

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST MAY 2022

Proposed Deliverance

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and thank the members of the Trust for their diligence.
2. Appoint Mr Leon Marshall as Chairman from 1 June 2022.
3. Appoint Mrs Morag Angus as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2022.
4. Re-appoint Mr Angus Bethune and the Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers as members of the Trust from 1 June 2022.
5. Thank Mr W F Stuart Lynch for his 26 years' service to the Trust and Rev Iain Cunningham for his 6 years' service to the Trust.
6. Appoint Mrs Valerie Macniven as a member of the Trust from 1 June 2022.

Report

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

1. THE WORK OF THE TRUST

1.1 General

1.1.1 The function of the Church of Scotland Trust is to hold properties outwith Scotland and to act as a trustee in a number of third party trusts. During the year it has dealt with various matters which have arisen regarding these properties and trusts. Matters of particular significance are noted hereafter.

1.2 Third Party Trusts

1.2.1 The Trust is currently trustee of fifty third party trusts which benefit different areas of the Church's work. In 2007 the Trust instigated a Rolling Review Programme for these trusts. The Trust's Secretary and Clerk undertakes a review of the trusts annually, producing reports on half the third party trust portfolio to each of the February and September/October Trust meetings.

1.3 Pakistan

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

1.3.2 The Trust continue to seek an alternative institution to take over Murray Christian College in Sialkot in order to ensure its future use as a Christian College. Any transfer would be subject to the Government in Pakistan processing the denationalisation of the College.

1.3.3 The Trust and Faith Impact Forum continue to meet regularly with their attorney for Pakistan, Dr Peter David, to monitor developments and agree future strategy. The Trust continues, with the help of Dr David and his many contacts, in its endeavour to transfer its property interests to an appropriate body in terms of the Church of Scotland Trust Order Confirmation Act 1958.

1.3.4 As reported for a number of years, the Trust continues to be a party to a number of court cases involving its property interests in Pakistan. The Trust is legally represented in all these cases but, due to the nature of the Pakistan legal system, it is anticipated that the cases will be ongoing for some time.

1.4 Israel

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

1.5 Act II 2016 – The International Presbytery Act

1.5.1 Since the General Assembly of 2016 all congregations in the Presbytery of International Charges require the approval of both Presbytery and the Church of Scotland Trust for (a) any extensive alterations to their building/s; (b) any property purchase and (c) the lease of any property in excess of one year. The Trust continues to work with the International Presbytery to fulfil these responsibilities. The Trust has given approval for a number of property related matters in the last year.

1.5.2 Every congregation in the Presbytery is required to produce a Property Report to Presbytery each year with details of the management, maintenance and insurance of congregational buildings which is copied to the Trust.

1.5.3 The Trust note the changes which will be required in the Presbytery due to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) and will work with the Presbytery to assist with the implementation of the Act.

2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

2.1 The Trust's Accounts for the year 2021 have been audited and copies thereof are available on request from the Secretary and Clerk.

3. CHAIRMAN

3.1 The term of office of the Chairman of the Trust, Mr Thomas C Watson, will be completed on 31 May 2022. It is recommended that the General Assembly appoint Mr Leon Marshall as Chairman from 1 June 2022.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

4.1 The term of office of the Vice-Chairman of the Trust, Mr W F Stuart Lynch, will be completed on 31 May 2022. It is recommended that the General Assembly appoint Mrs Morag Angus as Vice-Chairman from 1 June 2022.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, the following two members retire by rotation on 31 May 2022 but are eligible for re-appointment: Mr Angus Bethune and the Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers. It is suggested to the General Assembly that Mr Bethune and Dr Chalmers be re-appointed as members of the Trust from 1 June 2022.

5.2 Mr W F Stuart Lynch has intimated his resignation from the Trust with effect from 31 May 2022 and, as the longest serving member of the Trust, members would like to record their sincere gratitude for his dedicated contribution to the work of the Trust since his appointment in 1996. Stuart has served as Vice-Chairman of the Trust since 2018 and his in-depth knowledge of the work of the Trust will be greatly missed.

5.3 Rev Iain Cunningham intimated his resignation from the Trust in February 2022 and members would like to record their appreciation for his contribution to the work of the Trust since 2014.

5.4 It is suggested that Mrs Valerie Macniven be appointed a member of the Trust from 1 June 2022.

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

THOMAS C WATSON, Chairman
W F STUART LYNCH, Vice-Chairman
MADELAINE SPROULE, Secretary & Clerk

Addendum

Mr Thomas C Watson, Chairman

Thomas C Watson was appointed Chairman of the Church of Scotland Trust by the General Assembly of 2018 after serving as Vice-chairman. We take this opportunity on behalf of the Trust to record our thanks to Tom for his leadership during this time. The Trust has benefited from his attention to detail and financial expertise in particular. On behalf of the Church, we would like to record our appreciation to Tom for giving so generously of his time and abilities and we are delighted that he has agreed to continue to serve the Trust as a member.

W F STUART LYNCH, *Vice-Chairman*
MADELAINE SPROULE, *Secretary & Clerk*