The Church of Scotland General Assembly 2017



ASSEMBLY PAPERS

THURSDAY 25 MAY

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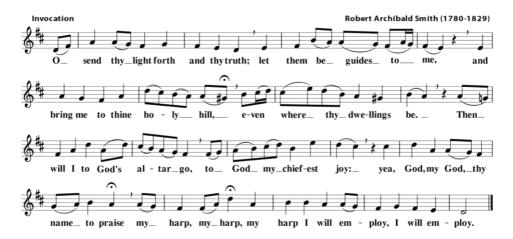
E-mail: assembly of fice @church of scotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

SESSION V - Thursday 25 May - 9.15am

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

* Psalm 43 (CH4 35)



- O send thy light forth and thy truth; let them be guides to me, and bring me to thine holy hill, even where thy dwellings be. Then will I to God's altar go, to God my chiefest joy: yea, God, my God, thy name to praise my harp, my harp, my harp I will employ, I will employ.
- Why art thou then cast down, my soul? what should discourage thee? And why with vexing thoughts art thou disquieted in me? Still trust in God; for him to praise good cause I yet shall have: he of my countenance is the health, my God, my God, my God that doth me save, that doth me save.

The Scottish Psalter 1929

*Prayer

Moderator: Lord of life, we come to you.

Sung Response (CH4 782): Lord of life, we come to You. Lord of all, our Saviour be, Come to bless and to heal with the light of Your love.



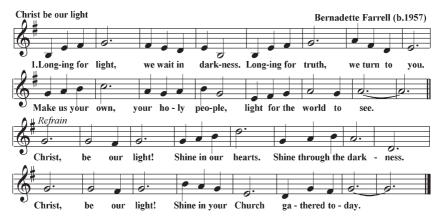
Reading Acts 1: 1-11

Reader: Mr Fraser Stockton, Youth Representative

Reflection Word of Life – Light

* Prayer

* Hymn (CH4 543)



Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.
 Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

- 3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.
- Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
 Longing for warmth, many are cold.
 Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.
- Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

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- 2. Minutes.
- 3. Report of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces (Reports 19/1).
- 4. Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council (Reports 20/1).
- 5. Report of the National Youth Assembly 2016 (Reports 21/1).
- 6. Report of the Theological Forum (Reports 22/1).

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTI AND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 23 MAY 2017

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, the 23rd day of May 2017 years, at 9.15 am, Session III.

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

The minutes of Session I, being printed and in the hands of members, were submitted and approved.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL

The General Assembly called for the Report and Supplementary Report of the Church and Society Council which were given in by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

 Receive the Report and Supplementary Report.

Speak Out

- Approve the Speak Out Implementation Plan and encourage the Council in its long-term planning process.
- Celebrate the outstanding work which local churches are already undertaking to make Scotland fairer, more equal and more just – more like God intends.

- Instruct the Council to work in partnership with other Councils and Committees in the implementation of the Plan.
- Instruct the Council to develop resources to enable congregations to engage fully in the work of Speak Out.
- Instruct the Council to establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework which will enable the Church to scrutinise, measure and learn from the work of Speak Out.

Surveillance

- Instruct the Council to develop appropriate resources to ensure the wider discussion of the issues raised in the Surveillance and Social Justice report.
- 8. Instruct the Council to continue to challenge organisations, including governments, in their inappropriate use of surveillance especially with regards to the poorest and most marginalised in society.

European Union

- Regret the reported rise in xenophobic and racist attacks on people following the result of the EU Referendum and affirm the valuable role of citizens from other parts of Europe living in Scotland.
- Encourage congregations to discuss our future in Europe respectfully, using the "Conversation Welcome"

- resource produced by the Joint Public Issues Team, and to raise their concerns and aspirations with their elected representatives.
- Call on the Scottish and UK Governments to ensure that the rights and contributions of nationals from other EU countries resident in Scotland are recognised and protected.
- Instruct the Council to ensure the voice of the Church is heard in the public debate around the Article 50 negotiations.

Asylum and Refugees

- 13. Call on the UK Government to increase the target number of individuals to be resettled under refugee humanitarian programmes in proportion to the scale of global need and the relative size of the UK population and economy.
- 14. Call on the UK Government to allow individuals resettled through community sponsorship to be counted in addition to, rather than as part of, its target number for refugee resettlement.
- Encourage congregations that may be considering applying for community sponsorship to be aware of the wider implications outlined in the Report at paragraph 7.4.5.
- 16. Call on the UK Government to implement the recommendations of the 2015 UK Parliamentary Inquiry into Detention and to make provision for child refugees to have access to a right to family reunion.
- 17. Call on the Scottish Government to extend its strategic framework for refugee integration and ensure the participation of the church at a local and national level, both as an organisation committed to working with refugees as well as a body which includes asylum seekers and refugees as members.
- 18. Encourage congregations and church members to take part in opportunities for encounter and learning with

- asylum seekers and refugees, through appropriate groups or the programmes from the Scottish Refugee Council including Cup of Tea with a Refugee and Refugee Festival Scotland.
- 19. Acknowledge the generosity of many congregations in donating aid and money to support refugees and encourage giving money rather than purchasing new goods for donation, and where donated goods are offered that these are given in response to a specific list of requested items and to a registered charity.

Pilgrimage

- 20. Affirm the place of pilgrimage within the life of the church and encourage congregations to explore opportunities for pilgrimage locally and how to provide practical and spiritual support for pilgrims passing through the parish.
- 21. Instruct the Council, in partnership with the Mission and Discipleship Council and others to develop resources to support pilgrimage in Scotland.

An Economy Driven by Equality

22. Welcome the growth of interest in ethical finance initiatives in Scotland and urge congregations to support the Christian Aid Big Shift campaign on banking and investigate what it means to become an Ethical Money Church.

Doing Politics Differently

- 23. Welcome the impact of 'Meet Your MSP' and encourage congregations to build positive relationships with their local politicians.
- 24. Welcome the work on participatory budgeting initiatives being undertaken by local congregations supported by the Council.

Gender Justice

25. Commend the work that the Council of Assembly is doing to explore the best way to take forward broader gender justice work in the Church.

- 26. Welcome the work being undertaken by the Violence against Women Task Group and Development Officer and urge the Church to continue to work to end violence against women.
- Commend the new resources created by the Violence against Women Task Group for study and action by local churches and Kirk Sessions.
- Instruct the Council to reflect on the issue of prostitution and the Church's response to it and to report on this subject to a future General Assembly.
- 29. Call on political decision-makers and influence shapers to refrain from personal attacks but instead seek to discuss, debate and engage in conversation with respect, grace and always seeking the common good.
- Instruct the Council to continue to monitor the ongoing debate about Scotland's Constitutional Future and to report the General Assembly of 2018.

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

Add a new Section 2 and renumber:

Express profound sadness at the attack at Manchester Arena and the tragic and pointless loss of life; affirm the courage and grace with which Manchester is already responding; call on the Church to continue to foster deep relationships across communities; and commit us to pray for all those affected.

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

Add a new Section 9 and renumber:

Note the imminent introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation and encourage the Council to monitor its effects on vulnerable people.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 9:

Delete 'Regret' and substitute 'Deplore'.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 11:

After 'resident in Scotland' add 'and UK citizens resident in EU member states'.

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

Add a new Section 18 and renumber:

Call on the UK Government to end its policy of destitution for failed asylum seekers.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the proposed amendment:

Delete 'failed' and substitute 'rejected'.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment of the proposed amendment, it carried Against.

The amendment was then agreed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 21:

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.'

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

Add a new Section 23 and renumber:

Instruct the Council to consider the effectiveness of microcredit schemes in lifting people out of poverty and report to a future General Assembly as part of the Council's focus on an economy driven by equality.

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

Add a new Section 25 and renumber:

Encourage the Council to reflect on changes in the way that decisions are made at the level of Government and report to a future General Assembly.

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

Add a new Section 27 and renumber:

Condemn the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as an act of violence against women and call on the Council to urge the UK Government to seriously consider an individual's risk of falling victim to FGM when determining asylum applications.

It was moved and seconded as an 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.

On a vote being taken For or Against it carried For.

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

Add a new Section 29:

Welcome the development of Visitor Centres in Scottish Prisons, welcome the engagement of the Church in this development, and encourage the Council to continue to pay attention to this and other matters relating to imprisonment and penal reform.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.27 pm until 2 pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Guild which was given in by Mrs Rosemary Johnston, Convener.

It was moved and seconded-

The General Assembly:

- 1. Receive the Report.
- 2. Congratulate the Guild on its 130th anniversary.
- 3. Encourage congregations without a Guild to consider establishing one.
- 4. Note the possibility of individuals joining the Guild.
- Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider their relationship with the Guild at all levels, including support of Guild Projects.
- Welcome the on-going developments in the services delivered nationally by the Guild.
- Commend the Guild's published resources for use by other congregational groups.
- 8. Welcome the developing relationship between the Guild and the Synod of Livingstonia of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 3:

Add at the end 'or forming a linkage with a neighbouring congregation'.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of Section 5:

After 'consider' add 'reinvigorating'.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

Mrs Johnston, on her retiral as Convener, was thanked by the Moderator for her noteworthy service to the Guild and the General Assembly.

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD AND THE NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly called for the Joint Report of the Guild and the National Youth Assembly which was given in by Mrs Rosemary Johnston, Convener, The Church of Scotland Guild.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

- 1. Receive the Report.
- Commend the Guild and the National Youth Assembly for their continuing commitment to developing intergenerational initiatives.
- Encourage ministers, Kirk Sessions and other church leaders to consider how intergenerational work and ministry might be of benefit in their congregations and parishes.
- Encourage Presbyteries to consider how they might support congregations in developing intergenerational work and ministry.
- Encourage the Councils and Committees of the Kirk to keep intergenerational issues in mind in their discussions and decision-making.

IONA COMMUNITY BOARD

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Iona Community Board which was given in by the Rev Alan Kimmitt, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The General Assembly:

- Receive the Report and thank the Board.
- Congratulate the lona Community on the opening of its new Glasgow centre and the development of programme activities promoting peace and justice.
- 3. Commend the proposed refurbishment plans for Iona Abbey and encourage church members and congregations to support the Sanctuary and Light Iona Abbey Appeal.
- 4. Congratulate the new Leader of the lona Community, Dr Michael Marten, and wish him well; and thank Rev Peter Macdonald for his service over the past eight years.

Rev Peter McDonald, Leader of the Iona Community, was invited to address the General Assembly and was thanked by the Moderator.

The General Assembly adjourned at 3.37 pm to meet again in this Hall tomorrow at 9.15 am for business, whereof public intimation having been made, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

ASSEMBLY HALL EDINBURGH, 23 May 2017, 3.37 pm

A special session, Catalysing Kingdom Communities, was held in the Assembly Hall following the close of business.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Rev Fiona Gardner (246) has given notice that on the Report of the Chaplains to HM Forces Committee she will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 6 of the Deliverance:

After 'Approve' add 'and implement'.

Miss Esther Nisbet (806) has given notice that on the Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council she will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 10 of the Deliverance:

Amend Section 10 to read:

Instruct the Council to address the proposals contained within its report on the subject of the National Youth Assembly Review and as part of that process to create a working group of 14 people comprising seven members of the Mission and Discipleship Council and seven young people (including former and current members of the National Youth Assembly, youth workers and other young people), young people to form the majority of the group and the group to be co-chaired by a young person and a member of the Council, and to bring an interim report to the General Assembly of 2018 considering the vision, scope, structures and resourcing that engage young people in spiritual formation and decision making processes at all levels of the Church.

Mr Tom Burnham (101) has given notice that on the **Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Section 10 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end 'and to continue the National Youth Assembly beyond 2019 unless and until any alternatives have been proved at least as successful'.

The Rev Hugh O'Brien (585) 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 13 and renumber:

Acknowledge and congratulate Scripture Union on its $150^{\rm th}$ anniversary year, giving thanks to God for the work of Scripture Union Scotland with our nation's young people.

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 Dr 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 Rev Peter Johnston (539) has given notice that on the **Report of the Theological Forum** he will move the following AMENDMENT of Sections 3, 4 and 5 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), Section 4 as sub-section b) and Section 5 as sub-section c):

Recognising the Church's doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality and marriage:

The Rev Dr Andrew Gardner (701) has given notice that on the Report of the Theological Forum he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 4:

Instruct the Forum to engage in further reflection on the issues surrounding same-sex marriage and bring to a future General Assembly a further report that deals with the broad spectrum of views on this issue.

Mr Nathan Hood (812) has given notice that on the **Report of the Theological Forum** he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 6:

Urge the Forum, in consultation with other Councils, to investigate theologically the theme of reconciliation, with particular reference to the divisions within the Church of Scotland, Scottish churches and Scottish society concerning same-sex marriage.

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.

The Rev Drew Barrie (409) has given notice that on the Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees he will move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 2:

Urge the Trustees to publish CH4 in a format more easily accessible to the visually impaired.

The Chairman has given notice that on the Report of the Church of Scotland Pension Trustees he will ask the Principal Clerk to move the following AMENDMENT of the Deliverance:

Add a new Section 3:

Approve the appointment, as a Trustee, of Mr Adrian Bark.

The Convener has given notice that on the **Report of the Nomination Committee** he will ask the Principal Clerk to move the following amendment of Section 3 of the Deliverance:

Delete:

Ministries Council

Member Appointed Hilary Peppiette (Edinburgh: Fairmilehead)

Amend:

Ecumenical Relations Committee

Minister Appointed Aniko Schütz Bradwell* (Humbie I/w Yester, **Bolton** and Saltoun)

Add:

Church Art and Architecture Committee

Member Appointed Marion Fyfe (Kirn and Sandbank)

Council of Assembly

Member Resigned John McPake

Member Appointed David Brackenridge (Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie)

Judicial Proceedings Panel

Ministers Appointed John Ferguson (Peterculter), William Hewitt (Kilmarnock: St Andrew's and St Marnock's)

Elders Appointed Barbara Finlayson (Edinburgh: St Andrew's and St George's West), Myrtle Gillies (Thurso: West), Margaret McIntosh (Prestwick: St Nicholas), Ishbel Smith (Edinburgh: Balerno)

Ministries Council

Minister Resigned Gary McIntyre
Minister Appointed Stewart Weaver (Edinburgh: Portobello and Joppa) (3 yrs)
Member Appointed Anne Noble* (Bathgate: St John's) (2 yrs)

Nomination Committee

Minister Resigned Sean Swindells
Minister Appointed Ian Murray (Canonbie United I/w Liddesdale)
Member Appointed Kay McIntosh DCS (Kirk of Calder)

Social Care Council

Member Appointed Anne Oxbrow (Edinburgh: Greenbank)

Report of the Standing Committee on Printing the Acts of the General Assembly

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

ACT AMENDING THE CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS ACT (ACT XIX 1964) (AS 1 AMENDED)

Edinburgh, 20 May 2017, Sess. I

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 2/2]

REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES ACT Ш

Edinburgh, 20 May 2017, Sess. I

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports pages 4/4-4/33 and as amended Minutes page 30]

Ш ACT AMENDING THE MODEL DEEDS OF CONSTITUTION ACT (ACT II 1994) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburgh, 20 May 2017, Sess. I

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 5/10]

IV ACT AMENDING THE MINISTRY ACT (ACT II 2000) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburgh, 20 May 2017, Sess. I

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 5/10]

V ACT AMENDING THE ACT ANENT THE SALE OF DEACONESS HOUSE, THE APPLICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF SALE, AND THE MRS MACGREGOR (BATTERFLATS) ENDOWMENT FUND (ACT XIV 1963) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburgh, 22 May 2017, Sess. II

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 8/21]

VI ACT AMENDING THE AUXILIARY MINISTRY ACT (ACT XIII 2003) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburah, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV

IHere take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 18/44 and as amended Assembly Papers page 10]

VII ACT AMENDING THE DEACONS ACT (ACT VIII 2010) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburgh, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports pages 18/44-45]

VIII ACT AMENDING THE ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY ACT (ACT IX 2011) (AS AMENDED)

Edinburah, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 18/45 and as amended Assembly Papers page 10]

ΙX MINISTRY AND DEAF CONGREGATIONS ACT

Edinburgh, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV

[Here take in Act as printed in the Volume of Reports page 18/47]

<u>70</u>	THURSDAY 25 MAY
X	ACT AMENDING THE MINISTRY ACT (ACT II 2000) (AS AMENDED) Edinburgh, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV [Here take in Act as printed in the Order of Proceedings page 76]
ΧI	ACT AMENDING THE APPRAISAL AND ADJUSTMENT ACT (ACT VII 2003) (AS AMENDED) Edinburgh, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV [Here take in Act as printed in the Order of Proceedings pages 77-79]
XII	ACT AMENDING THE APPEALS ACT (ACT I 2014) (AS AMENDED) Edinburgh, 24 May 2017, Sess. IV [Here take in Act as printed in the Order of Proceedings page 79]
XIII	ACT APPOINTING COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY Edinburgh, 26 May 2017, Sess. VII
XIV	ACT APPOINTING DIET OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This list is provisional, as some Acts mentioned here are considered after this Assembly Paper goes to print.

Edinburgh, 26 May 2017, Sess. VII

Catalysing Kingdom Communities

For further information about HeartEdge, a growing ecumenical network of churches and other organisations working across the UK and overseas, initiated by St Martin-in-the-Fields and referred to in the Revd Dr Sam Wells' presentation on 23 May, please visit:

www.smitf.org/church/worship/partnerships

www.facebook.com/theHeartEdge

or e-mail: jonathan.evens@smitf.org