

THE PRINCIPAL  
ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
*Free Church of Scotland*  
1950 – 1959

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE MOUND

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### PRINCIPAL ACTS

#### CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

#### CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MAY XXIII., MCML. (1950)

#### CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

#### CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH.

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King. (No. 1 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 24th May 1950.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, 23rd day of May 1950, respectfully declare our devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We rejoice, along with your loyal subjects everywhere, in the restoration to health which God in His Providence has granted You, and in the continued health of Your Majesty's Royal Household.

We are mindful of the heavy burdens which fall to the lot of Your Majesty in these critical days, and we are profoundly grateful for the splendid efforts put forth by Your Majesty and by Her Majesty the Queen towards national recovery, and for the noble example of self-

denial and devotion to duty set by all the members of Your Family.

We view with satisfaction the continued harmony and peace within Your Majesty's Dominions and the British Commonwealth of Nations, and we pray that like blessings may extend to the whole world. We follow with loyal devotion the manifold activities of Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, and the continued progress of young Prince Charles.

We rejoice in the restoration of Her Majesty Queen Mary to wonted health and we pray that the Lord may long spare her to occupy her special place in the loyalty and affection of Your people.

May God continue to bless Your Majesty's Person and Rule, Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, Her Majesty Queen Mary, and all members of Your Royal House.

So pray your Majesty's most faithful subjects,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED

A.MACLEOD, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Change in Title of Foreign Missions, Etc., Committee. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1950.**

The General Assembly enact a change in the title of the Foreign Missions, Colonial, Continental and Jewish Committee, and ordain that its title from this date shall be : "The Free Church of Scotland Committee on Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions," and that all regulations in force in the name of the Committee under its former name shall apply with equal force under its new title.

**III. - Act anent Spiritual Needs. (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1950.**

The Assembly instruct that a copy of the Overture anent Spiritual Needs be sent to all our congregations with the earnest recommendation that they be instant at the Throne of Grace for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Overture is as follows :-

"Whereas the need of Spiritual Refreshing in our land is great: And whereas nothing else, but such help from above can stem the tide of religious declension and attendant moral evils, and afford us security and strength in these troublous times;

"And, whereas there are reports of a gracious visitation elsewhere;

“Wherefore, it is hereby overtired to the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration, and to set time apart at its forthcoming meeting in order to plead earnestly for a spiritual awakening throughout our land, and to enjoin on the people to do the same.”

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 4 of Class II) Edinburgh, 25th May 1950.**

The General Assembly record their deep thankfulness to God for the liberality shown by our people during the past year. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1949 at the rate of £330 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1949, exclusive of the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform for the current year be calculated at the rate of £350, payable at the rate of £25 per month, with additional payments of £20 in June, £15 in August, and £15 in November, provided the resources of the Fund permit of this, and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances as the Committee may deem proper.

The General Assembly continue, for a further period of three years, the existing arrangements in respect of the Congregations of Dumfries and Kennoway, on condition that these Congregations contribute the sum of £115 each per annum.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries in terms of Act V., 1928 V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. A. Macleod, Minister at Back, and Rev. J. M. Morrison, Minister at Cross, both in the Presbytery of Lewis; Rev. A. Macleod, Minister at Partick, Presbytery of Glasgow; and Mr Duncan Leitch, M.A., Minister at Dingwall.

The General Assembly record their deep appreciation of the work done by Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees, Collectors, and all members and adherents of the Church during the past year, and commend the work of the Committee to the prayerful and practical interest of all Congregations within the Church.

**V. - Act anent Training of Students. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 26th May 1950.**

The General Assembly accept the Draft Regulations governing admission and training of students for the period of three years, at the end of which they may on the report of the Committee be reconsidered in the light of experience, and enact that the necessary alterations be made in the College Calendar as follows :-

**ACT ANENT EDUCATION OF STUDENTS.**

In connection with the education of students preparing for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, there shall be two courses of study as follows

1. The Ordinary Course, which shall be followed by all students who are under thirty years of age at the date of their recognition as students studying with a view to the Ministry.

2. The Modified Course, which is open to men who have attained thirty years of age at the date of their recognition as students, with a view to the Ministry.

### 1. THE ORDINARY COURSE.

(a) Students taking this course must obtain the Certificate of Fitness of the Scottish Universities Entrance Board, and study the number of subjects required for graduation. Before entering upon their study in Arts they shall be required to obtain the approval of the Board of Studies for their proposed course, and, in the event of failure to obtain a Degree, the reasons for this failure must be submitted to the Board of Studies.

(b) Students who have completed their course in Arts to the satisfaction of the Board of Studies are required to pass the Entrance Examination to the College in all subjects except in so far as they have already passed Degree examinations in these subjects.

(e) The Entrance Examination to the College shall be held in June and September. A student not passing the required number of subjects in June will be permitted to sit in September such subjects as are necessary for the completion of the Examination, it being understood that the Entrance Examination shall be completed in not more than two sittings; otherwise the student shall repeat the examination in all subjects.

### 2. THE MODIFIED COURSE.

(a) Before sitting upon this course students shall be required to sit a Special Examination in the following subjects :- Scripture knowledge, Doctrine, with special reference to The Shorter Catechism, English (General), British History (General).

(b) This Examination will be held in June and September and no student shall enter upon the Modified Course until he has obtained passes in all the prescribed subjects, it being understood that this examination shall be completed in not more than two sittings.

(c) Students recognised under this course shall be permitted by the Training of the Ministry Committee to take a Modified Course in Arts and Divinity, consisting of Two years exclusively in Arts and THREE years thereafter in Divinity. The course in Arts (consisting of four subjects) as well as the course in Divinity must conform to that prescribed in the case of each student by the Board of Studies.

(d) If in any subject a student in his Modified Course in Arts has failed to obtain a class certificate, the Board of Studies shall set an Examination in that subject at the end of each Academic Year. Those who attain the necessary standard of proficiency as determined by the Board, may present themselves for the Entrance Examination to the College.

(c) Students under the Modified Course must pass in four of the subjects prescribed for Entrance to the College, Scripture being compulsory.

(f) Students under this course shall sit Exit Examinations only in those subjects included in their Divinity Curriculum.

Board of Studies. - The general function of the Board of Studies is to act in an advisory and supervisory capacity to all students recognised as training for the Ministry of the Free Church, to review the progress of such students at all stages prior to entering upon Divinity, and to make recommendations to the Training of the Ministry Committee with regard to students under their care.

The Board shall consist of eight members to be elected annually, three of whom shall represent the Senatus of the College and three the Training of the Ministry Committee. The Principal of the College and the Convener of the Training of the Ministry Committee shall be members ex officio. The Chairman of the Board shall be elected each year from the representatives of the parent bodies in rotation.

The functions of the Board are further defined as follows :-

1. It shall require each student taking the Ordinary Course to submit a list of the classes he proposes to take in his Arts Course for approval before entering upon his University Course. In the event of a regular student in Arts failing to secure a Degree at the end of his course, the Board shall have power to review his case, and, if satisfied with his work, recommend to the Training of the Ministry Committee that he be permitted to sit the Entrance Examination to the College.

2. In the case of a student taking the Modified Course, the Board shall satisfy itself that the results of the Examination sat under the regulations in this Act Section II. (a) are such that the student shall benefit by the further course of study prescribed for him, and the Board shall advise the Training of the Ministry Committee accordingly.

3. In the case of a student taking the Modified Course, the Board shall prescribe the subjects to be taken both in Arts and Divinity. The Board shall ensure that no less than four subjects are taken in Arts : the selection of subjects in Arts and Divinity in the case of each student to have reference to his age and educational standard as well as to the claims of an educated Ministry. Wherever possible it shall provide for a knowledge of Greek sufficient to enable the student to benefit from attendance upon the class of New Testament Exegesis.

4. All Examinations, with the exception of Entrance or Exit Examinations, shall be conducted by the Board of Studies.

Maintenance Grants. - Students who have not had facilities for a Secondary education, upon deciding to prepare for the Ministry of the Free Church, may, on the recommendation of their Kirk Session and Presbytery, supported by the evidence that they have successfully passed a Presbyterian Examination in their knowledge of Scripture and The Shorter Catechism, receive a Maintenance Grant, their educational progress to be received by the Board of Studies at the end of the first year, who, if satisfied, shall have power to recommend the continuance of this Grant for another year. This Grant shall in no case be given for more than two years. In this connection it must be understood that no student shall be recognised as a student training for the Ministry of the Free Church until he has complied with the Regulations outlined in Sections 1 and 2 of Act governing the Education of students.

The above regulations shall be in operation for three years when, on the Report of the

Training of the Ministry Committee, they may be reconsidered in the light of experience.

**VI. - Act anent Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors. (No. 6 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 26th May 1950.**

The General Assembly approve the proposal that the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund be hereafter designated The Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund, in accordance with the terms used in the Allocation Orders of the Royal Commission, and enact accordingly. The Assembly further enact that the Regulations governing Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors be amended as follows

1. The Retiring Allowance to be granted to a Principal or Professor in the Free Church College retiring from his office on the ground of age or infirmity, shall be as follows, that is to say :-

To any Principal or Professor who shall have served for ten years and upwards, and under eleven years, an annual allowance equal to twenty-sixtieths of the annual salary and emoluments of his office;

For eleven years, and under twelve years, an annual allowance equal to twenty-one-sixtieths of such salary and emoluments;

And in like manner a further addition to the annual allowance equal to one-sixtieth in respect of each additional year of such service until the completion of a period of service of twenty years, when an annual allowance equal to thirty-sixtieths may be granted, and no addition shall be made in respect of any service beyond twenty years;

Provided always that no Retiring Allowance under this section shall be less than £200 per annum, or shall exceed one-half of such salary and emoluments.

This regulation, in so far as it applies to Principals, refers to Principals who are also Professors. In the case of a Principal who is not a Professor, the rate of his Retiring Allowance as such shall be one-sixtieth of his salary as Principal for each year of his service, up to thirty-sixtieths of the full salary pertaining to the office, in addition to any other Retiring Allowance that may be due to him.

2. The annual salary and emoluments of a Principal or Professors shall be taken to be the annual average of the salary and emoluments of the office, or offices, from which he retires, estimated on a period of three years immediately preceding the date of retirement.

3. In cases in which special circumstances may appear to justify an increased rate of Retiring Allowance, and in cases in which a Principal or Professor may be disabled by infirmity, or bad health, from performing the duties of his office before the completion of ten years service, the increased rate or retiring allowance, if any, shall be such as the College Committee, after consultation with the Training of the Ministry Committee, and with the sanction of the General Assembly, may determine.

4. In view of the merging of part of the Retired Professors Fund with the Aged and Infirm

Ministers' Fund, the Retiring Professor shall be regarded as eligible for the maximum grant allowable to Retired Ministers, taking into account both his Ministerial and Professorial service, in accordance with the scale, which shall be in operation at the time of his retirement, under the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Regulations; except in such cases as fall to be dealt with under Clause 3 of the Regulations governing Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors. Thereafter, the balance of the Retiring Allowance due to him under these latter Regulations shall also be charged against this Fund, if the surplus available shall be able to bear it. To the extent, however, to which the Fund may not be able to meet it, the balance of the Retiring Allowance shall, in conformity with earlier practice, be charged against "such other fund or endowment as the General Assembly may direct."

"Nothing in these Regulations shall prejudice the right of Professors to Retiring Allowances in accordance with the finding of the General Assembly thereanent in May 1886, as amended by this Act.

**VII. - Act anent May Meetings of Standing Committees. (No. 7 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 26th May 1950.**

The General Assembly ordain that the May Meeting of Standing Committees be held from year to year, on the Wednesday following the close of Assembly.

**VIII. - Act anent Appointment of Additional Trustees. (No.8 of Class II)  
Edinburgh, 26th May 1950.**

The General Assembly appoint as additional General Trustees :-

1. Rev. Professor D. McKenzie, M.A., Professor of Apologetics, Free Church College, Edinburgh.
2. Mr William Finlayson, O.B.E., Retired Prison Governor, Wellwood, Ceres, Fife.

**IX. - Act anent Collections. (No. 9 of Class II.)**

The General Assembly acknowledge anew their gratitude to God for the liberality of His people in support of the Schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly confidently expect that congregations, realising the depreciation in the value of money, will maintain and increase their givings to these necessary schemes.

The General Assembly enact that the following collections be made :-

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1950 Retired Lay Agents
2. „ July „ College
3. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers
4. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions
5. „ October „ Highlands and Islands and Home Missions
6. „ November „ Jewish Missions
7. „ January 1951 Welfare of Youth and Publications
8. „ February „ Training of the Ministry
9. „ March „ Buildings
10. „ April „ College
11. „ May „ Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension,

The General Assembly ordain that these Collections be made on the days appointed or on the nearest convenient dates thereto.

The General Assembly instruct Conveners to give timeous notice of the collections to congregations throughout the Church.

The General Assembly instruct the Treasurer to intimate to Presbytery Clerks, by the first day of November, a list of congregations within their bounds which, until that date, may have failed to take all collections appointed, in order that action may be taken to rectify all such omissions.

**X. - Act anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 10 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 29th May 1950.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Reverend Archibald Macdougall named by the Moderator. - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the Appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to, them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed: And

members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XI. - Act appointing next General Assembly. (No. 11 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 29th May 1950.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1951, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

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MAY XXII., MCMLI. (1951)

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**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to His Majesty the King (No. 1 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd .May 1951.**

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 22nd day of May 1951, offer Your Majesty this expression of our constant and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the restoration of Your Majesty's health in such measure as now permits Your Majesty to contemplate again the visit to Australia and New Zealand which had to be postponed owing to your illness in recent years. We pray God that strength may be given Your Majesty for the carrying out of this intention, and for the bearing of the many responsibilities which pertain to Your exalted office.

We rejoice in the happy event which, since last we met in General Assembly, has brought joy to the Royal Family, as also to all Your Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the Commonwealth of the British Peoples, namely, the birth of a daughter to Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and we most earnestly pray that Divine blessing may rest upon the Royal Parents and Their young children.

We view with prayerful concern, the distressing situation which still prevails in the Far East and which has necessitated the commitment of so many of Your Majesty's Forces to fighting service in Korea. We give thanks to God for their valour and success in battle, and pray that every effort which Your Government are making with a view to restoring and maintaining peace may, by the blessing of the Almighty, be instrumental in the accomplishment of that great purpose.

Convinced that the paramount need of human society everywhere to-day is that of spiritual and moral renewal, we rejoice in Your Majesty's oft-avowed trust in the Living God, and in the noble example afforded by Your Majesty of devotion to the Christian ideals of home and family life. We gladly take occasion also to thank Your Majesty for the high tone of the messages which, from time to time, You broadcast to the Nation.

May the richest and deepest blessings of Almighty God ever rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule; and upon Her Majesty the Queen; Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Princess Anne; Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret; Her Majesty Queen Mary; and all members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED

MURDOCH MACRAE, Moderator

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.)**  
**May 1951**

**Edinburgh, 24th**

The General Assembly record their deep thankfulness to the High for the continued liberality

of our people during the past year.

The General Assembly declare all Equal Dividend for 1950 at the rate of £350 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1950, exclusive of the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform for the current year be calculated at the rate of £350, payable at the rate of £25 per month, with additional payments of £20 in June, £15 in August, and £15 in November, provided the resources of the Fund permit of this, and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances as the Committee may deem proper.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries in terms of Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. Murdo Campbell, Minister at Partick Highland, Presbytery of Glasgow: Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Minister at Snizort, Presbytery of Skye and Uist and Rev. Murdoch Macphail, Minister at Croy, Presbytery of Inverness.

The General Assembly record their deep sense of appreciation of the work done by Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees and Collectors, and of the loyal and generous support of members and adherents of all Congregations during the past year, and commend the work of the Committee to the prayerful and practical interest of the Church.

The General Assembly is glad to note the Committee's intention to examine Congregational Schedules, and they instruct that a full analysis of these be incorporated in the report presented to the next Assembly.

**III. - Act Appointing Custodier of Titles. (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1951.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr Donald Macarthur, Writer, 51 South Brae Drive, Glasgow, to the vacant office of Custodier of Titles.

**IV. - Act Repealing Obsolete Acts anent Retiring Allowances to Principal and Professors of the College. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1951.**

The General Assembly, having noted that the Regulations for Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors, set forth in Act VI., 1950 (No. 6 of Class II.), incorporate those portions of previous Acts which are still relevant, and that the said Acts, in so far as not so incorporated are now obsolete, expressly repeals the following enactments :-

Enactment	Title	Extent of	Repeal
Regulation in Assembly Report (p.306)	Retiring Allowance Acts and Proceedings 1886	Regulations re Professors' Whole of College Committee	
Act III 1897 (No. 2 of Cl. II)	Anent Regulations for	Whole	Retired Professors

**V. - Act of Recognition and Admission of Detroit Gaelic Mission as Congregation  
of the Free Church. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May  
1951.**

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Detroit Gaelic Mission, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., and grant its prayer, craving that the Mission be recognised by, and admitted into, the Free Church of Scotland; and that the Mission be consigned to the care of the Free Church Committee on Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions, so that the Committee may appoint a Minister to organise and consolidate the Mission so as to place it on the same footing as Free Church Congregations in Canada.

**VI. - Act sending down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act a Proposed Federal  
Relations Act between the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia and this Church.  
(No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1951.**

The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Committee in regard to the relations of this Church with the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia, and resolve to send to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act a Federal Relations Act in the following terms

The General Assembly, with the consent of the majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain that there shall be established between this Church and the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia such a relationship as shall maintain and manifest the unity of the Churches, their separate and independent jurisdiction being always preserved.

This relationship shall be carried into effect as follows

(a) This Church shall henceforth recognise the status of the office-bearers and members of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia as if they were its own, and the Ministers and Probationers of that Church shall be eligible for Calls by any Congregation of this Church as if they were Ministers and Probationers of this Church.

(b) Students of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia attending the Free Church College, Edinburgh, shall be recognised as students of this Church under regulations to be framed by the Training of the Ministry Committee, and approved by the General Assembly.

(c) This Church shall conduct its own missionary operations as heretofore, but shall recognise, in any of its Mission Fields, Missionaries of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia as if they were its own.

(d) A corresponding member appointed by the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia shall be admitted to the General Assembly of this Church to attend its meetings with right to deliberate, but not to vote; and the General Assembly shall appoint a corresponding member to the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia on the same terms, but any failure in the appointment or attendance of these commissioners shall not invalidate the proceedings of these Courts.

(e) This Act shall become operative upon an Act in similar terms being passed by the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia.”

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expression of our constant and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the restoration of Your Majesty's health in such measure as now permits Your Majesty to contemplate again the visit to Australia and New Zealand which had to be postponed owing to your illness in recent years. We pray God that strength may be given Your Majesty for the carrying out of this intention, and for the bearing of the many responsibilities which pertain to Your exalted office.

We rejoice in the happy event which, since last we met in General Assembly, has brought joy to the Royal Family, as also to all Your Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the Commonwealth of the British Peoples, namely, the birth of a daughter to Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and we most earnestly pray that Divine blessing may rest upon the Royal Parents and Their young children.

We view with prayerful concern, the distressing situation which still prevails in the Far East and which has necessitated the commitment of so many of Your Majesty's Forces to fighting service in Korea. We give thanks to God for their valour and success in battle, and pray that every effort which Your Government are making with a view to restoring and maintaining peace may, by the blessing of the Almighty, be instrumental in the accomplishment of that great purpose.

Convinced that the paramount need of human society everywhere to-day is that of spiritual and moral renewal, we rejoice in Your Majesty's oft-avowed trust in the Living God, and in the noble example afforded by Your Majesty of devotion to the Christian ideals of home and family life. We gladly take occasion also to thank Your Majesty for the high tone of the messages which, from time to time, You broadcast to the Nation.

May the richest and deepest blessings of Almighty God ever rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule; and upon Her Majesty the Queen; Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Princess Anne; Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret; Her Majesty Queen Mary; and all members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants,

THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED

MURDOCH MACRAE, Moderator

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.)**  
**May 1951**

**Edinburgh, 24th**

The General Assembly record their deep thankfulness to the High for the continued liberality of our people during the past year.

The General Assembly declare all Equal Dividend for 1950 at the rate of £350 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1950, exclusive of the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform for the current year be calculated at the rate of £350, payable at the rate of £25 per month, with additional payments of £20 in June, £15 in August, and £15 in November, provided the resources of the Fund permit of this, and subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances as the Committee may deem proper.

The General Assembly place upon the List of Beneficiaries in terms of Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. Murdo Campbell, Minister at Partick Highland, Presbytery of Glasgow: Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Minister at Snizort, Presbytery of Skye and Uist and Rev. Murdoch Macphail, Minister at Croy, Presbytery of Inverness.

The General Assembly record their deep sense of appreciation of the work done by Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees and Collectors, and of the loyal and generous support of members and adherents of all Congregations during the past year, and commend the work of the Committee to the prayerful and practical interest of the Church.

The General Assembly is glad to note the Committee's intention to examine Congregational Schedules, and they instruct that a full analysis of these be incorporated in the report presented to the next Assembly.

**III. - Act Appointing Custodier of Titles. (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1951.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr Donald Macarthur, Writer, 51 South Brae Drive, Glasgow, to the vacant office of Custodier of Titles.

**IV. - Act Repealing Obsolete Acts anent Retiring Allowances to Principal and Professors of the College. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1951.**

The General Assembly, having noted that the Regulations for Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors, set forth in Act VI., 1950 (No. 6 of Class II.), incorporate those portions of previous Acts which are still relevant, and that the said Acts, in so far as not so incorporated are now obsolete, expressly repeals the following enactments :-

Enactment	Title	Extent of	Repeal
Regulation in Assembly Report (p.306)	Retiring Allowance Acts and Proceedings 1886)	Regulations re Professors'	Whole of College Committee
Act III 1897 (No. 2 of Cl. II)	Anent Regulations for	Whole	Retired Professors

**V. - Act of Recognition and Admission of Detroit Gaelic Mission as Congregation of the Free Church. (No. 5 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 24th May 1951.**

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Detroit Gaelic Mission, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., and grant its prayer, craving that the Mission be recognised by, and admitted into, the Free Church of Scotland; and that the Mission be consigned to the care of the Free Church Committee on Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions, so that the Committee may appoint a Minister to organise and consolidate the Mission so as to place it on the same footing as Free Church Congregations in Canada.

**3 VI. - Act sending down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act a  
Proposed Federal Relations Act between the Free Presbyterian Church of  
Australia and this Church. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th  
May 1951.**

The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Committee in regard to the relations of this Church with the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia, and resolve to send to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act a Federal Relations Act in the following terms

The General Assembly, with the consent of the majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain that there shall be established between this Church and the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia such a relationship as shall maintain and manifest the unity of the Churches, their separate and independent jurisdiction being always preserved.

This relationship shall be carried into effect as follows

(a) This Church shall henceforth recognise the status of the office-bearers and members of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia as if they were its own, and the Ministers and Probationers of that Church shall be eligible for Calls by any Congregation of this Church as if they were Ministers and Probationers of this Church.

(b) Students of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia attending the Free Church College, Edinburgh, shall be recognised as students of this Church under regulations to be framed by the Training of the Ministry Committee, and approved by the General Assembly.

(c) This Church shall conduct its own missionary operations as heretofore, but shall recognise, in any of its Mission Fields, Missionaries of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia as if they were its own.

(d) A corresponding member appointed by the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia shall be admitted to the General Assembly of this Church to attend its meetings with right to deliberate, but not to vote; and the General Assembly shall appoint a corresponding member to the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia on the same terms, but any failure in the appointment or attendance of these commissioners shall not invalidate the proceedings of these Courts.

(e) This Act shall become operative upon an Act in similar terms being passed by the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia.”

**VII. - Act Appointing Trustee to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 7 of Class**



Highlands and Islands and Home Missions 5. „ November „ Jewish  
 Missions 6. „ January 1952 Welfare of Youth and Publications 7. „ February „  
 Training of the Ministry 8. „ March „ Buildings 9. „ April „ College 10. „  
 May „ Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension,

**XII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 12 of Class 31.)  
 Edinburgh, 29th May 1951.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Reverend George N. M. Collins named by the Moderator,- TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned. to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the Appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed: And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XIII. - Act appointing Next Assembly. (No. 13 of Clause II.)  
 Edinburgh, 29th May 1951.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1952, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

## CONTENTS 1952

### PRINCIPAL ACTS

#### CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

##### 1. - Act anent Federal Relations with the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia

#### CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

2. Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty The Queen 3. Act anent Resignation of Secretary of Highlands and Islands Committee

4. Act anent Sustentation Fund 5. Act anent Reappointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund 6. Act anent appointment of Special Commission to confer with the Strathy and Halladale Congregation 7. Act anent Collections 8. Act Appointing Commission of Assembly 9. Act Appointing Next General Assembly

### THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XX., MCMLII. (1952)

#### CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT.

##### I. - Act anent Federal Relations with the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia. (No. 1 of Class I.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1952.

The General Assembly, with the consent of the majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain that there shall be established between this Church and the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia such a relationship as shall maintain and manifest the unity of the Churches, their separate and independent jurisdiction being always preserved.

This relationship shall be carried into effect as follows :-

(a) This Church shall henceforth recognise the status of the office-bearers and members of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia as if they were its own, and the Ministers and Probationers of that Church shall be eligible for Calls by any Congregation of this Church as if they were Ministers and Probationers of this Church.

(b) Students of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia attending the Free Church College, Edinburgh, shall be recognised as students of this Church under regulations to be framed by

the Training of the Ministry Committee, and approved by the General Assembly.

(c) This Church shall conduct its own missionary operations as heretofore, but shall recognise, in any of its Mission Fields, Missionaries of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia as if they were its own.

(d) A corresponding member appointed by the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia shall be admitted to the General Assembly of this Church to attend its meetings with right to deliberate, but not to vote; and the General Assembly shall appoint a corresponding member to the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia on the same terms, but any failure in the appointment or attendance of these commissioners shall not invalidate the proceedings of these Courts.

(e) This Act shall become operative upon an Act in similar terms being passed by the Supreme Court of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia.”

## **CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH.**

### **II. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No.2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1952.**

TO THE QUEEN’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, Your Majesty’s loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh the 20th day of May 1952, desire most respectfully to declare our whole-hearted and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty’s Person and Throne.

We, in common with Your Majesty’s loyal subjects throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations, were deeply grieved by the lamented death of His Late Majesty Your Father. Whose gracious character and devoted service won not only the ardent loyalty and admiration, but also, in an unprecedented degree the warm affection of all His peoples.

We are mindful of the arduous burden of statecraft which Your Majesty has had, in such sad circumstances, to assume, and it is our earnest prayer that God may richly endow Your Majesty with the strength, wisdom and grace which the duties of Your Majesty’s exalted office demand.

That God, in His infinite mercy, would bless the efforts of Your Majesty’s Ministers who are seeking the promotion and establishment of peace and righteousness in the earth is our constant and A fervent prayer.

We rejoice that in the various duties associated with the Throne Your Majesty is favoured with the efficient assistance of Your Majesty's Consort, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh.

We pray that God's abundant blessing may rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and Princess Anne, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Her Majesty Queen Mary, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, and all the Members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects.

The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly Convened.

**III. - Act anent Resignation of Secretary of Highlands and Islands Committee.  
(No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1952.**

The General Assembly learn with profound regret of the application by Mr Donald MacBeath to resign on account of ill-health from the Secretaryship of the Highlands and Islands, etc., Committee, and from the Clerkship of his other Committees. They recall with gratitude the long period of careful and devoted service which Mr MacBeath has given to the Church, and they accept his resignation with deep regret. They pray that, with the release from active duty, he may enjoy a substantial restoration to health.

In terms of Act IV., 1890, the General Assembly fix the retiring allowance of Mr. Donald MacBeath at £300 per annum, with effect from 1st June 1952.

The General Assembly remit to the Finance, Law, and Advisory Committee to make interim arrangements for the carrying out of the secretarial work of the Committees now under the oversight of Mr. MacBeath.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee to prepare long-term proposals for the staffing of the Office for submission to next General Assembly.

In the event of circumstances rendering necessary any appointment of a more permanent nature, the General Assembly direct the Committee to bring the matter before the Commission of Assembly at any of its diets, which is hereby authorised to dispose of same.

**IV. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st.  
May 1952.**

The General Assembly record their deep thankfulness to the Lord for His blessing, in temporal things, that has rested on the Church during the past year, and to all our Congregations for their generous response, by God's grace to the needs of the Fund, reflected in an increase of nearly £2,000 in the contributions of the people. At the same time they record their indebtedness to Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees, Collectors, and other helpers, for their faithfulness and diligence.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1951 of £350 to every Minister on the

Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1951, exclusive of the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that, provided the resources of the Fund permit, the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform for the current year be calculated at £360, payable at the rate of £25 per month till the end of June, and £30 per month for the succeeding six months, with an additional payment of £30 in June, subject to such regulative conditions, general, or with reference to particular instances as the Committee may deem proper.

The General Assembly continue for three years further the Special Arrangements in respect of the Congregation of Shettleston, & on condition that the Congregation contribute a sum of not less than £100 per annum to the Sustentation Fund.

The General Assembly instruct that the Congregation of Aberdeen be continued on the Equal Dividend Platform for another year, its position to be reviewed at the end of 1952, and that the £50, over and above the Equal Dividend, payable to this Congregation under Special Arrangements, be, in future, a charge against the Church Extension and Home Missions Committees, in the proportion that these Committees may, by agreement decide.

The General Assembly place on the list of beneficiaries in terms of Act V., 1928, V. (1), as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. Donald Fraser, Minister at Aberfeldy, Presbytery of Perth, and Mr Duncan Morrison, Minister at Duirinish, Presbytery of Skye and Uist.

The General Assembly note with appreciation that the sum of £48 per annum is being paid by the Management Committee of the Northern Regional Hospital Board, Inverness, towards the Retiring Allowance of Rev. J. Calvin Mackay, Hospitals Chaplain, as he is not liable for Superannuation.

The General Assembly anew commend to the prayerful and practical interest of the Church the Sustentation Fund, in its importance not only for the maintenance of the Ministry but for the diffusion of the gospel among us and in our land.

The General Assembly receive Appendix II. dealing with statistics and record their gratitude to the Committee for the labours involved. They instruct the Committee to prepare a similar Analysis of Statistics for the next General Assembly and at the same time submit figures as to the number of communicant members and the number of adherents (over 16 years of age) in each congregation. They direct Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, and Deacons' Courts to supply the required information.

**V. - Act anent reappointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1952.**

The General Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Trustees, especially the Chairman. Further, the General Assembly reappoint Mr Donald Macarthur, 54 Southbrae Drive,

Glasgow, W. 3., as a Trustee. Professor Fisher was thanked by the Moderator.

VI. Act anent appointment of Special Commission to confer with the Strathy and Halladale Congregation. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1952.

The General Assembly sustain the Reference from the Presbytery of Dornoch, express their deep disappointment that the efforts made by that Presbytery, augmented by the three Assessors appointed at last General Assembly, have failed to restore harmony between the two sections of the Strathy and Halladale Congregation. They appoint a Special Commission to visit this Congregation, with instruction to investigate the cause of the disharmony, and to endeavour by all means possible, to remove it. The General Assembly enjoin upon the Special Commission to report their diligence herein to next General Assembly or to any intervening diets of Commission of Assembly.

**VII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 27th May 1952.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the liberality of her people in the support of the various Schemes of the Church during the past year. The General Assembly observe with regret an increase in the number of Congregations failing to make all the Collections appointed by the General Assembly of last year, and they enjoin upon Presbyteries and Congregations that the people be given an opportunity of contributing to all the Schemes of the Church, so that the Cause of Christ may not suffer through lack of support. The General Assembly appeal to all our faithful people to meet the increasing cost of effectively carrying on the Church's work under the prevailing conditions with a correspondingly generous liberality. The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church :-

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1952 Retired Lay Agents 2. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers 3. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions 4. „ October „ Highlands and Islands and Home Missions 5. „ November „ Jewish Missions 6. „ January 1953 Welfare of Youth and Publications 7. „ February „ Training of the Ministry 8. „ March „ Buildings 9. „ April „ Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension 10. „ May „ College

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be taken on retiring from the Services on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church. The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission. The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all the Congregations of the Church, and that it be read from the pulpit on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof.

**VIII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 8 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 27th May 1952.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Reverend Duncan Leitch named by the Moderator. - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges for the appointment of Missionaries in Canada and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause : And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission be appointed: And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**IX. - Act appointing next General Assembly. (No. 9 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 27th May 1952.**

The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1953, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

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#### **CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE.

#### **CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

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### THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XIX., MCMLIII. (1953)

#### **CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

#### **CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No.1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 10th May 1953.**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY -

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh the 19th day of May 1953, desire to convey to Your Majesty our sincere and whole-hearted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. We, in common with Your Majesty's loyal subjects everywhere, rejoice in the happy and solemn events that will reach their consummation in Your Majesty's Coronation on the Second Day of June. We invoke the blessing of Almighty God upon the bond then established between sovereign and people, that as Your Majesty's Person is surrounded that

day by the heartfelt prayers of many, so may Your Majesty be sustained and comforted by the grace and Presence of God. We pray that as Your Majesty's reign opens amidst the rejoicings and affectionate homage of Your People, so it may receive the gracious recognition of Heaven to the end that it may become an era of material and spiritual blessings to all the nations and peoples who recognise Your Majesty as Sovereign and Head. We are profoundly moved by Your Majesty's expressed intention of paying an official visit to Scotland early in the new reign, and we are confident that Your Majesty will be further encouraged and comforted by the expression of the loyalty and affection of Your Majesty's Scottish subjects. We are also deeply interested in Your Majesty's forthcoming tour of Australia and New Zealand where so many loyal sons and daughters of this Church are maintaining the traditions of their country and faith in the home of their adoption, and we pray that Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh may enjoy the gracious care of Divine Providence in all your journeyings. We are deeply conscious of the loss sustained by Your Royal House and by the Nation at large in the death this year of Her Majesty Queen Mary who, for so many years, held an honoured place in the loyalty and affection of the Nation, and we respectfully offer to Your Majesty our sympathy in this bereavement that has befallen the Royal Family. We recognise with gratitude the efforts put forth by Your Majesty's ministers for the restoration of peace and the fostering of a spirit of goodwill among the nations, and we are thankful to God for the promise of more harmonious international relations that the last few months hold out. We are also profoundly thankful for the support given by so many members of Your Majesty's Government to the preservation for the Nation of the Lord's Day as a Sabbath of Rest, and we pray that the moral and spiritual values enshrined in the weekly Sabbath may receive ever greater recognition in the life of the Nation. We rejoice that in the manifold duties associated with the Throne Your Majesty is favoured by the assistance of Your Majesty's Consort, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh whose devotion to the duties of His High Station has evoked the admiration and gratitude of Your People. We pray that God's rich blessings may rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, and all the members of Your Royal House. So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects. The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly Convened.

**II. - Act anent appointment of Depute Treasurer. (No. 2 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 20th May 1953.**

The General Assembly approve the appointment of Mr George J. Brewster, 57 Glendevon Place, Edinburgh, as Depute Treasurer of the Church, the post to include both financial and secretarial duties; duty to commence at an early date to be mutually arranged and salary to be in accordance with the Scale for the Administrative, Professional and Technical Division of the National Joint Industrial Council for Local Government Authority Services (Scotland) Staffs, Grade VII., as adjusted by the Finance Committee and accepted by Mr Brewster.

**III. - Act anent Staff Superannuation Scheme. (No. 3 of Class II.)**

**Edinburgh, 20th May 1953.**

The General Assembly ordain that the Act presently governing the Superannuation of Senior Office Staff (Act IV., 1890-No. 3 of Class II.) shall not apply to this appointment nor to any future appointment of this nature. They remit to the Finance Committee to prepare a new Superannuation Scheme, on a contributory basis, on the general lines of the Scheme for Local Government Services now before Parliament, when that shall have been finally approved, and to apply it retrospectively to this appointment, with the concurrence of the applicant.

**IV. - Act anent Arrangement of Synods. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 20th May 19**

The General Assembly ordain that the Synods of the Church be rearranged as follows :- The Synods of the Church shall be five in number, viz., Northern, Southern, Moray and Ross, Glenelg, and Argyll :- The Northern Synod to include the Presbyteries of Caithness, Dornoch, and a resuscitated Presbytery of Tain; the Presbytery of Tain, when resuscitated, to include all the congregations from Rosskeen to Kincardine.

The Southern Synod as at present.

The Synod of Glenelg as at present.

The Synod of Moray and Ross to include the Presbyteries of Dingwall, Chanonry, and Inverness.

The Synod of Argyll to include the Presbyteries of Lorn, Inveraray, and Abertarff.

**V. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 5 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh 20th  
May 1953.**

The General Assembly anew record their deep thankfulness to the Lord for the continuance during another year of His signal bounty, by which not only was the level of income to the Sustentation Fund, achieved by successive substantial increases for the last number of years, maintained, but also that there was a further increase for the past year of £1,610. At the same time they record their indebtedness to all our congregations for their generous support of the Lord's work and cause, and to Deacons' Courts, Finance Committees Collectors and other helpers, for their faithfulness and diligence.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1952 of £360, to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1952, exclusive of the premium of £7 payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be calculated for the current year at £375, payable at the rate of £30 per month

throughout the year, with an additional payment of £5 in June and £10 in November, provided that, with respect to the last payment, the resources of the Fund as these are ascertained in November, permit of it and all being subject to such regulative conditions, general and with reference to particular instances, as the Committee may deem proper.

The General Assembly continue for three years further the Special Arrangements in respect of the congregations of Dumfries and Kennoway, provided that Dumfries contributes not less than £125 and Kennoway not less than £150 per annum to the Sustentation Fund.

The General Assembly instruct that the congregation of Aberdeen be continued for another three years on the Equal Dividend Platform under existing Special Arrangements provided they contribute to the Sustentation Fund :- £130 in 1953; £140 in 1954, and £150 in 1955.

The General Assembly place on the list of Beneficiaries in terms of Act V., 1928 V.(1) as amended by Act III., 1946, the names of Rev. Robert J. Murray, Minister at Killearnan and Fortrose, Presbytery of Chanonry; Rev. Archibald Macdonald, Minister at Perth and Scone, Presbytery of Perth; Rev. Wm. J. Cameron, Minister at Buccleuch and Greyfriars, Edinburgh, Presbytery of Edinburgh; Rev. A. R. Fraser, M.A., Minister at Dumbarton; and Rev. H. Whittington, Minister at Shettleston.

The General Assembly anew commend the Sustentation Fund, and with it the gospel ministry and its prosperity and advancement in our land, to the prayerful and practical interest of the Church.

**VI. - Act anent Constitution of the Examination Board. (No. 6 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1953.**

The General Assembly hereby repeal the regulations constituting the Examination Board, approved by 1920 General Assembly and any previous unrepealed legislation relating to that Board along with Act 5, Class II., 1950, and enact that the regulations governing admission and training of students from this date be as set forth in Appendix II. as follows

In connection with the education of students preparing for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, there shall be two courses of study as follows: -

1. The Ordinary Course, which shall be followed by all students who are under thirty years of age at the date of their recognition as students studying with a view to the Ministry.
2. The Modified Course which is open to men who have attained thirty years of age at the date of their recognition as students, with a view to the Ministry.

**I. THE ORDINARY COURSE.**

(a) Students taking this course must obtain the Certificate of Fitness of the Scottish Universities Entrance Board, and study the number of subjects required for graduation. Before entering upon their study in Arts they shall be required to obtain the approval of the

Board of Studies for their proposed course, and, in the event of failure to obtain a Degree, the reasons for this failure must be submitted to the Board of Studies.

(b) Students who have completed their course in Arts to the satisfaction of the Board of Studies are required to pass the Entrance Examination to the College in all subjects except in so far as they have already passed Degree examinations in these subjects.

(c) The Entrance Examination to the College shall be held in June and September. A student not passing the required number of subjects in June will be permitted to sit in September such subjects as are necessary for the completion of the Examination, it being understood that the Entrance Examination shall be completed in not more than two sittings; otherwise the student shall repeat the examination in all subjects.

(a) Before entering upon this course students shall be required to sit a Special Examination in the following subjects : Scripture Knowledge, Doctrine, with special reference to The Shorter Catechism, English (General). British History (General).

(b) This Examination will be held in June and September and no student shall enter upon the Modified Course until he has obtained passes in all the prescribed subjects, it being understood that this examination shall be completed in not more than two sittings.

(c) Students recognised under this course shall be permitted by the Training of the Ministry Committee to take a Modified Course in Arts and Divinity, consisting of Two years exclusively in Arts and THREE year's thereafter in Divinity. The course in Arts (consisting of four subjects) as well as the course in Divinity must conform to that prescribed in the case of each student by the Board of Studies.

(d) If in any subject a student in his Modified Course in Arts has failed to obtain a class certificate, the Board of Studies shall set an Examination in that subject at the end of each Academic Year. Those who attain the necessary standard of proficiency as determined by the Board, may present themselves for the Entrance Examination to the College.

(e) Students under the Modified Course must pass in four of the subjects prescribed for Entrance to the College, Scripture being compulsory.

(f) Students under this course shall sit Exit Examinations only in those subjects included in their Divinity Curriculum.

#### BOARD OF STUDIES.

The functions of the Board of Studies shall henceforward include all those heretofore exercised by the Examination Board, which shall cease to function from this date.

The general functions of the Board of Studies hereafter shall be to act in an advisory and supervisory capacity to all students recognised as training for the Ministry of the Free Church, to review the progress of such students at all stages prior to entering upon the study of Divinity, to make recommendations to the Training of the Ministry Committee with regard to students under their care and to take charge of and arrange for all examinations as

hereinafter provided.

The Board shall consist of six members to be elected annually, three of whom shall represent the Senatus of the College and three the Training of the Ministry Committee. The Principal of the College and the Convener of the Training of the Ministry Committee shall be members ex officio. The Chairman of the Board shall be elected each year from the representatives of the parent bodies in rotation.

Nominations to the Board by the Training of the Ministry Committee shall be made each year at their first meeting following upon the closing of the General Assembly and the Board of Studies shall meet at a later hour on the same day.

The functions of the Board are further defined as follows

1. It shall require each student taking the Ordinary Course to submit a list of the classes he proposes to take in his Arts Course for approval before entering upon his University Course. In the event of a regular student in Arts failing to secure a Degree at the end of his course, the Board shall have power to review his case, and, if satisfied with his work, recommend to the Training of the Ministry Committee that he be permitted to sit the Entrance Examination to the College.

2. In the case of a student taking the Modified Course, the Board shall satisfy itself that the results of the Examination sat under the regulations in Section 2 (a) above are such that the student shall benefit by the further course of study prescribed for him, and the Board shall advise the Training of the Ministry Committee accordingly.

3. In the case of a student taking the Modified Course, the Board shall prescribe the subjects to be taken both in Arts and Divinity. The Board shall ensure that no less than four subjects are taken in Arts. The selection of subjects in Arts and Divinity in the case of each student to have reference to his age and educational standard as well as to the claims of an educated Ministry. Wherever possible it shall provide for a knowledge of Greek sufficient to enable the student to benefit from attendance upon the class of New Testament Exegesis.

4. All Examinations, excepting Class Examinations, shall be conducted by the Board of Studies through six examiners to be appointed from time to time by the Training of the Ministry Committee, the Board being empowered to consult the Examiners when deemed necessary.

Maintenance Grants. - Students who have not had facilities for a Secondary education, upon deciding to prepare for the Ministry of the Free Church, may on the recommendation of their Kirk Session and Presbytery, supported by the evidence that they have successfully passed a Presbyterian Examination in their knowledge of Scripture and The Shorter Catechism, receive a Maintenance Grant, their educational progress to be reviewed by the Board of Studies at the end of the first year, who, if satisfied, shall have power to recommend the continuance of this Grant for another year. This Grant shall in no case be given for more than two years. In this connection it must be understood that no student shall be recognised as a student training for the Ministry of the Free Church until he has complied with the Regulations outlined in Sections 1 and 2 of Act governing the Education of students.

**VII. - Act anent Training of Students. (No. 7 of Class II.)  
22nd May 1953.**

**Edinburgh,**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the College Committee (embodying the recommendations of the Joint Committee representing the Finance, Training of the Ministry and College Committees) and (1) in accordance therewith they enact that Act 3 of Class II., section 3, 1922, be hereby repealed, and that the Whole annual expense of printing the College Calendar and Examination Papers for other than Class Examinations, all fees due to Examiners and the whole expenses of members attending Committee meetings including the Board of Studies, be charged against the Account of the Training of the Ministry Committee as from the beginning of 1953; and (2) the General Assembly instruct the Finance Committee to review the proportion of responsibility for repairs in view of the altered financial circumstances of the College.

**VIII. - Act anent Appointment of Professor to the Chair of Greek and N.T.  
Exegesis. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1953.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr W.J. Cameron, B.D., Minister at Buccleuch and Greyfriars, Edinburgh, to be Professor of Greek and New Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, under the same arrangements as to emoluments as were fixed by the General Assembly of 1946, in connection with the appointment of Professor R. A. Finlayson. The General Assembly hereby loose Rev. W. J. Cameron from his pastoral Charge in Buccleuch and Greyfriars Congregation, Edinburgh, and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of New Testament Exegesis, his relationship to the Congregation of Buccleuch and Greyfriars to subsist till he be actually admitted to the Charge aforesaid.

**IX. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.  
(No. 9 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1953.**

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. Professor William J. Cameron, M.A., B.D., 11 Mayfield Gardens, Edinburgh, a Trustee of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

**X. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees. (No. 10 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 25th May 1953.**

The General Assembly appoint as additional General Trustees :-

1. Mr Walter Rounsfell Brown, M.B.E., B.Sc., Civil Engineer, 7 Ladysmith Road, Edinburgh, 9.
2. Mr Alexander Fraser MacLennan, B.L., S.S.C, Solicitor, 21 Lygon Road, Edinburgh, 9.
3. Mr Donald Kenneth MacRae, M.A., B.Sc., Retired Teacher, Alt na Guala, Golspie, Sutherland.

**XI. - Act anent Meetings of Synod and Presbyteries (No. 11 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 26th May 1953.**

The General Assembly appoint that -

The Presbytery of Tain meet in Tain Free Church, on 17th June 1953, at 2.30 p.m., Rev. Murdo Macleod, Tarbat, Moderator the seat of the Presbytery to be at Tain.

The Presbytery of Dingwall meet in the Free Church Hall, Dingwall, on 17th June 1953, at 2.30 p.m., Rev. John A. Macdonald, Kiltarn, Moderator; the seat of the Presbytery to be Dingwall.

The Northern Synod, having its seat at Golspie, meet in the Free Church, Golspie, on Wednesday, 14th April 1954, at 1 p.m.; Rev. J. M. MacLennan, Lairg, Moderator; and thereafter on the second Wednesday of April, annually, and wherever within its bounds the Synod may resolve.

The Synod of Moray and Ross meet at Inverness in the Free North Church Hall, on Tuesday, 27th April 1954, at 12 noon, Moderator, Rev. Alexander Ross, D.D., Burghead; and that thereafter, the Synod, having its seat at Inverness, meet on the fourth Tuesday of April, annually, and wherever within its bounds the Synod may resolve.

The Synod of Argyll meet at the same place and time and with the same Moderator as arranged for and appointed at the last meeting of the Synod of Argyll, the seat of the Synod to be Oban and that it meet there and wherever within its bounds the Synod may resolve.

The General Assembly instruct that the Record of the former Synods of Ross and Moray be in the custody of the Synod of Moray and Ross and that the Records of the former Presbytery of Dingwall and Tain be in the custody of the Free Church Officers, after one year with the Presbytery of Dingwall.

**XII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 12 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 26th May 1953.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the liberality of her people in the support of the various Schemes of the Church during the past year. The General Assembly observe with regret that a number of Congregations have failed to make all the Collections appointed by the General Assembly of last year, and they enjoin

upon Presbyteries and Congregations that the people be given an opportunity of contributing to all the Schemes of the Church so that the Cause of Christ may not suffer through lack of support. The General Assembly appeal to all our faithful people to meet the increasing cost of effectively carrying on the Church's work under the prevailing conditions with a correspondingly generous liberality. The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church :-

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1953 Retired Lay Agents. 2. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers. 3. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions. 4. „ October „ Highlands and Islands and Home Missions 5. „ November „ Jewish Missions 6. „ January 1954 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 7. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 8. „ March „ Buildings. 9. „ April „ Evangelism, Testimony and Church Extension. 10. „ May „ College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collection be taken on retiring from the Services on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church. The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission. The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all the Congregations of the Church, and that it be read from the pulpit on the first Sabbath after the receipt thereof.

**XIII. - Act anent Appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 13 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 26th May 1953**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Reverend W. MacLeod, Dornoch named by the Moderator. - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other

diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the appointment of Colonial Missionaries in Canada and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; to dispose of representations made before next General Assembly by or in connection with the congregation of Fort William; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General continue and endure until another Commission be appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XIV. - Act anent Appointing next General Assembly. (No. 14 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 26th May 1953.**

**The Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 18th day of May 1954, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.**

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NONE.

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XVIII., MCMLIV. (1954)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 18th May 1954**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 18th day of May 1954, desire most respectfully to declare our wholehearted and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We, in common with all Your Majesty's subjects, were deeply moved by the solemn Coronation Service on second June last, and we earnestly pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest on the union then consummated between Sovereign and People. We wish to assure Your Majesty that Your official visit to Scotland, so soon after Your Coronation, gave the utmost pleasure to Your Majesty's subjects here.

We have followed with prayerful interest Your Majesty's extensive tour of Australia, Now Zealand, and other Nations of the British Commonwealth. We have rejoiced in the expressions of steadfast loyalty to Your Majesty's Throne, and evidences of warm affection to Your Person, which were so evident and spontaneous on the part of Your Majesty's subjects everywhere. We give thanks to God for his unfailing goodness to, and protection of, Your Majesty, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and those who accompanied You in Your journeyings by land, sea and air. The news of Your Majesty's safe return, and reunion with the Members of the Royal Family has been received by us with unfeigned joy.

That Almighty God might bless Your Majesty's visit to distant lands, in strengthening the bonds which bind the Nations within the British Commonwealth, and in bringing into closer and more enduring friendship, all the nations of the world, is our fervent prayer. Mindful of the great responsibilities which fall to the lot of Your Majesty, we endeavour to remember You constantly before the Throne of Him who has called Your Majesty to high office, that He might be pleased to endue You richly with all needed grace, wisdom, and strength.

We pray that God's abundant blessing may rest always on Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles Duke of Cornwall and Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, and all the Members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects. The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly Convened.

D. Leitch, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent Amalgamation of Home Mission Committee with Committee on Evangelism, Etc. (No. 2 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1954.**

The General Assembly disjoin the Committee on Home Missions from the Committee on Highlands and Islands, Home Missions and Supply. The Committee from which it is disjoined shall be known as the Committee on Highlands and Islands and Supply.

They unite the Committee on Home Missions with the Committee on Evangelism, Testimony, and Church Extension to form a new Committee under the title Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism, and Testimony.

As to the functions, finance, personnel, and time of meeting, of the new Committee they enact as follows :-

I. The functions of the Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism, and Testimony shall be :-

(a) To promote evangelistic work in areas where numbers of people live in neglect of religious ordinances. Such work may take the form of local services indoors or in the open air; local Sabbath schools; visitation; distribution of Bibles, Gospels, Tracts, and suitable religious literature; Bible study groups; caravan missions; or other religious work of a like nature. The areas may in some cases be near to, in others remote from, congregational centres.

To promote the holding of services in areas where, following work of the kind referred to in the previous paragraph, or for other reasons, a sufficient number of people evince a desire for regular gospel ordinances.

To promote the upbuilding of the cause in such areas to the point at which it is possible to erect a new charge.

To assist in strengthening or developing the cause in areas in which it is already in greater or less degree established.

To promote a spirit of evangelism within the Church, and to this end to use from time to

time some such means as a general conference or series of conferences in suitable centres, when addresses on suitable subjects including the distinctive Testimony of the Church on this matter shall be given.

In carrying out its functions within defined Presbyterian boundaries the Committee shall work in conjunction with Presbyteries and Congregations. It shall have power to survey the various areas of the Church with the aim of ascertaining where the cause could be strengthened by special activity, and to consult with Presbyteries as to how this could best be promoted.

(b) To continue to perform the functions of the present Home Mission Committee as set out in Act IV., 1930, Section (A) HOME MISSIONS, including (1) Congregational Missions, and (2) Resuscitated Charges in Urban Localities.

II. The Funds of the Committee shall be as follows :-

(a) All funds already at the credit of the Committee on Evangelism, Church Extension, and Testimony, and all funds acquired by the new Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony shall be at the disposal of the new Committee for the objects specified in para. I. (a) above.

(b) All funds, including capital, now standing in the name of Home Missions, shall become similar funds standing in the name of the Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony. The annual income from the Home Mission Capital transferred shall be at the disposal of the new Committee for the purposes specified in both paras. I. (a) and I. (b) above. It shall be in the discretion of the new Committee to apportion their disbursement of this income as between the objects set out in these two paras.

III. The Personnel of the new Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony shall be the same as that of the Sustentation Fund Committee and of the Highlands and Islands and Supply Committee, but with its own Convener and Vice-Convener.

**III. - Act anent Amendment of Regulations for Aged and Infirm Agents Act 7, Class II., 1928, and Act 4, Class II., 1930 (No. 3 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1954.**

The General Assembly amend the Regulations concerning provision for Aged and Infirm Agents, as sanctioned by the General Assembly of 1928 (Supplement to Practice, p. 9, I., I. (d), Clause (d) shall stand amended as follows :-

(b) "Committee" means the Committee or Committees charged with responsibility for Highlands and Islands, Home Missions, and Supply, as applicable, whether these functions are exercised severally or in combination with others. This shall apply also to Act 4, Class II., 1930 (Supplement, p. 11).

**IV. - Act anent Amendment of Standing Orders of Assembly, Section VI,  
paragraph 1. (No. 4 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th May 1954.**

The General Assembly resolve to amend Standing Orders of Assembly, Section VI., para. 1, as to the First Group of the Forenoon Session as follows :-

FIRST GROUP. (1) Committee on Sustentation Fund, Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund, and Statistics to meet from 9 a.m. till not later than 10.15 a.m.

(2) Committee on Highlands and Islands and Supply from the conclusion of the business of the last-named Committee till not later than 11.45 am.

(3) Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony from the conclusion of the last-named Committee till not later than 1 p.m.

**V. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 5 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 19th  
May 1954.**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and Vice-Convener.

The General Assembly return thanks to God the Giver of every good and perfect gift for His providence in supplying the needs of the Fund throughout the year. They acknowledge with gratitude the increase in givings from Associations and congratulate the congregations on their achievement.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1953 of £375 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1953, exclusive of the premium paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be calculated for the current year at £400 payable at the rate of £30 per month with two additional payments of £20 each, payable in June and November, provided, with respect to the latter, the state of the Sustentation Fund at that time shall warrant it and all being subject to such regulative conditions, general, and with reference to particular instances, as the Committee may deem proper.

The General Assembly continue for three years the congregation of Kinglassie on the Special Arrangement made provided that the congregation contribute £150 yearly to the Sustentation Fund. The General Assembly approve the payment of £35 bonus to all Ministers on the Register of Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund. The General Assembly do now amend Act III., 1946, by deleting the portion of para. 1, following the words "in toto" and concluding with the words "such increments being subject to the recommendation of the Presbytery concerned."

The General Assembly approve the recommendation that Clerks of Presbyteries collect congregational statistics, collate them, and furnish the Sustentation Fund Committee with their findings. The General Assembly anew commend the Sustentation Fund and with it the Gospel ministry which it supports to the prayers and givings of the Church.

**VI. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 19th May 1954.**

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr John W. Baxter, B.Com., Free Church of Scotland Offices, 15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh, a Trustee of the Churches' and Universities' (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

**VII. - Act anent Resuscitation of Presbytery of Kaffraria. (No. 7 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 20th May 1954.**

The General Assembly resolve to resuscitate the Presbytery of Kaffraria, embracing all Free Church Mission Stations in Cape Province, South Africa. They appoint the Presbytery to meet in Knox Church, Pirie District, on Saturday, 5th June 1954, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the Rev. Joseph McCracken, Burnshill, Moderator; the seat of the Presbytery to be Knox.

**VIII. - Act anent Duration of College Summer Term - Amending Act 10, Class II., 1946. (No. 8 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 21st May 1954**

The General Assembly amend the relevant part of Act 10, Class II. 1946, to read, "The Summer Term shall begin on the second Tuesday of April and continue until the Friday preceding the opening of the General Assembly."

**IX. - Act anent Collections. (No. 9 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 25th May 1954.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the Most High for the continued liberality of her people in their support of the various schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly note with gratitude the improvement in the number of congregations which contribute to the Special Collections appointed by the Assembly.

The General Assembly impress anew upon congregations the importance of taking up the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and of transmitting them to the General Treasurer before the end of the Financial Year, so that all Departments of the Church may be enabled to discharge the duties entrusted to them.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all Congregations of the Church:

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1954 Retired Lay Agents. 2. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers. 3. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions. 4. „ October „ Highlands and Islands and Supply. 5. „ November „ Jewish Missions. 6. „ January 1955 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 7. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 8. „ March „ Buildings. 9. „ April „ Home Mission, Evangelism and Testimony. 10. „ May „ College

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be taken on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of the Congregations within their bounds which until that date have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all Congregations of the Church.

**X. - Act anent Appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 10 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 25th May 1954.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Reverend D. McLaughlan named by the Moderator. - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient. and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets: and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly :

And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the appointment of Missionaries in Canada and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause : And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XI. - Act anent Appointing Next General Assembly. (No. 11 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 25th May 1954.**

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1955, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

**CONTENTS 1955**

**PRINCIPAL ACTS**

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

1. Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty The Queen 2. Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund 3. Act anent Sustentation Fund 4. Act anent Attendance of Students during Summer Term 5. Act anent College Summer Term 6. Act anent Appointment of General Trustee 7. Act anent Collections 8. Act Appointing Commission of Assembly 9. Act Appointing next General Assembly

**THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

MAY XXIV., MCMLV. (1955)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May 1955**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 24th day of May 1955, desire to express to Your Majesty our sincere and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

Ever mindful of the weighty burden of statecraft which Your Majesty has always to bear, we give thanks to Almighty God for the maintenance of Your Majesty's health, and ever pray that You may be Conscious of His gracious upholding in all the arduous duties which are entailed in the Royal Crown.

In common with Your Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations, we rejoice in the stability of Your Majesty's Throne, and gratefully acknowledge the debt which, under Divine Providence, we owe to Your Majesty, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, as indeed to all members of Your Royal Household, for the high respect in which the British Throne is held throughout the world.

Your Majesty's frequent visits to Scotland, as well as the choice of Her Majesty, the beloved Queen Mother, to make the Castle of Mey her Scottish Royal Residence, give untold gratification to Your Majesty's subjects in this northern part of Your realm; and it is our earnest prayer that the periods of relaxation which Your Majesty, and all other Members of Your Royal Household may, from time to time spend among us, may bring not only physical rest but also spiritual uplift.

We rejoice in the marked success which has attended the visits of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret to so many parts of Your Majesty's Overseas Dominions during the past year, and give thanks to God for His protecting care over her during her long and arduous journeys.

We view, with prayerful concern, the world unrest which necessitates the maintenance of the Armed Forces of the Crown at a strength beyond what is normally required in times of peace, and pray that God's blessing may be upon Your Majesty's Ministers who are constantly seeking the promotion of peace and righteousness in the earth. Nevertheless, we are deeply grieved at the general disregard of the Fourth Commandment, and pray that Your gracious Majesty may be enabled in Your high office to strengthen the hands of Your Majesty's loyal subjects who value the sanctity of the Lord's Day.

With the country in the throes, at the moment, of preparations for a General Election, our earnest supplication is that God, as Sovereign Disposer of all things, might guide the electorate in the choices made and bless the new Government with wisdom and counsel.

We pray that God's blessing may rest abundantly upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, and Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects. The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

**II. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.)** **Edinburgh, 25th May 1955.**

The General Assembly reappoint Rev. Professor W. J. Cameron, 19 Kilmaurs Road, Edinburgh, a Trustee of the Churches' and Universities' (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

**III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.)** **Edinburgh, 25th May 1955.**

The General Assembly acknowledge with thankfulness to the Head of the Church the liberality of our faithful people, noting with gratitude the continuing increase in the contributions to this Fund.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend for 1954 of £400 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1954, exclusive of the premium paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be calculated for the current year at £400. They resolve that in no case shall more than £400 be paid out of the Fund during the current year in respect of any Settled Charge and that where Assembly findings in respect of Congregations on Special Arrangements stipulate a larger sum, the difference between £400 and this sum shall be chargeable to the General Purposes Account.

The General Assembly authorise a Special Appeal for our faithful people for the reduction of the adverse balance of £2,577, 8s. 6d. and they endorse the action of the Committee with regard to the Settled Congregations which do not contribute the amount presently required for a settlement on the Equal Dividend Platform. (They further enjoin Presbyteries as vacancies take place within their bounds to keep in view the possibility of a readjustment of Agencies.)

The General Assembly approve the payment of a bonus of £35 to Beneficiaries on the Register of Beneficiaries under the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund at 31st December 1954.

The General Assembly give permission to the Committee to exercise their discretion in cases of exceptional circumstances until 1958 with regard to Funeral Grants payable in respect of deceased ministers.

The General Assembly regret that the Committee have been unable to furnish Congregational Statistics in terms of the finding of last General Assembly. The General Assembly instruct Presbyteries to forward Statistical Schedules to the Sustentation Fund Committee with the necessary information, on the date requested on the Schedule. The General Assembly instruct the Sustentation Fund Committee to prepare a new Schedule of Statistics.

The General Assembly agree to continue the Special Arrangements for the Congregation of Shettleston for a further period of three years, provided the Congregation contributes £130 to the Sustentation Fund. Should the Congregation fail in any one year to contribute this sum the Committee are authorised to give £2 for every £1 contributed as a dividend for the Congregation.

The General Assembly anew commend the Sustentation Fund to the Christian Liberality of our faithful people.

**IV. - Act anent Attendance of Students during Summer Term. (No. 4 of Class II)  
Edinburgh, 27th May 1955.**

The General Assembly ordain that, beginning with Session 1955-56, theological students in all years of study be required to attend the College classes during the Summer Term as extended by last year's General Assembly.

**V. - Act anent College Summer Term (amending Act 10, Class II., 1946, and  
repealing Act 8, Class II., 1954.) (No. 5 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh,  
27th May 1955.**

The General Assembly amend the relevant part of Act 10, Class II., 1946, to read "The Summer Term shall begin on the second Wednesday of April and continue until the Friday preceding the opening of the Assembly. They repeal Act 8 of Class II., 1954.

**VI. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustee. (No. 6 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 30th May 1955.**

The General Assembly appoint as an additional General Trustee :- Rev. Professor Alexander Macdonald Renwick, D.D., Free Church College, Edinburgh.

**VII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 7 of Class II.)**  
**1955.**

**Edinburgh, 31st May**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the "Most High" for the continued liberality of her people in their support of the various schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly impress anew upon Congregations the importance of taking up the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and of transmitting them to the General Treasurer before the end of the financial year so that all Departments of the Church may be enabled to discharge the duties entrusted to them.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all Congregations of the

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1955 Retired Lay Agents. 2. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers. 3. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions. 4. „ October „ Highlands and Islands and Supply. 5. „ November „ Jewish Missions 6. „ January 1956 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 7. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 8. „ March „ Buildings. 9. „ April „ Home Mission, Evangelism and Testimony. 10. „ May „ College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be taken, on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of the Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of the Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all Congregations of the Church.

**VIII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly. (No. 8 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 31st May 1955**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Mr George N. M. Collins named by the Moderator. - TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh

on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved by the General Assembly: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed: And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**IX. - Act appointing next General Assembly. (No. 9 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 31st. May 1955.**

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of May 1956, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

**CONTENTS 1956.**

**PRINCIPAL ACTS**

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

1. Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty The Queen 2. Act anent amending Standing Orders 3. Act anent Sustentation Fund 4. Act anent Home Mission Grants 5. Act anent Terms of Appointment of Evangelist 6. Act anent Formation of Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada and Synod of North America 7. Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund 8. Act anent Collections 9. Act anent Appointing Commission of Assembly 10. Act appointing Next General Assembly

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XXII., MCMLVI. (1956)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT.**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH.**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1956**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 23rd day of May 1956, wish to express to Your Majesty our sincere and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

Mindful of the weighty burden of statecraft which Your Majesty has constantly to bear, we give thanks to Almighty God for the maintenance of Your Majesty's health, and ever pray that you may be conscious of His gracious upholding in all the arduous duties which are entailed in the Royal Crown. In common with Your Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations, we rejoice in the stability of Your Majesty's Throne, and gratefully acknowledge the debt which, under Divine Providence, we owe to Your Majesty, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, as indeed to all members of Your Royal Household, for the high respect in which the British Throne is held throughout the world.

Your Majesty's frequent visits to Scotland give untold gratification to Your Majesty's subjects in the Northern part of Your Realm, and it is our earnest prayer that the Coming visits of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness to our Highlands and Islands will prove a season of physical

rest and spiritual refreshing.

We rejoice at the innumerable tokens of loyalty and affection which have attended Your Majesty's visit to several parts of Your Majesty's Overseas Dominions, and we give fervent thanks to God for His protecting care over Your Majesty and His Royal Highness during Your long and arduous journeys. We view, with prayerful concern, the world situation which necessitates the maintenance of the Armed forces of the Crown at a strength beyond what is normally required in times of peace, and pray that God in His wisdom may direct Your Majesty's Ministers who are constantly seeking the promotion of peace and righteousness in the earth.

As those who seek the spiritual and temporal welfare of Your Majesty's subjects everywhere we grieve over present world political tension, and especially over the general disregard for God's Holy Moral Law as enshrined in the Ten Commandments. We earnestly pray that Your Gracious Majesty may be used of God in Your High and divinely appointed office to strengthen the hands of Your Majesty's devoted subjects who wish by precept and example to preserve the moral and spiritual foundations on which Your Majesty's Empire rests.

We pray that God's blessing may rest abundantly upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, and Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects. The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

MURDOCH CAMPBELL, Moderator.

**II. - Act anent amending Standing Orders. (No. 2 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1956.**

The General Assembly resolve to make no fresh nominations to Standing Committees at this time thereby reducing the total membership from 36 to 24, and the composition of each Committee from 18 to 12, with effect from the last day of the current Assembly, and thenceforth.

To this effect the General Assembly amend Standing Orders:- Section VI., para. 2, with effect from the last day of this Assembly to read twelve instead of eighteen; and Section VI., para. 7, with effect from the second-last day of the 1957 Assembly, to read eight instead of twelve; and thenceforth.

The General Assembly direct the Nominations Committee to examine the Presbytery representation of the reduced Committee membership, and to submit to the Assembly such proposals as shall ensure that, in accordance with Standing Order VI., 2, each Presbytery shall be represented.

The General Assembly replace the word “laymen” by the word “elders “ in Standing Orders Section VI., toties quoties.

**III. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.)  
23rd May 1956.**

**Edinburgh,**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and Vice-Convener. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £400 for 1955 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1955, exclusive of the premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The General Assembly authorise that the Stipends of all Ministers on the Equal Dividend receive an addition of £20 for the year 1956 - £10 payable in May and £10 payable in November. The General Assembly instruct the Committee to apply the Principle of the Equal Dividend further in respect of settled charges in terms of the finding of last General Assembly.

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee regarding the bonus to retired Ministers, and the premium payable in respect of retired Ministers.

The General Assembly recognise with gratitude the great diligence of collectors of Sustentation and Sustentation Fund Treasurers throughout the Church.

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee regarding the Special Arrangements for the congregations of Kennoway and Aberdeen.

The Committee record their profound gratitude to the Lord for the abounding liberality of our faithful people, and they are confident that the Lord will provide through their liberality adequate provision for the maintenance of gospel ordinances in the congregations and stations of the Church.

**A IV. - Act anent Home Mission Grants. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1956.**

The General Assembly amend Act IV., Class II., 1930, as amended by Act 4, Class II., 1954 (Supplement to Practice, pp. 11-12) as follows :-

After the words (A) HOME MISSIONS, Delete all section 1 (Congregational Missions) and section 2 (Resuscitated Charges in Urban localities), and substitute :

(1) Congregational Missions with a Resident Missionary.

(a) Applications for Grants shall be regarded by the Committee following upon submission of an Annual Schedule, duly filled up by the Kirk Session, and attested by the local Presbytery. The Grants shall be paid quarterly on a certificate furnished to the Clerk by the Kirk Session under whose charge the mission is conducted, showing that the work has been done satisfactorily; that the Missionary has been fully and regularly employed; and that the requirements of the Annual Schedule are being observed.

(b) The Mission shall be carried on under the superintendence of the Kirk Session of a sanctioned charge.

(c) Where it shall appear to the Presbytery of the bounds to be desirable, the Presbytery shall assign a distinct territory to the Mission. The Presbytery shall be satisfied that the Missionary to be employed is suitable for the work he is to perform.

(d) The Missionary shall devote so much time as may be arranged by the Kirk Session to visiting the families in his district, especially those living in neglect of ordinances; he shall conduct Prayer Meetings and, where possible, Bible Classes, and superintend Sabbath Schools. In the course of visitation he shall ask the children of the district to attend the Mission Sabbath School (unless they are connected with some other school), and encourage persons connected with the Mission to attend Church Services, and to become adherents and members of the congregation.

(e) The Missionary shall, once a quarter, make up and lay before the Kirk Session of the congregation, with which he is connected, a report of the work performed by him during the quarter, the visits he has paid, the services he has held, and, generally, add such helpful information as he can give.

(f) The Minister and Kirk Session shall exercise a superintendence over the Missionary, aid and encourage him in his work, and procure the services of Office-bearers or members of the congregation to assist him. It is desirable that the Missionary should endeavour to enlist the services of Young Christians in the congregations to assist in his work.

(g) Grants in aid of Mission work shall be in the discretion of the Committee, and shall not exceed £80 per annum to any one congregation.

## (2) Resuscitated Charges in Urban Localities.

A Grant of such sum as the Committee deem necessary may be made for three years to resuscitate charges in urban districts, where, in the opinion of the Committee it is desirable and necessary, in the interests of the Church and the welfare of the community, to have a charge, and on the expiry of such three years, on request for a renewal, the Committee shall be guided in considering such a request by the progress made and the prospects for the future furnished by the Report accompanying the request from the congregation and Presbytery.

## (3) Services in Remote Parts of Congregations.

A Grant, in the discretion of the Committee, and only on submission of the appropriate Schedule, shall be permissible for expenses incurred in conducting services in a remote part of a congregation, subject to adjustment in respect of any allowance given from other sources, e.g. from the congregation or any local fund.

**V. - Act anent Terms of Appointment of Evangelist. (No. 5 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1956.**

The General Assembly continue the remit from the 1955 General Assembly i.e appointment of an Evangelist and approve the financial arrangements agreed upon by the Committee. The General Assembly authorise:

(a) That the Evangelist have a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds his manse is situated. (b) That the Evangelist be a member of the Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony Committees ex officio.

**VI. - Act anent Formation of Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada and  
Synod of North America. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 24th May  
1956.**

The General Assembly give effect to the wish of Ministers and Kirk Sessions in Canada and Detroit that a Presbytery be formed and ordain that the Congregations of Toronto, Detroit, Fort William, Winnipeg and Vancouver form "The Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada," with seat at Toronto.

They appoint the Rev. John Macsween, presently ministering in Toronto to membership of the Presbytery and to be its first Moderator and appoint the Presbytery to meet in Toronto on Wednesday, the 29th day of August next, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and thereafter on and when required. They further ordain that the Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada and the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island together form the Synod of North America. They appoint this Synod to meet in Toronto on Wednesday, the 29th day of August next, at 7.30 o'clock in the evening, the Rev. J. Harvey Bishop, Minister at Charlottetown and Stanchel, Prince Edward Island, to preach and preside. They appoint the last Tuesday in April as the date of the ordinary annual meeting of Synod.

**VII. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 7  
of Class II.) Edinburgh, 25th May 1956.**

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr. John W. Baxter, B.Com., Free Church Offices 15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh, 1, a Trustee of the Churches' and Universities' (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

**VIII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 8 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 29th May  
1956.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the "Most High" for the continued liberality of their people in supporting the various schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly impress anew upon Congregations the importance of taking up the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and of transmitting them to the General Treasurer before the end of the financial year so that all Departments of the Church may be enabled to discharge the duties entrusted to them.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all Congregations of the Church

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1956 Retired Lay Agents. 2. „ July „ Highlands and Islands. 3. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers 4. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions. 5. „ October „ Supply. 6. „ November „ Jewish Missions. 7. „ January 1957 Welfare Of Youth and Publications 8. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 9. „ March „ Buildings. 10. „ April „ Home Mission, Evangelism and Testimony. 11. „ May „ College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be taken, on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of the Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of the Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all Congregations of the Church.

**IX. - Act anent Appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 9 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 29th May 1956.**

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Mr George N. M. Collins named by the Moderator. TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Inverness on the second Wednesday of August, and at Edinburgh the third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given, by the General Assembly; and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be

not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets; and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly: And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and foreign Missionaries in the Mission fields of the Church, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries, and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause : And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**X. - Act appointing next General Assembly. (No. 10 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 29th. May 1956.**

**The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 21st day of May 1957, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.**

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**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

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**THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

MAY XXI., MCMLVII. (1957)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No. 1 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1957**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 21st day of May 1957, express to Your Majesty our sincere and unswerving allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God that he has continued to bless Your Majesty with good health, enabling you to bear the burden and perform the manifold duties which devolve upon the Crown. We remember with particular gratitude the visit last Summer to the Western Isles of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, an event which will be long remembered by Your Majesty's loyal people in that part of Scotland. We acknowledge with much thankfulness Your Majesty's untiring efforts, along with those of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, to promote within the British Commonwealth the cordiality which is desired by all right-thinking people within so large a family. His Royal Highness's recent prolonged tour, Your Majesty's and His Royal Highness's visit to France and the visit to Denmark. In all these activities, we recognise the Divine guidance of Your Majesty whose exalted position affords such a unique opportunity for the promotion of peace at home and abroad.

We pray that Your Majesty may continue to be blessed with the Divine guidance, so that Your Majesty and Your Royal House may lead the way in righteousness and the due observance of God's Commandments, and thus make the British Commonwealth a power for peace and good living in the world.

We pray that God's blessing may rest in ever greater abundance upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles, Duke of Cornwall, and Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects:

The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

**II. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 2 of Class II.)  
22nd May 1957.**

**Edinburgh,**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and Vice-Convener.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £420 to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1956, exclusive of the premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The General Assembly authorise that the stipend of all ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform be increased by £30 - £15 payable in May and £15 payable in November - with discretion to the Committee to increase the moiety in November in terms of this report. The Assembly instruct the Committee to apply the principle of the Equal Dividend in respect of all settled charges in terms of the findings of previous Assemblies.

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee regarding the bonus to retired ministers and the premium payable in respect of retired ministers.

The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Committee respecting beneficiaries on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund Register who have not attained the normal age of retirement and enact that certificates of continuing disability be required yearly until age of retirement.

The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Committee on the Special Arrangements for the Congregation of Kinglassie, and the proposal of the Committee regarding congregations put upon special arrangements pending a settlement.

The General Assembly approve the Committee's recommendation on Whiting Bay Congregation, and authorise an enquiry in terms of the Committee's Report.

The General Assembly note with interest the Committee's proposal regarding promised minima of long standing.

The General Assembly thank the Sustentation Fund Collectors throughout the Church, and our faithful people for their liberality to this important fund.

The General Assembly record their humble and profound gratitude to the Lord for his goodness.

**III. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Churches and Universities (Scotland)  
Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 24th  
May 1957.**

The General Assembly re-appoint Rev. Professor David Mackenzie, M.A., 8 East Castle Road, Edinburgh, to be a Trustee of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans Fund.

**IV. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees. (No. 4 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 24th May 1957.**

The General Assembly appoint as additional Trustees :-

(1) Mr John Myln Urquhart, Bank Manager, Kingussie. (2) Mr John Munro, Insurance Inspector, 110 Kenneth Street, Inverness.

**V. - Act anent Collections. (No. 5 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 28th May 1957.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the continued liberality of their people in supporting the various schemes of the church.

The General Assembly once more remind their faithful people of the steadily increasing cost of effectively carrying on the Church's work under the prevailing circumstances. They impress anew upon Congregations the importance of taking up the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and of transmitting them to the General Treasurer as soon thereafter as possible so that all Departments of the Church may be enabled to discharge the duties entrusted to them.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collection to be made during the ensuing year in all the Congregations of the Church:

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1957 Retired Lay Agents. 2. „ July „ Highlands and Islands. 3. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers. 4. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions. 5. „ October „ Supply. 6. „ November „ Jewish Missions. 7. „ January 1955 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 8. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 9. „ March „ Buildings. 10. „ April „ Home Mission, Evangelism and Testimony. 11. „ May „ College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be made on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely intimation of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church, so as to prevent, as far as possible, any oversight.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the first day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of the Congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all the Congregations of the Church.

**VI. - Act anent Appointment of Commission of Assembly (No. 6 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 28th May 1957**

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Reverend W. Campbell, named by the Moderator. TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the second Wednesday of August, the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by any other diet thereof; And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**VII. - Act anent Appointment of next General Assembly. (No. 7 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 28th May 1957.**

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 20th day of May 1958, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

## CONTENTS 1958

### PRINCIPAL ACTS

#### CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

#### CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

1. Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty The Queen 2. Act anent Appointment of General Treasurer 3. Act anent retiring allowance to Mr John W. Baxter, B.Com. 4. Act anent Synodical Representation 5. Act anent repealing Act 2, Class II., 1935 6. Act anent Allocation of Legacies to Revenue 7. Act anent Congregational Assessment for College 8. Act anent Sustentation Fund 9. Act anent Appointment of Evangelist 10. Act anent Appointment of Editor of Monthly Record 11. Act anent Appointment of Editor of Instructor 12. Act anent Re-appointment of Trustees to Widows' and Orphans' Fund 13. Act anent Collections 14. Act anent Appointing Commission of Assembly 15. Act anent Appointing next General Assembly

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY XX., MCMLVIII. (1958)

#### CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

#### CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

**I. - Act anent Loyal aNd Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 20th day of May 1958, express to Your Majesty our devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God that Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh were enabled to visit the Dominion of Canada; the United States of America, and

also other countries outside the Commonwealth. We give special thanks for the ardent loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne shown in the Dominion, and for the cordial goodwill exhibited during the visit to the United States of America, to Sweden, the Netherlands and Portugal. Such manifestations of goodwill must have been gratifying to Your Majesty in your often-expressed desire to promote international friendship.

We also note with gratification the unwearied diligence of Her Majesty the Queen Mother in seeking to promote the welfare of so many of the countries of the Commonwealth, and the untiring journeys of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret; in all of which we recognise the settled determination of the Royal House to establish as far as in them lies peace and goodwill among the nations.

We also record our appreciation of the efforts of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in seeking to promote the mental and physical well-being of the Youth of our land, and of his interest in various departments of Modern Science.

We pray that Your Majesty may continue to be conscious of the Divine guidance, so that Your Majesty and Your Royal House may lead the nation in the keeping of all God's Commandments, remembering that righteousness exalteth a nation, and so confidently looking for His rich blessing upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We pray that God's blessing may increasingly rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Duke of Cornwall, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, in whose recovery from her recent illness we greatly rejoice, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and all the members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects:

The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

**II. - Act anent appointment of General Treasurer. (No. 2 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

The General Assembly appoint Mr George J. Brewster, A.I.A.C., to be General Treasurer of the Church, with effect from the day following this deliverance, the post to comprise both financial and secretarial duties; salary to be in accordance with the Scale for the Administrative and Professional Division of the National Joint Industrial Councils for Local Authority Services (Scotland) Staffs, Grade VIII., as adjusted by the Finance Committee and accepted by Mr Brewster.

**III. - Act anent retiring allowance to Mr John W. Baxter, B.Com (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

In terms of Act IV., 1890, the General Assembly fix the retiring allowance of Mr J. W. Baxter at two-thirds of his final salary, with effect from the day following this deliverance.

**IV. - Act anent Synodical Representation. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

The General Assembly amend Standing Orders by the substitution of the word "Synod" for "Presbytery" in Section VI., 2 and also in the first three (out of four) places in which it occurs in Section VI., 9.

**V. - Act anent repealing Act 2, Class II., 1935 (No. 5 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

The General Assembly repeal Act II., 1935. They continue the present reduced assessment of £500 for administrative charges to the Sustentation Fund, for the current year 1958. They direct that in budgets prepared for 1959 a basic assessment of £1,000 administrative charges to the Sustentation Fund be allowed for, on the assumption of the pool rate of interest continuing at its present level, and adjusted down or up for a fall or rise in the receipts from the same. They remit to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, after consultation with the Sustentation Fund Committee to submit to next General Assembly proposals for confirming or modifying the above budgetary figure, in the light of the financial position for the year 1958; and to make further proposals regarding the assessment to be made thereafter.

**VI. - Act anent Allocation of Legacies to Revenue. (No. 6 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

The General Assembly direct that the Finance Committee be given discretion, provided no bar is imposed by the instructions of the testator, to allocate to revenue any single legacy of the value of £400 or under.

**VII. - Act anent Congregational Assessment for College. (No. 7 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

The General Assembly continue the Special Committee on College Finances, instructing them to frame a graduated scale of assessment on Congregations in order that a more adequate and stable revenue may become available to the College Committee, the Committee to report to the November Commission which is hereby empowered to dispose thereof.

**VIII. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 8 of Class II.)  
21st May 1958.**

**Edinburgh,**

The General Assembly declare an equal dividend of £500 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1957, exclusive of the premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorised the Committee to give effect to their proposal for the payment to Ministers in 1958 that the monthly rate of £40 be increased by equal instalments of £10 in May and in November, with discretion to the Committee to increase the November moiety in terms of their Report.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee to apply the principle of the equal dividend without exception in respect of all Settled Charges in terms of the findings of previous Assemblies.

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee regarding the bonus to retired Ministers and the premium payable in respect of retired Ministers.

The General Assembly further approve the Committee's proposal with regard to the revision of the Scale of Grant to retired Ministers.

The General Assembly direct the Committee to take into account the operation of the National Insurance Act in making grants towards funeral expenses incurred after this date.

The General Assembly thank the Sustentation Fund Collectors throughout the Church and our faithful people for the liberality to this important Fund.

**IX. - Act anent Appointment of Evangelist. (No. 9 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 21st May 1958.**

The General Assembly approve the appointment of Rev. J. M. MacLeod to the work of Evangelist under the Home Missions Committee for the period of one year on the following conditions :-

(a) The General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to grant Rev. J. M. MacLeod leave of absence from the charge of Elder Memorial Church, Leith, for one year to undertake the work of Evangelist under the Home Missions Committee.

(b) The General Assembly direct the Supply Committee to facilitate the arranging of suitable Pulpit Supply for Elder Memorial Church and that, if possible and so desired, a Student Pastor be appointed for the period.

(c) The financial arrangements already agreed upon to apply in the case of Mr MacLeod's appointment with the exception of the Stipend (which will be continued in respect of his congregation); expenses in connection with his work as Evangelist to be met by the

Committee.

(d) That, in the event of a Student Pastor being appointed in Mr MacLeod's absence, the Student Pastor be awarded a suitable remuneration in addition to his usual fee and expenses.

(e) That Mr MacLeod work under the direction of the Home Missions Committee, in co-operation with the Highlands and Islands Committee and in liaison with the Highway and Byways Mission. Further, that Mr MacLeod have such liberty of action as shall enable him most effectively to carry out this work.

(f) That the work consist of :-

1. General work of Evangelism with distribution of Tracts. 2. Work in Vacant Congregations, with visitation, etc. 3. Evangelistic meetings in vacancies and elsewhere. 4. Work among young people. 5. That Mr MacLeod endeavour to follow up and consolidate the work begun by the Highways and Byways Mission, and organise it with a view to the work being taken over by a permanent Evangelist. 6. That Mr MacLeod endeavour to secure a place of residence for a permanent Evangelist or solicit funds for that purpose.

**X. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of Monthly Record. (No. 10 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1958.**

The General Assembly appoint Rev. G. N. M. Collins, B.A., to be Editor of the Monthly Record at the present rate of salary.

**XI. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of Instructor. (No. 11 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1958.**

The General Assembly appoint Rev. James W. Fraser, M.A., B.D., to be Editor of the Instructor.

**XII. - Act anent Re-appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund.  
(No. 12 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 22nd May 1958.**

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr Donald Macarthur, W.S., 154 South Brae Drive, Glasgow, W.3, as a Trustee.

**XIII. - Act anent Collections. (No. 13 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd  
May 1958.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the continued liberality of their people in supporting the various schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly once more remind their faithful people of the steadily increasing cost of carrying on the Church's work under the prevailing circumstances.

The General Assembly impress anew upon Congregations the importance of taking up the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and of transmitting them to the General Treasurer as soon thereafter as possible, so that all Departments of the Church may be enabled to discharge the duties entrusted to them.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all congregations of the Church:

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1958 Retired Lay Agents. 2. „ July „ Highlands and Islands. 3. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers. 4. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions. 5. „ October „ Supply. 6. „ November „ Jewish Missions. 7. „ January 1959 Welfare of Youth and Publications. 8. „ February „ Training of the Ministry. 9. „ March „ Buildings. 10. „ April „ Home Mission, Evangelism and Testimony. 11. „ May „ College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be taken on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the congregations of the Church, so as to prevent as far as possible any oversight.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the 1st day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery, a list of the congregations within their bounds which, until that date, have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all congregations of the Church.

#### **XIV. - Act anent Appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 14 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 23rd May 1958.**

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Murdo Martin, Minister at Duthil, named by the Moderator. TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator : And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above-mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained

in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and, to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods of Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church : And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by any other diet thereof : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end: And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned : And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by, next General Assembly, as they shall see cause : And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XV. - Act anent Appointing next General Assembly. (No. 15 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 23rd May 1958.**

**The General Assembly appoint next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 19th day of May 1959, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.**

**CONTENTS 1959.**

**PRINCIPAL ACTS**

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

NONE

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

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Retired Professors' Fund 7. Act anent retiring allowances to Principals and Professors, amending Act 6, Class II., 1950, Section 1 and 5 8. Act anent appointment of Evangelist 9. Act anent increasing Salaries of Professors 10. Act anent appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund 11. Act anent Collections 12. Act anent appointing Commission of Assembly 13. Act anent appointing next General Assembly

## THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY MCMLIX. (1959)

### **CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT.**

NONE.

### **CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 19th day of May 1959, express to Your Majesty our devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the stability of Your Majesty's Throne and for the esteem in which the Royal House is regarded throughout the land and the Commonwealth and the countries of the Western World. We are grateful for the renewed confidence and economic stability enjoyed by the Nation. We give thanks for the recognition of Divine Overlordship in Your Majesty's public utterances, and we pray that the prosperity of the Nation may rest on the foundation of true religion and regard in all things to the Law of God.

We rejoice in the health and progress of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and Princess Anne, and view with satisfaction the creation of His Royal Highness Prince Charles as Prince of Wales.

The visits of Your Majesty and the Royal House to Scotland and in particular to the isolated outposts in the West and North give real satisfaction in these districts.

We note with pleasure the personal recognition by Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret of the milestone in the history of the Province of British Columbia and the acknowledgment thereof in the gift of the Island so happily renamed after Her Royal Highness.

We record our appreciation of the great interest of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in scientific discovery, and of the visits of His Royal Highness, of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and of other members of the Royal Family to various parts of the Commonwealth and other countries, all in the interests of peace and goodwill.

We pray that Your Majesty's Ministers may be guided in all their efforts to arrive at a just and peaceful solution of the problems which confront the nations of the Commonwealth, awaking as they are to national consciousness, and that the conference between the leaders of the great powers may result in better understanding, and that the great discoveries of science may be used not for destruction, but for increasing health and well-being.

We pray that God's blessing may be continually rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and the other members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects

The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

**II. - Act anent Salary of Editor of The Monthly Record. (No. 2 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 19th May 1959.**

The General Assembly enact that the salary of the Editor of The Monthly Record be raised to £150 per annum, with effect from January 1959.

**III. - Act anent Salary of Editor of The Instructor (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 19th May 1959**

The General Assembly enact that the salary of the Editor of The Instructor be raised to £75 per annum, with effect from January 1959.

**IV. - Act anent Stipends of Ministers on Special Arrangements repealing Act 3, Class II., 1955, para. 3. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly direct that, for the current financial year and for future years, all increased charges authorised by the Assembly to be paid in excess of the stipends of ministers on the equal dividend platform, in the case of congregations on special arrangements, shall be chargeable to the funds of the Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony. The arrangement whereby such charges were directed to be met out of the General Purposes Account (Vide Act III., 1955, No. 3 of Class II., para. 3) is

hereby terminated.

**V. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 5 of Class II.)**  
**May 1959.**

**Edinburgh, 20th**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and the Vice-Convener.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £530 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1958, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise the Committee to give effect to their proposal for payment to Ministers in 1959, namely, that the monthly rate of £40 be increased by £20 in May, with discretion to the Committee to make an additional payment in November in terms of the Report.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee to apply the principal of the Equal Dividend without exception in respect of all Settled Charges in accordance with the findings of previous Assemblies.

The General Assembly approve the transference of £5,500 to the Supply Committee in respect of vacant Charges for 1959, but direct that, in future, such transference be on a basis of strict accounting, the total sum not to exceed £5,500 in any one year.

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee regarding the Special Arrangements for the Congregations of Aberdeen, Bishopbriggs and Kennoway.

The General Assembly thank the Sustentation Fund Collectors and Contributors throughout the Church, and pray that God may bless their substance and service, and make all grace to abound towards them.

**VI. - Act anent Beneficiaries of Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly approve a revised Scale of Grants payable to Beneficiaries of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund as follows :-

1959

Under 20 years' Service ... £165	20 years' service ... £201	21 ,, ,, ... £204	22 ,, ,, ... £208	23 ,, ,, ... £212	24 ,, ,, ... £215	25 ,, ,, ... £219	26 ,, ,, ... £222	27 ,, ,, ... £226	28 ,, ,, ... £229	29 ,, ,, ... £233	30 ,, ,, ... £236	31 ,, ,, ... £240	32 ,, ,, ... £244	33 ,, ,, ... £247	34 ,, ,, ... £251	35 ,, ,, ... £254
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36 „ „ ... £258 37 „ „ ... £261 38 „ „ ... £265 39 „ „ ... £268 40 „ „  
 ... £272 41 „ „ ... £276 42 „ „ ... £279 43 „ „ ... £283 44 „ „ ... £286  
 45 „ „ ... £290 (max.).

**VII. - Act anent retiring allowances to Principals and Professors, amending Act 6,  
 Class II, 1950, Section 1 and 5. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh,  
 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly enact that there be added to Section 1 of Act 6, Class II., 1950, anent Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors, the following Paragraph :

In the case of a Professor who, having served for ten years or upwards, is translated to a pastoral Charge and ultimately retires therefrom, his period of service as a Professor shall be taken into account in calculating the amount of the Retiring Allowance due to him; this paragraph to be given retrospective effect in the case of Rev. Alexander Ross D.D.

The General Assembly further enact that, in Section 5 of the said Act (see Acts of Assembly 1950, p. 167), there be inserted in the second line instead of the words “age or infirmity” “age, infirmity. or translation to a pastoral Charge.”

**VIII. - Act anent appointment of Evangelist. (No. 8 of Class II.)  
 Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. John Murdo Macleod as Evangelist for a period of five years. They release him from his present Charge and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to induct him as soon as convenient to the position of Evangelist. They authorise that he be paid a sum annually equal in amount to the Equal Dividend plus £100, together with a refund of travelling expenses as submitted, so far as may seem reasonable and possible, plus National Insurance contributions plus an appropriate sum for rent and rates of a house, unless and until suitable accommodation shall be purchased, and that his position relative to the Aged and Infirm Ministers’ Fund be safeguarded. They remit to the Committee to consider whether a house should be purchased for the Evangelist.

The General Assembly enact that, at the close of the period of the Evangelist’s appointment, he shall be eligible for re-appointment, failing which he shall, until inducted to a charge, or until he shall have resigned from the active ministry, be treated as a minister without charge, except that he shall be paid a sum equal to the Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of his resignation as Evangelist.

**IX. - Act anent increasing Salaries of Professors. (No. 9 of Class II.)  
 Edinburgh, 21st May 1959.**

The General Assembly approve of the recommendation of the Committee that the salaries of our Professors be increased by £150 for 1959.

**X. - Act anent appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund. (No. 10 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 21st May 1959.**

The General Assembly receive the Report of the Trustees of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund, thank the Trustees and especially the Chairman.

Further, the General Assembly reappoint the Rev. Professor William J. Cameron, B.D., as a Trustee.

**XI. - Act anent Collections. (No. 11 of Class II.)**  
**Edinburgh, 22nd May 1959.**

The General Assembly express their thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the continued liberality of their people in supporting the various Schemes of the Church.

The General Assembly once more remind their faithful people of the steadily increasing cost of effectively carrying on the Church's work under the prevailing circumstances, and appeal to them in view of their increased earnings for a proportionate increase in their liberality.

The General Assembly impress anew upon Congregations the importance of taking up the Collections appointed by the General Assembly, and of transmitting them to the General Treasurer as soon thereafter as possible, so that all Departments of the Church may be enabled to discharge the duties entrusted to them.

The General Assembly appoint the following Special Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all Congregations of the Church:

1. 3rd Sabbath of June 1959 Retired Lay Agents.
2. „ July „ Highlands and Islands.
3. „ August „ Aged and Infirm Ministers.
4. „ September „ Foreign and Overseas Missions.
5. „ October „ Supply.
6. „ November „ Jewish Missions.
7. „ January 1960 Welfare of Youth and Publications.
8. „ February „ Training of the Ministry.
9. „ March „ Buildings.
10. „ April „ Home Mission Evangelism and Testimony.
11. „ May „ College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Collections be taken on the appointed date, or on the nearest convenient date thereto. Conveners of Committees are instructed to see to it that timely notice of each Special Collection is sent to all the Congregations of the Church, so as to prevent as far as possible any oversight.

The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the 1st day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of the Congregations within their bounds which until that date have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all the Congregations of the Church.

**XII. - Act anent appointing Commission of Assembly (No. 12 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1959.**

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Murdo Macaulay, Minister at Back, named by the Moderator : TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above-mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or, sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly : And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end : And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause: And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed : And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

**XIII. - Act anent appointing next General Assembly. (No. 13 of Class II.)**

**Edinburgh, 22nd May 1959.**

The General Assembly appoint next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1960 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

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**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

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**THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

MAY MCMLIX. (1959)

**CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT.**

NONE.

**CLASS II. - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen. (No. 1 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland,

met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on the 19th day of May 1959, express to Your Majesty our devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the stability of Your Majesty's Throne and for the esteem in which the Royal House is regarded throughout the land and the Commonwealth and the countries of the Western World. We are grateful for the renewed confidence and economic stability enjoyed by the Nation. We give thanks for the recognition of Divine Overlordship in Your Majesty's public utterances, and we pray that the prosperity of the Nation may rest on the foundation of true religion and regard in all things to the Law of God.

We rejoice in the health and progress of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and Princess Anne, and view with satisfaction the creation of His Royal Highness Prince Charles as Prince of Wales.

The visits of Your Majesty and the Royal House to Scotland and in particular to the isolated outposts in the West and North give real satisfaction in these districts.

We note with pleasure the personal recognition by Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret of the milestone in the history of the Province of British Columbia and the acknowledgment thereof in the gift of the Island so happily renamed after Her Royal Highness.

We record our appreciation of the great interest of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in scientific discovery, and of the visits of His Royal Highness, of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and of other members of the Royal Family to various parts of the Commonwealth and other countries, all in the interests of peace and goodwill.

We pray that Your Majesty's Ministers may be guided in all their efforts to arrive at a just and peaceful solution of the problems which confront the nations of the Commonwealth, awaking as they are to national consciousness, and that the conference between the leaders of the great powers may result in better understanding, and that the great discoveries of science may be used not for destruction, but for increasing health and well-being.

We pray that God's blessing may be continually rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and the other members of Your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most faithful subjects

The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

**II. - Act anent Salary of Editor of The Monthly Record. (No. 2 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 19th May 1959.**

The General Assembly enact that the salary of the Editor of The Monthly Record be raised to

£150 per annum, with effect from January 1959.

**III. - Act anent Salary of Editor of The Instructor (No. 3 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 19th May 1959**

The General Assembly enact that the salary of the Editor of The Instructor be raised to £75 per annum, with effect from January 1959.

**IV. - Act anent Stipends of Ministers on Special Arrangements repealing Act 3, Class II., 1955, para. 3. (No. 4 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly direct that, for the current financial year and for future years, all increased charges authorised by the Assembly to be paid in excess of the stipends of ministers on the equal dividend platform, in the case of congregations on special arrangements, shall be chargeable to the funds of the Committee on Home Missions, Evangelism and Testimony. The arrangement whereby such charges were directed to be met out of the General Purposes Account (Vide Act III., 1955, No. 3 of Class II., para. 3) is hereby terminated.

**V. - Act anent Sustentation Fund. (No. 5 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and the Vice-Convener.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £530 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1958, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly authorise the Committee to give effect to their proposal for payment to Ministers in 1959, namely, that the monthly rate of £40 be increased by £20 in May, with discretion to the Committee to make an additional payment in November in terms of the Report.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee to apply the principal of the Equal Dividend without exception in respect of all Settled Charges in accordance with the findings of previous Assemblies.

The General Assembly approve the transference of £5,500 to the Supply Committee in respect of vacant Charges for 1959, but direct that, in future, such transference be on a basis of strict accounting, the total sum not to exceed £5,500 in any one year.

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee regarding the Special Arrangements for the Congregations of Aberdeen, Bishopbriggs and Kennoway.

The General Assembly thank the Sustentation Fund Collectors and Contributors throughout the Church, and pray that God may bless their substance and service, and make all grace to abound towards them.

**VI. - Act anent Beneficiaries of Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund. (No. 6 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly approve a revised Scale of Grants payable to Beneficiaries of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund as follows :-

1959

Under 20 years' Service ...	£165	20 years' service ...	£201	21 „ „ ...	£204	22 „ „ ...	£222
23 „ „ ...	£208	24 „ „ ...	£212	25 „ „ ...	£215	26 „ „ ...	£219
27 „ „ ...	£226	28 „ „ ...	£229	29 „ „ ...	£233	30 „ „ ...	£236
31 „ „ ...	£240	32 „ „ ...	£244	33 „ „ ...	£247	34 „ „ ...	£251
35 „ „ ...	£258	36 „ „ ...	£261	37 „ „ ...	£265	38 „ „ ...	£268
39 „ „ ...	£272	40 „ „ ...	£276	41 „ „ ...	£279	42 „ „ ...	£283
43 „ „ ...	£290 (max.)	44 „ „ ...		45 „ „ ...			

**VII. - Act anent retiring allowances to Principals and Professors, amending Act 6, Class II, 1950, Section 1 and 5. (No. 7 of Class II.) Edinburgh, 20th May 1959.**

The General Assembly enact that there be added to Section 1 of Act 6, Class II., 1950, anent Retiring Allowances to Principals and Professors, the following Paragraph :

In the case of a Professor who, having served for ten years or upwards, is translated to a pastoral Charge and ultimately retires therefrom, his period of service as a Professor shall be taken into account in calculating the amount of the Retiring Allowance due to him; this paragraph to be given retrospective effect in the case of Rev. Alexander Ross D.D.

The General Assembly further enact that, in Section 5 of the said Act (see Acts of Assembly 1950, p. 167), there be inserted in the second line instead of the words “age or infirmity” “age, infirmity. or translation to a pastoral Charge.”

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The General Assembly appoint the Rev. John Murdo Macleod as Evangelist for a period of five years. They release him from his present Charge and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to induct him as soon as convenient to the position of Evangelist. They authorise that he be paid a sum annually equal in amount to the Equal Dividend plus £100, together with a refund of travelling expenses as submitted, so far as may seem reasonable and possible, plus National Insurance contributions plus an appropriate sum for rent and rates of a house, unless and until suitable accommodation shall be purchased, and that his position relative to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund be safeguarded. They remit to the Committee to consider whether a house should be purchased for the Evangelist.

The General Assembly enact that, at the close of the period of the Evangelist's appointment, he shall be eligible for re-appointment, failing which he shall, until inducted to a charge, or until he shall have resigned from the active ministry, be treated as a minister without charge, except that he shall be paid a sum equal to the Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of his resignation as Evangelist.

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The General Assembly approve of the recommendation of the Committee that the salaries of our Professors be increased by £150 for 1959.

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Further, the General Assembly reappoint the Rev. Professor William J. Cameron, B.D., as a Trustee.

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The General Assembly direct the Treasurer of the Church to intimate on the 1st day of November to each Clerk of Presbytery a list of the Congregations within their bounds which until that date have failed to make any one of the appointed Collections, with a view to action being taken to rectify any such omission.

The General Assembly enjoin that a copy of this Act be sent to all the Congregations of the Church.

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The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Murdo Macaulay, Minister at Back, named by the Moderator : TO BE A COMMISSION of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the third Wednesday of November and the first Wednesday of March next to come at eleven of the clock forenoon, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: And the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above-mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and to do everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or, sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church: And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission

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**XIII. - Act anent appointing next General Assembly. (No. 13 of Class II.)  
Edinburgh, 22nd May 1959.**

The General Assembly appoint next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1960 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.