

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

COLLATED DELIVERANCE

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the proposed Order of Business set out in the Order of Proceedings.
3. Appoint Mr Roy Pinkerton and Mr David Stewart to prepare and index a summary log of the Assembly (*Section 6.2*).
4. Invite Commissioners to submit to the Procedure Committee via email: pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk by Monday 20 May at 12pm, nominations for consideration to serve on the Selection Committee.
5. Note the expenses levels for those attending at least 13 of the 17 General Assembly sessions in person (*Section 6.3*).
6. Instruct all Presbyteries to work with the Office of the General Assembly and the Human Resources Department to establish consistency of terms and conditions across Presbyteries and to align as appropriate with the Central Services employment terms and conditions as well as to develop a competency and capability procedure with regards to Presbytery Clerks' and deputes' employment contracts (*Section 4*).

Scottish Bible Society

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

FIONA SMITH
CI Eccl Scot

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve a new Standing Order 35A on Probationers and Familiarisation Candidates as detailed in Appendix B of the Report of the Assembly Business Committee (Section 3 – Amendments to Standing Orders).
3. In relation to Presbytery Review (*Section 4 – Presbytery Review*):
 - a. Instruct that the Presbytery Review Committee (“PRC”) be established as a Standing Committee of the General Assembly, comprising a Convener, Vice-Convener and eleven members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly, together with *ex officio* the Principal Clerk and the Depute Clerk; and otherwise in terms of section 1b) of the draft Presbytery Review Act attached to this Report and set out in Appendix A (“the draft Act”);

- b. Instruct the PRC to carry out in 2024-2025, as pilots, Reviews in the Presbyteries of (1) Edinburgh and West Lothian and (2) Perth, working in accordance with the principles and processes set out in the draft Act, with Summary Reports as referred to in the draft Act being submitted to the General Assembly of 2025;
 - c. Instruct Presbyteries to send comments on the draft Act to the Principal Clerk by 31 December 2024, and instruct the Committee to bring a Presbytery Review Act in final form to the General Assembly of 2025; and
 - d. Instruct the PRC to submit a Report on inspection of Presbytery Records in accordance with the draft Act to the General Assembly of 2025.
4. Pass an Act amending the Discipline Act (Act I 2019), as amended, as set out in Appendix B to this Report (*Section 5.2 – Review of the Complaints Process and Proposed Amendments to the Discipline Act (Act I 2019) and Legal Aid in Disciplinary Proceedings Regulations (Regs I 2018)*).
 5. Pass Regulations amending the Legal Aid in Disciplinary Proceedings Regulations as set out in Appendix C to this Report (*Section 5.3 – Review of the Complaints Process and Proposed Amendments to the Discipline Act (Act I 2019) and Legal Aid in Disciplinary Proceedings Regulations (Regs I 2018)*).
 6. Instruct the Committee to develop a process for dealing with complaints made against a Presbytery committee and a bespoke process for a complaint against a Presbytery Clerk and to report to the General Assembly of 2025 (*Section 5.4 – Review of the Complaints Process and Proposed Amendments to the Discipline Act (Act I 2019) and Legal Aid in Disciplinary Proceedings Regulations (Regs I 2018)*).
 7. Repeal the Presbytery Membership Act (Act I 2006) (*Section 10 – Repeal of Superseded Act*).

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DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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.

FIONA SMITH
CI Eccl Scot

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Reaffirm the ecumenical vision articulated in the Declaratory Act anent the Third Article Declaratory (2010), and instruct the unincorporated entities of the Church of Scotland to take account of this in their future work (*Sections 2.5, 2.6, 14.2*).

3. Instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee to report to the General Assembly of 2025 on its ongoing engagement with the Presbyteries of the Church of Scotland (*Section 5*).
4. Approve the form of the Scottish Christian Forum, and the participation of representatives of the Church of Scotland within it, and recognise it as the National Ecumenical Body within Scotland (Appendix I) (*Section 7.8*).
5. Welcome the renewal of the work of the Joint Commission on Doctrine of the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland (*Section 8.7*).
6. Commend the Archdiocese of Glasgow, Justice & Peace Scotland, SCIAF, the Secretary of Glasgow Churches Together and the Ecumenical Officer of the Church of Scotland for their work in relation to the visit of Fr Gabriel Romanelli to Glasgow on 26th April 2024.
7. Commend the Ecumenical Relations Committee on its work with the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of England, and instruct the Committee to ensure that it is engaging, or offering to engage, with other churches across Scotland, directly and through the Scottish Christian Forum, and to report to the General Assembly of 2025.
8. Instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum to reflect on the contemporary significance of the Council of Nicaea, and to report to the General Assembly of 2025 (*Section 13.6*).
9. Approve the delegates to Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of other Churches, and the appointment of representatives to Ecumenical Bodies (*Appendix II*).

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CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

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ASSEMBLY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree that the Church's financial situation demands further urgent attention supported by a focus on the agreed priorities (*Section 1.8*).
3. Note the ongoing work between the Trustees and Presbyteries in terms of driving the mission imperative of the Church (*Section 3.3*).
4. Agree the total number of planned ministry posts for 2025 remains at the previously approved 600 plus 60 vacancies and for this to be the basis for the next five years, subject to annual reporting and agreement of the General Assembly (*Section 2*).

5. Note the ongoing work in relation to reviewing the suitability of Vacancy Allowance, current Tenure arrangements, Stipend and Benefits Structure, International Presence and work within the Priority Areas (*Sections 5, 6, 10.7, 15.6, 15.7*).
6. Receive the 2023 Report and Accounts of the Church of Scotland Unincorporated Entities (*Section 7*).
7. Note the approved budget for 2024 and the indicative rolling budgets for 2025 to 2029 (*Sections 8.2 & 8.3*).
8. Note the expectation that the Trustees will require to bring proposals to adjust the parameters of the components of Giving to Grow to the General Assembly of 2025, if forecasts indicate that sufficient funding is not likely to be available for the expected cost of ministry from 2026 onwards; nevertheless urge the Assembly Trustees to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2025 which will deliver the Church of Scotland (Unincorporated Entities) (SC011353) a balanced budget position by 31 December 2027 at the latest (*Section 8.6*).
9. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to devise a scheme to enable the defined contribution pension scheme for Ministers to be assessed at reasonable intervals against good practice modelling principles to assure scheme members of an appropriate retirement income and report to the General Assembly of 2025.
10. Pass Regulations amending the Congregational Contributions “Giving to Grow” Regulations (Regs I 2022), as amended, as set out in Appendix I (*Section 8.6.13 & Appendix 1*).
11. Pass Regulations amending the Seeds for Growth Fund Regulations (Regs IV 2022), as amended, as set out in Appendix II and further amend the Regulations by adding a new paragraph (iii) in the new paragraph 3 as follows:
 - iii Foster discipleship and revitalisation within established congregations, with the aim of growing an existing congregation or developing a new worshipping community (*Section 11.3 & Appendix II*).
12. Approve the amended structure, remit and membership of the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team as set out in Appendix III (*Section 14 & Appendix III*).
13. Invite the Assembly Trustees to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2025 for a new Standing Committee of the General Assembly to have oversight of and responsibility for the Church’s work in relation to external affairs (potentially including public life and social justice, ecumenical relations, international work, partnerships and presence, and interfaith matters) and to liaise with the Ecumenical Relations Committee, Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, Nomination Committee, and others as deemed appropriate, to prepare and implement any changes which may be required, including the drafting of a detailed remit.
14. Approve the changes to the administrative arrangements of the Salvesen Fund and substitute the Schedule in Appendix IV for the Schedule in Appendix I to the Report of the Faith Impact Forum to, and as revised by, the Commission of Assembly in November 2019 (*Section 17*).
15. Approve the amendments to the Constitution and Remit of the Assembly Trustees as set out in Appendix V (*Sections 14.3 & 23.2*).
16. Note the appointment from 1st April 2024 of Jenny Simpson as Head of Finance and General Treasurer and confer upon the said Jenny Simpson, Head of Finance and General Treasurer

of the Church, full power to discharge all legacies, bequests or donations which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the Church of Scotland, or any of the Schemes, Councils, Committees or agencies thereof, or which may have been or may be left, bequeathed or made to the United Free Church of Scotland or to any of the Schemes, Boards or Committees or agencies thereof and which in terms of the Agreement with the continuing United Free Church of Scotland fall to the Church of Scotland or its Schemes, Councils, Committees or agencies, and to sign all Discharges, Agreements, Indemnities, Undertakings, and other Deeds which may be necessary in connection therewith (*Section 22.1*).

17. Approve the following appointments to the Assembly Trustees; Crawford Gillies, a member and elder at Dunkeld Parish Church for a 3-year period and Michael Yuille a member and elder at St Blane's, Dunblane for a 3-year period (*Section 23.2*).

FIONA SMITH
Cl Eccl Scot

COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND CASES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. (i) Note that the requisite proportion (two thirds) of the Presbyteries of the Church have approved the text of the proposed amendments to Articles II and V of the Articles Declaratory in Matters Spiritual (1921) enacted by the General Assembly of 1926 and to the Preamble, Questions and Formula authorised by the General Assembly of 1929, all of which are contained in the Confessions of Faith Overture sent down for the consideration of Presbyteries by the General Assembly of 2023;
- (ii) Resolve in this immediately successive year to adopt the Overture a second time, but as amended, as set out in Appendix B; and also amended as follows:

At 1.1, in relation to Article II, after:

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

Add:

"The Book of Confessions contains the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, The Scots Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the 1992 Statement of Faith."

At 4.1, change the last paragraph of the Preamble from that in the print to:

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

- (iii) Transmit again the Overture, as amended, to the Presbyteries for their consideration under the provisions of Article VIII of the Articles Declaratory in Matters Spiritual (1921), directing that returns be sent to the Principal Clerk not later than 31 December 2024, and noting for the avoidance of doubt that the Book of Confessions referred to in the Overture will contain the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, The Scots Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the 1992 Statement of Faith.
3. Instruct the Theological Forum to produce an online companion volume to the Book of Confessions, containing the additional documents mentioned in the Second Article Declaratory (namely: "The Directory for the Public Worship of God", "The Form of Presbyterian Church Government" and "The Form of Process") and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

FIONA SMITH
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CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

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THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Receive the appended report "Transgender Identities in the Church of Scotland" in fulfilment of the instruction of the General Assembly of 2023, and commend it to congregations, Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries for study (*Section 3*).

FIONA SMITH
Cl Eccl Scot

INTERIM JOINT REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL FORUM AND FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM ON ASSISTED DYING

The General Assembly:

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

FIONA SMITH
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SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL (KNOWN AS CROSSREACH BOARD)

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Recognise the continued pressures with recruitment across the sector, commend the workforce for all they are continuing to achieve in the face of that, and encourage the sharing of recruitment resources across wider Church of Scotland networks (*Section 1.3*).
3. Note the initiative being piloted with Scottish Workforce Chaplaincy and endorse the move to ensure that spiritual wellbeing remains a priority for the CrossReach workforce and those it supports (*Section 1.3.5*).
4. Commend the ecumenical and interfaith efforts to bring attention to the issue of Fair Work in social care and endorse further collaboration in this area (*Section 1.4*).
5. Express alarm about the cuts to vital care services being experienced by CrossReach and other care providers in the social care sector and ask CrossReach, working with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, to raise awareness about the crisis in social care with Presbyteries and congregations and to make representations to the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government (*Section 2.8*).
6. Note the extensive consultation exercise undertaken by CrossReach to set a clear way forward which will allow it to continue to play its part in the overall mission of the Church of Scotland, and urge Presbyteries to continue to work with CrossReach in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support (*Section 3.5*).

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CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Continue to encourage uniting congregations to ensure that the Guild is involved in discussions and enabled to explore ways in which Guilds merge or work in new ways, welcoming those mergers that have taken place (*Section 2.4*).
3. Encourage Kirk Sessions to consider if establishing a Guild can assist in their mission to their local community (*Section 2.8*).
4. Welcome the ways in which Guilds are reaching out to local communities and encourage Guilds and congregations to see this as an opportunity for mission together (*Section 3.3*).
5. Encourage youth workers, ministers, Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to support the work of the Young Adult Guild (*Section 3.6*).
6. Commend the Guild for the work of its Project Partnership Scheme 2021-24 and recognise the important issues tackled and vital monies raised (*Section 4.2*).
7. Congratulate the Guild and the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia on their collaborative working and learning together (*Section 4.3*).
8. Commend Guilds Together Groups for exploring new ways of working together and welcome the new structure of Guilds at a Regional Level agreed by the Guild conference (*Section 5.2.2*).

FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM

The General Assembly:

INTRODUCTION

1. Receive the Report and the Supplementary Report.

PEOPLE

2. Instruct Presbyteries to appoint Church of Scotland representatives to local authority committees which deal with education, according to the principles set out in the report; and affirm the report on Church of Scotland representatives' voting powers on education committees (*Section 2.1*).
3. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Assembly Trustees, to review the Income Protection and Ill Health Act (Act VI 2019) in light of its operation in practice over the past five years (such review to include consulting with people who have had direct experience of it) and report to the General Assembly of 2025 (*Section 2.12.2*).
4. Encourage FAPLT, in relation to the basic level for locum remuneration, to consider moving towards benchmarking this against the real living wage rather than the national minimum wage.
5. Adopt the 'Terms of Responsibility for Ministers Serving in the Church of Scotland', as contained in Appendix II, as a standard for the duties of the office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament, instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to make this available to all Ministers of Word & Sacrament as well as including it in the Ministers' Handbook and encourage ministers to study and adhere to these (*Section 2.16 Appendix II*).
6. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consider introducing, in relation to ministers in their First Five Years, an annual two week allocation for study leave and investigate whether the present financial allocation for the Continuing Ministerial Development Fund can be increased from £200 to £275 for ministers in their First Five Years; strongly encourage all ministers in their First Five Years to utilise the resources available, including the Continuing Ministerial Development Fund, and urge all congregations with ministers in their First Five Years to encourage their minister to take up what is on offer.
7. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and other relevant parties, recognising the pace of societal change at this time, acknowledging the significance of the recently released Cass Report, and informed by the work done by the Theological Forum on Transgender Identities, to consider the implications of the Cass Report to the work of the Church, particularly amongst young people, and report to a future General Assembly.
8. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Assembly Trustees, to review the support which may be provided to those ministers from overseas who have completed their familiarisation periods and presently seek a charge, with the administrative and financial challenges of renewing visas, and report to the General Assembly of 2025, and in the interim supply any support which may be provided without budgetary implications.

PRAISE

9. Commend the Church Hymnary Supplement 'God Welcomes All' and thank the Hymnary Supplement Committee for their work in producing this resource of contemporary songs supporting the renewal of worship (*Section 3.1*).
10. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to consult with Presbyteries, Readers and local worship leaders about the use of local worship leaders and Readers across the church, and to report to the General Assembly in 2025 with recommendations on how these roles should be shaped to best support the emerging shape of the Church of Scotland and its worshipping communities and in the interim encourage Presbyteries to promote the use of Readers already set apart and willing to serve (*Section 3.8*).

POVERTY

11. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to encourage Presbyteries to engage with Priority Areas to explore ways in which the Church of Scotland's priority for the poorest and most marginalised in society can continue to be delivered in areas where major adjustments have taken place to Priority Area parishes (*Section 4*).
12. Call for the introduction of a Minimum Income Guarantee (*Section 4.7*).

PRESENCE

13. Give thanks for the faithful witness and service in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and the Waldensian movement and Church in Italy, CCAP celebrating their centenary, and the Waldensians reaching 850 years and pray God's richest blessing on both (*Section 6.4.2*).

PEACE

14. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to share the voices of Palestinian Christians, and to continue to support the Church's contribution to interfaith dialogue (*Section 7.1*).
15. Encourage anyone who is in future planning a pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine to seek out and meet with the contemporary Christian community – and their Muslim and Jewish neighbours – who seek justice and peace; listening to their concerns and experiences, and offering accompaniment and solidarity with those suffering under occupation and discrimination.
16. Encourage Church members to take note of the requests from the Palestinian Christian Communities for help in their non-violent struggle to bring peace with justice, including consideration of previous General Assembly statements to refrain from buying goods from illegal settlements.
17. Call on the whole Church of Scotland to pray for peace in the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas and in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah, and restate the 2015 General Assembly call urging the UK Government to recognise without delay the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, as a contribution to securing lasting peace and justice for all (*Section 7.2*).
18. Note the monthly Prayers for Peace in the Middle East being held online on the 24th of each month, jointly with Christian Aid Scotland, since the latter part of 2023, as an opportunity to join in such prayers together with Christians and Christian Aid partners in the Middle East, and express thanks for those involved.

19. Call on the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to publicly and explicitly call on the UK Government to call for an immediate and permanent Ceasefire in Gaza, to cease granting export licences for the sale of armaments to Israel and to reinstate UNRWA funding immediately.
20. Express our gratitude to Britain Yearly Meeting for its liberality in funding the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) UK and Ireland, and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to give prayerful consideration to reinstating the annual Church of Scotland grant to support the work of EAPPI UK and Ireland, at least to its previous level, and to report back to the General Assembly of 2025.
21. Urge political leaders and media institutions to avoid the use of dehumanising and hostile language when describing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to work with partners in challenging this rhetoric through advocacy, encounter and practical initiatives (*Section 7.3*).
22. Give thanks for a century of faithful witness and service in the National Council of Churches of Korea (NCCCK), and commit to continuing accompaniment for the campaign for peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula.
23. Recognise and give thanks for Mediterranean Hope's ministry of 10 years in welcoming and supporting refugees and migrants, and commend their continued efforts to identify and develop models of best practice which can be shared.

PARTNERSHIP

24. Re-appoint Rev Bruce Sinclair as a Trustee of the Housing and Loan Fund for Retired Ministers and Widows and Widowers of Ministers (*Section 8.5*).
25. Invite congregations and Presbyteries to use and share resources prepared for the upcoming UK Parliament general election by the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, especially the Voter Champion initiative to promote voter registration and awareness, and guidance on how to organise an election hustings (*Section 8.8*).
26. As the UK General Election will take place during the Scottish School Holidays, encourage those who will be on holiday to register for a postal vote.

PRESBYTERY MISSION PLANNING

27. Approve the allocation of the total number of planned ministry posts among the Presbyteries as contained in Appendix VI for 2025, recognising that some of a Presbytery's overall allocation of posts may be divided into part-time roles (*Section 10.6 and Appendix VII*).
28. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to review the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) and to report to the General Assembly of 2025 with proposed revisions, particularly in relation to team ministry and the adjustment process, and meantime note the willingness of the Principal Clerk's office to assist Presbyteries with flexible solutions, in particular to issues arising with team ministry.
29. Pass an Act amending the Presbytery Mission Plan Act, as set out in Appendix VIII (*Section 10.9 and Appendix VIII*).

30. Instruct that the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) shall be amended so as to require only comments from the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the General Trustees on an annual evaluation and development, with approval from the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and the General Trustees only being required every five years, and to that end pass an Act amending the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) as set out in the Appendix to the Overture.
31. Invite the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to record the number of 'Bases of Adjustment' being processed by Presbyteries (in terms of the various forms of Adjustment referred to in Section 7 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021)), the time taken to process these and whether or not these Bases were consistent with the relevant Presbytery Mission Plans; and report to the General Assembly of 2025.

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

32. Note the creation of an additional Programme Group, Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group, in terms of the remit contained as Appendix IX (*Section 11 and Appendix IX*).

APPRENTICESHIP ROUTE

33. Approve the direction of travel offered by the Apprenticeship Route (Context based Education and Training for the Church of Scotland Family of Ministries) and note its possibilities towards encouraging people to consider their calling to the various recognised ministries of the Church.
34. Approve the introduction of a two-year foundational programme to provide a general qualification for ministry, equivalent to a Certificate level education of 120 credits (*Section 1.4.2*).
35. Encourage the development of the Apprenticeship Route to provide a way of developing new forms of ministry required by the Presbytery Mission Planning Process, Team Ministry and the changing needs of the Church.

Initial Ministerial Education for full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the Diaconate

36. Approve the principle of context-based formation for Initial Ministerial Education for full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the Diaconate with a view to achieving a clearer integration of practice and theory.
37. Approve, as the normal model of training for ordination to full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the Diaconate, a full-time formation process leading to a revised BD/ MDiv degree (of at least 360 SQA credits) combined with SQA credit-bearing ministry placements; reducing the current pattern of three years plus probation to three full years (which will include formative activity outwith academic semesters), with equality of time between study and placements.
38. Approve the development of a faster-track model, as an option for candidates for full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the Diaconate under listed criteria, of two years context-based education and training prior to ordination, involving a Diploma qualification (240 SQA credits) (or Graduate Diploma) combined with SQA credit-bearing ministry placements; with an equality of time between study and placements; listed criteria being, for example those with significant practical experience in ministry as a non-ordained worker;

those with a prior degree in theology; those who are close to age restrictions in entering training.

39. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to enter into discussions with Academic Providers, the Theological Forum, the Assembly Trustees, the Diaconate Council, and other relevant parties to bring a set of proposals to the General Assembly 2025 together, if required, with legislation to replace Act X 2004 and Act VIII 2010.

Continuing Professional Development

40. Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to explore with the Registration of Ministries Committee, the principle of introducing compulsory continuing professional development for those ordained to Full-Time Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and those ordained to the Diaconate, noting that Readers and OLM are already required to undertake such, post their Initial Ministerial Education (*Section 1.5.3.2*).

Funding

41. Instruct the Assembly Trustees to work with the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to make provision in the 2025 budget for funding for the Apprenticeship Route and the new programme of Initial Ministerial Education (*Section 1.5*).

FIONA SMITH
CI Eccl Scot

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note with concern the lack of applications for military chaplaincy, and encourage all eligible ministers of the Church to consider service as a Chaplain to HM Forces, Regular or Reservist (*Section 1*).
3. Encourage those eligible to consider service as Chaplains in any of the Cadet organisations and thank all serving Cadet Chaplains (*Section 1.3*).
4. Acknowledge the Committee's tireless work towards recruitment and instruct the Committee to produce a letter defining the role, rights, and deployment protections for Reservist Chaplains, Cadet Chaplains and Kirk Session.
5. Thank those who serve in His Majesty's Forces as Chaplains for their service to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel, their families, and the wider military community, and commend them, and their own families, to the prayers of the Church (*Section 2*).
6. Note the significant contribution of HM Forces personnel in a variety of theatres, notably the NATO response to the war in Ukraine and current operations in the Red Sea area (*Section 2.1.1*).
7. Welcome the review by Lord Etherton KC into the historic treatment of LGBT+ personnel, and urge HM Government to implement the recommendations in full and note with regret any breach, in the past, of the pastoral relationship between Chaplain and military personnel (*Section 3.5*).

FIONA SMITH

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Instruct the Safeguarding Committee to develop and implement processes and working practices which ensure compliance with The Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020, to be enacted in April 2025, and instruct Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to cooperate with such processes and work practices (*Sections 2.4 & 3*).
3. Instruct the Safeguarding Service to consider the vision of safeguarding across all areas of the Church and encourage all to support the development of a positive Safeguarding Culture (*Sections 2.4.3 & 4.5*).
4. Note the ongoing work of the Safeguarding Committee to roll out the Leadership and Trustee Safeguarding training courses and encourage those for whom such training is mandatory to attend training and use their learning to promote a positive safeguarding culture (*Section 4*).
5. Note the ongoing work by the Safeguarding Service to assess child and adult wellbeing and protection concerns and provide professional advice to congregations, Presbyteries, CrossReach, the national offices of the Church of Scotland and the Girls Brigade (*Section 5*).
6. Note that the Safeguarding Committee will work with the Assembly Trustees and the Boys' Brigade to explore how the relationship between the Boys' Brigade and the Church might develop so as to ensure continued close working arrangements which are compliant with the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 and Data Protection legislation.
7. Note the ongoing work to review and update the 2009 report 'For of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven' (*Section 6.1*).
8. Note the ongoing work by the Safeguarding Service to manage those who pose a risk in Church Communities (*Section 6.3*).
9. Approve the Support for Survivors of Historical Abuse Policy as set out in the Appendix and encourage its implementation in Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and the National Office (*Section 7*).
10. Invite the Safeguarding Committee to consider its processes as they relate to people who have been found not guilty in criminal proceedings but who are subject to Safeguarding procedures.

FIONA SMITH
CI Eccl Scot

IONA COMMUNITY BOARD

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Encourage the Church of Scotland at every level - nationally, at Presbytery and in congregations - to identify specific ways in which the different strands of the work of the

Iona Community might inform and influence the future planning and delivery of mission and outreach work of the Church.

3. In the face of Brexit and ongoing rise of populism across Europe, urge Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and congregations to take up opportunities to forge links, cross-cultural learning and partnerships across Europe.
4. Commend the work of the Church of Scotland in Israel and Palestine, while regretting the withdrawal of Church of Scotland funds from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (*Section 4.2*).
5. Welcome the proposal by Monica Lennon MSP for an Ecocide Prevention (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament which seeks to deter mass environmental damage and destruction taking place in Scotland, and aims to protect the environment, habitats, and natural resources by introducing the crime of ecocide into Scots Law; note the engagement by both members of the Iona Community Environment Common Concern Network and the Public Life and Social Justice Programme Group in the consultation about this proposal; note the involvement of the World Council of Churches in the Faith for Ecocide Law initiative, and support further development of legal protections of the environment both in Scotland and internationally (*Section 4.3*).

FIONA SMITH
CI Eccl Scot

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PENSION TRUSTEES MAY 2024

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the appointment of Rosalind Scott-Douglas as an Employer Nominated Trustee of all three Schemes (*Section 1.4.1*).

FIONA SMITH
CI Eccl Scot

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND INVESTORS' TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the re-appointments of Mrs J McKeown, Mr J Millar and Mr R Nisbet as from 1 June 2024.
3. Approve the appointment of Mr S Anderson with effect from 1 June 2024.
4. Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Investors Trust for 2023.

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CI Eccl Scot

ETHICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the Faith values aspirations or “Front Door Language” as set out in the Appendix and encourage the Church of Scotland Investors Trust to engage with these aspirations.

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GENERAL TRUSTEES

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report and the Supplementary Report.
2. Note the work of the Manse Liaison Group (Standards) which was established to consider, on a practical basis, how manse standards may be improved, specifically looking at refurbishment proposals and manse replacement and welcome the requirement that all manses should have standards which are in excess of statutory tolerable standards (*Section 6.2*).
3. Note the disappointing level of information on current manse condition which has been returned by Presbyteries (*Sections 6.2.3, 6.2.4 and Appendix 3*).
4. Remind Kirk Sessions of their existing obligations under Church law to send manse condition schedules and Property Registers (for Churches and Halls) to Presbyteries by 31 May in each year and remind Presbyteries to send the Returns Sheet to the General Trustees by 31 August in each year, and instruct the General Trustees to report back to the General Assembly in 2025 on the extent to which this is being done.
5. Commend the report into provision of manses with specific reference to the question of ministers living in their own homes and accept the recommendation of the Manse Liaison Group (Provision) that the default position should continue to be that ministers live in manses and that for other circumstances the Manse Adjudication Committee may be utilised (*Section 6.3*).
6. Affirm the important place of the arts in worship and mission, their contribution to knowledge and culture; recognise that our rich heritage results from many years of generous giving from forebears, congregations and benefactors; seek to protect this vital part of Scotland’s story for the future through consultation and collaboration with relevant bodies; acknowledge that the arts are a source of religious knowledge and experience; and urge the General Trustees to take all reasonable steps to safeguard this potential resource for worship in the future.
7. Urge the General Trustees, in consultation with Presbyteries, to give urgent thought to how pipe organs in church buildings scheduled for closure might be widely publicised as available for relocation to churches (and other appropriate locations) continuing in use, and report on action taken to the General Assembly of 2025.
8. Urge Presbyteries to work collaboratively with congregations, the General Trustees and the Law Department so as to enable the strategic release of church buildings in accordance with the time-frame set out in the Presbytery Mission Plan, taking into account local sensitivities and including the possibility of community buyouts and a consequent delay in the sale process; urge the General Trustees, in consultation with the Law Department, to liaise with Presbyteries in accommodating these timeframes, without putting such congregations under

undue time pressure; and encourage congregations not to close such buildings until such time as a sale has been effected.

9. Approve the two proposals set out in section 7.1.4 of this Report as to permitting disbursement for non-fabric purposes from the Consolidated Fabric Fund (*Section 7.1*).
10. Approve and adopt the amendments to the “Use of Monies in the Consolidated Fabric Fund” as set out in Appendix 5 to the Report and further amend Appendix 5 by adding at the end of para 9(a) the words “or for non-fabric purposes aligned with the Five Marks of Mission” (*Section 7.1 and Appendix 5*).
11. Note the position in relation to Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land) Regulations 2021 (*Section 8.2*).
12. Appoint Mr Fraser Bews, Rev Dr David Coulter, Mr Tim Podger and Rev Nigel J Robb as members of the General Trustees (*Section 9.1.5*).
13. Authorise the payment of £2,000 to each of Mr Alan Kennedy as Chair and Rev Scott Rennie as Vice-Chair for their services over the past year (*Section 9.1.7*).
14. Pass The Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act 2024 as set out in the Appendix to the Supplementary Report.

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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HOUSING AND LOAN FUND

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the new Constitution of the Fund as set out in Appendix 5 (*Section 8 and Appendix 5*).
3. Appoint Alison Fyfe as a Trustee of the Fund.

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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUST

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Re-appoint Mr John Hodge and Mr Christopher Mackay as members of the Trust from 1 June 2024 (*Section 3.1*).

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NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Note the six areas of work of the Strategic Review Group (*Section 3.2.2*).

3. Note the compilation by the Nomination Committee of a handbook to simplify its work, as part of the ongoing Strategic Review (*Section 3.2.5*).
4. Make appointments to the Standing Committees of the General Assembly as set out in the Report, subject to the following alterations:

Assembly Business Committee

Minister Resigned John Ferguson (May 2024)

Audit Committee

Member Appointed Barbara Finlayson (Edinburgh: The New Town) (1yr)

Faith Action Programme Leadership Team

Vice-Convener Appointed (and Mission Support Programme Group Leader) Jonathan Fleming (Dec 2023 – May 2025) (Greenock: Lyle Kirk)

Vice Convener Appointed (and Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group Programme Group Leader) Karen Campbell (Edinburgh: Marchmont St Giles') (1 year)

Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group

Ministers Resigning Alan Hamilton, Katherine Taylor

Ministers Appointed Alistair May (Motherwell: Dalziel: St Andrews) (4 years), Lorna Tunstall (formerly Clyne l/w Kildonan & Loth Helmsdale) (3 years)

Members Appointed Barbara Finlayson (Edinburgh: New Town) (1 year), Dan Gunn (Dunblane St Blane's) (2 years) (*Section 5*).

5. Appoint Michael Cantlay as Convener of the Social Care Council (*Section 5.1*).
6. Appoint Sonia Blakesley as Convener of the Safeguarding Committee (*Section 5.1*).
7. Reappoint James Stewart as Convener of the Life and Work Advisory Committee (*Section 5.1*).
8. Appoint Robert Hamilton as Convener of the Registration of Ministries Committee (with effect from May 2023) (*Section 5.1*).
9. Reappoint Philip Brodie as a Convener of the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly (*Section 5.1*).
10. Appoint Leslie Milton as Convener of the Ministries Appeal Panel (*Section 5.1*).

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SELECTION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Appoint the following 13 persons to serve on the Presbytery Review Committee established in terms of section 3 of the Report of the Legal Questions Committee.

Ministers

Rev Andrea Boyes (4 years)

Rev Dr Conor Fegan (4 years)

Rev Peter Johnston	(3 years)
Rev Margaret Mateos OLM	(2 years)
Rev Moira McDonald (<i>Convener</i>)	(4 years)
Rev Fraser Penny	(2 years)
Rev Jim Teasdale	(2 years)

Deacon

Ms Pat Munro DCS	(3 years)
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Elders

Miss Catherine Coull (<i>Vice Convener</i>)	(3 years)
Mr Bill Duncan	(3 years)
Ms Sheila Nicoll	(2 years)
Mr Douglas Vallance	(2 years)
Mr Jim Watt	(3 years)

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REGISTRATION OF MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Pass an Act amending the Registration of Ministries Act (Act II 2017, as amended) as set out in Appendix I (*Sections 3, 4 & 5 and Appendix I*).

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