



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

ASSEMBLY PAPER

SATURDAY 20 MAY – THURSDAY 25 MAY

Worship and Order of Business.....	2
Minutes.....	24
Amendments/Corrections.....	51
Report on the Printing of Acts and Regulations.....	56
Intimations.....	58

Note: This Paper will be amended/expanded on each of Tuesday 23 May, Wednesday 24 May and Thursday 25 May so please check back on the mornings of those days for the latest version.

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

WORSHIP AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

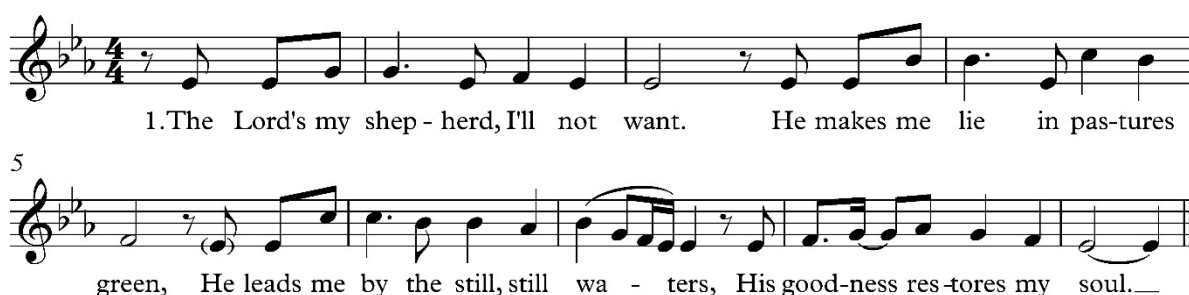
DAY 1 - SATURDAY 20 MAY 2023 – OPENING DAY

SESSION 1: 10.00AM

1. Constitution of Assembly

Prayer

Hymn: The Lord's my shepherd (Psalm 23)



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul. | 2. He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights. |
| <i>And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.</i> | 3. And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know. |

Words and Music: Stuart Townend © 1996 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd).

Readings: Psalm 1
Reader: Rev Allan Morton, Moderator's Chaplain
Hosea 11: 1-11
Reader: Rev Monika Redman, Moderator's Chaplain

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 22 May, at 9.15 am in the Assembly Hall.

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 (including Overture of Highlands & Hebrides Presbyteries wishing to unite) (Reports 1/1 and Order of Proceedings p19).
4. Report of the Scottish Bible Society and Presentation of Bible to Moderator (Reports 1/9).

Lunch

SESSION 3: 2.00PM

1. Report of the Special Committee on the Ethics of Investment Practice (Reports 2/1).
2. Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (Reports 3/1).

Circulation Break

SESSION 4

1. Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee (Reports 4/1).
2. Close

'Remember who you are.' – Holy Communion

Call to Worship

Hymn 655: For your generous providing

1. For your ge - ne - rous pro - vi - ding, which sus - tains us all our days,
5 for your Spi - rit here re - si - ding, we pro - claim our heart-felt praise.
9 Through the depths of joy and sor - row, though the road be smooth or rough,
13 fear-less, we can face to - mor - row for your grace will be e-nough.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. For your generous providing
which sustains us all our days,
for your Spirit here residing,
we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
Through the depths of joy and sorrow,
though the road be smooth or rough,
fearless, we can face tomorrow
for your grace will be enough.</p> <p>2. Hush our world's seductive noises
tempting us to stand alone;
save us from the siren voices
calling us to trust our own.
For those snared by earthly treasure,
lured by false security,
Jesus, true and only measure,
spring the trap to set folk free.</p> | <p>3. Round your table, through your giving,
show us how to live and pray
till your kingdom's way of living
is the bread we share each day:
bread for us and for our neighbour,
bread for body, mind, and soul,
bread of heaven and human labour --
broken bread that makes us whole.</p> |
|--|---|

*Words: Leith Fisher (b.1941) © Church of Scotland
Panel on Worship
Music: HOLY MANNA, The Columbian Harmony,
Cincinatti, 1825*

Prayer

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

Reader: Ms Christine Paterson, Depute Clerk

Homily

Hymn 19: Ye gates, lift up your heads on high (Psalm 24:7-10)

8 Lower voices Full v1

14 Full v2

19

24 Coda

28

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

Words: Psalm 24, verse 7-10, The Scottish Psalter, 1929
Music: ST GEORGE'S EDINBURGH, Andrew Mitchell Thomson (1778-1831)

Celebration of Holy Communion

Hymn: Christ Our Peace (Chorus to be sung during Communion with solo verses)

Christ, our peace, you breakdown the walls that di - vide - us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bo - dy in you.

Christ our peace, you break down the walls that divide us;
Christ our peace, come, make us one body in you.

Words and Music: Marty Haugen © 2007, GIA Publications, Inc.

Hymn: Come to the table of grace (to be sung during Communion)

1. Come to the ta - ble of grace, Come to the ta - ble of grace.

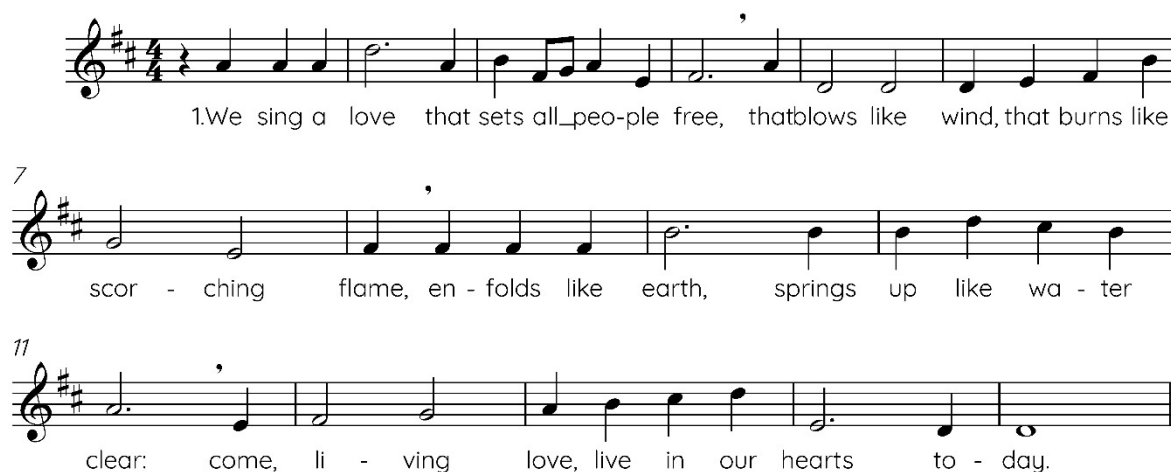
9 This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine, Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Come to the table of grace. | 2. Come to the table of peace... |
| Come to the table of grace. | 3. Come to the table of love... |
| This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. | 4. Come to the table of joy... |
| Come to the table of grace. | 5. Come to the table of hope... |

Words and Music: Barbara Hamm © 2008 Hope Publishing

Prayer

Hymn 622: We sing a love that sets all people free



1. We sing a love that sets all people free,
that blows like wind, that burns like
scorching flame,
enfolds like earth, springs up like water
clear:
come, living love, live in our hearts today.
2. We sing a love that seeks another's good,
that longs to serve and not to count the
cost,
a love that, yielding, finds itself made
new:
come, caring love, live in our hearts
today.
3. We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
to be itself, despite another's wrath,
a love that stands alone and undismayed:
come, strengthening love, live in our
hearts today.
4. We sing a love, that, wandering, will not
rest
until it finds its way, its home, its source,
through joy and sadness pressing on
refreshed:
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts
today.
5. We sing a burning, fiery, Holy Ghost
that seeks out shades of ancient
bitterness,
transfiguring these, as Christ in every
heart:
come joyful love, live in our hearts today.

Words: June Boyce Tillman (b.1943) © 1993
Stainer & Bell Ltd
Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex (1977-
1949)

Benediction

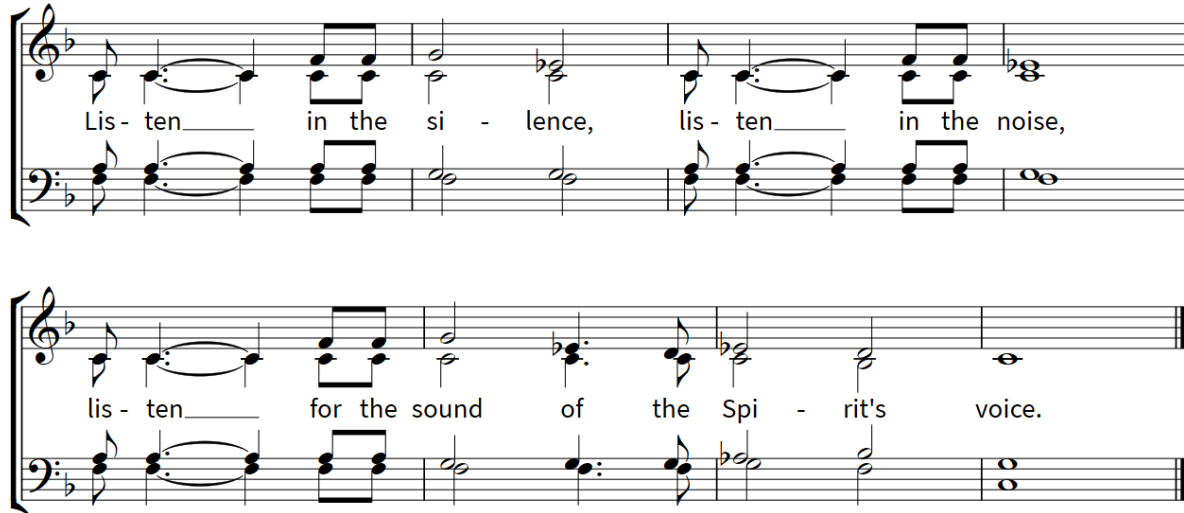
Circulation Break

SESSION 5: 10.30AM

1. Constitution of Assembly

Prayer

Short song for the day: Listen in the silence



Listen in the silence, listen in the noise,
listen for the sound of the Spirit's voice

Words and Music: Linnea Good © 1998 Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

2. Report of the Procedure Committee.
3. Report and Supplementary Report of the Assembly Trustees (Including Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow as to the Presbytery Mission Plan Process) (Reports 5/1 and Order of Proceedings pp 20-21 and 27).

Lunch

SESSION 6: 2.00PM

1. Report of the Theological Forum (Reports 6/1).

Circulation Break

SESSION 7:

1. Report of the Legal Questions Committee (including Petition from the Kirk Session of St Andrew's Bo'ness anent Congregational Meetings) (Reports 7/1 and Order of Proceedings p23).
2. Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly (Order of Proceedings p50).
3. Report of the Delegation of the General Assembly (Reports 8/1).
4. Close.

1. Constitution of Assembly

Call to Worship

Moderator

Hymn:

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O my soul)

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like ne-ver be-fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.

Verse

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing, it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - e - ver may pass, and what - e - ver lies be - fore me, let me be sing-ing when the eve - ning comes.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.*

2. You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing —
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before
me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing your praise unending —
ten thousand reasons and then for
evermore!

Words and Music: Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd),
Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by SHOUT! Music Publishing UK)

Prayer

Leader: There is a time for every season under heaven.

All: *And always, always, always, you are creating something new.*

Readings: *Genesis 1: 1–5*

2 Corinthians 5: 17-20 (to be read in Gaelic)

Reader: Rev Donald Michael MacInnes,
Glasgow: Gairbraid

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Hymn 172: Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation

1. Sing for God's glo - ry that co - lours the dawn of cre - a - tion,

7 ra - cing ac - ross the sky, trai - ling bright clouds of e - la - tion;

13 sun of de - light suc - ceed the vel - vet of night,

18 war - ming the earth's ex - ul - ta - tion.

1. Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight
succeeds the velvet of night,
warming the earth's exultation.
2. Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would bind us,
searing the darkness of fear and despair that could blind us,
touching our shame
with love that will not lay blame,
reaching out gently to find us.
3. Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion,
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;
lifeblood of right,
resisting evil and slight,
offering freedom's transfusion.
4. Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see
the new creation to be,
spirit of love made flesh for us.

Words: Kathryn Galloway (b.1952) © 2003, Iona Community / WGRG

Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1668

Short song for the day: Mayenziwe (CH 805)

May - en - zi - we
Your will be done

May - en - zi - we 'ntan - do ya - kho. May - en - zi - we 'ntan - do ya
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O

kho. May - en - zi - we 'ntan - do ya - kho. May - en - zi - we 'ntan - do ya - kho.
Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho.

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Words and Music: South African traditional

2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Procedure Committee.
4. Report of the Faith Nurture Forum (Reports 9/1).

Circulation Break

SESSION 9

1. Report of the Faith Nurture Forum contd.
2. Report of the Special Committee on Gordon Presbytery (Reports 10/1).

Lunch

SESSION 10: 2.00PM

1. Report of the Social Care Council (Reports 11/1).
2. Report of the Church of Scotland Guild (Reports 12/1).

Circulation Break

SESSION 11

1. Report of the Safeguarding Committee (Reports 13/1).
2. Report of the Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund (Reports 14/1).
3. Report of the Registration of Ministries Committee (Reports 15/1).
4. Report of the Church Hymnary Trustees (Reports 16/1).
5. Close

1. Constitution of Assembly

Call to Worship

Based on Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Leader: Hear O Israel, listen, you that have assembled, pay attention, people of God, wake up, those who would walk the way (not just talk about it) The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. What does that mean?

All: *We shall love the Lord our God with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our might.*

Leader: What does that mean?

All: *We will keep these words today in our hearts. We will recite them to our children and talk about them when we are at home and when we are away, when we lie down and when we rise. We will bind them as a sign on our hands, fix them as an emblem on our foreheads, and write them on the doorposts of our houses and on our gates.*

Leader: What does that mean? Choose to ask the question and let us worship God.

Hymn 96:

You are before me, God, you are behind (from Psalm 139)



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. You are before me, God, you are behind,
 and over me you have spread out your hand;
 such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
 too high to grasp, too great to understand.</p> | <p>3. If I should take my flight into the dawn,
 if I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
 your mighty hand will rest upon me still,
 and your right hand will guard me evermore.</p> |
| <p>2. Then from your Spirit where, God, shall I go,
 and from your presence where, God, shall I fly?
 If I ascend to heaven you are there,
 and still are with me, if in hell I lie.</p> | <p>4. If I should say, 'Let darkness cover me,
 and I shall hide within the veil of night',
 surely the darkness is not dark to you,
 the night is as the day, the darkness light.</p> |

5. Search me, O God, search me and know
my heart,
try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.

*Words: Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson (1923-1995) ©
The Estate of Ian Pitt-Watson
Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred Morton Smith
(1879-1971) © The Estate of Doris Wright Smith*

Prayer

Readings: Micah 6: 6-8
Matthew 22: 36-40
Reader: Rev Dr Fran Henderson, Shetland Parish Church of Scotland

Reflection

Hymn 253: Inspired by love and anger



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Inspired by love and anger,
disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias,
we ponder once again:
'How long must some folk suffer?
How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest
turn prayer and pity blind?'</p> | <p>3. God asks, 'Who will go for me?
Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen,
will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome,
will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow,
will walk the road I show?'</p> |
| <p>2. From those for ever victims
of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes
a litany of need:
'Where are the fruits of justice?
Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners
and dreams find their release?'</p> | <p>4. Amused in someone's kitchen,
asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients
exposed, proclaimed, and wrote,
a saviour without safety,
a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance
with fishermen and fools.</p> |

*Words: John L. Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019) © WGRG, The Iona Community
Music: SALLEY GARDENS, Irish folk melody*

Short song for the day:

Act justly

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of three staves each. The first system includes the word 'Walk' at the end of the first staff. The lyrics are: 'Act just- ly, _ act just- ly, _ act just- ly, _ act just- ly, _ act'. The second system includes the lyrics: 'hum- bly, _ walk hum- bly _ with your God.' and 'mer- cy, _ love mer- cy _ with your God.' and 'just - ly, _ act just - ly _ with your God.'.

Walk

Love mer- cy, _ love mer- cy, _ love

Act just- ly, _ act just- ly, _ act just- ly, _ act just- ly, _ act

hum- bly, _ walk hum- bly _ with your God.

mer- cy, _ love mer- cy _ with your God.

just - ly, _ act just - ly _ with your God.

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

Words: Micah 6:8

Music: Iain McLarty (b.1987) © 2022 Iain McLarty. Used with permission.

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. Supplementary Report of the Faith Impact Forum (Order of Proceedings p25).
2. Report of the Faith Impact Forum (Reports 18/1).

Lunch

SESSION 14: 2.00PM

1. Report of the Faith Impact Forum contd.
2. Report of the General Trustees (Reports 19/1).

Circulation Break

SESSION 15:

1. Report of the Iona Community Board (Reports 20/1).
2. Report of the Pension Trustees (Reports 21/1).
3. Report of the Church of Scotland Trust (Reports 22/1).
4. Report of the Chalmers Lectureship Trust (Reports 23/1).
5. Close

DAY 5 - THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023

SESSION 16: 9.15AM

1. Constitution of Assembly.

Remember who you are, Beloved

Prayer

Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 54:10)

Leader: Wherever we wander, whenever we stumble, when the hill ahead is too steep or the valley has laid us low, God holds us, beloved.

All: For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but God's steadfast love shall not depart from us.

Leader: When the path is precarious and the crossroads fill us with foreboding and an unsettling fear, God holds us, beloved.

All: For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but God's steadfast love shall not depart from us.

Leader: And when we don't even notice because the sun is shining and the sky is bright and "God's in heaven and all's right with our world", God holds us, beloved.

All: For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but God's steadfast love shall not depart from us.

Leader: God's steadfast love shall not depart from us ...

All: And we shall not depart from it.

Leader: Let us worship God.

Hymn 597: Loving Spirit

1. Lo-ving Spi - rit, lo-ving Spi - rit, you have cho-sen me to be,
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have
set your sign on me. me._____

1. vv.1-4 | 2. Last time

1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be --
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

2. Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

3. Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

4. Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) © 1987
The Hymn Society (Admin. by Hope Publishing
Company)
Music: ELLEN, David Dell (b.1959) © David Dell,
Upper Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand*

Prayer

Reading: Isaiah 54: 10-13

Mark 1: 9-13

Reader: Rev Dr Alexander L Milton, Musselburgh: St Andrew's High

Reflection

Hymn: God of all comfort

Verse

1. God of all com-fort, God of com-pas-sion, re-veal your mer-cy through us your
church, dis-turb our slum-ber, move us to ac-tion, to show your
king-dom on the earth. Make us like Je-sus, full of your
Spi-rit, de-cla-ring good news to the poor, pro-claim ing
free-dom for ev-ery cap-tive and the fa-vour of the Lord.

Tag

We pray your king-dom come on earth.

1. God of all comfort, God of compassion,
reveal your mercy through us your church,
disturb our slumber, move us to action,
to show your kingdom on the earth.
Make us like Jesus, full of your Spirit.
declaring good news to the poor,
proclaiming freedom for every captive
and the favour of the Lord.
2. Show us the value of every person
show us your image in every face;
we all are equal, we all are broken,
and need the kindness of your grace.
We stand together, here in the margins,
there in the hardship and the pain,
we cry for justice and restoration,
until the silent sing again.

3. We hear the groaning of all creation,
we hear the promise of earth renewed,
so make us agents of your redemption
in this, the world so loved by you.
May we grow bolder, may we speak louder,
until your voice of hope is heard;
for we see Jesus, going before us,
to bring his kingdom on the earth.

We pray your kingdom come on earth.

We pray your kingdom come on earth.

*Commissioned and written to mark the 75th
anniversary of Christian Aid.*

*Words and Music: Joel Payne, Matt Weeks © 2021
Resound Worship, Administered by Jubilate Hymns
Ltd*

Short song for the day: Hamba nathi

Ham - ba na - thi, ku - lu - lu we thu. Ham - ba na - thi, ku - lu - lu we thu.
Come with me for the jour-ney is long. Come with me for the jour-ney is long.

Ku - lu - lu, ku - lu - lu, ku - lu - lu we - thu. Ku -
The jour - ney, the jour - ney, the jour - ney is long. The
Ku - lu,
Jour - ney, jour - ney, lu - lu we - thu.
jour - ney is long.

lu - lu, ku - lu - lu, ku - lu - lu we - thu.
jour - ney, the jour - ney, the jour - ney is long.
Ku - lu,
Jour - ney, jour - ney, lu - lu we - thu.
jour - ney is long.

Hamba nathi, kululu wethu.

Come with me for the journey is long

Words and Music: South African traditional

2. Minutes.
3. Report of the Procedure Committee
4. Report of the Nomination Committee (Reports 24/1).
5. Report of the Selection Committee if required.
6. Remaindered business if required.

Lunch

SESSION 17: 2.00PM

1. Constitution of Assembly.

Call to Worship

Hymn 360: Jesus Christ is waiting



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too:
make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.</p> <p>2. Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too:
in the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.</p> <p>3. Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets,
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too:
let my care be active,
healing, just like you.</p> | <p>4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too:
where good conquers evil
let me dance with you.</p> <p>5. Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few:
Walk one step before me,
I will follow you.</p> |
|---|---|

*Words: John L. Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule
(1958-2019) © WGRG, The Iona Community
Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French carol*

Prayer

Reading: John 21: 24-25
Reader: Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk

Reflection

Hymn: Here and now we're bound together



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 © Ally Barrett / Jubilate
(administered by Jubilate Hymns Ltd)
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

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 18 May 2024.
9. Presentations to the Moderator.
10. Moderator addresses the General Assembly.
11. The Lord High Commissioner addresses the General Assembly.
12. National Anthem.
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, 20 MAY 2023

At Edinburgh, within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 20th day of May 2023 at 10.00 am.

SESSION 1

After worship conducted by the Right Rev Dr Iain Macleod Greenshields, BD, CertMin, DipRS, ACMA, MSc, MTh, DD, 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 Sally Foster-Fulton, BA, BD, be appointed Moderator.

The appointment was intimated to Mrs Foster-Fulton who was welcomed by the Moderator, and, after the Prayer of Consecration, took the Chair.

His Majesty's Commission to the Rt Hon Lord Hodge, 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 Grace, 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 Dr Iain Macleod Greenshields, for his distinguished and valued service during his 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:

Rev Neil Gardner (9)

Mr Mark Evans DCS (50)

Mrs Pauline Weibye (49)

The Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, *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 Donald McCorkindale, Convener

Rev Michael Mair, Vice-Convener

Moderator

Principal Clerk

Depute Clerk

Procurator

Law Agent

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

Mr Finlay Buchanan	(32)
Mr Michael Cunliffe	(35)
Rev Alistair Cook	(54)
Rev Tom MacIntyre	(95)
Mr John Kitson	(158)
Miss Ann Pickering	(261)
Mrs Alison Hay	(273)
Rev Conor Fegen	(285)
Mrs Pamela Scott DCS	(313)
Mr Daniel Gunn	(350)
Rev Sheila Kirk	(387)
Mr Matthew Philip	(418)
Rev Scott McRoberts	(441)
Rev Mary Stobo	(465)
Rev Dr Stewart Gillan	(506)

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

The Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, *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 22 May 2023 at 9.15 am.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 11.28 am until 12.01 pm.

SESSION 2

The General Assembly received the following Delegates and visitors who were introduced by the Rev I Ross Blackman and the Rev Karen Hendry:

The Presbyterian Church of Wales

Rev T Evan Morgan, Moderator

The United Reformed Church

Rev Fiona Bennett, Moderator

The United Reformed Church (National Synod of Scotland)

Rev Paul Whittle, Moderator

The Church of England

Rev Tim Norwood, National Officer for Local Ecumenism

The Methodist Church in Scotland

Rev James Patron Bell, Ecumenical Officer

Religious Society of Friends – General Meeting for Scotland

Mary Woodward, Ecumenical Officer

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh

The United Free Church of Scotland

Rev Archie Ford, Moderator

Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

The Salvation Army

Major David Cavanagh, Assistant Secretary for Scotland

The Congregational Federation in Scotland

Rev Ruairidh MacRae – was also present online.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary

World Council of Churches

Ms Miriam Weibye, Member of the Central Committee

AFRICA

Presbyterian Church of Nigeria

Rt Rev Ini Ukpuho, National Director of Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Relations

Rev Miracle Ajah, Principal Clerk

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (Presbytery of Zimbabwe)

Rev Lydia Neshangwe, Moderator Elect

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia

Rev William Boshoff Tembo, General Secretary

AMERICAS

Presbyterian Church of the United States of America

Dr Yvonne Dianna Wright, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Office of the General Assembly

ASIA

Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Rev Kim Chang Ju

Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS)

Mr Nasir Saeed, Director, CLAAS UK

CARIBBEAN

Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago

Rev Adrian Sieunarine, Principal, St Andrew's Theological College

EUROPE

United Protestant Church of France

Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal, Representative of Eglise Protestante Unie de France

Chiesa Valdese (Waldensian Church in Italy)

Mr Ulf Hermann Koller, Delegate Member for the III District

MIDDLE EAST

Tent of Nations

Mr Daoud Nasser, Director

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Father Nael Abu Rahmoun

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

The Moderator of the United Reformed Church, Rev Fiona Bennett, addressed the General Assembly in the name of the Ecumenical Delegates and was thanked by the Moderator.

Rev Lydia Neshangwe, Moderator Elect, Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (Presbytery of Zimbabwe) 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. Amend Standing Orders as detailed in (i) section 2 and Appendix A of this Report and (ii) section 4 and Appendices B and C of the Report of the Assembly Business Committee.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.27 pm until 2.01 pm.

SESSION 3

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Assembly Business Committee, including an Overture from the Highlands & Hebrides Presbyteries wishing to unite, which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms, the Reverend Canon Joseph John Morrow CVO CBE KC FRSE, addressed the General Assembly and was thanked by the Moderator.

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 Rev Colin Renwick to be Precentor until May 2025.
4. Appoint Mr Roy Pinkerton to index the verbatim record.
5. Invite Commissioners to submit to the Procedure Committee via email: pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk by Monday 22 May at 12pm, nominations for consideration to serve on the Selection Committee.
6. Note the expenses levels for those attending at least 13 of the 17 General Assembly sessions in person.
7. Approve the sale of the Moderator's Residence at 2 Rothesay Terrace and the investment of the proceeds.
8. Approve the acquisition of a replacement residence, preferably by the repurposing of a property already owned by the Church.
9. Note the work undertaken to date by the Presbytery Development Group in implementation of sections 12, 13 and 14 of the Committee's deliverance at the General Assembly of 2022 and instruct the Assembly Business Committee to bring a further report to the General Assembly of 2024.
10. Instruct Presbyteries to work with the Assembly Business Committee and others to formulate and implement terms and conditions of employment for all Presbytery staff to ensure coherent terms and conditions across the Presbyteries in Scotland; such terms and conditions to be compatible with Church and civil law.
11. Approve the recommendations contained in section 9.5 of the Report in regard to the role of the Moderator of the General Assembly.
12. Pass Regulations amending the Nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly Regulations (Regs I 2013) (as amended by Regs I 2020) as set out in Appendix D.
13. Pass Regulations amending the Office of the Moderator of the General Assembly Regulations (Regs II 2013) as set out in Appendix E.
14. 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 section 7 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end:

“and bring to the General Assembly of 2024 a plan for the innovative and missional use of the proceeds”.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of the proposed amendment to section 7:

Add:

“net” before “proceeds”.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed amendment of the proposed amendment to section 7, there voted For 165 and Against 156 and it carried For.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed amended amendment of section 7, there voted For 90 and Against 224 and it carried Against.

Section 7 in the print was then agreed.

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

Insert a new section 14 and renumber:

14. Thank Ms Laura Dunlop KC for her many years of outstanding service as Procurator, note her resignation with effect from 31 May 2023 and appoint Jonathan Brodie KC as the Procurator with effect from 1 June 2023.

Rev Dr S Grant Barclay, Convener, Legal Questions Committee thanked Ms Dunlop for her 18 years’ service and commitment to the Church and his sentiments were warmly supported by the General Assembly. Ms Dunlop thanked the General Assembly in response. The General Assembly welcomed Jonathan Brodie KC who was present.

OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERIES OF ARGYLL, ABERNETHY, INVERNESS, LOCHABER, ROSS, SUTHERLAND, CAITHNESS, LOCHCARRON-SKYE AND UIST ANENT UNION

The General Assembly took up consideration of an Overture from the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye and, Uist anent union.

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat section 2 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as a proposed new section 14 in the print of the Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee and renumber.

The Rev Doug McRoberts (Inverness) appeared and Rev Susan Cord (Ross), Rev Rory McLeod (Lochcarron-Skye), Rev Marion Kinnear (Lochaber), Rev Mary Stobo (Sutherland), Mrs Mary Stewart (Abernethy), Rev Elizabeth Gibson (Argyll), Rev Gavin Elliott (Uist)) and Rev David Macartney (Caithness) appeared in support. The Rev Doug McRoberts expressed gratitude to Mr John Cunningham (former Clerk to the Presbytery of Lewis), whose work had been integral in producing the Overture, and moved the Deliverance as follows:

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Pass an Act uniting the Presbyteries of Argyll, Abernethy, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lochcarron-Skye and Uist to form Clèir Eilean Ì: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides as set out in the Appendix to the Overture.

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Business Committee starting at section 14 in the print.

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 Bible and book, "Love, Death and Resurrection" to the Moderator. The Moderator thanked Ms Duncan for the gifts and the work of the Society which she cherished.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Convener, the Rev Donald McCorkindale, on behalf of the General Assembly, for his commitment and dedication to the work of the Committee, particularly as Convener, and to the work of the Church as a whole.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 15.39 pm until 16.01 pm.

SESSION 4

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE ETHICS OF INVESTMENT PRACTICE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Special Committee on the Ethics of Investment Practice which was given in by Mrs Val Brown, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree the recommendations set out in section 11 of the Report.
3. Establish as a Standing Committee of the General Assembly an Ethical Oversight Committee ('EOC') made up of nine people, each of whom would serve no more than two 3-year terms, to be populated as follows: (i) three persons would be trustees of the Investors Trust, (ii) one person from the General Trustees, and (iii) five appointed by the General Assembly through the Nomination process; of these five, three will have a social justice and/or world church background; one will be a parish minister; and one will be 30 years of age or under at first appointment.
4. Agree the following remit for the EOC: The Ethical Oversight Committee (EOC) is an advisory group that will help the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (COSIT) to focus on the theological and ethical background of what the Church should be investing in, consider the complexities of the investment options, and be a space for intelligent conversations that can support the COSIT to provide the investment managers with very specific briefs, in line with the Church's values.
5. Thank and discharge the Committee.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Convener, Mrs Val Brown, on behalf of the General Assembly, for her work as Convener and thanked the Committee as a whole for their valuable, insightful and considered work.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS TRUST

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust, which was given in by Mr Robert Burgon, Chair.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the re-appointments of Mr R Black and Mr G A Young as members of the Investors Trust from 1 June 2023.
3. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2022.

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. Affirm the ecumenical imperative embedded within the Articles Declaratory of the Constitution of the Church of Scotland.
3. Note the ecumenical implications of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) and the “Presbytery Mission Plan Act: Guidance and Code of Practice”.
4. Pass an Act amending the Sacraments Act (Act V 2000) as set out in Appendix 2.
5. Instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee, in consultation with the Theological Forum, to explore the ecumenical implications of a theology of friendship, and report to a future General Assembly.
6. Welcome the Signing of the *Saint Margaret Declaration* between the Catholic Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland on 16th November 2022 in Dunfermline Abbey.
7. Commend the *Saint Margaret Declaration* Liturgy, as set out in Appendix 3, and encourage its use within the parish as an expression of that which the Catholic Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland hold in common.
8. Approve the terms of the revised Remit of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, as detailed in Appendix 5.
9. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, and the appointment of representatives to Ecumenical Bodies as detailed in Appendix 6.

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

Add a new section 4 and renumber:

4. Instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee urgently to initiate a conversation across the whole Church with our sister Churches in Scotland about cooperation in Christian mission and service to the people of Scotland.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed. The General Assembly adjourned at 17.32 pm to meet again in this Hall, and online via video-conference, on Monday 22 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, 20 May 2023, 17.32 pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 22 MAY 2023

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings on the 22nd day of May 2023 at 9.15 am.

Holy Communion was celebrated in the Assembly Hall.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.18 am until 10.44 am.

SESSION 5

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly called for the Report and Supplementary Report of the Assembly Trustees, including an Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow as to the Presbytery Mission Plan Process, which was given in by the Rev David S Cameron, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and the Supplementary Report.
2. Agree the total number of planned ministry posts for 2024 remains at 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.
3. Note that under Giving to Grow congregational contributions will reduce from a total of £47.7 million in 2020 to £38.9 million in 2023 and:
 - (i) urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage with the National Stewardship Team and the range of its resources to develop new streams of income and generous giving;
 - (ii) urge congregations and Presbyteries to consider making voluntary contributions towards our ministries during the transition phase as the scheme is implemented and to develop Giving Agreements in the longer term.
4. Agree with the decision of the Assembly Trustees in respect of the following areas as priorities:

- (i) the growth and development of the Church through the new Presbyteries working closely with the local congregations;
 - (ii) the work of the national on the local need with a particular emphasis on recruiting and equipping our future leaders in ministries of the Church and
 - (iii) the modernisation and simplification of our governance structure
5. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to identify and deliver further savings in line with the deficit reduction plan which will impact on all areas other than the agreed priorities (Deliverance 4).
 6. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to provide a five-year rolling budget plan to the General Assembly on an annual basis, noting that in future the current budget will be set by the Assembly Trustees in the previous Autumn.
 7. Instruct the Trustees to carry out a review of the Giving to Grow Scheme and bring any modifications to the regulations to the 2024 General Assembly.
 8. Pass Regulations amending the Congregational Contributions “Giving to Grow” Regulations (Regs I 2022) as set out in Appendix 1.
 9. Agree to the funding arrangements for the Presbytery of International Charges and Presbytery of England.
 10. Encourage Kirk Sessions to engage with the rescheduled Christian Aid and ecumenical partners’ legacy giving initiative, *Faith Will...*, around Harvest 2023 in order to encourage giving to the Church including CrossReach.
 11. Welcome the launch of the Seeds for Growth Fund as of 1st June 2023 recognising that it is an investment in the future of mission and growth within the local church that will draw on our reserves.
 12. Pass Regulations amending the “Seeds for Growth” Fund Regulations (Regs IV 2022) as set out in Appendix 2.
 13. Celebrate the work of CrossReach and note that it accounts for approximately half of the Church of Scotland’s total income and expenditure.
 14. Approve the merger of the work of the Faith Nurture Forum with the work of the Faith Impact Forum to become the work of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, as prioritised and shaped in anticipation by the Forums, to take effect on 1 June 2023, with the structure, remit and membership set out in Appendix 3 of this Report, and to note the involvement of the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum in the membership of the Leadership Team (*Appendix 3 – Structure and Remit of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team*).
 15. Thank and discharge the members of the Faith Nurture and Faith Impact Forums with effect from 31 May 2023, noting the huge amount of work done by them and the significant challenges faced, including that of the Covid-19 pandemic during the first two years of their life.
 16. Note that the Ministries Council and World Mission Council will remain as constituent committees of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, for the purposes of acting as the statutory employer for the Church of Scotland Pension Scheme for Ministers and Overseas Missionaries and the Church of Scotland Pension Scheme for Ministries Development Staff.
 17. Approve the appointment of members of the Assembly Trustees as the (ex officio) trustees of the Salvesen Fund in succession to the members of the Faith Impact Forum.
 18. Urge all congregations, Presbyteries and national entities to engage with the work of the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Group, in particular the research outcomes of the Research Group on Ethnic Minorities and the work of the Disability Inclusion Working Group.
 19. Agree the decision of the Assembly Trustees in respect of the George Street Building in terms of an income generation strategy for the next five years.

20. Approve amendments to the Constitution and Remit of the Assembly Trustees, including a remit for the Governance Group, as set out in Appendices 4 and 5 (Section 22).
21. Approve the appointment of Miranda Heggie, member of St. Giles. Edinburgh as Assembly Trustee for a two-year period and the reappointment of David Harrison, Jean Couper, Geoff Miller and Jennifer MacDonald for a second (and final) full term (Section 22.6.1).
- 22 (2). Receive the 2022 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities.
- 23 (3). Note the budget for 2024 and the indicative budgets for 2025 to 2028 (*Appendices 1 and 2*).

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

Add a new section 3 and renumber:

3. Note that 600 plus 60 vacancies has been used as a base for planned ministry in 2024 but, instruct the Trustees to explore:

a. A new approach to sustainable planning for ministry posts which ensures local charges (single or linked) which meet a quota for ministry costs, presbytery dues and national contributions retain a right to call a minister (subject to the call being upheld by presbytery)

b. a new approach to sustainable planning for ministry posts which ensures local charges (single or linked) which meet presbytery dues and national contributions, but cannot meet a full quota for ministry costs retain the right to offer a call to ministry on a 'house for duty' or appropriate fractional basis (subject to the call being upheld by presbytery)

c. New solidarity mechanisms for augmenting the resources of local charges, which ensure that all priority charges meet the quota required to call a minister and that all charges not meeting quota can apply for augmentation to reach quota or fractions of a quota;

and instruct the Trustees to continue to maintain focus on increasing vocations to stipendiary and non-stipendiary ministries as a strategic priority in the next five years.

OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AS TO THE PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN PROCESS.

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

In terms of Standing Order 52 the General Assembly agreed to treat sections 2 and 3 of the proposed Deliverance of the Overture as proposed new sections 3 and 4 of the Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees and renumber.

Rev Mark Malcolm (Glasgow) appeared and moved the Deliverance as follows:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Overture.
2. Instruct that a Special Commission of 7 persons appointed by the Selection Committee be formed to consider the missional and pastoral impact of the planning process instituted by the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021), assess other possible approaches, consult with the Assembly Trustees and the Faith Nurture Forum, and report with recommendations to the General Assembly in 2024.

3. Instruct the Theological Forum jointly with the Faith Nurture Forum to reflect on the decline of the Church of Scotland in regard to membership and ministry candidates and to offer guidance on what steps should be taken to address it, reporting by 2024 failing which by 2025.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Overture.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 2 of the Overture:

Amend section 2 by adding the words:

"General Trustees" after "Assembly Trustees".

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.36 pm until 14.02 pm.

SESSION 6

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

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

Moria McDonald, Convener	(17)
Sandy Horsburgh, Vice Convener	(61)
Pauline Weibye	(49)
Jonathan Fleming*	(141)
Teri Peterson	(147)
Mark Malcolm	(189)
Isabel McDerment*	(199)
Joanna Love DCS	(218)
Julie Rennick	(239)
Crawford Gillies	(249)
Fiona Shaw	(275)
Jane Barron	(280)
Michael Goss	(324)
Neil Glover	(342)
John Cook	(379)
Jim Donald*	(411)
Matthew Philip	(418)
Susan Cord	(456)
Cath Chambers	(461)
Donald MacLeod	(487)

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the Overture.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 2 of the Overture:

Amend section 2 by deleting:

"2024" and substituting "2024, failing which by 2025".

On a vote being taken For or Against the amended section 2 of the Overture, there voted For 156 and Against 194 and it carried Against.

Section 3 of the Overture was then Agreed.

The General Assembly resumed consideration of the proposed Deliverance of the Assembly Trustees.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 4 of the Deliverance in the print, there voted For 249 and Against 62 and it carried For.

The General Assembly agreed that Standing Order 95 be amended to limit speeches to three minutes.

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

Add at the end:

“, and also add the following further amendments to Regs I 2022:

1. *At the end of paragraph 14(e) add “and those raised for local mission posts and associated local mission programmes subject to 14. (f)”.*
2. *Add a new paragraph 14(f): “Funds raised exclusively for local mission posts and associated local mission programmes, provided that Ministry Here as defined under paragraph 16. (a) is met and that year on year the congregation maintains payment of their Ministry Elsewhere and Shared Activities contributions as defined under paragraphs 16. (b) and 16. (c) respectively.”*

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

Add a new section 9 and renumber:

9. Instruct the Assembly Trustees, in consultation with the Faith Action Leadership Team, to:
- (i) Report to the General Assembly 2024 on the broad expectations of those in ministries;
 - (ii) Review stipends and detail the system how these are to be determined, including all factors taken into account;
 - (iii) Provide details of support available to those in ministries and what may be required going forward as they meet the challenges of change and radical reform.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 12 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end:

“, and also add the following further amendment to Regs IV 2022:

1. Delete paragraph 12”.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 14 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end:

“subject to amending the fourth bullet point entry in section 4 of the Church of Scotland Faith Action Programme Leadership Team Structure and Remit at Appendix 3, to take effect from 2024 and

without affecting appointments made this year, by deleting the words from 'General Assembly through the Nomination Committee' to 'Leadership Team and Programme Groups' and replacing them with the word 'Presbyteries', so that the fourth bullet point reads "Twelve members appointed by Presbyteries. There will be one such member for each Presbytery or Presbytery grouping".

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed amendment of section 14 of the Deliverance, there voted For 204 and Against 129 and it carried For.

It was moved, seconded and agreed as an amendment of section 14 of the Deliverance:

Add at the end:

"subject to amending point 6) about the Resource and Presence Programme Group where it appears in section 4 of the Appendix to Appendix 3 by deleting the existing wording " Ensuring the business viability of the Israeli Entities" and substituting " Have oversight of the work of the Church's Establishments in Israel".

Section 14 as amended was then agreed.

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

Add a new section 19 and renumber:

19. Note with alarm the research which reports that Black ministers, ministers of colour and ministers from an ethnic minority are being overlooked or asked not to officiate at funerals but to give way to a White Scottish minister: instruct the Assembly Trustees through the work of the EDI Group to highlight this issue; urge the Faith Impact Forum to liaise with relevant public bodies and funeral directors to invite their intervention; and encourage Presbytery Clerks to raise awareness of this issue in every parish.

The Procurator spoke about the responsibilities of funeral directors in relation to equalities law.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 15.54 pm until 16.17 pm.

SESSION 7

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

Add a new section 19 and renumber:

19. Commend the work of Assembly Trustees and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group (EDI) and (1) request that Assembly Trustees encourage the Conduct and Culture Group of the EDI to collaborate with the Theological Forum on projects of a theological nature; (2) instruct the Assembly Trustees to report to the 2024 General Assembly.

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

Add a new section 22 and renumber:

22. In order to achieve Net Zero by 2030, instruct the Assembly Trustees to assess carbon emissions from national Church travel (both international and national), determine options to reduce this, agree an annual carbon budget for the national Church and report to General Assembly in 2024.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

THEOLOGICAL FORUM

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

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the Confessions of Faith Overture as set out in Appendix 1 and transmit the same to 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 2023.
3. (a) Receive the Report "The Calling of the Church" as a response to the instruction given by the General Assembly of 2022 (*Appendix 2*).
(b) Approve and adopt this report as an expression of the Church's calling and purpose.
(c) Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to raise awareness of the calling and purpose of the Church.
(d) Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to provide resources to enable every member of the Church to discover and develop their giftings and callings.
(e) Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to introduce training for Ministers of Word and Sacrament in recognising, developing, and deploying the gifts of members and Elders.
(f) Instruct the Theological Forum, the Faith Nurture Forum, and the Ecumenical Relations Committee to explore options for widening access to ordained sacramental ministries within the Church in light of the principles contained in the 2019 Report of the Sacramental Ministry Working Group, and report to the General Assembly of 2024.
(g) Instruct the Theological Forum and the Faith Nurture Forum to investigate the production of pastoral guidance on situations where a minister or congregation's sense of call is not affirmed by the Presbytery during its planning processes.
4. Instruct the Theological Forum to explore the theology of transgender identities within the context of the Church's life and ministry, and report to the General Assembly of 2024.

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

Add at the end of section 2:

"...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."

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2 of the Deliverance as amended, there voted For 226 and Against 19 and it carried For.

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

Add a new section 3(h) and renumber:

3 (h). Instruct the Theological Forum, Assembly Trustees, Ecumenical Relations Committee and Legal Questions Committee jointly to reconsider the Third Article Declaratory and how this may be interpreted given the radically changed landscape of the Church and of Scotland as a whole since this was last considered and, specifically, if the commitment to a territorial ministry can realistically be maintained 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 Theological Forum to: (1) study the Scottish Government's Independent Report entitled, 'Ending Conversion Practices: Report and Recommendations'; (2) collaborate with the Faith Impact Forum to review previous General Assembly Reports and decisions on the matter of conversion therapy, and (3) report findings back to the 2024 General Assembly.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

PETITION – KIRK SESSION OF ST ANDREW'S BO'NESS ANENT CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from the Kirk Session of St Andrew's Bo'ness anent Congregational Meetings. Mr Neil MacLennan and Mr Andrew Wells appeared and were heard. Mr MacLennan moved the following crave of the Petition:

1. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to consider bringing forward proposals to a Commission of Assembly, to be held in any format permitted under s4(2) of the Commission of Assembly Act (Act VI 1997) before 30 November 2023, to enable congregational meetings convened for any purpose to be held, in addition to wholly in person, online or by a combination of in-person and online (ie in hybrid format) with voting and thus decision-making similarly taking place simultaneously in person and/or online, such proposals to be contained in a new Protocol to be passed for that purpose.

The General Assembly agreed to receive the Petition.

On a vote being taken For or Against the for or against the crave of the Petition, there voted For 234 and Against 8 and it carried For.

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly agreed that the Report of the Legal Questions Committee be taken in a later session, the timing of which is to be intimated by the Procedure Committee.

MINUTE OF THE APPEAL HEARING BEFORE THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly called for the Minute of the Appeal Hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly, 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.

The General Assembly adjourned at 18.38 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, 22 May 2023, 18.38 pm

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, 23 MAY 2023

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 23rd day of May 2023 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 Donald McCorkindale, *Convener*.

The General Assembly agreed that the Report of the Legal Questions Committee be taken in Session 11.

The General Assembly were reminded that the amendment of Standing Order 95 remained in place.

FAITH NURTURE FORUM

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Faith Nurture Forum, which was given in by the Rev Rosie Frew, *Convener*.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum through the work of the Mission Support Programme Group to work with Priority Area Congregations and the supplementary network of congregations to ensure their stories, including the learning and experience from their mission are shared with the wider church via the Church's website and other platforms.
3. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team through the work of the Mission Support Programme Group to support congregations' and Presbyteries' engagement with response to poverty.

4. Commend the work of the Education and Schools Group and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team through the work of the Mission Support Programme Group to encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to support Ministers, paid workers and volunteers in their ministry to schools.
5. Urge Presbyteries to recognise their Local Education Representatives' contributions to Local Authority policy and the welfare and holistic development of young people generally by encouraging networking across the Local Authority boundaries.
6. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team through the work of the Mission Support Programme Group to welcome new Gaelic-medium resources for children from Scottish Bible Society and the Gaelic Committee of the Church of Scotland, and urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to be alert to opportunities for mission with Gaelic-speaking communities and schools, and to make use of the Gaelic-medium resources now available.
7. Pass an Act on Ministries for Deaf Congregations as set out in Appendix i.
8. Pass an Act amending the Ordination of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Deacons Act (Act I 2018) as set out in Appendix ii.
9. Approve the allocation of the total number of planned ministry posts among the Presbyteries as contained in Appendix iii for 2024 (Appendix iii).
10. Note the proposal from the Diaconate Council to use endowment funds to create a part-time Development Worker post to research and shape proposals for the future of the Diaconate and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to bring a report to a future General Assembly.
11. Re-appoint Rev Dorothy U Anderson as a Trustee of the Housing and Loan Fund for Retired Ministers and Widows and Widowers of Ministers, in the capacity of Chair of said Fund.
12. Note the introduction from 1 January 2024 of an integrated support allowance of £250 per year for those in fulltime ministry.
13. Pass an Act amending the Act on Selection and Training for Full-time Ministry Act (Act X 2004) as set out in Appendix vi.
14. Encourage the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to develop work on an Apprenticeship Route with hope to pilot in 2024, subject to further General Assembly approval.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 10.40 am until 11.05 am.

SESSION 9

The General Assembly resumed their consideration of the Report of the Faith Nurture Forum.

The Convener led an appreciation, warmly supported by the General Assembly, of the Rev Jean B Montgomerie, the longest-serving female minister in the Church of Scotland who had recently celebrated fifty years of Ordained Ministry, and thanked her for her courage in following her call.

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

Add a new section 10 and renumber:

10. Reaffirm the ecumenical aspect of the secondary principles and existing guidance relating to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021), and
 - a) instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to emphasise this in future guidance, and;
 - b) instruct Presbyteries to consider this and articulate it more clearly in implementation and at the annual evaluation and development of Presbytery Mission Plans.

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

Add a new section 12 and renumber:

12. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to consider the original reasons for asking congregations to make Manses available to Ministers of Word and Sacrament and to determine whether these reasons are relevant today and to send this Report to the General Trustees Manse Liaison Group for inclusion in their report to the General Assembly of 2024.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 12 of the Deliverance, there voted For 106 and Against 230 and it carried Against.

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

Add a new section 12 and renumber:

12. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to liaise with the Assembly Trustees and General Trustees and others as appropriate, as part of the action on manses, to bring proposals to the General Assembly 2024 which would allow the option for ministers to live in their own home and be paid a housing allowance for use as a manse.

The Procurator made comment on the tax exemption implications of living in a manse.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 12 of the Deliverance, there voted For 162 and Against 175 and it carried Against.

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

Add a new section 13 and renumber:

13. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum to commission or otherwise conduct a comprehensive independent survey of ministerial well-being with the aim of deepening understanding of the causes of work-related ministerial stress and developing strategies to reduce it.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 12.46 pm until 14.02 pm.

SESSION 10

The General Assembly resumed their consideration of the Report of the Faith Nurture Forum.

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

Add a new section 15 and renumber:

15. Instruct the Faith Nurture Forum (1) to create an apprenticeship programme for those seeking to serve young people and youth; and (2) Enable local congregations to resource Youth Ministry through grant making bodies of the Church and congregational funds; being an important next and vital step once the Apprenticeship route is established.

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

Add a new section 15 and renumber:

15. Instruct Presbyteries in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum to communicate via their Clerks with all funeral directors which have offices within their bounds to request that any worship leader of the Church of Scotland who is being asked to conduct a funeral is always contacted by the funeral director before a date for such a service – whether provisional or firm – is set.

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

Remove the words: "in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum".

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed new section 15 of the Deliverance as amended, there voted For 141 and Against 188 and it carried Against.

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

Add a new section 15 and renumber:

15. Agree that the pulpit supply fee (and the fee where congregations have to pay for funerals) should be raised from £60 to £100, and any additional service raised from £30 to £50.

On a vote being taken For or Against the proposed amendment of section 15 of the Deliverance, there voted For 273 and Against 70 and it carried For.

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

Add a new section 15 and renumber:

15. In the light of the creativity shown by Presbyteries in the development and implementation of Presbytery Mission Plans and the increasing variety of part-time ministries being designed in different contexts, pass Regulations amending the Regulations for Remuneration and Reimbursement of Parish Ministers as follows:

[] REGULATIONS AMENDING THE REGULATIONS FOR REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF PARISH MINISTERS (REGULATIONS I 2015)

Edinburgh, [] May 2023, Session []

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Regulations for Remuneration and reimbursement of Parish Ministers (Regulations I 2015), shall be amended as follows:

1. In the Schedule, Part 2, delete the fifth bullet point (ie delete "All part-time Parish Ministers are expected to conduct Sunday services as part of the duties of their Office in the same way as full-time Ministers. There is therefore no difference in the number of Sundays in any calendar year on which Pulpit Supply is to be paid (7 Sundays).")

and confirm that it is for Presbyteries in the drafting of Bases of Adjustment to determine the frequency of conduct of worship by any part-time minister.

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

Add a new section 15 and renumber:

15. Noting that the General Assembly has backed the call for frontline social care workers to be paid a minimum of £12 per hour, instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to review the pay and conditions of those who serve as Locums, giving consideration to the provision of written employment contracts, and report to the General Assembly of 2024.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Convener, the Rev Rosie Frew, on behalf of the General Assembly, for her Convenership of the Ministries Council and the Faith Nurture Forum and for her service to all which was guided by her work as a Parish Minister.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GORDON PRESBYTERY

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Special Committee on Gordon Presbytery, which was given in by the Rev Richard Baxter, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Record appreciation of the full and generous assistance given in addressing the matter referred to the Special Committee.
3. Acknowledge that communication of information from the (former) Ministries Council could have been handled more effectively, for which the Convener of the Faith Nurture Forum has apologised, and acknowledge the consequent difficulties borne by the Presbytery of Gordon in respect of decision making and staff redundancies.
4. Agree that any future changes in the basis on which ministries weightings are determined should be reported to the General Assembly and clearly communicated to any Presbyteries for whom specific changes are envisaged.
5. Thank and discharge the Special Committee.

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.
2. Appoint Reverend Joanne C Hood and Reverend MaryAnn Rennie as Trustees of the Church Hymnary Trust.

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.

National Care Service

2. Note the report which has been published by the Archbishop's Commission and instruct the Social Care Council, in partnership with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, to continue to engage with the Scottish Government in the development of a National Care Service, and urge the Scottish Government to respect the views of care service providers and service users and their families for the implementation and delivery of a National Care Service which:
 - a. Promotes co-design and co-production of services between commissioners, service providers and service users.
 - b. Makes Scottish Government ministerial accountability clear and transparent.
 - c. Makes sure that the principles of a National Care Service are based on values which protect and uphold human rights and dignity.
 - d. Respects the Fair Work Convention recommendation for Fair Pay across the whole sector.
3. Welcome the investment in residential rehabilitation services and note the excellent progress made in the recovery volunteers programme, recognising the importance of this in reducing stigma and opening up opportunities for those affected by alcohol and drug use.
4. Instruct CrossReach to work alongside the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and give advice on the information being developed to support the work of local congregations in order to reduce stigma in relation to those affected by alcohol and drug use.

Dementia Strategy

5. Endorse the roll out of the Heart for Art groups and recognise the potential for further collaborative working between CrossReach and local congregations in order to support those living with dementia and their carers.

Workforce Matters

6. Note the huge challenges in recruiting to posts in social care, commend the existing workforce for their dedication and commitment so that supported people of all ages can continue to live life to the full and encourage Presbyteries to engage in this issue as a matter of urgency by using their networks to distribute CrossReach recruitment resources.

Presbytery Promise and Support from Congregations

7. Encourage Presbyteries to explore the many opportunities which exist within the 'Share the Love' initiative and to share these with congregations in order to find areas of mutual interest and raise vital funds for both CrossReach and congregations as part of their commitment to the Presbytery Promise.

The General Assembly suspended their sitting at 15.59 pm until 16.17 pm.

SESSION 11

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

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

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the Guild for ways in which they support the members and encourage and develop their spiritual growth.
3. Encourage men across the church to consider joining the Guild.
4. Celebrate the opening of a new Guild in Ellon.
5. Congratulate the Guild and the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia on the development of the green canopy for Malawi.
6. 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.
7. Commend Guilds in Forth Valley and Clydesdale for piloting a new way of working together and recommend to other Presbyteries and Guilds Together Groups that they explore new ways in which they can work together to support the greater involvement of Guilds in the mission of the Church.
8. Welcome the establishment of the Young Adults Guild and encourage congregations and Presbyteries to promote this group to their young adults.
9. Congratulate the Guild on the work of its Project Partnership Scheme 2021-24 and recognise the important issues tackled and vital monies raised.

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

Add a new section 10 and renumber:

10. Give thanks for the vibrant life that the Guild brings to the Christian witness of local congregations.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Moderator thanked the Retiring Convener, Mrs Helen Eckford, on behalf of the General Assembly, for her service as a role model for faith and action and in developing new ways of working as National Convener.

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Legal Questions Committee (remaindered business from session 7, Monday 22 May 2023), which was given in by the Rev Dr S Grant Barclay, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. *Consideration of section 2 was dealt with in Session 2.*
3. Pass the Church Courts Act as set out in Appendix B to this Report (Section 3 – Draft Church Courts Act).
4. Pass an Act amending the Ministers and Deacons in Same Sex Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act (Act I 2015) as set out in Appendix D to the Report (Section 4 – Review of Act I 2015).

5. Approve the principles for Presbytery Review set out in Appendix E to the Report (Section 6 – Presbytery Review).
6. Pass an Act amending the Appeals Act (Act I 2014) as set out in Appendix F to the Report (Section 12 – Appointments to Legal Bodies).

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

Add new section 3 and renumber:

3. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee and the Faith Nurture Forum to consider the issue of representation within the General Assembly, of Candidates in Training and Probationers, including the possibility of voting rights and to report to the General Assembly of 2024.

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

Add new section 3 and renumber:

3. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee in consultation with Legal Questions Committee and the Faith Nurture Forum to consider the issue of youth representation within the General Assembly, including the possibility of voting rights and to report to the General Assembly of 2024.

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

Insert a new section 5 and renumber:

5. Instruct the Committee to consider what revisions to Church law might be required in light of the introduction of Team Ministry in terms of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) and report, with proposed legislation if applicable, to the General Assembly of 2024.

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

Insert a new section 7 and renumber:

7. Instruct the Committee collaboratively to review the Complaints process, seeking views of Presbyteries and congregations to find ways of alleviating the stress, strain and hurt of those involved in the process and report to the General Assembly of 2025.

The Deliverance as amended was then agreed.

The Moderator expressed gratitude to the Retiring Convener, the Rev Dr Grant Barclay, on behalf of the General Assembly, for the expertise, sharp focus and good humour which he had brought to his service with the Legal Questions Committee and to his work within the Church as a whole.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The General Assembly agreed that the Report of the Safeguarding Committee be taken in session 16 (item 5), Thursday 25 May 2023.

TRUSTEES OF THE HOUSING AND LOAN FUND

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Trustees of the Housing and Loan Fund, which was given in by the Rev Dorothy Anderson, Chair.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint Rev Dawn Anne Laing as a Trustee of the Fund.

REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The General Assembly called for the Registration of Ministries Committee, which was given in by the Rev Hilary McDougall, Vice-Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

The General Assembly adjourned at 17.44 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, 23 May 2023,
17.44 pm

AFTER ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND DELEGATES

ASSEMBLY OFFICE-BEARERS

Also attending

Mrs Elspeth Annan, Depute Solicitor (610)

COMMISSIONERS

Presbytery of Lothian and Borders

Add

Miss Jeanette Wilson, Coldingham and St Abbs l/w Eyemouth (89)

Presbytery of The South West

Add

Rev H Taylor Brown, Kilmarnock: St Marnock's (109)

Delete

Rev Paul R Russell (106)

Presbytery of Clyde

Add

Mrs Helen Eckford, Port Glasgow: New (540)

Add

Ms Anne McGregor, Kilmacolm: Old (157)

Delete

Mrs Elizabeth Usher (164)

Delete

Mr Stuart Wilson (165)

Presbytery of Glasgow

Add

Mr Gary Macfarlane, Chryston (216)

Add

Mr Bill Gray, Torrance (217)

Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale

Add

Mr Eddie Colliar, Grangemouth: Abbotsgrange (608)

Delete

Rev Joanne C Hood (229)

Delete

Ms Ann Pickering (261)

Presbytery of Fife

Add

Mr Allan Grant, Rosyth (612)

Delete

Mrs Veronica Forrest (298)

Presbytery of Perth

Add

Mr Ritchie King, Stirling: Church of the Holy Rude (366)

Add

PRESBYTERY YOUTH REPRESENTATION

Perth

Mr Alexander (Sandy) MacFarlane (355)

Delete

Elder

Mr Alexander (Sandy) MacFarlane, Strathblane (355)

Delete

Rev Caroline Taylor (341)

Delete

Mrs Jo Young* (365)

Presbytery of Inverness

Delete

Mr David Thompson, Inverness (450)

Presbytery of Lewis

Delete

Mr Domhnall Macleod, Lochs-Crossbost* (486)

CORRESPONDING MEMBER

The Guild

Delete

Mrs Helen Eckford (540)

UK ECUMENICAL DELEGATES

Delete

Michael Hutchinson (514)

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Delete

Ms Maria Nazarova (590)

AMENDMENTS TO ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Page 5

54. Rev Alistair W Cook, **Hawick: St Mary's and Old I/w Hawick: Teviot and Robertson**

64. Rev Sheila W Moir, **Dryburgh District Churches**

65. Rev Anna S Rodwell, **Kelso: North and Ednam**

Page 6

103. Rev Stephen Ogston, **Inch I/w Luce Valley**

120. Mrs Jean Jackson, **Largs St Columba's**

Page 7

161. Mr **Stewart** Renton, Erskine

163. Mrs Elizabeth Stewart, **Dalmuir: Barclay**

205. Dr Linda Watt, Glasgow: **Langside**

206. Mr Andrew Wilkin, **Kirkintilloch: St David's Memorial Park**

220. Rev **Dr** Kwame Ahaligah, Law

227. Rev Derek Gunn, **(Airdrie: Clarkston)**

Page 8

257. Mr Ian Monteith-Mathie, Wishaw: Cambusnethan Old and Morningside

285. Rev **Dr** Conor Fegan, Markinch and Thornton

318. Rev Brenda Elwell-Sutton, **OLM***

Page 9

322. Rev Dr Andrew Gardner, **Dundee: Barnhill St Margaret's**

323. Rev Annette M Gordon, Carnoustie: **Panbride**

325. Rev Dawn A Laing, **Alloa: Ludgate**

327. Rev **Dr** Lynn McChlery, Auchterarder

328. Rev **Dr** Nathan S McConnell, Dundee: Downfield Mains

349. Mr Crawford Gillies, **Dunkeld**

357. Mr Ian McVean, Balfron*

395. Rev Martin W M Prentice, **OLM**

402. Rev Dr Mary Cranfield, Culsalmond and Rayne l/w Daviot

Elder

374. Mrs Meg Cowan, **Montrose South and Ferryden***

379. Rev John A Cook, **Howe Trinity**

384. Rev **Dr** Frances M Henderson, Shetland Parish Church of Scotland

Page 10

406. Mrs Ann M C Bowie, **Bellie and Speymouth***

Page 12

525. Rev **Rodolphe** Blanchard-Kowal, Representative of Eglise Protestante Unie de France

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

600. Father Nael Abu Rahmoun

OTHER CORRECTIONS

A note from the Assembly Trustees on the use of the term 'Israeli Entities'

The phrase 'Israeli Entities' has on occasion been used to describe the operations of the Church of Scotland's Hotel, Guest House and School in Israel. To clarify the relationship, it has been agreed to change the terminology to the Church of Scotland Establishments in Israel.

Report of the Faith Impact Forum

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/107865/faith-impact-forum.pdf

Corrections

4.4 – third paragraph should read “Sunday 4th June”

10.4 – two instances of “2022” should read “2023”.

Corrections to Order of Proceedings

Page 17

Committee to Prepare an Answer to His Majesty’s Most Gracious Letter

Add

Mrs Pauline Weibye (49)

Delete

Mrs Susan Pym (496)

Panel of Tellers

Add

Mr Daniel Gunn (350)

Delete

Mrs Susan Pym (496)

REPORT ON THE PRINTING OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS

GA 2023

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 ANENT THE UNION OF THE PRESBYTERIES OF ARGYLL, ABERNETHY, INVERNESS, LOCHABER, ROSS, SUTHERLAND, CAITHNESS, LOCHCARRON-SKYE AND UIST**
Edinburgh, 20 May 2023, Session 2
[Here take in Act as set out in the Order of Proceedings page 19]
- II **ACT AMENDING THE SACRAMENTS ACT (ACT V 2000)**
Edinburgh, 20 May 2023, Session 4
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 4/08]
- III **CHURCH COURTS ACT**
Edinburgh, 22 May 2023, Session 7
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 7/07-18]
- IV **ACT AMENDING THE MINISTERS AND DEACONS IN CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AND SAME SEX MARRIAGES ACT (ACT I 2015)**
Edinburgh, 22 May 2023, Session 7
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 7/20-21]
- V **ACT AMENDING THE APPEALS ACT (ACT I 2014)**
Edinburgh, 22 May 2023, Session 7
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 7/21]
- VI **MINISTRIES FOR DEAF CONGREGATIONS ACT**
Edinburgh, 23 May 2023, Session 8
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports pages 9/16-17]
- VII **ACT AMENDING THE ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT AND DEACONS ACT (ACT I 2018)**
Edinburgh, 23 May 2023, Session 8/9
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports page 9/17]
- VIII **ACT AMENDING THE SELECTION AND TRAINING FOR FULL-TIME MINISTRY ACT (ACT X 2004)**
Edinburgh, 23 May 2023, Session 8/9
[Here take in Act as set out in the Volume of Reports page 9/21-23]
- IX **ACT AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESBYTERY ACT (ACT II 2016)**
Edinburgh, 24 May 2023, Session 13/14
[Here take in Act as set out in the Order of Proceedings page 26]

- X **ACT APPOINTING COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**
Edinburgh, 25 May 2023, Session 17
- XI **ACT APPOINTING DIET OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
Edinburgh, 25 May 2023, 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 NOMINATION OF THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGULATIONS (REGS I 2013) (AS AMENDED)**
Edinburgh, 20 May 2023, Session 2
[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports page 1/12]
- II **REGULATIONS AMENDING THE OFFICE OF THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGULATIONS (REGS II 2013)**
Edinburgh, 20 May 2023, Session 2
[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports page 1/12-13]
- III **REGULATIONS AMENDING THE CONGREGATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS “GIVING TO GROW” REGULATIONS (REGS II 2022)**
Edinburgh, 22 May 2023, Session 5
[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports page 5/21]
- IV **REGULATIONS AMENDING THE “SEEDS FOR GROWTH” FUND REGULATIONS (REGS IV 2022)**
Edinburgh, 22 May 2023, Session 5
[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Volume of Reports page 5/21]
- V **REGULATIONS AMENDING THE REGULATIONS FOR REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF PARISH MINISTERS (REGULATIONS I 2015)**
Edinburgh, 23 May 2023, Session 10
[Here take in Regulations as set out in the Assembly Paper page 45]

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

INTIMATIONS

Rev Richard Durno

Rev Richard Durno, Community Minister for Deaf People in Glasgow and the West of Scotland and who was Minister of John Ross Memorial Church for Deaf People, a Commissioner to this year's General Assembly, sadly passed away on 17 May 2023.

Communion Table

The Communion Table which will be used during the service of Holy Communion on Monday 22 May is the table on which the Act of Union between the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland was signed on 2 October 1929, in the presence of their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York.

HIVE

This year the catering in the Rainy Hall is a collaboration between The Grassmarket Community Project and HIVE Cornwall. We are piloting an exciting Church of Scotland initiative that could see us distributing free nutritious food to the hungry using agricultural surplus. Together we can support a greener planet and our hardworking farmers, while also combating food poverty. This week your meal does more than just feed you. With every lunch you buy in the Rainy Hall we can distribute meals to individuals in Edinburgh struggling with food insecurity. This is more than a meal, it's an act of solidarity. Please come and eat with us and give your feedback to shape the future of this potential project. We have designed a new menu with different choices every day. Join us and make a difference with every bite. To speed up the lunch process you can pre-pay for your Rainy Hall meal in the morning before the day starts or during a break. This means you don't have to queue to pay for food at lunch time, you can just pick up your food from the pre-paid hot counter. Purchase a pre-paid ticket from the till in Rainy Hall or from Hannah.

Copyright

Words and music of songs in copyright are used by permission under the following licenses: Event Church Copyright Licence #780180, Event Music Reproduction Licence #780173, ONE LICENSE #A-700000.