

## REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE MAY 2021

### Proposed Deliverance

#### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

### Report

**1.1** It is now over three years since the Registration of Ministries Act came into effect on 1st January 2018. While the principal responsibilities for the Act lie with Presbyteries and the Faith Nurture Forum, the main function of the Registration of Ministries Committee is to consider applications from Church of Scotland Parish Ministers, who are currently categorised as E or R, who wish to have the status of O, which entitles them to be inducted to a charge. In addition, where ministers are returning from suspension, and wish to transition out of category S (for those who've been suspended) the Committee will consider such applications. Following changes to the Registration of Ministries Act made by the General Assembly of 2020, the Committee now considers comments made by the Recruitment Sub-Committee of the Safeguarding Committee.

**1.2** The Registration of Ministries Committee's responsibility is to assess an individual's readiness for parish ministry, and then to specify what steps need to be taken to address any gaps in knowledge, understanding and experience which come to light.

**1.3** In 2020, the Committee has met five times to consider applications, with only one of these meetings being a face to face encounter. A further two meetings took place in the first half of 2021.

**1.4** The Committee continues to examine how it operates, and seeks to offer a process which is robust and yet pastoral, and meets the needs of both those coming before it and the needs of the wider church.

**1.5** Dates for the Committee's cycle of meetings are published on the Church of Scotland website [here](#), along with an indication of a deadline for prior submission of papers.

*In the name of the Committee*

NEIL DOUGALL, *Convener*  
HAZEL HASTIE, *Vice-Convener*  
ANGUS R. MATHIESON, *Registrar*

### Addendum

Neil Dougall has convened the Registration of Ministries Committee for the first three years of its life, and has brought a passion for the ministry of the Church to this role. In the early months of developing processes to support the work of the Committee, Neil has demonstrated a knowledge of the Church, and an attention to detail, as well as a pastoral concern and warmth towards those engaging with the Committee. He had established a fruitful relationship with the Ministries Council and successfully moved into working with the Faith Nurture Forum. The Committee expresses its gratitude to Neil for his commitment, passion and insights into ministry in his Convenership of the Committee.