

Registration of Ministries Committee speech — General Assembly 2022

Rev Dr Alan J Hamilton

Moderator,

In the unavoidable absence of our excellent convenor, Dr Hazel Hastie, I present the report of the Registration of Ministries Committee.

What a minister or deacon may do, as a minister or deacon, is largely determined by the category of registration held in terms of the Registration of Ministries Act 2017.

Presbyteries have the primary role under the 2017 Act. Every minister or deacon, whether a member of a presbytery or not, falls within the jurisdiction of a presbytery for this purpose.

The Committee's role is to consider a range of applications for a change or extension of the category of registration. In the past year, the Committee has considered three applications for category O registration.

The Committee operates in accordance with procedures and assessment criteria which the 2017 Act sets out. Within those parameters, the Committee looks to the interests of the Church and of the individual applicants, recognising the changing opportunities and challenges facing the Church and its ministers and deacons.

The Committee's membership includes experienced elders and ministers and is supported by expert staff members. And the Committee is keen to learn from Presbyteries and the wider Church.

Moderator, I am not a commissioner. Therefore, I ask the Principal Clerk to move the deliverance.