

## DELIVERANCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2019

### ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the Order of Business for the first two days.
3. Thank Rev Dr Martin Scott for his service as Precentor to the General Assembly and appoint Rev Douglas Galbraith to act as Precentor for this year's General Assembly.
4. Appoint Mr Roy Pinkerton to index the verbatim record.
5. Invite Commissioners to submit to the first meeting of the Business Committee nominees for consideration to serve on the Selection Committee.
6. Note the revised regulations concerning the process for the election of the Committee to Nominate the Moderator and in particular note the new deadline for Commissioners to submit nominations for the Committee to Nominate the Moderator.
7. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee\*\*\*, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2020 which would lead to a reduction in the membership of the General Assembly.
8. Affirm the place of Heart & Soul as a positive contribution to the ongoing life and witness of the Church and agree to Heart & Soul continuing beyond 2020, noting that discussions will continue about the form, shape and budget of this event.
9. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee\*\*\* to proceed with preparation of Volume XII of the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, to cover the period from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2020 and to be published in 2021.

#### SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

10. Urge the Scottish Bible Society to pursue its ongoing efforts to address the challenge of global Bible translation as they play their part in the ambitious Bible Translation Roadmap.
11. Support the Society in its desire to work in partnership with congregations to improve people's experience of the Bible and its impact on their life.
12. Encourage congregations to consider using *Bibleworld Books* as a way to improve literacy levels amongst children in their communities.
13. Endorse the Society in its efforts to encourage confidence in the gospel and in providing Scripture resources for mission purposes.
14. Commend the Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

### DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly and thank it for its work.
2. Continue the appointment of the Delegation with the same powers as hitherto - the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly to be Chairman, the Depute Clerk of the

General Assembly to be Vice-Chairman and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## RETURNS TO OVERTURES

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Convert into a Standing Law of the Church the Discipline Overture, as printed in Appendix B.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Amend Standing Orders 1 to 8, 16, 84, 86 and 89 as detailed in section 4 and Appendix B of the Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee.
3. Pass an Act amending the Election and Admission of Elders and Deacons Act (Act X 1932) as set out in Appendix A.
4. Encourage the Committee, as part of its review of the Church Courts Act, and in the light of changes in the membership of Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries, to consider whether an Elder in Presbytery might be a *bona fide* member of a congregation within the bounds rather than of a Kirk Session.
5. In relation to Presbytery Review:
  - a) Note that ten Presbyteries have engaged with Presbytery Review since the General Assembly of 2018 and thank all those who took part in the exercise;
  - b) Agree that a further round of Presbytery Reviews should be carried out in 2019-2020 if sufficient Presbyteries offer to take part; and
  - c) Instruct the Committee, in consultation with others, to prepare legislation to ensure that Presbytery Review engages all Presbyteries on a regular basis and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.
6. Amend Standing Order 33.2 to include the Head of Communications.
7. Instruct the Committee to consider the question of whether in principle a person who is subject to proceedings brought under the Discipline Overture/Act which result in no censure being imposed by the Discipline Tribunal, should be entitled to recover from the Church's central funds some or all of the legal expenses they have paid out in respect of their defence, such consideration to include examination of the possibility of legal expenses insurance, and to bring a report, with amending legislation if appropriate, to the Assembly of 2020.
8. Instruct the Committee –
  - i. To review and consider proposing amendments to the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) to specifically draw to the attention of Parties to a dispute the possibility of resolving their dispute by means of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Processes Act (Act VI 2014) and so bring the Appeals Act into line with the new Discipline Act;
  - ii. To draft a set of Guidelines to assist Parties to a dispute who wish to pursue ADR in setting up such a process;

- iii. In consultation with the Ministries Council\*\* to consider the development of a bespoke process for Presbytery planning appeals under the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003) which also includes provision for ADR; and
- iv. To report to the General Assembly of 2020.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and Supplementary Report.
2. Approve for implementation the following elements of the Radical Action Plan as set out in the Report:
  - a) the establishment of a Growth Fund of £20-£25m for the period 2020-2026 and ensure that the experience in good funding practice gained through the *Go For It* Fund and its predecessors is harnessed and employed in the governance of the Growth Fund;
  - b) the establishment of a total of around 12 regional Presbytery structures in Scotland by the General Assembly of 2024 or sooner, paying appropriate attention to the implications for the Barrier Act, including the possible need for transitional arrangements during implementation;
  - c) the preparation of draft legislation for the General Assembly of 2020 to enable the establishment of networks, hubs and other additional forms of local church;
  - d) a review of the size and responsibilities of Kirk Sessions;
  - e) co-operation with other denominations in the provision of territorial ministry in accordance with section 3 of Act V, 2010 alongside a re-examination of what territorial ministry means within today's context;
  - f) the creation of a single, easy and accessible platform of faith and nurture resources;
  - g) a flexible education, training and support programme for every person in the Church including material on discipleship and leadership;
  - h) initiatives to help the Church to engage those aged 40 and under;
  - i) instruct that in 2021 and subsequent years there shall be no increase in a congregation's Ministries and Mission allocation over that which was asked in 2020 until such time as alternative arrangements have been approved by the General Assembly;
  - j) the exploration of changes to the current vacancy allowance, including the discontinuing of the current system of vacancy allowance for congregations and making this available to Presbytery along with the Presbytery Discretionary Allowance;
  - k) the development of new ways to support congregations in long-term vacancies;
  - l) the support of the General Trustees' initiative entitled 'Well-equipped Spaces in the Right Places';
  - m) the exploration of whether proceeds from the sale of redundant buildings following adjustment processes might in certain circumstances be applied for the benefit of a congregation other than the united or linked congregation concerned;
  - n) the provision of support at a regional/local level to congregations including:
    - i) buildings expertise
    - ii) safeguarding
    - iii) financial accounting
    - iv) local staff employment
    - v) developing effective partnerships

- o) developing the most appropriate relationship between CrossReach and the broader work of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees (UCC) and the local church to enable this work to be sustainable and to flourish; and
  - p) a refocus of the national office staff team so that there is a focus on equipping and supporting local churches, including accessing the Growth Fund.
3.
    - a) Appoint a Special Commission of five persons to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the Presbyterian form of Church government, giving particular consideration to the effectiveness of the Presbyterian form of Church government in promoting and supporting the mission of local congregations, and developing leadership in the Church and to report to the General Assembly not later than in 2021; and
    - b) Instruct the Selection Committee to present names for this Special Commission to a later session of this General Assembly.
  4. Instruct the Assembly Trustees\* to draw together a cross-departmental team to ensure that the Action Plan is implemented.
  5. Instruct the Assembly Trustees\* to report annually to the General Assembly on the delivery of the Action Plan.
  6. Encourage all General Assembly Councils and Committees to focus their activities from June – December 2019 on an effective implementation of the Action Plan.
  7. Encourage a 'season of prayer and preparation' across the Church from September – December 2019.
  8. Urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage with the 'Try Praying UK 2020' campaign in April 2020 as an extension to the 'season of prayer and preparation' by promoting use of the Try Praying resources to encourage prayer for missional outreach, including to those in prison.
  9. Note that further work has been undertaken by the Council of Assembly on the National Offices Buildings Project and instruct the Assembly Trustees\* to present a further report to the General Assembly in 2020, taking into account the outcome of decisions around the Action Plan and the Report of the Special Commission on Structural Reform.
  10. Note the continuing work of the Gaelic Group.
  11. Approve changes to the membership of the Ecumenical Relations Committee.
  12. Approve the revised remit of the Church Art and Architecture Committee as set out in Appendix I.
  13. Receive the 2018 Report and Accounts of The Church of Scotland Unincorporated Councils and Committees.
  14. Approve the total to be contributed by congregations in 2020 of £46,586,000 based on the projection of congregational income for 2020 and its disposition among local congregational expenditure, the Parish Ministries Fund and the Mission and Renewal Fund.
  15. Note the indicative budget for 2020.
  16. Approve:
    - a) the winding up of the Huts and Canteens Grants Fund and the distribution of the balance as follows:
      - (i) a payment of £150,000 to SSAFA Forces Help; and
      - (ii) the remainder of funds, both capital and interest, to be transferred to the Mission and Renewal Fund.
    - b) the retention within the Huts and Canteens Pension Fund of an appropriate amount (based upon current annual pension payments, increased by an annual amount determined as reasonable by the General Treasurer) until such time as no beneficiaries remain, and thereafter the closure of the Pension Fund and transfer of the remaining funds to the Mission and Renewal Fund.
  17. Note the position with regard to the New College Library, approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the University Court of the University of Edinburgh and authorise the Moderator and the Principal Clerk to sign it on their behalf.

18. Pass the Growth Fund Regulations as set out in Appendix IV, but subject to the deletion of paragraph 3 in the print and substitution with the following:  
“The purposes of the Fund are to support: the numerical and spiritual growth of existing Church of Scotland congregations and new Church of Scotland worshipping communities; community transformation; and tackling poverty.”
19. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to bring to the General Assembly of 2020 a closing report on the work of the *Go For It* Fund, sharing the learning that has been gained through the life of the Fund and celebrating all that the Church of Scotland has achieved through its funded projects.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## SPECIAL COMMISSION ON STRUCTURAL REFORM

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint with effect from 1 June 2019 a new trustee body, to be named the Assembly Trustees, to replace the Council of Assembly in accordance with Appendix 1 but subject always to the following amendments to Appendix 1:
  - (i) Delete the words “and others” where they appear in the third line of paragraph 23;
  - (ii) Amend paragraph 32, sub-paragraph I. of Appendix 1 by adding the word “and” after the word “Agencies”;
  - (iii) Delete the existing paragraph 57 and substitute “The Trustees, through the Central Services Committee as a constituent committee of the Trustees, shall act as one of the employing agencies of the Church in respect of corporate service staff.”
  - (iv) Amend paragraph 63 to read as follows: “The Trustees shall oversee and manage all media engagement for the Charity arising from major reputational opportunities and risks, working with such Agencies as may be appropriate.”
  - (v) Amend paragraph 72 to read as follows “For the avoidance of doubt, paragraphs 66, 67 and 68 shall not apply to the Church of Scotland General Trustees, the Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund for Retired Ministers and Widows and Widowers of Ministers and the Church of Scotland Trust, all of which may deal with heritable property and other assets without the approval of the Trustees.”
  - (vi) Amend paragraph 73 by adding at the end (so as to apply to both sub-paragraphs 1. and 2.) “and the terms “Agency” and “Agencies” shall include any successor bodies to each of the bodies named above.”
  - (vii) Amend paragraph 40 in Appendix 1 by deleting “Charity” and replacing it with “Fund” on two occasions.”
  - (viii) At the end of the first sentence of paragraph 7 add “requiring that the Selection Committee will provide Commissioners with the names and biographical details of the 12 proposed Initial Trustees at least 24 hours before they are invited to vote on the appointments”.
  - (ix) At the end of paragraph 10 in Schedule C add “A report shall be made to the General Assembly each year as to each Assembly Trustee’s attendance record at Trustees’ meetings.”
  - (x) At the end of paragraph 8 add “and in future selection processes, due consideration shall be given to ensure that the diversity of Church membership is reflected in their selection, this to include consideration of an appropriate gender balance and level of youth representation.”
  - (xi) At the end of paragraph 14 in Schedule C, add “providing (1) that in the event of vacancy among the Trustees, the quorum shall be reduced by the number of vacancies and (2) that as regards stipend determinations, the quorum shall be 6.”

(xii) but subject always to the addition of a new clause 73 (and renumbering thereafter) in Appendix 1:

“Alteration

73. This Constitution and Remit may be amended only with the approval of the General Assembly or a Commission of Assembly.”

3. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to bring to the Commission of Assembly if called, failing which to the General Assembly of 2020, a clear description of the role and composition of the Audit Committee, including a requirement that the Chair of the Audit Committee is not an Assembly Trustee.
4. Instruct the Assembly Trustees as a priority to consider and better define the relationships among the Convener, Chief Officer and Principal Clerk with a view to ensuring that the Chief Officer reports to the Convener of the Assembly Trustees and the Principal Clerk reports to the Convener of the Assembly Business Committee\*\*\*.
5. Instruct the Selection Committee to propose to this General Assembly the names of twelve trustees, each to serve from 1 June 2019 for periods of one, two or three years, including a Convener, a Vice-convener and an Administrative trustee.
6. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to appoint a senior management team to oversee the work of the Unincorporated Councils and Committees (SC011353) in accordance with the terms of Appendix 1 and to take steps immediately to appoint a Chief Officer and, where necessary, additional temporary support to facilitate the process of change.
7. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to begin reducing the administrative costs within the central organisation of the Church by 20%-30%, if possible within one to two years, and to initiate a review of the staff pay grade scheme and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
8. Approve, in accordance with paragraph 29 of Appendix 1, the merger of the Ministries Council with the Mission and Discipleship Council and the merger of the Church and Society Council with the World Mission Council, both to take effect on 1 January 2020, and instruct the Assembly Trustees to request that the Legal Questions Committee call a meeting of the Commission of Assembly as soon as possible but no later than 31 December 2019 to consider proposals from the Assembly Trustees in accordance with paragraph 29 for a name, structure, remit and membership of the two new groupings.
9. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to initiate discussion of ways in which the Social Care Council and Crossreach can become a more self-sustaining and financially viable organisation at “arm’s-length” within SC011353 and to report progress to the General Assembly 2020.
10. Appoint a new Assembly Business Committee to replace the Assembly Arrangements Committee with effect from 1 June 2019 in accordance with Appendix 2.
11. Instruct the Selection Committee to propose the names of eight members of the Assembly Business Committee to this General Assembly, including a Convener and Vice-convener.
12. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee to prepare plans for the General Assembly 2020 to ensure that progress on structural reform is adequately considered in all its dimensions, and, in particular, that the Assembly Trustees are given the fullest opportunity to report on progress achieved on matters of strategy, finance, governance, and staffing.
13. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to bring forward amendments to Standing Orders to ensure that each Trustee is included as a corresponding member of the General Assembly when not otherwise a commissioner.
14. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee to report to the General Assembly 2020 on ways in which the composition and format of the General Assembly can more effectively and efficiently serve the work of the Church.
15. Discharge the Panel on Review and Reform with effect from 1st June 2019 and thank its Convener, members and officers for their service.

16. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to make provision for adequate research and analysis to be undertaken in order to inform the vision, strategy and policies of the Church.
17. Commend the work of the Principal Clerk in facilitating Presbytery reform and encourage him to continue this process with a view to reducing significantly the number of Presbyteries within the next five years.
18. Instruct the Mission and Discipleship Council\*\* to assume, from 1 June 2019, responsibility for organising Heart & Soul 2020.
19. In order to ensure legal continuity between (i) the Council of Assembly and the Assembly Trustees and (ii) the Assembly Arrangements Committee and the Assembly Business Committee, the General Assembly declare that:
  - (a) the Assembly Trustees shall assume the whole properties, assets, rights, functions and obligations of the Council of Assembly and its constituent committees including the Central Services Committee. Existing trust funds and all future donations and legacies received in connection with the Council of Assembly shall be held and applied by the Assembly Trustees, all according to the terms and conditions applicable to them.
  - (b) the Assembly Business Committee shall assume the whole properties, assets, rights, functions and obligations of the Assembly Arrangements Committee. Existing trust funds and all future donations and legacies received in connection with the Assembly Arrangements Committee shall be held and applied by the Assembly Business Committee, all according to the terms and conditions applicable to them.
20. Thank the Convener and members of the Council of Assembly for their service to the Church.
21. Thank the officers of the General Assembly, and staff members of all Councils and committees for their commitment, dedication, and hard work.
22. Thank all those who have constructively engaged with the Special Commission whether in person or in writing.
23. Thank and discharge the Special Commission.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## **SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Record appreciation for all of the staff and volunteers, past and present, who have contributed to the Church of Scotland's efforts in delivering social service to communities throughout Scotland and join in celebrating this vital work of the Church which began following the General Assembly 150 years ago.
3. Note the progress made on carrying through recommendations from the business strategy review and endorse the continued rigorous actions being taken to bring the budget to a balanced position.
4. Acknowledge, celebrate and endorse the missional services provided on behalf of the Church by the Social Care Council, through CrossReach, recognising, too, the positive difference these services make to the lives of thousands of individuals, their families and their communities in many parts of Scotland.
5. Thank all those who have supported, in any way, the work of CrossReach over the past year and encourage positive and engaged partnerships between local, regional and national church and CrossReach.
6. Note that the Social Care Council understand the context in which the Special Commission on Structural Reform and the Council of Assembly are reporting and

endorse the efforts being made by the Council to engage in this process so that the missional work of the Church, in its widest sense, can be enabled to succeed and to thrive.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## **WORLD MISSION COUNCIL**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the report.
2. Give thanks for the life and witness of Mission Partners who have died; and acknowledge with gratitude those who have completed their period of service overseas.
3. Note that Mission Partners work not only in good and joyful but also in difficult and challenging situations and commend their work and witness; and urge congregations and Presbyteries to continue in their prayerful support for Mission Partners.
4. Encourage congregations and Presbyteries to use the resources of the Council\*\*, learn more about the life of churches in other parts of the world, including the impact of climate change, and how such links can invigorate and encourage the life of the local church in Scotland.
5. Congratulate the Swiss Protestant Churches on the 500th anniversary of the Zwinglian reformation and wish them every blessing as they become the Protestant Reformed Church of Switzerland.
6. Give thanks for Christian Aid's work to alleviate poverty, and encourage the whole church in its ongoing engagement with and support of Christian Aid.
7. Give thanks for the enthusiastic and entertaining support of the Heart & Soul Swing band for the HIV Programme; for the continuing response to Souper Sunday, and partners in Scotland and around the world as they continue to support people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.
8. Give thanks for the Christian witness of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon through its accompaniment of Christians and Muslims alike, supporting the internally displaced in Syria, and the externally displaced in Lebanon, and encourage congregations to support "A Place at the Table" in order to support NESSL's witness.
9. Give thanks for all the congregations and individuals who have supported the used stamp project over the past 50 years and encourage all to respond to the challenge to support the Golden Jubilee Stamp Appeal for the Chigodi Women's Centre.
10. Thank Mr Keith Scott for his 50 years of dedicated service in collecting stamps in support of the church around the world.
11. Encourage vacant congregations to consider a one to three year ministry from a minister of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren or another partner church.
12. Encourage the whole Church to continue to pray for, and the Council\*\* to support, peace and justice initiatives in South Sudan.
13. (i) Express deep concern for Christians around the world whose witness to their faith can be both costly and dangerous;  
(ii) encourage the Council\*\* to continue its work of highlighting the plight of those Christians who suffer violent persecution and discrimination; and  
(iii) in particular invite congregations to raise awareness of the isolated and vulnerable Christians of Northern Iraq, and the exiled Yazidi peoples, and to support them in prayer and in other practical ways.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE WORLD MISSION COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC REVIEW: CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Welcome the recommendations laid out by the Review Group.
3. Recognising that Israel and Palestine would be diminished if they were to lose their Christian presence, and that the Church of Scotland has something particular to offer, welcome the commitment of the World Mission Council\*\*, in the name of the Church of Scotland, to continue to accompany its partners in Palestine and Israel and to remain in the land of Christ's birth in solidarity with all who seek peace and justice.
4. Encourage individuals, congregations, and Presbyteries to make visits to encounter and support the contemporary Christian community (and their neighbours of other faiths), hearing their needs and listening to their concerns, in both Israel and Palestine; offer solidarity with those suffering under occupation or discrimination; and be in touch with the Council and the Mission Partners to help in making connections.
5. Encourage those going on pilgrimages to support Church of Scotland institutions by patronising the St Andrew's Guesthouse in Jerusalem and the Scots Hotel in Tiberias, recognising that income from them funds the Church's work with vulnerable communities.
6. Continue to call for a comprehensive peace based on justice and respect for the equal rights of all people.
7. Repeat the call for the UK Government to recognise the State of Palestine.
8. Encourage all agencies of the Church to continue to engage with organisations (Israeli, Palestinian & International) which are working to end the Israeli occupation through non-violent means.
9.
  - a) Express renewed concern and regret that 300 olive trees are under a demolition order at the Tent of Nations, and reaffirm the Church of Scotland's commitment to the Tent of Nations and their Christian witness of non-violence;
  - b) Instruct the Council\*\* to assist the Tent of Nations in creating a sacred space for worship amongst the threatened olive groves, and further invite other agencies and congregations to help and identify with this project, and
  - c) Encourage the congregation of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias to develop this natural sanctuary as a place of worship, including the regular celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
10. Join the international community in condemning the illegal expansion of Settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which have become a major impediment to peace and a viable two-state solution.
11. Affirm that Jerusalem must be a city shared by Israelis and Palestinians.
12. Understanding the rapidly deteriorating situation for the Palestinian people, encourage all members, and instruct all agencies of the Church of Scotland to ensure that the Church actively engages in advocacy to highlight the desperate situation of the Palestinian community and the need for a comprehensive peace with justice in Israel and Palestine.
13. Noting the call for 2019 to be a Kairos-year for the worldwide Christian community, encourage all parts of the Church to engage in actions which support freedom, justice and peace for the Palestinian people.
14. Encourage all members and agencies of the Church to engage with the Sabeel Kairos 'Investing for Peace: a guide for local church activists' and consider the key issues of Morally Responsible Investment.
15. Encourage congregations to invite speakers and to buy fairly traded Palestinian goods from Hadeel and other outlets.
16. Instruct the Council\*\* to ensure that the Church's institutions, resources and investments in Israel and Palestine aim for the highest ethical considerations.

17. Encourage participation in 24th of the month events to learn more about and pray for the situation in Israel and Palestine.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Give thanks for the Guild's contribution to the life of the Church at every level.
3. Celebrate the continued and remarkable success of the Guild's Project Partnership Scheme.
4. Encourage Kirk Sessions with Guilds to fully support them.
5. Encourage Kirk Sessions with Guilds to receive a regular report and to fully support Guilds both prayerfully and practically.
6. Note and welcome the decision to hold Guild Week in September.
7. Welcome the change of name for regional groupings from "Presbyterial Council" to "Guilds Together".
8. Approve the amended Constitution, but subject to the following amendment to Appendix 1:  
*Amend the second sentence of section 3.1.2 to read: "However, it is a requirement that there is a majority of Church of Scotland members or adherents on any leadership team that is established."*

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank the Review Group for their work.
3. Instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that no Locum shall start work in a congregation until he or she has been admitted to membership of the PVG Scheme.
4. Instruct Presbyteries to ensure that Interim Moderators are admitted to the membership of the PVG Scheme prior to the appointment of a Locum within a congregation.
5. Instruct Councils, Committees and Safeguarding Coordinators to report promptly to the Safeguarding Service on action taken after advice from the Service has been given in relation to reports of suspected harm and/or abuse.
6. Instruct the Safeguarding Committee to negotiate memoranda of understanding with the Ministries Council\*\*, World Mission Council\*\*, Mission and Discipleship Council\*\*, Church and Society Council\*\*, Social Care Council (CrossReach), Human Resources Department, Communications Department and the Law Department.
7. Instruct Councils\*\* to have clear Safeguarding protocols in place for overseas projects.
8. Instruct Kirk Sessions who send volunteers/employees abroad to ensure that they are safely recruited, and that congregational volunteers/workers who host children/vulnerable groups from abroad are also safely recruited.
9. Instruct Kirk Sessions (via the Safeguarding Coordinator), Presbyteries and other employing agencies of the Church, to notify the Safeguarding Service promptly when the criteria for referral to Disclosure Scotland (Duty to Refer) have been met in respect of a person undertaking regulated work.

10. Note that the Safeguarding Service will undertake periodic audit of PVG compliance and safeguarding practice via independent audit of congregational registers and audit checklists (SG7 and SG11).
11. Instruct Kirk Sessions to send electronically forms SG7 and SG11 to Presbytery.
12. Instruct Presbyteries to forward electronically forms SG7 and SG11 to the Safeguarding Service on conclusion of their annual inspection of records.
13. Instruct Presbyteries to hold a Presbytery Safeguarding Register and forward this electronically to the Safeguarding Service on conclusion of their annual inspection of records.
14. Instruct Kirk Sessions to conduct Basic Disclosure Checks on all individuals (regardless of their employment status) in their congregations in leadership roles and/or positions of trust, including but not limited to organists, church officers/caretakers and cafe workers, where their duties may involve contact with vulnerable groups as referred to in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.
15. Thank all the volunteers who give of their time to promote and embed good safeguarding practices across the Church and for the excellent work they undertake.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

### **IONA COMMUNITY BOARD**

#### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Congratulate the Iona Community on the work to refurbish Iona Abbey.
3. Join the Iona Community in expressing gratitude to all those who have supported the Capital appeal.
4. Congratulate the Community on the creative and inspiring work which has continued in Carlton Court in Glasgow, at Camas on Mull, on Iona and through the life of the distributed membership.
5. Commend Wild Goose Resource Group and Wild Goose Publications for their creative and inspirational innovation in worship and their development of high quality resources, most of which are downloadable.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

### **CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL**

#### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and Supplementary Report.

#### **Mull of Kintyre Helicopter Crash: 2 June 1994**

2. In relation to the Chinook helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994:
  - (a) conscious that 2 June 2019 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the crash, assure the families of those who lost their lives that the Church of Scotland continues to keep them in its thoughts and prayers, and
  - (b) aware that the Ministry of Defence is currently reviewing all the records of the case of the crash, and because of the understandable anxiety of the families, urge the Ministry of Defence to ensure that all the records be kept in a safe place and not deleted.

#### **Building an Economy Driven by Equality**

3. Welcome the devolution of social security benefits, including Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Carer's Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Discretionary Housing Payments and Winter Fuel Payments, to the Scottish Government, and urge the Scottish Government to actively use all these available powers to alleviate poverty within communities across Scotland.
4. Welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce automatic split payments to Universal Credit claimants and urge the implementation of this policy with all possible haste.
5. Welcome the Scottish Government's use of experience panels which inform policy on welfare and encourage the UK Government to consider doing likewise to ensure that the voices of people who have direct experience of the welfare system are heard.
6. Welcome the UK Government's announcement that children born before 2017 are permanently exempted from the two child policy and urge them to withdraw the policy in its entirety.
7. Encourage the Scottish Government to engage with faith groups as they seek to implement the Funeral Costs Plan.
8. Welcome the Edinburgh Declaration and instruct the Council\*\* to continue working alongside the Islamic Finance Council in striving towards a better and sustainable financial system.

### **Caring for Creation**

9. Recognise and affirm the declarations of the Scottish Government, the UK parliament and others, that we are experiencing a climate and ecological emergency.
10. Note the Committee on Climate Change's "Net Zero" report which supports the intention of the Scottish Government to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2045 and commit the Church to playing its part in making this a reality.
11. Urge all congregations to become eco-congregations and to consider what transformative actions they can take to help the transition to a low carbon economy in their lives, their finances, communities and worship and with a concerted effort to immediately reduce the use of single-use plastics in our church buildings.
12. Instruct the Council\*\* to engage with the Scottish Government to encourage food manufacturers and supermarkets to eliminate single-use plastics.
13. Note the engagement to date with oil and gas companies and instruct the Council\*\* to report on the outcome to the Assembly of 2020.
14. Encourage congregations to be mindful of their green footprint through the use of products using palm oil and, wherever possible, choose products which use sustainable palm oil.
15. Thank the Church of Scotland Investors Trust for their continuing work to prioritise Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance.

### **Doing Politics Differently**

16. Instruct the Council\*\* to continue to facilitate informed public conversation about our future relationship with Europe.
17. Recognise that good local decision making requires the people who will be affected by a decision to be involved in making it, and instruct the Council\*\* to use the views expressed in the Democracy Matters community consultation events to engage with local and national policy makers on the future of local decision making.
18.
  - a) Recognise the importance of free and fair media to healthy politics which promotes the common good and express concern about a polarising climate in which accusations of 'fake news' and perceptions of 'media bias' are undermining public debate; and
  - b) instruct the Council\*\* to explore how the Church can work with its ecumenical partners and other civil society organisations to promote and support free and fair media, in ways which are informed by our record of support for the *Fair Trade* movement and report to the General Assembly of 2021.

### **Building Global Friendships**

19. Welcome the creation of the New Scots Integration Project and the partnership between Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, the Scottish Refugee Council, Bridges Programme and The Workers' Educational Association (WEA Scotland) and encourage congregations to consider hosting an awareness-raising event as part of the speaking programme element of the project.
20.
  - a) Congratulate Sabir Zazai, Chief Executive of the Scottish Refugee Council, on being awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Glasgow in recognition of his contribution to people seeking refugee protection;
  - b) instruct the Council\*\* to continue its advocacy to restore dignity and compassion to the UK's asylum, refugee and immigration policies and to seek an end to the 'hostile environment' for migrants by the UK Government in both words and actions; and
  - c) encourage congregations to mark Refugee Sunday on 23 June 2019 and to contact Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees ([www.sfar.org.uk](http://www.sfar.org.uk)) for information about prayers and worship resources.
21. Note that the Eurodiaconia AGM was held in Scotland in March 2019 and thank our European partners for their visit; recognise the work that Eurodiaconia and its member organisations have done in tackling xenophobia and exclusion at a time of rising far-right populism and hate speech across Europe.
22. Urge all Scottish and UK politicians, media commentators, and individuals on social media, to choose words which build up respect and promote human dignity while always deploring rhetoric that seeks to dehumanise and divide.
23. Call on the UK Government to impose a moratorium on UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia, given the humanitarian catastrophe and suffering that the people of Yemen are going through, which is being fuelled by the Saudi-led involvement in the conflict.
24. Welcome the UK Government's statement regarding the situation in Brunei, opposing capital and corporal punishment, supporting LGBT+ rights and urge the UK Government to make clear to the Brunei Government that no one should face persecution because of who they are or whom they love.

#### **Ensuring the Health and Wellbeing of All**

25. Celebrate the role of congregations in supporting people in spirit, mind and body and pay tribute to the work of CrossReach as it provides specialist support to those in extreme need.
26. Note with concern that some of the ethical implications of genome editing, personalised medicine and related technologies have not been fully explored, and encourage the Society, Religion and Technology Project in their work around these issues.
27. Commend the work of the SRT in the area of digital technologies, and encourage further work in relation to social media issues.
28. Recognise the growing demographic of people within society who are isolated or experiencing chronic loneliness, recognise the good work done by many churches in regard to tackling these issues, and encourage congregations to consider new ways in which they might tackle loneliness.

#### **Flourishing Local Communities**

29. Welcome the publication of "A Connected Scotland", the Scottish Government's strategy for tackling isolation and loneliness in Scotland, and urge them to engage meaningfully with the third sector and local faith communities as they implement the strategy.
30. Encourage congregations to continue their involvement in initiatives which seek to transform the lives of prisoners, ex-offenders and their families, including ways of working with the new Community Custody Units.
31. Celebrate the role of local congregations and other faith-based and secular partners they work alongside as catalysts for change in local neighbourhoods.
32. Encourage congregations and church members to take part in opportunities to improve community connectedness, through engagement with organisations like "Be More Us", "The Big Lunch", "Contact The Elderly's Tea Party with Friends", or working in partnership with local organisations.

33. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore ways by which congregations can promote stories of flourishing communities and capture local learning.
34. Instruct the Council\*\* in collaboration with other Councils and external partners to develop resources that allow local congregations and church members to enhance existing or develop new initiatives using an asset-based approach to community building.

#### **Definition of Antisemitism**

35. Note with concern that antisemitic incidents in the UK are at a record high for the third year in a row; and recommend that the Church of Scotland, in line with the UK and Scottish governments, the Church of England and others, adopt for internal use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, and its guidelines, to aid it in challenging antisemitism.

#### **Investing in Young People**

36. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore how the work that it undertakes relating to young people and families might be brought together with that of other Councils also working in this area and report back to the 2020 General Assembly.
37. While commending the Appendix to the Report on Young People and Education Action Group, instruct the Council\*\* to retain and develop the Church's longstanding concern for and influence on education in the widest sense.
38. Note that the earliest years in a child's life (pre-birth to three) are some of the most significant in determining the life outcomes of a child; affirm the significant number of congregations which are involved in supporting children and families in these early years; and instruct the Council\*\* to support and learn from these congregations.
39. Welcome the commitment from the Scottish Government to introduce a new income supplement for families on low incomes; and urge them to introduce the supplement at the earliest possible opportunity.
40. Call on the Scottish Government to consider delivering the Income Supplement for families on low incomes by topping up Child Benefit, which could immediately lift thousands of children out of poverty.
41. Welcome the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's move to update its guidance so that the recommended minimum age of criminal responsibility is set at 14, and encourage the Scottish Government to reflect this new international minimum standard in Scots Law.
42. Note the changes to the Scripture Union Scotland Ethos Statement which adversely affects volunteers, and the potential impact this could have with chaplains, schools and young people and instruct the Council\*\*, in collaboration with the Mission and Discipleship Council\*\*, to hold meaningful conversations with SU Scotland regarding this issue.

#### **Gender Justice Initiative**

43. Welcome the progress made in year one of the Gender Justice Initiative, note the cross Council nature of this work and urge all Councils and Committees to consider how best to engage with the initiative within their own remit.
44. Note the importance of partnership working with ecumenical, interfaith, civil society and international partners to promote gender justice and tackle injustice and recognise the additional expertise and reach this gives to our work.

#### **Violence against Women, Girls and Children**

45. Commend the new information resources produced by the Church of Scotland's Violence Against Women Task Group, Integrity.
46. Encourage congregations to use these resources as a basis for a wider conversation on how these issues impact those in the life of their church.
47. Invite Kirk Sessions and congregations who have begun these conversations to sign up to and display the Church of Scotland's Violence against Women Charter.

#### **Our Future relationship with Europe**

48. Call on Parliamentarians across the UK to actively seek to build consensus about the future of relationship between the UK and the EU across the four nations of the UK.

49. Encourage congregations to create spaces within our communities for people to come together, to listen, to reflect and pray, to learn from and to celebrate one another.
50. Call on the UK and Scottish Governments to guarantee that the impact of the UK departing from the EU will not increase financial inequality in the UK.
51. Commend the Scottish Government for the support and welcome it continues to show to citizens of other EU nations who are resident in Scotland.
52. Call on the UK Government to retain the right of freedom of movement and residence for persons in the EU.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## **GENERAL TRUSTEES**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and Accounts of the General Trustees.
2. Note the Land & Buildings Plan Consultation Paper and instruct the General Trustees to report to the 2020 General Assembly.
3. Instruct Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage with the consultation process.
4. Note the main risks facing the General Trustees and encourage them to address the balance of skills, gender and geographical location in the appointment of new Trustees and Advisory Members.
5. Welcome the evidence of effective involvement with external organisations.
6. Note the outcome of the Working Group on Property Asset Transfer.
7. Welcome the introduction of a wholly renewable green tariff for the new electricity supply contract under the Trustees Energy Procurement Scheme.
8. Welcome the appointment of a Fire Safety Officer and a Health & Safety Officer as a further resource for congregations and Presbyteries.
9. Note the Memorandum of Understanding between the General Trustees and the Committee on Church Art and Architecture.
10. Welcome the appointment on a trial basis of an Audio-Visual Consultant to provide independent advice to congregations.
11. Appoint Mr Manliffe Goodbody MA FSCI AFAC IAC, Mr John W Maddock BSc PGCE, Rev Fiona M Mathieson BEd BD PGCommEd MTh, and Mr Kenneth M Wright MSc as General Trustees.
12. Appoint Mr Raymond K Young CBE BArch(Hons) FRIAS as Chairman for the ensuing year.
13. Appoint Mr Ian T Townsend FRICS as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.
14. Authorise payment of remuneration of £1,820 to each of Mr Raymond K Young as Chairman and Mr Roger G G Dodd as Vice-Chairman for the past year.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## **PANEL ON REVIEW AND REFORM**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Encourage congregations and Kirk Sessions to reflect on the learning outcomes of the Path of Renewal pilot and seek to apply these locally.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

**JOINT REPORT OF THE PANEL ON REVIEW & REFORM, THE THEOLOGICAL FORUM,  
THE COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONS AND THE LEGAL QUESTIONS  
COMMITTEE ON SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the establishing of a Joint Working Group, comprised of the Ministries Council\*\*, the Mission and Discipleship Council\*\*, the Theological Forum, the Committee on Ecumenical Relations and the Legal Questions Committee to develop proposals, based on the principles articulated in the Joint Report, for ordination to a form of the ministry of Word and Sacrament shaped by the context of the emerging Church, and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

**ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Committee to facilitate conversations with other churches on how we might share in Christian mission and service in fulfilment of our vocation as a national church with a distinctive evangelical and pastoral concern for the people and nation of Scotland.
3. Approve the Local Ecumenical Strategy of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations.
4. Instruct the Committee to carry out a review of the Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) model with respect to its effectiveness in enabling local mission.
5. Note the process outlined with respect to the establishing of a Scottish Christian Forum.
6. Approve the National and International Ecumenical Strategy of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations.
7. Endorse the working methodology adopted by the Our Common Calling Working Group.
8. Thank the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison for his service as Co-Chair of the Columba Declaration Contact Group.
9. Affirm the commitment of the Church of Scotland to participate in the Thy Kingdom Come Global Prayer Initiative in 2019, and beyond, and encourage congregations and Presbyteries to participate in the Initiative.
10. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, as detailed in Appendix II.
11. Note the appointment of representatives to ecumenical bodies, as detailed in Appendix III.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

**THEOLOGICAL FORUM**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend “He is Our Peace”: Reconciliation in the Church Today to Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and others in the Church for study and reflection.
3. Encourage the Forum to give consideration to hosting conferences to promote and encourage biblical and theological reflection.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## **COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY’S FORCES**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank those who serve in Her Majesty’s Forces as Chaplains for their service to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel, their families and the wider military community.
3. Recognise the particular service of those Chaplains who have served in operational deployments in the past year and give thanks for the support of their families.
4. Commend to the prayers of the Church all Chaplains and all those whom they serve.
5. Encourage eligible ministers of the Church to consider service as a Chaplain to HM Forces, Regular or Reservist.
6. Urge Presbyteries to ensure prospective expressions of interest from potential chaplains are intimated as soon as possible to the recruitment staff of the relevant chaplaincy service.
7. Encourage those eligible to consider service as Chaplains in any of the cadet organisations, and thank all serving Cadet Chaplains.
8. Congratulate the Royal Air Force Chaplains’ Branch on its centenary celebrated in summer 2018, and the Royal Army Chaplains Department on the recent celebration of the centenary of the grant of the ‘Royal’ prefix in 1919.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## **MINISTRIES COUNCIL**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Affirm the original aims of the *Decade for Ministry* which is to see an increase in the number of those in the ministry of the Church of Scotland and for these ministers to be properly trained, supported and deployed for the mission of the Church in contemporary Scotland.
3. Affirm the Church’s commitment to ministry for deaf people in Scotland and instruct the Council\*\* to review the terms and conditions of ministers for the deaf, in accordance with a review of the associated legislation relating to their appointment, deployment and duties and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
4. Affirm the work of the Priority Areas Committee described in Section 2 and instruct the Council\*\* to continue to develop its work according to the principles outlined in *Section 2.2.2* of the Report.
5. Instruct the Council\*\* to work with Presbyteries in ensuring that posts allocated through the Priority Areas weighting are allocated to work in Priority Areas.

6. Instruct the Council\*\* to work with those leading on delivery of the Radical Action Plan to ensure the learning from Priority Area congregations is incorporated in the ongoing development and implementation of the Plan.
7. Affirm the Priority Area Committee's work in developing mentoring and instruct the Council\*\* to report on this work to the General Assembly of 2020.
8. Affirm the work of the Chance to Thrive project and instruct the Council\*\* to review the impact of this work and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
9. Encourage congregations and Kirk Sessions to utilise the deprivation statistics that have been developed for every parish to further mission and work with communities to challenge poverty.
10. Encourage congregations and Kirk Sessions to use the Priority Areas worship resources developed for Challenge Poverty Week.
11. Note with concern the levels of financial hardship being experienced by some Candidates and Probationers, and instruct the Council\*\* to bring to the General Assembly of 2020 a revised model for the financial support of Candidates and Probationers for Full-Time Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the Diaconate.
12. Encourage the Council\*\*, as they explore the future of candidates in training, to consider the possibility of changing the probation period to 12 months, with a final review after 9 months, to enable those with families to enter their first charge at the start of the academic year.
13. Affirm the Formation Framework for Full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament and instruct the Council\*\* to report to the General Assembly of 2020 on Formation Frameworks for other Recognised Ministries.
14. Instruct the Council\*\*, in consultation with Academic Partners to develop a new Curriculum for Candidates for Full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
15. Instruct the Council\*\* to bring a recommendation to the General Assembly of 2020 for the future provision of Initial Ministerial Education, having consulted those currently in training or having just finished their training, as to their experiences and needs, noting that this will contain a recommendation as to which Academic Partners should provide this training following an open and transparent selection process (*Section 3.1.12*), and also noting that that this is likely to involve the selection of one or two Academic Partners, or a reconfiguration of academic partnerships in collaborative models that will deliver consistent education and training across the country (*Section 3.1.11*).
16. Note the Resilience and Wellbeing in Ministry Research and instruct the Council\*\* to continue to explore the implications and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.
17. Affirm the findings of the Recruitment Review and the changes initiated; and instruct the Council\*\* to continue its work in implementing further recommendations.
18. Instruct the Council\*\*, jointly with the Legal Questions Committee, and in consultation with the International Presbytery, to consider whether to bring forward proposals for a Scheme whereby for charges in the International Presbytery it would be possible to introduce a minister who is not a minister of the Church of Scotland, or otherwise falling within the provisions of s.18 of Act VIII 2003 (as amended), to a charge in the International Presbytery on his/her being granted by the Council a Restricted Certificate of Eligibility covering only charges in the International Presbytery, such Certificate being obtainable through an expedited procedure approved by the Recruitment Task Group of the Council, and otherwise subject to the provisions of s.6(b)(ii) (A) to (F) of Act IX 2002 (as amended).
19. Pass Acts amending the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry [Act X 2004] and the Ordained Local Ministry [Act IX 2011] as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.
20. Instruct the Council\*\* to consider reviewing the terms of the Selection and Training for Full Time Ministry Act (Act X 2004), section 3 (3), so as to allow for some discretionary flexibility in the age by which an applicant must complete the required course.
21. Note with thanks the dedicated service of Rev Ann Inglis as Senior Director of Assessment and welcome the appointment of Rev Donald Campbell as her successor in this role.

22. Encourage those in ministry to use the Ascend resources and website, and encourage Presbyteries to review their pastoral care provision in relation to the services offered through Ascend.
23. Welcome the funding of Pastoral Supervision encourage those in ministry to take advantage of this opportunity.
24. Instruct all those serving in the recognised ministries of the Church, including ordained Ministers, Deacons, Readers and all paid employees in parish appointments as defined in section 16(1) of Act VII 2003, to familiarise themselves with the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct.
25. Note the intention of the Council\*\* to review the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct and report to a future General Assembly.
26. Note the intention of the Council\*\* to review the guidelines in matters of Death in Service.
27. Pass the Transfer between Ministries Act as set out in Appendix 3.
28. Pass the Income Protection and Ill Health Act as set out in Appendix 4, with section 9 thereof amended to read as set out in the correction published on pages 15 and 16 of the Assembly Papers.
29. Note the majority support amongst Presbyteries for the use of advisory figures for Presbytery planning, and instruct the Council\*\* to continue to monitor the impact of this policy and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
30. Instruct the Council\*\* when preparing the vacancy listings to identify those Kirk Sessions who have voted to depart under the terms of Act I 2015.
31. Pass Acts amending the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003) and the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) as set out in Appendix 5 and Appendix 6.
32. Instruct the Council\*\* to consult with Presbyteries to review any vacant Ministries Development Staff posts in their Presbytery Plans and instruct Presbyteries to respond to the Council by December 2019.
33. Approve the temporary pause on the recruitment of Ministries Development Staff (MDS) posts from May to October 2019 (meaning that that there will be no posts newly advertised or re-advertised during this period other than (i) posts in Shetland and (ii) posts associated with Hub-style ministry initiatives already identified within the Council's pilot project), and instruct the Council\*\*, by November 2019, to implement a process for allowing the maximum sustainable number of MDS posts to be filled.
34. Instruct the Council\*\*, when framing the new Vacancy Procedures Act and reviewing the Appraisal and Adjustment Act, to consider incorporating the following principle: that no charge should, in future, be granted leave to call a minister on an unrestricted basis, but that tenure should instead be granted on a reviewable basis of no more than 7 years and to report to the General Assembly of 2021.
35. Instruct the Council\*\* to bring to the General Assembly of 2020 an evaluation of current Hub-style ministry pilots and potential guidelines for developing further Hub-style ministries.
36. Instruct the Council\*\* to report on an interim evaluation and the potential outcomes of the Pioneer Ministry Pilot to the General Assembly of 2020.
37. Affirm the decision of the Council to delay all new applications for New Charge Developments (NCDs) until General Assembly 2020 whilst a strategy for church planting is developed in the light of the Radical Action Plan, and instruct the Council\*\* to bring this strategy to the General Assembly of 2020.
38. Note the Property Policy of the Council regarding the disposal of, or changing arrangements relating to, property in their portfolio.
39. Instruct the Council\*\* to bring forward a review of Readership, with particular focus on in-service training, superintendence and any necessary changes to the Readership Act to the General Assembly 2020.
40. Instruct Kirk Sessions to implement proposals for the payment of Ordained Local Ministers (OLMs) and Auxiliary Ministers in vacancies, guardianships or covering leave, according to the principles outlined in *Section 4.10.3.1* of the Report, from 1st January 2020.

41. Instruct the Council\*\* to continue to support and develop Auxiliary and Ordained Local Ministry as a non-stipendiary ministry, and review the place of non-stipendiary ministry in the Church of Scotland and report to the General Assembly of 2022.
42. Pass Regulations amending the *Go For It* Fund Regulations (Regulations IV 2012) (as amended) as set out in Appendix 7, but subject always to the deletion of paragraph 3 in Appendix 7.
43. Convey the good wishes of the General Assembly to all those attending the 25th Anniversary Diakonia Region Africa Europe Assembly in Musselburgh in June 2019, and to the Church of Scotland Diaconate who will be hosting this event.
44. Instruct the Council\*\* to continue its ongoing work with regard to the employment & deployment of Deacons, in consultation with the Diaconal Council and Ministerial Development Staff Consultancy Group, and to bring forward any recommendations for changes to the General Assembly 2020.
45. Commend the work of the *Go For It* Fund, affirm it as being instrumental in delivering missional initiatives in local communities and encourage other Councils and Committees to draw on the learning and experience of funded projects when developing their own work.
46. Encourage Presbyteries to publicise the work of the *Go For It* Fund among congregations, highlighting it as a possible source of funding for innovation, mission and goals arising out of Local Church Review action plans.
47. Affirm the work of Place for Hope, congratulating them on their 10th Anniversary, commending the Autumn Conference on Reconciliation, and encourage Presbyteries and congregations to engage earlier with Place for Hope in times of change and conflict.
48. Affirm the ministry of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland, and encourage Presbyteries with Work Place Chaplains in post to develop links and relationships between parish, presbytery and workplace chaplaincy.
49.
  - a) Remind Presbyteries to ensure that the procedures contained in Regulations VIII 2003 (Regulations Anent Maternity, Paternity, and Adoption Leave and Pay for Ministers) are properly implemented when appropriate, so that both ministers and congregations are fully supported.
  - b) Ask the Council\*\*, in consultation with the Assembly Business Committee, to consider the possibility of providing childcare cover or childcare financial reimbursement for those serving as Commissioners at the General Assembly.
50. Affirm the work of Prison Chaplaincy and the refreshed Chaplaincy Agreement between the Scottish Prison Service and the Church of Scotland.
51. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore how the work it undertakes relating to young people and families might be brought together with that of other Councils also working in this area and report to the General Assembly 2020.
52. Instruct the Council\*\* to review all allowances and expenses and report back to the General Assembly of 2020.
53. Instruct the Council\*\* to develop proposals for structures which would enable it to consult with Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Readers and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.
54. Instruct the Council\*\* to bring an outline timetable to the General Assembly of 2020 in respect of providing a detailed report on the issue of manse occupation, such a report to include but not be limited to:
  - a) the sustainability of current practice;
  - b) a serious exploration of a 'mixed economy' allowing the possibility of ministers living in their own homes;
  - c) the provision of manses to Associate Ministers, Deacons and Ministries Development Staff where appropriate; and
  - d) consultation with HMRC, General Trustees, other denominations and other relevant parties.

## **JOINT EMERGING CHURCH GROUP**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Affirm the proposed Strategy of the Joint Emerging Church Group (JECG) and instruct the JECG to work with Ministries Council\*\* and Mission and Discipleship Council\*\* in ensuring the allocation of appropriate resources, including financial resources, to enable its implementation, and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
3. Instruct the JECG to oversee the development of the third phase of the Path of Renewal project, to continue the evaluation of the project against its key objectives, and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
4. Welcome the research paper 'Inspiring New Worshipping Communities – Pathways for Pioneer Ministry and Church Planting in the Church of Scotland', and urge Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to engage with the report as it appears in Appendix I.
5. Affirm the two key goals of 'Inspiring New Worshipping Communities' to:-
  - a. establish local pathways to enable the creation of new worshipping communities, with effect from 1st July 2020
  - b. support the formation of 100 new worshipping communities within the Church of Scotland over the next decade.
6. Instruct the JECG to develop concrete proposals for the formation of new worshipping communities in the Church of Scotland, according to the principles outlined in Section 7.3, this work to include:-
  - a. consultation with the Assembly Trustees\* in developing and beginning the implementation of proposals for suitable national support, including financial support, to support the creation of new worshipping communities, and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
  - b. consultation with Ministries Council\*\* and Presbyteries in establishing proposals for the support of new worshipping communities through appropriate regional support and through Presbytery planning, and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
  - c. consultation with Legal Questions Committee in developing any legislation which may be required to encourage the establishment of new worshipping communities, and report to the General Assembly of 2020.
  - d. consultation with Ministries Council\*\* and Mission and Discipleship Council\*\* to establish appropriate training for the leaders of new worshipping communities.
7. Instruct the JECG to establish a proper framework for evaluation (reporting to the General Assembly of 2020) and independent research (reporting from the General Assembly of 2022, as outlined in Section 8) of the implementation of its proposals for the creation of new worshipping communities.
8. Encourage Presbyteries to consider running a Going for Growth workshop, and to contact the JECG with a view to doing so.
9. Instruct the JECG to encourage growth in all Church of Scotland congregations through the development of its online toolkit, published resources, Presbytery events and national conferences.

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

**CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the arrangements made for the Chalmers Lectures.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the appointment of Hugh McKee as a Trustee of all three Schemes.
3. Note the Report on Governance Structures and on Scheme Administration (Section 2) and acknowledge the work of the Trustees.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

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

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report and thank the Trustees and Staff.
2. Re-appoint Rev A McCafferty as a Trustee of the Fund.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

**CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES**

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
3. Re-appoint Mr John Hodge and the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood as members of the Trust from 1 June 2019.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Mr B J Duffin as Chairman of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2019.
3. Appoint Mr R D Burgon as Vice-Chairman of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2019.
4. Approve the re-appointments of Ms E Crichton, Mr J G Wilson and Mr M G S Yuille as members of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2019.
5. Approve the appointment of Mr R Black as Trustee from 1 June 2019.
6. Approve the appointment of Mr G A Young as Trustee from 1 June 2019.
7. Urge the Investors Trust, in the interest of transparency, to publish a list as an appendix to the annual report of all shareholdings of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust.
8. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2018.
9. Urge the Investors Trust to explore adding 'fracking' to the list of exclusions as soon as possible.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Following decisions made under the Report of the Special Commission on Structural Reform:-
  - a) Declare that where instruction is given to the Council of Assembly in sections of Deliverance this should be interpreted as giving instruction to the Assembly Trustees.
  - b) Instruct the Clerks to amend the Collated Deliverance and the Minute by replacing, where appropriate, "the Council of Assembly" with "the Assembly Trustees".
  - c) Declare that in those sections of Deliverance which make reference to the Ministries Council, the Mission and Discipleship Council, the Church and Society Council and the World Mission Council it shall be understood that such instructions or encouragements which may be or have been given by the General Assembly shall be taken to also apply to those Groups which may be appointed as successor bodies by the Commission of Assembly to be held in accordance with the decision of this General Assembly made in section 8 (previously 6) of the Deliverance on the Report of the Special Commission.

- d) Instruct the Clerks to amend the Collated Deliverance and the Minute by adding after references to these Councils text to indicate that the instructions or encouragements of the General Assembly apply to those Groups which may be appointed as successor bodies to these Councils by the Commission of Assembly as aforesaid.
- e) Declare that where instruction is given to the Assembly Arrangements Committee in sections of Deliverance this should be interpreted as giving instruction to the Assembly Business Committee.
- f) Instruct the Clerks to amend the Collated Deliverance and the Minute by replacing, where appropriate, “the Assembly Arrangements Committee” with “the Assembly Business Committee”.

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint the Rev Rosemary Frew as Convener of the Ministries Council.
3. Make alterations to Standing Committees and Councils as set forth in the Report subject to the following alterations:

*Delete:*

#### **Assembly Arrangements Committee**

*Members Appointed* David Inglis (Monifieth), Beryl Luke (Kirkcaldy: St Bryce Kirk) (1 yr)

#### **Council of Assembly**

*Member Appointed* Norma Rolls\* (Edinburgh: Palmerston Place)

#### **Panel on Review and Reform**

*Ministers Appointed* Walter Carswell (Hamilton: Cadzow) (2yr), Andre Groenewald\* (Edinburgh: Balerno)

*Member Appointed* Geoffrey Monk (Crossmichael, Parton and Balmaghie)

*Add:*

#### **Ministries Council**

*Vice-Convener Resigned* Eleanor McMahon

*Vice-Convener Appointed* Ruth Halley (Logie)

*Ministers Appointed* Scott McCarthy (Glasgow: Garthamlock and Craigend East), Eleanor McMahon (Glasgow: Govan and Linthouse) (2 yrs)

*Member Resigned* Catriona Munro

#### **Theological Forum**

*Member Retiring* Gavin Brydone

#### **World Mission Council**

*Minister Appointed* Susan Brown (Dornoch Cathedral)

*Member Resigned* Jenni Barr

#### **Assessors in terms of Section 1(4) of the Discipline Act (Act I 2019)**

Gordon Barclay and David Stihler (both being solicitors employed in the Church’s Law Department)

*Amend:*

#### **Ministries Council**

*Vice-Convener:* *Delete* ‘David McLachlan’ *and substitute* ‘Bob Mallinson’

GEORGE J WHYTE

## SELECTION COMMITTEE

### The General Assembly:

1. Appoint the following eight members to a new Assembly Business Committee to replace the Assembly Arrangements Committee with effect from 1 June 2019:

Rev Fiona Smith, Convener (3 years)

Rev Donald McCorkindale, Vice-Convener (2 years)

*Ministers:*

Rev Sheila Kirk (1 year)

Rev Michael Mair (2 years)

Rev Alison Mehigan (3 years)

Rev Gillian Paterson (2 years)

*Elders:*

Mrs Susan Pym (1 year)

Dr Graeme Roberts (3 years)

2. Appoint the following Committee to Nominate the Moderator:

*Ministers and Deacons:*

Rev J Colin Caskie 487

Rev Dr David Coulter 688

Rev Stewart Goudie 628

Rev Paul G R Grant 198

Rev Maggie Hunt 531

Ms Joanna Love DCS 311

Rev John M Povey 62

Rev Heather Stewart 655

*Elders:*

Miss Ann Brown 578

Mr Alan Grant 203

Mr Daniel Gunn 423

Mr Andrew Mackenzie 294

Mr Robin Murdoch 205

Mrs Hilda O Smith 557

Dr Dot A Weaks 504

3. Appoint the following five people to serve on the Special Commission on the Effectiveness of the Presbyterian Form of Church Government:

Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, Convener

Rev Dr Alexander Forsyth

Rev Dr Frances Henderson

Rev Alexander Horsburgh

Rev Moira McDonald

4. Appoint the following twelve Assembly Trustees, each to serve from 1 June 2019:

Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, Convener (3 years)

Mrs Norma Rolls, Vice Convener (2 years)

James McNeill QC, Administrative Trustee (3 years)

Professor Brian Ashcroft (2 years)

Alan Campbell CBE (2 years)

Sandra Carter (1 year)  
Rev George Cowie (2 years)  
Jamie Lockhart (3 years)  
Dr Gary MacFarlane MBE (1 year)  
Rev Anikó Schüetz Bradwell (3 years)  
Very Rev Professor Iain Torrance (1 year)  
David Watt (1 year)

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*Cl Eccl Scot*

## **MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL**

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Affirm that the Council's\*\* first priority over the period 2019-2021 is to encourage the creation and deepening of a culture of discipleship.
3. Thank the congregations who piloted the Conversations materials and instruct the Council\*\* to promote them further.
4. Encourage the Council\*\* to prepare appropriate resources for congregations to explore ways of making Church an accessible and welcoming place for the 'Millennial Generation' and 'Generation X'.
5. Instruct Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage with the characteristics of discipleship and explore how they are worked out in their own local context.
6. Affirm the importance of the National Youth Assembly in the life of the Church and in particular its role in providing young adults with the opportunity to form community with one another, to participate in leadership positions, and to be empowered through involvement with the decision making processes of the national church.
7. Instruct the Council\*\* to offer Young Adult (18-30) Residential Events from 2019/2020, and Young People (11-18) Residential Events from 2020/21, subject to available resources.
8. Instruct the Council\*\* to commission an initial Youth Attitudes Survey.
9. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore the feasibility of developing an app for young people, and to develop appropriate social media channels in the meantime.
10. Instruct the Council\*\* to begin work on developing resources around what it means to have young people involved in decision-making in the Church.
11. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore the value and feasibility of a pilot co-mentoring scheme and to report back to a future General Assembly.
12. Instruct the Council\*\* to work with Presbyteries on developing regional events to encourage engagement by and involvement of children and young people, and to support a culture of questioning.
13. Encourage Presbyteries and groupings in local areas to develop frequent regional gatherings, such as small groups, for discipling young people.
14. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore the value of a National Week of Service and report to a future General Assembly.
15. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to consider a new method of Presbytery youth representation at the General Assembly, including exploration of how to compensate for the loss of the ten National Youth Assembly representatives.
16. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to explore reducing the minimum age of eldership to 16.
17. Instruct the Theological Forum, to explore the concept of church membership in relation to age.

18. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore rebranding the Church's work with Children and Young People.
19. Instruct the Council\*\*, in consultation with the Church and Society Council\*\*, Ministries Council\*\*, and others as appropriate, to explore the feasibility of a distinct Children and Youth Committee, and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.
20. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore with the Assembly Trustees\* the prioritisation of resources for working with children and young people.
21. Acknowledge the considerable work undertaken by the National Youth Assembly over the years and encourage people to attend the service of thanksgiving and celebration on 19 October 2019 at Perth: St Matthew's.
22. Acknowledge the work undertaken over the last two years by the two outgoing Church of Scotland Scottish Youth Parliament members, Conor MacFadyen and Rebecca Craig, and continue to pray for the two incoming SYP members, Rebecca Craig (second term) and Lauren Asher (June 2019 – June 2021).
23. Thank & discharge the Young People and the Church of Scotland Working Group.
24. Instruct the Council\*\* to explore the feasibility of ideas emerging from the Worship Audit - specifically a worship resource bank; local worship events; sharing of best practice; signposting to existing resources; and the development of training resources in response to any identified gaps in current Presbytery provision.
25. Encourage the Council\*\* to explore the merits of a new book of Common Order, perhaps as an online resource, recognising the need for new creative liturgies, which are faithful to the principles of Reformed worship, to equip those engaged in pioneer ministry and 'fresh expressions' of church.
26. Encourage congregations to continue to use the Church Without Walls Report and associated materials as a means of re-imagining and refreshing the local Church.
27. Encourage Kirk Sessions and congregations to make best use of Life Stories as they develop a culture of invitation.
28. Urge Kirk Sessions and congregations to engage with the stories and lessons in the book, *Seeing Afresh: Learning from fresh expressions of church*.
29. Give thanks for Life and Work, and its army of volunteer distributors, as the magazine celebrates its 140th anniversary this year.
30. Urge congregations to consider digital or print subscriptions to Life and Work.
31. Urge congregations to explore the discounted cost of advertising a vacant charge or church vacancy in Life and Work to support their search.
32. Urge Kirk Sessions to use the resources listed in Appendix V and to promote their usage in the wider congregation.
33. Encourage the Council\*\* to produce an online supplement to CH4 focussing on contemporary music, recognising that radical reform within our Church requires new forms of worship.

GEORGE J WHYTE  
*CI Eccl Scot*

\* With effect from 1 June 2019, the Council of Assembly is superseded by the Assembly Trustees – see section 2 of the Deliverance of the Special Commission on Structural Reform and sections 1.a) and b) of the Deliverance of the Business Committee

\*\* Instructions or encouragements which may be or have been given by the General Assembly to the Ministries Council, the Mission and Discipleship Council, the Church and Society Council and the World Mission Council shall be taken to also apply to those Groups which may be appointed as successor bodies by the Commission of Assembly to be held by 31 December 2019 - see section 8 of the Deliverance of the Special Commission on Structural Reform and sections 1.c) and d) of the Deliverance of the Business Committee

\*\*\* With effect from 1 June 2019, the Assembly Arrangements Committee is superseded by the Assembly Business Committee – see section 10 of the Deliverance of the Special Commission on Structural Reform and sections 1.e) and f) of the Deliverance of the Business Committee