



# THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

### ASSEMBLY PAPER

SATURDAY 18 MAY – THURSDAY 23 MAY

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*Note: This Paper will be amended/expanded on each of Tuesday 21 May, Wednesday 22 May and Thursday 23 May so please check back on the mornings of those days for the latest version.*

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

# WORSHIP AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

DAY 1 - SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024 - OPENING DAY

SESSION 1: 10.00 AM

## 1. Constitution of Assembly

Prayer

Hymn CH 198: Let us build a house where love can dwell

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe-ly\_\_ live, a\_\_  
place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give; built of  
hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,  
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.\_\_\_\_\_

1. Let us build a house where love  
can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children  
tell  
how hearts learn to forgive;  
built of hopes and dreams and  
visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end  
divisions:

*All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

2. Let us build a house where  
prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to  
seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as  
witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of  
Jesus:

3. Let us build a house where love  
is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through  
Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that  
frees us:

4. Let us build a house where hands  
will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and  
teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and  
danger:

5. Let us build a house where all are  
named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught  
and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and  
laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor  
to rafter:

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**Readings: Micah 6:8 and Matthew 13:31-32**

**Reader: Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk**

*Reflection*

*Prayer*

2. Submission of Roll of Commissioners.
3. Election of Moderator and Prayer of Consecration.
4. Commission to the Lord High Commissioner to be read and order given for recording it.
5. His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter to be read and order given for recording it.
6. Address by the Lord High Commissioner and reply by the Moderator.
7. Address by Retiring Moderator.
8. Appointment of the Committee to Prepare Answer to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter.
9. Report of the Standing Committee on Commissions.
10. Submission of the Standing Orders.
11. Appointment of the Procedure Committee.
12. Appointment of Panel of Tellers.
13. Appointment of Committee to prepare a minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
14. Intimation of arrangements for a celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 20 May, at 9.15 am in the Assembly Hall and online.

## **Circulation Break**

## **SESSION 2**

1. Presentation of Delegates and Visitors.
2. Section 2 of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee regarding proposed changes to Standing Orders.
3. Report of the Assembly Business Committee (Reports 1/1).
4. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/5).

## **Lunch**

## **SESSION 3: 2.00 PM**

1. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (Reports 2/1).
2. Minute of the Commission of Assembly (Reports 3/1).
3. Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Ministries Appeal Panel (Reports 4/1).
4. Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 5/1).

### **Circulation Break**

## **SESSION 4**

1. Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee (Reports 6/1).
2. Report of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust (Reports 7/1).

DAY 2 - MONDAY 20 MAY 2024

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: 9.15 AM

Theme: We are known by name

Let us worship God

Hymn CH685: For everyone born a place at the table

1. For ev-ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, for ev-ery-one born, clean  
wa - ter and bread, a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow -  
- ing, for ev - ery-one\_ born, a star ov - er - head. And  
God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and  
joy, yes, God will de - light when we are cre - a -  
- tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy!

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

*And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!*

2. For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.

4. For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

5. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

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Call to Prayer: Psalm 139: 1

Prayer

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Reader: Ms Christine Paterson, Depute Clerk

Reflection

Hymn CH 19: Ye gates, lift up your heads on high (Psalm 24)

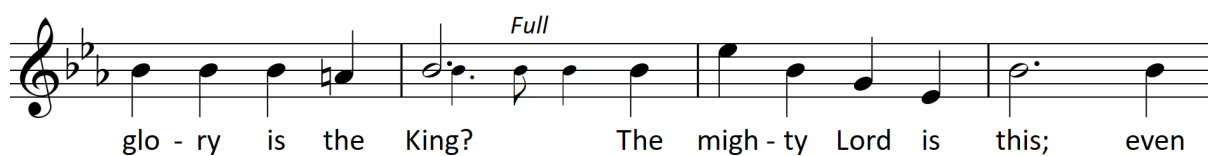
(unaccompanied)



7. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high; ye doors that last for aye, be



lift-ed up that so the King of glo-ry en-ter may. 8. But who of



glo-ry is the King? The migh-ty Lord is this; even



that same Lord that great in might and strong in bat-tle is; even



that same Lord that great in might and strong in bat-tle is.



Al-le-lu-ia! al-le-lu-ia! al-le-lu-ia! al-le-lu-ia!



al-le-lu-ia! A-men, a-men, a-men.

1. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high;  
ye doors that last for aye,  
be lifted up, that so the King of glory enter may.  
But who of glory is the King?  
The mighty Lord is this;  
even that same Lord that great in might  
and strong in battle is.  
Even that same Lord that great in might  
and strong in battle is.

2. Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,  
doors that do last for aye,  
be lifted up, that so the King of glory enter may.

But who is he that is the King,  
the King of glory? who is this?  
The Lord of hosts, and none but he,  
the King of glory is.  
The Lord of hosts, and none but he,  
the King of glory is.

*Alleluia! alleluia!*  
*alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!*  
*Amen, amen, amen.*

*Words: Psalm 24, verses 7-10, The Scottish Psalter, 1929*

*Music (ST GEORGE'S EDINBURGH): Andrew Mitchell Thomson (1778-1831, Scotland)*

*Celebration of Holy Communion*

*Hymn CH 251: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I



send?\_\_\_\_ Here I am, Lord.\_\_\_\_ Is it I, Lord?\_\_\_\_ I have



heard you call-ing in the night.\_\_\_\_ I will go, Lord,\_\_\_\_ if you



lead me.\_\_\_\_ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.\_\_\_\_

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the  
night.  
I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my  
heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my Word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

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## **Circulation Break**

## SESSION 5: 10.30 AM

Hymn GWA 42: God welcomes all

God wel - comes all, stran - gers\_ and friends;

God's love\_ is strong and\_ it ne - ver ends.

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

Words: John L. Bell (b.1949, Scotland) © 2008 WGRG, The Iona Community,  
Glasgow, Scotland

Music (THEMBA AMEN): South African traditional transcribed by John L. Bell  
(b.1949, Scotland) at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba

Prayer

1. Report of the Procedure Committee.
2. Report of the Assembly Trustees (Reports 8/1).

**Lunch**

## SESSION 6: 2.00 PM

1. Order of the Day – Strathaven Learning Community Choir: 'I Believe' from the Album 'A Choral Setting of the Diary of Anne Frank' and 'On my Way' from Disney's Brother Bear by Phil Collins.
2. Report of the Assembly Trustees contd. (Reports 8/1).
3. Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases – Returns to Overtures (Reports 9/1).
4. Report of the Theological Forum (Reports 10/1).

### Circulation Break

## SESSION 7:

1. Report of the Theological Forum contd. (Reports 10/1).
2. Interim Report of the Joint working group from the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Theological Forum on Assisted Dying (Reports 11/1).
3. Report of the Registration of Ministries Committee (Reports 12/1).
4. Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees (Reports 13/1).

## DAY 3 - TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024

## SESSION 8: 9.15 AM

Theme: **We are part of the body**

1. Constitution of Assembly

Let us worship God

Hymn CH 425: The Saviour died, but rose again (Paraphrase 48 vv.5-9)  
(unaccompanied)



1. The Sav - iour died, but rose a - gain tri - um - phant from\_ the grave; and



pleads our cause at God's right hand, om - ni - po - tent\_ to save.

1. The Saviour died, but rose again  
triumphant from the grave;  
and pleads our cause at God's right  
hand,  
omnipotent to save.

4. Nor death nor life, nor earth nor  
hell,  
nor time's destroying sway,  
can e'er efface us from his heart,  
or make his love decay.

2. Who then can e'er divide us more  
from Jesus and his love,  
or break the sacred chain that binds  
the earth to heaven above?

5. Each future period that will bless,  
as it has blessed the past:  
he loved us from the first of time,  
he loves us to the last.

3. Let troubles rise, and terrors  
frown,  
and days of darkness fall;  
through him all dangers we'll defy,  
and more than conquer all.

*Words: Scottish Paraphrases, 1781,  
Romans 8:34  
end  
Music: (ST ANDREW TANS'UR): Melody  
in Tans'ur's  
New Harmony of Zion, 1764*

Call to Prayer: Hebrews 10:24

Prayer

Readings: Ephesians 4:11-16 and John 2:18-22

Reader: Rev Julie Rennick, Presbytery Clerk of Forth Valley and  
Clydesdale

Reflection



Hymn GWA 128: As the wind song through the trees

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stir-ring of the breeze, so it  
is with the Spi - rit of God, as the heart made strange-ly  
warm, as the voice with - in the storm, so it is with the  
Spi - rit of God. Ne-ver seen, ev - er known where this  
wind has blown bring-ing life, bring-ing power to the world,  
as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -  
-sire, so it is with the Spi - rit of God.

1. As the wind song through the  
trees,  
as the stirring of the breeze,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the heart made strangely warm,  
as the voice within the storm,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.  
Never seen, ever known  
where this wind has blown  
bringing life, bringing power to the  
world,  
as the dancing tongues of fire,  
as the soul's most deep desire,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

2. As the rainbow after rain,  
as the hope that's born again,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the green in the spring,  
as a kite on a string,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
making worlds that are new,  
making peace come true,  
bringing gifts, bringing love to the  
world,  
as the rising of the yeast,  
as the wine at the feast,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

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2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Procedure Committee.
4. Report of the Social Care Council (Reports 14/1).

## **Circulation Break**

## SESSION 9

1. Report of the Church of Scotland Guild (Reports 15/1).
2. Report and Supplementary Report of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team ("FAPLT") (including the Overtures from the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Presbytery of Lothian & Borders) (Reports 16/1 and Order of Proceedings pp. 19, 20 and 23).

## Lunch

## SESSION 10: 2.00 PM

1. Order of the Day – CrossReach Makaton Choir.

Hymn CH 189: Be still, for the presence of the Lord

1. Be still, for the pre-sence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One, is here;

come bow be - fore him now with re - ve - rence and fear:

in him no sin is found — we stand on ho - ly ground.

Be still, for the pre-sence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One, is here.

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found —  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight —  
our radiant king of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace:  
no work too hard for him —  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

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2. Report of FAPLT contd. (including the Overtures from the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Presbytery of Lothian & Borders) (Reports 16/1 and Order of Proceedings pp. 19 & 20).

## **Circulation Break**

### **SESSION 11**

1. Supplementary Report of FAPLT (Order of Proceedings p. 23).

# DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024

## SESSION 12: 9.15 AM

Theme: We are called to build together

### 1. Constitution of Assembly

Let us worship God

Hymn GWA 129: Come set your rule and reign (Build your kingdom here)

1. Come set your rule and reign in our hearts a - gain. In - crease in us, we  
pray. Un - veil why we're made. Come set our hearts a - blaze with hope, like  
wild - fire in our ve - ry souls. Ho - ly Spi - rit, come in - vade us now.\_\_\_\_  
We are your Church; we need your power in  
us. *Build your*  
king - dom here, let the dark - ness fear. Show your migh - ty  
Church on fire, win this na - tion back. Change the at - mos -  
hand, heal our streets and phere, build your king - dom land. Set your  
here, we pray!

1. Come set your rule and reign  
in our hearts again.  
Increase in us, we pray.  
Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with  
hope,  
like wildfire in our very souls.  
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.  
We are your Church;  
we need your power in us.

2. We seek your kingdom first,  
we hunger and we thirst,  
refuse to waste our lives,  
for you're our joy and prize.  
To see the captive hearts released;  
the hurt, the sick, the poor at  
peace,  
we lay down our lives for heaven's  
cause.  
We are your Church;  
we pray: revive this earth.

*Build your kingdom here,  
let the darkness fear.  
Show your mighty hand,  
heal our streets and land.  
Set your Church on fire,  
win this nation back.  
Change the atmosphere,  
build your kingdom here, we  
pray!*

3. Unleash your kingdom's power,  
reaching the near and far.  
No force of hell can stop  
your beauty changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than  
this;  
awake the kingdom seed in us.  
Fill us with the strength and love of  
Christ.  
We are your Church;  
we are the hope on earth.

*Build your kingdom here ...*

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Call to Prayer: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Prayer

Readings: Psalm 127:1-2

Philippians 2:1-11 (to be read in Gaelic)

Reader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Presbytery of Edinburgh  
and West Lothian

<sup>1</sup>If the LORD does not build the house,  
the work of the builders is useless;  
if the LORD does not protect the city,  
it does no good for the sentries to stand guard.

<sup>2</sup>It is useless to work so hard for a living,  
getting up early and going to bed late.  
For the LORD provides for those he loves,  
while they are asleep.

**Philippians 2:1-11**

<sup>2</sup> Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit,<sup>[a]</sup> and you have kindness and compassion for one another. <sup>2</sup> I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. <sup>3</sup> Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. <sup>5</sup> The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had:

<sup>6</sup> He always had the nature of God,  
but he did not think that by force he should try to remain<sup>[b]</sup> equal with  
God.

<sup>7</sup> Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had,  
and took the nature of a servant.

He became like a human being  
and appeared in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—  
his death on the cross.

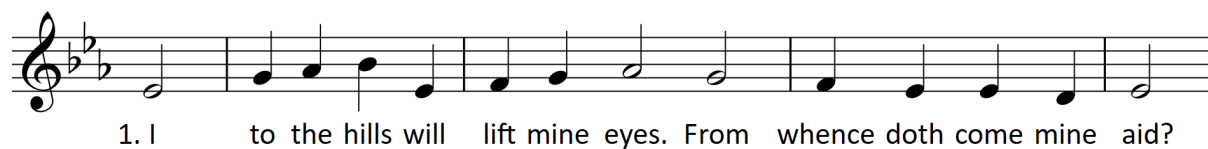
<sup>9</sup> For this reason God raised him to the highest place above  
and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

<sup>10</sup> And so, in honour of the name of Jesus  
all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below<sup>[c]</sup>  
will fall on their knees,

<sup>11</sup> and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

#### Reflection

Hymn CH 81: I to the hills will lift mine eyes (Psalm 121)  
(unaccompanied)





1. I to the hills will lift mine eyes.  
From whence doth come mine aid?  
My safety cometh from the Lord,  
who heaven and earth hath made.

2. Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor  
will  
he slumber that thee keeps.  
Behold, he that keeps Israel,  
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

3. The Lord thee keeps, the Lord  
thy shade  
on thy right hand doth stay:  
the moon by night thee shall not  
smite,  
nor yet the sun by day.

4. The Lord shall keep thy soul; he  
shall  
preserve thee from all ill.  
Henceforth thy going out and in  
God keep for ever will.

*Words: Psalm 121, The Scottish  
Psalter, 1929*

*Music (FRENCH / DUNDEE): Melody from  
Scottish  
Psalter, 1615*

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

## **Circulation Break**

## **SESSION 13**

1. Report of the Safeguarding Committee (Reports 18/1).
2. Report of the Iona Community Board (Reports 19/1).
3. Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees (Reports 20/1).
4. Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (Reports 21/1).
5. Report of the Ethical Oversight Committee (Reports 22/1).

### **Lunch**

SESSION 14: 2.00 PM

Hymn GWA 47: Come, all you wounded and weary (You are welcome here)

1. Come, all you woun-ded and wea-ry. Come, all you hea-vy of

heart. Come with your fear and your bur - den.

Come with your pain and your scars. You are

wel - come here; come as you are. You are wel - come

here, with o - pen arms. Bring your bur-dens, bring your

pain, bring your sor - row and shame. You are wel - come

here; come as you are.

O-pen your heart; dis - co-ver your place and your pur-pose.

O - pen your eyes; see the new life that a - waits you

here. You are are.

1. Come, all you wounded and weary.  
Come, all you heavy of heart.  
Come with your fear and your burden.  
Come with your pain and your scars.

2. Come to the ocean of mercy.  
Be revived, renewed and refreshed.  
Wherever you are, no matter how far,  
come, find your peace and your rest.

*You are welcome here; come as you are.*

*You are welcome here, with open arms.*

*Bring your burdens, bring your pain,*

*bring your sorrow and shame.*

*You are welcome here; come as you are.*

3. Come, all you tired and lonely,  
all you anxious who long for your place.  
Bring your addictions and battles;  
find your forgiveness and strength.

*You are welcome here ...*

Open your heart; discover your place and your purpose.

Open your eyes; see the new life that awaits you here.

*You are welcome here ...*

*You are welcome here; come as you are.*

*You are welcome here; come as you are.*

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Hymn GWA 222: El mensaje que hoy proclamamos / Hear the message we now are proclaiming

1. El men - sa - je\_\_ que hoy pro - cla - ma - mos, es jus - ti - cia, es  
 1. Hear the mes - sage we now are\_\_ pro - claim - ing; bring - ing jus - tice and

paz pa - ra el mun - do. La fe, el a - mor,  
 peace for cre - a - tion. With faith and with love

la es - pe - ran - za de un mun - do me - jor. Le fe,  
 and with hope we will build a new world. With faith

el a - mor, la es - pe - ran - za de un mun - do me - jor.  
 and with love and with hope we will build a new world.

1. Hear the message we now are  
 proclaiming;  
 bringing justice and peace for  
 creation.  
 Hear the message we now are  
 proclaiming;  
 bringing justice and peace for  
 creation.

With faith and with love  
 and with hope we will build a  
 new world.  
 With faith and with love  
 and with hope we will build a  
 new world.

1. El mensaje que hoy  
 proclamamos,  
 es justicia, es paz para el mundo.  
 El mensaje que hoy proclamamos,  
 es justicia, es paz para el mundo.

La fe, el amor,  
 la esperanza de un mundo  
 mejor.  
 La fe, el amor,  
 la esperanza de un mundo  
 mejor.

2. Hear the message we now are  
proclaiming;  
bringing new life to those who are  
poorest.  
Hear the message we now are  
proclaiming;  
bringing new life to those who are  
poorest.

3. Hear the message we now are  
proclaiming;  
bringing freedom to all who are  
captives.  
Hear the message we now are  
proclaiming;  
bringing freedom to all who are  
captives.

4. Hear the message we now are  
proclaiming;  
bringing comfort to all those who  
suffer.  
Hear the message we now are  
proclaiming;  
bringing comfort to all those who  
suffer.

2. El mensaje que hoy proclamamos  
es dar nuevas de vida a los pobres.  
El mensaje que hoy proclamamos  
es dar nuevas de vida a los pobres.

3. El mensaje que hoy  
proclamamos:  
anunciar libertad a los cautivos.  
El mensaje que hoy proclamamos:  
anunciar libertad a los cautivos.

4. El mensaje que hoy  
proclamamos:  
aliviar del quebranto al que sufre.  
El mensaje que hoy proclamamos:  
aliviar del quebranto al que sufre.

*Words (Spanish) and Music: Eleazar  
Torreglosa (Colombia) © 2007 Eleazar  
Torreglosa, Colombia  
Translation: Betty Gregers Arendt  
(Denmark) adapted by Compilers of  
God Welcomes All, 2024 © Betty  
Gregers Arendt, Denmark*

1. Report and Supplementary Report of the General Trustees (Reports 23/1 and Order of Proceedings p. 28).

## Circulation Break

### SESSION 15:

1. Report of the Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund (Reports 24/1).
2. Report of the Church of Scotland Trust (Reports 25/1).

## DAY 5 - THURSDAY 23 MAY 2024

### SESSION 16: 9.15 AM

**Theme: We are to build on Christ's foundation**

1. Constitution of Assembly.

Let us worship God

Hymn CH 478: Behold the amazing gift of love (Paraphrase 63)

*(unaccompanied)*

1. Be - hold the a-maz - ing gift of love the Fa - ther hath be - stowed  
on us, in call - ing us his own, the chil - dren of our God!

1. Behold the amazing gift of love  
the Father hath bestowed  
on us, in calling us his own,  
the children of our God!

2. Concealed as yet this honour lies,  
by this dark world unknown,  
a world that knew not when he  
came,  
even God's eternal Son.

3. High is the rank we now possess;  
but higher we shall rise,  
though what we shall hereafter be  
is hid from mortal eyes.

4. Our souls, we know, when he  
appears,  
shall bear his image bright;  
for all his glory, full disclosed,  
shall open to our sight.

5. A hope so great and so divine  
may trials well endure;  
and purge the soul from sense and  
sin,  
as Christ himself is pure.

*Words: Scottish Paraphrases, 1781  
(altered by Compilers of Church  
Hymnary Fourth Edition, 2005), 1 John  
3:1-3*

*Music: William Jones (1726-1800,  
England) from Ten Church Pieces for  
the Organ, Nayland, 1789*

*Call to Prayer:* Ephesians 2:20-22

*Prayer*

*Readings:* 1 Corinthians 3:5-11 and Matthew 7: 24-27

*Reader:* Catherine McIntosh, PA to the Moderator

*Reflection*



Hymn GWA 82: Here and now we're bound together

1. Here and now we're bound to - ge - ther: held in one di -  
 Help us see, in one an - o - ther, dif - ference as a  
 - vine em - brace. As each pass - ing ge - ne - ra - tion  
 gift of grace.  
 wor - ships you in fresh new ways, join our songs with  
 all cre - a - tion, lift our voice to sing your praise.

1. Here and now we're bound together:  
 held in one divine embrace.  
 Help us see, in one another,  
 difference as a gift of grace.  
 As each passing generation  
 worships you in fresh new ways,  
 join our songs with all creation,  
 lift our voice to sing your praise.

2. Lord, affirm our shared vocation:  
 may we bring your plans to birth,  
 build your Church on sure foundations,  
 fit to serve a troubled earth.  
 Growing, praying, sharing,  
 learning,  
 deep in wisdom, broad in scope,  
 love-revealing, truth-discerning,  
 living out the gospel hope.

3. In your work of transformation  
 you are making all things new.  
 Stir our hearts' imagination,  
 call us now to work with you.  
 Send us out to share your mission;  
 show us each our part to play  
 as we live the Great Commission  
 joyful in the world today.

Words: Ally Barrett (b.1975, England) ©  
 Ally Barrett  
 / Jubilate. Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd.  
 <copyrightmanager@jubilatehymns.co.uk>.  
 Used by  
 permission.  
 Music (HYFRYDOL): Melody by Rowland  
 Hugh  
 Pritchard (1811-1887, Wales)

2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Procedure Committee.
4. Report of the Nomination Committee (Reports 26/1).
5. Report of the Selection Committee if required.
6. Remaindered business if required.

## Lunch

### SESSION 17: 2.00 PM

Theme: **Grow together in Christ**

1. Constitution of Assembly.

Let us worship God

Hymn CH 132: Immortal, invisible, God only wise



1. Im - mor-tal in - vi - si - ble, God on - ly wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble  
hid from our eyes, most bless - èd, most glo - rious, the An - cient of  
Days, al - migh - ty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.

1. Immortal, invisible, God only  
wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our  
eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the  
Ancient of  
Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great  
name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent  
as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou  
rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains, high  
soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of  
goodness  
and love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both  
great and  
small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life  
of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves  
on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught  
changeth  
thee.

4. Great Father of glory, pure  
Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling  
their sight.  
All praise we would render: O help  
us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light  
hideth thee.

*Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–  
1908,  
Scotland)  
Music (ST DENIO / JOANNA): Welsh  
hymn melody,  
1839, founded on a folk melody,  
slightly adapted*

Call to Prayer: Ephesians 6:10

Prayer

Reflection

Hymn CH 680: You are called to tell the story



1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass - ing words of life a - long,  
then to blend your voice with o - thers, as you sing the\_ sac - red song.  
Christ be known in all our sing - ing, fill - ing all with songs of love.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass - ing words of life a - long,". The second staff contains the second line: "then to blend your voice with o - thers, as you sing the\_ sac - red song.". The third staff contains the third line: "Christ be known in all our sing - ing, fill - ing all with songs of love.". The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the third staff.

1. You are called to tell the story,  
passing words of life along,  
then to blend your voice with  
others,  
as you sing the sacred song.  
Christ be known in all our singing,  
filling all with songs of love.

2. You are called to teach the  
rhythm  
of the dance that never ends,  
then to move within the circle,  
hand in hand with strangers,  
friends.  
Christ be known in all our dancing,  
touching all with hands of love.

3. You are called to set the table,  
blessing bread as Jesus blessed,  
then to come with thirst and  
hunger,  
needing care like all the rest,  
Christ be known in all our sharing,  
feeding all with signs of love.

4. May the One whose love is  
broader  
than the measure of all space  
give us words to sing the story,  
move among us in this place.  
Christ be known in all our living,  
filling all with gifts of love.

*Words: Ruth Duck (b.1947, USA) ©  
1992 GIA Publications Inc., 747 S.  
Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638, USA.  
Used by permission.*

*Music (REGENT SQUARE): Henry  
Thomas Smart (1813-1879, England)*

*Reading: Matthew 28:16-20*

*Reader: Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk*

2. Report anent Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
3. Draft Minutes of Sederunts not yet submitted to be read if required.
4. Report on the Printing of Acts.
5. Protestations called for.

6. Appointment of Committee to Prepare Minutes.
7. Act appointing the Commission of Assembly.
8. Act appointing the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh and online on Saturday 17 May 2025.
9. Presentations to the Moderator.
10. Moderator addresses the General Assembly.
11. The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly.
12. National Anthem.  
God save our gracious King,  
long live our noble King,  
God save The King!  
Send him victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us,  
God save The King!
13. Dissolution.

#### THE BENEDICTION

#### **Note**

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

# MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 18 MAY 2024

*At Edinburgh, within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 18th day of May 2024 at 10.00 am.*

### **SESSION 1**

After worship conducted by the Right Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, BA, BD, Moderator of the General Assembly, the Commissioners elected as members of the General Assembly appointed to be held this day convened within the Assembly Hall and via video-conference, and the General Assembly was duly constituted with prayer.

The Roll of Commissioners was laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of a Moderator, when it was unanimously agreed that the Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson BSc BD MSc DPT be appointed Moderator.

The appointment was intimated to Mr Paterson who was welcomed by the Moderator, and, after the Prayer of Consecration, took the Chair.

His Majesty's Commission to His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, appointing him to represent His Royal Person in this Assembly, was then read with all due honour and respect and ordered to be recorded.

His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter to the General Assembly was also read with all due honour and respect and ordered to be recorded.

His Royal Highness, The Lord High Commissioner, addressed the General Assembly in a speech and the Moderator made suitable reply.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Moderator, the Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, for her distinguished and valued service during her year of office. The Retiring Moderator then addressed the General Assembly.

A Committee was appointed to prepare an answer to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter, viz:

Very Rev Prof David Fergusson	(4)
Mr Derek Peters	(292)
Mrs Lynn Podger	(339)
The Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener	

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Standing Committee on Commissions, which was given in by the Principal Clerk who reported that all Commissions had been received and were in order.

The Principal Clerk reported that the Standing Orders of the General Assembly were laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

The General Assembly appointed a Procedure Committee to arrange the Order of Business, viz:

Rev Michael Mair, Convener



Rev Sheila Kirk, Vice-Convener

Moderator

Principal Clerk

Depute Clerk

Procurator

Law Agent

The General Assembly agreed that the following should serve as the Panel of Tellers.

Rev Dr Ursula Glienecke	(6)
Dr Gemma King	(36)
Mr Robert Burgon	(72)
Rev Hayley Cohen	(57)
Rev Alexander Currie	(92)
Mr Ian Murphy	(124)
Miss Jennifer Boag	(150)
Mr John Kitson	(155)
Rev Alasdair MacMillan	(169)
Rev Jim Teasdale	(180)
Mrs Lorraine Gilroy DCS	(263)
Mrs Catherine Ross	(342)
Rev Fiona Lister	(362)
Mr Matthew Philip	(393)
Rev Mary Stobo	(424)

The General Assembly appointed a Committee to prepare a Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons, viz:

The Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener

Principal Clerk

Depute Clerk

Intimation was given of the arrangements for the Celebration of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall and online via video-conference on Monday 20 May 2024 at 9.15 am.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 11.26 am until 12.02 pm.

## **SESSION 2**

The General Assembly received the following Delegates and visitors who were introduced by the Rev I Ross Blackman and the Rev Thomas MacNeil.

*United Reformed Church*

Rev Fiona Bennett, Immediate Past Moderator

*United Reformed Church (National Synod of Scotland)*

Rev Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator

*Church of England*

Rev Canon Andrew Norman, Director of Ministry and Mission, Diocese of Leeds; Rev Tim Norwood, National Officer for Local Ecumenism

*Methodist Church in Scotland*

Rev Mark Slaney, Chair; Rev James Patron-Bell, Ecumenical Officer

*Religious Society of Friends – General Meeting for Scotland*

Mary Woodward, Ecumenical Officer

*Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland*

Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

Rt Rev Andrew Swift, Bishop of Brechin

*The Salvation Army*

Major David Cavanagh, Assistant Secretary for Scotland

*Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary (online)

*World Communion of Reformed Churches*

Rev Tara Curlewis, Liaison Officer

## AFRICA

*Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Malawi*

Rev Dr Mwawi Chilongozi, General Secretary, General Synod; Rev Anderson Juma, General Secretary, Synod of Blantyre, Rev Reuben Msowoya, Synod Moderator, Synod of Livingstonia

## ASIA

*Presbyterian Church of Korea*

Rev Dr Eui Sig Kim, Moderator, Mrs Chaesung Moon and Rev Donghyun Kim, Translator

*Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea*

Rev Dr Sungkook Park, Executive Secretary, Partnership and Ecumenical Relations

## EUROPE

*Reformed Church in Hungary*

Rev Szabina Sztojka

*Waldensian Church, Italy*

Rev Jonathan Terino

*Protestant Church in Switzerland*

Rev Dr Martin Hirzel, Director External Relations

## MIDDLE EAST

*Evangelical Church of Egypt, Synod of the Nile*

Rev Dr Maged Karam, Moderator, *in absentia*

*Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East*

Miss Joanne Billeh

## AUSTRALIA

*Uniting Church of Australia*

Rev Sharon Hollis, President

*Mission Partners on Leave*

Keith and Ida Waddell with Mubita

*Visitors from the Presbyterian Church of Korea*

Mr Hyun Mun Cho and Mrs Mi Kyoung Kim

Mr Hye Sin Yu and Mrs Jeng Kung Song

Mr Ok Seob Ahn and Mrs Soon Duck La  
Mr Bo Hyun Hong and Mrs Yoon Joo Hong

The reception of the Delegates being completed, the Moderator welcomed them on behalf of the General Assembly.

The Rev Tim Norwood, National Officer for Local Ecumenism, Church of England, addressed the General Assembly in the name of the Ecumenical Delegates and was thanked by the Moderator.

The Rev Sharon Hollis, President, Uniting Church of Australia, addressed the General Assembly in the name of the Overseas Delegates and was thanked by the Moderator.

#### **AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

*Section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee was moved, seconded and agreed:*

**The General Assembly:**

2. Approve a new Standing Order 35A on Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates as detailed in Appendix B of the Report of the Assembly Business Committee.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.34 pm until 2.00 pm.

#### **SESSION 3**

#### **ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**Miss Christabelle Brown (known as Chris Brown)**

The Rev Michael Mair, Convener, advised the General Assembly of the sad news of the death of Miss Christabelle Brown, former PA to the Moderator

and on behalf of the Assembly sent thoughts and prayers to Chris Brown's family and friends.

### **Mr John Williams**

The Moderator presented a Certificate, to mark fifty years of service to the General Assembly, to Mr John Williams. John had provided the audio/visual components of the General Assembly since 1973; he had provided advice to the Assembly Business Committee and his experience and expertise had been valued in particular during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Moderator thanked John on behalf of all Moderators and Commissioners during the last fifty years and also expressed the thanks of the General Assembly to all members of the audio/visual team whose names and years of service were read out to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Assembly Business Committee, which was given in by the Rev Michael Mair, Convener.

*It was moved and seconded:*

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the proposed Order of Business set out in the Order of Proceedings.
3. Appoint Mr Roy Pinkerton and Mr David Stewart to prepare and index a summary log of the Assembly.
4. Invite Commissioners to submit to the Procedure Committee via email: [pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk) by Monday 20 May at 12pm, nominations for consideration to serve on the Selection Committee.
5. Note the expenses levels for those attending at least 13 of the 17 General Assembly sessions in person.
6. Instruct all Presbyteries to work with the Office of the General Assembly and the Human Resources Department to establish consistency of terms and conditions across Presbyteries and to align as appropriate with the Central Services employment terms and

conditions as well as to develop a competency and capability procedure.

*Scottish Bible Society*

7. Commend the Scottish Bible Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members, and support the Society in its desire to work in partnership with congregations to encourage confidence in the gospel and in sharing the Bible.

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

*Add a new section 6 and renumber:*

6. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee, in conjunction with the Assembly Trustees, in the interests of good stewardship of the Church's resources and image, to reduce the budgets (in real terms and excluding the cost of maintaining the Assembly Hall) for the 2025 and 2026 General Assemblies to 75% and 50% respectively of the financial cost to the Church (excluding the cost of maintaining the Assembly Hall) of the General Assembly 2024.

*On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 6 of the Deliverance, there voted For 103 and Against 225 and it carried Against.*

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 6 of the Deliverance in the print:*

*Add at the end:*

*"with regards to Presbytery Clerks' and deposes' employment contracts".*

*Section 6 as amended was then agreed.*

The Moderator welcomed Ms Elaine Duncan, Executive Director, Scottish Bible Society, who addressed the General Assembly. On behalf of the

Directors of the Society, Ms Duncan presented a copy of The Good News Bible to the Moderator. The Moderator thanked Ms Duncan for the Bible and for the invaluable work of the Society.

*The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.*

## **LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Legal Questions Committee, which was given in by the Rev Dr Marjory Maclean, Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Consideration of section 2 was dealt with in Session 2.
3. In relation to Presbytery Review:
  - a. Instruct that the Presbytery Review Committee (“PRC”) be established as a Standing Committee of the General Assembly, comprising a Convener, Vice-Convener and eleven members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly, together with *ex officio* the Principal Clerk and the Depute Clerk; and otherwise in terms of section 1b) of the draft Presbytery Review Act attached to this Report and set out in Appendix A (“the draft Act”);
  - b. Instruct the PRC to carry out in 2024-2025, as pilots, Reviews in the Presbyteries of (1) Edinburgh and West Lothian and (2) Perth, working in accordance with the principles and processes set out in the draft Act, with Summary Reports as referred to in the draft Act being submitted to the General Assembly of 2025;
  - c. Instruct Presbyteries to send comments on the draft Act to the Principal Clerk by 31 December 2024, and instruct the Committee to bring a Presbytery Review Act in final form to the General Assembly of 2025; and

- d. Instruct the PRC to submit a Report on inspection of Presbytery Records in accordance with the draft Act to the General Assembly of 2025.
4. Pass an Act amending the Discipline Act (Act I 2019), as amended, as set out in Appendix B to this Report.
5. Pass Regulations amending the Legal Aid in Disciplinary Proceedings Regulations as set out in Appendix D to this Report.
6. Instruct the Committee to develop a process for dealing with complaints made against a Presbytery committee and a bespoke process for a complaint against a Presbytery Clerk and to report to the General Assembly of 2025.
7. Repeal the Presbytery Membership Act (Act I 2006).

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 15.12 pm until 15.34 pm.

#### **SESSION 4**

##### **MINUTE OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly called for the Minute of the Commission of Assembly, which was laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

##### **MINUTE OF THE APPEAL HEARING BEFORE THE MINISTRIES APPEAL PANEL**

The General Assembly called for the Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Ministries Appeal Panel, which was laid on the table and had been circulated to Commissioners.

##### **DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly which was given in by the Principal Clerk, Chair.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*



### **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 Chair, the Depute Clerk of the General Assembly to be Vice-Chair and the Solicitor of the Church to act as Secretary.

### **ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee which was given in by the Rev I Ross Blackman, Convener.

*It was moved and seconded:*

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Reaffirm the ecumenical vision articulated in the Declaratory Act anent the Third Article Declaratory (2010), and instruct the unincorporated entities of the Church of Scotland to take account of this in their future work.
3. Instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee to report to the General Assembly of 2025 on its ongoing engagement with the Presbyteries of the Church of Scotland.
4. Approve the form of the Scottish Christian Forum, and the participation of representatives of the Church of Scotland within it, and recognise it as the National Ecumenical Body within Scotland.
5. Welcome the renewal of the work of the Joint Commission on Doctrine of the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland.

6. Instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum to reflect on the contemporary significance of the Council of Nicaea, and to report to the General Assembly of 2025.
7. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, and the appointment of representatives to Ecumenical Bodies.

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

*Add a new section 6 and renumber:*

6. Commend the Archdiocese of Glasgow, Justice & Peace Scotland, SCIAF, the Secretary of Glasgow Churches Together and the Ecumenical Officer of the Church of Scotland for their work in relation to the visit of Fr Gabriel Romanelli to Glasgow on 26th April 2024.

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

*Add a new section 6 and renumber:*

6. Commend the Ecumenical Relations Committee on its work with the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of England, and instruct the Committee to ensure that it is engaging, or offering to engage, with other churches across Scotland, directly and through the Scottish Christian Forum, and to report to the General Assembly of 2025.

*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, Chair.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.

The General Assembly adjourned at 4.34 pm to meet again in this Hall, and online via video-conference, on Monday 20 May at 9.15 am for Holy Communion and thereafter business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL  
and online via video-conference  
EDINBURGH, 18 May 2024, 4.34 pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 20 MAY 2024

*At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings on the 20th day of May 2024 at 9.15 am.*

Holy Communion was celebrated in the Assembly Hall.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.15 am until 10.34 am.

**SESSION 5**

**PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Michael Mair, Convener. The Convener also welcomed Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates who were attending the General Assembly.

**REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Assembly Trustees which was given in by the Rev David Cameron, Convener.

*It was moved and seconded:*

## **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree that the Church's financial situation demands further urgent attention supported by a focus on the agreed priorities.
3. Note the ongoing work between the Trustees and Presbyteries in terms of driving the mission imperative of the Church.
4. Agree the total number of planned ministry posts for 2025 remains at the previously approved 600 plus 60 vacancies and for this to be the basis for the next five years, subject to annual reporting and agreement of the General Assembly.
5. Note the ongoing work in relation to reviewing the suitability of Vacancy Allowance, current Tenure arrangements, Stipend and Benefits Structure, International Presence and work within the Priority Areas.
6. Receive the 2023 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities.
7. Note the approved budget for 2024 and the indicative rolling budgets for 2025 to 2029.
8. Note the expectation that the Trustees will require to bring proposals to adjust the parameters of the components of Giving to Grow to the General Assembly of 2025, if forecasts indicate that sufficient funding is not likely to be available for the expected cost of ministry from 2026 onwards.
9. Pass Regulations amending the Congregational Contributions "Giving to Grow" Regulations (Regs I 2022), as amended, as set out in Appendix I.
10. Pass Regulations amending the Seeds for Growth Fund Regulations (Regs IV 2022), as amended, as set out in Appendix II.
11. Approve the amended structure, remit and membership of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team as set out in Appendix III.
12. Approve the changes to the administrative arrangements of the Salvesen Fund and substitute the Schedule in Appendix IV for the

- Schedule in Appendix I to the Report of the Faith Impact Forum to, and as revised by, the Commission of Assembly in November 2019.
13. Approve the amendments to the Constitution and Remit of the Assembly Trustees as set out in Appendix V.
  14. Note the appointment from 1st April 2024 of Jenny Simpson as Head of Finance and General Treasurer and confer upon the said Jenny Simpson, Head of Finance and General Treasurer of the Church, full power to discharge all legacies, bequests or donations which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the Church of Scotland, or any of the Schemes, Councils, Committees or agencies thereof, or which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the United Free Church of Scotland or to any of the Schemes, Boards or Committees or agencies thereof and which in terms of the Agreement with the continuing United Free Church of Scotland fall to the Church of Scotland or its Schemes, Councils, Committees or agencies, and to sign all Discharges, Agreements, Indemnities, Undertakings, and other Deeds which may be necessary in connection therewith.
  15. Approve the following appointments to the Assembly Trustees; Crawford Gillies, a member and elder at Dunkeld Parish Church for a 3-year period and Michael Yuille a member and elder at St Blane's, Dunblane for a 3-year period.

*It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 8 of the Deliverance:*

*Add at the end:*

*; nevertheless urge the Assembly Trustees to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2025 which will deliver the Church of Scotland (Unincorporated Entities) (SC011353) a balanced budget position by 31 December 2027 at the latest.*

*On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of section 8, there voted For 234 and Against*

96 and it carried For.

Section 8 as amended was then agreed.

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

*Add a new section 9 and renumber:*

9. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to devise a scheme to enable the defined contribution pension scheme for Ministers to be assessed at reasonable intervals against good practice modelling principles to assure scheme members of an appropriate retirement income and report to the General Assembly of 2025.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 10 of the Deliverance:*

*Add at the end:*

And further amend the Regulations by adding a new paragraph (iii) in the new paragraph 3 as follows: iii. Foster discipleship and revitalisation within established congregations, with the aim of growing an existing congregation or developing a new worshipping community.

Section 10 as amended was then agreed.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.26 pm until 2.00 pm.

## **SESSION 6**

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

Strathaven Learning Community Choir sang 'I Believe' from the Album 'A Choral Setting of the Diary of Anne Frank' and 'On my Way' from Disney's

Brother Bear by Phil Collins and were thanked by the Moderator on behalf of the General Assembly.

## **PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly agreed to appoint the following Commissioners to the Selection Committee:

Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, Convener	(2)
Rev Stella Campbell, Vice Convener	(354)
Rev Sheena Orr	(18)
Rev Hayley Cohen	(57)
Mr Robert Burgon	(72)
Rev John Urquhart	(106)
Mrs Christine Murray	(126)
Miss Jennifer Boag	(150)
Mr John Kitson	(155)
Rev Bruce Sinclair	(178)
Mr Graeme Barrie	(189)
Mrs Karen Hamilton DCS	(218)
Rev Alison Meikle	(230)
Rev Gillian Paterson	(275)
Mr Andrew Gilmour	(286)
Rev Andrew Gardner	(302)
Rev Anne Stott OLM	(320)
Mrs Ann Bowie	(379)
Rev Monika Redman	(421)
Mrs Donna Malcolm	(436)

## **REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES (CONTD.)**

The General Assembly resumed their consideration of the Report of the Assembly Trustees.

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



*Add a new section 12 and renumber:*

**12. Invite the Assembly Trustees to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2025 for a new Standing Committee of the General Assembly to have oversight of and responsibility for the Church's work in relation to external affairs (potentially including public life and social justice, ecumenical relations, international work, partnerships and presence, and interfaith matters) and to liaise with the Ecumenical Relations Committee, Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, Nomination Committee, and others as deemed appropriate, to prepare and implement any changes which may be required, including the drafting of a detailed remit.**

*It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the proposed new section 12:*

*Amend the first sentence:*

**by deleting "Invite" and substituting "Instruct".**

*On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of the proposed new section 12, there voted For 98 and Against 261 and it carried Against.*

*On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 12 of the Deliverance, there voted For 181 and Against 167 and it carried For.*

*The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.*

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND CASES – RETURNS TO OVERTURES**

**The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases which was given in by the Principal Clerk.**

*It was moved and seconded:*

## **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. (i) Note that the requisite proportion (two thirds) of the Presbyteries of the Church have approved the text of the proposed amendments to Articles II and V of the Articles Declaratory in Matters Spiritual (1921) enacted by the General Assembly of 1926 and to the Preamble, Questions and Formula authorised by the General Assembly of 1929, all of which are contained in the Confessions of Faith Overture sent down for the consideration of Presbyteries by the General Assembly of 2023; and  
(ii) Resolve in this immediately successive year to adopt the Overture a second time, but as amended, as set out in Appendix B; and  
(iii) Transmit again the Overture, as amended, to the Presbyteries for their consideration under the provisions of Article VIII of the Articles Declaratory in Matters Spiritual (1921), directing that returns be sent to the Principal Clerk not later than 31 December 2024, and noting for the avoidance of doubt that the Book of Confessions referred to in the Overture will contain the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, The Scots Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the 1992 Statement of Faith.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 2(ii) of the Deliverance:*

*Add at the end:*

and also amended as follows:

At 1.1, in relation to Article II, after:

“II. The subordinate standards of the Church of Scotland are contained in its Book of Confessions.”

Add:

“The Book of Confessions contains the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, The Scots Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the 1992 Statement of Faith.”

At 4.1, change the last paragraph of the Preamble from that in the print to: “The subordinate standards of the Church of Scotland are contained in its Book of Confessions. The Book of Confessions contains the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, The Scots Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the 1992 Statement of Faith. The Church recognises liberty of opinion on such points of doctrine as do not enter into the fundamental doctrines of the Faith, claiming the right, in dependence on the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, to formulate, interpret or modify its subordinate standards: always in agreement with the Word of God and the fundamental doctrines of the Christian Faith expressed in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds - of which agreement the Church itself shall be sole judge.”

*Section 2(ii) as amended was then agreed.*

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

*Add a new section 3 and renumber:*

3. Instruct the Theological Forum to produce an online companion volume to the Book of Confessions, containing the additional documents mentioned in the Second Article Declaratory (namely: "The Directory for the Public Worship of God," "The Form of Presbyterial Church Government " and "The Form of Process") and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

*On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 3 of the Deliverance, there voted*

*For 220 and Against 123 and it carried For.*

*The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.*

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 15.33 pm until 15.52 pm.

## **SESSION 7**

### **CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees, which was given in by Lord Philip Brodie, Chair.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

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

1. Receive the Report.

### **THEOLOGICAL FORUM**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Theological Forum which was given in by the Rev Dr Liam J Fraser, Convener.

*It was moved and seconded:*

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

1. Receive the Report.
2. Receive the appended report "Transgender Identities in the Church of Scotland" in fulfilment of the instruction of the General Assembly of 2023, and commend it to congregations, Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries for study.

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

*Add a new section 3 and renumber:*

Instruct the Theological Forum to prepare a report on reserved sacrament with recommendations for implementation, to be presented by the General Assembly of 2025.

*On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 3 of the Deliverance, there voted For 65 and Against 271 and it carried Against.*

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

*Add a new section 3 and renumber:*

**Instruct the Theological Forum to prepare a report on historically held open models of baptism, with particular consideration given to the requirement for membership and observance only within Sunday morning worship, to be presented with recommendations by the General Assembly of 2025.**

*On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 3 of the Deliverance, there voted For 30 and Against 317 and it carried Against.*

*The Deliverance as moved was then agreed.*

#### **INTERIM REPORT OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP FROM THE FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM AND THE THEOLOGICAL FORUM ON ASSISTED DYING**

**The General Assembly called for the Interim Report of the Joint Working Group from the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the Theological Forum on Assisted Dying which was given in by the Rev Dr John Ferguson, Convener.**

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

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

- 1. Receive the Interim Joint Report.**
- 2. Note the work of the Assisted Dying Working Group to date and that further consultations will be undertaken prior to a final report being produced for the General Assembly of 2025.**

## **REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

*The General Assembly agreed that the Report of the Registration of Ministries Committee be remaindered until the morning of Thursday 23 May 2024.*

The General Assembly adjourned at 6.10 pm to meet again in this Hall and online via video-conference tomorrow at 9.15 am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

**ASSEMBLY HALL  
and online via video-conference  
EDINBURGH, 20 May 2024, 6.10 pm**

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 21 MAY 2024

*At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 21st day of May 2024 at 9.15 am.*

**SESSION 8**

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

The Minutes of Sessions 1-4, being available in the Assembly Paper, were submitted and approved.

**PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Michael Mair, Convener.

**SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Social Care Council, which was given in by the Rev Thom Riddell, Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Report.
2. Recognise the continued pressures with recruitment across the sector, commend the workforce for all they are continuing to achieve in the face of that, and encourage the sharing of recruitment resources across wider Church of Scotland networks.
3. Note the initiative being piloted with Scottish Workforce Chaplaincy and endorse the move to ensure that spiritual wellbeing remains a priority for the CrossReach workforce and those it supports.
4. Commend the ecumenical and interfaith efforts to bring attention to the issue of Fair Work in social care and endorse further collaboration in this area.
5. Express alarm about the cuts to vital care services being experienced by CrossReach and other care providers in the social care sector and ask CrossReach, working with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, to raise awareness about the crisis in social care with Presbyteries and congregations and to make representations to the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government.
6. Note the extensive consultation exercise undertaken by CrossReach to set a clear way forward which will allow it to continue to play its part in the overall mission of the Church of Scotland, and urge Presbyteries to continue to work with CrossReach in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.

The Moderator thanked the retiring Convener, the Rev Thom Riddell, on behalf of the General Assembly, for his dedication and commitment as Convener of the Social Care Council. The Moderator also thanked the CrossReach staff for all that they do. Thom had played an essential role in this work and it was apparent how much he has been appreciated.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.28 am until 10.47 am.



## **SESSION 9**

### **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD**

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Guild, which was given in by Mrs Rae Lind, National Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

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

1. Receive the Report.
2. Continue to encourage uniting congregations to ensure that the Guild is involved in discussions and enabled to explore ways in which Guilds merge or work in new ways, welcoming those mergers that have taken place.
3. Encourage Kirk Sessions to consider if establishing a Guild can assist in their mission to their local community.
4. Welcome the ways in which Guilds are reaching out to local communities and encourage Guilds and congregations to see this as an opportunity for mission together.
5. Encourage youth workers, ministers, Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to support the work of the Young Adult Guild.
6. Commend the Guild for the work of its Project Partnership Scheme 2021-24 and recognise the important issues tackled and vital monies raised.
7. Congratulate the Guild and the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia on their collaborative working and learning together.
8. Commend Guilds Together Groups for exploring new ways of working together and welcome the new structure of Guilds at a Regional Level agreed by the Guild conference.

The Moderator thanked, on behalf of the General Assembly, Mrs Rae Lind, who would be retiring as Guild National Convener in September, for her service to the Church. Rae had offered her time and energy in different

areas of the country and had also been an effective leader. The General Assembly had heard about the Guild's fundraising, and feedback from the ground, and the Moderator asked the Convener to pass on the General Assembly's appreciation to the Guild for all of its work.

## **FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The General Assembly called for the Report and Supplementary Report of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (including the Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Overture from the Presbytery of Lothian & Borders) which was given in by the Rev Thomas MacNeil, Convener.

### **Main Report**

*It was moved and seconded:*

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

1. Receive the Report.

#### **PEOPLE**

2. Instruct Presbyteries to appoint Church of Scotland representatives to local authority committees which deal with education, according to the principles set out in the report; and affirm the report on Church of Scotland representatives' voting powers on education committees.
3. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Assembly Trustees, to review the Income Protection and Ill Health Act (Act VI 2019) in light of its operation in practice over the past five years (such review to include consulting with people who have had direct experience of it) and report to the General Assembly of 2025.
4. Adopt the 'Terms of Responsibility for Ministers Serving in the Church of Scotland', as contained in Appendix II, as a standard for the duties of the office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament, instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to make this available to

all Ministers of Word & Sacrament as well as including it in the Ministers' Handbook and encourage ministers to study and adhere to these.

#### **PRAISE**

5. Commend the Church Hymnary Supplement 'God Welcomes All' and thank the Hymnary Supplement Committee for their work in producing this resource of contemporary songs supporting the renewal of worship.
6. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to conduct research, including consultation with Presbyteries, into the use of local worship leaders and Readers across the church, and to report to the General Assembly in 2025 with recommendations on how these roles should be shaped to best support the emerging shape of the Church of Scotland and its worshipping communities.

#### **POVERTY**

7. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to encourage Presbyteries to engage with Priority Areas to explore ways in which the Church of Scotland's priority for the poorest and most marginalised in society can continue to be delivered in areas where major adjustments have taken place to Priority Area parishes.
8. Call for the introduction of a Minimum Income Guarantee and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Theological Forum, to explore theological perspectives on this issue.

#### **PRESENCE**

9. Give thanks for the faithful witness and service in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and the Waldensian movement and Church in Italy, CCAP celebrating their centenary, and the Waldensians reaching 850 years and pray God's richest blessing on both.

#### **PEACE**

10. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to share the voices of Palestinian Christians, and to continue to support the Church's contribution to interfaith dialogue.

11. Call on the whole Church of Scotland to pray for peace in the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas and in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah, and restate the 2015 General Assembly call urging the UK Government to recognise without delay the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, as a contribution to securing lasting peace and justice for all.
12. Urge political leaders and media institutions to avoid the use of dehumanising and hostile language when describing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to work with partners in speaking out against this rhetoric.

#### **PARTNERSHIP**

13. Re-appoint Rev Bruce Sinclair as a Trustee of the Housing and Loan Fund for Retired Ministers and Widows and Widowers of Ministers.
14. Invite congregations and Presbyteries to use and share resources prepared for the upcoming UK Parliament general election by the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, especially the Voter Champion initiative to promote voter registration and awareness, and guidance on how to organise an election hustings.

#### **PRESBYTERY MISSION PLANNING**

15. Approve the allocation of the total number of planned ministry posts among the Presbyteries as contained in Appendix VI for 2025.
16. Pass an Act amending the Presbytery Mission Plan Act, as set out in Appendix VIII.

#### **REMITTS AND THE CREATION OF PRESBYTERY MISSION PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PMPIG) AS AN ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME GROUP**

17. Note the creation of an additional Programme Group, Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group, in terms of the remit contained as Appendix IX.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.40 pm until 2.00 pm.

## **SESSION 10**

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

The CrossReach Makaton Choir sang Hymn CH 189: Be still, for the presence of the Lord, and were thanked by the Moderator on behalf of the General Assembly.

### **PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

Rev Michael Mair, Convener, advised the General Assembly that under Standing Order 17, the Procedure Committee had added an Order of the Day at 3.45 pm to consider sections 15 to 17 of the proposed Deliverance of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, including the Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Overture from the Presbytery of Lothian & Borders.

The General Assembly agreed that Standing Order 95 be amended to limit the time for speeches to three minutes except those relating to an Overture.

### **FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM (CONTD.)**

#### **Main Report**

The General Assembly resumed their consideration of the Report of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (including the Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Overture from the Presbytery of Lothian & Borders).

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

*Add a new section 4 and renumber:*

4. Encourage FAPLT, in relation to the basic level for locum remuneration, to consider moving towards benchmarking this against the real living wage rather than the national minimum wage.

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

*Add a new section 5 and renumber:*

5. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consider introducing, in relation to ministers in their First Five Years, an annual two-week allocation for study leave and investigate whether the present financial allocation for the Continuing Ministerial Development Fund can be increased from £200 to £275 for ministers in their First Five Years; strongly encourage all ministers in their First Five Years to utilise the resources available, including the Continuing Ministerial Development Fund, and urge all congregations with ministers in their First Five Years to encourage their minister to take up what is on offer.

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

*Add a new section 5 and renumber:*

5. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and other relevant parties, recognising the pace of societal change at this time, acknowledging the significance of the recently released Cass Report, and informed by the work done by the Theological Forum on Transgender Identities, to consider the implications of the Cass Report to the work of the Church, particularly amongst young people, and report to a future General Assembly.

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

*Add a new section 5 and renumber:*

5. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Assembly Trustees, to review the support which may be provided

to those ministers from overseas who have completed their familiarisation periods and presently seek a charge, with the administrative and financial challenges of renewing visas, and report to the General Assembly of 2025, and in the interim supply any support which may be provided without budgetary implications.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 6 of the Deliverance:*

*Delete:*

"to conduct research, including consultation with Presbyteries, into"

*and substitute with:*

"to consult with Presbyteries, Readers and local worship leaders about".

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 6 of the Deliverance:*

*Add at the end:*

"and in the interim encourage Presbyteries to promote the use of Readers already Set Apart and willing to serve."

*Section 6 as amended was then agreed.*

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 8 of the Deliverance:*

*Delete:*

"and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Theological

Forum, to explore theological perspectives on this issue."

*Section 8 as amended was then agreed.*

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 3.30 pm until 3.48 pm.

## **SESSION 11**

### **FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM (CONTD.)**

#### **Main Report**

The General Assembly resumed their consideration of the Report of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (including the Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Overture from the Presbytery of Lothian & Borders).

#### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

*It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 15 of the Deliverance:*

*Add at the end:*

"recognising that some of a Presbytery's overall allocation of posts may be divided into part-time roles."

*Section 15 as amended was then agreed.*

### **OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW**

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow as to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act.



Section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture was treated as a proposed new section 16 of the Deliverance of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team.

The Rev Dr Ruth Morrison appeared and moved the Deliverance as follows:

*It was moved and seconded:*

**The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Determine that all vacant charges which conform to the final position in the Approved Presbytery Mission Plan and which in all other respects qualify for permission to call shall not have such permission withheld by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (working through the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group) for the reason only that the number of ministry posts allocated to that Presbytery by the General Assembly has, at that time, been exceeded.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

*On a vote being taken For or Against section 2 of the Overture, there voted For 147 and Against 197 and it carried Against.*

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

*Add a new section 16 and renumber:*

16. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to review the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) and to report to the General Assembly of 2025 with proposed revisions, particularly in relation to team ministry and the adjustment process, and meantime note the willingness of the Principal

Clerk's office to assist Presbyteries with flexible solutions, in particular to issues arising with team ministry.

*It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 16 of the Deliverance:*

*Add at the end:*

And further amend the Act by deleting paragraph 7(10)(e)(E).

*On a vote being taken For or Against the second amendment of section 16 of the Deliverance, there voted For 81 and Against 223 and it carried Against.*

## **OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF LOTHIAN & BORDERS**

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders as to the Presbytery Mission Plan Process.

Section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture was treated as a proposed new section 17 of the Deliverance of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team.

The Rev Norman Smith appeared, and Mrs Abigail Morrison appeared in support, and moved the Deliverance as follows:

*It was moved and seconded:*

### **The General Assembly:**

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Instruct that the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) ("the Act) shall be amended so as to require only comments from FAPLT and the GTs on an annual evaluation and development, with approval

from FAPLT and the GTs only being required every five years, and to that end pass an Act amending the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) as set out in the Appendix to this Overture.

**APPENDIX (detailed changes required to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021))**

**[ ] ACT AMENDING THE PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN ACT (ACT VIII 2021)  
(AS AMENDED)**

*Edinburgh, [ ] May 2024, Session [ ]*

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. Delete the existing definition of “Approved Mission Plan” and substitute:

““Approved Mission Plan” shall mean a Mission Plan that has initially been approved by the Presbytery, FAPLT and the General Trustees and which thereafter has been annually and five-yearly evaluated and developed in accordance with this Act;”

2. Delete the existing section 2.1.2(a) and substitute:

“(a) to be retained beyond the five years from the date of the Approved Mission Plan”.

3. In section 2.2.2, delete “annual” and substitute “five-yearly”.

4. Delete the existing section 2.3.2 and substitute:

“The process of annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan shall be initiated by the Presbytery, and shall proceed in consultation with FAPLT and the General Trustees but the approval of FAPLT and of the General Trustees to the Mission Plan shall not be required. Once final approval of the Mission Plan following annual evaluation and development is recorded at a meeting of the Presbytery, the Mission Plan shall be re-dated to cover the next five years, becoming the Presbytery’s Approved Mission Plan and an extract minute of the Presbytery’s decision and a copy of the Approved Mission Plan shall be sent to FAPLT and the General Trustees.”

5. Add a new section 2.3.3:

“If a Presbytery fails to carry out an annual evaluation and development of its Mission Plan within a reasonable period of when it was due, a referral

may be made by the Principal Clerk to the Presbytery Review Committee.”

6. Add a new section 2.4 headed “FIVE-YEARLY EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MISSION PLAN” and renumber the existing section 2.4 as section 2.5:

“2.4.1 Each Presbytery shall also carry out a process of five-yearly evaluation and development of its Mission Plan so as to maintain in rolling form an accurate, comprehensive and up to date Mission Plan for the shape of church life in the next five years in that Presbytery.

2.4.2 In the year when a five-yearly evaluation and development of a Mission Plan takes place, this process shall replace the annual evaluation and development process set out in section 2.3.

2.4.3 The process of five-yearly evaluation and development of the Mission Plan shall be initiated by the Presbytery, and shall proceed in consultation with FAPLT and the General Trustees. Thereafter approval by the Presbytery, and final approval by FAPLT and General Trustees shall be sought and this process shall follow the procedure set out above at section 2.2, save that the period to achieve final approval of the Plan shall be one month rather than three months. After such five-yearly evaluation and development, final approval and recording of that approval at a meeting of the Presbytery, the Mission Plan shall be re-dated to cover the next five years and that shall become the Presbytery’s Approved Mission Plan.

2.4.4 The first five-yearly evaluation and development of each Mission Plan shall take place five years after a Mission Plan first became an Approved Mission Plan in terms of section 2.2.6, and thereafter a five-yearly evaluation and development shall take place every five years.”

7. In the existing section 2.4.2, to be re-numbered 2.5.2, after “annual” add “or five-yearly”.

8. Delete the existing section 3.1 and substitute:

“Within fourteen days of the date of the Presbytery meeting at which one of the following has been recorded:

(a) the agreement of FAPLT and the General Trustees to the Mission Plan; or

(b) the approval by Presbytery to an annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan; or

(c) the agreement of FAPLT and the General Trustees to a five-yearly evaluation and development of a Mission Plan;

it shall be open to any twelve or more members of the Presbytery or to any Kirk Session within its bounds to seek a review of the process used by the Presbytery in preparing and approving the Mission Plan (or its annual or five-yearly evaluation or development, as the case may be). This shall be done by sending intimation to the Principal Clerk (who in turn shall inform FAPLT and the General Trustees in the case of a first agreement to a Mission Plan or a five-yearly evaluation and development of a Mission Plan)."

9. Delete the existing section 4.1 and substitute:

"After achieving the final approval of FAPLT and the General Trustees to the Mission Plan (or the approval by Presbytery to an annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan, or of FAPLT and the General Trustees to a five-yearly evaluation and development of a Mission Plan, as the case may be), and when there are no outstanding requests for review to be heard by the Mission Plan Review Panel, the Presbytery shall proceed to implement the Approved Mission Plan."

10. In the fifth sentence of section 7(5), after "normal annual" add "and five-yearly".

11. In section A2.(b) of the Schedule, delete "2.3" and substitute "2.4" and delete "annual" and substitute "five-yearly".

12. In section A2.(c) of the Schedule, after "annual" add "or five-yearly".

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

*It was moved and seconded as a counter-motion to section 2 of the Overture:*

Instruct that the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) shall be amended so as to substitute biennial evaluation and development for annual evaluation and development, and to that end pass an Act amending

the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) as set out in the Appendix to this countermotion.

APPENDIX (detailed changes required to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021))

[ ] ACT AMENDING THE PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN ACT (ACT VIII 2021) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburgh, [ ] May 2024, Session [ ]

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. Delete the existing section 2.1.2(a) and substitute:

“(a) to be retained beyond the five years from the date of the Approved Mission Plan”.

2. In section 2.2.2, delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

3. Retitle section 2.3 as “BIENNIAL EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MISSION PLAN”.

4. In section 2.3.1, delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

5. In section 2.3.2, delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

6. In section 2.4.2, delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

7. In section 3.1 delete “annual” and substitute “biennial” on two occasions.

8. In section 4.1 delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

9. In the fifth sentence of section 7(5), delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

10. In section A2.(b) of the Schedule, delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”.

11. In section A2.(c) of the Schedule, delete “annual” and substitute “biennial”

*On a vote being taken, there voted for the motion 196 and for the counter-motion 119, so the motion carried and the General Assembly resolved accordingly.*

*On a vote being taken For or Against the motion, there voted For 210 and Against 95 and it carried For.*

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

*Add a new section 17 and renumber:*

**17. Invite the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to record the number of 'Bases of Adjustment' being processed by Presbyteries (in terms of the various forms of Adjustment referred to in Section 7 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021)), the time taken to process these and whether or not these Bases were consistent with the relevant Presbytery Mission Plans; and report to the General Assembly of 2025.**

*Sections 10-14 of the Proposed Deliverance of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (these being the only sections of the main Report which had not been considered), along with the Supplementary Report, were remaindered. The Procedure Committee will report on where they will be taken.*

**ASSEMBLY HALL  
and online via video-conference  
EDINBURGH, 21 May 2024, 6.14 pm**

# AFTER ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND DELEGATES

## **COMMISSIONERS**

*Presbytery of Perth*

*Add*

Miss Aileen Scott, Montrose: Trinity (325)

*Add*

Mrs Morag Thomson, Alyth (343)

*Add*

Mr Alisdair Drummond, Blairgowrie (344)

*Add*

Mr Bruce Ballantine, Alyth (345)

*Add*

Mr George Russell, Dollar (346)

*Presbytery of The North East and the Northern Isles*

*Delete*

Mr Ian Cowie, Buckie: North (381)

## **UK ECUMENICAL DELEGATES**

*Delete*

**Presbyterian Church of Wales**

Rev T Evan Morgan, Immediate Past Moderator (483)

## **OVERSEAS DELEGATES**

*Add*

**Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East**

Miss Joanne Billeh (605)



## **VISITORS**

Mr Mubita Waddell (609)

### **Presbyterian Church of Korea**

Rev Donghyun Kim (607)

Mrs Chaesung Moon (608)

Mr Hyun Mun Cho (610)

Mrs Mi Kyoung Kim (611)

Mr Hye Sin Yu (612)

Mrs Jeng Kung Song (613)

Mr Ok Seob Ahn (614)

Mrs Soon Duck La (615)

Mr Bo Hyun Hong (616)

Mrs Yoon Joo Hong (617)

## **AMENDMENTS TO ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Convener, Rev Michael Mair 533

Vice-Convener, Rev Sheila Kirk 532

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13. Rev Ailsa G Maclean, Chaplain, George Heriot's School

Page 5

18. Rev Dr Sheena Orr, Prison Service Chaplain

23. Rev Erica Wishart, Hospice Chaplain, Edinburgh

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70. Mr John Adamson, Cockpen and Carrington l/w Lasswade and Rosewell

Page 6

85. Mr William Windram, Bowden and Melrose

91. Rev P Jill Clancy, Chaplain - Barlinnie Prison

Page 7

165. Rev Brian Casey, **Glasgow: Springburn**

194. Rev James Gemmell, **Glasgow: Carnwadric**

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237. Rev Ecilo Selemani, Coatbridge: **Townhead**

305. Rev Donna M Hays, Sidlaw

Page 9

327. Miss Yvonne M Grant, **Monifieth South Angus**

357. Rev Duncan C Eddie, **Aberdeen: Fountainhall**

369. Rev Amy C Pierce, **Birse and Feughside**

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420. Rev Carol Anne Porter, (Alloa Ludgate)

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493. Rev Sharon Hollis, President

602. Rt Rev Robert Saner-Haigh, Bishop of Penrith

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#### **Panel of Tellers**

Rev Dr Ursula Glienecke	6
Dr Gemma King	36
Mr Robert Burgon	72
Rev Hayley Cohen	57
Rev Alexander Currie	92
Mr Ian Murphy	124
Miss Jennifer Boag	150
Mr John Kitson	155
Rev Alasdair MacMillan	169
Rev Jim Teasdale	180
Mrs Lorraine Gilroy DCS	263
Mrs Catherine Ross	342

Rev Fiona Lister	362
Mr Matthew Philip	393
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## OTHER CORRECTIONS

### **VOLUME OF REPORTS 2024**

#### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Chapter 26, page 3.

#### **Committee to Nominate the Moderator**

*Ministers and Deacons Appointed John McMahon (West London NHS Trust)*

Chapter 26, page 4.

#### **Appointment to Legal Bodies**

##### **-Judicial Panel**

*Elders Appointed Sam Scobie\* (Stranraer)*

# REPORT ON THE PRINTING OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS

## GA 2024

### Interim Report of the Committee on Commissions (Standing Order 26) The Acts and Regulations of the General Assembly

The Committee recommends that it be empowered to revise the List of the following Acts, and to publish them:-

- I     **ACT AMENDING THE DISCIPLINE ACT (ACT I 2019)**  
*Edinburgh, 18 May 2024, Session 3*  
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports page 2/7]
  
- II    **ACT AMENDING THE REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES ACT (ACT II 2017)**  
*Edinburgh, 20 May 2024, Session 6*  
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports page 12/2]
  
- III   **ACT AMENDING THE PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN ACT (ACT VIII 2021)**  
*Edinburgh, 21 May 2024, Session 11*  
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports page 16/40]
  
- IV    **ACT AMENDING THE PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN ACT (ACT VIII 2021)**  
*Edinburgh, 21 May 2024, Session 11*  
[Here take in Act as set out in the Order of Proceedings p21]
  
- V     **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL TRUSTEES (PROPERTIES,  
FUNDS AND ENDOWMENTS) ACT**  
*Edinburgh, 22 May 2024, Session 14*  
[Here take in Act as set out in the Order of Proceedings pages 29-46]
  
- VI    **ACT APPOINTING COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**  
*Edinburgh, 23 May 2024, Session 17*
  
- VII   **ACT APPOINTING DIET OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
*Edinburgh, 23 May 2024, Session 17*

The Committee also recommends that it be empowered to revise the List of the following Regulations, and to publish them:

**I REGULATIONS AMENDING THE LEGAL AID IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS REGULATIONS (REGS I 2018)**

*Edinburgh, 18 May 2024, Session 3*

[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 2/7-8]

**II REGULATIONS AMENDING THE CONGREGATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS “GIVING TO GROW” REGULATIONS (REGS II 2022)**

*Edinburgh, 20 May 2024, Session 5/6*

[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports page 8/36]

**III REGULATIONS AMENDING THE “SEEDS FOR GROWTH” FUND REGULATIONS (REGS IV 2022)**

*Edinburgh, 20 May 2024, Session 5/6*

[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 8/36-37]

*This list is provisional, as the Acts and Regulations mentioned here are considered after this Report is circulated.*

# INTIMATIONS

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