The Church of Scotland General Assembly 2017



ASSEMBLY PAPERS

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Free WiFi is available throughout the Assembly Hall

Network: General Assembly Password: assembly2017

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Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

SESSION I - Saturday 20 May - 9.30am

Opening of the General Assembly

 Constitution of Assembly (Commissioners are asked to stand for items marked *)

*Call to worship (Psalm 100)

Moderator: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with singing.

Moderator: Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His.

Women: We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Moderator: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Men: Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

Moderator: For the Lord is good.

All: His steadfast love endures forever; and His faithfulness to all generations.

* Psalm 95 (CH4 59)



- Oh, come, and let us to the Lord in songs our voices raise, with joyful noise let us the Rock of our salvation praise.
- Let us before his presence come with praise and thankful voice; let us sing psalms to him with grace, and make a joyful noise:
- For God, a great God, and great King, above all gods he is.
 Depths of the earth are in his hand, the strength of hills is his.
- 4. To him the spacious sea belongs, for he the same did make; the dry land also from his hands its form at first did take.
- Oh, come, and let us worship him, let us bow down withal, and on our knees before the Lord our Maker let us fall.

Scottish Psalter 1929; v. 1 as alt. Irish Presbyterian Psalter.

Reading Luke 19: 1-10

Reader: Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, Principal Clerk

Reflection Word of Life – Gratitude

* Prayer and Lord's Prayer

* Hymn (CH4 231)



- For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God; for these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God; for the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
- In the just reward of labour, God's will is done; in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done; in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.
- For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God; for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000) Words © Stainer & Bell Ltd; used by permission

- 2. Roll of Commissioners laid on the table.
- 3. Election of Moderator and Prayer of Consecration (Members of Assembly stand when Moderator enters).
- 4. Commission to the Lord High Commissioner to be read, and order given for recording it (Members of Assembly stand).
- 5. Her Majesty's Letter to be read, and order given for recording it (Members of Assembly stand).
- 6. Address by the Lord High Commissioner, and Reply by the Moderator (*Members of Assembly stand*).
- 7. Address by Retiring Moderator.
- 8. Appointment of Committee to prepare Answer to Her Majesty's Gracious Letter.
- 9. Report of Standing Committee on Commissions.
- 10. Submission of Standing Orders.
- 11. Appointment of Committee for arranging Order of Business (*This Committee will meet at the close of the morning session*).
- 12. Appointment of Panel of Tellers.
- 13. Appointment of Committee to prepare Minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
- 14. Intimation of arrangements for the celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 22 May at 9.15am.

Suspension of business for twenty minutes

- 15. Appointment of Associate Principal Clerk.
- 16. Presentation of Delegates and Visitors.
- 17. Report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee (Reports 1/1).
- 18. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/1).
- 19. Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 2/1).
- 20. Minutes of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly August 2016 (Reports 31/1).
- 21. Minutes of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly December 2016 (Reports 32/1).
- 22. Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases.
- 23. Minutes of the Ministries Appeal Panel December 2016 (Reports 33/1).
- 24. Minutes of the Ministries Appeal Panel April 2017 (Order of Proceedings p27).
- 25. Report of the Committee on Classifying Returns to Overtures (Reports 4/1).
- 26. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (Reports 5/1).
- 27. Report and Supplementary Report of the Council of Assembly (Reports 6/1 and Order of Proceedings p28).
- 28. Joint Report of the Council of Assembly, Ministries Council, Mission and Discipleship Council, Panel on Review and Reform and Legal Questions Committee (Reports 7/1).

Sunday 21 May

10.00 am Assembly Service (St Giles')
12.30 pm Gaelic Service (Greyfriars Kirk)

1 pm – 6 pm *'Heart and Soul 2017'* (Princes Street Gardens)

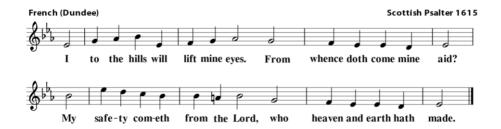
SESSION II - Monday 22 May - 9.15am

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Commissioners are asked to stand for items marked *)

* Call to Worship

* Psalm 121 (CH4 81)



- 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.
- Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will he slumber that thee keeps.
 Behold, he that keeps Israel, he slumbers not, nor sleeps.
- 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.
- The Lord shall keep thy soul; he shall preserve thee from all ill. Henceforth thy going out and in God keep for ever will.

The Scottish Psalter 1929

Reading Matthew 1: 18-25

Reader: Rev Dr George Whyte, Associate Principal Clerk

Reflection Word of Life – With

* The Nicene Creed We believe in one God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,

And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

The only begotten Son of God,

Begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,

By Whom all things were made:

Who, for us and for our salvation,

Came down from heaven,

And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,

And was made human.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried:

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,

And ascended into heaven,

And sitteth on the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge

Both the guick and the dead,

Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in

The Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life,

Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;

Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

Who spake by the prophets.

And we believe one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

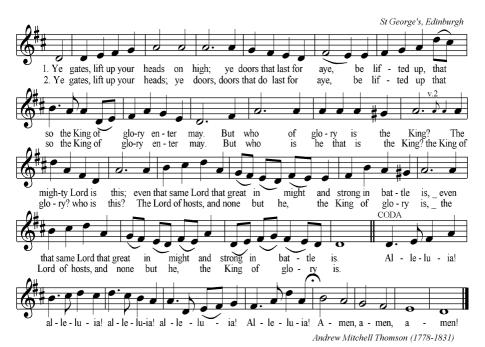
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

And we look for the Resurrection of the dead,

And the life of the world to come.

Amen.

* Psalm 24: 7-10 (CH4 19)



- 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.
- 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.

Coda: Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! Amen, amen, amen.

The Scottish Psalter, 1929

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Prayer

Lord, have mercy Christ, have mercy Lord, have mercy

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

For ever. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Moderator says:

Lift up your hearts.

Let us lift them up unto the Lord. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. It is meet and right so to do.

The Moderator says:

Therefore, with Your people of all places and times, And with the whole company of heaven, We proclaim Your greatness and sing Your praise in the angels' song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

The Moderator says:

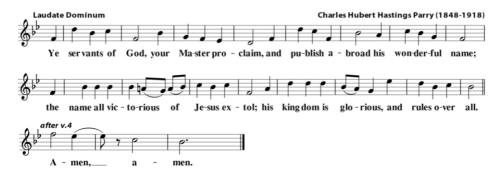
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,

Grant us Your peace.

* Hymn (CH4 130)



- Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name; the name all-victorious of Jesus extol; his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.
- God ruleth on high, almighty to save; and still he is nigh, his presence we have; the great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.
- 'Salvation to God who sits on the throne!'
 let all cry aloud, and honour the Son:
 the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
 fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.
- 4. Then let us adore, and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might, all honour and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

Amen, Amen.

Words Charles Wesley (d.1788), music CHH Parry (d.1918)

* Benediction

- 1. Constitution of Assembly.
- 2. Report of the Business Committee.
- 3. Report of the World Mission Council (Reports 8/1).
- 4. Joint Report of the World Mission Council and the Church and Society Council (Reports 9/1).
- 5. Report and Supplementary Report of the Social Care Council (Reports 10/1 and Order of Proceedings p55).
- 6. Report and Supplementary Report of the Panel on Review and Reform (Reports 11/1 and Order of Proceedings p65).
- 7. Report of the Council of Assembly (Property Matters) (Reports 6/29 and Order of Proceedings p28).

AMENDMENTS TO VOLUME OF REPORTS

Ecumenical Relations Committee

On page 16/8, add the following at the end of the Report:

In the name of the Committee

ALISON P MCDONALD, Convener CALUM I MACLEOD, Vice-Convener JOHN L MCPAKE, Secretary

Ministries Council

On page 18/44, in Appendix 2, Act amending the Auxiliary Ministry Act (Act XIII 2003), in the first and last lines of the new section 6(g), delete the words "Assessment Conference" and substitute the words "Assessment Panel".

On page 18/45 in Appendix 4, Act amending the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011), in the first and last lines of the new section 25(1)(g), delete the words "Assessment Conference" and substitute the words "Assessment Panel".

General Trustees

The following is a corrected Proposed Deliverance of the **General Trustees**. This replaces the version in print on page 23/1 of the volume of Reports:

GENERAL TRUSTEES

MAY 2017

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

- 1. Receive the Report and Accounts of the General Trustees.
- 2. (a) Appoint Rev Sheila M Kirk BA LLB BD, Mr J Grahame Lees MA LLB NP and Rev Janet S Mathieson MA BD as General Trustees.
 - (b) Authorise payment of remuneration of £1,730 to each of Mr Iain C Douglas and Mr Roger G G Dodd as Vice-Chairman for the past year.
- 3. Note the work of the Way Forward Group and the various Working Groups.
- 4. Urge Presbyteries and congregations to undertake their respective responsibilities for the planned inspection, maintenance and repair of churches, halls and manses.

AFTER ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND DELEGATES

COMMISSIONERS

Presbytery of West Lothian Delete Mr T Gordon Forbes (66) Substitute Mrs Jean Kershaw, Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh

Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley Delete Rev Robin N Allison (208)

Presbytery of Glasgow Delete Ms Flora R Black (276) Add Dr Alastair K Denholm, Williamwood (285)

Presbytery of Perth Add Mr William R Wilson, Perth: St John's Kirk of Perth (501)

Presbytery of Angus
Delete Rev Fiona C Bullock (523)

Presbytery of Aberdeen
Delete Mr Iain H Hunter (551)
Substitute Mrs S Debbie Gordon, Cults
Delete Miss Patricia A Moir MBE (553)

Presbytery of Inverness
Delete Rev Michael Robertson (619)

Presbytery of Caithness
Delete Rev Heather Stewart (654)

Presbytery of Uist Add Mr John D Macdonald, Benbecula I/w Carinish (665)

DELEGATES

Methodist Church in Scotland Delete Mr Doug Swanney (720)

Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Kenya Delete Rev Alfred Mugendi Kanga (733) Substitute Rev Francis Ndungu Njoroge Gereja Kristen Sumba Delete Rev Alfred Djama Samani (745) Delete Rev Charles Umbu Detha (764)

National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon Delete Ms Rola Sleiman (760)

Presbyterian Church (USA) Add Miss Grace Eileen Rice Cushman – 20 May (847)

Church of North India Add Rt Rev Dr Prem Chand Singh (848)

Middle East Council of Churches, Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees Add Mrs Rula Norregaard (849)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Mission and Discipleship Council **869.** Mr Ronald H Clarke – 23 May **870.** Mr Graham Fender-Allison – 26 May

COMMITTEE TO PREPARE AN ANSWER TO HER MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS LETTER

Delete Miss Patricia A Moir (553) Add Mrs Myrtle A Gillies MBE (655)

ADDITIONAL BOX NUMBERS

850. Miss Carol Finlay

851. Rev Douglas Galbraith

852. Ms Suzi Farrant

853. Rev Michael J Mair

855. Miss Victoria Stigant

856. Rev Victoria Linford, Presbytery Clerk, Melrose and Peebles

857. Rev Julie Rennick, Depute Clerk, Melrose and Peebles

- 858. Rev Dr H Dane Sherrard, Presbytery Clerk, Duns
- 859. Dr Christopher T Brett, Presbytery Clerk, Argyll
- 860. Rev Andrew Sarle, Presbytery Clerk, Falkirk
- 861. Mr Chris Dunn, Depute Clerk, Falkirk
- 862. Mrs Catherine Wilson, Depute Clerk, St Andrews
- 863. Rev J Colin Caskie, Presbytery Clerk, Perth
- 864. Rev Ian A McLean, Depute Clerk, Angus
- 865. Rev Hugh Conkey, Kincardine and Deeside
- 866. Rev Dr Roderick Grahame, Depute Clerk Elect, Angus
- 867. Rev Mary J Stobo, Depute Clerk, Sutherland
- 868. Rev Robin J McAlpine, Depute Clerk, Kirkcaldy

AMENDMENTS TO ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Page 2 Anne Mulligan DCS (839)

Page 7 Miss Marion **Wylie**, Lugar (165)

Page 10 Very Rev **Dr** Hugh R Wyllie (330)

Page 12 Mrs Jo Wylie, Glenrothes: **St Margaret's** (458)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES

Gereja Kristen Sumba, Indonesia

Church of Pakistan

National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Convener has given notice that on the Report of the Committee on Classifying Returns to Overtures he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 2 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end:

"with the following additional amendment to Schedule 4 (Amendments and Repeals) of the Overture under the heading **Act VIII 2010 (Deacons)**:

Add the following sentence at the end of section 8(d):

"A Deacon who does not occupy such a parish appointment, or other qualifying post, but who is registered on the Register of Ministry in Category **R**, shall be entitled to apply for membership of Presbytery on the same basis as a Minister of Word and Sacrament holding Category **R** registration, being in terms of section 14 of Act III 2000."

The Rev Norman Smith (24), Convener, Mission and Discipleship Council has given notice that on the **Report of the Legal Questions Committee** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 9 of the Deliverance:

After 'Instruct the General Trustees, in consultation with' add 'the Committee on Church Art and Architecture and'.

The Rev Hugh Stewart (668) has given notice that on the Report of the Council of Assembly he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new section 8 and renumber:

Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Nomination Committee, to investigate the opportunities, costs and financing of making video-conferencing more widely available for meetings of the Councils and Committees of the Church and report to the General Assembly in 2018.

The Convener has given notice that on the **Report of the Council of Assembly** she will ask the Principal Clerk to move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 12 and renumber:

Appoint Ms Christine Paterson as Acting Depute Clerk of the General Assembly until the opening day of the General Assembly 2018.

The Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan (435) has given notice that on the Joint Report of the World Mission Council and Church and Society Council he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 3 of the Deliverance:

Amend Section 3 to read:

Urge the Scottish and UK Governments that any public commemorations of the Balfour Declaration are undertaken sensitively, recognising the costs involved for the Palestinian people.

The Rev Tom Gordon (10) has given notice that on the Joint Report of the World Mission Council and Church and Society Council he will move the following COUNTER-MOTION to Section 3 of the Deliverance:

Urge the Scottish and UK governments to ensure that public commemorations of the Balfour Declaration are undertaken with integrity, recognising the enormous cost to the Palestinian people of the failure to fulfil the promise in the Declaration to safeguard and secure their human rights which continue to be violated.

The Rev James Aitken (1) has given notice that on the Joint Report of the World Mission Council and Church and Society Council he will move the following COUNTER-MOTION to Section 5 of the Deliverance:

Commend all those who are committed to the use of non-violent means to resist the occupation and achieve a just peace, and instruct the World Mission Council to support partners who are working in this way, particularly those civil society organisations under threat because of their work.

The Rev Tom Gordon (10) has given notice that on the Joint Report of the World Mission Council and Church and Society Council he will move the following COUNTER-MOTION to Section 6 of the Deliverance:

Condemn all infringements of international law, including the expansion of the illegal settlements, which are obstacles to peace, and urge the adoption of economic measures to pressure the state of Israel to comply with international law.

The Rev Sarah Brown (239) has given notice that on the Joint Report of the World Mission Council and Church and Society Council she will move the following COUNTER-MOTION to Section 9 of the Deliverance:

Endorse the Kairos Palestine document and invite the World Mission Council to produce resources to encourage all church members to engage with the document.

The Rev Norman Smith (24), Convener, Mission and Discipleship Council has given notice that on the **Report of the Panel on Review and Reform** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 5 of the Deliverance:

After "Ministries Council,' add 'Mission and Discipleship Council,'.

The Rev Alexander Currie (141) has given notice that on the **Report of the Church and Society Council** he will move the following amendment of Section 21 of the Deliverance:

After "develop resources to support pilgrimage in Scotland" add ", and to explore and develop ways of assisting congregations on pilgrim routes to fulfil the missionary purposes of the Church."

The Very Rev Dr Alan McDonald (637) has given notice that on the Report of the Church and Society Council he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 29:

Call on the UK Government to ensure that ship to ship transfers of crude oil are not permitted in the Inner Moray Firth.

The Rev Hugh Stewart (668) has given notice that on the Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 26:

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

The Rev Alan Hamilton (351) has given notice that on the **Report of the Theological Forum** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Sections 3 and 4 of the Deliverance:

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

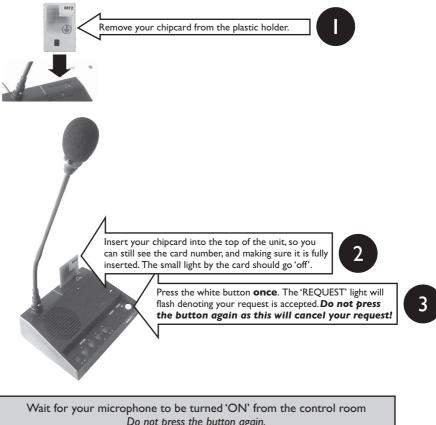
Recognising and affirming the Church's existing doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality, as in particular contained in (i) the deliverance in 2011 of the General Assembly on the Report of the Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry in which the Church stated both that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

The Chairman, General Trustees has given notice that on the **Report of the General Trustees** he will ask the Principal Clerk to move the following AMENDMENT of Section 2 of the Deliverance (as corrected on page 10 of the Assembly Papers):

Add a new sub-section (c):

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

How do I use the microphone?





Do not press the button again.



A red light at the top of the microphone will light up to show the microphone is 'ON'



When finished please remove your chipcard.



INTIMATION OF MEETING

The Committee to Nominate the Moderator will be appointed during the General Assembly and will hold its first meeting on Friday 26 May in the Senate Room at lunchtime. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

ASSEMBLY CHOIR

An Assembly Choir has been invited to sing during opening worship on Friday 26 May.

Commissioners who would like to participate are invited to attend rehearsals in the Assembly Hall at 12.30pm on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 May (immediately following the morning business session). The Choir will also rehearse at 8.45am on Friday 26 May.

A small group of staff from the Church Offices has already rehearsed the music and will assist. If you would like to sing and wish to have the music in advance of the rehearsal, please contact the Precentor by leaving a note in box 770.



Come and See the Big Picture

You are invited to come and see the Big Picture for yourself.

Meet **Mission Aviation Fellowship** (MAF) at St Cuthbert's Church from 12.30pm on Wednesday 24 May

A light lunch and photographic exhibition providing a fascinating glimpse into MAF's work around the world.