline: St Ninian's
 Very Rev Dr Elizabeth Lorna Hood, Renfrew: North
 Very Rev Dr David William Lacy, Kilmarnock: Kay Park
 Rev George Kerr Lind, Stewarton: St Columba's
 Rev William Bogle McCulloch, Rome
 Very Rev Dr Alan Douglas McDonald, Cameron I/w St Andrews: St Leonard's
 Rev Marion Paton, Dundee: St David's High Kirk
 Rev Robin Dunlop McHaffie, Cheviot Churches
 Rev Robert Brotherston Milne, Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho I/w Skirling I/w Stobo and Drumelzier I/w Tweedsmuir
 Rev James Gillon Redpath, Auchtermuchty I/w Edenshead and Strathmiglo
 Rev Dennis Sinclair Rose, Arbuthnott, Bervie and Kinneff
 Rev Arthur Sherratt, Saltcoats: St Cuthbert's
 Rev Graham Walton Smith, Livingston: Old
 Rev John Deas Whiteford, Glasgow: Newlands South

The Moderator addressed all those who had been presented to the General Assembly, conveying the good wishes of the Assembly to them.

The Moderator expressed the warm thanks of the General Assembly to the Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers for his distinguished service as Principal Clerk, 2010-2017. Dr Chalmers made suitable reply.

The Moderator addressed the General Assembly.

Her Grace addressed the General Assembly and concluded with these words: "Right Reverend and well-beloved, your labours are now at an end and now, in the Queen's name, I bid you farewell."

A verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Moderator and members of the General Assembly having bowed to Her Grace, the Moderator, turning to the General Assembly, said "Right Reverend: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, sole King and Head of the Church, I now dissolve this General Assembly, and appoint the next General Assembly to be held at Edinburgh on the 19th day of May 2018."

The members of the General Assembly, prior to lining the Quadrangle of the College as Her Grace passed from the Assembly Hall, concluded their Session at 4.30 pm with the Benediction pronounced by the Moderator.

ASSEMBLY HALL
EDINBURGH, 26 May 2017, 4.30 pm